

Perceived Walkability of footbridges and sense of place in Tsuen Wan



Research Background

- The footbridge system is common in the compact city development in Hong Kong.
- Tsuen Wan (TW) is named the “City of Footbridge” because of its huge and extensive footbridge network.
- Achieving diversion of pedestrian flow on the ground level, VS destroying the man-land relationship as they convey users from point to point.
- literature: a possible relationship between walkability and sense of place (SOP) with a sense of community acting as the mediator.

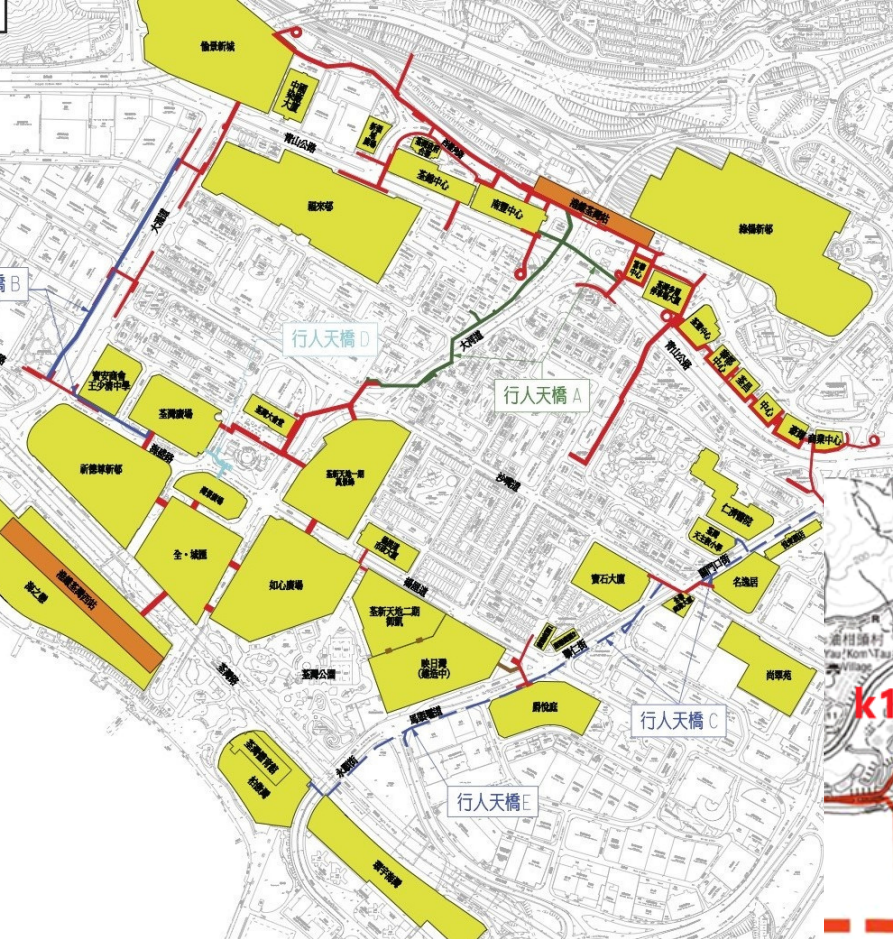


Research objectives

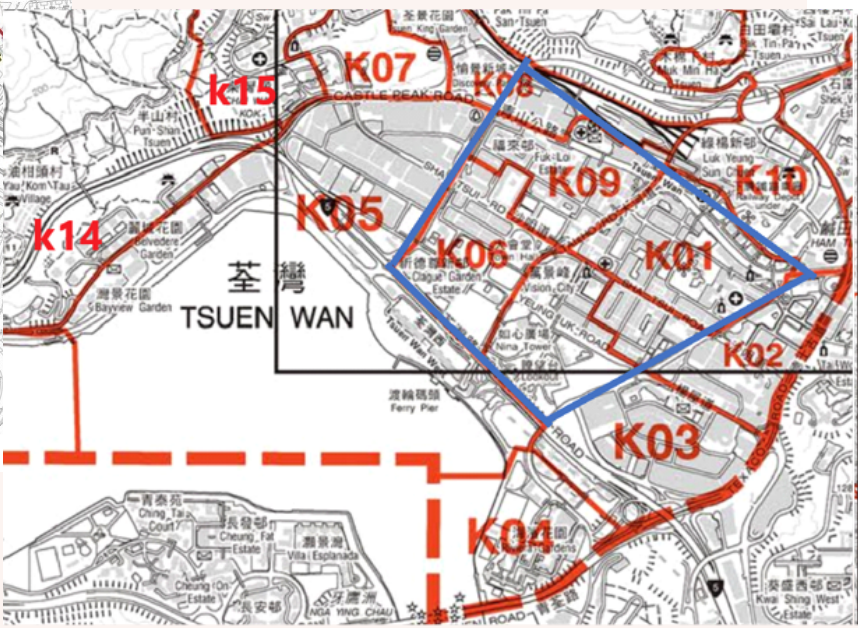
1. To investigate the perceived walkability of TW footbridge by the local residents
2. To explore the sense of place in TW
3. To examine the relationship between perceived walkability of footbridges and sense of place in TW.
4. To suggest elements of footbridges design to improve walkability so as the sense of place in TW.



