

# Social and Health Sciences at James Cook University in Singapore



# Psychology at James Cook University in Singapore

With predictions that half of our global population will live in the tropics by 2050, our forward-looking mission is to promote psychological health and wellbeing in tropical regions. A necessity for social, environmental and economic sustainability and for improvements of life in the tropics demands the attention of psychological science and clinical services to address such needs.

With our Singapore base in the Asian tropics, James Cook University in Singapore offers research expertise in health and well-being with emphasis on pertinent social issues such as stress and coping, community relations and healthy ageing.

We also offer expertise in positive mental health, including mindfulness, nature connectedness, and e-health interventions. Our highly trained team of psychological scientists and clinicians have combined expertise in conceptualising psychological research and interventions drawing on a combination of biological, psychological and social factors.

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# Education and Counselling at James Cook University in Singapore

The period of early childhood development is crucial for the formation of intelligence, personality and social behaviour including self-awareness and self-care. Research in early childhood education provides teachers with an evidence base on which to form curricula that supports the development, behaviour and wellbeing of early learners from birth to 8 years.

As a therapeutic practice, counselling is an evidence-based profession. Counsellors draw on research to enhance their knowledge and to remain current in best practices, as well as using established outcome measures to perform their own evaluations of client progress.

For further information on how to work with James Cook University in Singapore please send an email to [researchsupport-singapore@jcu.edu.au](mailto:researchsupport-singapore@jcu.edu.au)





## Dr Ai Ni Teoh

Academic Head, Social and Health Sciences  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Health and Social Psychology), North Dakota State University, USA  
MSocSci (by Research), National University of Singapore, Singapore  
BSc (Psychology), National Taiwan University, Taiwan, ROC

### Background

Dr Teoh completed her Ph.D. (Health and Social Psychology) at North Dakota State University, USA. During her Ph.D. study, she received the Graduate Assistantship and Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the University. Prior to her Ph.D. study, she received the Graduate Research Scholarship to complete her Master's degree at National University of Singapore. Following her Ph.D. study, she joined Heriot-Watt University (Malaysia Campus; HWUM) as an Assistant Professor. In 2018, she joined James Cook University (Singapore Campus) as a Senior Lecturer

Dr Teoh is a researcher in health and social psychology. Her research focuses mainly on psychological and cardiovascular responses to stress, and hence she develops two specific lines of research. In one line of research, she examines the social comforting and social encouragement effects of social support in response to stress. In a related line of research, she focuses on the benefits of online social support. Her Master's and Ph.D. dissertations both focused on social support effects on cardiovascular responses to stress. At HWUM, she received a research grant from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia to conduct a project that investigated the stress responses and well-being of women leaders. In addition to the main research focus, Dr Teoh has developed research interest in energy behavior and attitudes toward renewable energy. She has been collaborating with engineers in several research grants related to technosocial implications of renewable energy.

### Areas of expertise

- Cardiovascular and psychological responses to stress
- Social encouragement and social comforting effects of social support
- Online social support
- Bedtime procrastination
- Energy behaviors
- Attitudes toward renewable energy

### Impact of research

- Broadened the way we define social support and its psychophysiological links, improved social support laboratory research, and provided an alternative way to explain the ways social support affects cardiac health.
- Provided a model which explains how social support could have varied effects on cardiovascular reactivity. This model can be

broadly applied in real world situations. Depending on task engagement level, social support may comfort its recipients to reduce (or disengage from) an unhealthy behaviour, such as smoking, and encourage its recipients to increase (or engage in) a healthy behaviour and follow treatment regimens.

- Provided understanding of the conditionality of the benefits of online social support. This helps customizing online social support provision or programs to meet support recipients' social needs.
- Provided understanding of the predictors of bedtime procrastination. This helps understanding the ways to reduce bedtime procrastination and sleep quality.
- Highlighted the importance of improving the public's energy behaviors in conjunction with the global commitment of reducing greenhouse gases emission by 2050.

### Top five publications

- Teoh, A. N., Kriwangko, L. (2022). Humility and Competence: Which Attribute Affects Social Relationship at Work? *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19105969>
- Teoh, A. N., & Wong, J. W. K. (2022). Mindfulness is Associated with Better Sleep Quality in Young Adults by Reducing Boredom and Bedtime Procrastination. *Behavioral Sleep Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15402002.2022.2035729>
- Teoh, A. N., Ooi, E. Y. E., & Chan, A. Y. (2021). Boredom affects sleep quality: The serial mediation effect of inattention and bedtime procrastination. *Personality and Individual Differences*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.110460>
- Teoh, A. N., Go, Y. I., & Yap, T. C. (2020). Psychosocial implications of large-scale implementations of solar power in Malaysia. *Technologies*, 8, 26. <https://doi.org/10.3390/technologies8020026>
- Teoh, A. N., & Hilmert, C. J. (2018). Social support as a comfort and an encouragement: A systematic review on the contrasting effects of social support on cardiovascular reactivity. *British Journal of Health Psychology*. doi: 10.1111/bjhp.12337

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## Professor Nigel V. Marsh

Professor of Clinical Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD University of Otago, New Zealand  
DipPsych(Clin) University of Waikato, New Zealand  
MSocSc University of Waikato, New Zealand  
BA Massey University, New Zealand

### Background

Professor Marsh is a New Zealand-trained clinical psychologist. He has held academic appointments in Clinical Psychology in Australia, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Most of his most recent clinical work has involved the neuropsychological assessment of individuals with traumatic brain injury, stroke, occupational exposure to neurotoxins, or suspected dementia.

His expertise within clinical psychology is in the areas of psychological assessment and research design. The majority of his research publications deal with the assessment of the psychosocial consequences of traumatic injuries or chronic illness for both the individual and their familial caregivers. He has conducted research across the life span with published studies on age groups ranging from infants to older adults. He has also published studies on non-clinical groups, primarily in the area of organisational psychology.

Professor Marsh has previously been awarded grants to conduct research on traumatic brain injury, quality of life in dialysis patients, dementia in older adults, resilience in very low-income families and internet use amongst young adults. He has served as a consultant in the areas of healthy ageing, occupational health, genetics and rehabilitation.

He is a Visiting Professor in Clinical Psychology at the Norwich Medical School of the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Oviedo in Spain where he worked with the Health Sciences Research Group on School Learning, Difficulties and Academic Performance.

### Areas of expertise

- Assessment of the psychosocial consequences of traumatic injuries or chronic illness, for both the individual and their familial caregivers
- Healthy ageing, particularly as related to environmental or design factors
- Attitudes to ageing
- Evaluation of training of caregivers for vulnerable groups (e.g., children in out-of-home care, people with dementia)
- Literacy (reading & writing)

### Impact of research

- Quantified the behavioural changes associated with reports of 'personality change' following traumatic brain injury. This allows for rehabilitation programmes to focus specifically on those behaviours which impact on social reintegration following severe injuries.
- Determined which factors cause the greatest amount of stress for family members caring for relatives with brain injuries. This provides useful information for support services to help prevent burnout in family caregivers.
- Provided an understanding of the factors associated with depression following cerebrovascular accident (stroke) in older adults. These findings supported a psychosocial, rather than medication-based, approach to treating the depression.
- Provided a framework for examining the transition from community living to residential care in older adults. This allows care providers to reduce the stress associated with this major lifestyle change.
- Documented cognitive decline over the long term, following an initial period of improvement, for some people after traumatic brain injury. This challenged the standard rehabilitation models which are based on a pattern of initial improvement followed by stability in level of cognitive functioning.

