Recently, many cases of cheating have happened in the Hong Kong society. It has introduced an upsurge of discussions about the role of Feng Shui masters in the society. Actually, how does Feng Shui affect our society? What is the **relationship between Feng Shui and the identity of the Hong Kong people**?

Cheung Chi-Kong, Executive Director of [One Country Two Systems Research Institute Limited](http://www.octs.org.hk/) said “Feng Shui is the component of the **Chinese secular culture**. It is one part of small tradition in Chinese culture. It is not wholly supernatural and cannot be explained rationally. Feng Shui is not as simple as the environment furnishings. And Feng Shui’s connotation is more than the environment furnishings. It is the positive factor for the Hong Kong people to recognize its identity of Chinese people. For the Feng Shui, Mainland Chinese and Hong Kong Chinese have the same identity recognition.”

He continued, “Different from great tradition, the secular culture will have **bigger influence** on our living. If affects every aspects of our living, including the architecture, behavior and the relationships between the government and the folk.”

Joseph Bosco, the associate professor of the department of anthropology of the [Chinese University of Hong Kong](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/chinese/index.html) does not think that most Hong Kong people see fengshui as important in constructing their identity today. He said that it is easy to exaggerate feng shui’s importance in Hong Kong. Fengshui is seen as part of being “Chinese”. Hong Kong Chinese know that westerners tend to be skeptical about fengshui. They are uncomfortable about talking about fengshui with foreigners. However, they are also proud of their rationalism and modernity. According to Joseph, anthropologists call this type of phenomenon as “**cultural intimacies**”. “Cultural intimacies” is the cultural patterns or beliefs that people are publicly embarrassed about. People will privately feel proud of that cultural patterns or beliefs or feel that it captures part of the true character of their culture.”

He continued that Fengshui was used in colonial times as a way to talk about **rights**. The Chinese would claim that the building of rail line or road will damage Feng Shui. The Europeans (particularly the British in Hong Kong) would discuss this with the natives and often pay the compensation. There is an instrumental aspect to it. However, it would not work if it was completely instrumental and people did not have a basis of belief.”

Joseph does not think that Hong Kong people “trust in Feng Shui”. It is more that the Hong Kong people turn to Fengshui when they are nervous or when other attempts at control do not work. He explained that fengshui principles, in many cases, are just in the background of **people’s consciousness**.

No matter whether Feng Shui will create the identity of Hong Kong people, Feng Shui has affected the living of Hong Kong people very much. It seems that it is one part of **Hong Kong culture**.

*Short Biography*

*My name is Janet Li Hoi Yan. Born and educated in Hong Kong, I am a journalist and translator for various outlets. Graduated from Humanities department, I have keen interests in Arts and Culture. I would like to learn more things about arts and culture through the reporting duties.*