

**CITATION FOR**  
**Professor Stephen John Ball, FBA, FAcSS**  
**Doctor of Education, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Professor Stephen John Ball for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

Renowned for being one of the most eminent researchers in the field of education policy, Professor Ball is Emeritus Professor of Sociology of Education, at the University College London's Institute of Education. He is Fellow of the British Academy, Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, Laureate of Kappa Delta Pi and founding editor of the *Journal of Education Policy*.

Professor Ball grew up in a working-class area of West London, in the post-war era of a new welfare state, free milk at school and the National Health Service. Having passed the '11+' examination, which determined the level of secondary education children would receive, Professor Ball found himself in a different school to all his primary school friends and in a completely alien environment – “a Bourdeurian nightmare” as he has called it, in reference to sociologist Pierre Bourdieu's writing on social stratification structure. He has described the teaching as being “dull, didactic and repetitive” with “talk, board-writing and snap questions.” Such were the social divisions of the time, he felt out of place and different to the other students and never really fit in among the children of lawyers, doctors or stockbrokers. Fortunately, he eventually moved to a school with a more varied demographic.

Having declined a place on a bachelor's course in history and social sciences at Sheffield University, he later opted to study politics at the newly established and socially diverse University of Essex, before finally switching to sociology, specialising in education. There, he was under the tutorship of Dennis Marsden, the inspirational scholar who co-wrote the seminal book *Education and the Working Class* (1961). Professor Ball has described reading this book as “an extraordinary experience,” as he felt it was about his own life, successes, failures and struggles. Its approach to inequality and accompanying nuances convinced him that he too wanted to be a sociologist, and undertake research to tackle inequality, rendering it intolerable to society.

Having made this decision, Professor Ball duly completed a master's then a doctoral degree in Sociological Studies, as well as becoming a lecturer, at the

University of Sussex. His PhD supervisor was Professor Colin Lacey, author of *Hightown Grammar* (1970), which Professor Ball had read as an undergraduate, and whose description of exclusion, differentiation and normalisation of school life again resonated with his own experience. He also drew inspiration from the Chicago school of sociology, and became part of a community of British ethnographers, contributing to the development of educational ethnography as a new method of research.

In 1985, Professor Ball felt a desire to return to London, as it was the core of education policy formulation. He consequently moved to King's College to become Tutor for the MA in Urban Education, in which the student body comprised teachers wishing to contribute a critical view on the relations between schooling and the urban environment. He spent 16 years at King's, was appointed Reader, then Professor of Sociology of Education, before moving to the internationally renowned Institute of Education at University College London, where he was Karl Mannheim Professor of Sociology of Education between 2001 and 2015.

The syllabus for the master's course he was tutoring at King's introduced him to the works of another member of the Collège de France, Michel Foucault, whose theories address the relationship between power and knowledge and subjectivity, and how they work as a form of social control. Foucault's ideas related very productively to Professor Ball's interest in policy and the state. They encouraged him to reflect on a paradox: how the discipline of social sciences provided the tools to manage society in order to tackle inequality; yet using these tools made sociologists part of a governmentality that allowed individuals to govern themselves.

Professor Ball has been a prolific scholar since the early 1980s. With over 370 publications and over 48,000 citations to his name, he has developed research and written books and articles on various themes, including the theory of school organisation, ethnography, micropolitics, education reform and the privatisation of education. The most recent of books on education he has authored include *Edu.Net* (Routledge 2017), which analyses research on global actors' education policy in African and India; and *Foucault as Educator* (Springer 2017), which examines how the philosopher's theories apply to the discipline. A new book *Against School* will be published next year. His passion and gift for writing has also led him to publish a series of detective novels, set in the world of higher education.

Professor Ball has won great commendation for his research and contributions to education policy around the world. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2006 and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2000. He held until recently visiting positions at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Furthermore, he has been awarded honorary degrees from the University of Turku in Finland and the University of Leicester, England.

Mr Chairman, Professor Ball is globally acclaimed for his dedication to reforming education and analysing policy to tackle social inequality. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Professor Stephen Ball for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Education.

