

Sarah Shi Hui Wong

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2025–present Assistant Professor of Psychology, Singapore Management University, School of Social Sciences
- 2023–2025 Lecturer, Yale-NUS College, Division of Social Sciences (Psychology)
- 2023 Lecturer (joint appointment), National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology
- 2017–2023 Instructor, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology
- 2013–2016 Teaching Assistant, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology

EDUCATION

- 2016–2020 Ph.D. (Psychology)
National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology
Dissertation: *From Prevention to Promotion: Learning from Deliberate Errors*
- 2013–2015 MA (with Distinction) Music Psychology in Education
The University of Sheffield, Department of Music
Dissertation: *Mental Imagery and Young Children's Music Compositional Creativity*
- 2009–2013 B.Soc.Sci. (Hons.) (Psychology)
National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology
University Scholars Program

RESEARCH INTERESTS

How can we empower people to learn deeply so that they can thrive in our complex world? Bridging cognitive and educational psychology, I investigate counterintuitive strategies that improve higher order learning. My research pioneered *deliberate erring*, where people intentionally commit and correct errors in low-stakes contexts for better learning, and studies *learning by teaching*, another counterintuitive way to harness learning benefits via the act of teaching. Through both laboratory and field studies, my work aims to uncover and test the psychological mechanisms beneath these strategies, advancing both educational theory and practice. My research has been published in journals such as *Educational Psychologist*, *Educational Psychology Review*, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, and *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

Keywords: higher order learning, learning from errors, learning by teaching, cognitive science and education

PUBLICATIONS

(*corresponding author; ¹undergraduate mentee)

19. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Qiu, S. X.¹ (2026). Think first, ChatGPT later: Guiding human–AI collaboration for learning gains in independent human creativity. *Educational Psychology Review*, 38(1), Article 45. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
18. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S.* (2026). The powerful teacher: A power hypothesis for the benefits of learning-by-teaching. *Educational Psychology Review*, 38(1), Article 26. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
17. Lim, S. W. H.*, **Wong, S. S. H.**, & Visessuvanapoom, P. (2026). Durable benefits of learning-by-teaching for research question generation performance: A field experiment. *The Journal of Experimental Education*, 94(3), 399–419. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
16. **Wong, S. S. H.*** (2025). Learning by teaching with deliberate errors promotes argumentative reasoning. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 117(7), 1013–1038. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
 - Selected as [APA Editor's Choice](#); featured cover article in [Journal of Educational Psychology](#)
15. Yap, J. B. K.¹, & **Wong, S. S. H.*** (2024). Deliberately making and correcting errors in mathematical problem-solving practice improves procedural transfer to more complex problems. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 116(7), 1112–1128. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
14. **Wong, S. S. H.**, Lim, K. Y. L.¹, & Lim, S. W. H.* (2023). To ask better questions, teach: Learning-by-teaching enhances research question generation more than retrieval practice and concept-mapping. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 115(6), 798–812. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
13. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S. W. H.* (2023). Take notes, not photos: Mind-wandering mediates the impact of note-taking strategies on video-recorded lecture learning performance. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 29(1), 124–135. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
12. **Wong, S. S. H.*** (2023). Deliberate erring improves far transfer of learning more than errorless elaboration and spotting and correcting others' errors. *Educational Psychology Review*, 35(1), Article 16. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
11. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S. W. H. (2022). Deliberate errors promote meaningful learning. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 114(8), 1817–1831. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
 - Featured in [Psychology Today \(2022, March 26\)](#), “To learn better, make mistakes”
10. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S. W. H. (2022). The derring effect: Deliberate errors enhance learning. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151(1), 25–40. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
 - Featured in [New Scientist \(2022, March 12\)](#), “To err is fruitful”, 253(3377)
9. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S. W. H.* (2022). A mind-wandering account of the testing effect: Does context variation matter? *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 29(1), 220–229. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
8. Lim, K. Y. L.¹, **Wong, S. S. H.**, & Lim, S. W. H.* (2021). The “silent teacher”: Learning by teaching via generating a verbatim teaching script. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 35(6), 1492–1501. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
7. **Wong, S. S. H.***, Chen, S.¹, & Lim, S. W. H.* (2021). Learning melodic musical intervals: To block or to interleave? *Psychology of Music*, 49(4), 1027–1046. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]

