

EeCheng Ong

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Department of Economics, National University of Singapore

Associate Professor (Education) | Jan 2024–*present*
Senior Lecturer | Jan 2018–Dec 2023
Lecturer | Jul 2013–Dec 2017

EDUCATION

Brown University

Ph.D. in Economics | May 2013
A.M. in Economics | May 2009

Wellesley College

B.A. in Economics (Honors), *summa cum laude* | Jun 2005

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Bringing the Classroom to the Real World: Field Trips to Marginalized Neighborhoods
(with Timothy Wong). *Journal of Economic Education*, vol. 54, no. 3, July 2023.

Learning Labor Economics Through Narrative Interviews on the Work that People Do.
International Review of Economics Education, vol. 43, June 2023.

WORKING PAPER

The Unknown Unknowns: Concept Checks to Address Illusions of Knowing (with Yang Zhang).

PUBLISHED REPORT

Building a Resilient Workforce: Ensuring Opportunities for Lower-Income Workers and Their Families – Report on the Workfare Income Supplement Reimagined
(with Irene Y. H. Ng and Zhi Han Tan). January 2023.
(Commissioned by LEAP201 Philanthropy for the Singapore Rebalanced (Phase Two) Project. Circulated to the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Social and Family Development, XC, and Singapore Business Federation.)

TEACHING & MENTORING AWARDS

National University of Singapore

FASS Inspiring Mentor Award | 2023
ATEA Honor Roll (*university level*) | 2022/23–2026/27
Annual Teaching Excellence Award (ATEA) (*university level*) | 2016/17, 2018/19, 2021/22
Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (FTEA) | 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2021/22
Department Excellent Teacher Award | 2020/21, 2022/23

Brown University

Graduate Student Teaching Award | 2010/11

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, National University of Singapore

EC1101E: **Introduction to Economic Analysis** (*introductory core course*) | Fall 2013–
 EC1301: **Principles of Economics** (*introductory course*) | Spring 2019, Spring 2020
 EC2101: **Microeconomic Analysis I** (*intermediate core course*) | Spring 2021–
 EC3361: **Labor Economics I** (*intermediate elective*) | Spring 2015–
 EC4351: **Public Economics** (*honors seminar*) | Fall 2013–Spring 2015
 EC4398: **Economics of Inequality** (*honors seminar*) | Fall 2015–Spring 2021
 ECA5101: **Microeconomics** (*core course in the Master of Economics programme*) | Fall 2024
 ECA5351: **Public Finance** (*elective in the Master of Economics programme*) | Spring 2014–

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

FASStrack Asia: **Empire, Economics, and Identity** (*interdisciplinary experiential learning*) | Summer 2018

Yale-NUS College

Week Seven Learning Across Boundaries: **History of the Modern World in a Very Small Place**
 (*interdisciplinary experiential learning*) | Fall 2016, Fall 2017

Department of Economics, Brown University

ECON 0110: **Principles of Economics** (*introductory core course*) | Summer 2010, Summer 2011
 ECON 1110: **Intermediate Microeconomics** (*intermediate core course*) | Fall 2010, Fall 2011

PEDAGOGY GRANT

National University of Singapore

Teaching Enhancement Grant, “Using Chatbots to Lead Puzzle-Solving Field Trips for Large Economics Classes” (with Timothy Wong and Kok Hoe Chan) (\$8,600) | Aug 2024–Jul 2025

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & TALKS ON PEDAGOGY

Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE), American Economic Association

Economics Through a Digital Lens | Jun 1, 2023
 The Unknown Unknowns: Concept Checks to Address Illusions of Knowing | May 31, 2023
 Bringing the Classroom to the Real World: Field Trips to Marginalized Neighborhoods | Jun 4, 2021
 From a Partial Flip to a Full Flip: Evidence of Improved Learning During a Pandemic | Jun 3, 2021
 Learning Labor Economics Through Narrative Interviews | Jun 2, 2021

TeachECONference, Centre for Teaching and Learning Economics (CTaLE), University College London

The Unknown Unknowns: Concept Checks to Address Illusions of Knowing | Jun 26, 2023

Career Advancement for FASS Educators (CAFÉ) Sharing Session, National University of Singapore

Negotiating Aporia, Achieving Apotheosis: The Praxis of Portfolios (FTEC) | Apr 26, 2024
 Training Undergraduate Teaching Assistants – Challenges and Opportunities | Oct 4, 2023
 What Obstacles Do Students Face in Learning? | Apr 4, 2023
 Economics – or Any Discipline – Through a Digital Lens | Oct 3, 2022
 Bringing the Classroom to the Real World: Field Trips to Marginalized Neighborhoods | Jul 5, 2021
 Can Students Learn Better During a Pandemic? COVID-19, Flipped Classroom, and Student Performance | Dec 16, 2020

