

Asian Association of Social Psychology Newsletter

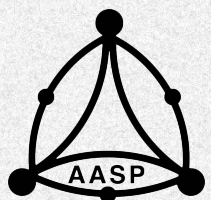
May 2020

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Newsletter Editors:

Professor Sylvia Xiaohua Chen (President-Elect)
Associate Professor Jose Antonio R. Clemente
(Southeast Asia Regional Representative)



Message from the President

Dear Members of AASP,

We are facing unprecedented challenges in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, and I hope you and your loved ones are all healthy and well.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Middle East Regional-Rep-at Large, Prof. Mostafa Zarean at the University of Tabriz, Iran. With his support,



AASP aspires to expand its activities to Middle East, which will create many exciting new opportunities down the road. Also, I would like to share with you that a new AASP website is under construction thanks to Professors Wendy Li (Treasurer) and Fang Wang (Secretary General). It is my hope that the new website will open in the very near future. Preparations for 2021 Seoul Conference are also in full swing, and we have already over 3,500 hits on the conference website. AASP Officers and Executives will continue to work closely with the Organizing Committee to develop a highly impactful and enjoyable event in Seoul next year.

Despite all the hardships and difficulties, I am sure all of you are well engaged and making contributions to your community. I sincerely hope that things will go back to normal soon so we can meet, laugh, and work together. Let's stay hopeful with a fighting spirit.

With warm regards,

Hoon-Seok Choi

President

Asian Association of Social Psychology

Reflections on Social Psychology's Role During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2004, the Asian Journal of Social Psychology (AJSP) released the **Special Issue on Psychology of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**^[1]. For this newsletter, some contributors of the special issue reflect on how we can better cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. This is also a timely reminder on the role of social psychologists and researchers during a public health crisis. As suggested by Prof. Emi Kashima, AASP's past president and AJSP's former Editor-in-Chief, we reached out to some contributors to the 2004 special issue and asked them 3 questions related to their contributions and its implications on the current COVID-19 situation:

1. **What lessons can we learn from the AJSP special issue on SARS, particularly your contribution in that issue, that you think are relevant to our current experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic?**
2. **Do you have any suggestions on how social psychologists can respond to this public health crisis in terms of our research agenda, practice, and/or service to the community?**
3. **Is there anything else that you would like to add that we can include in your contribution to the AASP newsletter?**

Some of the responses have been edited for clarity.



¹ *Special Issue on Psychology of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/1467839x/2004/7/1>

² Cheung, F. M. (2004). *Commentary: Reintegrating psychology into...* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-839X.2004.00136.x>



Professor Fanny M. C. Cheung, SBS, OBE, JP
*Pro-Vice-Chancellor / Vice-President
Choh-Ming Li Professor of Psychology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Cheung, F. M. (2004). *Commentary: Reintegrating psychology into an expanded biopsychosocial model of severe acute respiratory syndrome.* *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 7(1), 83-88. ^[2]

1. I dug out what I wrote in AJSP 2004. Many of the points raised are still applicable. At that time, I noted that “social factors could exacerbate the peril of a viral infection to pandemic proportions. These emerging infectious diseases also have profound economic and social impact on the community and the government that may threaten social cohesion in the long term.”

...

2. With COVID-19, psychologists have been more forthcoming in raising concerns and providing resources to mental health reactions to the uncertainty and social isolation related to the pandemic. However, there are additional social psychological issues during COVID-19 that our profession may contribute through research and evidence-based recommendations:

- ❑ Media literacy in discerning facts versus myths about the pandemic – how social media may aid or misguide responses to prevention;
- ❑ Attitudes toward and compliance on social distancing/home isolation over long duration – individual and cultural differences in self-discipline; self-sacrifice for the common good in collectivistic/autocratic versus individualistic/democratic societies;
- ❑ Racism, discrimination, and aggression toward Asians for the spread of COVID-19 – causes and intervention measures;
- ❑ Social cohesion and solidarity in times of global crisis – what are the contributing and risk factors?



Weining C. Chang, PhD

Research Fellow

Institute of Mental Health, Singapore

Chang, W. C., & Sivam, R. W. (2004). Constant vigilance: Heritage values and defensive pessimism in coping with severe acute respiratory syndrome in Singapore. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 7(1), 35-53. ^[3]

1. I would like to address this question by reviewing my publication for the special SARS issue. This article is based on empirical data collected during the SARS epidemic in Singapore.

