

SOSS Insights

A newsletter of the SMU School of Social Sciences

Issue 7, February 2024



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Thought Leadership



Lily Kong

President; Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Social Sciences

Interviews

Headline	Date Published	Publication
From Climate to US-China Rivalry, Singapore Weighs How To Adapt	17 Oct 2023	Bloomberg Online
SMU President pens second edition of Singapore Hawker Centres	18 Dec 2023	Shinmin Daily News
A book on Singapore's hawker culture launched	18 Dec 2023	Tamil Murasu
SMU President Lily Kong publishes book documenting development of hawker culture in Singapore	18 Dec 2023	8 World Online
Book chronicling Singapore's evolving hawker scene launched	18 Dec 2023	Mediacorp Berita
Singapore hawker centre book	18 Dec 2023	Channel 8 News
Singapore's hawker culture at crossroads	18 Dec 2023	Capital958 FM News CNA 938 News
SMU President's new book documents culture and flavour of local hawker centers	19 Dec 2023	Lianhe Zaobao
How to dive into Singapore's hawker culture	27 Dec 2023	The Tip Box

Op Eds

Headline	Date Published	Publication
Time to rethink higher education in Singapore	9 Aug 2023	The Straits Times
Faith-based fissures take many forms	21 Sept 2023	The Straits Times
The Smart City Dialectic – Challenging Assumptions of Inclusivity	26 Sept 2023	Urban Solutions Issue 23
Singapore's hawker culture at crossroads	18 Dec 2023	The Straits Times

Thought Leadership



Matthew Hammerton

Assistant Professor of Philosophy; Basket Coordinator for Modes of Thinking;
Lee Kong Chian Fellow

- Keynote speaker: 'Fact-Checking, Democracy, and Education', Philosophical Association of the Visayas and Mindanao Annual Meeting, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines. 29 November 2023.
- ['Thinking twice about having kids even if money is not an issue?'](#) *The Straits Times*, 6 October 2023, Kalpana Vignehsa and Matthew Hammerton



Hoe Su Fern

Assistant Professor of Arts and Culture Management

- Hoe, S.F. (2023). "Singapore – From Cultural Desert to Global Art City," Westpac Asian Exchange Programme, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore 27 July 2023.
- Hoe, S.F. (2023). "Middle Ground: Between Space and Place." Currents Above Ground Programme, DECK Photography Art Centre, 11 November 2023.
- Hoe, S.F. (2022). "Cultural Policy in Singapore: What Worked and What did Not?" ReformARTsi and Five Arts Centre, Malaysia, 14 December 2023.



Charlotte Setijadi

Assistant Professor of Humanities (Education), Lee Kong Chian Fellow

- Invited by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore to be part of voter education panel on the topic of the 2024 Indonesian election. 23 September 2023



Paulin Straughan

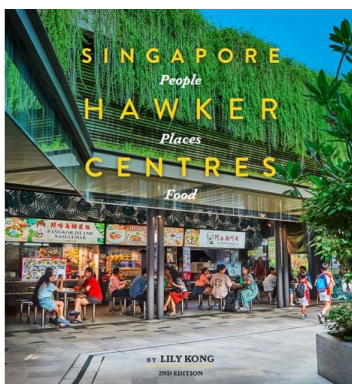
Dean of Students;
Professor of Sociology (Practice);
Director, Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA); Urban Fellow

- Presentation titled "The Future Customer", KTAP 2023 Technology Foresight Conference, 28 Jul 2023

SOSS Research at a glance

Activities	Numbers (Jul - Dec 2023)
Journal publications	47
Other publications	13
Events – Public Lectures, Invited Talks, Seminars, etc	24
Conference presentations	14
Research grants (Project start date: Jul – Dec 23)	1 (\$29,891)

Publication Highlights - Book



Singapore Hawker Centres: People, Places, Food 2nd Edition



Lily Kong

President;
Lee Kong Chian Chair
Professor of Social
Sciences

Immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of Singapore's culinary heritage as you journey through the pages of this book. From the sizzle of char kway teow to the fragrant aroma of chicken rice, this second edition (2023) of *Singapore Hawker Centres: People, Places, Food* is an updated version of the first volume, published in 2007. It updates readers on developments over the last decade and a half, bringing the reader through the highs and lows of hawker culture, from the remarkable inscription of hawker culture on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, to the challenges wrought by the Covid 19 pandemic.

