

GEORGE WONG

Ethnographer, Educator, Organiser

Contact Info

 georgewong.org

 gwong@gradcenter.cuny.edu

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/georgewong89>

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

01/2024 - Present	Senior Lecturer School of Social Sciences Singapore Management University
01/2023 - 12/2023	Adjunct Faculty School of Social Sciences Singapore Management University
08/2021 - 07/2023	Adjunct Faculty Interdisciplinary Collaborative Core Nanyang Technological University
01/2021 - 12/2023	Adjunct Faculty College of Integrative Studies Singapore Management University
01/2018 - 12/2023	Associate Faculty Department of Sociology Singapore University of Social Sciences,

EDUCATION

2022	PhD, Sociology School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
2016	Master of Arts in Sociology School of Humanities and Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
2014	Bachelor of Social Sciences Top Graduating Political Science Student, 2014 Singapore Management University

RESEARCH & TEACHING AREAS

Community Power and Development

Urban Political Regimes

Urban Political Cultures

Comparative Urban Politics & Governance

Southeast Asian Urbanisms

Ethnography

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

2024 (forthcoming)	Wong, G. (2024) "Lion City Zoopolis: Urban Crittizenship in Biophilic Singapore". (Accepted by <i>Anthrozoös</i>)
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- 2023 **Wong, G. (2023)** "Integration Taxes & Gestural Integration: Access and Limits to Integration through New Citizens' Participation In State-Sponsored Grassroots Volunteerism in Singapore". *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/07256868.2023.2236947
- 2023 **Wong, G. & Mussagulova, A. (co-auth) (2023)** "Governing the Global City's Mandarinate: Politically Motivated Appointments in Singapore's Public Sector". in Peters, B., Knox, C., & Kim, B.'s (Eds.) *Political Patronage in Asian Bureaucracies*. Cambridge University Press
- 2023 **Wong, G., Espena, D. & Lowe, J. (co-auth) (2023)** "Ten Years as Boundary Object: The Search for Identity and Belonging as "Hongkongers," (Accepted by *Asian Studies Review*)
- 2022 **Wong, G. & Lowe, J. (co-auth)** "Legitimising Viewing Publics through Nostalgia: The Mediated Tropicality of Singapore's 'Kampung Spirit'". *Chinese Journal of Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17544750.2022.2088586>
- 2019 **Wong, G. (2019)** "Grassroots Volunteerism in Singapore: A Survey of the Literature" in Jun Jie Woo's (ed) *Educating for Empathy: Service Learning in Public Policy Education*. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing.
- 2019 **Wong, G. & Woo J.J (2019)** "Singapore in 2018: Between Uncharted Waters and Old Ghosts" in Malcolm Cook & Daljit Singh (eds) *Southeast Asian Affairs 2019*.
- 2018 **Wong, G. & Kathiravelu L.** "Marginalized Migrants and Urbanization in Southeast Asia" in Rita Padawangi's (eds) *Routledge Handbook of Urbanization in Southeast Asia*: Routledge.
- 2017 **Wong, G. & Humairah, B. Z. (co-auth) (2017)** "Voices behind the veil: Unraveling the hijab debate in Singapore through the lived experiences of hijab-wearing Malay-Muslim women" *South East Asia Research*, 25:2, 2, 107 – 121.

IN PROGRESS

Wong, G. Garden Wars: The dynamics of community powers and eco-authoritarianism through community gardens in Singapore"

Wong, G. "Theorizing community volunteers' selves: civic identity capitalization at work"

Wong, G. "'Big Data-ing' the Kampong Spirit: Techno-commodification through neighbourhood-based community apps"

FELLOWSHIPS, HONOURS & AWARDS

- 2022 **Core Curriculum Teaching Excellence Award AY21-22,**
Singapore Management University
- 2019 & 2015 **Best Presenter,** NTU HSS Student Graduate Colloquium
- 2017 – 2021 **PhD Scholarship,** Nanyang Technological University (Stipend & Funding)
- 2016 **PhD Scholarship,** City University of New York (Stipend & Funding) - Declined
- 2016 **Best Presenter,** EAUI Winter School, Waseda University, Japan
- 2014 **Graduate Scholarship,** Nanyang Technological University (Stipend & Funding)
- 2014 **Ho See Beng Excellence Award (Top Political Science Student)**
Singapore Management University
- 2013 **Ho See Beng Scholarship,** Singapore Management University

