



鄉村互助自理研討會

Village Commoning Symposium



講題一：共享及互助自理的論述
Topic 1: The Discourse of Commons and Commoning

講題二：香港共享運動的興起
Topic 2: The Rise of the Commons Movements in Hong Kong

講題三：鄉村互助自理的可行性及挑戰
Topic 3: Feasibility and Challenges of Village Commoning

講題四：互助自理與可持續發展
Topic 4: Commoning and Sustainable Development



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 香港大學
faculty of architecture 建築學院



Division of Landscape Architecture
園地建築學部



鄉郊保育辦公室
Countryside
Conservation
Office



鄉郊保育資助計劃
Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme

Introduction

While Hong Kong has seen a plethora of village revitalisation schemes in recent years, this project stands out as it aims to derive a community-led model of village revitalisation that pays special attention to the needs and aspirations of local villagers and empowers the village community.

The team seeks to develop this model by utilising the conceptual frameworks of commons and commoning, which refers to a cooperative governing system that emphasises the collective management of resources by the communities. This approach enables local stakeholders to take a greater role in initiating the revitalisation of their village assets.

Village Commoning

Our vision

- Commoning is an important social practice that strengthens village identity and enhances social well-being
- Effective collaborations between different stakeholders could maximise the benefits of village revitalisation
- These will in turn enhance the heritage and ecological values of rural villages and enable long term sustainability

What we do

- Phase I: To review international case studies of commoning practices that mobilised collaborations between different stakeholders
- Phase II: To host a series of engagement exercises to gather feedback from relevant parties
- Phase III: To develop an “advisory platform for commoning” and a set of implementation guidelines for future use

Who we are

- Principal Investigator and Project Leader: Vincci Mak
- Co-Investigator: Maxime Decaudin
- Project Manager: Scarlet Cheng
- Research Assistant:
Michelle Ho, Candace Lam, Parco Law, Jack Mok, Marco Yeung

Contact us



Email

villagecommoning@hku.hk



Phone / WhatsApp

+852 9410 5171



Address

Rm 617, Knowles Building,
The University of Hong Kong



Website

villagecommoning.hku.hk



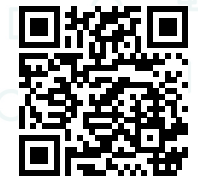
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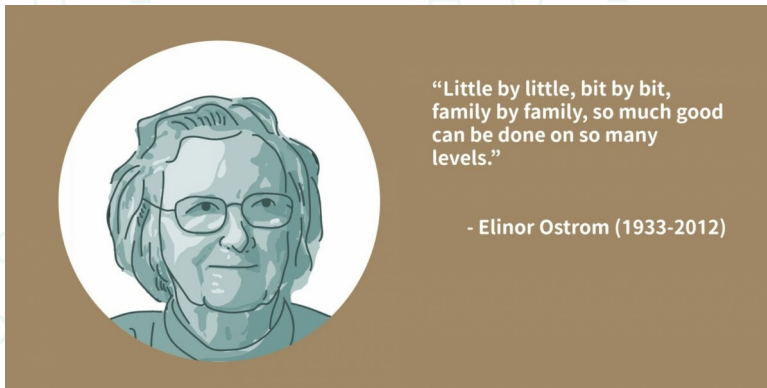
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Commoning is...

Collective management of resources

Communal organisation and collective use of resources has long been part of the economic life of rural communities around the world. In recent years, these practices have been increasingly associated with the notions of the “commons” and “commoning”, which are inspired by the research work of political scientist Elinor Ostrom. She argues that common resources can be well-managed by communities that benefit the most from them and that their regulation should be addressed at the local level, through collaborations with community associations, local authorities, and other NPOs.



Nobel laureate and political scientist Elinor Ostrom

Applying to village revitalisation

With the concept of commoning, we believe our community-led village revitalisation model can enable community stakeholders to take on a greater role in initiating revitalisation and sustainably managing their village assets in the long-run. Treating commoning as a social process and emphasising villagers' needs and aspirations are essential to the success of the model.