As you savour the tantalising images, dive into stories of myriad individuals, share in the spirit of community, while working your way through new business models and revised government policies, you'll come to understand why hawker culture is an invaluable part of Singapore's society and cultural heritage.

This book is a passport to a world of flavours, a culture of community and a living heritage. Embark on this remarkable journey and discover the heart and soul of Singapore's Hawker Culture.

<https://www.stbooks.sg/products/singapore-hawker-centres-people-places-food-2nd-edition>

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Validated Journal Articles (1 Jul – 31 Dec 23) extracted from IRIS Publications on 3 Jan 24

Humanities

Lily Kong

Woods, O., Bunnell, T., & Kong, L. (2023). The state-led platformisation of financial services: Frictionless ecosystems and an expansive logic of “smartness” in Singapore. *Geoforum*, 146, 103849.

Woods, O., Bunnell, T., & Kong, L. (2023). Insourcing the smart city: assembling an ideo-technical ecosystem of talent, skills, and civic-mindedness in Singapore. *Urban Geography*, 1-20.

Woods, O., & Kong, L. (2023). The irreducible otherness of desi and desire in Singapore’s gurdwaras: moral boundary-making in the shadows of a multicultural society. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 1-22.

Shee, S. Y., Woods, O., & Kong, L. (2023). When planetary cosmopolitanism meets the Buddhist ethic: Recycling, karma and popular ecology in Singapore. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*.

Matthew Hammerton

Hammerton, M. (2023). Merit transference and the paradox of merit inflation. *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, 1-18.

David Ocón

Ocón, D. (2023). Low-cost digital tools to preserve cultural heritage ‘blind spots’: the case of Kubor Kassim in Singapore. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 29(9), 961-987.



Lily Kong

SMU President;
Lee Kong Chian
Chair Professor of
Social Sciences



Matthew Hammerton

Assistant Professor
of Philosophy;
Basket Coordinator for
Modes of Thinking;
Lee Kong Chian Fellow



David Ocón

Assistant Professor of
Arts and Cultural
Management
(Practice)

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Validated Journal Articles (1 Jul – 31 Dec 23) extracted from IRIS Publications on 3 Jan 24

Political Science

Sebastian Dettman

Dettman, S., & Pepinsky, T. B. (2023). Demographic Structure and Voting Behavior during Democratization: Evidence from Malaysia's 2022 Election. *Democratization*, 31(1).

Dettman, S. (2023). Challenges of Ethnic Party Adaptation in Power-Sharing Systems: Evidence from Malaysia. *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 18681034231219460.

Dean Dulay

Dulay, D., & Malesky, E. (2023). Facilitating Development: Evidence from a National-Level Experiment on Improving Bureaucratic Performance in Myanmar. *The Journal of Politics*, 85(4), 1385-1400.

Devin Joshi

Joshi, D. K. (2023). A Daoist Political Leadership Approach to Nonviolence: The Case of Olof Palme. *Journal of Pacifism and Nonviolence*, 1(aop), 1-29.

Seulki Lee

Lee, S., & Na, C. (2023). Why Citizens Engage in Co-Production: A Theoretical Framework and Experimental Evidence. *Public Performance & Management Review*, 1-30.

Lee, S., & Na, C. (2023). Public Service Motivation and Job Satisfaction Amid COVID-19: Exploring the Effects of Work Environment Changes. *Public Personnel Management*, 00910260231207332.

Lee, S., & Kim, M. (2023). Public perceptions of cross-sector collaboration and sector bias: evidence from a survey experiment. *Public Management Review*, 1-23.

Na, C., Lee, S., & Kang, I. (2023). Police effectiveness and procedural justice as competing public values: moving beyond the instrumental-versus-normative model of police legitimacy. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 17, paad025.



Sebastian Dettman
Assistant Professor
of Political Science



Dean Dulay
Assistant Professor
of Political Science;
Lee Kong Chian
Fellow



Devin Joshi
Associate Professor of
Political Science;
Lee Kong Chian
Fellow



Seulki Lee
Assistant Professor
of Public Policy; Lee
Kong Chian Fellow

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Validated Journal Articles (1 Jul – 31 Dec 23) extracted from IRIS Publications on 3 Jan 24

Psychology

Cheng Chi-Ying

Chua, Y. J., Majeed, N. M., Lua, V. Y., Cheng, C. Y., & Hartanto, A. (2023). Subjective socioeconomic status moderates self-esteem reactivity to daily stressor exposure: Evidence from a daily diary approach. *Psychological Reports*, 00332941231188748.

