

# SOSS Insights

*The research newsletter of SMU School of Social Sciences*

Issue 11, February 2026

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# Thought Leadership



**Lily Kong**  
President, SMU;  
Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Social Sciences

## **Keynote and Plenary Addresses (Academic)**

### **(2025) Keynote Speaker**

“Understanding the nexus of religion and health: why space and place matter”, 5 September 2025, Annual Conference of the British Association for the Study of Religion (delivered virtually from Singapore)

## **Keynote/Plenary Addresses and Panel Speaker/Moderator (Education/Leadership)**

### **(2025) Keynote Speaker**

“What Must Change? Towards Gender-Equitable and Inclusive Academic Communities,” AUN Forum on Gender Transformative Curriculum: Reimagining Education and Advancing Gender Justice in ASEAN, 15 December 2025, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Philippines (delivered virtually from Singapore)

### **(2025) Keynote Speaker**

“Who Needs a University When You Have AI?”, Presidents Forum on Innovation in Teaching & Learning: Shaping the Future of Higher Education, 6 December 2025, VinUniversity, Hanoi, Vietnam.

### **(2025) Panel Speaker**

“Education in Ten Years: Civilisation Coexistence in the Age of Artificial Intelligence”, Beijing Forum 2025, 9 November 2025, Peking University, Beijing, China

### **(2025) Panel Moderator**

“Business Education in Asia Today: What’s Changing and What Still Matters?”, QS Higher Ed Summit: Asia Pacific 2025, 4 November 2025, Incheon Memorial Hall, Seoul, South Korea

### **(2025) Moderator**

KFF Inspiring Women Leadership Lecture Series: “In Conversation with Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir”, 10 October 2025, Singapore Management University, Singapore

### **(2025) Moderator**

“Rethinking Innovation and Education in a Changing Asia”, Asia Leaders Connect 2025: Fireside Chat with Former Republic of Korea Deputy Prime Minister Professor Lee Ju-Ho, 3 October 2025, Singapore

### **(2025) Speaker**

“The Science and Art of City-Making”, MHA Phoenix Speaker Series, Ministry of Home Affairs, 31 July 2025, Singapore

### **(2025) Panel Speaker**

“Transforming Societies: Universities Driving Impact Through Multilateral Alliances”, 16th ASEAN University Network Rectors’ Meeting, 24 July 2025, Manila, Philippines

### **(2025) Keynote Speaker**

“In Conversation: Asian Perspectives”, Westpac Asian Exchange Scholarship Leadership Residential, 22 July 2025, Singapore

## **Opinion Editorials**

**Kong, L.** The future of higher education is under siege – reinvention may be its salvation, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (29 October 2025)

**Kong, L.** Can Singapore be a city that bounces back and gives back? *The Straits Times* (2 October 2025)

**Kong, L.** Designing 3R Cities for Life, *Die Presse* (27 August 2025)

**Kong, L.** Measuring what matters: Towards consequential research, *The Business Times* (13 August 2025)

**Kong, L.** Designing 3R Cities for Life. *Bridges* (6 August 2025)

**Kong, L.** Singapore at 60: Home truly is an idea that never stands still, *The Straits Times* (8 July 2025)

## **Other Articles/Videos**

**Kong, L.** (2025): “Reimagining the Future of Higher Education”, *Studiosity*, <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/reimagining-highered/id1612009467>

# Thought Leadership



## William A. Callahan

Professor of Political Science;  
Academic Director of Politics, Law and Economics (PLE) major

- Inaugural Lecture: 'China in 2049? Technology, Sustainability and China's future world order', Singapore Management University, 7 November 2025



## Matthew Hammerton

Associate Professor of Philosophy;  
Associate Dean (Undergraduate Education);  
Basket Coordinator for Modes of Thinking;  
Area Coordinator, Philosophy

- Invited guest, '[Happiness and Meaning: Can you have both?](#)', CBmE&U Podcast, National University of Singapore, 15 July 2025
- '[Reimagining Academic Assessment in the Age of AI](#)', *IPS Commons*, Singapore Institute of Policy Studies, 9 September 2025
- '[The Good Life Paradox](#)', *Philosophy Now Magazine*, Issue 171.
- Invited guest, '[Live to Work or Work to Live](#)', *The Philosophy of Living Well Podcast*, 11 December 2025



## Brandon Yip

Assistant Professor of Philosophy;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow

- Invited guest, "[Sticky & Icky: Trusting Your Moral Gut with Brandon Yip](#)", CBmE&U Podcast, National University of Singapore, 1 August 2025

# SOSS Research At A Glance

July to December 2025



**55 Publications**

(Journal articles and book chapters)

**11 Other Publications**



**27 Events**

Public Lectures, Invited Talks, Seminars, etc

**21 Conference Presentations**



**12 Research Grants**

(approx. **\$3.5 m**)

# Publication Highlights - Books



Universities Reinvented  
Shaping Legacy and Impact for a New World



**Lily Kong**  
President, SMU;  
Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Social Sciences

Professor Lily Kong is the Institute of Policy Studies' 15th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore. This book is an edited collection of her three IPS-Nathan Lectures, delivered from October to November 2024, and includes highlights of her question-and-answer segments with the audience.

Professor Kong reflects on the idea of the university and how it has evolved over time. Through the three lectures, she examines the public value of universities and the potential and reality of their contributions to societal development. Prof Kong started with illustrating how, throughout history, the university has reflected changing societal contexts. The contemporary university is no different. In her second lecture, she examines what a university stands for if humanity contemplates and confronts the very real possibility of a 100-year life. Finally, she invites discussion about the responsibility of universities — as brain trust — to the world beyond its walls. The third lecture addresses questions of misinformation, manipulation, and misconduct in research, but also, more optimistically, research that is creative, catalytic, and consequential.

<https://doi.org/10.1142/14460>

# Publication Highlights - Books



Dialogues on Immigration and the Open Society



**Chandran Kukathas**  
Professor of Political Science

After some friendly pestering from six of his students curious about his thinking about immigration, a philosophy professor invites them to present their own ideas to him over a series of meetings throughout the term. This book is about their conversations.

