

Calvin K.W. Cheng

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Work Experience

2017 – 📌 **Senior Analyst**, Economics, Trade, and Regional Integration programme
Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia

- Research areas: Jobs and inequality, social protection, poverty
- Produced high-impact economic policy research, including policy briefs, technical reports, and journal articles – cited by international institutions like the ILO and the OECD and by government documents
- Led projects commissioned by and/or in collaboration with institutions including Google, the World Bank, and the Institute for Developing Economies across areas like increasing digital adoption in micro-enterprises and improving the design of social protection programmes
- Worked alongside policymakers and local civil society groups on numerous research and implementation projects, including the design of state policies for job creation and youth unemployment, and on the alleviation of urban poverty in low-income housing

2015 – 2017 📌 **Economics Executive**, Economics Research Department
Public Mutual Berhad

- Tracked macroeconomic, social and political developments in Malaysia and ASEAN region
- Produced economic analysis and forecasts of key macroeconomic indicators
- Maintained firm economic databases and statistical models

Education

2022 – 2023 📌 **Master of Public Policy (*Distinction*)**
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

- *Labour Economics Thesis*: "The causal effect of retirement on wellbeing in Malaysia"
- *Capstone project*: "Index-linking for social protection in developing countries", in collaboration with the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice
- *Key modules*: Labour Economics, Advanced Empirical Methods for Policy Analysis, Causal Inference for Experimental and Observational Studies

2011 – 2014 📌 **B.Econ in Economics and Econometrics**
Monash University Clayton - Melbourne, Australia

Skills and Miscellaneous

Languages 📌 Native writing and speaking competencies in English. Professional working proficiency in Mandarin Chinese, Bahasa Malaysia, and Cantonese

Skills and Miscellaneous (continued)

Analysis	■ Stata, R, Excel, LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite
Areas of expertise	■ Economic and public policy analysis, social protection programme design, government and policy consulting, survey design, data analysis, causal inference

Awards

- 2022 ■ **Chevening Scholarship Award**, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
Awarded full scholarship with stipend to study at the London School of Economics and Political Science

Selected training and courses

- 2019 ■ **Applied General Equilibrium for Policy Analysis**. Awarded by Putra University Malaysia.
- **Economic Analysis of Microdata**. Awarded by Putra University Malaysia.

Selected publications

Full publication list available upon request

Journal articles

- 1 C. Cheng, "The socioeconomic impacts of Covid-19 in Malaysia," *Asia Policy*, vol. 17, pp. 35–44, 1 2022, National Bureau of Asian Research. [DOI: 10.1353/asp.2022.0002](https://doi.org/10.1353/asp.2022.0002).
- 2 C. Cheng and H. Zainul, "Trends in Malaysia's future of work," *Chinese on Journal of China-ASEAN Studies*, vol. 2, pp. 99–117, 18 2021, China Social Sciences Press. [URL: https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/China-ASEAN-Studies-Volume2-2021.pdf](https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/China-ASEAN-Studies-Volume2-2021.pdf).
- 3 C. Cheng and J. Mohamad, "Youth unemployment in Malaysia and the region," *Japan SPOTLIGHT*, vol. 1, pp. 49–53, 229 2020, Japan Economic Foundation. [URL: https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/229th_Special_Article.pdf](https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/229th_Special_Article.pdf).

Technical reports and papers




- 1 C. Cheng and J. Mohamad, "Strengthening digital trade and digitalisation in malaysia: Challenges and pathways towards a resilient digital economy post-covid-19," Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, *Technical report in collaboration with Google LLC*. [URL: https://www.isis.org.my/2022/02/24/strengthening-digital-trade-and-digitalisation-in-malaysia-2/](https://www.isis.org.my/2022/02/24/strengthening-digital-trade-and-digitalisation-in-malaysia-2/).
- 2 C. Cheng, F. Rosli, and D. M. Kartika, "The US-China Trade War: Is Malaysia benefiting from 'diversions' in US import demand?" Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, Technical Policy Paper Issue 2-19. [URL: https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/POLICY-BRIEF_REV01.pdf](https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/POLICY-BRIEF_REV01.pdf).
- 3 C. Cheng, "Pushed to the margins: The unequal impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on marginalised Malaysian workers," Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ISIS Malaysia Policy Brief 7-20, 2020. [URL: https://www.isis.org.my/2020/11/30/pushed-to-the-margins-the-unequal-impacts-of-the-covid-19-crisis-on-marginalised-malaysian-workers/](https://www.isis.org.my/2020/11/30/pushed-to-the-margins-the-unequal-impacts-of-the-covid-19-crisis-on-marginalised-malaysian-workers/).

Books and chapters

- 1 C. Cheng, "Post-Covid-19 recovery and quest for 'good jobs'," in *Where Do We Go Work-wise: Malaysia's Labour Landscape*. Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: TalentCorp, 2023, pp. 31–51.

- 2 C. Cheng, "The impact of the pandemic on the future of Malaysia's jobs," in *Crisis and Community*, B. Welsh, Ed. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Strategic Information and Research Development Centre, 2023, In press.
- 3 C. Cheng, "Crisis of inequality: Covid-19's long-lasting impacts," in *Pandemic Papers: Lessons from Covid-19*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, 2022, pp. 6–17.

Conference materials and misc

- 1 C. Cheng. "Pandemic economics: the Malaysian economy and economic responses to Covid-19." (Mar. 2021),  URL: <https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SIRIM-presentation.pdf>.
- 2 C. Cheng. "Policies for the future of Malaysia's youth." (Jun. 2021),  URL: <https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Policies-for-the-future-of-Malaysias-youth-Calvin-Cheng.pdf>.
- 3 C. Cheng. "Bantuan Sara Hidup: Programme design considerations for cash transfer programming in Malaysia." (Aug. 2019),  URL: <https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Policies-for-the-future-of-Malaysias-youth-Calvin-Cheng.pdf>.