

SOSS Insights

A newsletter of the SMU School of Social Sciences

Issue 2, August 2021



Artist impression of the building under development on A-South 5 plot of land, for illustration purposes only.

Contents

Thought Leadership	2-3
SOSS Research at a glance	4
Publication Highlights Books & Journal Articles	5-12
Events	13-16
Faculty Spotlight	17-18
Achievements	19-24

Singapore Management University
School of Social Sciences
90 Stamford Road, Level 4
Singapore 178903
www.socsc.smu.edu.sg
Email: socsc@smu.edu.sg
Tel: +65 6828 1976

 @SMUSOSS

 @sgSMUSOSS



David Chan

Professor of Psychology; Director, BSI

- Invited Panelist and Moderator. Engaging Communities and Building Resilience. World Cities Summit, Singapore, 2021. Video of session: https://youtu.be/CT77iK4_eMI
- Keynote Address titled Leadership, adaptability and resilience: Lessons from Singapore's response to Covid-19. Temasek Foundation Crisis Governance Programme, Civil Service College, Singapore, 2021. Video of session: <https://youtu.be/5GD7qoOZXq0>
- Invited Panelist, Covid-19 & Mental Health: Global Ground Realities. Online Forum, Psychology and Counselling Summit, Mental Health Asia, Hong Kong, 2021. Video of session: <https://youtu.be/lfYUx5aeKE>
- Invited Panelist and Moderator. Positive Play. Seminars of the International Advisory Panel. National Council on Problem Gambling, Singapore, 2021.
- Invited Panelist and Moderator. Concerns on and safeguards for virtual reality gambling and digital payments. Seminars of the International Advisory Panel. National Council on Problem Gambling, Singapore, 2021.
- Chan, D. (2021). The Psychology of Trust Amid Covid-19 Challenges. SID Directors Bulletin, 2021(2), 6-13.



Winston Chow

Associate Professor of Science, Technology and Society

- Invited speaker for Conversations for Awareness on Religion and the Environment (CARE) Seminar 2 – “We Are Sinking. Can We Stop Climate Change?” 7 April, 2021 (<http://icbuddhism.org/c-a-r-e/>)
- Invited speaker for EnterpriseSG Quality & Standards Partners Appreciation Event on 20 Apr, 2021 at EnterpriseSG, Bugis (https://www.linkedin.com/posts/quek-jian-feng-35977455_sustainabilitygoals-circulareconomy-standards-activity-6790963821898006528-qrSm)
- Moderator for BCA BuildSG LEAD summit 2021 Panel on “Role of Leadership in Developing the Built Environment Business Ecosystem” at Suntec City held on 28 Apr, 2021 (https://www.linkedin.com/posts/bcasingapore_buildsg-builtenvironment-activity-6793840758257541120-awTC)
- Judge for Eco-Business Sustainability Exchange (Virtual event) on 25 May, 2021: (https://www.linkedin.com/posts/jessicacheam_game-that-explores-environmental-footprint-activity-6803250333758963712-PNTw and https://www.linkedin.com/posts/eb-impact-limited_sustainability-singapore-innovation-activity-6798193113371418624-uC5B)



Hoe Su Fern

Assistant Professor of Arts and Culture Management

Hoe, S.F. (2021). The Substation: How Many Canaries in the Coal Mine? Arts Equator, 20 February 2021. Available from: <https://artsequator.com/the-substation-armenian-street/>



Paulin Straughan

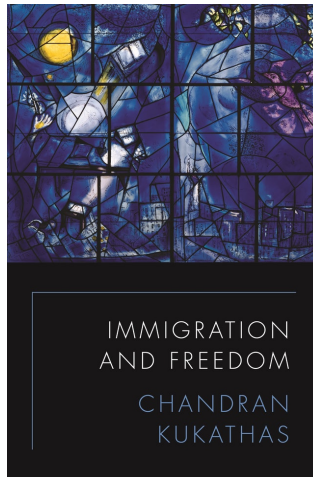
Dean of Students; Professor of Sociology (Practice); Director, Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA);

22 April 2021 - *The Health of Asia Webinar*: Panellist member The incidence of chronic ailments appears to have reduced last year. What is your sense of the current state of wellbeing in Singapore?

