Contextualized Social Work
Rationale and Objectives
1. To provide a platform for people to share research interests and current research projects in the Asia Pacific region.
2. The three research foci are defined broadly as health and mental health, care of the elderly, and child and family.
3. Shared and collective cultural contexts of the region and their impact on social work practice and evidence.

The long term outcome is envisaged as:
• Collaborative research projects;
• Publications including both peer-reviewed journal articles and books as well as practitioner generated reports;
• An online forum will be developed from the National University of Singapore that will link collaborators through virtual and real time opportunities;
• Shared symposia at future conferences.

Convenor: Dr. Rosaleen Ow;
Department of Social Work, NUS.
Email: swkowso@nus.edu.sg.
Recent work:

- The practice/research relationship;
- Understanding the nature of social work as an applied discipline;
- Qualitative research and evaluation methodology, practitioner and action research;
- Developing social work research strategies;
- Technology and professional practice;
- The history of social work research in the USA and Europe.

Email: ian.shaw@york.ac.uk
Associate Professor Esther Goh,
Head, Department of Social Work, NUS
Email: swkhead@nus.edu.sg
Research interest: mainly children and family from low income families; children’s agency in family well-being.
Current funded research:
1. Decision-making in healthcare resource allocation: access and equity/risk/change management
2. Safety in secure psychiatric units: A consumer perspective

Research funding application in review process:
1. Support for young people contemplating suicide

Current edited book projects:
- Cross cultural mental health
- Loss trauma and grief

Main areas of research interest:
Stigma, youth mental health, suicide, culture
Chan Jianhong

jian-hong@live.com

I am a 27 years old fresh graduate student from National University of Singapore, majoring in Social Work. My passion is in Social Work concerning Youths, Mental Health and Social Work Work Processes.
Cheang Thin Chi Nicholas

nicholas.cheang91@gmail.com

I am 25 this year and I have just graduated from NUS Social Work. My interest is working with Youth and also Palliative care.
Boon Nyuk Phin from University of Malaysia Sarawak, currently taking Master of Social Science (Social Work).

boonnyukphn@gmail.com

Current research:
Disability Rights Movement in Malaysia: Perspectives and challenges
Disability Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Study in Malaysia

Other Interest:
Youth Social Entrepreneurship
Disaster Risk Reduction
Professor Cecilia Chan,
Si Yuan Professor in Health and Social Work,
Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong.
Email: cecichan@hku.hk

Current research interests/projects: insomnia, depression, cancer patients
Marcus Y.L. Chiu  
BSW, MSc, PhD (Manchester), PQS, RSW  
Graduate Coordinator & Associate Professor,  
Department of Social Work, FASS, NUS  
Google Scholar Citation: Marcus Yu Lung CHIU  
ORCID.org/0000-0002-6676-8886

**Research Interest:**  
Caregiving & family support; help-seeking & mental health Stigma; consumer-based recovery; program evaluation; social inclusion; use of metaphors in social services; family process with domestic maids.

**Strengths:** Still being curious about things; able to work with teams  
**Weakness:** ADHA child grown up undiagnosed; becoming forgetful

**Most enjoyed research:** marriage metaphors in Asian context  
**Latest publication:**  
Chan, Celia Hoi Yan
PhD, MSW, BSocSc, CT, RSW
Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration
Associate Director, Centre on Behavioral Health
The University of Hong Kong
E-mail: chancelia@hku.hk

Biosketch
Celia is a researcher, practitioner and educator in healthcare social work with extensive experience in working with different clinical populations by applying the Integrative Body-Mind-Spirit model.

Areas of Research Interests

1. Social work in health care (e.g. sex and reproductive health, mood disorders, dermatological issues, obesity and cancer)
2. Gender and sexuality
3. Evidence-based practice: Psychosocial group intervention and Integrated Body-mind-spirit Model
Choo Hyekyung, NUS

Research Areas:

- Adolescents’ internet gaming disorder
- Social support and support intervention for children of families in need
  - Social support for low-income families in child rearing
  - Early intervention programs for low-income families with child at age 0-3
  - Support intervention for children of parents with mental illness
- Binational families and their children: social capital and integration
Amy Y.M. Chow, PhD, RSW, FT  
Associate Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration  
Co-Director, Jockey Club End-of-life Community Care Project  
The University of Hong Kong  
E-mail: chowamy@hku.hk