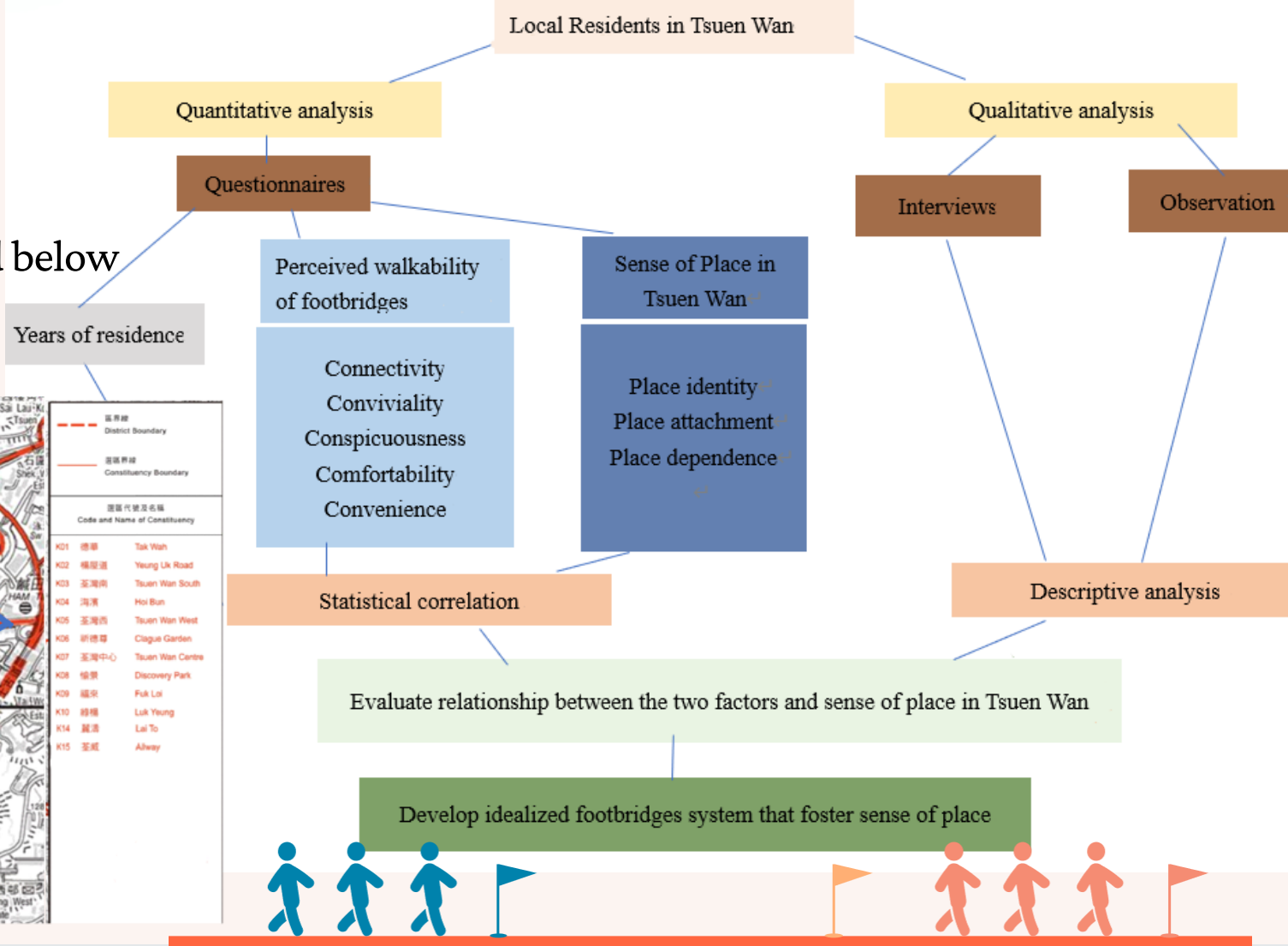
Research Scope



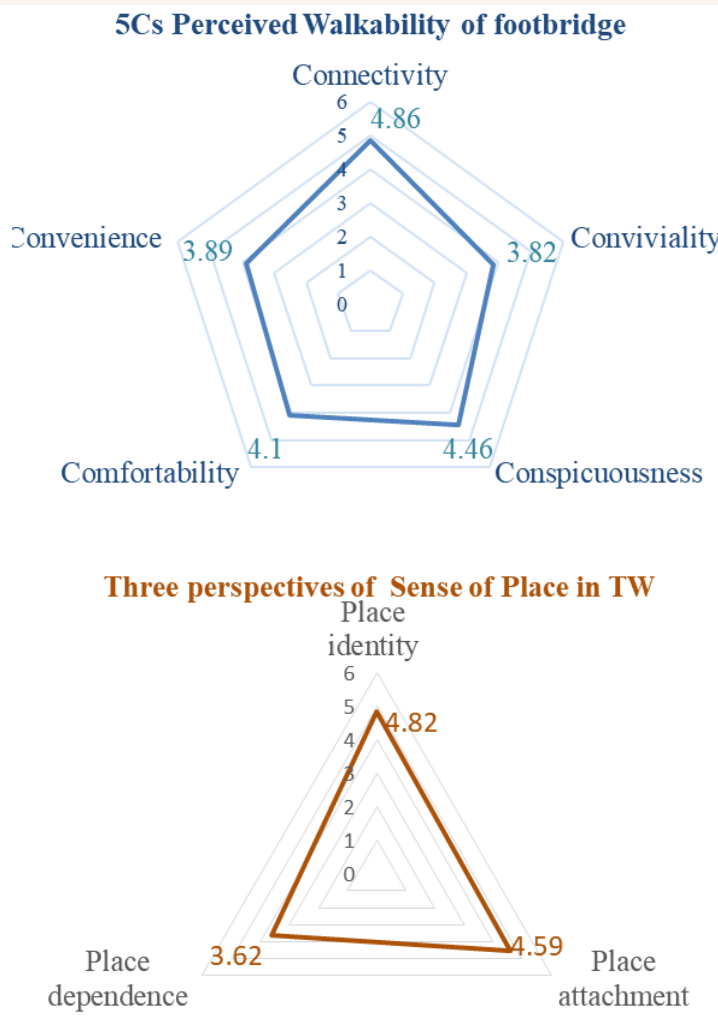
