



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**
SINGAPORE

NEW HORIZONS

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

AUGUST 2019 • ISSUE 03



SG200: Understanding
Singapore's past and
present, and preparing
for her future

News

New faculty and achievements
SSS faculty conferred chair professorships
IIAS-Lien 2019 Conference

People

Asst Prof Akshar Saxena
Assoc Prof Jonathan Tan
Asst Prof Tan Chin Hong

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Professor Liu Hong
Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor of Public Policy and Global Affairs
Chair, School of Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni and Friends,

I would like to wish Singapore and all Singaporeans a very Happy National Day. Not only does Singapore celebrate its 54th year of independence this year, it is also commemorating the 200th year of the founding of modern Singapore, based upon long historical heritages that existed prior to 1819. In this third issue of NEW HORIZONS, we are doing our own tribute to Singapore's key milestones in its rich history and significant progresses. Our feature story looks at what SSS offers to our students in terms of enriching them with the knowledge of Singapore's development from the past to present, and at some of our faculty's research that impacts Singapore.

As we celebrate Singapore's achievements, we also recognise the accomplishments of our faculty. Earlier in March, NTU President Professor Subra Suresh unveiled the creation of 50 new named faculty chair professorships to identify exceptional performers at early, mid-career and senior faculty levels. This initiative, first announced at the university town hall meeting in August 2018, is part of a plan to establish up to 100 new named professorships over the next five years to attract, nurture, and retain top-performing faculty at NTU. I am delighted to announce several of School of Social Sciences (SSS) faculty members are part of the 50 who have been conferred these professorships. And on the same note of

recognising excellence, the School has also three new appointees to the roles of Associate Chair (Academic), Associate Chair (Graduate Education), and Head of Public Policy and Global Affairs. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my colleagues on their new appointments and thank their respective predecessors for their dedication to the School and University.

In our continuous commitment to student-centric education and cutting-edge scholarship, SSS had the opportunity to assist the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) in co-organising the International Institute of Administrative (IIAS)-Lien 2019 Conference in June. It is the first time that the IIAS' Annual Congress and NCPA's biennial Lien International Conference on Good Governance were held together on a single platform to discuss what constitutes good governance, under the general framework of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We were privileged to have Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, as our guest-of-honour at the event, which attracted more than 550 participants from 55 countries. You can read more about the conference in this issue.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I hope you will enjoy this issue of NEW HORIZONS!

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NEW FACULTY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A warm welcome to our new faculty to the School of Social Sciences, and our heartiest congratulations for their outstanding contributions to the School!

NEW FACULTY

Economics
Asst Prof Jonathan Tan
Asst Prof Akshar Saxena

FACULTY PROMOTION AND TENURE

Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure
Assoc Prof Laura Wu
- **Economics**

Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure
Assoc Prof Wang Jue
- **Public Policy and Global Affairs**

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Associate Chair (Academic)
Assoc Prof Laura Wu

Associate Chair (Graduate Education)
Assoc Prof Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir

Head of Public Policy and Global Affairs
Assoc Prof Wang Jue

NANYANG ASST PROF IAN MCGONIGLE RECOGNISED FOR DISSERTATION



Nanyang Asst Prof Ian McGonigle

Congratulations to Nanyang Assistant Professor Ian McGonigle on receiving the Association for Middle East Anthropology Dissertation Award for his doctoral work at Harvard University. The prize is given to work that has provided the most significant and potentially influential contribution to Middle East anthropology. Dr McGonigle said the recognition is a "huge honour", and that he is currently working on the manuscript for publication as a book.

The Nanyang Assistant Professor, who joined NTU in 2018, is a scholar of Anthropology and Science, Technology and Society (STS), and specialises in contemporary Middle Eastern societies, with a focus on genetic technologies and national development. His research and teaching focuses on Israel and Middle East region and includes research on artificial intelligence, precision medicine, and national identity.

ASSOC PROF TEO YOU YENN AWARDED FINALIST OF THE STRAITS TIMES SINGAPOREAN OF THE YEAR 2018

Associate Professor Teo You Yenn received an award as Finalist of The Straits Times Singaporean of the Year 2018 for her book *This Is What Inequality Looks Like*. The award was conferred at a ceremony hosted by President Halimah Yacob at the Istana on 12 February 2019. The Straits Times Singaporean of the Year seeks to honour Singaporeans whose extraordinary acts of goodwill

have improved their community and the lives of the others. The book, as Associate Professor Teo shared in an interview with publisher Ethos Books, is not just a textbook for students, but for everyone. "It has been written to give any reader—not just students, or sociologists—tools for looking at the lives we live, for understanding how we are connected to others around us, and for discussing public policy," she said. She asserted that questions on public policy "should not be asked and answered only by a small elite" and that "all of us have a part for equality and change."

This Is What Inequality Looks Like, based on her research which began in 2013, draws on data from three years' worth of interviews with people living in HDB rental flats. It was one of the best-selling local books in 2018, and has helped propel inequality to the forefront of discussions at all levels of society. A new second edition of the book, with an Afterword by the author and a Foreword by Professor Kwok Kian Woon included, hit the bookstores in May 2019.