Types of commons

Scholar Emil Sandström, Ann-Kristin Ekman 及 Karl-Johan Lindholm defined three main types of commons that represent most forms of collectiveness but their divisions are not mutually exclusive:



Production Commons refer to pre-industrial resource extraction at sites with long historical continuities. They are essential in solving issues of resource scarcity and sustaining rural livelihoods.

EXAMPLES: forests, pastures, fishing grounds



Associational Commons were developed under the new economic conditions of the 20th century aiming at modernising rural life. They are established to address shared social and economic interests of villagers.

EXAMPLES: village associations, community centres, local committees



Symbolic Commons are related to lineages, kinship, and ownership and carry important symbolic meanings and values for villagers.

EXAMPLES: historical monuments, community gathering spaces

References

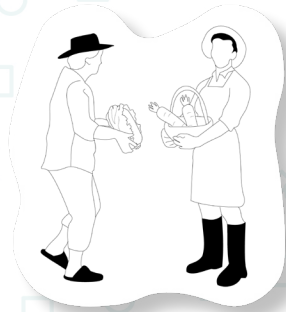
- Ostrom, E. (1990). *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511807763>.
- Sandström, E., Ekman, A.-K., & Lindholm, K.-J. (2017). Commoning in the periphery – The role of the commons for understanding rural continuities and change. *International Journal of the Commons*, 11(1), pp 508–531. doi: <http://doi.org/10.18352/ijc.729>

Examples in HK

As Hong Kong villages are rich in history, we found that many traditional village practices share similarities with commoning. Including but not limited to:

Agricultural & Fishery Industry

The agricultural and fishery industry is responsible for communal governance and responsible use of natural resources and shared facilities like the irrigation systems. Other commoning initiatives include joint efforts to wholesale harvests to designated markets and communally-managed tendering systems.



Feng Shui Woods

Villagers chose to settle in sites that were surrounded by woods for Feng Shui reasons. Villagers respect the woods because of its significant symbolic meaning in guarding the village; these woods are managed closely.



Tso Tong

Tso Tong is the landholding organisation of clans in the New Territories. It unites members and honours its ancestors. Members take turns managing communal land and use income for common interests of the group.



Yeuk

Yeuk is self-governing alliance among villages, it was formed based on common interests: self-protection, infrastructure development, trade, resource management, etc.
EXAMPLE: Hing Chun Yeuk



Shared beliefs & traditional festivities

Villagers in many villages share common beliefs. Although most have moved away from their rural residences, their common goals and beliefs have direct relation to certain places in the village as well as construction efforts. Annual traditional festivals also bring villagers back to the village.
EXAMPLE: temples, churches, sacrificial offerings, Jiao Festival, feast day



Ancestral Shrines

Shrines are places where ancestors are worshipped: they are commonly managed by villagers of the clan.



Symposium

09:30-09:45 Welcome Remarks & Opening Ceremony

09:45-11:15 Topic (1): The Discourse of Commons & Commoning [EN]

Speakers | Commoning as a Transformative Social Paradigm



Mr. David Bollier
Director, Reinventing the Commons Program,
Schumacher Center for a New Economics, USA

**The Discoveries and Insights on Commons Research:
A Study of the Commons at the Research Center on the Commons
and Sustainable Society, Jeju National University, South Korea**



Prof. Suh-Hyun Park
Research Professor, Research Center on the Commons and
Sustainable Society, Jeju National University, South Korea

From Urban Commons to Rural-Urban Commoning



Prof. Jeffrey Hou
Professor and Director, Urban Commons Lab, Department of
Landscape Architecture, College of Built Environments,
The University of Washington, USA

Moderator |



Dr. Maxime Decaudin
Senior Lecturer, College of Design and Engineering,
National University of Singapore

11:15-11:30 Break



11:30-13:00 Topic (2): The Rise of the Commons Movements in HK [CH]

Speakers | Neighbourhood Commons in the Making



Mr. Eric Ho
Co-founder, Architecture Commons;
Founder, Neighbourhood Innovation Lab

Commoning Initiatives in the Centre for Cultural Research & Development



Prof. Pun Ngai
Chair Professor and Head of Department of Cultural Studies,
Director of the Centre for Cultural Research and Development,
Lingnan University, Hong Kong