Data collected from 174 Singaporeans, from a cross-section of age, gender, and socioeconomic status, supported the hypothesized relationships among Chinese values, defensive pessimism, SARS-related fears, compliance to preventive health-related behaviors and negative outcomes. Path analysis revealed that individuals' endorsement of Chinese value clusters - prudence, industry, and civic harmony - positively predicted their levels of defensive pessimism. The results also indicated that defensive pessimism had a direct positive effect on SARS-related fears and, SARS-related fears, in turn, were directly related to direct preventive health-related behaviors but not related to indirect preventive behaviors. In addition to the indirect effect of Chinese values on direct preventive health-related behaviors, Chinese values had a direct positive effect on both direct and indirect preventive health-related behaviors.

In summary, we found that Chinese values and a personality construct — Defensive Pessimism — both predicted SARS preventive behaviour but also correlated with SARS-related fear.

These findings may apply today under the threat of COVID-19.

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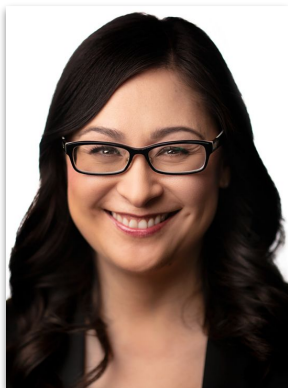
³ Chang, W. C., & Sivam, R. W. (2004). *Constant vigilance: Heritage values* ... <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-839X.2004.00133.x>

2. I suggest that we look into COVID-19 required activities, such as quarantine, lockdown and social distancing and identify the psychological factors that facilitate or hinder the compliance to these measures, as we did in our SARS studies. Currently, we are investigating COVID-19-related anxiety and fear. Studies could be done on the link between stress and protection against the virus.

There are cultural and institutional factors that made the containment measures work better in certain countries/cultures but not in others. Investigation into the relevant social-cultural factors would be informative and helpful for potential future public health policy.

3. I propose that the AASP do a special issue on COVID-19.

 ⁴ Lee-Baggley, D. L., DeLongis, A., Voorhoeave, P., & Greenglass, E. (2004). *Coping with the threat of SARS...*
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-839X.2004.00131.x>



Dayna Lee-Baggley, Ph.D.

*Director, Behaviour Change Research Institute,
Nova Scotia Health Authority
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie
University
Adjunct Professor, Industrial/Organizational
Psychology, Saint Mary's University*

Anita Delongis, Ph.D.

*Professor
University of British Columbia*

Lee-Baggley, D. L., DeLongis, A., Voorhoeave, P., & Greenglass, E. (2004). Coping with the threat of SARS: The role of threat appraisals and coping responses in health behaviours. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 7(1), 9-24. ^[4]

