

Social Science and Humanities Research in Singapore



Engagement Session

3 July 2020

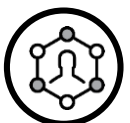
A PRESENTATION BY
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE



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SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (SSRC)

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Supporting High-Quality SSHR of Strategic Relevance



- Academic Research Fund
- Social Science Research Thematic Grant

Developing SSHR Human Capital

- Singapore Teaching and Academic Research Talent Scheme
- Social Science and Humanities Fellowship



ENGAGEMENTS AND OUTREACH

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES LANDSCAPE

The present social science and humanities research (SSHR) landscape in Singapore is primarily supported by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and overseen by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC).

Singapore to form research council in bid to boost social sciences

Tharman says new challenges require fresh perspectives and approaches in public policy

By Kelly Tay kellytay@sph.com.sg @KellyTayBT

MORE

Singapore government to renew economy so all will benefit

When big help may ultimately be no help

Industry to draw lessons from first public project using PPVC technology

Regulations, agencies'



In 2016, SM Tharman announced a S\$350m boost for the next five years to strengthen and promote SSHR studying trends in the economy and society, emerging challenges and how to address them in Singapore.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

The SSRC, led by former Head of Civil Service Mr Peter Ho, was set up in January 2016 to develop key initiatives to support SSHR and nurture SSHR thought leaders in Singapore.



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Prof Chan Heng Chee
Chairman, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, SUTD



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Senior Advisor, Centre for Strategic Futures



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President, Economic Society of Singapore



Mr Edward Robinson
Deputy Managing Director of Economic Policy Group, Monetary Authority of Singapore



Mrs Tan Ching Yee
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance



Mr Frederick Chew
Chief Executive Officer, A*STAR



Prof Lim Sun Sun
Head of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, SUTD

OBJECTIVES AND FOCUS AREAS

The SSRC aims to:



Support the development of high-quality SSHR that can be brought to bear on issues of strategic relevance to Singapore and the region



Develop capabilities and partnerships, and nurture human capital to strengthen the SSHR ecosystem in Singapore

OVERVIEW OF SSHR EFFORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SUPPORTING HIGH-QUALITY SSHR OF STRATEGIC RELEVANCE




MOE and the SSRC have rolled out a series of research grants to fund SSHR projects of strong technical excellence and relevance to Singapore. Overseas researchers may participate as collaborators for the following grants* below.

- **Academic Research Fund** for broad-based academic research in the Autonomous Universities (AUs)
- **Social Science Research Thematic Grant** to encourage SSHR in areas of strategic relevance

**The grants also provide opportunities and support for talent development such as research scholarships, research assistants and post-doctoral fellows in Singapore.*

ACADEMIC RESEARCH FUND (AcRF)



The AcRF **supports open-ended and curiosity-driven research across all disciplines at the AUs**, and has supported projects across 26 different SSH disciplines to date.

TIER 1

Core research funding allocated to the AUs to support baseline capabilities/projects <\$500K, on competitive basis within each AU.

TIER 2

Competitive funding to spur research quality that supports 3-year projects, of up to \$1M each. Two grant calls a year.

TIER 3

Competitive grant for larger strategic research programmes of 5 years from \$5M to \$25M. One grant call a year.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 proposals are reviewed by prominent international experts.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH THEMATIC GRANT (SSRTG)

Introduced in 2016, the SSRTG **supports use-inspired SSHR of strategic relevance to Singapore and the larger Asian region and talent capabilities** in emerging areas of interest. In the past three grant calls from 2016 to 2018, it has awarded 27 SSHR projects with a total value of \$41 million.



TYPE B

\$1M to \$10M over 3 to 5 years
Supports larger-scale SSHR, and encourages institutes to collaborate on inter-disciplinary SSHR of cross-cutting interest

TYPE A

\$100K to \$1M for up to 3 years
Supports smaller-scale SSHR, and encourages broad-based participation



RESEARCH THEMES FOR SSRTG

The broad nature of the themes aim to encourage participation across all SSHR fields including the humanities and to allow for more imaginative proposals. They are set in consultation with government agencies to facilitate impactful and applied SSHR.