Assoc Prof Teo You Yenn

ASSOC PROF MD SAIDUL ISLAM AT MIT

Associate Professor Md Saidul Islam from Sociology spent the last Fall 2018 in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). As a Visiting Scholar in the Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab (J-WAFS) at MIT, Associate Professor Md Saidul worked on, among other projects and collaborations, two key strands of his research: (a) the limits and possibilities of aquaculture certification, and (b) climate change and urban food security in the Asia-Pacific. He gave a series of public lectures at MIT campus organised by J-WAFS, such as "Toward sustainable seafood: The limits and possibilities of aquaculture certification",

"Urban food security in the age of vulnerability: The Singapore story", and "Climate change and food security in the Asia-Pacific: Response and resilience".

The lectures were attended by not only students and faculties of MIT and other neighbouring universities including Harvard, but also local NGOs, activists, and policy makers including individuals from the mayoral office in the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts. During his stay in MIT, Associate Professor Md Saidul presented papers in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Michigan, and in Toronto, Canada as well.



Assoc Prof Md Saidul at MIT

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR ASSOC PROF YOHANES EKO RIYANTO

Associate Professor Yohanes Eko Riyanto has been appointed Associate Dean (Research) for the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) as of 1 May 2019. He hands over his previous role of School of Social Sciences' Associate Chair (Academic) to Associate Professor Laura Wu, and his position of Acting Head of Public Policy and Global Affairs to Associate Professor Wang Jue.

As HASS' new Associate Dean (Research), Associate Professor Yohanes envisions the research office to be a one-stop centre dedicated to assist and support faculty in their pursuit of research excellence. His office

will help faculty in their grant submissions and organise various programmes and workshops to meet HASS faculty's needs. In addition, it will maintain a central registry of all faculty research projects and scholarly publications, grant opportunities, and potential interdisciplinary collaborators within the College and the University. Associate Professor Eko hopes that his office can help foster a strong culture of competitive grants participation within HASS over the next few years.

Before joining NTU, Associate Professor Yohanes was with National University of Singapore, the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. A professor Economics, his research focuses on Experimental and Behavioural Economics.



HASS' new Associate Dean (Research), Assoc Prof Eko

SSS FACULTY CONFERRED CHAIR PROFESSORSHIPS



Recipients of faculty chair professorships. Among the announced recipients are Prof Liu Hong (Second row, third from left); Assoc Prof Teo You Yenn (Second row, first from right); and Nanyang Asst Prof Suzy Styles (Fourth row, first from left)

NTU President Professor Subra Suresh announced the creation of 50 new named faculty chair professorships on 26 March 2019 at the university town hall. These professorships are part of a major effort to recognise outstanding achievements at early, mid-career and senior faculty levels.

The initiative was first announced at the university town hall meeting in August 2018, where the university planned to create up to 100 new term chair professorships over five years to attract, nurture and retain outstanding faculty at NTU.

Among the 50 named professorships, five of SSS faculty

have been appointed, with their new appointments effective from 1 April 2019.

Professor Liu Hong – Tan Lark Sye Chair Professorship of Public Policy and Global Affairs



Prof Liu Hong

Professor Liu Hong, Chair of School of Social Sciences, is also the Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor of Public Policy and Global Affairs. The Professorship was established in 1988, through donations from Chinese groups and Nanyang University (Nantah) alumni, to honour Mr Tan Lark Sye's outstanding contributions to education. Mr Tan, entrepreneur and philanthropist, is most remembered for his leading role in promoting higher Chinese education and the founding of Nantah in 1953.

Professor Liu, who joined NTU in 2010, currently specialises in research concerning Asian governance, Sino-Southeast

Asian relations, international migration, global flows of talents, and public diplomacy. He has authored/edited 15 books and about 100 academic articles, including in leading international journals such as *World Politics*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *The China Quarterly*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. His publications also appear in the French, Dutch, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian and Korean languages.

He has served as Chair of School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) from 2011 to 2017, until HSS' reorganisation into two Schools—School of Humanities

and School of Social Sciences. And since January 2014, he has concurrently served as Director of the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA).

Professor Euston Quah – Albert Winsemius Chair Professor



Prof Euston Quah

Professor Euston Quah has been appointed the third Albert Winsemius Chair Professor. Dr Albert Winsemius was a Dutch economist known as the founding father of the Dutch post-war industrialisation programme and advisor to the Singapore government from the 1960s to early 1980s. In honour of his contributions to the Singapore's growth, the Albert Winsemius Chair Professorship was established in 1997 from an endowment.

Dr Euston Quah, Professor and Head of Economics in NTU, had also chaired HSS from 2009 to 2011. His areas of teaching and research are in Environmental Economics and Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA). He published the first studies on the social cost of smoking and the economic cost of air pollution on health in Singapore and is well-known locally and internationally for his work on the economics of transboundary haze pollution.

Nanyang Assistant Professor Suzy Styles – Provost's Chair in Psychology

Dr Suzy Styles joined NTU in 2013 under the Nanyang Assistant Professor (NAP) programme, and is currently a director of the Brain Language and Intersensory Perception (BLIP) Lab. Her broad research areas include psycholinguistics and cognitive approaches to language acquisition while her research interests include lexical access and its neural and behavioural correlates in early language development; the role of linguistic stimuli in intersensory processing; the influence of different writing systems on language processing; and relationship between language and cognition.

She was awarded a \$5.1 million grant from the National Research Foundation Science of Learning for her five-year research project, 'How language mixes contribute to effective bilingualism and effective biliteracy in Singapore'. In recognition of achievements and contributions to NTU, Dr Styles also received the Nanyang Award – Research (Young Investigator).