### Top five publications

- Loew, S. J., Marsh, N. V., Rodriguez-Perez, C., Watson, K., & Jones, G. L. (2021). Symptoms and severity of visual stress in nursing students: Implications for education and healthcare delivery. *Revista de Psicología y Educación [Journal of Psychology and Education]*, 16(1), 75-87. <https://doi.org/10.23923/rpye2021.01.203>
- Berry, C., Michelson, D., Othman, E., Tan, J. C., Gee, B., Hodgekins, J., Byrne, R. E., Ng, A. L. O., Marsh, N. V., Coker, S., & Fowler, D. (2020). Views of young people in Malaysia on mental health, help-seeking and unusual psychological experiences. *Early Intervention in Psychiatry*, 14(1), 115-123. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eip.12832>
- Bujnowska, A. M., Rodriguez, C., Garcia, T., Areces, D., & Marsh, N. V. (2019). Parenting and future anxiety: The impact of having a child with developmental disabilities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16, 668. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16040668>
- Marsh, N. V. (2018). Cognitive functioning following traumatic brain injury: The first five years. *NeuroRehabilitation*, 43, 377-386. <https://doi.org/10.3233/NRE-182457>
- Hosking, S. G. & Marsh, N. V. (2013). Predictors of depression at one year post-stroke in older adults. *Brain Impairment*, 14, 381-391. <https://doi.org/10.1017/brimp.2013.30>

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## Dr Denise Dillon

Associate Dean Research Education  
Associate Professor Psychology  
Chair, JCU Singapore IACUC  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, James Cook University, Australia  
GradCertEd (Tertiary Teaching), James Cook University, Australia  
BPsych (Hons)/BSocSc-English Literature, James Cook University,  
Australia

### Background

Dr Denise Dillon is an experienced academic leader with a demonstrated history as head of academic group for psychology, arts and education and membership of several senior-level university and campus committees. She is a strong higher education professional skilled in research design and data analysis, lecturing, editing and public speaking. Denise helps facilitate and promote the strategic direction of research within James Cook University in Singapore, improvements in the quality and impact of that research, and the growth of local and international research collaborations.

Denise is Editor in Chief for the Singapore Psychologist, SPS's flagship magazine on topical issues important to residents of Singapore and beyond. She has supervised close to 100 fourth-year research students and 20 graduate research students, and has examined upwards of 90 undergraduate theses.

Dr Dillon has strong skillsets in conceptualisation of research projects in the area of environmental psychology, particularly in nature connectedness and place attachment, and in editorial advising at both the macro and micro levels. These skillsets have resulted in successful outcomes for numerous research students. Denise also has a keen interest in the field of literature studies and ecocriticism and has published in those fields as well.

### Areas of expertise

- Conceptualisation and implementation of psychology research projects
- Editorial guidance for professional academic writing
- Professional development of researcher capabilities
- Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide (ANFT certification # 1818009)

### Impact of research

- Graduate outcomes for students under Denise's supervision include graduates employed in research-related roles at highly reputed institutions in Singapore. Employers include the Ageing Research Institute for Society and Education (ARISE at NTU), Department of Pharmacology at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS, MACC), the Home Team Behavioural Sciences Centre, the National Neuroscience Institute, the NTU Centre of Social Media Innovations for Communities (COSMIC), the Neurocognitive Research Centre (KKH), the Research Division of the Institute of Mental Health, the Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences (BMSI, A\*STAR), and the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

- Our paper on the benefits of nature immersion provides one of the first comparisons of guided versus unguided forest therapy and revealed that nature connectedness and mood improved through both modalities.
- Our paper on resilience potentials from community gardening provides insights into the potential for mental health benefits in urban environments, specifically in terms of subjective well-being and resilience. These findings have implications for future research in clinical psychology, mental health promotion, and policy.
- Denise's literary criticism draws attention to the powerful impact of fictional works in highlighting potential outcomes for humanity. 'Footprint' explores Atwood's speculative visions of loss & extinction in cultural, linguistic, economic & ecological forms – and of altered forms of survival.

### Top five publications

- Wee, Z. & Dillon, D. (2022). Increasing physical exercise through action and coping planning. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19 (7). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19073883>
- Dillon, D., & Koh, G. K. (2021). A journal of the COVID year: What can we learn from previous pandemics? In M. Khader, D. Dillon, K. Chin, J. Chin, & L. S. Neo (Eds.). *How to Prepare for the Next Pandemic: Psycho-Social Insights for Practitioners and Policymakers*. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing.
- Koay, W. I. & Dillon, D. (2020). Community gardening: Stress, well-being and resilience potentials. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, 17(18), 6740; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17186740>
- Lim, P. Y., Dillon, D., & Chew, P. K. H. (2020). A guide to nature immersion: Psychological and physiological benefits. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, 17(16), 5989; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17165989>
- Dillon, D. (2018). "Footprint": The apocalyptic imprint of end as immanent in Atwood's Oryx and Crake. *eTropic*, 17(2).

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## Dr Jonathan Ramsay

Associate Dean, Student Engagement  
Associate Professor, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psychology), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
BA (Hons) (Psychology & Physiology), University of Oxford, UK

### Background

Originally from the United Kingdom, Dr Ramsay came to Asia in 2009 and is now a Senior Lecturer of Psychology at James Cook University, Singapore. Prior to joining JCU he was a Lecturer and then a Senior Lecturer at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). Over the past 10 years he has led several international research projects with collaborators in China, Hong Kong SAR, Germany, and the United States, and has participated in research collaborations spanning three continents.

His research interests encompass areas of personality and social psychology, with a particular emphasis on the psychology of religion and spirituality. His current research projects examine the way religious individuals explain daily events, as well as the relationships between openness to experience and prejudice across cultures.

Jonathan has published in many international peer-reviewed journals, such as *Nature Human Behaviour*, the *Journal of Research in Personality*, *Political Psychology*, and *Motivation and Emotion*. He is an editorial board member for the *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* and the *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, and regularly reviews for journals such as *Motivation and Emotion* and the *Journal of Pacific Rim Psychology*. He is also the recipient of several internal and external research grants.

### Areas of expertise

- Religion/Spirituality and Well-Being
- Supernatural Explanations and Attributions
- The Psychology of Eastern Religions (esp. Buddhism, Taoism)
- Authoritarian Personality across Cultures
- Openness, Tolerance, and Prejudice

### Impact of research

- Identified previously undocumented methodological considerations for administering the picture story exercise, thus helping to improve the validity of the dominant measure of implicit motives.
- Authored one of the top-three most downloaded articles from the *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* in 2014.
- Enhanced understanding of the causal mechanisms by which religious belief is translated into positive emotionality and enhanced well-being.

- Co-authored a seminal early paper on personality assessment using social media content (over 280 citations to date).
- Participated in several international, multi-lab investigations into the psychology of religion, thus enhancing the cross-cultural validity of key findings in the field.

### Top five publications

- Lin, P.K., Ramsay, J.E., Chan, K., Leow, Y., Lim, B., & Tong, E.M. (2020) Self-transcendence through self-inhibition? God primes reduce self-accessibility. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. Advance online publication. DOI: 10.1037/rel0000312
- Gervais, W.M., Xygalatas, D., McKay, R.T., van Elk, M., Buchtel, E.K., Aveyard, M., Schiavone, S.R., Dar-Nimrod, I., Svedholm-Häkkinen, A.M., Riekkari, T., Klocová, E.K., Ramsay, J.E., & Bulbulia, J. (2017) Global evidence of extreme intuitive moral prejudice against atheists. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1, 0151. doi:10.1038/s41562-017-0151
- Ramsay, J.E., Tong, E.M., Chowdhury, A., & Ho, M.R. (2018) Teleological explanation and positive emotion serially mediate the effect of religion on well-being. *Journal of Personality*, 87(3), 676-689. doi:10.1111/jopy.12425
- Ramsay, J.E., Pang, J.S., Shen, M.J., & Rowatt, W.C. (2014) Rethinking value violation: Priming religion increases prejudice in Singaporean Christians and Buddhists. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 24(1), 1-15. doi: 10.1080/10508619.2012.761525
- Ramsay, J.E. & Pang, J.S. (2017) Anti-immigrant prejudice in rising East Asia: A stereotype content and integrated threat analysis. *Political Psychology*, 38(2), 227-244. doi:10.1111/pops.12312

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## Dr Christopher Lo

Associate Professor, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psychology), University of Toronto, Canada  
MA (Psychology), University of Toronto, Canada  
BA (Psychology), University of British Columbia, Canada

### Background

Originally from Canada, Dr Lo came to Asia in 2021 and is now a Associate Professor of Psychology at James Cook University, Singapore. Prior to joining JCU he was Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Psychiatry and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Over the past 10 years he has collaborated with colleagues in Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, the UK and the US, and with interdisciplinary researchers in Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, Bioethics and Public Health.

His research interests encompass areas of medical/health psychology, social/cross-cultural psychology, and developmental psychology. His research projects examine the way in which individuals cope with chronic and progressive illnesses and the protective effects of social connection throughout the life course.

Christopher has published in many international peer-reviewed journals, such as Psycho-oncology, Psychology, Health & Medicine, Lancet, British Medical Journal, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, European Journal of Cancer Care, Palliative Medicine, Social Science & Medicine, Self & Identity, and Journal of Cross-cultural Psychology. He is also the recipient of several internal and external research grants.

