

# Developing students' observational and communication skills through examining the role of money in society

CCGL9063 How to make (sense of) money

**The challenge:** We often look to 'the market' to explain all kinds of social phenomena. But people rarely act in economically rational ways! How can we help students develop skills to perceive and describe the different ways that money acts in our everyday lives?

**The solution:** Students are required to explore beyond the classroom by documenting a specific aspect of money's material qualities or social uses within Hong Kong society. Students produce smartphone-generated media and accompanying explanatory text for inclusion in a virtual Hong Kong Money Museum ([hkmoneymuseum.com](http://hkmoneymuseum.com)).

Video 1

**The result:** Below are examples of museum exhibits created by students...

## **Jumpin' into a New Currency System of "Jumpin Gym"**

Jumpin' Gym is a Hong Kong-based entertainment centre, which provides opportunities for people to spend some quality time with family and friends... Naturally, money has to be paid in order to enjoy the facilities provided by Jumpin' gym. However, Hong Kong Dollars (HKD) is not the major currency that flows around. Instead, players in the centre need to convert their HKD to the Jumpin' Gym tokens (JGT) in order to use their facilities.

[\[Read more...\]](#)



## **A Money-driven Kinship?**

This video showcases the conversation between a mother and her newly employed son. She sees the money spent on the child's trips, clothes, and even university tuition as 'investment'. It is clear that she expects monetary contribution in return for her expenses incurred in child-raising. The mother demonstrated the mentality of a traditional Chinese parent: bringing up children to provide for one's old age. ... This raises the question of whether filial obligations can be quantified and translated onto monetary terms, in the form of debt.

[\[Read more...\]](#)

Video 2

**Student's feedback:** "Taking photos really made me look closely at what people do with money and think carefully about the meanings attached to such actions. It's great to contribute to a larger project trying to understand money in Hong Kong"