Prof. Daren Leung
Research Assistant Professor, The Department of Cultural Studies,
Lingnan University, Hong Kong;
Co-founder of Waste Commons

**Digital Common for Countryside Revitalisation and Innovation in HK -
The Rural Common**



Ms. Ada Wong, JP
Chairperson, Make A Difference Institute

Moderator |



Dr. Cecilia Chu
Associate Professor, Division of Landscape Architecture,
The University of Hong Kong;
Founding Member, Docomomo Hong Kong

13:00-14:15 Lunch Break



14:15-16:00 Topic (3): Feasibility & Challenges of Village Commoning [CH]

Speaker | Sharing of findings from the *Village Commoning* project



Ms. Vincci Mak
Senior Lecturer, Division of Landscape Architecture,
The University of Hong Kong

Workshop | For participants to have an immersive commoning experience

16:00-16:15 Break

16:15-17:15 Topic (4): Commoning & Sustainable Development [CH]

Panelists |



Prof. Thomas Chung
Associate Professor, School of Architecture,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Prof. Shenjing He
Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Design,
The University of Hong Kong



Ms. Hermion Au
Programme Manager, Make A Difference Institute



Mr. Charles Lee
Founder, HKTraveler

Moderator |



Ms. Vincci Mak
Senior Lecturer, Division of Landscape Architecture,
The University of Hong Kong