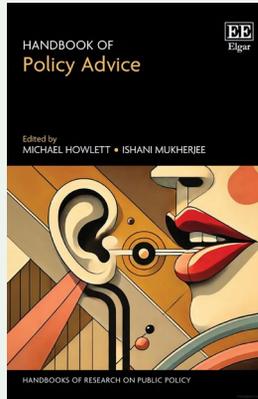
These dialogues introduce the reader to the most important ethical and political questions about immigration. They begin by considering the claim that significant levels of immigration pose a threat to the very civilization of the West, where the immigration issue is a particularly vexed one. The chapters that follow consider the economics of immigration, whether or not the state is justified in its efforts—or even obliged—to control immigration, and whether everyone has a right to move or if only refugees can make so strong a claim. The final chapter considers the implications of a philosophy of immigration on the ideal of an open society. Throughout the book, there is a strong emphasis on addressing the conceptual questions that are vital for making any headway in understanding practical issues. What is a refugee? What are rights? What is an open society? Indeed, what is immigration?

### Key Features:

- Written as a friendly engagement between six thoughtful but skeptical students who hold a variety of views, and a philosophy professor, who insists he's just trying to work out the answers with their help rather than convince them of one right answer;
- Engages with the immigration debates in philosophy, economics and politics, without presupposing any specialist knowledge;
- Includes discussion of the historical and institutional aspects of immigration, so the conversation is never simply about abstract or hypothetical cases;
- Concludes with a substantive theory about how to think about immigration and the free society to prompt further reflection.

[https://www.routledge.com/Dialogues-on-Immigration-and-the-Open-Society/Kukathas/p/book/9781032996028?srsItd=AfmBOor\\_7TAaZOEjDUa\\_ucq1-mXo4-d9rZ6pOWNRLSjmRN7jVp5TACK](https://www.routledge.com/Dialogues-on-Immigration-and-the-Open-Society/Kukathas/p/book/9781032996028?srsItd=AfmBOor_7TAaZOEjDUa_ucq1-mXo4-d9rZ6pOWNRLSjmRN7jVp5TACK)

# Publication Highlights - Books



Handbook of policy advice



**Ishani Mukherjee**

Associate Professor of Public Policy;  
Urban Fellow (Urban Governance)

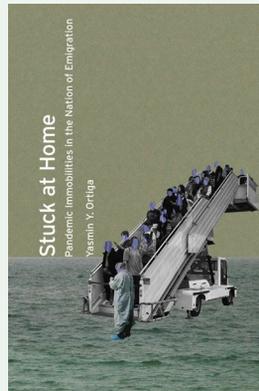
This timely Handbook examines the background, organization and evolution of policy advice and expertise in contemporary government. Chapters in the book set out and critically re-evaluate conventional assumptions about the role of policy advisors and advice in policy-making in an era when increasing new technologies, political polarization and contestation have mounted challenges to traditional sources of policy ideas and influence.

In 50 chapters on different topics and country experiences, leading international experts explore how issues and developments such as social media and AI have impacted the content, quality and organization of policy advice for modern governments. They discuss how the nature and deployment of policy expertise is changing amidst the fragmentation of existing information ecosystems and growing distrust in traditional actors and institutions. The Handbook analyses the features and problems of existing studies and practices such as evidence-based policy-making and addresses the future of policy advising, illustrating the impact and implications of ongoing shifts towards more pluralistic and social-media-driven sources of policy knowledge.

Students and scholars of public policy, public administration and management, and regulation and governance will greatly benefit from the consolidation of existing knowledge and the novel perspectives on policy advice found in this Handbook. It is also an essential resource for practitioners in public policy and administration.

[https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-of-policy-advice-9781035318070.html?srsIid=AfmBOor54kPrMX38bNmlr\\_tqMiplWYqF69XLylwahk0RUA2rQADC10V9](https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-of-policy-advice-9781035318070.html?srsIid=AfmBOor54kPrMX38bNmlr_tqMiplWYqF69XLylwahk0RUA2rQADC10V9)

# Publication Highlights - Books



**Stuck at Home**  
Pandemic Immobilities in the Nation of Emigration



**Yasmin Ortega**  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
Area Coordinator, Sociology

The Philippines is among the most successful migrant-sending nations in the world, both lauded and critiqued for exporting its own citizens to a global labor market. Yasmin Y. Ortega brings readers beyond this popular image to explore questions often overlooked: What happens when workers who were encouraged to emigrate are suddenly unable to leave?

*Stuck at Home* examines how the Philippine state and its aspiring migrants negotiated the meaning of immobility amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In this pioneering book, Ortega studies the narratives that emerged around two groups of Filipino workers: nurses banned from leaving the country and cruise workers who returned home after COVID-19 shut down the travel industry. Ortega emphasizes the high stakes in telling the "right" story of immobility to a nation built around emigration—one that provides a compelling rationale for who deserves to move and who can be forced to stay.

A gripping account of political interests, frustrated dreams, and an unprecedented crisis, *Stuck at Home* reveals how migration governance is not only about regulating people's movement, but also defining the meaning and implications of remaining in place.

<https://www.sup.org/books/sociology/stuck-home>

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Humanities

#### Lily Kong

Chen, N., Kong, L., & Li, Y. (2025). "Infrastructuring planetary rural geographies: A view from China's rural construction movement", *Dialogues in Human Geography*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/20438206251364983>

Aprimadya, M. H., Kong, L., Calderon, A., & Coates, H. (2025). Southeast Asia Higher Education Changes and Emerging Futures", *Journal of Research and Innovation in Higher Education*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 13–38, <https://doi.org/10.48341/zdk4-bt70>

Bunnell, T, Spicer, Z, Miller, B, Abbruzzese, T, Cardullo, P, Chang, I, Charnock, G, Chung, M-K, Heo, K, Jou, S-C, Karvonen, A, Kordas, O, Kong, L, Ribera-Fumaz, R, Chae, S, Shin, H, Woods, O (2025) "The citizen and the smart city: a global comparison of institutional logics", *Urban Geography*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2025.2551135>

Das, P., Woods, O. and Kong, L. (2025). Smart Cities Beyond Methodological Cityism: Foregrounding Developmentalism, Scalar Flexing and the Rebranding of the 'Urban'. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.70012>

Das, P., Woods, O. and Kong, L. (2025) "Right-sizing the smart city in Southeast Asia", *Area*, pp. 1–9, <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.70014>

Das, P., Woods, O. and Kong, L. (2025) "What Are the Limits to Smart Innovation? The Digital Underground Initiative and New Frontiers of 'Smartness' in Singapore", *Planning Theory & Practice*, Vol. 26(3), pp. 365–383, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2025.2538458>

Grimley, E., Woods, O. and Kong, L. (2025) "Educating Indians, learning 'Indianness': navigating pluralistic educational infrastructures in diasporic Singapore", *South Asian Diaspora*, Vol. 17(2), pp. 337–352, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19438192.2024.2358599>

Woods, O., Lim, A. and Kong, L. (2025), "Sedimented surveillance in Southeast Asia's 'smart' city-state: the case of Singapore" in *Handbook on Cities and Crime*, Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, pp. 468-482, Chapter 27.