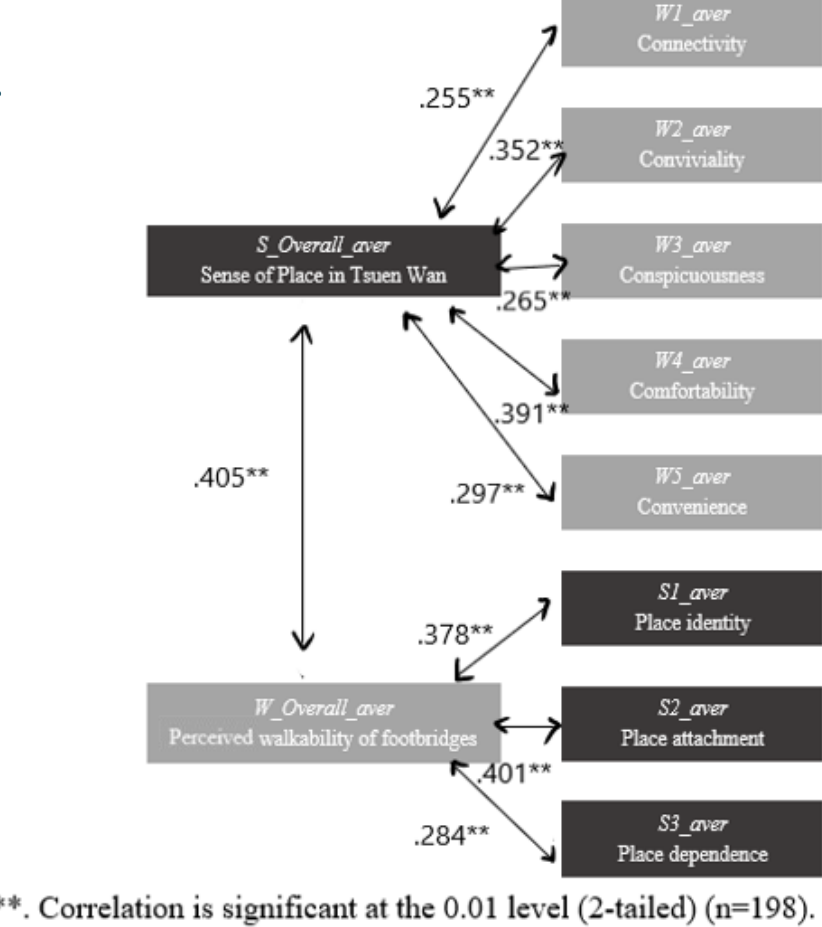
TW Residents = those resides in the specific constituency area stated below