Andree Hartanto

Hartanto, A., Kasturiratna, K. T. A. S., Chua, Y. J., Ngo, J. A., Ong, J. S. Y., Quek, F. Y. X., Soh, X. C., & Majeed, N. M. (2023). Does a 15-minute brief mindfulness breathing exercise temporarily enhance inhibitory control and cognitive flexibility? A within-subject experimental approach. *Collabra: Psychology*, 9(1).

Majeed, N. M., Kasturiratna, K. S., Li, M. Y., Chia, J. L., Lua, V. Y., & Hartanto, A. (2023). COVID-19 stress and cognitive failures in daily life: A multilevel examination of within-and between-persons patterns. *Journal of Pacific Rim Psychology*, 17, 18344909231208119.

Lua, V. Y., Ooi, W. M., Tan, C., Majeed, N. M., Leung, A. K. Y., & Hartanto, A. (2023). Think your way to happiness? Investigating the role of need for cognition in well-being through a three-level meta-analytic approach. *Motivation and Emotion*, 1-25.

Chua, Y. J., Majeed, N. M., Lua, V. Y., Cheng, C. Y., & Hartanto, A. (2023). Subjective socioeconomic status moderates self-esteem reactivity to daily stressor exposure: Evidence from a daily diary approach. *Psychological Reports*, 00332941231188748.

Buchanan, E. M., Lewis, S., Paris, B., Forscher, P., Pavlacic, J., Beshears, J., ..., Hartanto, A., ..., Verbruggen, F. (2023). PSACR: The Psychological Science Accelerator's COVID-19 Rapid-response dataset. *Scientific Data*, 10(1), 87

Tan, G. X., Soh, X. C., Hartanto, A., Goh, A. Y., & Majeed, N. M. (2023). Prevalence of anxiety in college and university students: An umbrella review. *Journal of Affective Disorders Reports*, 100658.

Chia, J. L., Hartanto, A., & Tov, W. (2023). Profiles of activity engagement and depression trajectories as COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. *Psychology and Aging*.

Chen, N. R. Y., Majeed, N. M., Lai G. J. Y., Koh, P. S., Kasturiratna, K. T. A. S., Kaur, M., Ho, A. Z. Y., Yong, J. C., & Hartanto, A. (2023). Human-animal interaction and human prosociality: A three-level meta-analytic review of experimental and correlational studies. *Anthrozoös*, 1-20.



Cheng Chi-Ying

Associate Professor of Psychology;
Lee Kong Chian Fellow;
Advisory Member, SMU Institutional Review Board



Andree Hartanto

Assistant Professor of Psychology (Education)

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Validated Journal Articles (1 Jul – 31 Dec 23) extracted from IRIS Publications on 3 Jan 24

Psychology

Kim Eom

Eom, K., & Ng, S. T. (2023). The potential of religion for promoting sustainability: The role of stewardship. *Topics in Cognitive Science*.

Angela Leung

Ng, S. T., Leung, A. K. Y., & Chan, S. H. M. (2023). Through the lens of a naturalist: How learning about nature promotes nature connectedness via awe. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 92, 102069.

THOMAS, O. Z., Chong, M., LEUNG, A. K., FERNANDEZ, T. M., & Ng, S. T. (2023). Not getting laid: Consumer acceptance of precision fermentation made egg. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 7, 1.

Leung, A. K. Y., Koh, B., Lua, V. Y., Liu, J. H., Choi, S. Y., Lee, I. C., ... & Chen, S. X. (2023). The role of cosmopolitan orientation in COVID-19-related attitudes: perceived threats and opportunities, vaccination willingness, and support for collective containment efforts. *Current Psychology*, 1-15.

Chong, M., Leung, A. K. Y., Fernandez, T. M., & Ng, S. T. (2023). Effects of framing, nomenclature, and aversion to tampering with nature on consumer acceptance of cultivated meat in Singapore. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 91, 102140.

Zhang, R. J., Liu, J. H., Lee, M., Lin, M. H., Xie, T., Chen, S. X., ... & Choi, S. Y. (2024). Continuities and discontinuities in the cultural evolution of global consciousness. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 379(1893), 20220263.