**Lily Kong**  
President, SMU;  
Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Social Sciences

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Humanities

#### Steven Burik

Burik, S. (2025). Heidegger's Phusis (φύσις) and Daoist Ziran (自然): A Phenomenological Comparison of "Things-Themselves" in Inter-dependence. *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*, 1-15.

#### Matthew Hammerton

Ryan, S., & Hammerton, M. (2025). Beyond Fact-Checking: The Importance of Logic-Checking in Public Discourse. *Social Epistemology*, 1-13.

Hammerton, M. (2025). Constraints without tears for consequentialists. *Philosophia*, 1-10.

#### Tan Sor Hoon

Sor-hoon Tan, Confucianism, Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics, 3rd Edition Reference Module in Social Sciences, Elsevier, 2025

#### Brandon Yip

Yip, B. (2025). Being seen and being with others: Shame and interpersonal relationships. *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 62(3), 219-232.

Yip, B. (2025). Having a Good Laugh: The Comic Advantages of Moral Virtue. *British Journal of Aesthetics*, ayaf022.



#### Steven Burik

Associate Professor of Philosophy (Education); Associate Dean (Student Matters & Alumni Affairs); Lee Kong Chian Fellow



#### Matthew Hammerton

Associate Professor of Philosophy; Associate Dean (Undergraduate Education); Basket Coordinator for Modes of Thinking; Area Coordinator, Philosophy



#### Tan Sor Hoon

Professor of Philosophy



#### Brandon Yip

Assistant Professor of Philosophy; Lee Kong Chian Fellow

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Political Science & Public Policy

#### William A. Callahan

Callahan, W. A. (2025). The Imperial Gaze: Affective Governance, Hybrid Cartography, and China's U-Shaped Line. *Geopolitics*, 1-32.

#### Beomgeun Cho

Cho, B., & Choi, H. (2025). Meritocracy and equal access to the public sector: A comparative analysis of accessibility to public sector jobs and public services. *Public Performance & Management Review*, 1-23.

Noh, I. H., Cho, B., Roggio, A. M., & Luna-Reyes, L. F. (2025). The Impacts of Political Leaders' Social Capital on Policy Success: The Case of Local Food Systems. *The American Review of Public Administration*, 02750740251379874.

#### Ishani Mukherjee

Guha, P., & Mukherjee, I. (2025). Calibrations and compliance: the role of motivations in policy instrument design. *Policy and Society*, puaf028.

Wellstead, A., Giest, S., Mukherjee, I., Gofen, A., & Evans, B. (2025). Peak policy lab or chasing windmills? The overlooked issue of misaligned policy design. *Policy Sciences*, 1-20.



**William A. Callahan**  
Professor of Political Science;  
Academic Director of Politics, Law and Economics (PLE) major



**Beomgeun Cho**  
Assistant Professor of Public Policy;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow



**Ishani Mukherjee**  
Associate Professor of Public Policy;  
Urban Fellow (Urban Governance)

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Political Science & Public Policy

#### Christianna Parr

Parr, C. S. (2025). Does social media undermine trust? Institutional trust in civil society and governance institutions. *Journal of Public Policy*, 1-24.

#### Panchali Guha

Guha, P., & Mukherjee, I. (2025). Calibrations and compliance: the role of motivations in policy instrument design. *Policy and Society*, puaf028.



**Christianna Parr**  
Assistant Professor of  
Political Science



**Panchali Guha**  
Postdoctoral Fellow in  
Sustainability and  
Governance

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Psychology

#### Andree Hartanto

Ho, J. Q., Hu, M., Chen, T. X., & Hartanto, A. (2025). Potential and pitfalls of romantic Artificial Intelligence (AI) companions: A systematic review. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 19, 100715.

Chia, J. L., Lua, V. Y., & Hartanto, A. (2025). A lifespan perspective on positive affect fluctuations on purpose in life: findings from a 9-year longitudinal study. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 1-11.

Chia, S., Hartanto, A., & Tong, E. M. (2025). Do Listeners Devalue AI-Generated Pop Music? Exploring Negative Biases in Listeners' Responses to AI-Labelled vs Human-Labelled Pop Music. *Computers in Human Behavior: Artificial Humans*, 100217.

Tan, G. X., Hartanto, A., Eun, Z. K., Hu, M., Hsu, K. J., & Majeed, N. M. (2025). Effectiveness of Cognitive and Behavioral Interventions in the Treatment of Schizophrenia: An Umbrella Review of Meta-Analyses. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 15(1), 187.

Kasturiratna, K. T. A., & Hartanto, A. (2025). Longitudinal and bidirectional relations between problematic social media use and cognitive failures. *Psychiatric Quarterly*, 1-13.

Soh, X. C., Hartanto, A., Ling, N., Reyes, M., Sim, L., & Majeed, N. M. (2025). Prevalence of depression, anxiety, burden, burnout, and stress in informal caregivers: An umbrella review of meta-analyses. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics Plus*, 100197.

Goh, A. Y., Hartanto, A., & Majeed, N. M. (2025). Generative artificial intelligence dependency: Scale development, validation, and its motivational, behavioral, and psychological correlates. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 100845.

Lee, D., & Hartanto, A. (2025). A cultural identity approach to the generational divide. *New Ideas in Psychology*, 79, 101183.

Hisham, E. M., Hartanto, A., & Majeed, N. M. (2025). A 3-item short version of the Fear of Missing Out (FoMO) scale for trait and time-intensive designs: Measurement invariance and psychometric properties. *Telematics and Informatics Reports*, 100259.

Kasturiratna, K. S., Hartanto, A., Lee, A. K., Koh, C. J., & Majeed, N. M. (2025). Efficacy of digital mental health interventions for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder: A meta-analytic review of randomised controlled trials. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 19, 100703.

Hartanto, A., Hu, M., Goh, A. H., & Tong, E. M. (2025). Social expectancies to be constantly available and productive as antecedents and consequences of burnout: A longitudinal bidirectional investigation. *Motivation and Emotion*, 1-15.