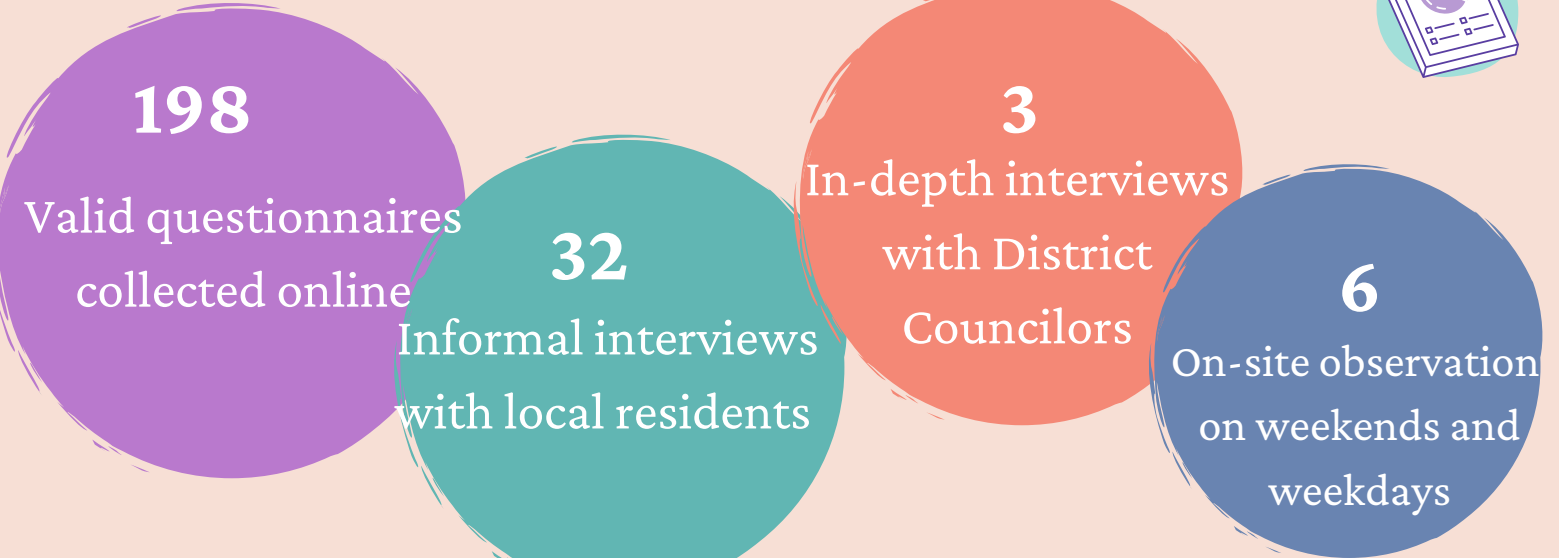
Research Framework



Results and Findings



Data Collection



Implication

Double and synchronized benefits of improvements in footbridges's designs

- 1) Adding more local characteristics or features into the footbridge designs:
 - Incorporating posters about the history and photos of the past old days, as well as graffiti and drawing by local residents
 - More holistic floor plans showing the overview of footbridge system → increasing place identity and sense of belongs to a place
- 2) More facilities connecting the elevated level and ground level for providing larger mobility to the users → exploring more places on the ground level
- 3) Community engagement in footbridge planning = precisely respond to residents need without producing expensive and impractical project → Community driven planning can foster SOP

- Perceived walkability of footbridges and SOP in TW both score a **moderately high** level of mean 4.16 and 4.34 respectively.

Footbridges: connective, comfortable and safe
indirect and boring

Tsuen Wan: convenient, Place like home
densely populated, inner-city decay

Sense of Community is not destroyed by the footbridge system
Functionality of footbridges could increase place identity & place attachment

- A **moderate positive correlation:** perceived walkability & SOP in TW
- A **weak correlation:** years of residence & SOP in TW
- SOP is affected by many factors