Liu, J. H., Choi, S. Y., Lee, I. C., Leung, A. K. Y., Lee, M., Lin, M. H., ... & Chen, S. X. (2023). Behavioral evidence for global consciousness transcending national parochialism. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 21413.



Kimin Eom

Assistant Professor of Psychology; Lee Kong Chian Fellow



Angela Leung

Professor of Psychology; Chair, SMU Institutional Review Board

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Validated Journal Articles (1 Jul – 31 Dec 23) extracted from IRIS Publications on 3 Jan 24

Psychology

Norman Li

Tan, K., Choy, B. K., & Li, N. P. (2023). The Role of Humor Production and Perception in the Daily Life of Couples: An Interest-Indicator Perspective. *Psychological Science*, 09567976231203139.

Tsai, M. H., & Li, N. P. (2023). Trait self-control, emotions, and openness to alternative viewpoints. *Current Research in Behavioral Sciences*, 5, 100131.

Samore, T., Fessler, D. M., Sparks, A. M., Holbrook, C., Aarøe, L., Baeza, C. G., ... & Wang, X. T. (2023). Greater traditionalism predicts COVID-19 precautionary behaviors across 27 societies. *Scientific reports*, 13(1), 4969.

Lester Sim

Wen, W., Sim, L., Hou, Y., Chen, S., & Kim, S. Y. (2023). Change patterns of mother–adolescent perceived parenting and the corresponding trajectories in their internalizing symptoms. *Developmental psychology*, 59(10), 1906.

Kenneth Tan

Tan, K., Ho, D., & Agnew, C. R. (2023). Relationship Status and Psychological Well-being: Initial Evidence for the Moderating Effects of Commitment Readiness. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 1-19.

Tan, K., Choy, B. K., & Li, N. P. (2023). The Role of Humor Production and Perception in the Daily Life of Couples: An Interest-Indicator Perspective. *Psychological Science*, 09567976231203139.

Tan, K., Machia, L. V., & Agnew, C. R. (2023). When one's partner wants out: Awareness, attachment anxiety and accuracy. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 53(6), 1204-1215.



Norman Li
Professor of Psychology



Lester Sim
Assistant Professor of
Psychology



Kenneth Tan
Assistant Professor of
Psychology; Lee Kong
Chian Fellow

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Validated Journal Articles (1 Jul – 31 Dec 23) extracted from IRIS Publications on 3 Jan 24

Psychology

Tsai Ming-Hong

Tsai, M. H., & Hinsz, V. B. (2023). Gain-loss domain and social value orientation as determinants of risk allocation decisions. *Thinking & Reasoning*, 1-23.

Tsai, M. H., & Li, N. P. (2023). Trait self-control, emotions, and openness to alternative viewpoints. *Current Research in Behavioral Sciences*, 5, 100131.

Tsai, M. H. (2023). The interpersonal effects of emotional expressions with both and single valences on work-related satisfaction: an examination of emotions and perceived openness as mediators. *Cognition and Emotion*, 1-17.

William Tov

Nai, Z. L., Tan, W. S., & Tov, W. (2023). Acceptance of communication technology, emotional support and subjective well-being for Chinese older adults living alone during COVID-19: A moderated mediation model. *Plos one*, 18(9), e0291806.

Chia, J. L., Hartanto, A., & Tov, W. (2023). Profiles of activity engagement and depression trajectories as COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. *Psychology and Aging*.



Tsai Ming-Hong
Associate Professor of
Psychology



William Tov
Associate Professor of
Psychology;
Deputy Director,
Centre for Research on
Successful Ageing
(ROSA)

Publication Highlights – Journal Articles

Validated Journal Articles (1 Jul – 31 Dec 23) extracted from IRIS Publications on 3 Jan 24

Sociology

Andy Chang

Chang, A. S. (2023). Masculinity on the margins: Boundary work among immobile fathers in Indonesia's transnational families. *Social Forces*, 1.

Cheng Cheng

Wang, S., & Cheng, C. (2023). Opportunity or exploitation? A longitudinal dyadic analysis of flexible working arrangements and gender household labor inequality. *Social Forces*, soad125.

Cheng, C., & Zhou, Y. (2023). Educational Assortative Mating and Motherhood Penalty in China. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 100873.

Paulin Straughan

Straughan, P. T., & Xu, C. (2023). How does parents' social support impact children's health practice? Examining a mediating role of health knowledge. *Global Health Research and Policy*, 8(1), 8.

