

HO Kong Weng

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Education

PhD, University of Chicago, United States of America, 1998
Bachelor of Social Science, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 1992
Bachelor of Science, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 1991

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor of Economics (Education), School of Economics, SMU, Jul 2014 - Present

Academic Administrative Positions

Core Curriculum Committee, College of Integrative Studies, SMU, Jun 2024 - Present
Course Coordinator for Economics & Society, College of Integrative Studies, SMU, Jul 2019 - Jun 2021

RESEARCH

Research Interests

My current research interests are quantile regressions of social mobility in Singaporean youths, CET and upward mobility of union members, happiness and relationship stocks, food support and food insecurity in Singapore. I have served in research advisory panels with the Ministry of Social and Family Development, the Prime Minister's Office Strategic Group, and the National Youth Council.

Publications

Journal Articles [Refereed]

The importance of considering debt and young children in activation: A survival analysis of return to welfare, by NG, Irene N. Y.; TAN, Jian Qi; MATHEW, Mathews; HO, Kong Weng; TING, Yi Ting. (2023). *Social Policy and Society*, 22 (2), 299-314. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746421000518> (Published)

Rethinking the Role of Employment Barriers in Active Labor Market Policy: Evidence from a Fixed Effects Analysis, by TAN, Jian Qi; NG, Irene Y. H.; HO, Kong Weng. (2022). *Journal of Poverty*, 26 (1), 52-72. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2021.1890665> (Published)

E-Learning in higher education for adult learners in Singapore, by CHONG, Guan; DING, Ding; HO, Kong Weng. (2015). *International Journal of Information and Education Technology*, 5 (5), 348-353. <https://doi.org/10.7763/IJiet.2015.V5.528> (Published)

Designing and implementing an evaluation of a national work support program, by HO, Kong Weng; Ng, Irene Y. H.; Nesamani, Thartmalingam; Lee, Alex; Ngiam, Tee Liang. (2012). *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 35 (1), 78-87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2011.07.002> (Published)

Growth accounting for a technology follower in a world of ideas: The case of Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2009). *Journal of Asian Economics*, 20 (2), 156-173. (Published)

Intergenerational earnings mobility in Singapore and the United States, by NG, Irene Y. H.; SHEN, Xiaoyi; HO, Kong Weng. (2009). *Journal of Asian Economics*, 20 (2), 110-119. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.asieco.2008.09.010> (Published)

Nonmonotonic relationship between human capital and unemployment: an exploratory study with empirical evidence on Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng; Tan, Randy. (2008). *Applied Economics Letters*, 15 (15), 1177-1185. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13504850500461399> (Published)

Autarkic indeterminacy and trade determinacy, by HO, Kong Weng; Sim, Nicholas. (2007). *International Journal of Economic Theory*, 3 (4), 315-328. (Published)

Indeterminacy and market instability, by HO, Kong Weng; SIM, Nicholas. (2007). *Economics Bulletin*, 5 (1), 1-7. (Published)

Innovation, imitation and entrepreneurship, by HO, Kong Weng; Yong, Grace. (2006). *Singapore Economic Review*, 51 (2), 147-173. (Published)

Altruism Within the Family: A Comparison of Father and Mother Using Life Happiness and Life Satisfaction, by HO, Kong Weng; Ong, Qiyang; Ho, Kong Chong. (2013). *Social Indicators Research*, 111 (2), 485-510. (Published)

Equilibrium unemployment and endogenous public sector employment, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (1997). *Metroeconomica: International Review of Economics*, 48 (2), 138-160. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-999X.00024> (Published)

Journal Articles [Non-Refereed]

Productivity growth and public sector employment, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (1998). *The American Economist*, 42 (2), 73-79. <https://doi.org/10.1177/056943459804200207> (Published)

Book Chapters

Subjective wellbeing and intergenerational mobility of youths in Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng; SOH, Solomon. (2022). In National Youth Council (Ed.), *YOUTH.sg: The state of youth in Singapore 2021* (pp. 26-47) Singapore: National Youth Council. <https://www.nyc.gov.sg/en/initiatives/resources/national-youth-survey/> (Published)

The case of Singapore, by CHOW, Hwee Kwan; HO, Kong Weng. (2022). In B. Adreosso-O'Callaghan, W. Moon, & W. Sohn (Ed.), *Economic policy and the Covid-19 crisis: The macroeconomic response in the US, Europe and East Asia* (pp. 204-226) London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003153603-14> (Published)

Challenges to social mobility in Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng; TAN, Marcus Kheng Tat. (2021). In Hoon Hian Teck (Ed.), *The Singapore economy: Dynamism and inclusion* (pp. 221-276) London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429266584-9> (Published)