**Areas of Research Interests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bereavement</th>
<th>Dying</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Loss</th>
<th>Social Work Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Dual Process Model (Group work intervention)  
• ADPATS (Ind. Bereavement intervention)  
• Suicide Bereavement  
• Coping in Bereavement | • Psychosocial End-of-Life Care  
• Anticipatory Grief | • Life & Death Ed. For persons with Intellectual Disabilities  
• Organ Donation | • Pet Loss  
• Dementia Psychosocial Intervention | • Curriculum De+  
• Outcome Assessment |
Esther is a social work educator with extensive clinical experiences in social gerontological practice. She has extended research and knowledge transfer experiences in outcome studies, particularly in partnership with not-for-profit organizations on evidence-based practice.

Areas of Research Interests
1) Storytelling and narrative practice
2) Aging and life wisdom
3) Health and spirituality
MUHAMMAD ILHAM FIRDAUS
B. Soc. Sci (Hons) in Social Work
Social Worker, Club HEAL
ilhamfirdaus89@gmail.com

AREAS OF RESEARCH / PRACTICE INTERESTS
• Cultural Perspectives in Health and Healthcare
• Healthcare for the Elderly
• Social Work in Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Settings

Additional Interests:
Mental Healthcare, Social Work in Trauma, Sexual Behaviour and Health in Youth, Behavioural Economics in Healthcare
Jeyapaul Sunder Singh

Email: jpaul@budsofchrist.org

- Founder Director, Buds of Christ Charity – empowering children living with HIV and their families towards wellbeing
- Member of Child Protection and Welfare Committee, Dept of Social Defense, Govt of Tamilnadu, India
- Visiting lecturer on “WHO - life skills education” to graduate students in various colleges and universities
- Has received his BA in English Literature and Masters in Social Work and (NGO) Management from Madurai Kamaraj University. He has received his Fellowship in Community Health from SOCHARA, Bangalore, and Certificate in Counseling from Christian Medical College, Vellore
- Prior to his current work, he was working with World Vision India, Consultant with UNICEF and UNDP.
- His area of interest is on psychosocial wellbeing, mental health of children and adolescence, life skills education.
Lynette Joubert is a Professor of Social Work in the Melbourne School of Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne. She holds an honorary Professorship at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and is a Senior Clinical Research Fellow at North Western Mental Health. Her research focuses mainly on the measurement of social factors (social markers) as they contribute to cardiovascular risk and patient reported outcomes in health (in particular oncology) and mental health. Her particular research interest is to develop and evaluate innovative methodologies in relation to “research for practice”.

Current Projects:
1. Evidence based interventions in mental health: suicide prevention, dementia and the children of parents with mental health issues
2. End of life issues and palliative care
3. Social distress and the patient experience in cancer: parenting with a diagnosis of cancer
Dr. Geok Ling LEE, PhD, RSW, CT
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
National University of Singapore
Email address: swklgl@nus.edu.sg

My Research Interests Include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Death and Dying</th>
<th>Loss and Grief</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palliative Care and End-of-life Care</td>
<td>Infertility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning Making as a Research Approach</td>
<td>Health and Social Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My current research projects include:

- Development and validation of a quality of life scale for family caregivers of patients with advanced cancers
- An exploratory study on the experience of care of older persons transiting from acute to post-acute care services in Singapore (Pilot Study)
- A prospective exploratory study on the lived experience of patients receiving palliative care service
- The experiences in advance care planning conversations of medical social workers from an acute hospital in Singapore
Social work educator with a deep interest in culture and diversity and developing indigenous knowledge.


Keen interest in disability studies, age care, women’s issues and child rights.