Forrest Zhang

Zhang, Q. F. (2023). Producers' transition to alternative food practices in rural China: social mobilization and cultural reconstruction in the formation of alternative economies. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 1-16.



Andy Chang

Assistant Professor of
Sociology



Cheng Cheng

Assistant Professor of
Sociology;
Lee Kong Chian Fellow



Paulin Straughan

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



Forrest Zhang

Associate Professor of
Sociology

SOSS Research Camp

3 November 2023



PRESENTATION BY STEVEN BURIK,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY (EDUCATION);
ASSOCIATE DEAN (STUDENT MATTERS AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS)

Against Technology? Heidegger and Daoism

It is often argued that Heidegger is a profoundly provincial thinker who is against technology and all its implications. The same is often said about classical Daoism (Laozi and Zhuangzi). This paper will challenge such facile assumptions and explain the complexities of the actual positions of Heidegger and the Daoists. It will then search for similarities in their approach, and argue for ways in which their understanding of how to deal with technology can aid us in our increasingly technological world. I will argue that although on the surface Heidegger and Daoism seem strongly anti-technology, and their preferred ways of living are highly localised and rural, in reality their ways of thinking can guide us in our understanding of our possible responses to ethical issues arising from technology and its increased prominence. Through notions such as Heidegger's *Gelassenheit* and the Daoist *ziran* and *wuwei*, it will be argued that a productive attitude change is necessary if we are to successfully manage and deal with ethical issues arising out of our use of technology.

PRESENTATION BY NORMAN LI, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Why people are having less children: Insights from mismatch research

Although the ultra-low fertility rates found in Singapore and many other modern nations have been attributed to prohibitively high financial costs of having children, there may be other key elements of modern environments that are influencing people's reproductive attitudes and behaviors. I briefly present the life history mismatch framework and results from recent studies suggesting that it's not just all about a lack of money.



PRESENTATION BY DEVIN JOSHI,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE; LEE KONG CHIAN FELLOW

The Political Vision of Wenzhi: A Daoist Model of Good Government

This presentation outlines key dimensions of the political vision of Wenzhi (a.k.a. Wen-tzu), a Daoist (a.k.a. Taoist) text that teaches how man(kind) has lost its way and governments have become corrupted by losing the Way (Dao). Neither anarchic nor reactionary, Wenzhi's political proposals reflect a view that is seemingly more pragmatic compared to some of the early Daoist classics. Criticizing bad governance as a cause and consequence of ignorance, violence, and greed, Wenzhi counters by proposing a political system featuring order, peace, contentment, the rule of law, and a system of public administration that is effective and efficient. In this idyllic scenario, people enjoy sustenance, nonviolence, stress-free longevity, and unity/harmony under a government and leaders who are fair, flexible, and unobtrusive. While idealistic on the one hand, Wenzhi's political thought nevertheless delivers a message of value to ordinary people and intellectuals today on how a good government might function.



SOSS Research Camp

3 November 2023

PRESENTATION BY LIU JIAQI,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY; LEE KONG CHIAN FELLOW

Alongside outward investments, infrastructure projects, and territorial claims, Chinese diasporas have become increasingly important in Global China's strategies for geopolitical ascendancy. These homeland-diaspora ties, however, push Chinese migrants to the center of Sino-West tensions and render them victims of the rising Sinophobic sentiment and anti-China discrimination in host countries.

Drawing on interviews and ethnographic data, collected in two years of fieldwork in China and Europe, this book project argues that China's increasingly assertive diaspora policies do not constitute a uniform or unequivocal expansionist endeavor. Instead, Chinese diaspora politics is equally shaped by the agentic maneuvers of Chinese emigrants and influenced by internal conflicts within the Chinese bureaucracy and diaspora communities. I introduce the concept of "transborder state-building" to theorize nation-states' systematic efforts to develop logistical and institutional capacities for governing their citizens overseas. Prior research in political sociology has often adhered to the Westphalian assumption that nation-states are territorially bound, confining their focus within state borders. By analyzing how China exerts control and delivers civil services abroad, this book project expands the scope of research on state-building to encompass cross-border domains and delves into diaspora governance as an overseas manifestation of conventional state-citizen relations.

