



# SEARCHING: THE WAY HOME – BORROWING THE VOICES OF THE HOMELESS

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尋家路

細說香港無家者現象



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Individual Issues

HOME

Care  
Policy



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# Dong Chi's story

- “I usually shower in the bathroom of the public pool. It opens at seven in the morning and closes at midnight, it is very flexible”
- I heard in some of those subdivided flats, a bathroom is shared among ten tenants. That's worse than the public toilet - because you also have to live with these people, interact, and try to get along.



Benny Lam、侷住--- 2016基  
層房屋攝影展Trapped



Benny Lam、侷住--- 2016基  
層房屋攝影展Trapped



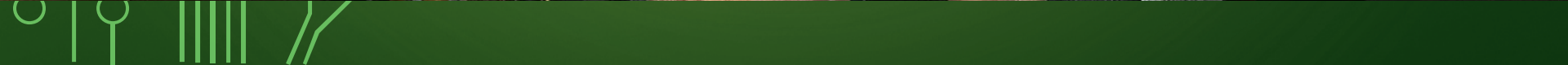
Benny Lam







Benny Lam





Benny Lam

# Dong Chi's story

- “In those hostels, the rules are strict. You have to stick to the curfew, it dictates when you can go out, when you have to come back. And you also have to move out by a certain time. Then starts all over again. I'd rather be here.”



# Dong Chi's story

- “Of course I have tried to apply. I was assigned a unit a while ago. I didn't accept it. I didn't even look at the letter. It was sent to my brother's place.
- “I don't like to live on Kowloon side. I'd rather be here... I have lived on Hong Kong side all my life, even when I was living with my family.”
- “You cannot really trust this government. They don't live up to their words. They said they would build more public facilities, look around here, you cannot even find an extra chair to sit. They also promised to build more public housing – where are they?”

# Dong Chi's story

- “Why should I ask for help? Even if they want to help, can I really stay with them in their home? It is not possible, right?”
- “My relationship with my family has never been good. Or else I wouldn't have slept here for almost four years. When I was younger and was still single, maybe in my thirties, I had already started coming out to sleep on the streets.”

# Dong Chi's story

- “When I was still working, for many years, I commuted between Hong Kong and Shenzhen everyday. My wife lived in Shenzhen, so I went to stay with her every night after work, and commuted to Hong Kong every morning to go to work.
- It was exhausting, it drains me just thinking about it now.”
- “I took the severance in 2003 and ended up losing all of it and couldn't pay off the mortgage of the house in Shenzhen.”

# Reflections

- “I am used to it now. I have always been a loner. I like eating by myself, doing things by myself. ”
- Whether or not homelessness is a choice is a topic with which researchers, policy makers, and social commentators alike often grapple. Maybe Dong Chi’s life story has helped us understand choices as a nuanced concept.
- “To many street sleepers, “being housed” is only an additional physical shelter, it does not necessarily mean improvement in their subsequent living conditions.”



# Wider reflections

- “Homelessness” as anti-hegemonic
  - not conform to exploitative housing market
  - not conform to imposed co-habitation (hostel) and imposed relocation (public housing)
  - not conform to culturally imposed family “values”
  - not conform to an unequal society (toil to make merely a bare living)





快安床 平過船 區區見膠膠時

區三床

和平左膠時  
實數旺角區

官商勾結  
床位五千

支持學生

支持學生  
RUCF COMM

住

CK

連中苦大奇 金鏈推人

觀後取級 粵家 去新 全世 對話

久在本地... 金料王... 若居人... 旺此... 伊年... 治... 伊年... 治... 伊年... 治...

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