

*For favour of posting*

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND ACTUARIAL SCIENCE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Seminar

**Ms. Séverine GAILLE**

Institute of Actuarial Science  
University of Lausanne  
Switzerland

will give a talk

entitled

**FORECASTING MORTALITY RATES: AN EXTENSION  
OF THE HELIGMAN-POLLARD FORMULA**

Abstract

This talk develops an approach to project mortality rates. It is based on the Heligman-Pollard formula, a sophisticated model for mortality rates, defined by nine parameters. An interesting feature is that each parameter has a clear development through time which can easily be modeled with a demographical interpretation behind. Therefore, besides statistical techniques, the method makes use of the expert knowledge which accounts for the impact on mortality of known factors and helps in testing different assumptions on the future evolutions. Based over the period 1876–1979, the proposed model is tested on the Swiss mortality rates. Forecasting are done until 2005 and results are compared with the observed mortality rates. It is shown that the difference between the projections and the actual rates is small and has a negligible impact on actuarial valuations.

on

**Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

at

**Room 524, Meng Wah Complex  
(behind the Chong Yuet Ming Amenities Centre)**

**Visitors Please Note that the University has limited parking space. If you are driving please call the Department at 2859 2466 for parking arrangement.**

All interested are welcome