6. **Wong, S. S. H.***, Low, A. C. M.¹, Kang, S. H. K., & Lim, S. W. H.* (2020). Learning music composers' styles: To block or to interleave? *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 68(2), 156–174. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
5. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S. W. H.* (2019). From JOLs to JOLs+: Directing learners' attention in retrieval practice to boost integrative argumentation. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 25(4), 543–557. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
4. **Wong, S. S. H.**, Ng, G. J. P., Tempel, T., & Lim, S. W. H.* (2019). Retrieval practice enhances analogical problem solving. *The Journal of Experimental Education*, 87(1), 128–138. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
3. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S. W. H. (2019). Prevention–permission–promotion: A review of approaches to errors in learning. *Educational Psychologist*, 54(1), 1–19. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
2. **Wong, S. S. H.***, & Lim, S. W. H. (2017). Mental imagery boosts music compositional creativity. *PLoS ONE*, 12(3), Article e0174009. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
1. **Wong, S. S. H.**, Lim, S. W. H.*, & Quinlan, K. M. (2016). Integrity in and beyond contemporary higher education: What does it mean to university students? *Frontiers in Psychology: Educational Psychology*, 7, Article 1094. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
 - Featured in [A Year in the Life of Singapore: A Compendium of FASS Research \(2017\)](#)

HONORS & AWARDS

Research

- | | |
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| 2026 | APS Rising Star , Association for Psychological Science |
| 2025 | APA Editor's Choice , American Psychological Association (awarded for Wong, 2025, <i>Journal of Educational Psychology</i>) |
| 2023 | APA Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award , American Psychological Association, Division 15 (Educational Psychology) |
| 2021 | Wang Gungwu Medal and Prize (Best Ph.D. Thesis in the Social Sciences and Humanities) , National University of Singapore |
| 2020 | APS Student Research Award , Association for Psychological Science |
| 2020 | SPS Research Excellence Award (Postgraduate Category), Singapore Psychological Society |
| 2013 | SPS Best Undergraduate Group Research Award, Singapore Psychological Society |

Research Mentorship

- | | |
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| 2025 | Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize, National University of Singapore (awarded to S. X. Qiu; Role: Supervisor) |
| 2025 | Outstanding Capstone Project in Psychology (Overall Best Submission), Yale-NUS College (awarded to S. X. Qiu; Role: Supervisor) |

- 2024 [NUS Inaugural Distinguished Undergraduate Research Prize \(Top-Ranked Undergraduate Individual Research Project\)](#), National University of Singapore (awarded to J. B. K. Yap; Role: Supervisor)
- 2023 [Fred Long Award for Research Excellence \(Overall Best Submission\)](#), Singapore Psychological Society (awarded to J. B. K. Yap; Role: Supervisor)
- 2023 [SPS Best Undergraduate Research Award](#), Singapore Psychological Society (awarded to J. B. K. Yap; Role: Supervisor)
- 2020 [Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize](#), National University of Singapore (awarded to K. Y. L. Lim; Role: Co-Supervisor)
- 2019 [Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize](#), National University of Singapore (awarded to S. Chen; Role: Co-Supervisor)

Teaching

- 2022 [Faculty Teaching Excellence Award](#), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
- 2018 Graduate Students' Teaching Award Honor Roll, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
- 2017–2018 Graduate Students' Teaching Award (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Fall 2017), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