SOSS Research at a glance

Activities	Numbers (Jan – Jun 2021)
Journal publications	30
Other publications	13
Events – Public Lectures, Invited Talks, Seminars, etc	23
Conference presentations	8
Research grants awarded	7 (S\$1.006 million)

Publication Highlights - Books



Immigration and Freedom
Princeton University Press, March 2021

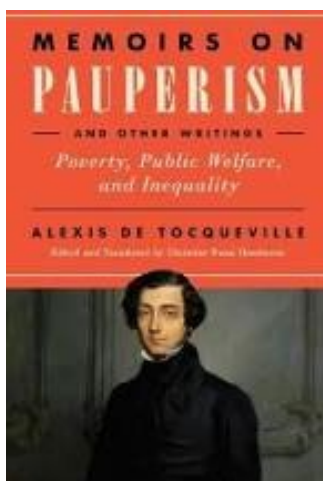


Chandran Kukathas
Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor
of Political Science
Dean, School of Social Sciences

Immigration is often seen as a danger to countries because it threatens to undermine their fundamental values, most notably freedom and national self-determination. In this book, however, Chandran Kukathas argues that the greater threat comes not from immigration but from immigration control. He shows that immigration control is not merely about preventing outsiders from moving across borders. It is about controlling what outsiders do once in a society: whether they work, reside, study, set up businesses, or share their lives with others. But controlling outsiders—immigrants or would-be immigrants—requires regulating, monitoring, and sanctioning insiders, those citizens and residents who might otherwise hire, trade with, house, teach, or generally associate with outsiders. The more vigorously immigration control is pursued, the more seriously citizen freedom is diminished.

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691189680/immigration-and-freedom>

Publication Highlights - Books



Memoirs on Pauperism and Other Writings: Poverty, Public Welfare, and Inequality

Notre Dame Press, February 2021



**Christine Dunn
Henderson**

Associate Professor of
Political Science

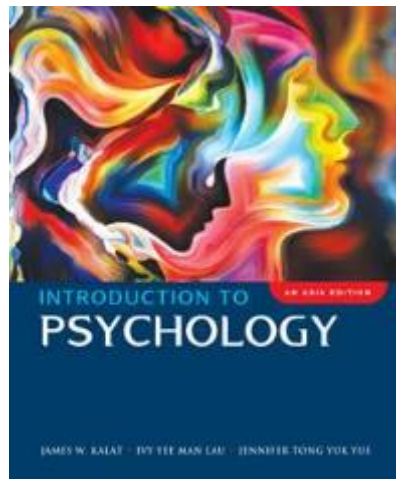
The collection includes new translations of Tocqueville's works, including the first English translation of his *Second Memoir*, the original *Memoir*, a letter fragment considering pauperism in Normandy, and the "Pauperism in America" index to the Penitentiary Report.

Alexis de Tocqueville was one of the most important thinkers of the nineteenth century, and his thought continues to influence contemporary political and social discourse. In *Memoirs on Pauperism and Other Writings*, Christine Dunn Henderson brings all of Tocqueville's writings on poverty together for the first time: a new translation of his original *Memoir* and the first English translation of his unfinished *Second Memoir*, as well as his letter considering pauperism in Normandy and the "Pauperism in America" appendix to his *Penitentiary Report*. By uniting these texts in a single volume, Henderson makes possible a deeper exploration of Tocqueville's thought as it pertains to questions of inequality and public assistance. As Henderson shows in her introduction to this collection, Tocqueville provides no easy blueprint for fixing these problems, which remain pressing today. Still, Tocqueville's writings speak eloquently about these issues, and his own unsuccessful struggle to find solutions remains both a spur to creative thinking today and a caution against attempting to find simplistic remedies.

Memoirs on Pauperism and Other Writings allows us to study his sustained thought on pauperism, poverty assistance, governmental assistance programs, and social inequality in a new and deeper way. The insights in these works are important not only for what they tell us about Tocqueville but also for how they help us to think about contemporary social challenges. This collection will be essential not only to students and scholars of Tocqueville's thought, nineteenth-century France, and political economy, but also to all those interested in the issues of public assistance, associative life, voluntary associations, and charities.