**CITATION FOR**  
**Professor Marilyn Cochran-Smith,**  
**Doctor of Education, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is with great honour that I present Professor **Marilyn Cochran-Smith** for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

Professor **Cochran-Smith is the** Cawthorne Endowed Professor of Teacher Education for Urban Schools, Emerita, at the Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College, in the United States, and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Teacher Education at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. She is a Fellow and former president of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the largest education research organisation in the world, and is highly respected nationally and internationally for her scholarship and leadership in teacher education research, practice, and policy, as well as for her sustained commitment to teaching and teacher education for equity and social justice.

With a passion for education from a young age, Professor Cochran-Smith obtained her bachelor's degree as a Phi Beta Kappa graduate with a major in sociology as well as certification in elementary education at the College of Wooster in the United States. She worked as a primary school classroom teacher for six years, winning the Outstanding Young Educator Award for her school district in 1975. While teaching, Professor Cochran-Smith also earned a Master of Education degree and professional certification as a Reading Specialist and Reading Supervisor for all age groups. She then entered the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a PhD in Language Education, and served as a full-time lecturer, before becoming an Assistant Professor, and a tenured Associate Professor of Education at the Graduate School of Education. In 1996, Professor Cochran-Smith joined the Lynch School of Education and Human Development faculty at Boston College as Professor of Education. In 2005, she was named the inaugural holder of the John E. Cawthorne Endowed Chair in Teacher Education for Urban Schools. For more than 20 years, she was director of the PhD programme in Curriculum and Instruction at Boston College. Thereafter, she continued to teach, direct dissertations, advise students, and serve on the Doctoral Advisory Committee until 2022.

Ever since the 1980s, Professor Cochran-Smith has suggested that teachers must not be regarded merely as consumers and implementors of the knowledge generated by those outside schools and classrooms. Instead, they should be prepared and supported as decision-makers and generators of knowledge, who work with others as active agents for equity-based school and social change. In line with this, Professor Cochran-Smith and her co-authors have developed and implemented a number of innovative concepts, such as 'teachers as researchers', 'inquiry as stance', and 'strong equity' as the centrepieces of teacher education and teacher learning, ideas that have been adapted in many teacher learning initiatives nationally and internationally. Professor Cochran-Smith was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Teacher Education*, founding co-editor of the Teachers College Press book series on Practitioner Inquiry, and co-editor of two key research handbooks on teacher education. Furthermore, she has been an active member of major education research societies for many years. In addition to her leadership roles in AERA, Professor Cochran-Smith is a Fellow of the National Education Policy Center and an elected member of the National Academy of Education (NAEd), an honorary organisation which aims to advance high-quality research to improve the effectiveness of education policies and practices. There, she has held many positions, including inaugural Chair of its Professional Development Committee, which is devoted to the development of the next generation of scholars, as well as member of the Board of Directors and the Research Advisory Committee.

In recognition of her international work in teacher education research, practice and policy, Professor Cochran-Smith has received honorary doctorates from the University of Glasgow in Scotland and the University of Alicante, Spain. She was one of the first Scholars in Residence at Israel's Mofet Institute of Teacher Education and was the inaugural holder of the C.J. Koh Distinguished Endowed Professorship at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Over the years, Professor Cochran-Smith has garnered many awards for her scholarship, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Literacy Research Association, the Legacy Award from Division K of AERA, the Association of Teacher Educators' Distinguished Research Award, the Spencer Foundation's Mentoring Award, and the Carl Grant Research Award from the National Association of Multicultural Education. Professor Cochran-Smith has also served on multiple prestigious panels on US teacher education, including the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation and Partnerships for Improved Student Learning, the NAEd Committee on Teacher Preparation, and the National Research Council's Committee on Teacher Education, which was charged by the United States Congress to report on the state of teacher preparation. Internationally, Professor Cochran-Smith served as Chair of Norway's International Advisory Committee on Teacher Education, and she is currently a member of the International Advisory Committee for the University

of Helsinki in Finland, a group that provides international consultation of matters related to current and future university policies, practice, and governance.