Nanyang Asst Prof Suzy Styles

Nanyang Assistant Professor Chou Meng-Hsuan – Provost's Chair in Public Policy and Global Affairs

Dr Chou Meng-Hsuan became part of the NTU family under the NAP programme in 2013 as well. She is currently a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki



Nanyang Asst Prof Chou Meng-Hsuan

as well. Her research interests lie at the intersection of politics, public policy, and comparative regionalism. She is also presently researching the emergence and evolution of higher education regionalisms in Asia and Europe, how governments in Asia and Europe vie for talent in a globalised work, and the ways in which scholarly networks are organised across time.

In addition, she is the series co-editor of *Transnational Administration and Global Policy*, which was launched in June 2019.

One of her ongoing research projects is the 'Nexus of European Centres Abroad for Research on the European Higher Education Area (NEAR EU)', funded by the EU Jean Monnet Network Grant. She is also the principal investigator of 'Comparative regionalism and the politics of food', which is funded by the NTU Nanyang Assistant Professorship Start-Up Grant.

Associate Professor Teo You Yenn – Provost's Chair in Sociology

Associate Professor Teo You Yenn currently heads the Sociology programme at NTU, and has been with the University since 2007. Her research focuses on understanding inequality—how it is experienced, how it is reproduced, and the ways inequality is rationalised and

naturalised. Through her work and research, she questions governance, state-society dynamics, citizenship, culture, welfare, and poverty.

She is the author of *Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society* (Routledge, 2011) and *This is What Inequality Looks Like* (Ethos Books, 2018), which sold 25,000 in 16 months. The latter had sparked a national conversation on poverty and inequality, and for this, she was named a Finalist in the 2018 Straits Times Singaporean of the Year Award. Apart from academic writings, she regularly contributes to public debate through public lectures and media commentaries—her writings have been published in *The Straits Times*, *TODAY*, *Channel NewsAsia*, *Lianhe Zaobao*, and *New Naratif*.

Associate Professor Teo has received several accolades for her teaching and her work. In 2013, she was a winner of NTU's Nanyang Education Award, and in 2016, she bagged the American Sociological Association Sex and Gender Section's Feminist Scholar Activist Award.



Assoc Prof Teo You Yenn

DIFFUSION MRI WORKSHOP WITH DR HIROMASA TAKEMURA

The Science, Society and Governance research cluster organised a workshop in February on Diffusion MRI with Dr Hiromasa Takemura as its speaker. Dr Takemura, a tenure-track researcher, is from Center for Information and Neural Network (CiNet), National Institute of Information and Communications Technology & Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences, Osaka University. His research focuses on studies of human visual white matter pathways, spanning topics

from vision science, comparative neuroanatomy, functional neuroimaging and clinical vision.

He gave two talks at the workshop, which was held on 12 February at the HSS Conference Room. In the first talk, 'White Matter Imaging in Human Neuroscience: Diffusion MRI and Its Applications', Dr Takemura gave an overview on the methodologies of acquiring dMRI data and discussed several types of methods for modeling dMRI signals in a single voxel from a

simpler diffusion tensor model up to complex multi-compartment models. He also introduced advances in modelling white matter tracts (tractography) from deterministic tractography to recent global methods, and subsequently spoke about the advantages and limitations of dMRI as a method in systems neuroscience or psychology.

His second talk, 'Multi-Dimensional Approaches to Understand the Visual White Matter Pathways',

highlighted recent progress in elucidating the relationship between the properties of white matter tracts and visual function by combining dMRI with clinical, behavioral, functional or anatomical measurements. He described dMRI studies used to identify white matter pathways, and using functional MRI, discussed his recent approaches for interpreting the tissue properties of visual white matter pathways.

ASST PROF LAAVANYA KATHIRAVELU RECEIVES INAUGURAL SSHR FELLOWSHIP

The SSHR Fellowship is a talent development scheme established by the SSRC to support promising Singaporean social science and humanities researchers in the autonomous universities.



Asst Prof Laavanya, recipient of the inaugural SSHR Fellowship

Assistant Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu has been selected as one of three awardees of the inaugural Social Science and Humanities Research (SSHR) Fellowship by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). Each awardee will receive research funds of up to \$1 million over five years.

The SSHR Fellowship is a talent development scheme established by the SSRC to support promising Singaporean social science and humanities researchers in the autonomous universities. Assistant Professor Laavanya's project, 'Does citizenship matter?

Interrogating second-generation (im)migrant incorporation in Singapore and Qatar', studies the integration of immigrants through legal and informal means by comparing the two countries as models. Singapore and Qatar are nation-states that experience extremely high rates of migration. Her research is at the intersection of three interrelated themes—migration, ethnicity and urban diversity.

IIAS-LIEN 2019 CONFERENCE: EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE



VIPs with NCPA Lien fellows together with DPM and Minister of Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat (First row, eighth from left)

The School of Social Sciences (SSS) assisted the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) in organising the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)-Lien 2019 Conference which was held from 18 to 21 June 2019. The conference was jointly organised by NCPA and IIAS, a non-profit organisation based in Belgium, with funding support from the Lien Foundation. It was attended by more than 550 participants from over 55 countries, with Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr Heng Swee Keat, as the guest-of-honour.

The event marks the first time that the IIAS' Annual Congress and NCPA's two-yearly Lien International Conference on Good Governance were held together on a single platform to deliberate as to what the concept of good governance means under the general framework of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In his welcome remarks, Professor Liu Hong—Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and Chair of School of Social Sciences—said that the School and NCPA have directed their attention to "policy-oriented research and leadership training that are strategically significant to both Singapore and the region", in addition to a "student-centric education and cutting-edge scholarship." He added the Lien Research Programme on the Belt and Road Initiative was set up in 2018 with an outlook to approach the BRI from the Singapore and maritime silk road's perspectives.

