

Becoming Interdisciplinary: Implementation of a Structured Interdisciplinary General Education Curriculum in Hong Kong

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General Education is an integral part of the Hong Kong Baptist University's (HKBU) effort to promote liberal arts and whole person education. HKBU completed a comprehensive review of its general education curriculum in 2017 and the revamped curriculum has just been launched for AY2018/2019. Unlike most university general education curricula, HKBU's new general education curriculum has a structure that consists of three levels of interdisciplinary learning, from foundational courses (Level 1, 3 categories) to courses in thematic areas (Level 2, 3 areas) and a culminating experience (Level 3 Capstone). This presentation will discuss the potentials and challenges that the University faces in implementing a structured interdisciplinary general education curriculum, one that is independently managed by the General Education Office while all interdisciplinary general education courses are being offered by academic departments. It will examine the tensions encountered in the discipline-based undergraduate curriculum, and how such tensions invite discussion and reflections on interdisciplinary general education.