Professor Cochran-Smith has been invited to deliver keynote addresses around the world, including at the NAFOL international conference on the education of teacher educators in Trondheim, Norway, the University of Auckland in New Zealand, the Australia Association of Education Research in Sydney, Australia, and at Oxford University in England. From 2011-2018, she was the co-director of a two-country team of teacher education practitioners and researchers from Boston College and the University of Auckland, which worked on Project RITE (Rethinking Initial Teacher Education for Equity).

Mr Chairman, over four decades Professor Cochran-Smith has dedicated herself to enhancing teaching and teacher education for equity and social justice. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I am privileged to present to you Professor Cochran-Smith for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Education.

**CITATION FOR**  
**Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang, GBS, JP**  
**Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang has been a prominent figure in the business, political, and educational sectors for over half a century, making significant contributions to the prosperity and development of Hong Kong. His personal journey mirrors the struggles and achievements of the city, showcasing his resilience, determination, and ability to overcome challenges, creating a legendary story that belongs to both him and Hong Kong.

Born in 1952, Professor Ma grew up in a grassroots family, living in a stone house in Shau Kei Wan and later moving to a subdivided flat in North Point. After his father passed away, the family faced financial difficulties, even relying on pawn shops to make ends meet. At that time, Hong Kong did not have free education, and paying school fees was a challenge. He often had to request that the school allow him to delay payment. In secondary school, he encountered inspiring teachers who ignited his determination to succeed. Through relentless effort, he achieved good results in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and was admitted to the University of Hong Kong, majoring in economics and history. With the help of scholarships and grants, he graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours. From the cramped flat in North Point, he stepped onto the international stage, embarking on a distinguished career.

After graduation, Professor Ma entered the financial sector, holding key positions in various local and overseas banks and financial institutions, including Chase Manhattan Bank, Royal Bank of Canada Dominion Securities, and JP Morgan. He worked in New York, London, and Toronto, facing numerous challenges and setbacks. Despite being alone in foreign parts, he maintained his beliefs and overcame difficulties with unwavering perseverance, eventually becoming a leader in the sector. The saying, "Adversity builds character," perfectly describes how these experiences forged Professor Ma's indomitable spirit.

After two decades in the global financial markets, Professor Ma returned to Hong Kong in 1990, to serve as the Executive Director of Kumagai Gumi (Hong Kong) Ltd., a listed company in construction and property development. However, he never lost sight of his mission to give back to society and serve Hong Kong, the land that had nurtured him. This sense of duty drove him to embrace change and move forward.

In 2002, Professor Ma left his highly-paid position as PCCW's Chief Financial Officer to join the Hong Kong SAR Government as Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury and later as Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in 2007. During this period, he shouldered heavy responsibilities, addressing various challenges. Together with other government colleagues, he successfully steered Hong Kong through the economic downturn caused by the SARS epidemic. He also promoted the development of the local public bond market, established the Financial Reporting Council and facilitated the historic merger of the two railway companies, significantly enhancing the efficiency of the railway system. His outstanding leadership contributed greatly to Hong Kong's financial stability and diversified economic development, solidifying its position as an international financial centre.

However, fate is unpredictable. In 2008, health issues meant that Professor Ma retired from politics, but he did not stop serving society. When his health permitted, he continued to participate in public service, most notably as Chairman of the MTR Corporation from 2013 to 2019. During his tenure, he successfully completed the HighSpeed Rail project, connecting Hong Kong with Mainland China's high-speed rail network and facilitating professional, commercial and trade exchanges between the two regions.

Despite his extensive contributions to the economy, finance, and social governance, education has always held a special place in Professor Ma's heart. He remembers that it was the guidance and financial support from his teachers that shaped who he is today. He firmly believes that education is the key to changing one's destiny, and teachers are crucial in shaping the future of society. Therefore, his contributions to education are equally commendable.