17:15-17:30 Closing Remarks

Speakers' and
Moderators' Bio



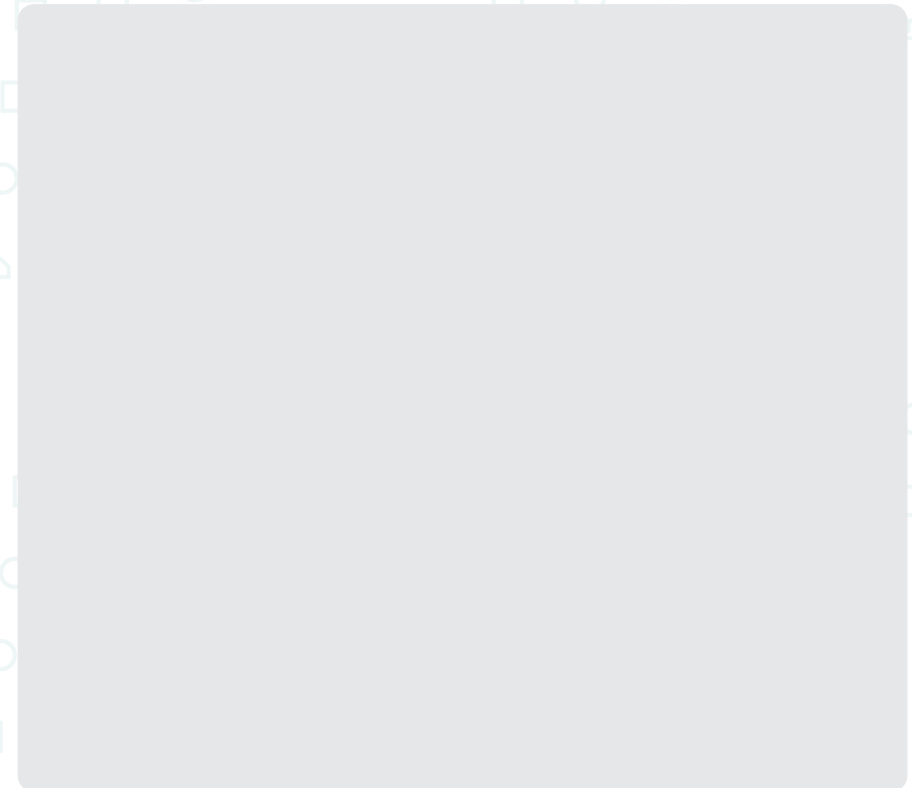
Q&A: Symposium



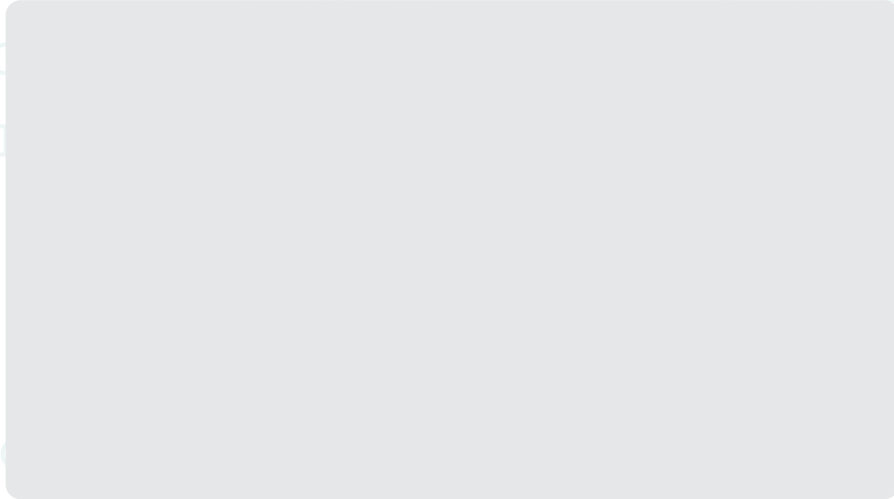
Questionnaire



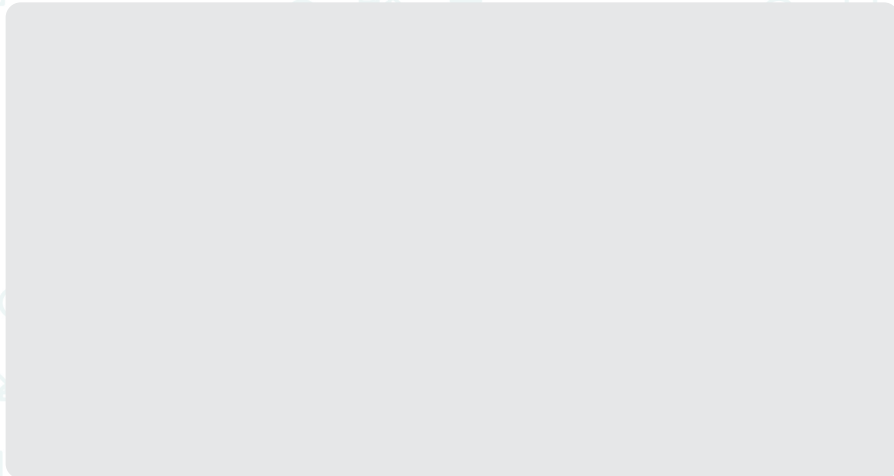
Your understanding of commons and commoning:



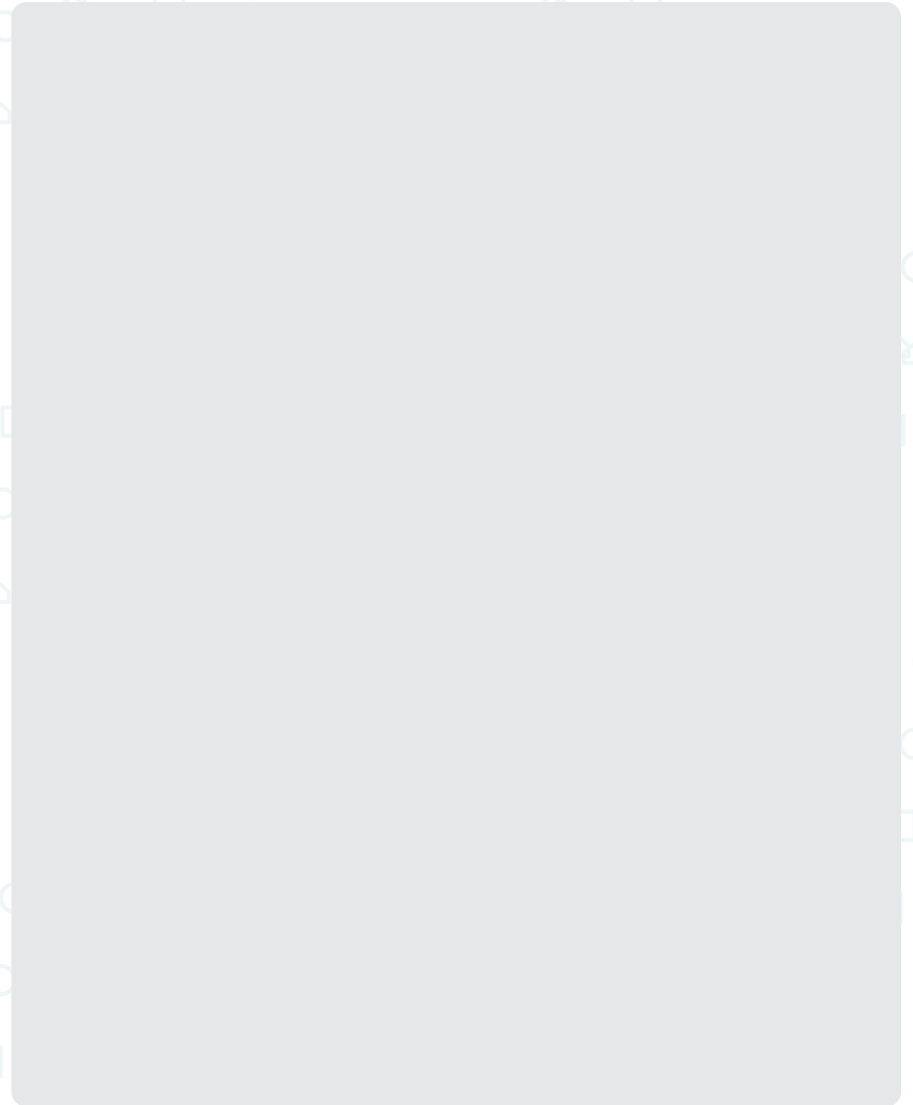
How do you think villages in Hong Kong can practise commoning?



What do you think are some major challenges in practising commoning in Hong Kong?



What is your vision for village commoning?



JOIN our Community

1. Enter our website: <http://villagecommoning.hku.hk>
2. Select "Village Commons"



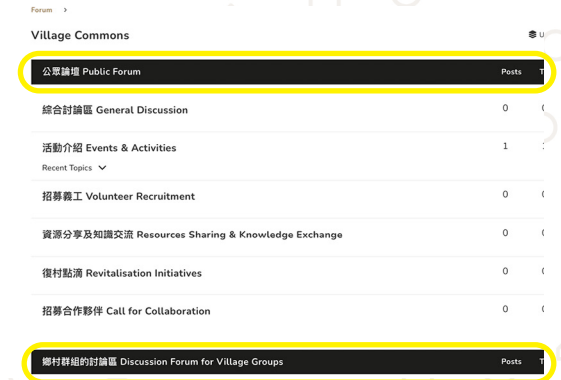
3. Select "Sign up" and fill in your personal information

A screenshot of the registration form on the Village Commons website. The form is titled 'Join us today!' and includes fields for 'Username *', 'Email *', and 'Village/ Organisation/ Identity *'. Below the form, there is a checkbox for terms and conditions and a 'Register' button. The 'Sign Up' button in the top navigation bar is highlighted with a yellow circle.

4. Check the confirmation email we sent you and set a new password via the link
5. Sign in to the site when you're done!

6. You can browse, leave comments and subscribe to the public forum or the private chatroom of your village/exclusive group you belong to

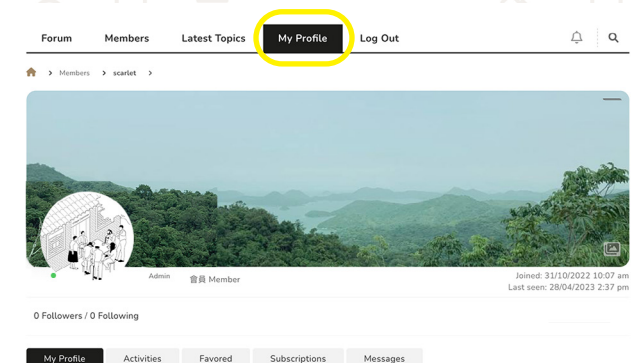
Village Commons



7. If you want to start a new discussion topic, you can click on the relevant forum and click "Add Topic"



8. If necessary, you can update your personal page and user information on this page



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