The four-day conference featured four tracks which included around 300 paper presenters from the IIAS and Lien network—including SSS faculty—from every continent cross the globe. There were four clusters of tracks: Good Governance, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Inclusive Governance, and Area Studies and Public Governance. The first cluster dealt with Good

Governance, with topics such as strategic management and leadership in public organisations, corruption, political-administration dichotomy in contemporary times, and the question of qualitative governance.

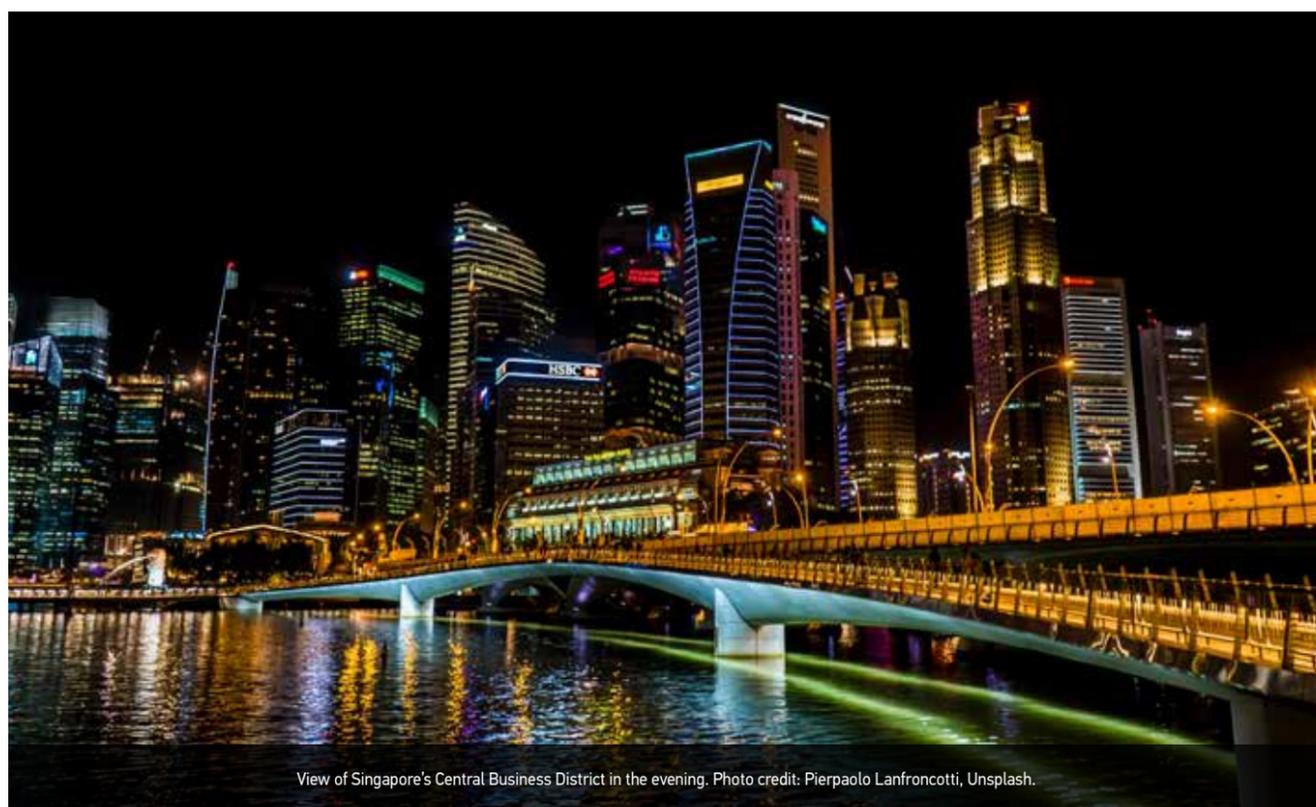
Professor Wang Jue, head of SSS' Public Policy and Global Affairs, presented with Xiao Lu from Chinese Academy of Sciences, on Science, Technology and Innovation policies whereby governments prepare, adjust to and support technological developments in the second cluster of tracks. Other issues that were highlighted included policies governments should adopt and implement to ensure citizens are ready to seize technological opportunities in today's digital era, the challenge of urbanisation and artificial intelligence.

The third cluster consisted of various topics such as what governance systems should do to cope with an increasingly

aging worldwide population, sustainability, and inclusivity. Professor Marco Meneguzzo and his colleagues also launched their IIAS Study Group on Social Innovation, Commons and Administration which touched on social innovation.

The last cluster of tracks consisted of presentations on specific regions, and aimed to initiate learning processes among countries and regions. The presentations included those by Professor Liu and colleagues from NTU, who examined South-South knowledge transfer that parallels economic development. Together with Dr Guanie Lim, he also questioned the impact of the more assertive stance adopted by China in global affairs. Dr Chen Chung-An, associate professor from SSS' Public Policy and Global Affairs, and Associate Professor Liu Bangcheng from Shanghai Jiaotong University, China, shared how civil servants trained abroad apply their skills learned back home.

SG200: UNDERSTANDING SINGAPORE'S PAST AND PRESENT, AND PREPARING FOR HER FUTURE



View of Singapore's Central Business District in the evening. Photo credit: Pierpaolo Lanfroncoti, Unsplash.