### Areas of expertise

- Psychology/Psychiatry, Health and Disease
- Psychoeducation/Supportive Care in Medical Illness
- Psychosocial Development across the Lifespan
- Culture, Self and Society

### Impact of research

- Proposed a novel developmental perspective to help clinicians treat patients coping with advanced disease.
- Constructed patient self-reported outcome measures of death anxiety and existential distress at the end-of-life for use in clinical trials.
- Contributed to the development of evidence-based palliative care interventions.
- Proposed a novel perspective on personality and identity formation in response to cultural context.

### Top five publications

- Slusarek, E., Martin, V., Sarker, T., McCarthy, M.A., Granton, J., Tan, A., Lo, C. (2020). The mapping of emotions in a respiratory illness: transferability of illness experience from Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension to COVID-19. *Journal of Concurrent Disorders*. <https://concurrentdisorders.ca/2020/12/23/the-mapping-of-emotions-in-a-respiratory-illness-transferability-of-illness-experience-from-pulmonary-arterial-hypertension-to-covid-19/>
- Lo, C. (2018). A developmental perspective on existential distress and adaptation to advanced disease. *Psycho-oncology*, 27(11), 2657-2660. doi:10.1002/pon.4767.
- Krause, S., Rydall, A., Hales, S., Rodin, G., Lo, C. (2015). Initial validation of the Death and Dying Distress Scale for the assessment of death anxiety in advanced cancer. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 49(1), 126-134. doi:10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2014.04.012
- Zimmermann, C., Swami, N., Krzyzanowska, M., Hannon, B., Leighl, N., Oza, A., Moore, M., Rydall, A., Rodin, G., Tannock, I., Donner, A., Lo, C. (2014). Cluster randomized trial of early palliative care for patients with advanced cancer. *Lancet* 383(9930), 1721-1730. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(13)62416-2
- Lo, C., Helwig, C.C., Chen, S.X., Ohashi, M.M., Cheng, C.M. (2011). A needs-based perspective on cultural differences in identity formation. *Identity*, 11(3), 211-230. doi:10.1080/15283488.2011.594782

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## Dr Frederick P. K. Low

Associate Professor, Counselling  
James Cook University (Singapore)

DProfSt (Counselling), University of Southern Queensland, Australia  
MSc, National University of Ireland, Ireland  
MAppPsych, University of Southern Queensland, Australia  
BSocSc (Psych), Western Sydney University, Australia

### Background

Dr Frederick Low, a practising counselling psychologist with over 20 years of experience, has a firm belief in the scientist-practitioner model. He embraces each opportunity to conduct research at work. Over the years, he has engaged in much practice-based research. These include projects on art and play therapies, care and protection of children and young persons, vocational training and assessment and counselling for persons with intellectual disabilities, and refugees' health and education, among others. Many resulted in presentations at national or international conferences.

Frederick's core research interests revolve around interdisciplinary collaborations in schools, school counselling, and counselling for vulnerable groups (i.e., persons with special needs, individuals affected by child abuse and family violence, and refugees' education and mental well-being). Frederick is primarily involved in qualitative research but is keen on mixed-methods projects as well.

Dr Low contributes to international publications in counselling and psychology such as the Oxford Encyclopaedia of Educational Psychology, International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling, Journal of Psychologists and Counsellors in Schools, Asia Pacific Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy, and Pastoral Care in Education.

He is an editorial board member for the Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia and served on the editorial board of the United States based Annals of Psychotherapy and Integrative Health. Frederick had also served on the scientific committees of the 19th Asian Conference on Intellectual Disabilities (2009) and the Singapore Counselling Symposium (2015).

Frederick continues to maintain a small but active private practice.

### Professional engagement

- School counselling
- Interdisciplinary professional / clinical collaborations
- Counselling for vulnerable groups
- Refugee mental health & education
- Qualitative research

### Impact of research

- Authored one of the top three most-read articles in the Asia Pacific Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy in 2015.
- Authored one of the articles in the top 25% (by citations received), published in the International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling in 2009.
- Developed a framework for analysing challenges in counselling in schools across key domains (i.e., internal, external, system and personal).
- Examined stakeholders' perceptions on school counselling in Singapore and revealed gaps in stakeholders' understanding that were barriers for successful collaborations between teachers, school counsellors and community-based counsellors.
- Uncovered community-based counsellors' perceptions of school counselling, an area that was otherwise largely under-explored.
- Conceptualised and led an in-service refugee teacher's training programme in Malaysia with refugee mental health and educational research designed as an integral part of the project. Influenced and mobilised more than 20 researchers, resulting in 8 publications from these studies since 2014.

### Top five publications

- Low, P.K. (2019). Interdisciplinary professional partnerships. In Oxford Encyclopaedia of Educational Psychology. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.949
- Tan, C.S., Tay, K.W., Ong, W.H., Low, S.K., Peh, K.S. & Low, P.K. (2019). Assessing the effectiveness of a mental health literacy programme for refugee teachers in Malaysia. Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences. 2019;26(6):120-126
- Low, P.K. (2015). Stakeholders' perceptions of school counselling in Singapore. Journal of Psychologists and Counsellors in Schools, 25(2), 200-216. doi:10.1017/jgc.2014.21
- Low, P.K. (2014). Looking in from the outside: Community counsellors' opinions and attitudes to school counselling in Singapore. Pastoral Care in Education, 32(4), 295-305. doi:10.1080/02643944.2014.974663
- Low, P.K. (2009). Considering the challenges of counselling practice in schools. International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling, 31(2), 71-79. doi:10.1007/s10447-009-9069-1

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## A/Prof Heather Winskel

Associate Professor, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psychology), University of Durham, U.K.  
Graduate Diploma Language Studies and TESOL, Edith Cowan University, Australia.  
Graduate Diploma Education (Primary/Special Education), University of Western Australia.  
B. Sc. (hons) (Neurobiology), University of Sussex, U.K.

### Background

A/Professor Winskel is an internationally recognised expert in the areas of psycholinguistics and cross-cultural psychology. Her interests include a strong focus on conducting research on diverse languages and their writing systems. Academic appointments have been held at various universities in Australia, United Kingdom and Thailand. She has also been a visiting research professor at various institutions in the Asian region.

A major contribution is that she has both publicised and promoted the study of S/SE Asian languages and their writing systems. Traditionally, research has focused on European languages and yet Asian languages and their writing systems have distinctive and very interesting and useful characteristics for psycholinguistic research. By including these lesser studied languages, we can build more comprehensive and representative universal models of psycholinguistic mechanisms and processes.

A/Professor Winskel has had extensive experience of collaborating and conducting research in the South and South-east Asian region. She has built up a number of collaborations with international colleagues in Asia, Europe and USA. These collaborations have resulted in research grant funding and high-quality academic publications including Journal of Memory and Language, Psychological Science, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, Reading and Writing, British Journal of Educational Psychology, Journal of Child Language, Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, and Applied Psycholinguistics.

### Areas of expertise

- Psycholinguistics
- Cognitive psychology
- Languages and applied linguistics
- Reading and writing in different scripts
- Bilingualism
- Cross-cultural psychology
- Educational psychology
- Experimental psychology

### Impact of research

- Publicised and promoted the study of S/SE Asian languages and their writing systems.
- Several journal articles are the first internationally published papers in that particular research area.
- Chief editor of South and Southeast Asian Psycholinguistics published by Cambridge University Press in 2014, 2019.
- Reviewer of research grant applications and reviewer for various international journals
- Has given colloquium, guest lectures and workshops at various universities and conferences.

### Top five publications

- Winskel, H. (2022). Script relativity hypothesis: Evidence from reading with different spatial layouts and varied lexical tone. *Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 35, 1323–1341 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11145-021-10225-7>.
- Winskel, H. & Padakannaya, P. (2014, 2019). *South and Southeast Asian Psycholinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <http://www.cambridge.org/ve/academic/subjects/languages-linguistics/psycholinguistics-and-neurolinguistics/south-and-southeast-asian-psycholinguistics>.
- Winskel, H., Ratitamkul, T., & Perea, M. (2018). Can the first letter advantage be shaped by script-specific characteristics? *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning Memory and Cognition*, 44, 493-500. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0000434>.
- Winskel, H., & Perea, M. (2014). Does tonal information affect the early stages of visual-word processing in Thai? *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 67(2), 209-219. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17470218.2013.813054>.
- Winskel, H., Radach, R., & Luksaneeyanawin, S. (2009). Eye movements when reading spaced and unspaced Thai and English: A comparison of Thai-English bilinguals and English monolinguals. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 61, 339-351. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2009.07.002>.