GRANTS

- 2026–2027 Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 Grant, “*Learning-by-Teaching Improves Higher Order Learning and Transfer: Unravelling the Psychological Mechanisms*”, Singapore Management University (PI: SGD \$25,980)
- 2026–2027 SMU Resilient Workforces Institute Grant, “*The Effects of AI-Based Cognitive Offloading on Metacognitive Skills and Learning Transfer in Adult Professional Learners*”, Singapore Management University (Co-PI: SGD \$70,000)
- 2025–2028 Start-Up Research Grant, Singapore Management University (PI: SGD \$40,000)
- 2024–2025 Special Pocket Research Grant, “*Effective Learning Strategies and Technologies in Education*”, Yale-NUS College (PI: SGD \$1,500)
- 2023–2025 Staff Travel and Research Grant, Yale-NUS College (PI: SGD \$10,000)
- 2023–2024 Special Pocket Research Grant, “*Applying Psychological Science to Enhance Learning*”, Yale-NUS College (PI: SGD \$1,500)
- 2021–2022 Staff Research Support Scheme, National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Co-PI: SGD \$7,800)

- 2019–2020 Staff Research Support Scheme, National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Co-PI: SGD \$8,000)
- 2018–2019 Teaching and Research Support, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology (PI: SGD \$1,400)

INVITED TALKS

- 2026, Mar 17 [*The power in learning by teaching*](#). Behavioural Sciences Initiative, Singapore Management University.
- 2025, Oct 17 *The powerful teacher: A power hypothesis for the benefits of learning-by-teaching*. School of Social Sciences Research Camp, Singapore Management University.
- 2025, Aug 4 *Designing for deep learning: Deliberate erring and teaching others*. School of Social Sciences Research Roundtable, Singapore Management University.
- 2025, May 14 *The derring effect: Improving learning with deliberate errors*. School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University.
- 2025, Feb 21 *What is an error?* Tembusu College, National University of Singapore.
- 2024, Aug 10 *From prevention to promotion: Learning from deliberate errors*. Invited address for APA Division 15 Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award, American Psychological Association Convention 2024, Seattle, WA, USA.
- 2020, Feb 18 *The derring effect: Deliberate errors enhance learning*. Department of Psychology Brownbag Seminar Series, National University of Singapore.
- 2019, Oct 10 [*Dispelling the creativity myth: Insights from cognitive science*](#). Inaugural Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Research Division Lunchtime Seminar Series, National University of Singapore.
- 2019, Oct 8 [*Educational psychology: Theories and application for learning and teaching*](#). Leaders of Tomorrow program, School of Continuing and Lifelong Education, National University of Singapore.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PROCEEDINGS

- Wong, S. S. H.** (2024, August 8–10). *Learning by teaching with deliberate errors promotes argumentative reasoning* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Convention 2024, Seattle, WA, USA.
- Lim, S. W. H., **Wong, S. S. H.**, & Visessuvanapoom, P. (2024, August 8–10). *Learning-by-teaching improves research question generation performance: A field experiment* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Convention 2024, Seattle, WA, USA.
- Wong, S. S. H.** (2022, November 17–20). *The derring effect: Deliberate errors improve learning and transfer* [Poster presentation]. 63rd Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, MA, USA.

Wong, S. S. H., & Lim, S. W. H. (2020, June 1–September 1). *The derring effect: Deliberate errors enhance learning* [Poster presentation]. Association for Psychological Science Poster Showcase.

- **2020 APS Student Research Award; featured in [cover story of APS Observer \(2020, July/August\)](#)**

Wong, S. S. H., & Lim, S. W. H. (2020, May 21–24). *The derring effect: Deliberate errors enhance learning* [Poster presentation]. 32nd Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, USA. (Conference cancelled)

Wong, S. S. H., & Lim, S. W. H. (2020, March 14–15). *The cognitive science of music education* [Oral presentation cancelled]. 7th International Conference on New Music Concepts, Treviso, Italy.