<https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/11836>

Publication Highlights - Books



Introduction to Psychology: An Asia Edition

Cengage Learning Asia Pte. Ltd, 2020



Ivy Lau

Associate Professor of
Psychology (Education)

Introduction to Psychology heeds the increasing awareness of psychology as an understanding of people not just in North America and Western Europe, but also around the world. The text covers examples that Asian students can relate to and empirical studies that are aimed at understanding cultural influence on people's thought, emotions, and behavior. Each chapter presents particular research studies in detail, including limitations in some examples. It helps to hone students' critical evaluation of psychological research evidence. In addition, the case studies providing everyday contexts for students to practice application of the theories and findings are also discussed in the book to enable a better understanding of concepts.

<https://www.cengageasia.com/TitleDetails/isbn/9789814896276>

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Journal Articles (1 Jan – 31 Jul 21) extracted from ISIS Publications as at 2 Aug 21

Humanities

Winston Chow

Bhardwaj, A., Wasson, R. J., Chow, W. T., & Ziegler, A. D. (2021). High-intensity monsoon rainfall variability and its attributes: a case study for Upper Ganges Catchment in the Indian Himalaya during 1901–2013. *Natural Hazards*, 105(3), 2907-2936.

Meili, N., Manoli, G., Burlando, P., Carmeliet, J., Chow, W. T., Coutts, A. M., ... & Fatichi, S. (2021). Tree effects on urban microclimate: diurnal, seasonal, and climatic temperature differences explained by separating radiation, evapotranspiration, and roughness effects. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 58, 126970.

Matthew Hammerton

Cox, R., & Hammerton, M. (2021). Setiya on Consequentialism and Constraints. *Utilitas*, 1-6.

Lily Kong

Kong, L. (2021). A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step: Towards a Confucian geopolitics. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 20438206211017771.

Kong, L., & Woods, O. (2021). Scaling smartness, (de)provincialising the city? The ASEAN Smart Cities Network and the translational politics of technocratic regionalism. *Cities*.

Ngoei Wen-Qing

Ngoei, W.Q. (2021). On circuits broken, remade, and newly forged: Tracing Southeast Asia's foreign relations after the Vietnam War. *Diplomatic History*.

David Ocón

Ocón, D. (2021). Digitalising endangered cultural heritage in Southeast Asian cities: preserving or replacing?. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 1-16.



Winston Chow

Associate Professor of Science, Technology and Society



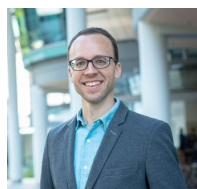
Lily Kong

SMU President; Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Social Sciences



David Ocón

Assistant Professor Arts and Cultural Management (Practice)



Matthew Hammerton

Assistant Professor of Philosophy



Ngoei Wen-Qing

Assistant Professor of Humanities

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Journal Articles (1 Jan – 31 Jul 21) extracted from ISIS Publications as at 2 Aug 21

Humanities

Justin Tse

Gao, Q., Tse, J. K., & Woods, O. (2021). What and whose Confucianism? Sinophone communities and dialogical geopolitics. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 20438206211017768.

Tse, J. K. (2021). "Let's See if we can go a Whole Day on the Road Eating Free Food": Encountering the Divine with Claire Dwyer in the Private Spaces of Richmond's Highway to Heaven. *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*, 0008429821988952.

Fiona Williamson

Williamson, F. (2021). Building a long-time series for weather and extreme weather in the Straits Settlements: a multi-disciplinary approach to the archives of societies. *Climate of the Past*, 17(2), 791-803.

Williamson, F. (2021). Just doing their job: the hidden meteorologists of colonial Hong Kong c. 1883–1914. *The British Journal for the History of Science*, 1-19.

Orlando Woods

Woods, O., & Shee, S. Y. (2021). "Doing it for the 'gram"? The representational politics of popular humanitarianism. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 87, 103107.

Woods, O. (2021). Affective cosmopolitanisms in Singapore: Dancehall and the decolonisation of the self. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 46(1), 135-148.

Woods, O., & Donaldson, J. (2021). Haptic heritage and the paradox of provenance within Singapore's cottage food businesses. *Food, Culture & Society*, 1-17.

Woods, O., & Ying, S. S. (2021). The digital void of voluntourism: Here, there and new currencies of care. *Geoforum*, 124, 46-53.

Gao, Q., Woods, O., & Cai, X. (2021). The Influence of Masculinity and the Moderating Role of Religion on the Workplace Well-Being of Factory Workers in China. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(12), 6250.