Eriksson, K., Strimling, P., Vartanova, I., Simpson, B., Persson, M., ..., Hartanto, A., ..., & Van Lange, P. A. M. (2025). Everyday norms have become more permissive over time and vary across cultures. *Communications Psychology*, 3(1), 145.

Kasturiratna, K. S., & Hartanto, A. (2025). Attachment to Artificial Intelligence: Development of the AI Attachment Scale, Construct Validation, and the Psychological Mechanisms of Human-AI Attachment. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 100912.



**Andree Hartanto**

Associate Professor of Psychology;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow;  
ResWORK Fellow

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Psychology

#### Cheng Chi-Ying

Tan, K., Cheng, C. Y., Lai, G. J., & Ho, D. (2026). Dual Self-Construal Integration (DSCI) and Romantic Relationships in Singapore: Enhancing Romantic Relationship Satisfaction Through Creativity. *International Journal of Psychology*, 61(1), e70149.

#### Angela Leung

Chong, M., Leung, A., & Fernandez, T. M. (2025). National Halo and Culture Mixing: US Consumer Acceptance of Korean Cultivated Meat Made with Seaweed Components. *Future Foods*, 100836.

#### Norman Li

Groome, S. S., Shevlane, L., & Li, N. P. (2025). Prosocial Behaviour: Punitive Religion Impact On. In *Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior* (pp. 1-9). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Li, N. P., & Lim, A. J. (2025). Competitive stress and life-history mismatch. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 48, e113.

Ko, N. F., & Li, N. P. (2025). Religious Beliefs, Cooperation, and Evolutionary Mechanisms. In *Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior* (pp. 1-6). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Ackerman, J. M., Samore, T., Fessler, D. M., Kupfer, T. R., Choi, S., Merrell, W. N., ... & Žeželj, I. (2025). I see sick people: Beliefs about sensory detection of infectious disease are largely consistent across cultures. *Brain, behavior, and immunity*, 128, 737-750.

Żemojtel-Piotrowska, M., Piotrowski, J., Nowak, B., Saroglou, V., Maltby, J., & Sedikides, C. ... Li, N. P., ... (2025). Beyond Religious Narcissistic Identification: Agnostic and Atheistic Narcissism. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*.



**Cheng Chi-Ying**  
Associate Professor of  
Psychology;  
Area Coordinator, Psychology



**Angela Leung**  
Professor of Psychology;  
Advisor, SMU Institutional  
Review Board



**Norman Li**  
Professor of Psychology;  
PGR Coordinator, PhD  
Psychology Programme

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Psychology

#### Lester Sim

Sim, L., & Edelstein, R. (2025). Cross-Cultural Differences in the Links Between Familial Support and Strain in Married and Single Adults' Well-Being. *Personal Relationships*, 32(3), e70027.

Kim, S. Y., Du, Y., Alvarado, C., Sim, L., Wen, W., Zhang, T., & Shen, J. (2025). Language Brokering Conditions the Indirect Association Between Mexican-Origin Adolescents' Academic Discrimination and Educational Expectations. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 53(6), e70033.

Kim, S. Y., Du, Y., Zhang, T., Shen, J., Coulter, K. M., Sim, L., ... & Hou, Y. (2025). Adolescent executive function as a resilience factor in the family stress model among Mexican-origin families. *Journal of Family Psychology*.

Soh, X. C., Hartanto, A., Ling, N., Reyes, M., Sim, L., & Majeed, N. M. (2025). Prevalence of depression, anxiety, burden, burnout, and stress in informal caregivers: An umbrella review of meta-analyses. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics Plus*, 100197.

#### Jacinth Tan

Tan, J. J., Tan, G. T., & Wee, F. A. (2025). The Link Between Intergenerational Social Mobility of Cohorts And Individual Self-Rated Health: A Multi-Country Analysis: JJX Tan et al. *Social Indicators Research*, 180(2), 619-641.

Tan, J. J., West, T. V., & Mendes, W. B. (2025). Socioeconomic status shapes dyadic interactions: Examining behavioral and physiologic responses. *Psychological Science*, 36(8), 591-606.

#### Kenneth Tan

Tan, K., Cheng, C. Y., Lai, G. J., & Ho, D. (2026). Dual Self-Construal Integration (DSCI) and Romantic Relationships in Singapore: Enhancing Romantic Relationship Satisfaction Through Creativity. *International Journal of Psychology*, 61(1), e70149.



**Lester Sim**  
Assistant Professor of  
Psychology



**Jacinth Tan**  
Associate Professor of  
Psychology;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow



**Kenneth Tan**  
Assistant Professor of  
Psychology

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Psychology

#### William Tov

Choo, W. M. R., Lau, L. K., Cheong, L. L. G., Tan, C. S. M., Tov, W., Straughan, P., ... & Lim, W. S. (2025). Reliability and Validity of a Self-administered Online Assessment of Intrinsic Capacity: A Singapore Cohort Study. *Annals of Geriatric Medicine and Research*, 29(4), 450.

#### Tsai Ming-Hong

Tsai, M. H., Goh, C. E., Lee, M. H., Seah, F., Lim, M., Febriana, E., ... & Toh, S. A. E. S. (2025). Associations between perceived stress and glyceic measures: gender and age as moderators. *BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care*, 13(6).

#### Sarah Shi Hui Wong

Wong, S. S. H. (2025). Learning by teaching with deliberate errors promotes argumentative reasoning. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 117(7), 1013–1038. <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0000934>



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



**Tsai Ming-Hong**  
Associate Professor of Psychology



**Sarah Shi Hui Wong**  
Assistant Professor of Psychology

# Publication Highlights

## (Journal Articles and Book Chapters)

### Sociology

#### Liu Jiaqi

Liu, J. M. (2025). The return of Chinese emigrants: Legal barriers and local practices. *Handbook on Migration to China*, 87-96.

Liu, J. M., & Wan, C. X. (2025). Diaspora by another name: the making of refugees in Cold War China. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 13(1), 49.

#### Yasmin Ortiga

Ortiga, Y. Y., & Galam, R. (2025). Governing Migration, Producing Skills: Emigration and Education in the Philippines. *International Migration Review*, 01979183251359171.

Ortiga, Y. Y. (2025). Internationalisation struggles and student mobility: ethnic exclusion and racism in Philippine higher education. *Comparative Education*, 1-18.

Ye, R., & Ortiga, Y. Y. (2025). Stockpiling, forecasting and protecting skills: Skilling as technique of preparedness in times of crises. *Current Sociology*, 00113921251347644.