Tan, N. J. H.[^], **Wong, S. S. H.[^]**, & Lim, S. W. H. (2013). What we move to moves us: Biological rhythmicity predicts musical preferences [Abstract]. In M. Knauff, M. Pauen, N. Sebanz, & I. Wachsmuth (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (p. 4025). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. ([^]Both authors contributed equally)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Singapore Management University

2025–present Lecturer of Record, Singapore Management University, School of Social Sciences

- Introduction to Psychology
 - Fall 2025: 2 sections
 - Fall 2026: 3 sections
- Psychology Research Methods I
 - Spring 2026: 1 section

Yale-NUS College

2023–2025 Lecturer of Record, Yale-NUS College, Division of Social Sciences (Psychology)

- Lab in Applied Cognitive Psychology (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
- Contemporary Educational Psychology (Spring 2024)
- Psychology of Errors (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
- Psychology Capstone Project Seminar (Fall 2024)

National University of Singapore

2020–2023 Lecturer of Record, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology

- Lab in Cognitive Psychology (5 semesters: Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
- Lab in Music Perception and Cognition (4 semesters: Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022)

2019 Lecturer of Record, National University of Singapore, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

- Business for Musicians: *Research in the Arts* (Spring 2019)

2013–2023 Teaching Assistant, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology

- Research and Statistical Methods II (16 semesters)
- Psychology in Everyday Life (5 semesters)
- Social Cognition (3 semesters)
- Cognitive Psychology (2 semesters)

- Social Psychology (2 semesters)
- Group Dynamics (2 semesters)
- Cultivating the Self (2 semesters)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

International

- 2020–present Ad Hoc Reviewer (20+ journals; [Web of Science peer review record](#))
- *Acta Psychologica*
 - *Applied Cognitive Psychology*
 - *Behavior Research Methods*
 - *British Journal of Educational Psychology*
 - *Computers & Education*
 - *Consciousness and Cognition*
 - *Educational Psychologist*
 - *Educational Psychology Review*
 - *Educational Technology Research and Development*
 - *Instructional Science*
 - *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*
 - *Journal of Educational Psychology*
 - *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*
 - *Language Learning*
 - *Learning and Individual Differences*
 - *Memory & Cognition*
 - *Metacognition and Learning*
 - *Music Perception*
 - *Psychological Research*
 - *Psychology of Music*
 - *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*
 - *Review of Educational Research*
 - *Scientific Reports*
 - *Virtual Reality*

National

- 2020–present Secretariat, Singapore National Academy of Higher Education

University/School

- 2026–present Senior Thesis Examiner, Singapore Management University
- 2026–present Undergraduate Admissions Interviewer, Singapore Management University
- 2026 Psychology Sample Seminar Instructor, *Singapore Management University Open House* (2026, February 28)
- 2026 Psychology Sample Seminar Instructor, *Jurong Pioneer Junior College Learning Journey at Singapore Management University* (2026, February 10)
- 2022–2023 Departmental Ethics Review Committee Member, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology

- 2019–2023 Webpage Coordinator, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology
- 2017 Co-Chair, *NUS Psychology Teaching Assistant Symposium 2017*, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology
- 2016–2019 Research Publicity Coordinator, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology
- 2014 Secretariat, *Inaugural NUS Psychology Teaching Assistant Symposium 2014*, National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association (APA) • APA Division 15: Educational Psychology • Association for Psychological Science (APS) • Psychonomic Society

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- 2019 Licentiate Diploma of the London College of Music (LLCM) in Piano Duet Performance (Approved, Upper Level; with Distinction)
- 2013 Licentiate Diploma of Trinity College London (LTCL) in Recital in Piano (with Distinction)
- 2009 Associate Diploma of Trinity College London (ATCL) in Recital in Piano (with Distinction)
- 2007 Diploma of The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (DipABRSM) in Violin Music Performance

LANGUAGES

English (native proficiency)
Mandarin/Chinese (native proficiency)