Woods, O. (2021). From roadman to royalties: Inter-representational value and the hypercapitalist impulses of grime. *Crime, Media, Culture*, 17416590211024322.

Woods, O. (2021). (Un) tethered masculinities,(mis) placed modernities: Queering futurity in contemporary Singapore. *Sexualities*, 13634607211028111.

Woods, O. (2021). Feminist geographies of online gaming. *Digital Geography and Society*, 100015.



Justin Tse

Assistant Professor
of Humanities(Education)



Fiona Williamson

Associate Professor
of Science, Technology
and Society



Orlando Woods

Associate Professor
of Humanities

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Journal Articles (1 Jan – 31 Jul 21) extracted from ISIS Publications as at 2 Aug 21

Humanities

Orlando Woods

Cai, X., Woods, O., & Gao, Q. (2021). Running bodies and the affective spaces of health in and beyond marathon running in China. *Health & Place*, 70, 102612.

Kong, L., & Woods, O. (2021). Scaling smartness, (de)provincialising the city? The ASEAN Smart Cities Network and the translational politics of technocratic regionalism. *Cities*.

Gao, Q., Tse, J. K., & Woods, O. (2021). What and whose Confucianism? Sinophone communities and dialogical geopolitics. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 20438206211017768.

Political Science

John Donaldson

Woods, O., & Donaldson, J. (2021). Haptic heritage and the paradox of provenance within Singapore's cottage food businesses. *Food, Culture & Society*, 1-17.

Devin Joshi

Joshi, D. K. (2021). The human development and capabilities approach as a twenty-first century ideology of globalization. *Globalizations*, 18(5), 781-791.

Joshi, D. K. (2021). The way of longevity: Blue zones as unselfconscious models of Daoist living. *Journal of Daoist Studies*, 14(14), 128-151.

Joshi, D. K. (2021). Humanist but not Radical: The Educational Philosophy of Thiruvalluvar Kural. *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 40(2), 183-200.

Joshi, D. K. (2021). Footprints of a Winning Idea: Three Decades of the Human Development Paradigm (1990–2019). *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 1-11.

Ishani Mukherjee

Mukherjee, I., Coban, M. K., & Bali, A. S. (2021). Policy capacities and effective policy design: a review. *Policy Sciences*, 1-26.

Jacob Ricks

Ricks, J. I., & Doner, R. F. (2021). Getting institutions right: Matching institutional capacities to developmental tasks. *World Development*, 139, 105334.



John Donaldson
Associate Professor
of Political Science



Devin Joshi
Associate Professor
of Political Science



Ishani Mukherjee
Assistant Professor of
Public Policy



Jacob Ricks
Associate Professor
of Political Science

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Journal Articles (1 Jan – 31 Jul 21) extracted from ISIS Publications as at 2 Aug 21

Psychology

Andree Hartanto

Tierney, W., Hardy, J. H., Ebersole, C. R., Viganola, D., Clemente, E. G., Gordon, D. M., ... & Uhlmann, E. L. (2020). A creative destruction approach to replication: Implicit work and sex morality across cultures. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Majeed, N. M., Hartanto, A., & Tan, J. J. (2021). Developmental dyslexia and creativity: A meta-analysis. *Dyslexia*, 27(2), 187-203.

Angela Leung

Tam, K. P., Leung, A. K. Y., & Clayton, S. (2021). Research on climate change in social psychology publications: A systematic review. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 24(2), 117-143.

Tam, K. P., Leung, A. K. Y., & Clayton, S. (2021). Social psychology of climate change in the Asian context: Introduction to special issue. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* (2021), 24, 113-116

Jacinth Tan

Majeed, N. M., Hartanto, A., & Tan, J. J. (2021). Developmental dyslexia and creativity: A meta-analysis. *Dyslexia*, 27(2), 187-203.

Hwajin Yang

Khoo, S. S., Toh, W. X., & Yang, H. (2021). Seeking control during uncontrollable times: Control abilities and religiosity predict stress during COVID-19. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 175, 110675.

Khoo, S. S., & Yang, H. (2021). Mental disengagement mediates the effect of rumination on smartphone use: A latent growth curve analysis. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 120, 106757.

Oh, H. S., & Yang, H. (2021). Coping strategies mediate the relation between executive functions and life satisfaction in middle and late adulthood: a structural equational analysis. *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition*, 1-20.