#### Paulin Straughan

Choo, W. M. R., Lau, L. K., Cheong, L. L. G., Tan, C. S. M., Tov, W., Straughan, P., ... & Lim, W. S. (2025). Reliability and Validity of a Self-administered Online Assessment of Intrinsic Capacity: A Singapore Cohort Study. *Annals of Geriatric Medicine and Research*, 29(4), 450.



**Liu Jiaqi**

Assistant Professor of Sociology; Urban Fellow (Urban Experiences)



**Yasmin Ortiga**

Associate Professor of Sociology; Area Coordinator, Sociology



**Paulin Straughan**

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

# Events

## SOSS Research Camp 17 October 2025



**Presentation by Christianna Parr**  
Assistant Professor of Political Science

### **Does Social Media Undermine Trust? Institutional Trust in Civil Society and Governance Institutions**

What is the relationship between social media use and trust in civil society and governance institutions? In many parts of Asia, trust in government remains high despite limited political accountability and civil liberties. This study examines whether online political expression reshapes institutional trust in governance institutions and civil society organizations. The analysis considers the dual role of social media as a site for civic engagement and a channel for disaffection with formal authority. Using data from the Asian Barometer, the findings show that political expression on social media is associated with lower trust in governance institutions and higher trust in non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a fundamental part of civil society. These effects vary across regimes and survey waves. The results suggest that online expression may erode legitimacy of formal authority while enhancing trust in civil society, thus shaping the political role of NGOs and social media platforms in restrictive political settings.



**Presentation by Sarah Wong**  
Assistant Professor of Psychology

### **The Powerful Teacher: A Power Hypothesis for the Benefits of Learning-by-Teaching**

Why does teaching others enhance one's learning? We advance a novel power hypothesis: When assuming the role of a teacher, students experience a heightened sense of power in influencing others, which increases their own learning. University students studied a scientific text using one of three learning methods: notetaking, explaining, or teaching. All students were then tested on generating research questions that create new knowledge about the topic. Teaching or explaining to others improved students' research question generation more than writing study notes for their own learning. Crucially, teaching outperformed explaining. Students who taught reported experiencing more power than those who explained or took notes, in turn mediating the learning advantage of teaching. Indeed, teaching is powerful.

# Events

## SOSS Research Camp 17 October 2025



**Presentation by George Wong**  
**Assistant Professor of Sociology (Education); Urban Fellow (Urban Experiences)**

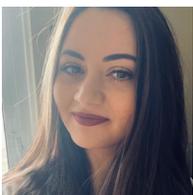
### **Race Gates: Real Estate Agents and the Enclaving of Co-Ethnic Residential Enclaves as Integration-Based Rental Strategies**

Integrating residential communities through multiracial paradigms in Singapore has always attracted robust discussion. A signature aspect of Singapore's integration policy is in mitigating "ethnic enclaves", defined as residential estates' demographics that exceed the Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP) demarcations. Ethnic enclaves are regarded as antithetical to the state's integration pursuits and despite deep policy interventions through public housing projects, some enclaves persists as co-ethnic residential communities through the rental and private housing markets.

Co-ethnic residential communities are conventionally assumed to be driven by residents' preferences for cultural proximity and/or co-ethnicity. Such assumptions remained largely uncontested in Singapore. This study offers an alternative perspective by analysing residential enclaves not as static sites defined by inhabitants, but as enclaving practices driven by place-based entrepreneurs who manifest ethnicity into space.

Using interview findings with 30 real estate agents, this study attempts a conceptual mapping of co-ethnic residential communities, and traces how agents read and perform co-ethnic preferences by anticipating and gatekeeping residential opportunities for their clients through Singapore's rental market. This study also examines how real estate agents justify such practices as part of their profession in achieving integration-based rental strategies, revealing the confluence of Singapore's co-ethnic integration assumptions with local real estate practices.

Ultimately, this study highlights the influential roles place-based entrepreneurs play in shaping urban communities alongside policy, albeit not without unintended consequences. It also calls for existing discussions on integration to go beyond cultural proximity and motivations, and pay attention to enclaving as institutionalized place-making practices that reproduce spatialised community patterns.



**Presentation by Rand Hirmiz**  
**Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Education)**

### **Dementia, Advance Directives, and Second-Order Volitions**

This paper offers a contribution to the then-self/now-self debate made famous by Ronald Dworkin and Rebecca Dresser and aims to answer the question of what ought to be done in cases where dementias patients' desires conflict with their prior wishes. That is, should the wishes of the pre-dementia self (the "then-self") be adhered to, or should preference be given to the "now-self"? The argument put forth in this paper is that the then-self's decisions ought to be given preference if the post-dementia patient comes to lack what Harry Frankfurt refers to as "second-order volitions", making them incapable of repudiating or retracting their previous commitments

# Events

## SOSS Seminars/Workshops

### **The Psychology of Ecology: How Environments Influence Culture and Stereotyping**

Speaker: Oliver Sng, Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of California  
19 August 2025



### **Exporting Ideologies? The impact of open source Chinese large language models in East Asia**

Speaker: Asei Ito, Associate Professor, University of Tokyo  
22 August 2025

### **Justifying Behavioral Interventions: The Role of Trust**

Speaker: Andrea Low, Doctoral student, UCLA Anderson School of Management, MOE Social Science Research Council Graduate Research Fellow  
22 August 2025



### **Two Roads to Happiness: Minimal Interactions and Romantic Relationships as Sources of Personal and Relational Well-Being**

Speakers: Emre Selcuk, Professor of Social Psychology, Sabanci University & Gul Gunaydin, Professor of Psychology, Sabanci University  
22 August 2025

# Events

## SOSS Seminars/Workshops



### Book Launch: **Stuck at Home: Pandemic Immobilities in the Nation of Emigration**

Author: Yasmin Ortiga, Associate Professor of Sociology, SMU  
 Moderator: Karen S. Liao, Senior Researcher – Migration Rhythms Project, Peace Research Institute Oslo  
 Commentator: Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, Doris Stevens Professor in Women’s Studies, Professor of Sociology and Gender and Sexuality Studies, Princeton University  
 29 August 2025

### **A Living, Spiritual Cosmos: Anne Conway’s Challenge to Anthropocentrism** Speaker: Yining Wu, Ph.D Candidate, Temple University 1 September 2025



### **Governance, Sustainability and Elite Quality: A Comparative Dialogue on Singapore and Portugal**

Discussants: Claudia Ribeiro, Professor of Finance, FEP University of Porto and Alwyn Lim, Associate Professor of Sociology, SMU  
 25 September 2025