	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4
2020	Future of Society	Future Economy	Impact of Climate Change	Open Category
2019	Future of Society	Future of Economy	Open Category	Nil
2018	Identities & Social Integration	Society & the New Economy	Cities and Humanity	Nil
2017	Identities, Social Integration & Resilience	Human Development & Skills	Growth, Productivity and Innovation	Understanding Society in the Digital Age
2016				Nil

NOTABLE PROJECTS AWARDED

AcRF

Dynamic and Holistic Monitoring of the Well-being of Older Singaporeans

Professor Paulin Straughan (Sociology), Dean of Students, Singapore Management University

This multidisciplinary research seeks to define and measure a holistic construct of well-being (economic, social, mental and physical) and identify factors impacting Singaporean's well-being through later phases of life. It leverages the Singapore Life Panel, one of the largest population-representative monthly surveys conducted in the world by the Centre for Research on the Economics of Ageing (CREA). The team has been working with government agencies such as Ministry of Health and Ministry of Manpower to address a wide range of policy concerns.

SSRTG

Service Productivity and Innovation Research Programme (SPIRE)

Distinguished Professor Ivan Png (Strategy and Policy Economics), National University of Singapore

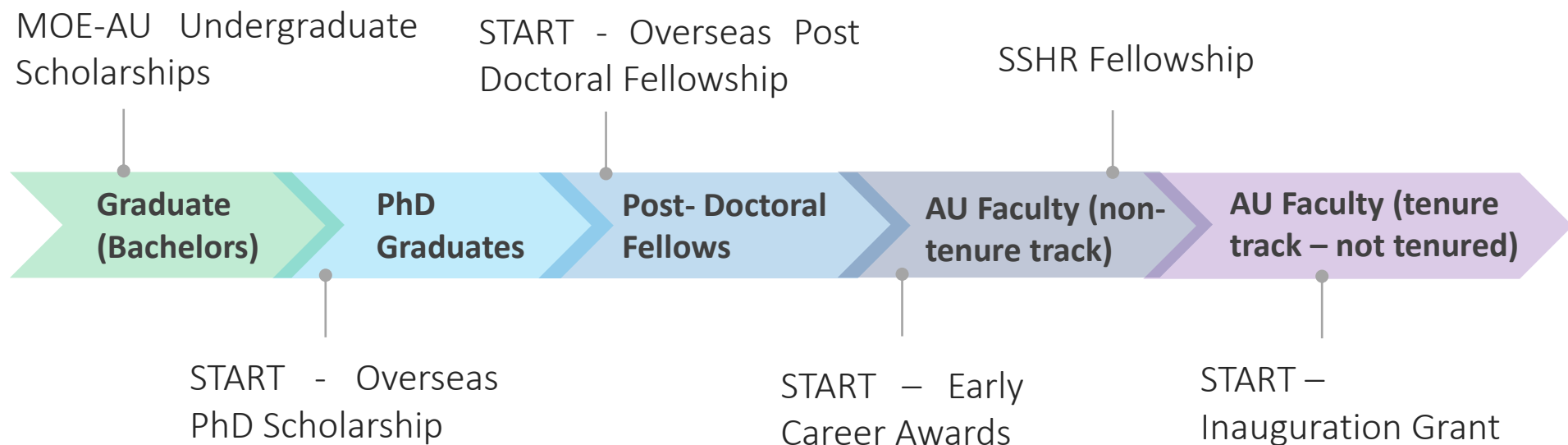
This research responds to the national productivity challenge, particularly in service industries and draws scholars with diverse expertise, including data analytics, optimisation, stochastic modelling, applied microeconomics, and behavioural science. The team has collaborated with various industry players and government such as local supermarket Cold Storage and the National Environment Agency on relevant research studies.

DEVELOPING SSHR HUMAN CAPITAL



MOE and the SSRC provides a range of schemes to nurture SSH researchers as they progress in their academic studies and career in Singapore.

