

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Donnish Dominion on the Wane, says Oxford Professor

Professor Albert Henry Halsey, Emeritus Professor of Social & Administrative Studies of University of Oxford, will deliver a public lecture next week on how the rapid expansion of higher education in Britain has brought about the loss of status, decline of autonomy and worsening working conditions for university teachers.

Entitled "The Decline of Donnish Dominion" after a book published by Professor Halsey in 1992, the lecture is presented by the Faculty of Education of the Chinese University to commemorate its 30th Anniversary. It will start at 4:00 p.m. on March 10 (Wednesday) in Science Centre Lecture Theatre L1 on the University campus in Shatin.

The British don is a legacy of the medieval days when he belonged to a gentlemanly class, part of a close-knit fellowship born of the church. This tradition had a deep influence on the self-conception of British academics. The drastic expansion of the number of university teaching posts in recent decades has resulted in a deterioration of the class conditions of intellectual labour. Professor Halsey will investigate the causes and consequences of the decline and discuss ways to reform the British higher education, which could be of relevance to Hong Kong.

A major builder of an influential research methodology which relates social stratification to educational attainment, Professor Halsey had been Director of the Department of Social and Administrative Studies of University of Oxford for more than 25 years until his retirement in 1990.

Well-known in the field of sociology of education, Professor Halsey is the co-editor of two major anthologies, Education, Economy and Society and Power and Ideology in Education. His findings concerning past and present conditions of the British academic community were included in his publications The British Academics and The Decline of Donnish Dominion. Apart from education, he has also surveyed the British society producing works such as Trends in British Society Since 1900 and British Social Trends Since 1900.

As former Advisor to the Secretary of State for Education, Professor Halsey had been actively engaged in education reforms and had made, through them, significant contributions to the betterment of community.

To celebrate its 30th Anniversary, the Chinese University will stage a series of Anniversary Lectures by distinguished scholars under the sponsorship of the Wei Lun Foundation Ltd. Other forthcoming speakers include Professor Tse-tsung Chow and Professor Richard P. Bagozzi from the U.S.; Professor Lotfi A Zadeh, Father of "Fuzzy Logic"; Professor Kenneth J. Arrow, Nobel Laureate in Economic Science; and Professor Harold Walter Kroto, a renowned scholar in Chemistry and Molecular Sciences.

Dear Editor,

You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or a photographer to cover the above lecture. Should you be interested in interviewing Professor Halsey, please contact Mr Ali Li at 609-7293 or Mrs Shirley Kwok at 609-7294.