Contributors of Singaporean youths' wellbeing: Life goals, family-community-nation capitals, opportunity and social mobility, by HO, Kong Weng. (2018). *The state of youth in Singapore: Research compilation* (pp. 108-123) Singapore: National Youth Council. (Published)

Which class and what squeezes? Relationships with wellbeing, national pride, and inequality, by HO, Kong Weng. (2016). In Mathew Mathews & Chiang Wai Fong (Ed.), *Managing diversity in Singapore: Policies and prospects* (pp. 143-172) London: Imperial College Press. <https://worldcat.org/isbn/9781783269549> (Published)

- Wellbeing of Singapore's youths, by HO, Kong Weng. (2015). *The state of youth in Singapore 2014: Research compilation* (pp. 105-122) Singapore: National Youth Council. (Published)
- Marriage and child bearing, by HO, Kong Weng. (2014). In Yap Mui Teng & Christopher Kok Aun Gee (Ed.), *Population Outcomes: Singapore 2050* (pp. 133-151) Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies. (Published)
- Policy responses in an unstable globalized economy: Multi-stressed low-earning families in Singapore, by NG, Irene Y. H.; HO, Kong Weng. (2013). In Yap Mui Teng & Yeung Wei-Jun Jean (Ed.), *Economic stress, human capital, and families in Asia: Research and policy challenges* (pp. 241-258) Dordrecht: Springer Verlag. http://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-7386-8_14 (Published)
- Singapore's growth and income inequality, by HO, Kong Weng. (2013). In Xue Jinjun (Ed.), *Growth with inequality: International comparison of income distribution* (pp. 159-172) Singapore: World Scientific. <http://worldcat.org/isbn/9789814401685> (Published)
- Growth and inequality in Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng. (2012). In Xue Jinjun (Ed.), *Growth with inequality: An international comparison on income distribution* (pp. 191-206) Singapore: World Scientific. <http://worldcat.org/isbn/9789814401685> (Published)
- Growth, opportunity, and inequality: Some empirics from Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng. (2011). In Sng Hui Ying & Chia Wai Mun (Ed.), *Crisis management and public policy: Singapore's approach to economic resilience* (pp. 161-178) Singapore: World Scientific. <https://worldcat.org/isbn/9789814340892> (Published)
- Wellbeing of youth, by HO, Kong Weng. (2011). *YOUTH.SG: The state of youth in Singapore* (pp. 102-127) Singapore: National Youth Council. <http://worldcat.org/isbn/9789810876272> (Published)
- Social mobility in Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng. (2010). In Terence Chong (Ed.), *Management of success: Singapore revisited* (pp. 217-241) Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. (Published)
- Economics of Love: A Simple Theory and Empirical Study in Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng. (2008). *Singapore and Asia in a Globalized World: Contemporary Economic Issues and Policies* (Published)
- Mentoring HSSRP students with diverse interests, by HO, Kong Weng. (2005). *Innovative approaches to university teaching and learning* (pp. 36-40) (Published)
- Process and impact of structural changes on Singapore economy, by HO, Kong Weng. (2002). *The IFER Report: Restructuring Singapore Economy* (pp. 155-173) Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies. (Published)
- Population, education, wage gap and growth, by HO, Kong Weng; LIU, Haoming; ZENG, Jinli. (2002). In Koh Ai-Tee (Ed.), *Singapore economy in the 21st century: Issues and strategies* (pp. 112-129) Singapore: McGraw-Hill. <https://worldcat.org/isbn/9780071189361> (Published)
- Enhancing technopreneurship: Issues and challenges, by HO, Kong Weng; KOH, Ai Tee; Thangavelu, Shandre. (2002). In Koh Ai-Tee (Ed.), *Singapore economy in the 21st century: Issues and strategies* (pp. 321-344) Singapore: McGraw-Hill. (Published)
- The Changing Pattern of Production Fragmentation in Singapore and its Economic Consequences, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2001). *Global Production and Trade in East Asia* (pp. 325-345) (Published)
- Arms Length Transactions Vs Affiliates: A Study of Two Electronic Component Firms in Singapore, by HOON, Hian Teck; HO, Kong Weng. (2001). *Global Production and Trade in East Asia* (pp. 245-248) (Published)

Conference Papers

- Assessing the effectiveness of school-based interventions for disadvantaged families in the Singapore context, by HO, Kong Weng. (2024.0). *Meeting of the Society of the Economics of the Household, SEHO 2024, May 28-29, Singapore*. (Presented)
- The impact of family support and family-oriented life goals on youths today, by HO, Kong Weng. (2021.0). *TOUCH Family Conference: At the Heart of Every Family, Singapore*. (Presented)
- Upward mobility of workers: Family and social support, by HO, Kong Weng. (2020.0). *Workers' Matters: Finding Ways to Brave the Roads Ahead, Labour Research Conference 2020, Singapore*. (Presented)

