

**Welcome Remarks at the 5th Honours Academy Symposium**

27 April 2026

CR002 Lecture Hall, Creative Humanities Hub, North Campus, HSUHK

Good afternoon, Academic Fellows, HA4001 Senior Research Project supervisors, department heads, programme directors, colleagues and students,

I am pleased to join you today at the 5th Honours Academy Symposium. May I extend a warm welcome to all of you. Thank you for taking the time to be part of this special occasion.

Honours Academy Symposium has become an important academic platform for our University. It represents not only a celebration of student research, but also a reflection of our collective commitment to intellectual rigour and interdisciplinary inquiry.

At the heart of today's Symposium of course is the HA4001 Senior Research Project, which serves as a genuine capstone learning experience for our HA students. This project brings together the knowledge, skills, and intellectual curiosity that students have developed throughout their undergraduate journey, and challenges them to apply these learning outcomes through sustained, independent research.

You will hear eight outstanding presentations today, each competing for the prestigious awards of "Outstanding Presentation" and "Excellence in Research." These awards recognise not only academic excellence but also the creativity and impact of the students' work.

Why is research important? Research drives academic and societal progress by challenging assumptions and generating new knowledge. It equips our students with critical thinking, resilience, and a passion for inquiry — skills essential for tackling real-world challenges and making meaningful contributions in any field.

What makes this experience particularly distinctive is its interdisciplinary nature. Many of the pressing issues facing society today do not fit neatly within disciplinary boundaries. Through this project, students are encouraged to look beyond a single field of study, to integrate diverse perspectives, and to approach complex real-world problems. This experience fosters critical thinking, creativity and independent inquiry — qualities that are essential whether our students pursue further studies, embark on professional careers, or take up leadership roles in the community.

I am very glad to witness the growth and achievements of the Honours Academy, an incubator for future servant leaders, over the years. HA has continued to evolve into a vibrant academic community that nurtures curiosity, independent thinking, and social responsibility.

This year's Symposium showcases the breadth and depth of research topics, addressing important social, cultural, and technological issues relevant to Hong Kong and beyond. These projects demonstrate not only academic competence, but also a genuine commitment to understanding and responding to contemporary challenges.

I would like to commend our students for their dedication, perseverance, and independent research efforts. Completing a project of this depth requires discipline and resilience, and you should all be very proud of what you have accomplished. Your work has value not only within the academic community, but also in its potential contributions to society and public discourse.

I would also like to invite everyone here today to actively engage in the presentations and the question-and-answer sessions. Thoughtful questions, constructive feedback, and open intellectual exchange are essential to meaningful scholarly dialogue, and they greatly enrich the learning experience for our students.

To our Academic Fellows, HA4001 supervisors, colleagues, and supporting staff, thank you for your dedication to mentoring and nurturing our students. Your guidance and encouragement are vital in sustaining the Honours Academy's vibrant and supportive research culture.

Finally, to our students, I am confident that the skills and mindset you have developed through this research journey will serve you well in your future careers and in your contributions to the community.

I wish you all a fruitful and inspiring Symposium. Thank you.