Professor Ma is passionate about education. Between 2002 and 2006, he established five scholarships at the University of Hong Kong to support history students in achieving their academic goals. In 2008, he was appointed as an Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Hong Kong. Later, in 2013, Professor Ma was appointed as an Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Business Administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Since 2011, he has also been the Permanent Honorary President of the Hong Kong Special Schools Council, dedicating himself to the advancement of special education.

His connection with The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) began in 2008 when he actively participated in and promoted the University's renaming process, emphasising the importance of nurturing educational talent. From 2017 to 2020, as Chairman of the Council of EdUHK, he not only made a generous donation to establish scholarships to support student growth but also served as a guest speaker in the University's General Education courses, sharing his entrepreneurial spirit with young people. He encouraged prospective teachers to



embrace their passion for education and take on the responsibility of nurturing the next generation. Under his leadership, EdUHK achieved significant development and numerous accomplishments.

Additionally, with his support, EdUHK received backing from the Education Bureau to establish an urban learning centre in North Point, providing students and working professionals with a more convenient and high-quality learning environment, further promoting the University's innovation and academic development.

Professor Ma believes that imparting knowledge and cultivating character are equally important. After stepping down as Chairman of the EdUHK Council, he became Co-Chairman of the Character Education Foundation, actively promoting character education in society and advocating the values of "respect for teachers and honouring education." He is dedicated to promoting the concept of excellent character education and cultivating leaders with both virtue and talent.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Professor Ma was awarded by Hong Kong SAR the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2009 and was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2010. These honours highlight his selfless dedication and remarkable achievements in Hong Kong society. Currently, Professor Ma continues to serve as a member of the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers, offering his insights and contributing to Hong Kong's development.

Mr Chairman, Professor Frederick Ma has served Hong Kong society for over half a century with remarkable achievements. His unwavering commitment to educational development and his dedication to social affairs have earned him widespread respect and recognition across multiple fields. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I respectfully request that you confer the degree of Honorary Doctor of Social Sciences upon Professor Frederick Ma Si-Hang, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to Hong Kong society and the field of education.

**CITATION FOR**  
**The Hon Maria TAM Wai-chu, GBM, GBS, JP**  
**Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman of the Council,

The Hon Maria Tam Wai-chu is a highly esteemed figure in Hong Kong's political arena, with a career spanning five decades across multiple fields including law, public service and politics. Her extensive knowledge, steadfast beliefs, and sincere dedication to the welfare of society have led to numerous contributions to the wellbeing of Hong Kong. Hon Tam has not only witnessed but also actively participated in significant historical changes in Hong Kong, playing a crucial role in the process of Hong Kong's return to China and the formulation and promotion of the Basic Law. Her efforts and achievements are deeply imprinted in Hong Kong's history.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Hon Tam attended St Paul's Co-educational College, where she aspired to become a lawyer, hoping to uphold justice through the law. After graduating from high school, she went to the University of London to study law and obtained an honours degree in 1973. During her studies in the UK, she travelled extensively across Europe, Central Asia, and North America, broadening her international perspective. She was then called to the bar at Gray's Inn, officially entering the legal profession.

As the Chinese saying goes, "Born here, grown here," and despite having excellent work and development opportunities in the UK, Hon Tam chose to return to Hong Kong to practise law, dedicating her knowledge to society. She firmly holds the belief that law is not merely a tool for maintaining social order but also a crucial force for protecting the underprivileged.

One of the most notable achievements in Hon Tam's early career as a barrister was her successful assistance in securing residency rights for mainland Chinese illegal immigrants in 1979. At that time, the Hong Kong British government announced the cancellation of the "Touch Base" policy, and many illegal immigrants faced deportation. These families sought help from Hon Tam's legal practice and, driven by a strong sense of justice, she took on this challenging task. After numerous legal debates and negotiations, she successfully helped over 3,000 people obtain residency in Hong Kong. This act of justice not only demonstrated her extraordinary professional ability but also highlighted her compassion for vulnerable groups, laying a solid foundation for her subsequent political career.