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND EXPERIENCE

**The positions listed below are at Nanyang Technological University unless otherwise stated.*

2017 – 2021

PhD Researcher, Doctoral Dissertation Fieldwork

- Designed qualitative research protocols befitting of the Institutional Review Board's (IRB) requirements
- Conducted 3-year long ethnography across six different sites and 40 semi-structured interviews with interviewees ranging from politicians to local residents
- Coded and analyzed qualitative data through NVivo
- Communicated research findings in two published book chapters, one published article and two articles awaiting consideration from peer-reviewed journals
- Presented findings at four academic conferences and seminars

Jun – Dec, 2020

Co-Lead Researcher

ASEAN ASCC Blueprint Mid-term Report Team,

Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), Singapore

- Designed report protocols for Singapore's portfolio in line with ASEAN's ASCC requirements
- Conducted over 20 interviews and browsed through internal and external archival records to collect data for reporting purposes
- Participated and contributed to ASEAN ASCC Midterm Report finalization for the purpose of reporting to ASEAN leaders
- Completed and Presented the ASEAN ASCC Midterm Report to internal stakeholders
- Supported the Submission of the ASEAN ASCC Midterm Report under the Singapore delegation with the MSF, Singapore

2019 – 2020

Participatory Action Researcher and Coordinator

1st Youth Action Challenge & Youth Action Plan

National Youth Council (NYC), Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth, Singapore

- Supported the formulation and implementation of the 1st Youth Action Challenge
- Designed facilitation activities for workshops and sessions for over 200 local youths for a nationwide youth engagement project with NYC leaders
- Led the workshop sessions as a lead mentor for youth teams participating in the Youth Action Challenge
- Conducted seven rounds of facilitated focus-group discussions with youth as a facilitator, and recorded findings into a qualitative analytical tool
- Coded, analyzed and co-consulted data findings with the team through NVivo
- Communicated findings and results of the Youth Action Challenge Report through an Event Report and presented to internal stakeholders

2017 – 2021

Research Assistant

- Assisted Associate Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu with grant proposal writing, budgeting and literature review work
- Assisted with the organizing of two research conferences/seminars with over 40 local and international scholars in the areas of migration research

2017 – 2018

Researcher, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Project

National Heritage Board, Singapore

- Supported the research and submission phase for the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) project under the National Heritage Board

Jan – Aug 2016

Research Associate, Singapore Management University

New Skills at Work: Managing Skills Challenges in ASEAN-5

- Supported the SMU-JP Morgan team in the writing and completion of the industry-sponsored research project as a Research Associate
- Co-led the Thailand and Indonesia cases in the collection, analyzing and dissemination of research findings to the team
- Travelled to Bangkok and Jakarta for the purpose of interviewing industry leaders through elite interviews

2014 – 2016

Researcher, MA Thesis Fieldwork

- Designed qualitative research protocols befitting of the Institutional Review Board's (IRB) requirements
- Conducted 10-months long fieldwork and conducted 50 interviews with migrant workers and local residents in Singapore

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Singapore Management University

Course Instructor

2023

- SOCG100 Understanding Societies

2022

- COR3001 Big Questions: Wealth and Poverty

2021

- COR3001 Big Questions: War and Peace

2021

- COR3001 Big Questions: Global and Local

Nanyang Technological University

Course Instructor

2021

- CC0003 Ethics and Civics for a Multicultural World

Teaching Assistant/Associate

2021

- Culture, Self and Society

2020

- Sociology of Tourism

2020

- Classical Sociological Theory

2019

- Singapore Society in Transition

2019

- Sociology of Tourism

2018

- Contemporary Social Theory

2018

- Persons and Society – Introduction to Sociology

2017

- Gender and Sexuality

2017

- Media and Society

Singapore University of Social Sciences

Course Instructor

2022

- Urban Sociology

2021

- Singapore Society (Course Leader)