Andree Hartanto
Assistant Professor
of Psychology
(Education)



Jacinth Tan
Assistant Professor
of Psychology



Angela Leung
Associate Professor
of Psychology



Hwajin Yang
Associate Professor
of Psychology

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Journal Articles (1 Jan – 31 Jul 21) extracted from ISIS Publications as at 2 Aug 21

Sociology

Andy Chang

Chang, A. S. (2021). Selling a Resume and Buying a Job: Stratification of Gender and Occupation by States and Brokers in International Migration from Indonesia. *Social Problems*.

Alwyn Lim

Lim, A. (2021). Nonprofits as socially responsible actors: Neoliberalism, institutional structures, and empowerment in the United Nations Global Compact. *Current Sociology*, 0011392120986216.

Qian Forrest Zhang

Zhang, Q. F., & Hu, Z. (2021). Rural China under the COVID-19 pandemic: Differentiated impacts, rural–urban inequality and agro-industrialization. *Journal of Agrarian Change*.

Zhang, Q. F., & Zeng, H. (2021). Politically directed accumulation in rural China: The making of the agrarian capitalist class and the new agrarian question of capital. *Journal of Agrarian Change*.



Andy Chang

Assistant Professor of Politics
& History of Southeast Asia



Alwyn Lim

Assistant Professor
of Sociology



Qian Forrest Zhang

Associate Professor
of Sociology

Lien Centre for Social Innovation

Tania Nagpaul

Nagpaul, T., Sidhu, D., & Chen, J. (2021). Food Insecurity Mediates the Relationship between Poverty and Mental Health. *Journal of Poverty*, 1-17.

SOSS Inaugural Research Camp

9 April 2021



PRESENTATION BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CHENG CHENG

Wealth Accumulation by Hypogamy in Own and Parental Education in China

Educational hypogamy (wives having more education than their husbands) is increasingly relevant in many societies, given the reversal of the gender gap in education. Prior research has studied how marital sorting on couples' own education shapes their individual earnings trajectories. Few have examined the implications of marital sorting on parental education for family-level economic well-being. To address this gap, this study examines how household wealth accumulation varies by different types of hypogamy on the basis of couples' own and parental education. Using data from the 2010–2018 China Family Panel Studies and multilevel growth curve models, we examined how household wealth trajectories over years of marriage differ by types of hypogamy. Hypogamy in the child generation (wives having more education), hypogamy in the parent generation (wives having more parental education), and hypogamy in both generations (wives having more own and parental education) were compared to hypogamy in neither generation (wives having neither more own nor parental education). Results suggest that hypogamy in either the child or parent generation accumulated more total wealth and housing wealth than hypogamy in neither generation. Hypogamy in both generations experienced the fastest gains in total wealth. These findings underscore the crucial roles of the wife and her natal family in household wealth accumulation and shed light on the long-term implications of hypogamy based on the education of two generations for wealth stratification.

PRESENTATION BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DEAN DULAY

The Search for Spices and Souls: Catholic Missions as Colonial State in the Philippines

This paper argues that colonial religious missions functioned as governance institutions, establishing law and order and building fiscal and infrastructural capacities in territories they controlled. Exposure to missionary governance then led to long-run improvements in state capacity and development. As de facto states, missions established fiscal order and provided public goods in the periphery when expansion, and hence state-building, was too costly for secular bureaucrats. This argument is tested in the context of the Spanish colonization of the Philippines. This paper finds that exposure to Catholic missions during colonization is associated with higher levels of state capacity and economic development today. Furthermore, missionary governance led to superior long-run outcomes than secular governance. A variety of mechanisms—infrastructure, structural transformation, education, and culture—explain these results. The implications of this theory of missionary governance are applicable to frontier missions across the colonial world.



