

## Prof. Forester Wong Joins the Department of Accountancy



Hey there! I'm Forester Wong, and I'm absolutely delighted to join the Department of Accountancy at CityU as an Assistant Professor. It's great to meet you all!

First, a bit about me, I'm originally from Hong Kong, and I pursued my higher education at the University of Melbourne, Australia, where I completed a double bachelor's degree in Commerce and Law. My academic journey then took me to Columbia University, where I earned my Ph.D. in Accounting. Before making my way to CityU, I was part of the faculty at the University of Southern California, which was an incredible experience.

My research is somewhat like detective work, as it involves blending unique scenarios, massive data sets, and cutting-edge tech to understand the role of corporate governance and information frictions in both developed and emerging economies. I study developed economies to understand how different corporate governance mechanisms can be used to mitigate agency conflicts. For example, my dissertation uses a novel setting to examine investors' coordination, namely an external governance mechanism that can be used to overcome the free-rider problem. My work in emerging economies is aimed at understanding how information frictions are created and how they can be overcome. In the absence of well-developed markets and institutions, firms in emerging markets carry out their day-to-day operations within networks of related stakeholders rather than in open markets. These relational contracts create different information frictions for different investors. For example, in several papers, I use emerging technology to examine the effects of relational contracts on the types of information that are important in emerging economies, the role of financial intermediaries, and the barriers that these contracts generate for foreign investors.

Teaching at CityU is something I'm eagerly looking forward to. There's nothing more rewarding than sparking that "lightbulb moment" in students, guiding them through their learning journey, and equipping them with knowledge that will pave their way to successful careers.

Outside my academic pursuits, I have a passion for exploring diverse cuisines. There's nothing quite like the adventure of tasting different foods from around the world.

I'm looking forward to beginning this new chapter of my career at CityU. I can't wait to meet and work with all of you!