Yet, state-diaspora relations have not been characterized by China's absolute rule or top-down governance. This book unveils how China's transborder state-building is both catalyzed and conditioned by three grassroots mechanisms: Chinese street-level officials' bureaucratic zeal, diaspora elites' symbolic remittances, and ordinary emigrants' stratified ties. While these bottom-up processes may sometimes align with the project of Global China, they can also disrupt this project due to the pragmatic and even irrational motivations of grassroots actors. Instead of assuming an asymmetric relationship between emigration countries with weaker standings and immigration countries with hegemonic positions, I demonstrate how an aspiring homeland state aims to challenge the established world order through diaspora strategies and how migrants capitalize on this ambitious grand plan to negotiate their transborder belonging.





Revolutionising Social Psychology Research: The Impact of ChatGPT as a Powerful Tool

Speaker: Lin Qiu, Associate Professor of Psychology, Nanyang Technological University, NTU

5 September 2023

The Real Deal? Results versus outcome in Thailand's 2023 elections

Speaker: Duncan McCargo, Professor of Public Policy and Global Affairs, Nanyang Technological University

8 September 2023



Comparing Party Manifestos in Southeast Asia

Speaker: Sebastian Dettman, Assistant Professor of Political Sciences, School of Social Sciences, SMU

13 September 2023

Rethinking "China" and the "Cold War": The Kuomintang, the Philippine Chinese, and Diasporic Anticommunism in the Mid-20th Century

Speaker: Kung Chien Wen, Assistant Professor of History, NUS

15 September 2023



State Power Beyond the State: Digital Infrastructures of China's Diaspora Governance During the Pandemic

Speaker: Liu Jiaqi, Assistant Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, SMU

21 September 2023



The Launch of SMU Master of Sustainability and Undergraduate 2nd Major in Sustainable Societies.

Speakers:

- Lim Tuang Liang, Government Chief Sustainability Officer Ministry of Sustainability & Environment
- Manon Bernier, Deputy Resident Representative United Nations Development Programme (Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei)
- Winston Chow, Associate Professor of Urban Climate, SMU and Co-Chair, Working Group II Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Seventh Assessment Report (AR7)
- Fang Eu-Lin, Partner, Sustainability & Climate Change Practice Leader, PwC Singapore
- Helge Muenkel, Group Chief Sustainability Officer, DBS Bank

22 September 2023

Gender-Professional Identity Integration (G-PII) and Computing Information System Students' Career Aspirations

Speaker: Cheng Chi-Ying, Associate Professor of Psychology
School of Social Sciences, SMU

26 September 2023



Workshop for an edited volume on Youth and Student Activism in Asia

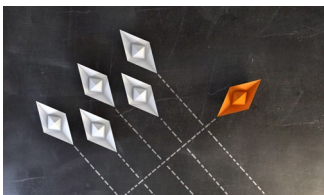
Speakers: 18 chapter authors from Asia, US, and Europe; 5 discussants, Sebastian Dettman, Dean Dulay, Nathan Peng, and Charlotte Setijadi from SMU, with Elliot Prasse Freeman from NUS; and three editors, Edward Aspinall (ANU), Colm Fox (SMU) and Meredith Weiss (University of Albany).

2 & 3 October 2023

Cross-sectional and longitudinal associations between Mexican-origin adolescents' cumulative strengths and individual self-growth

Speaker: Lester Sim, Assistant Professor of Psychology
School of Social Sciences, SMU

10 October 2023



Han Feizi on Reputation-Driven Disobedience: A Comparative Study

Speaker: Liu Antong, Lecturer in the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, University of Maryland

11 October 2023

3rd SMU ROSA Annual Symposium on Successful Ageing

12 October 2023

Guest of Honour: Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health

Speakers:

Professor Ursula Staudinger (Rector of the Technische Universität Dresden)

Dr Tan Shin Bin (Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy)

Dr Wan Chen K Graham (Deputy Director of Research, Agency for Integrated Care)

Professor Tughrul Arslan (Chair of Integrated Electronic Systems, School of Engineering, University of Edinburgh)

Professor Takashi Oshio (Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University)

Dr Joelle Fong (Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy)

Dr Xuan Zhang (Assistant Professor, SMU School of Economics)

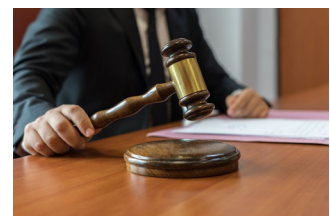
Dr Gog Soon Joo (Chief Skills Officer, SkillsFuture Singapore)



