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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 OVERVIEW

My research bridges the fields of cognitive and educational psychology to design, test, and translate counterintuitive techniques that improve higher order learning outcomes such as creativity, problem-solving, and reasoning. Currently, my work focuses on how people can strategically learn from errors. In particular, my pioneering research on the *derring effect* has established the learning benefits of deliberately committing and correcting errors in low-stakes contexts. Ultimately, my work pursues the applied goal of discovering principles for how best to design for effective learning, in turn inspiring new insights for the basic goal of contributing to theories of how people learn.

My research has been published in journals such as *Educational Psychologist*, *Educational Psychology Review*, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, and *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. I have received the APA Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award, APS Student

Research Award, Singapore Psychological Society Research Excellence Award, and Wang Gungwu Medal and Prize for Best Ph.D. Thesis in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

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

PUBLICATIONS

(*corresponding author; ¹undergraduate mentee)

17. **Wong, S. S. H.*** (2025). Learning by teaching with deliberate errors promotes argumentative reasoning. *Journal of Educational Psychology*. Advance online publication. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
16. Lim, S. W. H.*, **Wong, S. S. H.**, & Visessuvanapoom, P. (2024). Durable benefits of learning-by-teaching for research question generation performance: A field experiment. *The Journal of Experimental Education*. Advance online publication. [[doi](#)] [[pdf](#)]
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](#)]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PROCEEDINGS

7. **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.
6. 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.
5. **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.
4. **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 \(2020, July/August\)](#)
 - 2020 SPS Research Excellence Award (Postgraduate Category)
3. **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)
2. **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.
1. 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)
 - 2013 SPS Best Undergraduate Group Research Award

INVITED TALKS

Wong, S. S. H. (2025, May 14). *The derring effect: Improving learning with deliberate errors*. Invited Speaker at School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University.

Wong, S. S. H. (2025, February 21). *What is an error?* Invited Speaker at Tembusu College, National University of Singapore.

Wong, S. S. H. (2024, August 10). *From prevention to promotion: Learning from deliberate errors*. Invited address for the APA Division 15 Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award, American Psychological Association Convention 2024, Seattle, WA, USA.

Wong, S. S. H. (2019, October 10). [*Dispelling the creativity myth: Insights from cognitive science*](#). Invited Speaker at the inaugural Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Research Division Lunchtime Seminar Series, National University of Singapore.

Wong, S. S. H. (2019, October 8). [*Educational psychology: Theories and application for learning and teaching*](#). Invited Speaker/Instructor at the Leaders of Tomorrow program, School of Continuing and Lifelong Education, National University of Singapore.

HONORS & AWARDS

Research

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| 2023 | APA Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award , American Psychological Association, Division 15 (Educational Psychology) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded annually to a single recipient worldwide in recognition of excellence in educational psychology doctoral dissertation research. |
| 2021 | Wang Gungwu Medal and Prize (Best Ph.D. Thesis in the Social Sciences and Humanities) , National University of Singapore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded to a single recipient in the Social Sciences/Humanities and Natural Sciences; no award will be made unless there is a candidate of sufficient merit. |
| 2020 | APS Student Research Award , Association for Psychological Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of four international recipients recognized for outstanding research; first recipient from Singapore. |
| 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 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
- For sustained teaching excellence in winning the award over three consecutive semesters; not eligible for subsequent teaching awards in the same candidature.
- 2017–2018 Graduate Students' Teaching Award (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Fall 2017), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

GRANTS

- 2024–2025 Special Pocket Research Grant, (Role: Principal Investigator), “*Effective Learning Strategies and Technologies in Education*”, Yale-NUS College, SGD \$1,500
- 2023–2025 Staff Travel and Research Grant, (Role: Principal Investigator), Yale-NUS College, Division of Social Sciences, SGD \$10,000
- 2023–2024 Special Pocket Research Grant, (Role: Principal Investigator), “*Applying Psychological Science to Enhance Learning*”, Yale-NUS College, SGD \$1,500
- 2021–2022 Staff Research Support Scheme, (Role: Co-Principal Investigator), National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, SGD \$7,800
- 2019–2020 Staff Research Support Scheme, (Role: Co-Principal Investigator), National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, SGD \$8,000
- 2018–2019 Teaching and Research Support, (Role: Principal Investigator), National University of Singapore, Department of Psychology, SGD \$1,400

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025–present Lecturer of Record, Singapore Management University, School of Social Sciences
- Introduction to Psychology (Fall 2025: 2 sections)
- 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)
- 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 ([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*
 - *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*
 - *Music Perception*

- *Psychological Research*
- *Review of Educational Research*
- *Scientific Reports*
- *Virtual Reality*

National

2020–present Secretariat, Singapore National Academy of Higher Education

University

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)