Researching motivation: The past and the possible future

Date: February 29, 2016 (Monday)
Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Venue: Room 646, Meng Wah Complex, HKU
Chair: Dr Andy Gao

Abstract:
L2 learner motivation plays a vital role in second language acquisition (e.g., Dörnyei & Ushioda, 2011) and the substantial interest paid by researchers in the field has been reflected in the unprecedented boom of published works that was generated in the past decade. In a recent study by Boo, Dörnyei, & Ryan (2015), the authors examined the origins and nature of this extraordinary surge and the results gleaned from this extensive review of journal articles and book chapters published between 2005 and 2014 (N=416) provided several interesting insights into the changing landscape of the field. An aim of this talk will be to present findings from the above-mentioned study and from there, some possible future directions in which the field is headed will be discussed.

Traditionally, L2 motivation research has studied human behaviour through the use of explicit self-reports. While such means of data gathering have provided the field with valuable insights, it could not be said for certain that they are independent from individual bias. As a result, recent developments have called for a more in-depth and holistic understanding of the motivational psyche of L2 learners. In order to illustrate the potential of subconscious motivation research, initial findings from two exploratory studies will be shared; lending support for the investigation into the implicit-explicit aspects of learner motivation.

References:

About the speaker:
Zann Boo is a PhD candidate at the University of Nottingham and her research interest is in the role of motivation in second language acquisition. Her research topic seeks to understand the relationship between the conscious and subconscious dimensions of language learner motivation and how the two aspects interplay and interact; specifically, in how they interfere and/or contribute towards the learning of a second language.

~ ALL ARE WELCOME ~