

EeCheng Ong

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Department of Economics, National University of Singapore

Associate Professor (Education) | Jan 2024–present

Senior Lecturer | Jan 2018–Dec 2023

Lecturer | Jul 2013–Dec 2017

Social Service Research Centre, National University of Singapore

Co-Director | Jan 2025–present

Steering Committee Member | Aug 2020–Dec 2024

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 and Develop Conceptual Mastery (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, National Trades Union Congress, and Singapore Business Federation.)

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

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

PEDAGOGY GRANT

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA | Jan 2025

The Unknown Unknowns: Concept Checks to Address Illusions of Knowing

Higher Education Conference Singapore (HECS), Singapore | Dec 2024

Chatbot-Guided Scavenger Hunt for Large Economics Classes

TeachECONference, Centre for Teaching and Learning Economics (CTaLE), Virtual | Jun 2023

The Unknown Unknowns: Concept Checks to Address Illusions of Knowing

AEA Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE), Portland, OR | May-Jun 2023

Economics Through a Digital Lens

The Unknown Unknowns: Concept Checks to Address Illusions of Knowing

AEA Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE), Virtual | Jun 2021

Bringing the Classroom to the Real World: Field Trips to Marginalized Neighborhoods

From a Partial Flip to a Full Flip: Evidence of Improved Learning During a Pandemic

Learning Labor Economics Through Narrative Interviews

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.

Newspaper Coverage/Interviews (selected)

- “低于三成雇主依循加薪建议” (Less than 30% of employers complied with wage guidelines). Loo Fei Ching. *Lianhe Zaobao*. Nov 27, 2024.
- “Singapore’s battle to lift wages at the bottom.” Ng Wei Kai and Tay Hong Yi. *The Straits Times*. Oct 12, 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
- Member, **Faculty Promotion in Educator Track Committee** | Aug 2024–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

Department of Economics
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore
1 Arts Link, AS2 04-24
Singapore 117568

EeCheng.Ong@nus.edu.sg