This year, Singapore is commemorating the 200th anniversary of Sir Stamford Raffles' arrival with the Singapore Bicentennial. It is a year-long celebration that delves into Singapore's history that goes back 500 years before 1819, and forward 200 years into 2019.

Many of us only know Singapore as a thriving cosmopolitan city-state and a modern economic powerhouse with one of the busiest seaports in the world. We have enjoyed decades of economy stability despite going through several tough economic downturns, and decades of social harmony among our people from different backgrounds, ethnicities and citizenships.

But even though Singapore is a young nation with 54 years of independence, there is still much to learn about it.

Education on Singapore's economic, political and social history

As a university that has always been a part in the Singapore Story, NTU's offering of Singapore-centric courses is one of the value-added features of a holistic education for our students. At the School of Social Sciences, our students have the opportunity to examine the evolution of Singapore's economy, policies and society, giving them in-depth knowledge of our nation's narrative. Courses offered, at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level, also help students to gain insights to Singapore's place in the region and beyond.

For example, non-Economics undergraduates keen to develop a deeper understanding of Singapore's economy could take up 'The Singapore Economy', which provides them with a

broad introduction to Singapore's economic structure, development experiences, and economic policies. It also covers the government's approaches to microeconomic and macroeconomic management, which includes the handling of market failures, and management of Singapore's fiscal, monetary and security policies. Graduate students from the Master of Science in Applied Economics will attend a seminar on the study of Singapore's economic policies—their rationale, design and what they have achieved—as part of the curriculum. Some topics that would be discussed include economic development, privatisation and liberalisation, and manpower and labour market, among others.

Students whose interests lie in Singapore's policies and political history, could consider several courses under the Public Policy and Global Affairs programme. In 'Politics of Singapore', students are familiarised with Singapore's politics and government, and will critically analyse various theoretical approaches to understand Singapore's political system—from its structure, functions and process of the government to the development of the Constitution and functions of the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.

To expand their knowledge of Singapore's society, undergraduates could study several courses offered by the Sociology programme. Courses such as 'Contemporary Singapore Society' and 'Singapore

Society in Transition' provides a sociological perspective on various aspects of Singapore society, and encourages students to develop a comprehensive analysis of the fundamentals of Singapore as a society.

Courses offered at the postgraduate level, such as the Master of Science in Applied Gerontology programme, places the study of Singapore through the field of gerontology in a wider and regional context. For example, the 'Ageing Asia: Interdisciplinary Perspectives' course presents students an overview of the field of ageing from psychological and sociological perspectives, and examine the demographic, social, and economic trends of global ageing, paying attention to particularly greying Asian societies – Singapore included.

Helping Singapore progress through research

The School of Social Sciences' faculty members produce compelling and meaningful research which traverses across disciplines, with many projects contributing to the progress of Singapore and beyond. Our faculty have also been awarded prestigious and generous grants for their work—some of which have generated much buzz among academia and public alike: *Investigating intangible effects of transboundary haze* Since the 1960s, transboundary haze from open severe biomass

burning from forests and peat in Indonesia has engulfed the region in smoke, affecting tens of millions of people in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Although haze pollution has been recognised as a major public concern to these countries, there are surprisingly few studies that focus on assessing the economic value of smoke haze pollution.

To bridge this gap of information, Professor Euston Quah and Associate Professor Chia Wai Mun's research project, 'Environmental Valuation: The Intangible Costs of Haze Pollution' proposes to conduct a study that is first of its kind: to estimate the immaterial costs of haze pollution by directly eliciting from those who are affected, specifically from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The professors note that their study is of significant importance to governments Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in their efforts towards fighting of fires and mitigating the effects of the transboundary pollution.

Investigating infant sleeping arrangements and mother-infant well-being in Singapore

Assistant Professor Setoh Pei Pei and Nanyang Assistant Professor Gianluca Esposito aim to trace the beginnings of sleep development in Singapore through their research project, 'Infant sleeping arrangements and mother-infant well-being in Singapore'. They examine the earliest choices Singaporean parents make about sleeping arrangements of



Students studying at the Library Outpost at the Hive, one of NTU's learning hubs in the South Spine

Learning about our past plays a big part in forming our own national identity. But what is equally important is how this knowledge contours our understanding of our present and impact our ideas for the future.

parents and infants as well as the physiological and behavioural consequences of such decisions.

Their project is based on the premise of sleep in childhood being influenced by parent-child characteristics and influenced by multiple factors—cultural, ecological and pragmatic concerns and processes. In particular, they aim to examine babies' physiological calming responses to different sleeping arrangements, the different caregiving practices on sleeping arrangement in Singaporean families, and how these practices are mediated by the influence of cultural beliefs and parenting styles and parents' work life balance.

Promoting dynamic governance through transnational knowledge transfer
Professor Liu Hong's research, 'Transnational Knowledge Transfer and Dynamic Governance in Comparative Perspective', which was funded with an MOE Tier-2 grant in 2017, aims to contribute to the process of transnational knowledge transfer with a theory of knowledge transfer that draws attention to tacit knowledge, or 'software' transfer, as a necessary complement to the 'hardware' transfer of policies, administrative arrangements, institutions, and best practices across countries.