Democracy's Problem of Legal Revolution

Speaker: Schupmann Benjamin A., Assistant Professor in the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Yale-NUS College

16 October 2023





Resetting the Narrative: The Marcos “Restoration” and the Decline of “People Power”

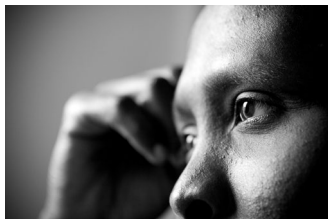
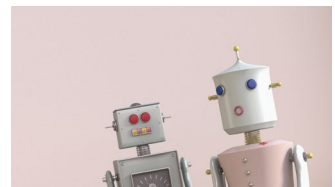
Speaker: Mark R. Thompson, Professor of Political Science,
City University of Hong Kong

20 October 2023

Are Women’s Works and Claims Received with More Uncertainty?

Speaker: Lee Jina, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Arizona

23 October 2023



The Fear of Being Idle

Speaker: Verity Lua, Psychology PhD Candidate, Stanford
University

24 October 2023

Crunch Time: How Married Couples Confront Unemployment

Speaker: Aliya Hamid Rao, Assistant Professor of Qualitative
Research Methods, London School of Economics

25 October 2023





Can National Identity Trump Ethnic Favouritism? Experimental Evidence from Singapore

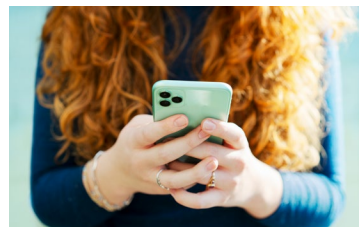
Speaker: Guillem Riambau, Assistant Professor of Economics,
NUS

27 October 2023

From Apps to Absentmindedness: A Daily Diary Investigation of the Link between Objective Smartphone Use and Cognitive Failures

Speaker: Andrea Hartanto, Assistant Professor of Psychology
School of Social Sciences, SMU

31 October 2023



The Halo of Winners and Passive Power

Speaker: Nathan Peng, Lecturer of Political Science, SMU

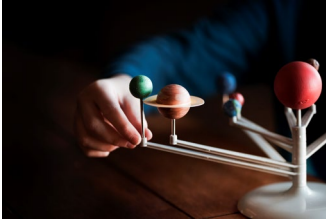
7 November 2023

Climate Communication for a Better World

Speaker: Maxwell Boykoff, Professor, University of Colorado
Boulder

14 November 2023





Mazzini in Bandung: On Third World Non-Intervention

Speaker: Patrick Quinton-Brown, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SMU

15 November 2023

Tianxia IV Conference: A Civilizational Dialogue as a Framework for Engagement on a Possible Planetary Order

Keynote speakers:

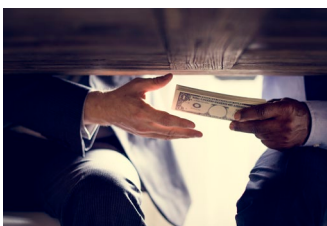
- Krishan KUMAR, University of Virginia
- Martin POWERS, Peking University

Roundtable Moderator: Roger T. AMES, Peking University

Panelists:

- WANG Gungwu, National University of Singapore
- Martin POWERS, Peking University
- Krishan KUMAR, University of Virginia
- Sor-hoon TAN, Singapore Management University

17 November 2023



Do Better Managers Bribe Less?

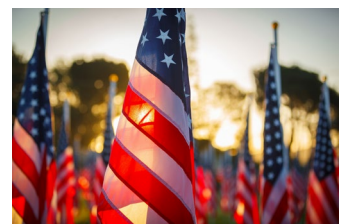
Speaker: Edmund J. Malesky, Professor of Political Economy, Duke University

17 November 2023

What is Nationalism?

Speaker: Kai Quek, Associate Professor, The University of Hong Kong

30 November 2023



Faculty Spotlight



Yasmin Ortiga

Assistant Professor of Sociology;
Lee Kong Chian Fellow

How do people move across borders? In answering this question, Yasmin's research argues that in the case of labor migrants, movement often depends on the question of skill - or how employers, governments and even migrants themselves define, certify, and assess people's capabilities. To date, migration scholars have largely treated skill as an individual resource – a form of “human capital” to be maximised, or a part of migrants' labor power, often exploited and devalued. For more than a decade, Yasmin's research has shown how different notions of skill also shape people's movements, creating global pathways for the migration of some, while justifying the immobility of others. Rather than simply trace where people bring their skills, her work has raised the important question of how these skills are produced and redefined in the migration process.