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## A/Prof Maria Hennessy

Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psychology), University of Queensland, Australia  
MPsych (Clinical) (Psychology), University of Tasmania, Australia  
B.A. (Hons) (Psychology), University of Tasmania, Australia

### Background

Associate Professor Maria Hennessy has a passion for exploring innovation in clinical psychology training and improving our understanding of mental health. Her research has focused on improving psychological assessment in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology for over 25 years. She is an experienced clinical researcher over 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals since 1991, including four book chapters, fifteen journal articles, and competitive grant funding of over \$750 000. She has supervised over 70 research students through their Honours, Masters or PhD journeys.

Associate Professor Maria Hennessy possesses strong skillsets in neuropsychological assessment, supporting survivor outcomes after traumatic brain injury, and the application of wellbeing science to mental health practice. These skillsets have produced collaborative innovations in neurosurgical care after brain injury, the development of new assessment approaches to post-traumatic amnesia, and multidisciplinary approaches to cognitive assessment in clinical practice. Her recent research focus includes the use of systems-informed wellbeing science to innovate clinical practice through new approaches to wellbeing assessment, positive psychological interventions, and recovery pathways after illness and injury.

### Professional engagement

- Clinical psychology
- Clinical neuropsychology
- Wellbeing science
- Design and evaluation of new measures of wellbeing
- Development of novel assessment paradigms to improve mental health outcomes
- Assessment of post-traumatic amnesia
- Health outcomes after chronic subdural haematoma
- Positive psychological interventions
- Mindfulness-based strengths practice

### Impact of research

- Improving wellbeing and recovery outcomes after chronic subdural haematoma in adults.
- Development of wellbeing assessment paradigms to support improved mental health outcomes.
- Improving the understanding of the post-traumatic amnesia, and support for the development of new assessment protocols that include retrograde amnesia, social communication and behaviour.
- Informing the development of pathophysiological models of post-traumatic amnesia and predictive relationships with biological outcome variables e.g. white matter microstructure changes.
- Development of models for the effects of midazolam on memory and cognition including anterograde amnesia, working memory, declarative memory, procedural memory, information processing, meta-memory and priming.

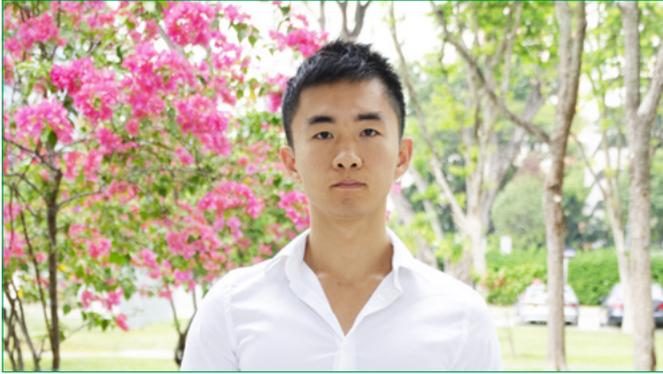
### Top five publications

- Hennessy, M. & Sullivan, K. (2022). Quality of life, community integration, service needs, and clinical outcomes of people with traumatic brain injury in urban, regional, and remote areas of Queensland, Australia. *Australian Journal of Rural Health*, 30(2), 164-174. doi.org/10.1111/ajr.12823
- Hennessy, M., Marshman, L.A.G., Delle Baite, L., McLellan, J. (2020). Optimizing and simplifying post-traumatic amnesia testing after traumatic brain injury despite common confounders in routine practice. *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*, 81, 37-42. doi.org/10.1016/j.jocn.2020.09.030
- Moffatt, C., Hennessy, M., Marshman, L. & Manickman, A. (2019). Long-term Health Outcomes in Survivors after Chronic Subdural Haematoma. *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*, 66, 133-137. doi.org/10.1016/j.jocn.2019.04.039
- Hennessy, M., Patrick, J.C. & Swinbourne, A.L. (2018). Improving the assessment of mental health using the MHI-21. *Australian Psychologist*, 53(4), 313-324. https://doi.org/10.1111/ap.12330
- Marshman, L.A.G., Jakabek, D., Hennessy, M., Guazzo, E. & Quirk, F. (2013). Post-traumatic amnesia. *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience* 20(11), 1475-81. doi.org/10.1016/j.jocn.2012.11.02

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JCU Research Profile





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## Dr Adam Wang

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Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, Curtin University, Australia  
BSc (Hons) University of Western Australia, Australia

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### Background

**Originally from China and having received his education in Australia, Dr Adam Wang joined James Cook University Singapore in 2018 and is now a senior lecturer in Psychology.**

Adam is an early career researcher coming from a social cognition background. His current research entails classic experimental social cognition topics such as embodied cognition, revenge, impression formation, and social exclusion. Adam has published in many highcalibre peer-reviewed journals, such as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, and *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. Adam is currently leading a large scale multilab research project involving dozens of labs from around the world.

### Areas of expertise

- Impression formation/person perception
- Ironic effects of mental control
- Social exclusion

### Impact of research

- Showing for the first time that response timing can influence perceptions of trait characteristics such as the personality dimension of extraversion, and how this could lead to downstream social consequences such as in the context of employment.
- Establishing the inextricable link between the sensory experience of loudness and psychological experience of interpersonal closeness, its underlying mechanisms, and implications in the context of social exclusion.
- Setting the record straight in terms of the effect of response delay on perceived sincerity; identifying its underlying mechanisms, boundary parameters, and controllability.
- Enriching the social exclusion literature by testing a novel, shared social exclusion (and acceptance) paradigm - showing the solidarity-enhancing effects of shared social exclusion and acceptance, and its underlying mechanism.
- Correcting misleading conclusions from existing meta-analytical research in the domain of thought suppression by showing the manifestation of ironic effects under cognitive load.

### Top five publications

- Wang, D. & Ziano, I. (In Press). Faster Responders are Perceived as More Extraverted. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001254>
- Wang, D., Ziano, I., Hagger, M. S., & Chatzisarantis, N. L. D. (2022). Loudness Perceptions Influence Feelings of Interpersonal Closeness and Protect Against Detrimental Psychological Effects of Social Exclusion. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 48, 566-581. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672211015896>
- Ziano, I., & Wang, D. (In press). Slow Lies: Response Delays Promote Perceptions of Insincerity. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspa0000250>
- Gao, C., Wang, D., Chan, K. Q., Miao, X., & Wang, Z. (2021). Close-knit Ties through Thick and Thin: Sharing Social Exclusion and Acceptance Enhances Social Bond. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 51, 197-211. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2729>
- Wang, D., Hagger, M. S., & Chatzisarantis, N. L. D. (2020). Ironic effects of thought suppression – A meta-analysis. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 15, 778-793.

**Further  
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JCU Research Profile





## Dr Divjyot Kaur

Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
MPsych (Clinical), James Cook University, Australia  
MSocSc (Applied Psychology), National University of Singapore, Singapore  
MEd, Punjab University, India  
MSc (Child Development), Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India

### Background

Dr Divjyot Kaur served as an Ethics Advisor for more than 3 years, and is currently a Member of James Cook University's Human Ethics and Research Committee. Dr Kaur has been in the field of education for the past 20 years, teaching at various educational levels. She specialised in Child Development in India, and has previously worked closely with children with developmental disorders in Special Education school settings and through her clinical work at a local hospital.

Dr Kaur's doctorate research focused on ethnic differences in cardiovascular reactivity (CVR) to stress. She examined differences in CVR across Chinese, Malay, and Indian participants in Singapore and found that Indians showed highest CVR.

Her current research interests involve various stress-related topics such as differentiated responses to stress and emotion across cultures, acculturation and its relation to physical health conditions, job stress and its implications in globally diverse organisations, and psychosocial interventions for stress and anger management. Caregiver stress is an often overlooked area as the focus of research tends to be on individuals with mental illness.

Dr Kaur is examining caregiver stress among parents of children with developmental disorders as well as aspects that lead to the breakdown of the caregiving process as individuals with developmental disorders transition to adulthood. Dr Kaur draws on the definition of mental well-being itself as an additional driver of her research. This construct has been elaborated upon extensively in literature, but there are often overlaps in these definitions and the measures used for examining mental well-being.

