Vice-Chancellor’s PhD Scholarships

**The Reimagining of Democracy and Nationhood in Postcolonial Hong Kong Activism through the Art**

## School of Art, Architecture and Design

This project aims to examine the role of art in Hong Kong pro-democracy social movements from 2014-2020 and the ways in which it creates and circulates a new political imaginary of Hong Kong’s society. The main research questions are: What role did art in the movements play in the signifier of a new discourse of democracy? What kind of discourse and characteristics of democracy were collectively (re)imagined through art?

Prospective applicants are invited to investigate ‘art’ arising from the social movements including graphics, slogans, anthems, and street graffiti, etc. that were created by a multifarious range of artist-citizens and citizen-artists ranging from professional to amateur, the untrained to self-motivated. Theoretical frameworks that can engage with the study of nationalism, discourse analysis, and socio-political affordances manifested in the social movements are especially welcome. Candidates will be expected to conduct a textual, historical, and visual analysis on the lifespans of artworks during the studied period and critically examine Hong Kong’s pro-democracy social movements from a holistic approach.

The project features a built-in three-month internship at the [Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism](https://asen.ac.uk/) (ASEN) where the successful candidate will be offered an opportunity to collaborate with PhD students across the UK in the organisation of ASEN’s annual conference on the topic relevant to the candidate’s study.

For informal enquiries about the project, please contact Professor Wessie Ling w.ling@londonmet.ac.uk