SOSS Inaugural Research Camp

9 April 2021



PRESENTATION BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ANDREE HARTANTO

Prosocial Spending and Life Satisfaction in Older Adults: A Multilevel Approach

Can money buy happiness? Spending money on others – termed prosocial spending – has been recently found to promote affective and cognitive aspects of subjective well-being. However, several research gaps remained including issues related to differential effects of prosocial spending recipients, ecological validity, confounding variables, and diminishing marginal utilities. The current study aimed to address the research gaps using the Singapore Life Panel (Vaithianathan, Hool, Hurd, & Rohwedder, 2018), a monthly panel study that followed a representative cohort of more than 12,000 Singaporeans aged between 50 and 75 every month for five years. Our multilevel modeling showed significant positive within-person associations between life satisfaction and prosocial spending, either by spending on cash gifts to close others or donating to charity, even after controlling for demographics and intraindividual variability in monthly income and personal spending. We also found a diminishing marginal utility of donations, but not for cash gifts to close others, for life satisfaction. Implications of the results will be discussed

PRESENTATION BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SEULKI LEE

What Drives the Perceived Legitimacy of Collaborative Governance? An Experimental Study

While the legitimacy of a governing entity has long been studied in traditional government contexts, few studies have examined the legitimacy of contemporary governing arrangements. This study explores the perceived legitimacy of collaborative governance from a citizens' perspective. We use a preregistered online survey experiment to test the effect of three factors—representation, performance information, and issue complexity—on the perceived legitimacy of a collaboration. Findings from 1,470 U.S. respondents provide empirical evidence that representation and positive performance information influence citizens' perceptions of collaborative governance legitimacy, while issue complexity has little impact. Additionally, heterogeneous treatment effects were found: respondents with low trust in public organizations factor representation more into their legitimacy perceptions of collaborative governance, while those with high trust in public organizations show little influence of representation. This study concludes with theoretical and practical implications of the findings and provides suggestions for future research on legitimacy in networked governance settings.



Events

The Bersih Movement and Democratisation in Malaysia

Speaker: Dr Khoo Ying Hooi, Head and Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya
29 January, 2021



National Constitutions Between Global and Local

Speaker: Dr Tom Ginsburg, Leo Spitz Professor of International Law,
Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago
4 February, 2021

Urban Technologies

Speaker: Professor Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology,
Columbia University
18 February, 2021



The Art and Science Involved in Telling a Great Story

26 February, 2021

Nora's Daughters

Speaker: Dr Hu Ying, Professor, East Asian Studies, University of California
27 February, 2021



Crowdsourcing Dictatorship in Thailand

Speaker: Dr Aim Sinpeng, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney
12 March, 2021

G-Plus Governance for a Multiplex World

Speaker: Dr Amitav Acharya, NESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges
and Governance; Distinguished Professor, School of International
Service, American University
19 March, 2021



Events



Ethics and Social Corporate Responsibility Speaker Series

25 March, 2021

ECOLOGICAL WRITING:

A CONVERSATION WITH
DIANA FU AND MOK ZINING



Ecological Writing: A Conversation with Diana Fu and Mok Zining

1 April, 2021

The State Of Filipino Millennials: An ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Speaker: Dr. Jayeel S. Cornelio, Associate Professor and Director,
Development Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University

9 April, 2021



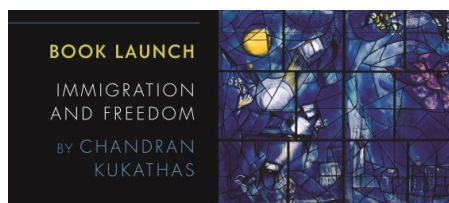
Litigate or Not: Public Preferences for International Court in Territorial Disputes in the Philippines

Speaker: Dr. Xiaojun Li, Associate Professor, Department of Political
Science, University of British Columbia

15 April, 2021

Book Launch: Immigration and Freedom by Chandran Kukathas

10 May, 2021



Asian Cinema and the Cultural Cold War International Conference 2021

20 May - 22, 2021



Ming-Hong Tsai
Associate Professor
of Psychology

Ming-Hong investigates why people often fail to consider alternative perspectives and how they can promote and maintain their open-mindedness. He also researches the consequences of openness to alternative perspectives. For instance, his study demonstrates that when team members express their different opinions as debates rather than disagreements, they experience higher levels of receptivity to dissenting opinions and are willing to share more task-relevant information. This research clarifies the inconsistent effects of task-relevant conflict on group processes and offers a useful implication for conflict resolution: team members should express their willingness to debate over different opinions. Moreover, his investigation shows that compared with decision-makers who rely on their instincts to make judgments, decision-makers who tend to explore all the available options before making decisions are more likely to create perceptions of openness, which elicits perceivers' intention to collaborate with the decision-makers.