### Areas of expertise

- Stress and cardiovascular reactivity across ethnicity
- Stress and executive function
- Acculturative stress among international students
- Developmental disorders and parental stress
- Workplace stress and burnout
- Stress and mental well-being

### Impact of research

- Demonstrated the importance of vocational identity development in undergraduate students' learning, and suggested a need for more identity interventions or career counselling services in college and pre-university contexts.
- Revealed differences in CVR among ethnic groups in Singapore as well as between Indians living in India and those living in Singapore. These differences may reflect cultural differences and need to be explored further with respect to their relationship to different rates of coronary heart disease among these groups.
- The successful intervention for CABG patients has direct implications for focused interventions that lead to reduced incidence of cardiac events during post-operative recovery and overall positive outcomes for heart disease patients.

### Top publications

- Teoh, A., Kaur, D., Dillon, R. & Hristova, D. (2020). Developing Gaming Instinctual Motivation Scale (GIMS): item development and pre-testing. In: Game User Experience And Player-Centered Design. International Series on Computer Entertainment and Media Technology. Springer, Cham, Switzerland, pp. 163-182. doi:10.1007/978-3-030-37643-7\_7
- Wong, Z. & Kaur, D. (2018). The role of vocational identity development and motivational beliefs in undergraduates' student engagement. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 31(3), 294-316. doi.org/10.1080/09515070.2017.1314249
- Kaur, D. & Bishop, G. (2013). Cardiovascular responses to stress in Singapore and India. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 87(2), 130-140. doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpsycho.2012.11.011
- Bishop, G. D., Kaur, D., Tan, V. L. M., Chua, Y. L. Liew, S. M. & Mak K. H. (2005). Effects of a psychosocial skills training workshop on psychophysiological and psychosocial risk in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting. *American Heart Journal*, 150(3), 602-609. doi:10.1016/j.ahj.2004.10.015

Further  
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JCU Research Profile





## Dr Jagdeep Kaur Sabharwal

Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, Punjabi University, India  
GradCertEd (Academic Practice), James Cook University, Australia  
MPhil (Psych), Punjabi University, India  
MA (Psych), Punjabi University, India  
BA (Psych Hons), Punjabi University, India

### Background

Dr Jagdeep Sabharwal's interest in fruitful social interactions and how people influence each other prompted her to pursue a PhD in Social Psychology. A significant part of her work experience has been in teaching and training. She worked for many years as a trainer before a career shift to teaching and research at the James Cook University. As a researcher, Dr Sabharwal views herself primarily as a positive psychologist, with a focus on wellbeing, mindfulness and stress management as well as broad comparative interests that reach out into other disciplines; in particular gerontechnology and transformative tourism experiences.

Dr Sabharwal is an educational professional with expertise in curriculum development and blended learning. She has special interest in examining the factors supporting learner engagement and academic well-being. Dr Sabharwal has supervised multiple honours and postgraduate research projects. Her cross-disciplinary collaborations are focused on active aging and burnout in healthcare and education sectors.

### Areas of expertise

- Well-being
- Burnout
- Mindfulness and stress management
- Learning design
- Acculturative stress among migrant workforce in Singapore
- Gerontechnology

### Impact of research

- Highlighted the role of gerontechnology/AgeTech in providing alternative means of assistance in the field of elderly care and its significance in maintenance of elderly well-being.
- Developed a learning design model to support quick transition of teaching across different modes of delivery while keeping the student learning experience intact. This model works on the principle of finding a local optimum solution which may or may not always deliver a best solution but can help mitigate the effect of situational factors that are beyond our control, like unprecedented circumstances which need urgent actions in minimum possible time.

### Top publications

- Chawla, S., Sabharwal, J., McCarthy, B. & Erhardt, R. (2021). Technology acceptance, social marketing and the design of a mobile health app to support active aging amongst senior citizens in the Asia Pacific region. In: Broadening Cultural Horizons in Social Marketing. Springer Nature Singapore, Singapore, pp. 239-261. doi: 10.1007/978-981-15-8517-3
- Suryanarayanan, S., Srinivasan, S., Lin, W., Wang, L., & Sabharwal, J. (2021). Managing customer expectations: a study of two four-star hotels in Malaysia and Singapore. In: Service Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality: insights from Asia. Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management. Springer, Cham, pp. 41-53. doi: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-57694-3\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-57694-3_4)
- Sabharwal, J., & Chawla, S. (2021). A G-READY model to support subject design for software engineering. CEUR Workshop Proceedings. In: SEED 2020: 3rd Software Engineering Education Workshop 2020, 1 December 2020, Online Event.

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Information

JCU Research Profile





## Dr Joanna Barlas

Senior Lecturer, Clinical Psychology  
Chartered Clinical Psychologist  
James Cook University (Singapore)

DClinPsy, University College London, UK  
MSc, Glasgow Caledonian University, UK  
BA (Hons), University of Oxford, UK

### Background

Dr Barlas is a chartered clinical psychologist with the Health and Care Professionals Council UK. In her position at James Cook University in Singapore, she is responsible for clinical and research supervision of trainee clinical psychologists.

Dr Barlas draws on five years of experience in the UK National Health Service, specialising in working with adults with severe and enduring mental health problems and offending behaviour in both inpatient secure hospitals and community settings. Her clinical knowledge covers a wide-range of presenting problems, and Dr Barlas has particular interest in trauma, psychosis and personality disorder and their links to offending behaviour. Her clinical approach and research interests lie in cognitive-behavioural approaches with a special focus on schema therapy. Dr Barlas primarily uses qualitative methodology, particularly interpretative phenomenological analysis and thematic analysis in her research, investigating topics such as the relationships between traumatic experiences, psychopathology and offending behaviour and perceptions of risk and resilience.

### Areas of expertise

- Qualitative Methodology
- Forensic Psychology
- Schema Therapy

### Impact of research

- Regis Residential Care Homes in Australia expanded the use of robotic seals in their lifestyle programs following the positive findings of the research.
- The Ministry of Social and Family Development in Singapore used the research findings about maltreatment and resilience for service planning and resource allocation.

### Top five publications

- Louis, J., Ortiz, V., Barlas, J., Lee, J., Lockwood, G., Chong, W., McDonald, L. K. & Sim, P. (2021). The Good Enough Parenting early intervention schema therapy based program: participant experience. *PLoS ONE*, 16 (1), pp. 0-0, DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0243508.
- Ke, T. & Barlas, J. (2020). Thinking about feeling: using trait emotional intelligence in understanding the associations between early maladaptive schemas and coping styles. *Psychology and Psychotherapy: theory, research and practice*, 93, pp. 1-20, DOI:10.1111/papt.12202.
- Lim, C. & Barlas, J. (2019). The effects of Toxic Early Childhood Experiences on depression according to Young Schema Model: a scoping review. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 246, pp. 1-13, DOI:10.1016/j.jad.2018.12.006.
- Go, M., Chi, M., Barlas, J. & Chng, G. (2017). The role of strengths in anger and conduct problems in maltreated adolescents. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 67, 22-31.
- Birks, M., Bodak, M., Barlas, J., Harwood, J. & Pether, M. (2016). Robotic seals as therapeutic tools in an aged care facility: A qualitative study. *Journal of Aging*, 2016 1-7.

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JCU Research Profile





## Dr Kai Qin Chan

Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands  
MSocSci, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
BSocSci (Hons), National University of Singapore, Singapore

### Background

Dr Chan is a social psychologist who is interested in the nature of emotions. His research is shaping how emotion scientists think about the functionality of emotions, particularly on our perceptual systems. Of all the emotions humans experience, Dr Chan is most fascinated by disgust. His future agenda investigates how disgust shapes different aspects of human food culture and its implications on our understanding of public health, especially in countries where hygiene standards are poor. He has supervised over 30 research students and some of them have been well-placed in competitive graduate programmes such as the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington at Seattle, the Free University of Amsterdam, Leiden University, and Tilburg University.

Dr Chan is also passionate about developing psychology as a scientific discipline in regional countries such as Indonesia and India. He believes that psychology has a lot to offer to society, beyond "traditional" applications such as in clinical or business settings. To that end, he set up a psychology department in India's first liberal arts university, he has given experimental methods, academic writing, and programming workshops in Indonesia, and is currently the only non-American grant reviewer for the APS Teaching Grant.

### Areas of expertise

- Functionality of emotions
- Olfactory and auditory assessments
- Programming (R, Python, Inquisit)

### Impact of research

- Provided a crucial reconceptualization about the embodiment of metaphors.
- Demonstrated that emotions can influence perceptual capabilities other than in vision.