Currently, Yasmin is developing two projects on how broader skills regimes shape the migration trajectories of two types of migrants. The first project investigates how temporary destinations like Singapore become part of healthcare workers' migration trajectories. Specifically, she seeks to determine how state institutions, employers and professional associations channel migrant nurses and doctors into the country, while eventually pushing them out to others.

Meanwhile, the second project examines the multinational movements of agricultural workers. With her collaborators, Yasmin aims to investigate how agricultural industries in places like Australia and New Zealand increasingly require “skilled” workers, encouraging aspiring migrants to move through multiple countries in order to accumulate the experience needed for their desired destinations. They compare the experiences of two groups of Filipino farmers: 1) vegetable farmers who move through Japan to gain the work experience for farming positions in Australia, and 2) dairy farm workers who seek experience in the UAE to qualify for jobs in New Zealand. While migration scholars and policymakers have long debated how best to attract skilled workers, few investigate how such movement is shaped by skills requirements, standards, and qualifications. This is an issue that has been otherwise ignored in both migration scholarship and labor policy.



Patrick Quinton-Brown
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Patrick's research interests cover theories of international relations and global governance; international organisations and institutions; interpretive and postcolonial approaches; and the role of the Global South in the normative and political development of international society. So far he has been primarily concerned with non-Western contestations of Western-dominated historical orders, including through the Non-Aligned Movement and related groups in and around the United Nations.

His first book, *Intervention before Interventionism: A Global Genealogy* (forthcoming with Oxford University Press in April 2024), reflects on these issues in terms of the present crisis of liberal interventionism. How are we to make sense of re-organisations of sovereignty and intervention in the norms and rules of statespeople? Recently the dominant way of thinking about these ideas has been through the lens of cosmopolitan or liberal-solidarist duties, including the Responsibility to Protect. Yet it seems doubtful that this framework is still capable of posing the right questions or generating the right sorts of answers. The book offers a new approach that provincializes the conventional debate and de-naturalises what it takes as universal or given. It does so through a genealogy of the intervention concept and a recovery of shared intergovernmental practices of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

He has recently completed articles that relate to post-Western-centric theorising and the uses of history and critical theory in international relations and its study. One, published in *Review of International Studies*, provides a critique of contemporary academic debate on humanitarian intervention. Another, published in *International Affairs* and co-authored with Margaret MacMillan, examines the ways in which historical narratives are used in world politics. And a third, published in *International Relations*, explores competing strains of internationalism through a discursive analysis of Cuba's intervention in Angola, 1975.

Two article manuscripts are in progress. The first proposes a novel theory of the principle of non-intervention by situating the international political thought of Giuseppe Mazzini in the institutionalized practices of the Asian-African Conference of 1955 hosted in Bandung, Indonesia, which introduced anti-colonialism and anti-racism as constitutive principles of evolving global order. The second has to do with methodology and notions of legitimacy, value conflict, and the decolonization of the so-called English School of International Relations. His next book project will analyse models of peaceful coexistence and the pursuit of international law and justice in conditions of multipolarity and Great Power competition.

Achievements – Awards/Recognitions



David Chan

Lee Kong Chian
Professor of
Psychology;
Director, BSI

- ❖ Professor David Chan (Lee Kong Chian Professor of Psychology) has been renewed for another two-year term in his appointment as a member of the Social Science Research Council. The appointment is made by Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.



Liu Jiaqi

Assistant Professor
of Sociology;
Lee Kong Chian
Fellow

- ❖ Terence K. Hopkins Graduate Student Paper Award (2023), American Sociological Association Section on the Political Economy of the World-System for Liu, Jiaqi M. 2022. “When Diaspora Politics Meet Global Ambitions: Diaspora Institutions Amid China’s Geopolitical Transformations.” *International Migration Review* 56(4): 1255-79.

Research Projects Awarded Jul – Dec 2023

SMU Internal Research Grant



PI: **Dean Dulay**, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Lee Kong Chian Fellow
Project title: Historical Grievances and Foreign Policy in East and Southeast Asia