TALKS ON INEQUALITY & LABOR ECONOMICS

- Invited Keynote Speaker, **The Lazy Native: Probing the Stereotype**,
Temasek Junior College HumaniTEA | May 24, 2024
- Presenter, **The Workfare Income Supplement Reimagined**,
SSR-LEAP201 Roundtable | Apr 20, 2023
- Invited Panelist, **Grappling with Inequality**,
FASS@CHS Open House | Mar 4, 2023
- Invited Speaker, **Leadership in a Complex World: Managing the Dilemma of Growth**,
Asian Undergraduate Summit | Jun 8-10, 2021
- Invited Speaker, **Progressive Wage Model vs Minimum Wage**,
Victoria Junior College | May 27-28, 2021
- Invited Speaker, **An Economist's Take on Inequality**,
The Adventurous Fellowship – Inequality Camp | Jun 10, 2018

MEDIA

Op-Eds

- “重构WIS提升低收入家庭生活” (Reimagining Workfare to Uplift Low-Wage Families)
(with Irene Y. H. Ng and Michael Lien). *Lianhe Zaobao*, Opinion. May 18, 2023.
- “Reimagining Workfare to Uplift Low-Wage Families” (with Irene Y. H. Ng and Michael Lien).
The Business Times, Opinion & Features. Apr 28, 2023.
- “Progressive Wage Model vs. Minimum Wage: Why Not Both?” (with Jennifer Yao Chenyin).
The Straits Times, Opinion. May 20, 2021.
- “Inequality: How You View It Depends on What You're Told” (with Kok Siew Peng, Evelyn).
The Straits Times, Opinion. Oct 29, 2020.
- “Rags to Rags, Riches to Riches.” *The Straits Times*, Opinion. May 13, 2015.

Television Interviews

- “Employment outlook in Singapore.” *Channel NewsAsia*, Singapore Tonight. Oct 28, 2022.
- “Wage increases under the Progressive Wage Model.” *Channel NewsAsia*, Singapore Tonight. Jun 7, 2021.
- “The wealth gap.” *Channel NewsAsia*, It Figures, Season 5, Episode 8. Nov 21, 2016.

Podcast Interviews

- “Do high cost of living concerns in Singapore affect everyone the same way?” *Heart of the Matter*,
Season 4, Episode 27. Nov 17, 2023.
- “Relocating home.” *Home on the Dot*, Season 3, Episode 11. Feb 7, 2022.

Media Coverage/Quotes

- “Kos sara hidup yang tinggi dorong rakyat Singapura bijak berbelanja” (High cost of living compels
Singaporeans to economize). Khairul Akmal Ali and Izwandi Azman. *Berita Harian*. Mar 24, 2024.
- “Who are you calling senior citizen? How strides in medicine are disrupting mindsets on older workers.”
Chantal Sajan. *The Straits Times*. Mar 17, 2024.
- “Budget 2024: Let's rethink Workfare for lower-income families amid higher living costs.” Michael Lien.
The Straits Times. Feb 5, 2024.
- “NUS researchers propose ways to enhance Workfare for low-income Singaporeans and their families.”
Amelia Teng. *The Straits Times*. Apr 21, 2023.
- “Is the Progressive Wage Model making enough progress?” Janice Heng. *The Business Times*.
Aug 24, 2021.

SERVICE

National University of Singapore

Fellow, **Teaching Academy** | Jul 2024–*present*

Member, **General Education Committee** | Jan 2018–Dec 2023

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

Member, **Faculty Teaching Excellence Committee** | Jul 2023–*present*

Steering Committee Member, **Social Service Research Centre** | Aug 2020–*present*

Academic Convenor, **Global Studies Programme** | Jul 2021–Jun 2023

Department of Economics, National University of Singapore (*selected*)

Committee on Undergraduate Teaching Assistants

Chair | Aug 2017–*present*

Member | Aug 2014–Jul 2017

Editor, **Department Newsletter** | Aug 2019–Jul 2022

PROFESSIONAL & OTHER EXPERIENCE

Alumnae Admissions Representative, **Wellesley College**, Singapore | Jul 2017–Jun 2019

Alumnae Admissions Representative, **Wellesley College**, Providence, RI | Jul 2009–Jun 2013

Content Reviewer & Proofreader, **Kaplan Publishing**, New York, NY | Jul 2010–Jun 2011

Analyst, **Analysis Group**, Boston, MA | Oct 2005–Jun 2008

Member, Board of Admissions, **Wellesley College**, Wellesley, MA | Sep 2003–May 2005

Member, Academic Review Board, **Wellesley College**, Wellesley, MA | Sep 2002–May 2005

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & AWARDS

Pacific Trade & Development (PAFTAD) Fellowship | 2013

Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University | 2012

G. Nicholas Beckwith III Fellowship, Brown University | 2009

Graduate Fellowship, Brown University | 2008/09

Peggy Howard Fellowship, Wellesley College | 2008/09

Natalie Bolton Faculty Prize for Best Thesis Presentation, Wellesley College | 2005

Omicron Delta Epsilon (*international economics honor society*), Wellesley College | 2005

Jerome A. Schiff Fellowship, Wellesley College | 2004/05

Phi Beta Kappa (*junior year election*), Wellesley College | 2004

Natalie Bolton Faculty Prize for Best Econometrics Paper, Wellesley College | 2004

Katharine Malone Prize for Academic Excellence, Wellesley College | 2002

AT&T Asia-Pacific Leadership Award | 2001

American Universities Alumni Malaysia Excellence Award | 2001

CONTACT INFORMATION

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