

## **Youth Antisocial Behavior: Pathways, Contexts and Social Work Practice**

Presenter: Professor Ronald Feldman

Date: 30 January 2015

Time: 3pm to 4.30pm

Venue: AS7-06-42 - FASS Research Division Seminar Room

During the seminar, Professor Ronald Feldman highlighted the High Base Rate Hypothesis by Loeber, as well as the Dynamic Cascade Model of Youth Violence by Dodge, Greenberg and Malone as important theories which describe the development of antisocial behaviors in youth. From the Dynamic Cascade Model of Youth Violence, Dr Feldman emphasized that one way to reduce antisocial behavior in youth is to reduce their contact with other antisocial youths. He further lends support to this argument by sharing the results of his study from the St Louis Experiment during the talk. (The St Louis Experiment has been documented in the book, the St Louis Conundrum.) From his study, he showed that grouping antisocial youths with prosocial peers may reduce the antisocial youths' antisocial behaviors without producing any adverse consequences for the prosocial peers. In addition, his study also found that compared to non-experienced group workers, experienced group workers are able to create more significant improvements in the behavior of the antisocial youths, emphasizing their importance.