### Top five publications

- Gao, C., Wang, D., Chan, K. Q., Miao, X. Y., & Wang, Z.-J. (2020). Close-knit ties through thick and thin: Sharing emotional events enhances social bonds. *European Journal of Social Psychology*.
- Chan, K. Q., van Dooren, R., Holland, R. W., & van Knippenberg, A. (2019). Disgust lowers olfactory threshold: A test of the underlying mechanism. *Cognition & Emotion*, 34, 621-627. doi:10.1080/02699931.2019.1660145
- Sparks, A., Fessler, D. M., Chan, K. Q., Holbrooks, C. C., & Ashokkumar, A. (2018). Disgust as a mechanism for decision making under risk: Illuminating sex differences and individual risk-taking correlates of disgust propensity. *Emotion*, 18, 942-958. doi:10.1037/emo0000389
- Chan, K. Q., Holland, R. W., van Loon, R., Arts, R., & van Knippenberg, A. (2016). Disgust and fear lower olfactory threshold. *Emotion*, 16, 740-749. doi:10.1037/emo0000113
- Chan, K. Q., Tong, M. W. E., Tan, D. H., & Koh, A. H. Q. (2013). What do love and jealousy taste like? *Emotion*, 13, 1142-1149. doi:10.1037/a0033758

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JCU Research Profile





## Dr Lidia Suárez

Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD National University of Singapore, Singapore  
MPsych (Clinical) James Cook University, Singapore  
MSocSci National University of Singapore, Singapore  
MBA Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Spain  
BPsych Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

### Background

Dr Suárez has conducted research in the areas of word recognition, lexical stress, bilingualism, and working memory for the past 15 years. In recent years, she has expanded her research interests to areas such as quality of life and mindfulness, and has conducted validation studies of several psychometric tools in Singapore.

Dr Suárez has supervised to completion more than 40 thesis projects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is currently a member of the James Cook University Singapore Research Committee, and an ad-hoc reviewer for journals such as PLOS ONE, Behavioral Research Methods, Psychology of Music, Language Awareness, and the Spanish Journal of Psychology.

### Areas of expertise

- Word recognition
- Bilingualism
- Quality of Life
- Validation of psychometric tools
- Software (E-Prime, SPSS, AMOS)

### Impact of research

- Showed that alphabetic languages are predominantly represented in phonological form in memory, while logographic languages are represented in both phonemic and visual codes.
- Showed that the effects of word frequency during word recognition are critical when there is relatively little competition between similar-sounding words.
- Demonstrated that second-language proficiency is associated with conceptual restructuring.
- Showed that foreign-language lexical-stress patterns are encoded in memory and used during foreign word recognition.
- Provided evidence of the positive association of music training with visual-motor coordination and visuospatial memory skills.
- Validated the World Health Organization WHOQOL-BREF Quality of Life Assessment and the Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire in Singapore. These can be used to measure intervention outcomes and plan services aimed to increase quality of life and decrease the risk of suicidal behaviour, respectively.

### Top five publications

- Yeo, Z. Z., & Suárez, L. (2022). Validation of the mental health continuum-short form: The bifactor model of emotional, social, and psychological well-being. *PLOS ONE*, 17(5), e0268232. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0268232
- Teo, D. C. H., Suárez, L., & Oei, T. P. S. (2021). Psychometric Properties of the Problem Solving Inventory in an Singapore Young Male Adult Sample. *Current Psychology*, 40, 1420-1428. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-018-0073-7>
- Suárez, L., Tay, B., & Abdullah, F. (2018). Psychometric properties of the World Health Organization WHOQOL-BREF Quality of Life Assessment in Singapore. *Quality of Life Research*, 27(11), 2945-2952. doi:10.1007/s11136-018-1947-8
- Teo, D. C. H., Suárez, L., & Oei, T. P. S. (2018). Validation of the interpersonal needs questionnaire of young male adults in Singapore. *PLOS ONE*, 1-9, doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0198839

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JCU Research Profile





## Dr M Akshir Ab Kadir

Senior Lecturer, Education  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Education), University of Melbourne, Australia  
PGDE, National Institute of Education, Singapore  
MA (English Studies) National University of Singapore, Singapore  
BA (Arts & Social Sciences), National University of Singapore, Singapore

### Background

Dr M. Akshir Ab Kadir is currently Senior Lecturer and education programme coordinator at James Cook University. He has more than 20 years' experience in the field of education and has taken on various roles and appointments.

This includes being an editor at an international publishing firm, classroom teacher in Singapore and Australian schools, deputy director at an educational consultancy organization and teacher educator at institutes of higher learning. He has multifaceted expertise and interests in education and teaches in areas such as curriculum, pedagogy, educational psychology and assessment. His works have been published in high impact international journals and have attracted numerous citations.

### Areas of expertise

- Curriculum
- Pedagogy
- Assessment
- Teacher learning & knowledge
- Educational policy
- Critical & creative thinking

### Impact of research

- Conducted the first major qualitative research on the implementation of critical thinking under Singapore's educational policy, *Thinking Schools, Learning Nation*.
- Developed a heuristic framework that conceptualises the essential teacher knowledge domains in the teaching of critical thinking. This framework guides the design of teacher education programmes that aim to teacher competence in critical thinking instruction.

- Conducted the first critical review of *Thinking Schools, Learning Nation* which employs a student voice theoretical perspective.
- Put forth recommendations to address the implications on teacher education in the teaching of the critical and creative thinking as a general capability in the Australian curriculum.
- Postulated the concept of Wittgenstein's 'family resemblance' to unify the multifaceted notions of critical thinking in the international literature

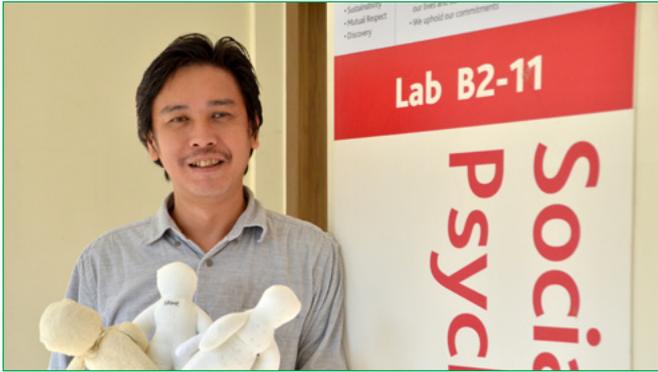
### Top five publications

- Ab Kadir M A (2017) What teacher knowledge matters in effectively developing critical thinkers in the 21st century curriculum? *Thinking Skills and Creativity*, 23. pp. 79-90
- Ab Kadir M A (2019) Singapore's educational policy through the prism of student voice: recasting students as co-agents of educational change and 'disrupting' the status quo? *Journal of Education Policy*, 34 (4). pp. 547-576
- Ab Kadir M A (2018) An inquiry into critical thinking in the Australian curriculum: examining its conceptual understandings and their implications on developing critical thinking as a "general capability" on teachers' practice and knowledge. *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*, 38 (4). pp. 533-549
- Ab Kadir A (2016) Engendering a culture of thinking in a culture of performativity: the challenge of mediating tensions in the Singaporean educational system. *Cambridge Journal of Education*, 47 (2). pp. 227-246
- Ab Kadir M A (2017) Critical thinking and learner diversity in the Australian Curriculum: implications and epistemological tensions. *International Journal of Pedagogies and Learning*, 11 (3). pp. 225-237

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JCU Research Profile





## Dr Patrick Lin

Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
BA (Specialized Hons) (Psychology), York University, Canada

### Background

**Dr Lin joined James Cook University in Singapore in 2007 where he has served as the fourth-year psychology program coordinator and a human ethics advisor.**

Dr Lin has supervised almost 100 final-year undergraduate thesis projects. Several of these projects stemmed from his research expertise in the specialised areas of God Priming and interpersonal attraction. Dr Lin has strong skillsets in quantitative research methods/designs and mediation/moderation analyses. Particularly, he likes to employ interesting research techniques and measurements in addressing his research questions. These include using subliminal priming to manipulate the God concept, using the cold pressor task to measure prosociality, and using the voodoo doll task to examine revenge behaviors.