2021

- Social Stratification

2021

- Living Sociology

2019

- Southeast Asian Societies

2018

- Social Science Research Methods

2018

- The Social Self

Course Developer

2022

- Urban Sociology

2021

- Singapore Society

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Conferences

- 2022 "Lion City's Zoopolis: Urban crittizenship in biophilic Singapore", Green Cities Beyond Failures: Towards Hopeful Epistemologies of Ecological Urban Futures in Asia, 2022, NUS, Asia Research Institute, Singapore.
- 2019 "Hallyu's Fetishes: A critical analysis of Non-Korean K-Pop Idols as Figures for Sinocultural Cosmopolitan Imaginaries", NTU – Todai Winter Workshop 2019, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- 2019 "Squatting as Inclusion and Resistance: A kinopolitical analysis of foreign domestic workers' urban mobility experiences in Singapore", Migrant-led Diversification and Differentiation Inclusion in Arrival Cities across Asia, Asia Research Institute, 2019, Singapore.
- 2019 "The Message is the Medium: The Rise, Demise and Enterprise of Political Memes in Contemporary Singapore Politics", Nanyang Technological University HSS Graduate Student Research Colloquium 2019, Singapore.
- 2018 "Conviviality as strategic leisure repertoires: A Case Study of Filipino foreign domestic workers' day-off leisure experiences in gulong gulong, Singapore", Migrating Concepts: Journal of intercultural Studies Conference 2018, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- 2018 "Benevolent Accidental-Police in a Neoliberal State: A Rancierian analysis of the unintended consequences of religious aid strategies towards low-wage migrant workers' politics in Singapore", The Politics of Distribution: Migrant Labor, Development and Religious Aid in Asia, Asia Research Institute, 2018 Singapore.
- 2016 "Neoliberal-precarity and Encounters in Migrant Leisure Spaces: An Ethnographic Study of Filipina Foreign Domestic Workers' Dayoff in Gulong Gulong, Singapore" the 11th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies 2016. Singapore
- 2015 "Towards a theory of political deviance in electoral politics: Evidence from Singapore". Nanyang Technological University HSS Graduate Student Research Colloquium 2015. Singapore.

Guest Lectures & Workshops

- 2022 "The Secret Lives of Urban Kampong Chiefs: Deciphering Grassroots Leaders in Singapore. Singapore Studies Junior Scholars Seminars, *Academia SG*. 2022, Singapore.
- 2021 "Diversity and Inclusion in Community Volunteerism", 25 Jun, 2021, Training Workshop for People's Association - Holland-Bukit Timah and Bukit Panjang.
- 2019 "Political Sociology" HS3001: Contemporary Social Theory, Aug 19, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- 2018 "Politics | Happiness & Suffering" COR3001: Happiness & Suffering, 31 Sep, 2018, Singapore Management University.
- 2018 "Ethnography" HA4025: Designing and Conducting Qualitative Research, Aug 2018, 2019 & 2021, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- 2017 "Migrant Enclave, ethnic economies and entrepreneurship" HS2013: Migration and Multiculturalism, Aug 17 & Aug 18, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- 2017 "Heteronormativity in Singapore" Majullah Lecture Series, 2017, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Moderator, 2022, Youth Ecosperity Dialogue (YED) 2022, Singapore Management University.

Conference Organiser. 2019. NTU – Todai Winter Workshop 2019, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Conference Organiser. 2019. Cambridge-Singapore-Princeton Workshop Series Presents: Infrastructures of Injustice – Migration and Border Mobilities, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Conference Organiser. 2018. Migrating Concepts: Journal of intercultural Studies Conference 2018, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Organizing Chairperson. 2018. 4th COHASS Graduate Conference 2018, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Sociology Representative. 2017 - 2021, School of Social Sciences Graduate Committee.

Honorary General Secretary. 2017 - 2018, 1st School of Social Sciences Graduate Student Committee.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Organiser, 2022, Forward Singapore Exercise (For Holland-Bukit Timah and Bukit Panjang)

General Secretary, 2020 - Present, Bukit Timah Citizens' Consultative Committee, Singapore.

Assistant Secretary, 2018 - 2020, Bukit Timah Citizens' Consultative Committee, Singapore

Chairperson, Publicity Committee, & Town Councillor, 2017 - Present, Holland Bukit Panjang Town Council.

Chairperson, 2017 - 2022, Gateway-View Residents' Network, Singapore.

LANGUAGE SKILLS AND TRAINING

Languages Spoken

- English
- Mandarin

Competencies

- **Higher Education Teaching Certificate**, awarded by Derek Bok Learning Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University (via HarvardX)
- **Advanced Certificate in Sustainability and Sustainable Businesses**, awarded by Singapore Management University, Singapore
- **Graduate Teaching Certificate**, 2017, Awarded by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- NVivo
- Canvas

REFERENCES

Associate Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu

Associate Professor (PhD Supervisor)

Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences

Nanyang Technological University

Email: laavanyak@ntu.edu.sg

Dr Hu Shu

Head, Sociology Programme

School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences

Singapore University of Social Sciences

Email: hushu@suss.edu.sg

Dr Woo Jun Jie

Senior Research Fellow

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)

National University of Singapore

Email: jjwoo@nus.edu.sg