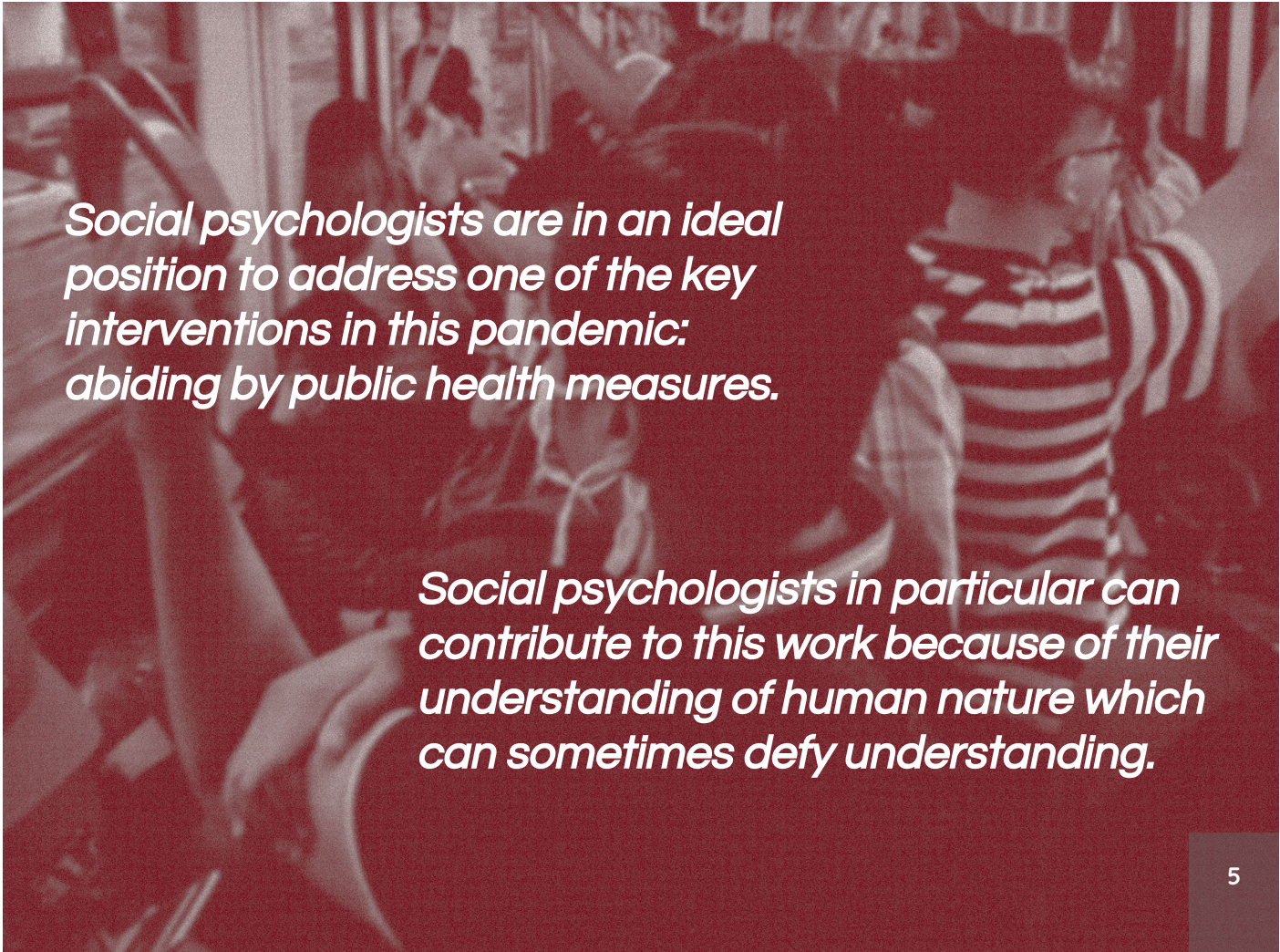
1. Our previous research (Lee-Baggley et al. 2004 in AJSP special issue on SARS) highlighted the role of various coping strategies on following public health measures during the SARS crisis. We examined the relationships between wishful thinking (i.e., efforts to cognitively escape from or avoid the situation by wishing, fantasizing or hoping it goes away or is somehow over), support seeking (i.e., efforts to gain emotional, informational or tangible support from others), and empathic responding (i.e., efforts to understand what others are experiencing and offer support and assistance) in response to the threat of infectious disease during the peak of the SARS crisis. We found that individuals who engaged in wishful thinking in response to the SARS crisis, were not more likely to report engaging in public health measures (e.g., hand washing) but were more likely to report engaging in potentially discriminatory behaviour (e.g., avoiding interacting with those who appear to be of Asian descent). Empathic responding on the other hand was associated with greater engagement in public health measures and was not associated with potentially discriminatory avoidant behaviour. Support seeking was not significantly related to abiding by public health measures.

...

In the current COVID-19 pandemic, this research is applicable to understanding the public's response to current public health recommendations which include hand hygiene but also have required more drastic measures such as social distancing (or more accurately physical distancing). Because physical distancing measures are often for the greater good and often come with a personal psychological, emotional, physical, and financial expense, our prior research suggests that those who can respond empathically may be more likely to abide by physical distancing public health measures. As we have witnessed when different countries take different approaches, abiding by physical distancing public health measures saves lives.

2. This is an unprecedented time in many ways and one positive development has been the unprecedented international scientific collaboration. Scientists and researchers around the world are collaborating on the same topics such as developing a COVID-19 vaccine or how to make ventilators. Social psychologists are in an ideal position to address one of the key interventions in this pandemic: abiding by public health measures. Social psychologists in particular can contribute to this work because of their understanding of human nature which can sometimes defy understanding. Well studied principles of social psychology, such as reactance or the Solomon Asch Line Task, that appear in basic psych 101 textbooks, have a direct impact on reactions to public health messages. Social psychologists can contribute this knowledge by enhancing our understanding of the psychological and public response to health crisis to improve public health messaging to have the biggest social impact.

3. Although admittedly extrapolating far beyond our data and research, we believe that the individuals, companies, and countries that can respond empathically and focus on collaboration, cooperation, and contribution are the ones that will be most likely to survive this pandemic. Psychological research can directly contribute to these efforts. In this pandemic (and the ones that might follow) that will save lives.



Social psychologists are in an ideal position to address one of the key interventions in this pandemic: abiding by public health measures.

Social psychologists in particular can contribute to this work because of their understanding of human nature which can sometimes defy understanding.

Regional Updates

AUSTRALIA

Wendy Li, PhD

Senior Lecturer in Psychology

College of Healthcare Sciences, James Cook University, Australia

Treasurer, Asian Association of Social Psychology

Associate Professor Wendy Li teamed with Psychiatrist Prof Brett McDermott and delivered a webinar entitled “Mental Health in COVID-19: Our Patients and Ourselves” last 14 April 2020. The target audience was medical practitioners. The webinar delved into research on disaster mental health and covered the increased burden of mental illness, significant impacts on both those effected and frontline healthcare workers, practitioner burnout and compassion fatigue, economic recessions and higher rates of depressions and suicide and how much can be done from a personal, social and societal perspective.



