

“So help me God!”

– Exploring the role of religion in the perception of and response to employment risk in Hong Kong

Hong Kong has faced tremendous social, economic, and political changes in the last decade. The diminishing role of acting as “the window to China” as a result of the continuing social and economic reforms in the Mainland; the restructuring local economy from a labor-intensive to a knowledge-intensive entity; and the aging of the working population; were only a few challenges Hong Kong addressed. A direct consequence of these challenges is the ever deteriorating sense of job security. Thus, employment risk was, and still is, the first and foremost issue Hong Kong people has to face everyday.

Hong Kong is often regarded as a purely economic city, and that its people would address all issues through economic means. Thus, the role of religion is often overlooked. Nonetheless, recent intensive involvement of religious bodies in social issues has revealed religious belief to have played an important role in people’s view on how risks are addressed. Through an empirical research which is currently underway and hopefully has its first batch of data available in early 2009, this paper attempts to explore the role of religious belief in the perception of and response to employment risk in Hong Kong.

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