### Areas of expertise

- Priming - in particular the impact of God concept priming on a) prosocial behaviour & b) the self
- Interpersonal attraction – a) mediators in the similarity attraction link & b) work-partner selection

### Impact of research

- From research on priming (God concept): We found that people in general are prosocial in nature. Specifically, we found a range of prosociality from the simplest forms (i.e., donating money and volunteering time) to extreme acts (i.e., enduring self-pain for a good cause to non-related individuals). However, the most interesting fact is that, when God believers were primed with a God concept, their level of prosociality doubled in comparison to God believers who were not primed with a God concept and to non-believers.
- From research on interpersonal attraction: Together with Prof. Ramadhar Singh (the leading expert in the field of similarity attraction), we have discovered the reasons behind similarity attraction. While common believe is that affect (i.e., emotion/feeling) “controls” us to like another person who is similar to us, we found that the most important factor that facilitates the attraction link is the “trust” in you held by the other individual.
- Co-authored a seminal early paper on personality assessment using social media content (over 150 citations to date).
- Participated in several international, multi-lab investigations into the psychology of religion, thus enhancing the cross-cultural validity of key findings in the field.

### Top five publications

- Lin, P. K. F., & Ramsay, E. J., Chan, K. Q., Lim, B. Y. R., Lowe, Y. J., & Tong, E. M.W. (in press) Self-transcendence through self-inhibition?: God primes reduce self-accessibility. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*.
- Lin, P. K., F. & Suarez, L (2020) The Effect of Supernatural Priming on Cheating Behaviour. *Religions*, 11 (6), 315
- Lin, P. K. F., Tong, M. W., Lee, L., Low, A. H. M., & Gomes, D. (2016). The prosocial impact of God concept priming on God believers. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 3, 93-103.
- Singh, R., Wegener, D. T., Sankaran, K., Singh, S., Lin, P. K. F., Seow, M. X., Teng, J. S. Q., & Shuli, S. (2015). On the importance of trust in interpersonal attraction from attitude similarity. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 32, 1-22.
- Singh, R., Ramasamy, M., Self, W. T., Simons, J. J. P., & Lin, P. K. F. (2013). Age-moderated effects of consequence and intent information on punishment: An intuitive prosecutorial interpretation. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 174, 1-24.

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JCU Research Profile





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## Dr Peter Chew

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Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, James Cook University, Australia  
BPsych (Hons Class I), James Cook University, Australia

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### Background

Dr Chew completed his PhD at James Cook University in 2016. His primary area of research focus is on behavioral addictions, terror management theory, and psychometrics. Specifically, he is interested in (a) examining the prevalence, correlates, effects, and interventions of various behavioral addictions (e.g., Internet gaming disorder), (b) examining the effects of reminders of death on a broad range of human behavior, and (c) evaluating the psychometric properties of psychological instruments among the Singaporean population.

Dr Chew is a Primary Advisor on the Register of Advisors. Since 2014, he has a total of 25 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He has also successfully supervised more than 35 projects at the graduate and undergraduate level. Currently, he is the primary advisor for 4 PhD/DPsych projects. Finally, he is an advisory board member at Annabelle Psychology Pte Ltd and an editorial board member for PLOS ONE and Journal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis.

### Areas of expertise

- Behavioral addictions
- Terror management theory
- Psychometrics

### Impact of research

- Clarified the relationships between personality and Internet gaming disorder using meta-analysis.
- Examined terror management theory's predictions in the COVID-19 pandemic using big data analysis.
- Validated two instruments of statistics anxiety and two instruments of connection to nature for use amongst the Singaporean population.

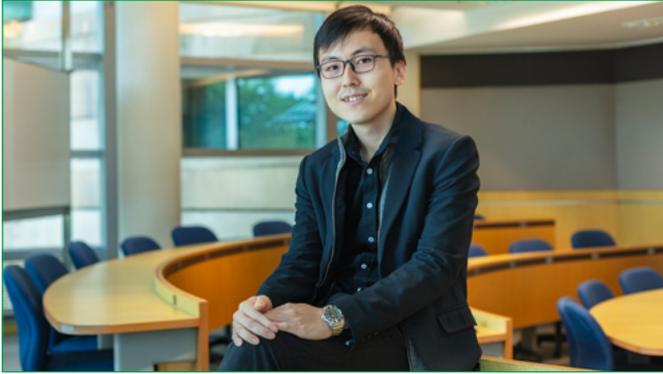
### Top five publications

- Leung, H.-T., Chew, P. K. H., & Caltabiano, N. J. (2022). Mortality salience effects of critical incidents – A systematic literature review and research agenda. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221098890>
- Chew, P. K. H. (2022). Big data analysis of terror management theory's predictions in the COVID-19 pandemic. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221092583>
- Chew, P. K. H. (2022). A meta-analytic review of Internet gaming disorder and the Big Five personality factors. *Addictive Behaviors*, 126, 107193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2021.107193>
- Chew, P. K. H., & Yap, B. L. M.\* (2021). Mortality salience in an offline and online setting. *Death Studies*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2021.1888826>
- Chew, P. K. H. (2019). Psychometric evaluation of two instruments to assess connection to nature / Evaluación psicométrica de dos instrumentos que miden la conexión con la naturaleza. *Psychology*, 10(3), 1–31. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21711976.2019.1607470>

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JCU Research Profile





## Dr Sean Lee

Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psych), Singapore Management University, Singapore  
MSc (Psych), Singapore Management University, Singapore  
SDip (Statistics & Data Mining), Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore  
BA (Psych), Murdoch University, Australia

### Background

Sean's primary specialization is industrial and organizational psychology. His secondary specializations include emotions, well-being and psychometrics. His studies focus on how we may enhance employees' creativity, as well as promote better health and overall well-being.

In terms of teaching, he has experience in teaching up to the postgraduate level and has been awarded the JCUS Teaching Excellence Award (2020). He currently serves as an Editorial Board Member at the Asian Journal of Social Psychology and as a Review Editor Board Member at Frontiers in Psychology (Emotion Science Section). He also conducts ad hoc peer-reviews for journals such as Organizational Psychology Review, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, and Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health.

### Areas of expertise

- Creativity and Innovation
- Teams and Group Processes
- Emotions, Health, and Subject Well-Being
- Psychometrics

### Impact of research

- Shed light on the effects of diversity in agreeableness among team members on team creativity
- Contributed to current efforts in ascertaining the role of inflammation in the pathogenesis of depression and anxiety disorder
- Encourage greater adoption of measurement invariance testing to ensure that scales used are psychometrically equivalent and, therefore, directly comparable when administered to various groups of participants

### Top five publications

- Lee, S. T. H. & Park, G. (2020). Does diversity in team members' agreeableness benefit creative teams? *Journal of Research in Personality*, 85.
- Lee, S. T. H. (2020). Inflammation, depression, and anxiety disorder: A population-based study examining the association between interleukin-6 and the experiencing of depressive and anxiety symptoms. *Psychiatry Research*, 285.
- Lee, S. T. H., Hartanto, A., Yong, J. C., Koh, B., & Leung, A. K.-y. (2019). Examining the cross-cultural validity of the Positive Affect and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS) between an Asian (Singaporean) sample and a Western (American) sample. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 23(1), 109-116.
- Lee, S. T. H., Choy, K. C., & Yong, J. C. (in press). A bubble of protection: Examining dispositional optimism as a psychological buffer of the deleterious association between negative work-family spillover and psychological health. *European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology*.
- Hartanto, A., Lee, S. T. H., & Yong, J. C. (2019). Dispositional gratitude moderates the association between socioeconomic status and interleukin-6. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1), 802-812.

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## Dr Smita Singh

Senior Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psychology), National University of Singapore, Singapore  
MPhil, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India

### Background

Dr Singh's current research focuses on decision making in relation to prosocial behaviour. When are people likely to help? What prosocial decisions do people make while they are in different social environments? What are the cognitive processes underlying prosocial decision-making? These are some of the core questions that drive her current research, and therefore through her research, Dr Singh aims to address numerous conundrums in her field. Most of her projects explore the determinants of helping behaviour (like personality, task difficulty or resources) and focuses on finding how prosocial behaviour could be encouraged (priming).

Dr Singh is also passionately involved in research linked to attitude similarity, interpersonal relationships, and social judgment. In collaboration with colleagues at the National University of Singapore and the Indian Institute of Management, and through data collected at James Cook University in Singapore, Dr Singh explored mediational links between similar attitudes and interpersonal attraction.

Dr Singh received her PhD in Psychology from the National University of Singapore in 2010. In her doctoral research, she studied the effects of psychological distance on the construal and judgment of organizational leaders. She joined James Cook University in Singapore in August 2009 and, since then, has been actively involved in teaching, supervision and doing collaborative and independent research. She received the best research paper award at the Asian Congress of Applied Psychology 2015 in Singapore.

