

CHRIE FutureFund™ Introduces (again) Wangoo Lee





CHRIE FutureFund™ WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Hello ICHRIE members!

My name is Wangoo Lee, and I am currently working as an Assistant Professor at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Just last summer, I completed my PhD studies at Temple University, Philadelphia. Following my graduation, I relocated halfway around the world, and for the past eight months, I have proudly called Hong Kong my home!

The leading reputation that PolyU holds in hospitality and tourism, as well as the excellent research resources they offer, have been amazingly beneficial for a junior faculty member like me. Working in PolyU has enabled me, while focusing on my research ambitions, to interact with industry leaders, deliver guest lectures at other institutions, and teach a diverse, multinational group of students. I've been advised that life as an Assistant Professor is busier than being a PhD Student - this is so true, but these new experiences have been incredibly rewarding.

Reflecting on my PhD journey, I must commend the invaluable support I received from Temple professors and peers, notably my advisor, Dr. Lu Lu. With her trust in my academic pursuits (and a bit of patience - had to mention!), Dr. Lu played a key role in nurturing my wide-ranging research interests. Besides exploring how service technology is redefining hospitality/hospitable experience, I found myself drawn to philosophy/theory research, particularly fascinated by the logic of necessity-based causality and hospitality-specific theorizing. I'm also indebted to my PhD colleagues at Temple. Though we're a relatively small group, each of us provided immeasurable support to one another. The people around you indeed matter, and I consider myself fortunate to have had such an EXCEPTIONAL group of individuals during my PhD time. Their presence was, unquestionably, a key element of my thriving during this scholarly pursuit.



One of the defining moments of my PhD journey was when I won the Best Paper Award at the Annual Graduate Education and Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality & Tourism. This achievement not only added one line in my CV but reaffirmed my confidence in my research abilities. Also, that paper I presented became my "job paper" during a series of job interviews, including the one at PolyU! The financial aid and complimentary registration that came with the award also enabled me to attend the ICHRIE conference, providing an enriching opportunity to network with respected professors and experienced industry professionals.

So, thank you for taking the time to read this brief account of my transition from being a PhD student at Temple to becoming an Assistant Professor at PolyU. I hope you continue to take an interest in my future endeavors as I strive to grow further as a scholar and educator in hospitality and tourism! Sending you all heartfelt warmth and love! Stay blessed and hospitable.