Set within the context of the rise of the Global South and moving away from one-way learning from North to South, Professor Liu's project

explores the dynamics, processes, and implication of transnational transfer in the Global South for the formation and fostering of 'dynamic governance'. Focusing on Singapore, China, Southeast Asia and Africa, it seeks to compare and clarify the commonalities and differences in the mechanisms, dynamics, and outcomes of transnational knowledge transfer among selected countries in the Global South.

Illuminating inequality in Singapore
Associate Professor Teo You Yenn's latest book, *This Is What Inequality Looks Like*, ignited a national conversation about inequality in Singapore. Ideas for the book was borne from her research project, 'Everyday lives of the low-income

in Singapore', which began in 2013. Through the essays, which have been arranged to be read a totality and in sequence, she peeks into the systems of Singapore's education, labour, care and welfare, and demonstrates how class equalities are entrenched in them. The book has sold more than 25,000 copies since it was launched in February 2018; a second edition and an e-book version was released in May 2019.

Further to her work on inequality, Associate Professor Teo was also involved in a study that addressed the question of how much older people needed to achieve a basic standard of living in Singapore. The 'What older people need in Singapore: A household budgets

“Keeping up with the changes Singapore faces, both in terms of technology and its society, becomes crucial because just as no one owes Singapore a living, no one owes Singapore the knowledge of itself.”

– Muhammad lylia, second-year psychology student.

study' was conducted with Assistant Professor Ng Kok Hoe from Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and his colleagues from National University of Singapore. Similar to her book on inequality, this research garnered much discussion due to findings which revealed the sum and items included in the budget.

Why learn and understand Singapore's past?

While Singapore is a young nation, our history is no less storied. We have survived and grown from the war-torn years in the 1940s, the tumultuous years of riots and social unrest in the 1950s, and separated from the Malaysia Federation in 1960s. We ploughed through the oil shock in the 1970s and saw

our economy soar in the decades thereafter. It can be said that Singapore is the only country so far that has made the great leap from Third World poverty to First World affluence within decades.

“To understand where we are, we have to know how we got here,” Dr Walid Jumblatt Abdullah, assistant professor of Public Policy and Global Affairs, shares. “Studying our past is imperative towards comprehending and appreciating the nuances of our current politics.”

Learning about our past plays a big part in forming our own national identity. But what is equally important is how this knowledge contours our understanding of our present and impact our ideas for the



Tiong Bahru estate, one of Singapore's oldest neighbourhoods. Its buildings are preserved for its historical and tourism value

future. In view of this, courses at SSS often reference historical events and situations to contextualise current affairs and contemporary concerns society faces for our students to examine. Through these courses, students are shown the magnitude of Singapore's development and achievements over the years, and are often encouraged to explore the ways they can contribute to the nation's future.

As a student of the social sciences, Muhammad lylia, a second-year psychology student, feels being educated about Singapore's role and place in current events is necessary, given the fast-paced and high-tech world we live in today. As a young nation in an increasingly competitive and globalised world, we need to

be nimble, and innovative to adapt to changes, and for whatever challenges the future brings.

“As the world moves forward, along goes Singapore,” he says. “Keeping up with the changes Singapore faces, both in terms of technology and its society, becomes crucial because just as no one owes Singapore a living, no one owes Singapore the knowledge of itself. As Singaporeans, it is our responsibility to explore this area of knowledge so we can better contribute as citizens.”

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH ECONOMICS

By Ms Violet Koh



In his travels, Assistant Professor Akshar Saxena collects matchbox covers as a hobby. Today, he has a collection of 700 covers, and the pastime stems from an interest in health economics – in this case, to observe how smoking trends have changed.

In his travels, Assistant Professor Akshar Saxena collects matchbox covers as a hobby. Today, he has a collection of 700 covers, and the pastime stems from an interest in health economics – in this case, to observe how smoking trends have changed.

Born into a family of doctors, Assistant Professor Saxena found himself developing an interest in health since young. Combined with a curiosity of how money makes the world go around, he began his journey in the field of health economics. The Assistant Professor read Economics at the undergraduate level and attained a Master's in Public Policy at the National University of Singapore

(NUS). Thereafter, he worked for the Ministry of Health (MOH) where he was involved in the development and implementation of the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS), as well as the expansion of the Chronic Disease Management Programme (CDMP) to mental health conditions. He has also been a consultant to various organisations including the World Bank and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). However, it was during his time in MOH that prompted him to pursue a PhD in Global Health Economics at Harvard University.

Assistant Professor Saxena's research interests lies in applied

economics and econometrics with a focus on health, and public economics. Currently, his research looks at two main areas: consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and smoking, and non-communicable diseases where he studies aging and fiscal policies pertaining to retirement.

The economics professor's decision to return to Singapore from Harvard was one of "coming home to contribute to improving the health landscape". He looks forward to working with working with the Ministry of Health and the Health Promotion Board on several projects.

Turning to his contributions to

society, the Assistant Professor was previously a volunteer with the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) where he taught and read to children. He shares the experience of watching students progress and being able to read as one that is highly rewarding and eye-opening.

Last semester, he taught a PhD course in development and economics and will be teaching 'Public Economics' and 'Health Economics' undergraduate courses next.

CHANCED ENCOUNTER WITH ECONOMICS TURNED LIFELONG CAREER

By Ms Violet Koh

"Everything goes back to my childhood", Associate Professor Jonathan Tan says. He recalls watching old drama serials such as 'Murder She Wrote' and 'Remington Steele' as a child and questioning why the characters did what they did, as well as attempting to predict their behaviour. However, it was only in Junior College that he chanced upon the field of Economics. In learning about concepts of preferences and economic behaviour, he "fell in love with it and never turned back since".