### Areas of expertise

- Judgment and decision-making model of prosocial behaviour, trust, social support and in interpersonal relations
- Applying social cognitive principles to understand leadership and understanding the Indian model of leadership
- Studying attitudes towards palliative care knowledge.
- Studying issues related to parenting and filial piety.

### Impact of research

- Developed follower centric approaches to understand the perception of leaders and its determinants. Her doctoral and post-doctoral research successfully applied the socio-cognitive principle (Construal Level Theory) in understanding leader behaviour in an organizational setting.

- Examined the role of interpersonal trust in relationship formation among the peoples of the tropic. Developed a statistically tested mediational model of attitude similarity and interpersonal attraction and primarily established the centrality of trust in relationship formation. Research in the field of interpersonal trust has gained considerable attention in both organisational and social psychology.
- Establishing a measure of prosocial behaviour and finding ways to enhance prosocial behaviour. Research in this field has numerous positive societal implications. Current research therefore contributes to the understanding of moral character and in improving prosocialness.

### Top five publications

- Li, W. W., Singh, S., & Keerthigha, C. (2021). A cross-cultural study of filial piety and palliative care knowledge: moderating effect of culture and universality of filial piety. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12.
- Li, W. W., Chhabra, J. & Singh, S. (2021) Palliative care education and its effectiveness: a systematic review. *Public Health*, 194. pp. 96-108.
- Singh, S., Loh, J. Y., & Lin, P. K. F. (In Press) Student online learning experience and academic resilience during COVID-19: Exploring the role of academic self-efficacy and perceived social support. In Zangeneh, M., & Nouroozifar, M. (eds.). *Post- Secondary Education Student Mental Health: A Global Perspective*. Toronto, Canada: Concurrent Disorders Society (CDS) Press.
- Singh, S., & Teoh, V. Y. (2014) Enhancing prosocial behaviour among college students: Exploring the role of abstract mindset. *International Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 3, 28-32.
- Singh, S. (2013) Perception and metaperception of leaders: Trust and respect as mediators. In: J. Zhang, Y. Yang, L. Liu, & M. Zhou (eds.) *Towards Social Harmony: A New Mission in Asian Social Psychology*. *Progress in Asian Social Psychology Series*, 9. Education Science Publishing House, 5-23.

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## Dr Alla Demutska

Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

DPsych (Clinical), Monash University, Australia  
PGDipPsych, University of Melbourne, Australia  
GradDipPsych, University of Melbourne, Australia

### Background

Originally from the Ukraine and with a background in linguistics, Dr Alla Demutska is a member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and Singapore Psychological Society (SPS), and is endorsed for the practice of clinical psychology by the Psychology Board of Australia. She is also a Board-approved clinical supervisor.

Alla has experience treating a wide range of psychological problems in both private and public settings in Australia. She has experience working with a wide range of evidence-based interventions including cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), dialectical behavioural therapy (DBT), schema therapy, EMDR, and trauma-focused and mindfulness-based therapies. She also successfully ran her own private practice for over 7 years in Melbourne, Australia.

Alla has a strong interest in the development and facilitation of group programs, particularly with people who have experienced both attachment-related and single event trauma. She has developed and facilitated retreats based on the principles of mindfulness and mindful self-compassion.

As an early-career researcher, Dr Demutska has emerging research interests in the areas of development and evaluation of group-based and trauma-focused interventions. She is also interested in how early adverse life experiences impact mental and physical health in adulthood.

### Areas of expertise

- Acculturation
- Schema Therapy
- Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)
- Group-based interventions
- Trauma

### Impact of research

- Provided information on adaptation of Russian-speaking immigrants in Australia, and enhanced understanding of acculturation of diverse immigrant groups in Australia.
- Contributed to understanding of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) in the Singapore context.

### Top publications

- Demutska, A., & Kiropoulos, L. (2021). Depression and anxiety symptoms in Russian-speaking skilled immigrants living in Australia: A comparison with Anglo-Australians and Russian-speaking non-immigrants. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 84, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2021.06.008>
- Chua, Kew, G. S., Demutska, A., Quek, S., Loo, E. X. L., Gui, H., Wong, S., Lau, H. X., Low, E. X. S., Loh, T. L., Ooi, S. L., Hung, E. C. W., Rahman, M. M., Ghoshal, U. C., Wong, H., Cheung, C. K. Y., Syam, A. F., Tan, N., Xiao, Y., ... Siah, K. T. H. (2021). Factors associated with high compliance behaviour against COVID-19 in the early phase of pandemic: a cross-sectional study in 12 Asian countries. *BMJ Open*, 11(8), e046310–e046310. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-046310>
- Shah, Xiu Ling Loo, E., En Chua, C., Sen Kew, G., Demutska, A., Quek, S., Wong, S., Lau, H. X., Low, E. X. S., Loh, T. L., Lung, O. S., Hung, E. C. W., Rahman, M. M., Ghoshal, U. C., Wong, S. H., Cheung, C. K. Y., Syam, A. F., Tan, N., Xiao, Y., ... Pang, J. (2021). Association between well-being and compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures by healthcare professionals: A cross-sectional study. *PloS One*, 16(6), e0252835–e0252835. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252835>
- Shorey, Demutska, A., Chan, V., & Siah, K. T. H. (2021). Adults living with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS): A qualitative systematic review. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 140, 110289–110289. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2020.110289>
- Quek, Loo, E. X. L., Demutska, A., Chua, C. E., Kew, G. S., Wong, S., Lau, H. X., Low, E. X. S., Loh, T. L., Lung, O. S., Hung, E. C. W., Rahman, M. M., Ghoshal, U. C., Wong, S. H., Cheung, C. K. Y., Syam, A. F., Tan, N., Xiao, Y., Liu, J., ... Siah, K. T. H. (2021). Impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic on irritable bowel syndrome. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 36(8), 2187–2197. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgh.15466>

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## Dr Sherry Aw

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Lecturer, Psychology  
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Organizational Behavior), National University of Singapore, Singapore  
MSc(Social and Organizational Psychology), London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom  
BSocSci(Hons), National University of Singapore, Singapore

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### Background

Dr Aw is a social psychologist specializing in organizational behavior and employee well-being. Her research interests are three-pronged: First, how moral emotions in the workplace – empathy, compassion, gratitude, guilt, influences employees' psychological and workplace outcomes (e.g., burnout, work engagement); second, factors that help employees thrive and be resilient in the face of stressors; and last but not least, on the interplay between work and life domains. She specializes in quantitative research methodology, including longitudinal and experience sampling studies.

Dr Aw's research has been published in top organizational and psychology journals including Journal of Applied Psychology, Journal of Vocational Behavior, Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology, and Applied Psychology: An International Review. She is an ad-hoc reviewer for journals like Journal of Managerial Psychology and Applied Psychology: An International Review.

### Areas of expertise

- Empathy and Emotions
- Employee stress and well-being
- Work-Family Interface

### Impact of research

- Demonstrated the importance of positive affective processes such as empathy and gratitude for employee and organizational outcomes
- Contributed to the literature on work-family conflict and work-family enrichment, demonstrating the linkages between workplace affective events and behaviors on family outcomes

### Top five publications

- Tang, P.M., Ilies, R., Aw, S.S.Y., Lin, K., Lee, R., & Trombini, C. (2022). How and when service beneficiaries' gratitude enriches employees' daily lives. *Journal of Applied Psychology*.
- Aw, S.S.Y., Ilies, R., Li, X., Bakker, A.B., & Liu, X.Y. (2021). Work-related helping and family functioning: A work-home resources perspective. *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology*, 94, 55-79.
- Aw, S.S.Y., Ilies, R., De Pater, I.E. (2020). Dispositional empathy, emotional display authenticity, and employee outcomes. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 105, 1036-1046.
- Ilies, R., Aw, S.S.Y. & Lim, V.K.G. (2016). A naturalistic multi-level framework for studying transient and chronic effects of psychosocial work stressors on employee health and well-being. *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, 65(2), 223-258.
- Lim, V.K.G., Chen, D.J.Q., Aw, S.S.Y., & Tan, M. (2016). Unemployed and exhausted? Job-search fatigue and reemployment quality. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 92, 68-78.

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CPE Registration No. 200100786K | Period of registration: 13 July 2022 to 12 July 2026