Politeness vs. impoliteness:

How to communicate effectively to maintain face

Co-organisers:

- [Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists (HKIUS)](#)

Date & Time: 18 December 2009 (Fri), 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Venue: [N003](#), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

In language study, there is an interesting field known as 'pragmatic politeness' which is concerned with how speakers and writers use specific combinations of strategies (e.g. apologising, showing respect, asserting common ground, thanking, seeking agreement) in order to both achieve their communicative goals and to ensure that the face of both the speaker/writer and the reader/hearer are maintained? These strategies are vital for effective communication and the full range available and in which contexts they are preferred are covered in this workshop? There are also contexts in which the speaker/writer may wish to convey irritation, annoyance or outright anger and these are particularly difficult communicative contexts? To handle such communicative events, an understanding of 'pragmatic impoliteness' strategies (e.g. withholding politeness, indirect impoliteness, avoiding agreement, making the hearer/reader feel uncomfortable) is invaluable for the professional communicator? This workshop will examine how to best utilize all of these resources in professional contexts.

Speaker: Professor Martin Warren, Department of English, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University