### **Large-scale Analysis of Unstructured Data using LLMs** Workshop by: Kenneth Benoit, Dean, School of Social Sciences, SMU 26 September 2025



#### Morality as Cooperation (MAC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>special obligation to kin</li> <li>the duties of parents to children</li> </ul>	Blood is thicker than water
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>loyalty</li> <li>reciprocity</li> <li>conformity</li> </ul>	United we stand, divided we fall
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reciprocity</li> <li>guilt</li> <li>forgiveness</li> <li>bravery</li> <li>generosity</li> <li>endurance edge</li> </ul>	One good turn deserves another
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>respect</li> <li>endurance &amp; obedience</li> <li>humility</li> </ul>	With great power comes great responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fairness</li> <li>modesty</li> <li>compromise</li> </ul>	Blessed are the meek
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>propriety rights</li> <li>territory</li> <li>prohibition of theft</li> </ul>	Let's meet in the middle
		Possession is nine-tenths of the law

### **The Extended Morality as Cooperation Dictionary (eMACD): A Crowd-Sourced Approach via the Moral Narrative Analyzer Platform**

Speaker: Mark Alfano, Professor of Philosophy, Macquarie University  
 3 October 2025

# Events

## SOSS Seminars/Workshops

### **Network State and World Builders: A Fireside Chat with Balaji Srinivasan and Bruno Maçães**

Speakers: Balaji Srinivasan, Author of the Network State, Founder of the Network School, WSJ bestselling author of The Network State and Bruno Maçães, Former Minister of European Affairs, Portugal  
6 October 2025



### **Unleash Your Academic Superpowers Using AI: How To Be More Effective At Everything**

Masterclass By: Kenneth Benoit, Dean, School of Social Sciences, SMU  
22 October 2025

### **Social Salience and Normativity**

Speaker: Shalom Chalson, Research Fellow,  
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore  
24 October 2025



### **Ageing with friends and family: The past and future of social connectedness**

Speaker: Shannon Ang, Assistant Professor of Sociology,  
Nanyang Technological University  
28 October 2025

### **China in 2049? The Future of Foreign Policy, Global Governance and World Order**

Welcome Address: Professor Alan Chan, SMU Provost,  
Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Chair Professor of Inter-Religious  
Studies and Harmony  
Opening Remarks: Mr Bilahari Kausikan, Distinguished Fellow, Middle  
East Institute, NUS, former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Singapore  
Inaugural Lecture by: William A. Callahan, Professor of Political Science,  
SMU SOSS  
Panel Discussion Moderator: Professor Tan Sor Hoon, Professor of  
Philosophy, SMU SOSS  
7 November 2025



# Events

## SOSS Seminars/Workshops

### **Intergenerational Educational Mobility During the Twentieth Century**

Speaker: Hossain Mobarak, Assistant Professor of Social Policy,  
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)  
20 November 2025



### **Three Scientific Answers to Revolutionary Trauma: Ye Wenjie, Liu Cixin, and Chinese Cybernetics**

Speaker: Simon Sihang Luo, Nanyang Assistant Professor of  
Public Policy and Global Affairs, Nanyang Technological University  
20 November 2025

### **Ethnic Earnings Inequality in Professional European Football**

Speaker: Dirk Witteveen, Senior Departmental Lecturer,  
University of Oxford and Nuffield College  
21 November 2025



### **Ties That Matter: Social Roles, Bridging Networks, and Gender Inequities in the Cognitive Rewards of Connection in Later Life**

Speaker: Tianyao Qu, Postdoctoral Scholar, Indiana University  
Bloomington  
24 November 2025

# Events

## Southeast Asia Seminars

### Destination cities in Asia: Interfacing migration and social mobility among urban middle classes

Speaker: Karen Liao, Senior Researcher - MigrationRhythms Project  
Peace Research Institute Oslo  
27 August 2025



### Scam: Inside Southeast Asia's Cybercrime Compounds - A conversation with the Author

Speaker Ivan Franceschini, Deputy director of the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne  
11 September 2025

### From docile to sporting bodies: Transformative leisure in Singapore's migrant domestic worker volleyball scene

Speakers:

- Amanda Wise, Professor of Sociology, Macquarie University
- Kristine Aquino, Senior Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney
- Selvaraj Velayutham, Associate Professor of Sociology, Macquarie University

30 September 2025



### Public Opinion Towards Political Reforms and Compromise in a New Democracy

Speaker: Elvin Ong, Assistant Professor of Political Science, National University of Singapore  
29 October 2025

# Events

## Behavioural Sciences Initiative Seminars



### **The moderating effects of paradox mindset on romantic relationship ambivalence**

Speaker: Kenneth Tan, Assistant Professor of Psychology, SMU  
9 September 2025

### **The Silver Lining of Stress: More Stress-Reactive Individuals are Quicker at Learning Sociocultural Norms from Experiential Feedback**

Speaker: Shilpa Madan, Assistant Professor of Marketing, SMU  
30 September 2025



### **How work-leisure dichotomy beliefs shape leisure activities, recovery, and well-being**

Speaker: Brandon Koh Yuan Rui, Senior Lecturer,  
Singapore University of Social Science  
4 November 2025

# Events

## Centre for Research on Successful Ageing 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium 19 November 2025

The **5th SMU ROSA Annual Symposium on Successful Ageing** was held on 19 November 2025 at the SMU Mochtar Riady Auditorium, with a hybrid option via Zoom. This year's theme – **“Living Well: Understanding How Our Built Environment, Lived Experiences and Social Connections Shape Well-Being”** - focused on how urban spaces, daily experiences, and social ties can enhance the quality of life for older adults. The event drew over 250 participants, including academics, industry partners, and government representatives, to share insights on policies and practices for an ageing Singapore, which is expected to become a super-aged society by 2026.

Key highlights included a welcome address by SMU Provost Professor Alan Chan, who emphasised that ageing well goes beyond healthcare to creating systems that foster purpose and social connection. Professor Paulin Straughan, ROSA's Director, showcased the Centre's translational research—such as Project Silverlight—and partnerships with government agencies on impactful ageing studies.

International perspectives were shared by Professor James Raymo from Princeton and Professor Nicolas Cherbuin from ANU, who discussed demographic transitions and the lifelong implications of lifestyle on ageing. The panel concluded with practical interventions—from senior-friendly neighbourhood malls and hawker centres to promoting demographic literacy—calling for ageing to be reframed as a stage of opportunity through proactive environmental and social measures.