With the initial intention of securing more public facilities for grassroots citizens, Hon Tam was elected as a member of the Urban Council in 1979, marking the

beginning of her political career. Shortly thereafter, she was consecutively appointed as a member of the District Council, Legislative Council, and Executive Council, becoming a key figure in Hong Kong's political scene and the only "quadruple councillor" in Hong Kong's history.

The most historically significant aspect of Hon Tam's political career is her outstanding contribution to the process of Hong Kong's return to China. As "quadruple councillor," she actively participated in the negotiations between China and the UK regarding Hong Kong's future, representing the interests of Hong Kong's citizens at various decision-making levels. Her "shadow in the mirror" concept became a crucial suggestion that led to a consensus on the operation of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, showcasing her keen insight into complex diplomatic affairs. In 1984, she personally witnessed the signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration in Beijing, a milestone in Hong Kong's history.

As the pace of Hong Kong's return to China accelerated, thanks to her profound legal expertise, Hon Tam was once again entrusted with a significant role. In 1985, she was appointed as a member of the Basic Law Drafting Committee, participating in the drafting of this foundational legal document for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. She meticulously reviewed every word to ensure that the Basic Law fully embodied the core spirit of "One Country, Two Systems" and protected Hong Kong's legal order. Her dedication and effort represented a significant contribution to the birth of the Basic Law and the smooth transition of Hong Kong's return to China.

Since then, Hon Tam's work and life have been closely linked with the Basic Law. To defend this important constitutional document, she resolutely gave up her legislative position in 1997 and joined the Basic Law Committee, fully committing herself to the education and implementation of the document. She understood that ensuring the steady implementation of the Basic Law in Hong Kong required all sectors of society, especially the younger generation, to understand its patriotic spirit and legal principles. Therefore, she actively promoted Basic Law education, explaining its importance and far-reaching significance in both local and international forums. She also collaborated with higher education institutions such as The Education University of Hong Kong to provide young people with more opportunities to understand the national legal system and served as an instructor in the Education Bureau's teacher training courses on the rule of law, promoting teacher training and passing on the spirit of the rule of law to future educators. She stepped down from her position as Deputy Director of the Basic Law Committee in 2023.

Hon Tam has always been enthusiastic about sharing the path to success with young people, particularly emphasising the importance of time management. She often mentions that regardless of everyone's different backgrounds, each person only has twenty-four hours in a day; time is the scarcest resource. The key to achieving success in life lies in how wisely these limited and precious hours are used. She firmly believes that only through efficient time management can a person control their destiny and shape their future. This belief is not only the secret

to her own success but also her expectation for the younger generation. Additionally, Hon Tam places great importance on the development of education, often encouraging teachers and reminding them of their significant responsibilities. Teachers' words and actions have a profound impact on students, and they must lead by example to cultivate a responsible and dedicated next generation for society.

Hon Tam has demonstrated her leadership abilities in various public positions. She has been appointed to key roles such as Director of the Hong Kong Airport Authority, Member of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Advisory Committee on Corruption, and Chairperson of the ICAC Corruption Reporting Review Committee. She has also served as a member of the Preparatory Committee for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, a Hong Kong representative to the National People's Congress of China, and the convener of Hong Kong representatives to the National People's Congress. She is currently a member of the District Council Eligibility Review Committee. She also founded several influential organisations, including the Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers, the Progressive Hong Kong Society and the Hong Kong Junior Police Officers' Association, tirelessly promoting social progress and the rule of law.

Hon Tam's contributions to society have been widely recognised and praised. She was selected as one of Hong Kong's Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1981, appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1982, and awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1989. In 1998, she was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star, and in 2013, she received the Grand Bauhinia Medal.

Mr Chairman, Hon Tam has exemplified what it means to be a true patriot and defender of the rule of law, has dedicated herself to the realisation of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, to the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, and the legal order of the country. It is my great honour to introduce Hon Tam, and on behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I respectfully request that you confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences upon Hon Tam Wai-chu.