The extensive and intensive margins of time investments on the skill development of children and adolescents, by TAN, Yi Rachel; HO, Kong Weng. (2019.0). *Singapore Economic Review Conference 2019, August 5-7, Singapore*. (Presented)

Distance to frontier and the big swings of the unemployment rate: What room is left for monetary policy?, by HOON, Hian Teck; HO, Kong Weng. (2007.0). *The Phillips Curve and the Natural Rate of Unemployment, Kiel Institute, Kiel*. <http://hdl.handle.net/10419/17861> (Published)

Magazine Articles

Family Environment, Class, and Youth Social Participation, by HO, Kong Weng; Ng, Irene Y. H.; Ho, Kong Chong. (2009, July). *YouthSCOPE*, 3 78-90. <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/456695919> (Published)

Wage inequality, intergenerational mobility, and education in Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng. (2007, October). *Ethos*, (3), 43-47. <https://www.cscollge.gov.sg/knowledge/ethos/issue%203%20oct%202007/pages/wage-inequality-intergenerational-mobility-and-education-in-singapore.aspx> (Published)

Intergeneration educational mobility in Singapore: An empirical study, by HO, Kong Weng; NG, Regina. (2006, June). *YouthSCOPE*, 1 58-73. <https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/456695919> (Published)

Intergeneration Occupational Mobility in Singapore: An Empirical Study, by HO, Kong Weng; Ong, Jinghui. (2006, June). *YouthSCOPE*, 1 22-39. <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/456695919> (Published)

Newspaper Articles

Perspiration, Inspiration and Singapore's Growth, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2006, June 01). *Business Times (Singapore)* (Published)

How moving up educational ladder may become harder, by HO, Kong Weng. (2006, June 01). *Straits Times* (Published)

When the economy hits the brakes, by HOON, Hian Teck; HO, Kong Weng. (2005, July 22). *Business Times (Singapore)* (Published)

When the Economy Hits the Brake, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2005, July 01). *Business Times (Singapore)* (Published)

No case for casinos, by HOON, Hian Teck; HO, Kong Weng. (2004, December 03). *Business Times (Singapore)* (Published)

No Case for Casinos, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2004, December 01). *Business Times (Singapore)* (Published)

Casino pitfalls well-documented, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2004, June 26). *Business Times (Singapore)* (Published)

A short macroeconomic account of the Singapore economy, by HOON, Hian Teck; HO; Kong Weng. (1992, January 01). *Times Economic Link*, 12-17. (Published)

Working Papers

Integration versus Domestic Outsourcing, by HO, Kong Weng; Tan, Randy. (2006). (Published)

Top-Tier versus Bottom-Tier Outsourcing, by HO, Kong Weng; Ang, Eng Siong. (2006). (Published)

Growth accounting for a follower-economy in a world of ideas: The example of Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2006). Singapore: SMU Economics and Statistics Working Paper Series, No. 15-2006. (Published)

Effects of Family and A-Level Grades on College Major Choice and Academic Performance, by HO, Kong Weng; Liu, Haoming. (2005). (Published)

Service links and wage inequality, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2003). Singapore: SMU

Economics and Statistics Working Paper Series, No. 04-2003. (Published)

Assessing export platforms: The case of Singapore, by HO, Kong Weng; HOON, Hian Teck. (2000).
Cambridge, MA: Consulting Assistance on Economic Reform Discussion Papers, No. 72. (Published)

Other Outputs and Contributions

Reports

Longitudinal study of families placed on longer term assistance under the Work Support Programme (Seventh Annual Report January to December 2016) by NG, Irene YH; HO, Kong Weng; MATHEWS, Mathew; TING, Yi Ting; AMRIT KAUR D/O Sukhdev Singh. (2017). (Forthcoming)

Longitudinal study of families placed on longer term assistance under the Work Support Programme (Sixth Annual Report January to December 2015) by NG, Irene Y. H.; HO, Kong Weng; MATHEWS, Mathew; SARJUNE Ibrahim s/o Sitheek. (2016). (Published)

Other Outputs and Contributions

Reports

SMU-MSF Food Security Study Report by HO, KW; SIDHU, Dalvin. (2025). (Submitted)

Social support by HO, Kong Weng. (2015). (Submitted)