MIDDLE EAST

Mostafa Zarean

University of Tabriz

AASP Middle East Representative-at-Large

Coronavirus has become the most prevalent issue these days. It has not only the immediate physical effects, but also the variety of psychological consequences. All parts of the health systems play their role in this novel crisis including, but not limited to, psychologists. Clinical as well as social psychologists in the Middle East have also been involved in the mental health services provided for affected and non-affected individuals to Coronavirus. This report summarizes the main activities have done by psychologists in the region with main emphasize on Iran, Georgia, Turkey, and Arab Union.

Iran¹

There are four bodies in the country that provide preventive and interventional activities about COVID-19 pandemic which are Iranian Psychological Association, Psychology and Counseling Organization of Iran, Ministry of Health, and Welfare Organization. The main themes of activities during the past three months were (a) providing online counseling ...

service free of charge by volunteer psychologists and counselors (more than 1300 professionals) using several hotline services (e.g. 4030, 1480, and 137); (b) development and sharing useful content about self-help guidelines to cope with several aspects of COVID-19 pandemic; and (c) implementation of several webinars and conferences regarding stress management during Coronavirus situation.

Georgia²

There are a few organizations and NGOs in Georgia which have performed several supportive programs during COVID-19 pandemic. Global Initiative on Psychiatry – Tbilisi and Georgian Society of Psychotrauma are the most active ones that have held regular webinars on COVID-19 and mental health, crisis counseling services for current circumstances and affected individuals (in online and phone call formats), continuous seminars and workshops on psychoeducation about Coronavirus, stress management and burn-out prevention, research on COVID-19 crisis' impact on mental health and well-being, and other psychological services in the society.

Turkey³

From the first days of pandemic situation in the world, Turkish ministry of health in collaboration with psychological and psychiatric associations started to provide supportive programs for clients and patients using phone calls and online services 24/7. Within this program, each psychologist and psychiatrist provide professional support to individuals 2 times per week for about 2 hours each time. They also use several applications for full time connection with patients to collect information about their health situation during the pandemic. In addition to these efforts, the ministry of health continuously supports all participants and members of health care systems across the country.

Arab Union⁴

The society of Arab union is a large region of countries which provide several and different supportive programs for their people. Like other parts of the world, the social media and networks play important role in the preventive and awareness raising programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs include, but not limited to, several live speeches about how to cope with stresses during this crisis situation, webinars on self-help activities against several mental health conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic, online counseling services to different people from affected ones to non-affected, and designing and implementation of researches about the psychological and social impacts of the pandemic.

As seen in most countries in the region, psychologists and counsellors have played important roles in raising awareness about how to overcome several distresses during the pandemic. They showed up in media to explain how our body and mind respond to stress, and how to cope with them using psychological and psychiatric guidelines. Many departments of psychology tried to establish online surveys and interventions for individuals from the first days of the pandemic to recognize more precise knowledge about the novel Coronavirus disease to be able to provide more effective and reliable therapeutic interventions.

1. Special thanks to Prof. Hamid Poursharifi (Iranian Psychological Association, University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences)
2. Special thanks to Prof. Jana Javakhishvili (Georgian Society of Psychotrauma, Ilia State University) and Prof. Nino Makhashvili (Global Initiative on Psychiatry - Tbilisi, Ilia State University)
3. Special thanks to Dr. Ugur Cikrikcili (Psychiatrist at Artvin State Hospital)
4. Special thanks to Dr. Michel Nawfal (Middle East Psychological Association)

PHILIPPINES

Maria Guadalupe Salanga, PhD

Associate Professor, De La Salle University-Manila

Chairperson, Social Psychology Division of the Psychological Association of the Philippines

The Social Psychology Division of the Psychological Association of the Philippines, in partnership with academic departments of various universities, successfully organized lectures on various topics that are relevant for postgraduate students and early career researchers.

Miguel Silan of Ateneo De Manila University conducted a lecture on meta-methodology and psychological inference in October 2019 at De La Salle University-Manila and in February 2020 at Ateneo De Davao University. Dr. Adrianne John Galang, postdoctoral researcher at Mazaryk University, Czech Republic discussed theoretical and methodological issues related to experimental deception in front of a live audience, while simultaneously streamed live via Zoom, at De La Salle University-Manila in January 2020. He also shared his current work on metaknowledge accuracy with students from the University of Philippines Diliman in February 2020. Zyra Evangelista, postgraduate researcher from the University of Glasgow, Scotland shared preliminary findings of their work on creating safe and inclusive spaces for LGBT students in higher education institutions in lectures held at De La Salle University-Manila and at the University of the Philippines Diliman in February 2020.