From Left to Right: Prof Paulin Straughan, Prof James Raymo, Prof Nicolas Cherbuin, Assoc Prof William Tov, SMU Vice-Provost Cheong Wei Yang, Assoc Prof Seonghoon Kim



# Faculty Spotlight



**Christianna Parr**  
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Why do some civil society organizations command public trust while others struggle to be seen as legitimate? How do environmental sustainability goals and restrictive political environments constrain or, at times, enhance the legitimacy of advocacy organizations? These questions sit at the center of Christianna's research agenda.

Christianna studies civil society, environmental governance, and political trust, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia. Her work explores how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) navigate complex political environments, how publics respond to advocacy and information, and how digital communication affects relationships between citizens, civil society, and governance institutions.

Her research program is grounded in the view that trust is not automatic. Trust is constructed, contested, and often fragile. One strand of her work investigates how social media use affects trust in civil society organizations and government institutions. Drawing on survey data, she shows that digital platforms can just as readily erode confidence in public-facing organisations as mobilize support, particularly in politically sensitive or polarized contexts.

A second strand of her research focuses on environmental organizations and legitimacy. Christianna examines how environmental NGOs build legitimacy and navigate political constraints. This work explores how organizational strategies and perceived alignment with local versus global priorities shape public trust in environmental groups.

Christianna has conducted studies on public attitudes toward mining and the energy transition, including ongoing work on the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project in the Philippines. Using survey experiments, she analyses how citizens weigh environmental risks, economic promises, and local identities when evaluating large-scale development projects.

Through her research and teaching, Christianna contributes to the understanding of how trust, information, and advocacy interact, particularly in changing policy environments.

# Faculty Spotlight



**Sarah Shi Hui Wong**  
Assistant Professor of Psychology

How can we empower people with the skills to learn deeply? For people to fulfil their potential and thrive, higher order skills such as creativity, problem-solving, and reasoning are vital. Sarah's research bridges cognitive and educational psychology to design, test, and translate interventions that improve such complex skills. Through experiments in both the laboratory and real-world educational settings, she uncovers counterintuitive learning techniques and identifies their psychological mechanisms. Currently, her research focuses on two effective techniques: deliberate erring and learning-by-teaching.

Errors can be powerful learning opportunities, but people often avoid them. To tackle this pervasive problem, Sarah pioneered the counterintuitive approach of **deliberate erring**, in which people are guided to intentionally commit and correct errors in low-stakes contexts. Across multiple studies, she has found that deliberate erring improves learning more than avoiding errors or even observing others' errors—a phenomenon she has termed the *derring effect*. Research led by Sarah's lab has revealed that the benefits of deliberate erring span across diverse outcomes ranging from basic memory recall to higher order knowledge transfer, problem-solving, and reasoning. These findings offer new insights for intentionally promoting errors for greater learning success.

Whereas people can learn individually from their errors, learning is further catalysed by harnessing the social nature of constructing knowledge. When people teach others, they learn better themselves. Sarah's research has found that **learning-by-teaching** improves higher order outcomes such as generating creative research questions. Traditionally, three predominant theories have been proposed to explain the learning benefits of teaching: the generative hypothesis; the social presence hypothesis; the retrieval hypothesis. Recently, she has successfully advanced a novel power hypothesis of her own: When people step into the role of a teacher and teach, they experience a heightened sense of power that boosts their own learning. She has also demonstrated how teaching can, in fact, be strategically combined with deliberate erring to further boost argumentative reasoning via what she has now called *learning-by-misteaching*.

# Research Centres

## Centre for Research on Successful Ageing

ROSA continued to advance research and thought leadership in ageing throughout 2025. The Centre's work examined key factors influencing healthy ageing, including enrolment in Healthier SG, physical activity, and the impact of Nutri-Grade labelling on dietary choices. Findings revealed gaps between awareness and adoption of healthy behaviours, underscoring the need for environmental nudges to make wellness more accessible. These insights were widely shared through over 25 media platforms, amplifying public understanding of ageing issues and positioning ROSA as a leading voice in shaping societal narratives around longevity and well-being.

In addition to publishing in a peer-reviewed journal and delivering 15 conference presentations on topics such as intrinsic capacity and ageing-in-place strategies, ROSA strengthened its impact through strategic collaborations. Partnerships with the Institute of Policy Studies, Frasers Centrepoint Trust, and the Public Guardian Office translated research into actionable solutions, from governance recommendations to senior-friendly mall design and promoting Lasting Power of Attorney adoption. The year also featured ROSA's flagship Annual Symposium on Successful Ageing, which convened experts and stakeholders to explore holistic approaches to living well. Through these efforts, ROSA reaffirms its commitment to driving evidence-based policies and practical innovations that enable individuals and communities to age successfully.

## Lien Centre for Social Innovation

Impact assessment work at LCSi continues to progress steadily, with several ongoing studies led in close collaboration with academic partners. The Centre continues to work with SMU faculty, including Dr. Andrew Koh (College of Integrative Studies) on the SG Enable (SGE) ELI3 Impact Assessment Project, and Associate Professor Ho Kong Weng (School of Economics) on the MSF Food Insecurity Project, strengthening the integration of academic expertise into applied impact assessment work.

In addition, LCSi completed the Telunas Resort Impact Assessment Report this year, contributing actionable insights to inform programme learning and decision-making. Collectively, these efforts reflect LCSi's continued commitment to advancing rigorous impact assessment and evidence-informed practice in the social sector.

# Achievements – Awards/Recognitions

## Stanford University's World Top 2% of Scientists



**Lily Kong**  
President, SMU;  
Lee Kong Chian  
Chair Professor of  
Social Sciences



**Kenneth Benoit**  
Dean, School of  
Social Sciences;  
Professor of  
Computational  
Social Science



**William A. Callahan**  
Professor of Political  
Science; Academic  
Director of Politics,  
Law and Economics  
(PLE) major



**David Chan**  
Professor of  
Psychology;  
Director, BSI



**Norman Li**  
Professor of Psychology;  
PGR Coordinator, PhD  
Psychology Programme



**Forrest Zhang**  
Associate Professor of  
Sociology; Lee Kong Chian  
Fellow

# Achievements – Awards/Recognitions



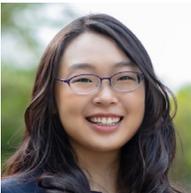
**Lily Kong**  
President, SMU;  
Lee Kong Chian  
Chair Professor of  
Social Sciences

- Professor Lily Kong has been named Impact Leader of the Year in the Individual category at the 2025 Sustainability Impact Awards, organised by The Business Times and UOB. She is the only recipient from the education sector recognised this year, and one of two named Impact Leaders of the Year. The award honours her leadership in embedding sustainability across education, research, operations, and community life at SMU.



