

# GEORGE WONG

Ethnographer, Educator, Organiser

## Contact Info

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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01/2023 - Present

### Adjunct Faculty

School of Social Sciences  
Singapore Management University

08/2021 - Present

### Adjunct Faculty

Interdisciplinary Collaborative Core  
Nanyang Technological University

01/2021 - Present

### Adjunct Faculty

College of Integrative Studies  
Singapore Management University

01/2018 - Present

### Associate Faculty

Department of Sociology  
Singapore University of Social Sciences,

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## EDUCATION

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2022

### PhD, Sociology

School of Social Sciences  
Nanyang Technological University

2016

### Master of Arts in Sociology

School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Nanyang Technological University

2014

### Bachelor of Social Sciences

Top Graduating Political Science Student, 2014  
Singapore Management University

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## RESEARCH & TEACHING AREAS

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Urban and Political Sociology

Community Studies

Comparative Politics

Qualitative Research Methods

Southeast Asia Societies

Urban Governance and Politics

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming (2023)

**Wong, G.** "Integration Taxes & Gestural Integration: Access and Limits to Integration through New Citizens' Participation In State-Sponsored Grassroots Volunteerism in Singapore" (Accepted by *Journal of Intercultural Studies*)

- Forthcoming (2023) **Wong, G.** & Mussagulova, A. (co-auth) "Governing the Global City's Mandarinate: Politically Motivated Appointments in Singapore's Public Sector".
- Forthcoming (2023) **Wong, G.**, Espena, D. & Lowe, J. (co-auth) "Ten Years as Boundary Object: The Search for Identity and Belonging as “Hongkongers,” (Accepted by *Asian Studies Review*)
- 2022 **Wong, G.** & Lowe, J. (co-auth) "Legitimising Viewing Publics through Nostalgia: The Mediated Tropicality of Singapore's 'Kampung Spirit'". *Chinese Journal of Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17544750.2022.2088586>
- 2019 **Wong, G.** “Grassroots Volunteerism in Singapore: A Survey of the Literature” in Jun Jie Woo's (ed) *Educating for Empathy: Service Learning in Public Policy Education*. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing.
- 2019 **Wong, G.** & Woo J.J (2019) “Singapore in 2018: Between Uncharted Waters and Old Ghosts” in Malcolm Cook & Daljit Singh (eds) *Southeast Asian Affairs 2019*.
- 2018 **Wong, G.** & Kathiravelu L. “Marginalized Migrants and Urbanization in Southeast Asia” in Rita Padawangi's (eds) *Routledge Handbook of Urbanization in Southeast Asia*: Routledge.
- 2017 **Wong, G.** & Humairah, B. Z. (co-auth) (2017) “Voices behind the veil: Unraveling the hijab debate in Singapore through the lived experiences of hijab-wearing Malay-Muslim women” *South East Asia Research*, 25:2, 2, 107 – 121.

## IN PROGRESS

**Wong, G.** "Lion City Zoopolis: Urban Crittizenship in Biophilic Singapore"

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

**Wong, G.** “Theorizing community volunteers' selves: civic identity capitalization at work”

**Wong, G.** “‘Big Data-ing’ the Kampong Spirit: Techno-commodification through neighbourhood-based community apps”

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONOURS & AWARDS

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

# RESEARCH SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

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

2017 – 2021

## **PhD Researcher, Doctoral Dissertation Fieldwork**

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

Jun – Dec, 2020

## **Co-Lead Researcher**

ASEAN ASCC Blueprint Mid-term Report Team,

Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), Singapore

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

2019 – 2020

## **Participatory Action Researcher and Coordinator**

1st Youth Action Challenge & Youth Action Plan

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

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

2017 – 2021

## **Research Assistant**

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

2017 – 2018

## **Researcher, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Project**

National Heritage Board, Singapore

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

Jan – Aug 2016

**Research Associate, Singapore Management University**

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

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

2014 – 2016

**Researcher, MA Thesis Fieldwork**

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

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Singapore Management University**

Course Instructor

- 2023 • SOCG100 Understanding Societies
- 2022 • COR3001 Big Questions: Wealth and Poverty
- 2021 • COR3001 Big Questions: War and Peace
- 2021 • COR3001 Big Questions: Global and Local

**Nanyang Technological University**

Course Instructor

- 2021 • CC0003 Ethics and Civics for a Multicultural World

Teaching Assistant/Associate

- 2021 • Culture, Self and Society
- 2020 • Sociology of Tourism
- 2020 • Classical Sociological Theory
- 2019 • Singapore Society in Transition
- 2019 • Sociology of Tourism
- 2018 • Contemporary Social Theory
- 2018 • Persons and Society – Introduction to Sociology
- 2017 • Gender and Sexuality
- 2017 • Media and Society

**Singapore University of Social Sciences**

Course Instructor

- 2022 • Urban Sociology
- 2021 • Singapore Society (Course Leader)
- 2021 • Social Stratification
- 2021 • Living Sociology
- 2019 • Southeast Asian Societies
- 2018 • Social Science Research Methods
- 2018 • The Social Self

Course Developer

- 2022 • Urban Sociology
- 2021 • Singapore Society

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

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### Conferences

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

### Guest Lectures & Workshops

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

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

## LANGUAGE SKILLS AND TRAINING

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### Languages Spoken

- English
- Mandarin

### Competencies

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

## REFERENCES

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### Associate Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu

Associate Professor (PhD Supervisor)

Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences

Nanyang Technological University

Email: laavanyak@ntu.edu.sg

### Dr Hu Shu

Head, Sociology Programme

School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences

Singapore University of Social Sciences

Email: hushu@suss.edu.sg

### Dr Woo Jun Jie

Senior Research Fellow

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)

National University of Singapore

Email: jjwoo@nus.edu.sg