The **Singapore Teaching and Academic Research Talent Scheme (START)** support the AUs in developing academic and research talent and the **SSHR Fellowship** build SSHR talent and support promising Singaporean SSH researchers in the early stages of their academic careers.



SINGAPORE TEACHING AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH SCHEME (START)

START supports young **Singaporeans keen on pursuing an academic career at our AUs and strengthen Singapore's pool of academic talent** in research and teaching.

Target	PhD Graduates	Post-Doctoral Fellows	AU Faculty (non-tenure track)	AU Faculty (tenure-track but not tenured)
Grant	Overseas PhD Scholarship Supports Singaporeans who have been accepted for doctoral training	Overseas Post-Doctoral Fellowship Supports Singaporeans who have just been conferred a doctoral degree and have been accepted for postdoctoral training	Early Career Awards Supports Singaporeans who have completed PhD and/or post doctoral training but yet to be appointed to tenure track in the AUs	Inauguration Grant Attract Singaporean academics to join our AUs as pre-tenure Assistant Professors, offered by NUS, NTU, SMU and SUTD
Support	Up to five years of stipends/salaries*	Up to two years of stipends/salaries*	Award provides up to three years of salaries/stipends and research grants.	Recipients will receive cash bonus to be given out in two tranches.

*Overseas allowances, conference, fieldwork grants, airfare and other compulsory fees depending on institution of study. Scholars will return to their paired university in Singapore as faculty members upon completion to serve their bond.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

SSRC's first talent development scheme was launched in August 2018 to support **promising Singaporean social science and humanities researchers in the early stages of their academic careers** in the AUs. Through the provision of a research grant, the Fellowship helps to develop research expertise and build up their research careers.

Eligible for **Singaporean citizens at the point of award who have obtained their PhDs, but have not yet obtained tenure**

Selection: Nomination by AUs

Appointment: Full-time faculty in the AU hosting the awardees

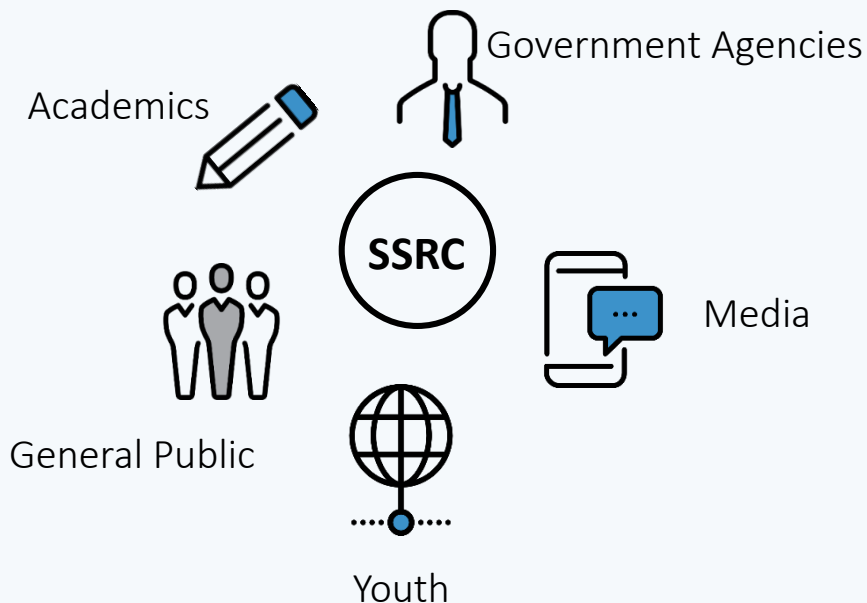
Validity: 5 years (no extension)

Research grant of up to \$1 million over 5 years

No service commitment

ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

STAKEHOLDERS



CURRENT EFFORTS

Roundtable discussions with research institutes and think- tanks; dialogues and engagement sessions with the larger research community on topics such as:

- Strategic Regional Studies
- Computational Social Sciences
- Environment & Resources, Science, Technology Society
- Ageing and Social Issues

SSRC WEBSITE – www.ssrc.edu.sg

Provides the latest information of SSRC initiatives and content and increase awareness of the SSRC within the local and global community.



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