Dr. Marshaley Baquiano, Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines Visayas, and a member of the Social Psychology Division of the Psychological Association of the Philippines shared expert views on stigma and discrimination that frontline medical workers experience during the COVID-19 pandemic in *The Inquirer*, a widely-circulated newspaper.

The Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP), spearheaded by the current president, Dr. Ron Resurreccion, and the Board of Directors, Chairpersons of Specialty Divisions, and Coordinators of Special Interest Groups have been organizing webinars on counseling and therapy, and mental health-related concerns as a continuing professional education outlet for its members during the COVID-19 pandemic. To help individuals with mental health concerns, the PAP created a list of centers that provide online interventions for free. The PAP is also involved in the efforts of different government agencies and mental health organizations.

CHINA

Jian Guan, PhD

Professor, Nankai University

AASP China Representative-at-Large

To meet the urgent needs of the infection prevention and control of the COVID-19, during this special period, social psychological researchers in mainland China are conducting academic research, providing advice and suggestions, keeping making voice on social media, and doing other work which might be helpful by giving full play to their professional advantages, wisdom, and strength.

Scholars in mainland China are conducting scientific research actively. In February 2020, the Chinese Association of Social Psychology, together with Beijing Normal University Press, have organized the publication of social psychological analyses behind the outbreak, by inviting researchers of sociology, psychology, social policy, public management, law, etc. to write theoretical articles. Up to now, 29 theoretical articles have been submitted, involving social attitude, national governance, trust reconstruction, regional discrimination, and other topics. Dr. Junxiu Wang conducted a survey of social psychology under the epidemic situation, collected more than 40000 questionnaires nationwide, and conducted a study on the trajectory of social psychology. Dr. Kan Shi, together with nearly 30 other scholars, entrepreneurs, and medical personnel from the United States, Canada, China (including Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao), launched a psychological research initiative based on the Community of Shared Future to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. It will mainly carry out research on risk cognition (exploring the deep-rooted causes of panic among people in various countries), Psychology Typhoon Eye effect (revealing the adverse consequences of numbness psychology of people in the epidemic center areas), organizational stigma (analyzing the root causes of racial discrimination and social exclusion), cultural change of studying abroad (survival and response of stagnant foreign countries), grief psychological counseling (getting rid of the shadow of the death and meeting new challenges) and post-traumatic stress disorder (exploring the recovery and development of people against adversity).

Scholars in mainland China are carrying out training actively. Dr. Fumin Fan carried out the public welfare project of psychological assistance to fight against the epidemic, training twice a day for more than 60 consecutive days, training more than 800,000 people in total. Dr. Junxiu Wang live broadcast on CCTV, with 16,000 audience. Dr. Shijin Sun, Dr. Feng Yu, Dr. Kaiping Peng, Dr. Yu Kou, Dr. Fumin Fan and others actively participated in the public welfare action of psychological assistance with 277, 593 trainees. Dr. Denghua Tang, Dr. Ying Qian and Dr. Bingling Gao cooperated with Jing Dong Health company to launch online consultation and counseling services for front-line medical staffs for free. The COVID-19 related psychological help and guidance manual have been published since January 30th. At present, 500 media platforms are reproduced, with 400 thousand hits and 60 thousand copies of paper books distributed to the Wuhan epidemic area in Hubei.

At present, it is an important and urgent task to coordinate the epidemic prevention and control, economic and social development, and resolutely win the epidemic prevention and control resistance war in China. Social psychological researchers in mainland China have devoted all their efforts, kept in mind its original mission, actively took on their roles and strived for the greatest contribution.

KOREA

Young-Mi Kwon, PhD

Visiting Professor, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul Korea

AASP Korea Representative-at-Large

Biannual Conference of Korean Social and Personality Psychological Association (KSPPA) 2019

The Korean Social and Personality Psychological Association (KSPPA) held its second biannual conference on December 7th at Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul, Korea.

Three up-and-coming junior scholars were invited to present their research on essentialism beliefs about happiness, psychology of social class, and relational utility of food sharing, respectively. Three sessions of oral presentation followed, including 12 original studies on group dynamics, self, motivation, value, criminology, identity, interpersonal perception, and culture.



At the end of the conference, an annual general meeting (AGM) was held to provide the association's annual report. Also, KSPPA's Appreciation Plaque was awarded to the former president, Dr. Taeyun Jung, the former editor of the Korean Journal of Social and Personality Psychology, Dr. Sang Hee Park, and the former academic committee chairperson, Dr. Hea Kyung Ro. Young Won Cho and Jinkyung Na won the best paper award of the Korean Journal of Social and Personality Psychology.