Associate Professor Tan attained his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Essex and went on to complete his PhD at the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder). He has previously held various strategic management roles such as Founding Director of The Centre for Research in the Behavioural Sciences and CRIBS Lab, Curriculum Review Committee Chair at Nanyang Tech and Director of UG Industrial Economics at Nottingham. He has taught across all levels, from bachelors to PhD in Oxford, Frankfurt, Nottingham, and Singapore. He has also served as Member of the Editorial Board at Journal of Economic Psychology and Executive Officer of The Association of Christian Economists UK.

The Behavioural Economist is primarily interested in strategic decision making where his research falls under three main themes: preferences and rationality, cooperation and

conflict, religion and society. His work involves Behavioural Game Theory, Experimental Economics, Health Economics, Public Economics, and Industrial Organisation. Presently, he is working on several projects such as studying how people coordinate, modelling friendship, the formation of alliances and engagement in microfinance. The Associate Professor will be teaching first year students the core module of 'Microeconomics', 'Industrial

Organisation' at the intermediate level and 'Behavioural Economics' at the PhD level.

Associate Professor Tan describes returning to Singapore after 20 years and joining NTU as being "more embedded within a society that [he] can directly contribute to". He further elaborates, "NTU is a very dynamic forward-looking institution and SSS is very supportive of pushing its research forward." He hopes to

use his individual curiosity to benefit some parts of society where he is currently working on projects related to blood and organ donation as well as land transportation. Over the years, he has published several opinion pieces on public policy for The Straits Times and Lianhe Zaobao.

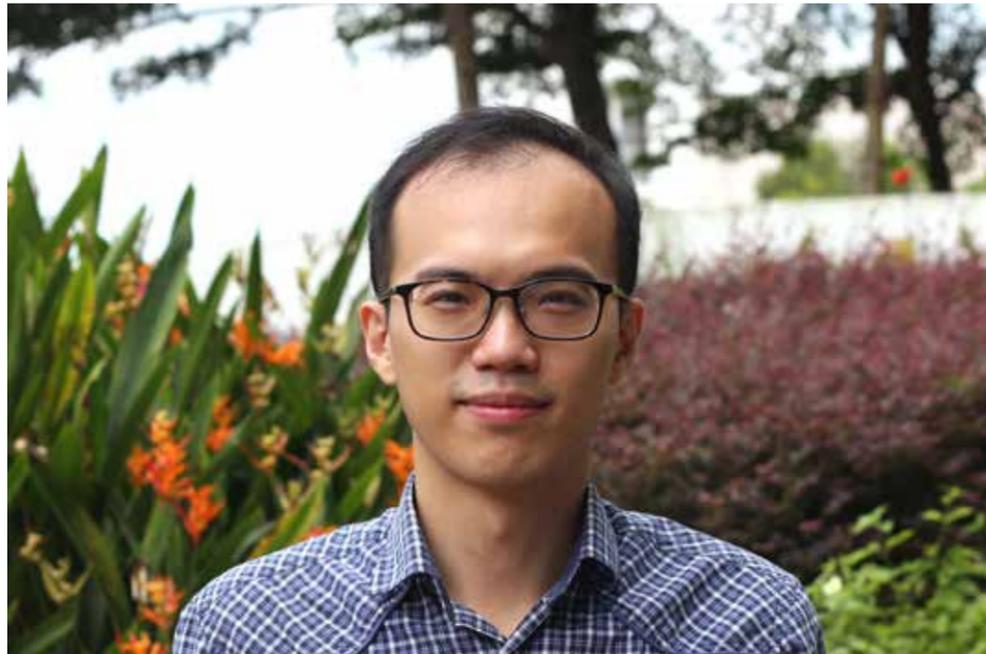
Having lived abroad for so long, Associate Professor Tan enjoys cooking and replicating local dishes in his free time.



The Behavioural Economist is primarily interested in strategic decision making where his research falls under three main themes: preferences and rationality, cooperation and conflict, religion and society.

DERIVING MEANING FROM THE STUDY OF ALZHEIMER'S

By Ms Violet Koh



Assistant Professor Tan's research involves the use of multimodal neuroimaging data and genetics which pertains mainly to the study of Alzheimer's, dementia and neurodegenerative diseases in general.

Fascinated with the self and wanting to understand why people are the way they are, Assistant Professor Tan Chin Hong set out to study Psychology in the National University of Singapore (NUS). With the guidance of a mentor during his undergraduate days in NUS, he was exposed to research assistance work within the field and began to develop a strong interest in Psychology research. Dr Tan then went on to complete his PhD in Psychology (Cognitive Neuroscience) from the University of Illinois. He was also a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Neuroradiology Section of the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging at the University of California, San

Francisco before joining NTU in late 2018.

His research involves the use of multimodal neuroimaging data (MRI, PET, DOT) and genetics which pertains mainly to the study of Alzheimer's, dementia and neurodegenerative diseases in general. He aims to understand the earliest risk markers of neurodegenerative diseases and how that risk can be modified through lifestyle factors. He also studies the influence of polygenic risk and cerebrovascular health on cognitive decline and progression to clinical dementia. Last semester, the Assistant Professor taught 'Human Memory' at the undergraduate level and he looks forward to

teaching a seminar course on 'Cognitive Neuroplasticity' next.