Furthermore, many organizations have requested their employees to perform their work remotely and adopt computer-based technologies to collaborate and exchange work-relevant information due to the outbreak of COVID-19. To fit the modern trend of organizational behavior, Ming-Hong is examining how people can optimize their communication openness, enhance collaboration, and promote information exchange via social media or computer-based technologies. His current research also aims to offer practical suggestions on how people can effectively communicate and collaborate during digital communication.

Faculty Spotlight



Orlando Woods
Associate Professor
of Humanities

My research interests are roughly split into three substantive “areas” that have become increasingly self-referential with time. Each of these areas is rooted in my disciplinary “home” of geography but they can also be seen to reach out to cognate disciplines such as sociology, communications and new media studies, urban studies, and even psychology. By reaching out, my aim is to bring a geographical sensitivity to ideas of space, place and territory to issues of broader social scientific concern, and, in doing so, to forge a research agenda that speaks *from* geography, but which is not necessarily limited *to* geography.

The first is well-established and is concerned with exploring the ways in which religion engages with the market, and the marketisation of religion in response. Borne out of my PhD research, which explored the growth of evangelical Christianity in Sri Lanka, a central concern has been to understand the ways in which religious groups work in, through and around the secular to remain relevant to society. Since my PhD, I have focussed attention on Singapore, and have explored how religious groups manage the migrant-led diversity found within their congregations in a way that balances religious values with the need to remain commercially, socially and spiritually viable. Most recently, I have returned to Sri Lanka to explore the effects of the BRI on religious groups in the country.

The second area considers, in broad terms, how digital technologies are reconfiguring our relationships with people and place. Notable in this regard has been my work on smart cities, and how the idea of smart citizenship might open up, or close down, the potential for more inclusive cities. Other work in this area has seen me explore how the heterotopic possibilities of augmented reality mobile games like Pokémon Go can lead to the gamification of place and the reimagination of publicness; how the digital decoupling of space-time can give rise to new forms of “digital geopolitics”; and how digitally mediated experiences of voluntourism can foreground new expressions of what it means to “care”. I am currently working on projects that involve developing understandings of smart cities in a global comparative perspective, and rethinking the assumed link between *gacha* games and gambling in a more critical light.

The third area is embryonic, and explores how the affective potential of the body might open up new pathways to self-realisation, social formation, and even citizenship. My work so far in this area has been concerned with the spiritual potential of the roots reggae soundsystem, the emergence of “affective cosmopolitanisms” through the practice of dancehall, and the comedic value that exists at the nexus of representational and non-representational registers of identity.

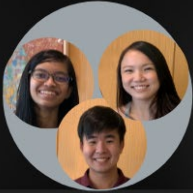



Achievements - Awards

2021 ICPSR Undergraduate Research Paper Competition

Psychology major undergraduates Ng Hok Shan, Matthew (Year 4), Nadyanna Binte Mohamed Majeed (Year 4), and Verity Lua Yu Qing (Year 3) were up against competitors from renowned universities all over the world when they clinched the top spot in the **2021 Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Research Paper Competition** for the Undergraduate Category.

The ICPSR Research Paper Competition aims to highlight exemplary research papers based on quantitative analysis that uses ICPSR data. This prestigious international competition draws participants from various disciplines in the field of social sciences in universities around the world. The trio's paper titled "Is trait self-esteem a resilience factor against daily stressors? A multilevel analysis" explores the role of self-esteem resilience as a protective factor against the effects of the daily experience of stressors (e.g. missing the bus or forgetting to charge one's phone) and how it affects one's emotional reactivity. The results of the paper showed that self-esteem did not help to reduce emotional reactivity to daily stressors.

Congrats to the 2021 ICPSR Research Paper Competition Winners!

			
Nadyanna M. Majeed, Ng Hok Shan Matthew, and Verity Lua Yu Qing Singapore Management University First Place, Undergraduate	Taran Samarth Pennsylvania State University Second Place, Undergraduate	In Jeong Hwang Harvard University First Place, Master's	Beverly J. Pettrey Cleveland State University Second Place, Master's

Achievements - Awards

SPSP Annual Convention Undergraduate Student Poster Award

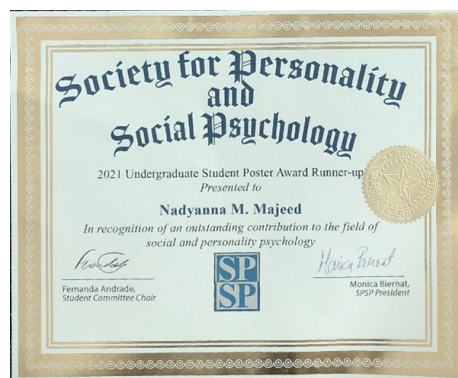
Gloria Lai Junyan (Year 3) and Nadyanna Majeed made their mark at the **2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology's (SPSP) Annual Convention** when they filled both the *Winner* and *Runner-up* spots for the Undergraduate Student Poster Award.