A Covid-19 Task Force of Korean Psychological Association

The Korean Psychological Association (KPA) has set up a Covid-19 Task Force with psychology professionals to share information about the healthy way to cope with the situation and to provide telephone counseling to those who are in need psychological service.

AASP 2021 Conference Updates

The 14th Biennial Conference of the Asian Association of Social Psychology

AASP 2021 July 29-31 SEOUL, KOREA Sungkyunkwan University

Theme

**Social Psychology of Intergroup Conflict: Towards Peace
and Reconciliation in Asia**

The Organizer

Founded in 1975, the **Korean Social and Personality Psychological Association (KSPPA)** has been contributing to the development of psychology and the resolution of social problems in Korea. Dedicated professionals of KSPPA will develop balanced and highly influential scientific programs for the Seoul conference.



The Venue

Sungkyunkwan University was founded in 1398 as the highest national educational institute in the Joseon Dynasty in Korea.

Now It is the oldest university in East Asia.

The campus is located in the heart of Seoul where you can enjoy the unique Korean culture.



Supported by





We are delighted to announce that the official website of the 2021 Seoul Conference is now open at <http://www.aasp2021seoul.org>



ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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AASP 2021

Call for Submission

Program

Summer School

Registration

General Information

“Social Psychology of Intergroup Conflict:
Towards Peace and Reconciliation in Asia”

AASP 2021

The 14th Biennial Conference of the
Asian Association of Social Psychology

July 29-31 | SEOUL, KOREA

**Call for Submission
Opens**

June 15th 2020

Registration Opens

February 1st 2021

NEWS & NOTICE

Important Dates at a Glance

2020-03-18

Abstract Submission

Online Registration



[AASP 2021]



[Visit Seoul X BTS]



[Seoul Time-lapse]

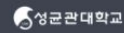
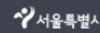


[Korean Street Food]

AASP 2021 Secretariat

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Asian Journal of Social Psychology Update

Special Forum and Special Issue Featured in First Issues of AJSP 2020

Allan B. I. Bernardo, PhD

Editor-in-Chief, Asian Journal of Social Psychology

Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, De La Salle University

The *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* launched its 23rd volume with special sections in the first two issues of 2020.

Issue number 1 of volume 23^[5] was published in March 2020 and it features a special section on “*Special Forum on Countering Terrorism in Indonesia*.” The special forum was guest edited by former AJSP Editor-in-Chief James H. Liu. The special forum includes papers on a case study of terrorist recidivism, on changing attitudes and identities of terrorist detainees, on support for Islamist terrorism in Indonesia, and psychological intervention in deradicalization programs in Indonesian prisons.

Issue number 2 of volume 23 is being published in June 2020 and it features a special issue on “*Applications of Sociocultural Models in Social and Cultural Psychology Research*.” This special issue is guest edited by Valery Chirkov, Professor of Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. The papers in the special issue include neurobiological and developmental perspectives on sociocultural models, on sociocultural models of learning, on sociocultural models of normalcy and deviancy, and on sociocultural models of gender relations. The special issue includes an historical introduction to sociocultural models and an editorial commentary.

All the articles in the special issues are available online and can be accessed by AASP members through the AJSP portal in the AASP website. In addition, volume 23 features an array of diverse and stimulating review papers, regular articles, and short notes. A few other special issues are currently in preparation, including the special issues on “Social Psychology of Climate Change,” on “Collective Remembering,” and on “Psychology of Economic Inequality and Social Class.” And numerous accepted research articles and short notes are already available online first in the AJSP website.



⁵ Asian Journal of Social Psychology Vol. 23, Issue 1.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/1467839x/2020/23/1>

Messages from AASP Awardees

Chun-Tuan Chang, PhD is currently Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Business Management at National Sun Yat-sen University. She is a recipient of the 2019 Asian Association of Social Psychology Misumi Award. She shares some information about her winning article below.

Chang, C. T., Lee, Y. K., & Cheng, Z. H. (2017). Baby face wins? Examining election success based on candidate election bulletin via multilevel modeling. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 20(2), 97-112.^[6]



⁶ Chang, C. T., Lee, Y. K., & Cheng, Z. H. (2017). *Baby face wins? Examining election success based on...*
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ajsp.12172>



This research contributes to a deeper understanding of how a candidates' baby face affects democratic elections in a collectivist culture. The impacts of a candidate's baby face are compared with other theoretically important variables (i.e., perceived traits from the candidate's face, background, political claims, and constituency-related factors). Data based on election bulletin photographs from Taiwan's 2004, 2008, and 2012 legislative election show that babyfacedness can be more influential than perceived competence, attractiveness, and warmth in a voting context. As shown in this study, judgments based solely on a baby-like facial appearance predict the results of a legislative election in a collectivist culture. Since trustworthiness of friendliness are inferences that babyfacedness may signal, babyfaced candidates in the constituencies has the potential to change the relative vote share.

