

## MASTER'S THESIS

### Conflict management strategies engaged by a forum host in a public forum in Hong Kong

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**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ENGAGED BY  
A FORUM HOST IN A PUBLIC FORUM IN HONG KONG**

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## ABSTRACT

This dissertation focuses on analysis of the phenomena observed in conflict management at a discourse level. Third party intervention of the host (or the third party) in the context of a forum broadcast live is studied for its vital influence on the process and outcome linguistically and socially.

At the advent of 1977, the apparent more maturing democratic atmosphere and intense relations among various political powers have accelerated the number and intensity of conflicts in public. Justification is achieved on the grounds of fair open discussions. An open forum in a bounded setting is one of the proper channels for the political game. The tactics of the host determine the effectiveness and success in his conflict management.

In this study, the rising need of conflict management is first introduced. Chapter Two examines literature related to contextualized third party intervention in conflicts. Chapter Three first describes and explains extracts; and then categorize the process through the discourse of *City Forum* (a live production of RTHK). In the following chapters, certain forum tactics and conflict management strategies are discussed before stating the implications and limitations; and finally, a final conclusion is drawn. The ultimate goal of this dissertation is to propose some mediating strategies for the host or third party in managing open forums specified for Hong Kong situation.

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