The SPSP Annual Convention took place from 9 to 13 February 2021, on a virtual platform where both Gloria Lai and Nadyanna Majeed presented their posters based on research papers they had previously written. As the only SPSP award at the undergraduate level, the Undergraduate Student Poster Award reviews submissions from students internationally to screen for poster presentations that are characterised by excellence in research, clarity in presentation, and personal knowledge demonstrated in a discussion with judges at the Annual Convention.

As suggested by the title, Gloria's poster, "Who's a good boy? A multilevel meta-analysis on human-animal interaction and human prosociality" is based on a research paper that took into consideration all previous research on the topic of human and animal interaction, and its effect on whether humans were more prosocial or not. The paper concluded that animals do play a small, albeit significant role in promoting prosocial traits and behaviours in humans.



Also clued in by the title "Always look on the bright side of life? Optimism as a resilience factor against emotional reactivity to daily stress", Nadyanna's poster summarised findings from a research paper that looked into whether optimists are less emotionally reactive to daily stressors compared to pessimists. The eight-day daily diary study that utilised multilevel analyses revealed that optimism attenuated the impact of daily stressors on positive, but not negative, feelings. The nuanced findings were further parsed out when taking into account the role of neuroticism.



Congratulations Nadyanna, Matthew, Verity, and Gloria, on winning these prestigious Awards!

Achievements - Awards

Lee Kong Chian Fellowship

Established in 2014 using the Lee Kong Chian Fund for Research Excellence from the Lee Foundation, the Fellowship acknowledges and rewards faculty who have an excellent research record and hold great promise. Congratulations to the SOSS awardees for their achievements!



Andree Hartanto
Assistant Professor of Psychology (Education)



Ulas Onur Ince
Associate Professor of Political Science



Ishani Mukherjee
Assistant Professor of Public Policy



Ijlal Naqvi
Associate Professor of Sociology



Hwajin Yang
Associate Professor of Psychology



Fiona Williamson
Associate Professor of Science, Technology and Society



Orlando Woods
Associate Professor of Humanities

Achievements – External Research Grants

MOE Tertiary Education Fund



PI: **Cheng Chi-Ying**, Associate Professor of Psychology
Project title: Not for Girls?: Gender Imbalance in STEM and Its impact on Female Students' Creative Performance



PI: **Yang Hwajin**, Associate Professor of Psychology
Project title: An evaluation of SMU's experiential learning programme ("SMU-X") and its multifaceted impact on students and graduates



Co-PI: **Angela Leung**, Associate Professor of Psychology
Project title: How Time-Oriented Projections Foster Creativity and Social Innovation

Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment



PI: **Aidan Wong**, Assistant Professor of Humanities (Education)
Project title: Longitudinal Study to Quantify and Qualify the Impact of the EPR framework for E-waste in Singapore



Co-PI: **Angela Leung**, Associate Professor of Psychology
Project title: Creating Community Awareness of Food Sustainability through Insects

Achievements – New Admin Appointments

Faculty New Admin Appointments

The School of Social Sciences is delighted to announce the following faculty new admin appointments with effect from July 2021:



Ijlal Naqvi

Associate Professor of Sociology
Associate Dean (Curriculum and Teaching)
Lee Kong Chian Fellow



Hwajin Yang

Associate Professor of Psychology
PGR Coordinator



Steven Burik

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Education)
Basket Coordinator for Modes of Thinking

Achievements - Promotion

The School of Social Sciences is delighted to announce the following promotions:

**Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure
with effect from July 2021**



Fiona Clare WILLIAMSON

Associate Professor of Science, Technology and Society

Office: SOL #04-016

Tel: 6828 0418

Email: fwilliamson@smu.edu.sg