

Hanson Chong

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EDUCATION

London School of Economics and Political Science MSc Social Research Methods (<i>Distinction</i>)	December 2023
University of Nottingham Malaysia BSc Economics (<i>First Class Honours</i>)	July 2022

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

Khazanah Postgraduate Global Scholarship, Yayasan Khazanah (Full Scholarship)	2022 - 2023
Student Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, LSE Southeast Asia Centre (£500)	2023
Methodology Dissertation Funding, LSE Department of Methodology (£500)	2023
Best Overall Performance in Undergraduate Studies, Nottingham School of Economics	2022
Best Dissertation Award, Nottingham School of Economics	2022
Best Undergraduate Achievement Award, Nottingham School of Economics	2022
Dean's Excellence Scholarship Award, University of Nottingham Malaysia (Partial Scholarship)	2020 - 2021
School Prize for Outstanding Achievement, Nottingham School of Economics	2020 - 2021

PUBLICATIONS

- Chong, Z.Z. (Forthcoming). Interethnic Friendships under Ethnic Segregation: The Case of Malaysia. *Asian Journal of Social Sciences*.
- Chong, Z.Z., Lau, S.Y. (2024). Unconditional cash transfers and child schooling: a meta-analysis. *Empirical Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00181-024-02647-3>.

WORK EXPERIENCES

- Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia | *Researcher*** **February 2024 - Present**
- Research interests: social cohesion in Malaysia, healthcare financing, urban policy (e.g. transportation and housing), infrastructure development (e.g. high-speed rail), labour economics, regional inequality and development.
 - Produced research outputs including journal articles, research papers, policy briefs, policy papers and op-eds.
 - Coordinated ISIS Malaysia's Track-II diplomatic initiatives including end-to-end coordination of a working group meeting with counterparts in ASEAN and China.
 - Led organisation development efforts including conducting staff presentations and developing upskilling workshops
- The EMPOWER Initiative | *Founder and Director*** **May 2021 - August 2022**
- Founded The EMPOWER Initiative as a peer-to-peer mentorship and knowledge sharing platform to address the lack of college readiness among high school students in Malaysia and to cultivate a culture of paying-it-forward among youths.
 - Recruited five like-minded individuals and supported them as they successfully realised key individual goals that were aligned with organisational objectives in 2021 (achieve 200 followers on Instagram, conduct two focus group interviews and produce impact report, organise a networking event with >90% satisfaction rate, and secure ten strategic partners).
 - Planned and conducted gap analysis of the current Malaysian education landscape, including conducting surveys, focus group interviews, and further quantitative and qualitative analyses and producing impact reports for internal use.
- Credor Foundation | *Summer Analyst*** **May 2022 - August 2022**
- Devised a revamped social media strategy to realise 125% increase in engagement on Instagram while phasing out digital marketing initiatives resulting in 78% decrease in cost per month.
 - Developed 58 job and education pathway writeups after researching industry landscape through web-scraping using RSelenium and analysing focus group transcripts and survey data resulting in 2-week reduction in project delivery time.
- KPMG Malaysia | *Strategy and Operations Intern*** **July 2021 - September 2021**
- Conducted comparative analysis of Malaysia's bioeconomy landscape against other APAC countries and identified two best-practice countries to prioritise a five-year roadmap to enhance service delivery of an industry development agency.
 - Analysed and translated a 50-page policy document from Mandarin to English in two days to facilitate analysis.
 - Analysed and visualised macroeconomic data using Microsoft PowerBI to present evidence to support recommendations.

SKILLS

Software skills: Stata, R Programming, SAP Analytics Cloud, Eviews, Microsoft Power BI, Network Canvas, QGIS.

Research skills: causal inference methods (experimental design, difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity design, propensity score matching), social network analysis, quantitative text analysis.

Languages: English (C2 Proficiency), Mandarin (Native), Cantonese (Native), Malay (Intermediate).