Research Grants

Other Institutions

Measuring the Outcomes of Continuing Education & Training (CET) of Union Members, NTUC Labour Alliance co-laB Research Fund Grant, NTUC Co-PI (Project Level): HO Kong Weng, 2025, SGD168,688

Canossian Village Project, Canossian Village Project: Programme Evaluation, Tote Board PI (Project Level): HO Kong Weng, Felicia Tan Ru Jun, 2022, SGD85,888

Work in Progress

HO Kong Weng, Dalvin SIDHU, Food security among residents in rented flats, 2026

HO Kong Weng, Randolph Tan Gee Kwang, Measuring the Outcomes of Continuing Education & Training (CET) of Union Members, 2026

HO Kong Weng, See Haojun, Wellbeing of senior volunteers in a social enterprise, 2026

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Singapore Management University

Undergraduate Programmes :

Economics and Society

Family and the Society: Economic Theories and Practices

Macroeconomics of Income Distribution

OTHER ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentation and Talks

Presentations

Assessing the Effectiveness of School-Based Interventions for Disadvantaged Families in the Singapore Context, (29 May 2024). *2024 Meeting of the Society of the Economics of the Household*, Singapore.

Wellbeing of Youths and Perceived Mobility, (31 Oct 2023). *Singapore Economic Policy Forum: Determinants of the Quality of Life in Singapore*, Singapore. Singapore

Revisiting Our Social Compact: Wellbeing of Youths, (12 Jun 2023). *IPS 35th Anniversary Conference: Revisitings*, Singapore. Singapore

Upward Mobility of Workers: Family and Social Support, (27 Oct 2020). *Workers' Matters: Finding Ways to Brave the Roads Ahead, Labour Research Conference 2020*, Singapore Conference Hall.

Invited Seminars, Talks and Lectures

Economics of Scams and Policy Responses, 28 Nov 2022. Psychology of Scams: What's Next?

Consultancy

National Council of Social Services and Canossaville Children and Community Services, Dec 2022 - Feb 2024

Ministry of Social and Family Development, Jan 2022 - Jan 2024

Media Contributions and Citations

SEPF 2023: Dr Ho Kong Weng (SMU): "Wellbeing of Youths and Perceived Mobility", Economic Policy Forum: Determinants of Quality of Life in Singapore, 31 Oct 2023 <https://youtu.be/5AC1rcCIT1I>

Revisiting Our Social Compact: Wellbeing of Youths (Panel Presentation and Discussion by Ho Kong Weng), IPS 35th Anniversary Conference: Revisitings - Panel 4: Revisiting Our Social Compact, 12 Jun 2023 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ32uoptbkY>

Concluding Panel of Conference "Revisiting Our Social Compact", IPS Facebook, 12 Jun 2023 <https://www.facebook.com/IPSLKYSP/posts/pfbid02jwARFgrNq8iCNic6hFaGhFchRw4EbEpSGMshNWEPD3cHpKUXqwutLvQtFuCCp57hl>

Research insights on social mobility and inequality in Singapore (shared with Second Minister for Finance Indranee Rajah), MOF Closed-door Zoom Discussion on Inclusive Growth and Social Mobility in Singapore, Zoom closed-door discussion, 25 Jun 2021

Inequality and Social Mobility (Presenter and panelist discussion), ESS 5th Webinar on Income Inequality: Unpacking the Challenge, 22 Jan 2021 <https://ess.org.sg/events/income-inequality-unpacking-the-challenge/>

Much ado about minimum wage, Business Times, 05 Sep 2020 <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/brunch/much-ado-about-minimum-wage>

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Singapore Management University

Committee Member, Core Curriculum Committee, Jun 2024 - Present

Committee Member, Core Curriculum Committee, Sep 2023 - May 2024

Committee Member, Education Research Task and Finish Group, Jun 2022 - Dec 2022

Committee Member, Faculty Advisory Committee (Teaching and Learning), Jan 2022 - Dec 2023

Committee Member, Faculty Advisory Committee (Teaching and Learning), Jan 2020 - Dec 2021

Committee Member, OCC Core Curriculum Committee, Jul 2019 - Jun 2021

EXTERNAL SERVICE – PROFESSIONAL

Editor Journal Editor, Singapore Labour Journal, National Trades Union Congress, 2023 - Present

Research Advisor, Ministry of Social and Family Development, 2023 - 2025

Editorial Review Board Member, Singapore Labour Journal Editorial Board, National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), 2022 - 2025

Research Advisor, Ministry of Family and Social Development, 2021 - 2022

EXTERNAL SERVICE – PUBLIC SECTOR AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Grant Proposal Reviewer External, Research Advisor, Ministry of Social and Family Development, 2023 - 2025