It was in having witnessed people with dementia that Dr Tan made the decision to study Alzheimer's. He finds it a "big tragedy" that such a disease leads an individual to essentially forget their loved ones and their children. The choice to study Alzheimer's therefore became meaningful and a prospect as Singapore faces an ageing population. "[A] good confluence of practicality, the potential impact, and a sense of meaning," he adds.

Assistant Professor Tan describes meaningful moments in his career as receiving enquiries from the general public - usually

those with a family history of Alzheimer's and are worried about their children as well as finances - in relation to his research and publications. These enquiries clearly indicate that his work is reaching out to the people who need it. Presently, he is working on two publications where the first investigates sex differences in genetic risk for Alzheimer's. The other publication looks at neurodegeneration along with vascular measure whilst taking into account factors including but not limited to race, genetics and lifestyle.

RESEARCH GRANTS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) ACADEMIC RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

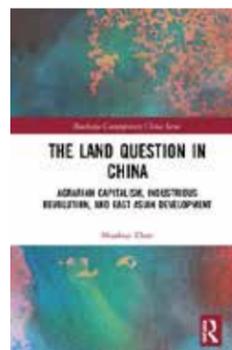
MOE Academic Research Fund Tier 1

Subject	Principal Investigator	Project Title
Economics	Associate Professor Yohanes Eko Riyanto	The Impacts of Social Trading and Information Exchange on Market Efficiency and Price Dynamics in Experimental Asset Markets
Economics	Associate Professor Feng Qu	Bridging Econometric Models and Big Data Approach: Quantitative Analysis of Financial Markets
Economics	Associate Professor Joseph Dennis Alba	Analyses of the impact of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) on monetary policies and of the impact of wage rigidities on asset prices, and the macroeconomy: A DSGE model approach
Psychology	Assistant Professor Victoria Leong Vik Ee	Interpersonal neural synchrony as a social learning mechanism: Does neural synchrony during eye contact promote infants' language learning from adults?
Psychology	Nanyang Assistant Professor Bobby Cheon	The influence of implicit satiety goals on appetite and eating behavior
Psychology	Associate Professor Shen Biing-Jiun	Psychosocial and Behavioral Processes in Health Promotion in Cardiac Rehabilitation: The Influences of Emotional Distress & Self-Regulation on Short-Term and Long-Term Changes in Health Behaviors and Health Outcomes

EXTERNAL GRANTS

Subject	Funding Agency / Grant Type	Principal Investigator	Project Title
Economics	Society for Future Research	Associate Professor Huang Weihong	Data Mining In Economic Analysis With Rose - Extension of Project
Psychology	Rehabilitation Research Institute of Singapore (RRIS)	Assistant Professor Andy Ho	A Longitudinal Mixed-Method Study on Psychosocial QOL Trajectories of first time Stroke Patients and their family caregivers in Singapore
	Lien Foundation		Non-Palliative Care Professionals Caring for End-of-life Patients: A Lived Experience Study
	Ageing Research Institute for Society and Education (ARISE)		The Cost of Care in Advanced Dementia: Blessing or Burden
	The Joint NTU-WeBank Research Centre of Eco-Intelligent Applications (THEIA)	Assistant Professor Xu Hong	Customized WeUX Index Design and Model Optimization in User Experience
	Land Transport Innovation Fund (LTIF)		Study on the acceptable reflectance level of body wrap and paintwork on road vehicles
	AI Singapore		An end-to-end Adaptive AI-Assisted 3H (A3C) system
Sociology	Social Science and Humanities Research (SSHR) Fellowship	Assistant Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu	Does citizenship matter? Interrogating second-generation (im)migrant incorporation in Singapore and Qatar

BOOKS



The Land Question in China: Agrarian Capitalism, Industrious Revolution, and East Asian Development, Routledge.

Asst Prof Zhan Shaohua (Sociology).

This book interrogates the inevitability and practicability of full-scale, land-intensive capitalist agriculture in China, whilst analyzing the labor-intensive industrious revolution as an alternative rural development path. It presents a critical account of the recent rise of agrarian capitalism as a force that would undermine hundreds of millions of people's livelihoods in the populous country. *The Land Question in China* traces the roots of the industrious revolution in China back to the eighteenth century, drawing comparisons between contemporary rural development and economic prosperity in the mid-Qing dynasty.



Shangmai yu Shangdao: Guoji Huashang Yanjiu Wenji [Commercial Networks and Business Behaviours: Studies in Global Chinese Entrepreneurship], Hangzhou: Zhejiang University Press.

Long Denggao and Prof Liu Hong (Public Policy and Global Affairs), eds.

This book examines the dynamics, characteristics, challenges and future prospects of global Chinese entrepreneurship from from historical, sociological, economic, and management perspectives. It is also concerned with the roles of Chinese business people in the diasporic societies and in the hostlands. Most of the contributors to this book are leading scholars of Chinese origin who now reside in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Singapore, and China.

BOOK CHAPTERS

A Human Rights Based Approach to Bridge Gender Digital Divide: The Case Study of India

Asst Prof Sabrina Ching Yuen Luk (Public Policy and Global Affairs).

In *Gender Gaps and the Social Inclusion Movement in ICT*, [eds.] Idongesit Williams, Olga Kretova and Roslyn Layton. IGI Global, 2019, pp. 24-44.

A Human Rights Based Approach to Teenage Pregnancy Prevention in China

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In *Socio-Cultural Influences on Teenage Pregnancy and Contemporary Prevention Measures*, [ed.] Devi Akella. IGI Global, 2019, pp. 95-116.

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