

Q&A with Danny: Unraveling the Art of Yo-yoing

THE PASSION FOR YO-YO

I encountered yo-yoing during my childhood, as many may have, through watching the TV animation Super Yo-Yo 超速搖搖. However, it didn't turn into a passion until the age of 15 when I discovered an online forum. There, I learned about a group of people who gathered to play yo-yo together on Saturdays at the Sports Complex. After a year of serious practice, my debut performance was poor, but it gave me a taste of being on stage. I wanted to overcome the fear and perform my freestyle routine with confidence. One year later, on the same stage at the Hong Kong National, I successfully qualified for the final round and placed 11th. This achievement meant that I was among the top 11 yo-yo players in Hong Kong. I believe that was the moment I truly committed to yo-yoing. Since then, I have actively participated in local and overseas contests, including the China National in Guangzhou, the Asia Pacific Championship in Singapore, and finally, the World Yo-Yo Contest in Shanghai in 2018. After that, things changed in my life and in Hong Kong. I went to Lingnan University, stumbled upon sociology, and focused heavily on my studies. In my final year, I met Satoshi and was blessed to conduct my senior thesis under his supervision. Initially, I wondered from the method section how to secure data within the limited timeframe (my junior research project was not about yo-yoing). Yo-yoing, a sport to which I had been committed for 7 years by then, naturally became the subject of my investigation. The rest is detailed in my senior thesis and is ongoing in my MPhil thesis as well.

UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS AT LINGNAN UNIVERSITY

Many people think that secondary school is the formative period of our lives, but I believe it is actually university. It is a time when no one structures your life for you, and the influence of your family becomes less significant; you are free to explore the world. As a first-generation college student, university life was something I had no prior knowledge of. There are many special and memorable experiences, but I will highlight two. The first is living in the hostel. Having my own room was unimaginable for kids raised in public housing: I had my own desk, I could read undisturbed whenever I wanted, and I met amazing people. Second, my exchange experience at Bard College Berlin was transformative. There, I learned the value of a liberal arts education and became heavily oriented towards the academic side. I will never forget my undergraduate times at Lingnan; I think I changed so much as a person and oriented heavily to the academic side. I will never forget my undergraduate times at Lingnan, I think I changed so much as a person.

THE CONNECTION WITH LINGNAN UNIVERSITY AND YO-YO

After completing my senior thesis, I felt guilty for using my respondents for my own academic interests. Consequently, I wanted to help this community grow and become widely recognized as a sport. However, due to a lack of organizational experience, I interned at the IHK Sports Foundation through Lingnan's internal recruitment process. Dr. Mok Kam Ming from the OSA (who is now affiliated with the SIS) has been supporting me since then. (We met in 2018 because of the Hong Kong Cyclothon, where I was one of the representatives from Lingnan University.) During the internship, we communicated more and became friends. He then invited me to deliver an ILP talk to introduce the sport of yo-yoing. I also gave a mini-performance at that event.

INTRODUCING THE "香港花式搖搖協會"

The Hong Kong Yoyo Organization (HKYO) is a registered society under the Societies Ordinance in Hong Kong. It is a non-profit organization that aims to promote the subculture of yo-yoing as a sport, a performing art, and a leisure activity. We also strive to unify the local yo-yo community and facilitate their communications. If students are interested in yo-yoing, they can find us on Instagram @hkyoyoorganization. You can simply show up at our monthly yo-yo gatherings; no registration is needed. We welcome many beginners, with our youngest player being only 7 years old!

FOR MORE:

- YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_oNrmQM0bg&t=1s
- The Lingnan Magazine:
https://issuu.com/oiapa/docs/lingnan_magazine_002_jan_2024
(Page 28 – Page 30, Chinese only)