The current results contribute to the babyface literature in three important ways. First, previous studies either adopted experimental design or single electoral data, to enhance the external validity, our work investigated the babyface effects across multiple electoral data. Second, we used a multi-level model to consider the "frog pond effect" when evaluating the candidate's traits. Our work joins emerging body of work that comparisons should be contingent to the situational differences and should be considered as relative rather than absolute. Third, we conducted the relative importance analysis to examine whether babyfacedness could be a stronger predictor in electoral success. Most previous studies have only been demonstrated in one context (one particular type of election within one particular country), whereas other researchers have found that babyfacedness does not matter that much once facial competence is also included as a predictor. Our work shows that a candidate's babyfacedness contributing to his/her vote share at least similarly to perceived candidate's competence. The babyfacedness is found to be the most influential predictor when the candidates were challengers. Different from the Western countries that babyfacedness seems to be a weaker predictor (than facial competence) of electoral success, babyfacedness is found to be a stronger predictor in an East-Asian country. Our study echoes recent research that facial competence is a weaker predictor of electoral success in Asia.

...

In an era of increasingly competitive elections, both politicians and voters should concern themselves with the impacts of facial appearance on voter perceptions. Our findings provide practical implications for democratic societies. A babyfaced visage may be easier for a voter to process than a set of well-thought-out policy issues. In addition to inferred competence, aspiring candidates/politicians should be aware of the substantial influence of babyfacedness, and understand how it may affect their efforts. Political parties should be careful about their candidate selection based on trait inferences associated with babyfacedness.



Chee-Seng Tan, PhD is an Assistant Professor at Department of Psychology and Counselling, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia. He is also last year's recipient of the K.S. Yang Travel Grant, awarded during the 2019 Asian Association of Social Psychology Conference held in Taiwan.

I would like to express my gratitude to AASP and the committee for awarding me the KS Yang Travel Award. I'm extremely honored to be the recipient of the award. With the help of the award, I attended the AASP conference and organized a symposium to explore the cultural, social, and individual impacts on well-being with Dr. Hidefumi Hitokoto, Dr. Johnathan E. Ramsay, and Dr. Shue-Ling Chong. I presented my findings on the benefits of mindfulness on meaning in life across four countries. In addition, I also take this opportunity to develop collaborations with international researchers. I'm grateful for AASP supporting young scholars to develop their research careers.

AASP Small Group Meeting Update

Revised Guidelines for AASP Small Group Meetings

The Asian Association of Social Psychology will provide financial support for Small Group Meetings (SGM) that are organised by members of the Association and deemed especially worthwhile of funding by the AASP Executive Committee.

The broad aim of these meetings is to bring AASP members who share a particular research interest and expertise together for the sharing of knowledge and ideas, with the specific goals of (a) building the capacity of the participating researchers, especially, early-career researchers on the area of research interest, and (b) generating interrelated research proposals and publication on the area of research interest.

These meetings should therefore include researchers of all career levels, potentially including leading researchers from outside of the AASP membership. But any SGM that will be supported by the AASP Executive Committee should have a minimum of 50% of the participants as AASP members (see below).

The meetings should provide participants with opportunities for in-depth discussions, skill development and networking for research collaboration. Ideally, the meetings should provide the foundations and mechanisms for continuous communication and collaboration among the participants. Most importantly, the meeting should have clearly articulated concrete long-term goals for the participants in the small group meetings (e.g., collaborative research proposals, collaborative research projects, an AASP conference symposium, a special issue for the AJSP, or an edited volume, etc.).

A potential small group meeting may bring together researchers interested in any research topic in social psychology and personality, but preference will be for research topics that are of interest across Asian societies, that define new areas of inquiry, that explore new theoretical and methodological approaches, or that broaden a current research topic from one Asian country/territory to several countries and territories in Asia and beyond. The application proposal should indicate how the proponents aims to address these preferred criteria.

The meeting could potentially take place as a pre-conference or post-conference event around an AASP or other conference, but it could be scheduled during any time of the year.

AASP Support:

- ❑ The amount of financial support is a maximum of US\$10,000 (between US\$5000 & US\$10000). Organisers are encouraged to obtain support from additional sources as required. For instance, the host institutions may contribute financial support for the meeting, including support for housing delegates, meals, venues, etc., when potential funding can be tapped.
- ❑ The main proponent, and at least 50% of organisers should be active members of the AASP, and 50% of participants at the meeting must be AASP members (or will register as AASP members).
- ❑ The meeting should include a minimum of 15 participants (no maximum).
- ❑ The number of meetings to be supported will be determined by the Executive Committee each year, based on the availability of funding and the merit of proposals.