**David Chan**  
Professor of  
Psychology;  
Director, BSI

Professor David Chan has been reappointed by the Minister for Education as a member of the Singapore Social Science Research Council for another term beginning from January 2026.



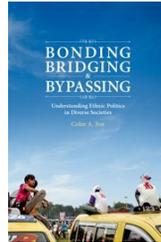
**Cheng Cheng**  
Assistant Professor  
of Sociology

Reuben Hill Award (2025), National Council on Family Relations, for the paper: Wang, Senhu, and Cheng Cheng. "Opportunity or Exploitation? A Longitudinal Dyadic Analysis of Flexible Working Arrangements and Gender Household Labor Inequality." *Social Forces*, Volume 102, Issue 4, June 2024, Pages 1446–1466, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soad125>

# Achievements – Awards/Recognitions



**Colm Fox**  
Associate Professor of Political Science;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow; Area Coordinator,  
Political Science



“Bonding, Bridging, and Bypassing: Understanding Ethnic Politics in Diverse Societies” won the 2025 Best Book on Race and Ethnicity Award from APSA's Race, Ethnicity, and Politics section



**Andree Hartanto**  
Associate Professor of Psychology;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow;  
ResWORK Fellow

“Potential and Pitfalls of Romantic Artificial Intelligence (AI) Companions: A Systematic Review” was featured in [The Top 10 Insights from the “Science of a Meaningful Life” in 2025](#) by the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley”, and in [9 Trends to Watch in 2026](#) in the 2026 Trends Report by the American Psychological Association.



**Patrick Quinton-Brown**  
Assistant Professor of Political Science;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow



“Intervention before Interventionism: A Global Genealogy” was awarded [2025 Sussex International Theory Prize](#) by the Centre for Advanced International Theory (CAIT), University of Sussex.

The book also won the 2025 Cecil B. Currey Book Award awarded by the Association of Global South Studies.



**Sarah Shi Hui Wong**  
Assistant Professor of Psychology

“[Learning by Teaching with Deliberate Errors Promotes Argumentative Reasoning](#)” was featured as the [cover article](#) in *Journal of Educational Psychology* and selected for the [APA Editor's Choice](#) by the American Psychological Association (APA).

# Achievements – Research Grants

## SSRC 2025 Special Programmatic Grant



PI: **Kenneth Benoit**, Dean, School of Social Sciences;  
Professor of Computational Social Science

Project title: Computational Social Simulations for Aiding Policy Design



PI: **Patrick Quinton-Brown**, Assistant Professor of Political Science;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow

Project title: Rethinking Regional Resilience in a Changing World

## MOE AcRF Tier 2



PI: **Yasmin Ortiga**, Associate Professor of Sociology; Area Coordinator, Sociology

Project title: Tracing Nurse Trajectories: Multinational Migration Amid Global Competition

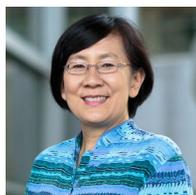
## SkillsFuture Singapore



PI: **Yang Hwajin**, Professor of Psychology; Associate Dean (Research);  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow; ResWORK Fellow

Project title: Investigating the Role of Online Career Tools in Shaping Career Development and Workforce Outcomes

# Achievements – Research Grants



PI: **Paulin Straughan**, Professor of Sociology (Practice); Director, Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA); Urban Fellow (Urban Experiences)

## National Population & Talent Division

Project title: 2025 Marriage & Parenthood Study

## National Cohorts Office

Project title: Enhancing Ageing Research in Singapore: Integrating the Singapore Life Panel with TRUST Data

## British Academy, UK



PI: **William A. Callahan**, Professor of Political Science; Academic Director of Politics, Law and Economics (PLE) major

Project title: Overseas Chinese, Social Orders and Global Orders: Making a Documentary Film about a Sino-Thai Family's Visit to Their Ancestral Village in China

## ResWORK Grant



PI: **Yang Hwajin**, Professor of Psychology; Associate Dean (Research); Lee Kong Chian Fellow; ResWork Fellow

Co-PI: **Andree Hartanto**, Associate Professor of Psychology; Lee Kong Chian Fellow, ResWork Fellow & **Sarah Shi Hui Wong**, Assistant Professor of Psychology



Project title: The Effects of AI-Based Cognitive Offloading on Metacognitive Skills and Learning Transfer in Adult Professional Learners



# Achievements – Research Grants

## SMU Internal Research Grant – MOE AcRF Tier 1

### (Category B)



PI: **Andree Hartanto**, Associate Professor of Psychology;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow; ResWORK Fellow

Project title: Exploring the Longitudinal Implications of Generative AI Usage on Cognitive Abilities

### (Category A)



PI: **Cheng Cheng**, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Project title: Extended Family and Gender Inequality in China: A Factorial Survey Experiment



PI: **Yasmin Ortiga**, Associate Professor of Sociology; Area Coordinator, Sociology

Project title: Migration Trajectories of Filipino Farmers and Its Impacts on Agrarian Life and Food Security



PI: **Patrick Quinton-Brown**, Assistant Professor of Political Science;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow

Project title: Mazzini in Global Asia: In Defence of Non-interventionism



PI: **Lester Sim**, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Project title: Psychological Changes and Well-being in Expectant Parents

# Achievements - Appointments

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

## **PROMOTION** with effect from **1 Jan 2026**

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**Yang Hwajin**

Professor of Psychology; Associate Dean (Research);  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow; ResWORK Fellow  
Office: #04-09  
Email: [hjyang@smu.edu.sg](mailto:hjyang@smu.edu.sg)



**Jacinth Tan**

Associate Professor of Psychology;  
Lee Kong Chian Fellow  
Office: #04-08  
Email: [jacinhtan@smu.edu.sg](mailto:jacinhtan@smu.edu.sg)

## **ADMIN APPOINTMENT** with effect from **1 Jan 2026**

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**Matthew Hammerton**

Associate Professor of Philosophy;  
Associate Dean (Undergraduate Education);  
Basket Coordinator for Modes of Thinking;  
Area Coordinator, Philosophy  
Office: #04-41  
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