Ling How Kee  
(BSW; PGD (ASWP); PhD (Social Work & Social Policy), UQ, Australia.  
Associate Professor in Social Work  
Director,  
Centre for Disability studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak  
Email: linghowkee@gmail.com
Mrs Sylvia Mun

- PhD candidate, Dept of Social Work, NUS
- Chief Medical Social Worker, KK Women’s & Children’s Hospital
- Currently working on a research on Grief experiences of bereaved mothers

- Research interests areas:
  - Grief
  - Child abuse
  - Ethics in social work healthcare

Email address: munsylvia@yahoo.com
Nur Aida Roslan
Faculty of Social Sciences
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak,
94300 Kota Samarahan,
Sarawak
Malaysia
nuraidaroslan@gmail.com
01119868244 / 0168574918

Area of current research interest and / or project:
1. Mental health and culture
2. Children with disabilities
Siu-man Ng, PhD, RSW, RCMP

- Associate Professor, Department of Social Work & Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong
- Research areas:
  1. Operationalization of the Chinese medicine stagnation syndrome as a psychological construct useful to all mental health practitioners;
  2. Family expressed emotion of persons with schizophrenia and its impacts on the course of illness;
  3. Illness behaviors and illness coping patterns in functional disorders, in particular self-oriented versus others-oriented coping
- Email: ngsiuman@hku.hk
Kieran is the Head of the School of Social Work
His current research projects are:
• The supervision of registered social workers- National Survey;
• An Evaluation of the clinical supervision of allied health professionals;
• Emerging theories in social work practice.
Benjamin Png
Senior Medical Social Worker,
National University Hospital.
Email: benjamin_kb_png@nuhs.edu.sg

B.A. (Social Work) & MSc. (Family and Systemic Psychotherapy)

Work areas:
1. Patient groups: Massive stroke and other neurological diseases (babies to elderly);
2. Crisis intervention with children and adults involved in family violence;

Research areas:
1. Psycho-social impact of chronic illness on adolescence and families;
2. End of life care for children/adolescents with a chronic illness;
3. Ethics of resource allocation in healthcare.
Honorary Assistant Professor and Social Worker

I serve as a Lecturer with the University of Hong Kong. I am also currently working in a private practice group providing counseling and psychotherapy to children, adolescents and families.

Research interest and Projects:

1. Evidence Based Practice - Model Development: Play Therapy and Somatic Experiencing™ for children with complex trauma specifically pre & peri-natal trauma
2. Children and families dealing with grief & loss
3. Disaster response work - crisis intervention and community intervention
Abner Poon
Social Work Lecturer
School of Social Sciences

Abner is a social worker and researcher in mental health. He teaches evidence and practice-based research, and mental health. Email: w.poon@unsw.edu.au

Research interests:
• Health and wellbeing of families/caregivers of people with serious mental illness
• Socio-cultural factors and perceived needs of caregivers of people with mental illness from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
• Program evaluation in mental health (Example: Evaluation of a single session family consultation intervention in youth mental health services)
• Founder and President of Club HEAL, formed in 2012 to help people with mental illness and their caregivers. A family physician, she writes articles, has co-authored 2 books and gives regular talks on mental health issues.

• Email contact: radiahsalim@yahoo.com.sg

• Research interests: Spiritual approach to recovery in persons with mental illness; Psychiatric rehabilitation.
Dr Srinivasan Chokkanathan

Assistant Professor, Social Work, NUS

Research interests:
1. Ageing;
2. Mental health;
3. Elder mistreatment.
Focus: Complex relations between psychosocial resources and stressors and their influence on mental health of older adults

Email: swksrini@nus.edu.sg
Kelvin TAN  
Dty Director, NUS Enterprise  
Head, Biz Dev, IDMI

Bio:

Innovation/Start-up Business Development Head, Engineering by training and pursuing a PhD (PT) with HKU. My research topic is Telerehabilitation for Stroke patients.

Areas of interest for Research/Project

Smart Nation, Innovation, Telehealth, Caregivers support

Email: kelvintan@nus.edu.sg
Peace Wong

- **Interest area**
  - Social work/clinical supervision, youth work, school social work

- **Qualification**
  - B.Soc. Sc (Hons), M.Soc Sc (Social Work), Phd (Social Work), Dip in clinical supervision

- **Publication**

- Email: swkwyj@nus.edu.sg
Areas of Current Research Interest and/or Projects:

1. Mental Health
Hongmei Tong

Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
MacEwan University
Box 1796, 10700-104 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  T5J 2P2

Research and Practice Interests:
gerontology, social determinants of health, grief and loss

Email: armaytong@hotmail.com