Criteria for evaluating proposals:

1. The topic is attractive to the AASP membership, broadly consistent with the goals of AASP, and has scientific merit.
2. Potential for capacity building of early-career social psychology researchers.
3. Potential for generating interrelated collaborative research projects and/or publications.
4. Participation by members from more than three countries and diverse membership, including early-career researchers and/or PhD students. Proposals with participants from countries that are currently underrepresented in the social psychology literature are strongly encouraged and will be given priority.
5. Well laid out budget which is reasonable; additional sources of support have been tapped. Budget proposals that allocate funds to support diverse participants from other universities/ organizations will be prioritized over those that allocate funds primarily to support internal members of the hosting universities/organizations.

Application Procedure:

- ❑ The proposal can be submitted anytime, but the designated application form must be used.
- ❑ The following attachments should be provided together with the application form:
 - (a) a 1- or 2-page summary of the aims and proposed schedule of activities during the meeting,
 - (b) a detailed budget for the activity, including other sources of funds, and
 - (c) a draft announcement for the meeting (300 words or less), including requirements for invitation/selection of participants.
- ❑ The AASP Subcommittee on Small Group Meetings will evaluate the proposal, and if necessary, seek clarifications about the proposal from the main proponent. The Subcommittee will recommend a decision to the AASP Executive Committee, which will decide on the outcome of the application within one month after the date of submission.
- ❑ Applications must be made at least 6 months (but ideally much longer) prior to the planned meeting dates in order to give adequate time for publicising the meetings, submission of abstracts and feedback, and for travel arrangement. For instance, application for a meeting planned for September 2020 should be submitted by March 2020, so that the funding decision can be notified and the meeting can be announced in April 2020, allowing time for invitation, selection, and notification of participants with an adequate amount of time ahead of the meeting.

Application Procedure (continued):

- ❑ Successful applicants will receive 50% of the AASP support in advance. Within one month after the meeting, organisers are required to provide (1) a brief report plus one or more photos from the meeting (to be published in the newsletter and website), (2) the abstracts of the meeting, (3) an overview of the participants, and (4) a financial statement accounting for expenditure. The remaining 50% of the support will be paid to the organisers after submission of the reports that demonstrate the execution of the proposed activities. Any significant departure from the proposal will need to be explained to the AJSP.
- ❑ When budgeting, please use USD and include GST and other relevant taxes (as needed) within the cost. The budget should also include bank charges that will be required for the transfer and handling of the funds. The proponents are expected to manage the possibility of fluctuations in the exchange rates between USD and the local currency; no adjustment will be made for subsequent changes in foreign exchange rates.



Application Form for AASP Small Group Meetings

Please submit the completed application form together with (a) a 1- or 2-page summary of the aims and proposed schedule of activities during the meeting, (b) a detailed budget for the activity, including other sources of funds, and (c) a draft announcement for the meeting. Please send the completed form and the attachment to Subcommittee on AASP Small Group Meetings, c/o Allan B. I. Bernardo (allan.bernardo@dlsu.edu.ph)

Title of the Proposed Meeting	
Organizers (please provide the details of two chief applicants)	
Name: _____	Name: _____
Affiliation: _____	Affiliation: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Email address: _____	Email address: _____
Dates and Place of the Proposed Meeting	
Meeting dates: _____	Place: _____
Proposed Participants (Please describe the number and profile of participants you intend to invite for this meeting; insert additional rows if required)	
Explain how the topic of this meeting aligns with the goals of the AASP (https://asiansocialpsych.org/about%20us?src=nav).	
Explain how this meeting will help in building capacities of social psychologists in the region.	



Explain how this meeting will lead to the development of interrelated research proposals, projects, and/or publications.

Describe the long-term goals of this proposal.

Brief indication of how organizers will try to ensure the diversity of participants in the meeting with respect to career stage (junior researchers and PhD students), region, gender, and any other relevant dimensions. Response may include descriptions of organizers' networks with national and international groups, and/or plans for inviting participants from diverse target countries and career stages.

List of attachments

- (a) Summary of aims and proposed activities. Please indicate file name: _____
- (b) Budget and justification (please provide as much details as possible, including registration fees, accommodation cost for participants, foods, facility hire fees). Please indicate file name: _____
- (c) Draft announcement (300 words or less; please include information on invitation, selection, and notification of participants). Please indicate file name: _____

Additional sources of funding (including any other forms of support) apart from AASP's contribution