Letter from President

This is the second letter than I write as President of the AASP. I hope you and your family are keeping well. In the past six months, the executive team of AASP has been working hard in several projects aiming to strengthen the research capabilities and collaborative ties among its members.

Firstly, we have developed the Guidelines for AASP Small Group Meetings (SGM). It is usually difficult to spare a sufficient time for researchers to exchange their ideas fully during a large conference, especially for early-career researchers. The aim of SGM is to help AASP members develop an opportunity for in-depth discussions, skill development, and networking for research collaboration. The meetings should therefore include researchers of all career levels, and potentially leading researchers from outside of the AASP membership. If successful, the applicants may receive a maximum of USD 10,000 (between $5k and $10k) to supplement their cost towards holding the meeting. The meeting could potentially take place as a pre-conference or post-conference event around an AASP or other conference. See AASP website for application procedure.

The first meeting to be supported by this scheme will take place in Nanjing, China, on 3-4 November 2018. The theme of the meeting is ‘Diversity in Wisdom: Insights from Psychology’ and it is being organised by Prof Wei Xindong from the School of Psychology, Nanjing Normal University (weixin@hotmail.com). If interested, please contact the organiser. We
hope to receive more applications for Small Group Meetings soon.

Secondly, we have recently developed the AASP/AJSP Social Media Strategy, to increase the social media visibility of the AASP and AJSP. Based on the responses to the survey conducted, three social media platforms were selected, namely, Facebook, Twitter, and WeChat (in Chinese). They were launched in May, and some of you may have been connected to these already. As I write this letter, the twitter account Asian Social Psychology @AASP_AJSP has over a hundred followers and connected to various other social psychology associations. I would like to thank Sammyh Kahn for his hard work. These online communications will not only promote the AASP/AJSP among a wider audience of social psychologists but also help AASP members to be informed about mainstream social psychological initiatives, publications, and meetings relevant to Asian social psychology and Asian social psychologists. It would be especially useful for students. I hope you’ll enjoy these links and to promote them in your networks.

Thirdly, an important mission of AASP is to foster the development of social psychology in Asia, and we are keen to support the next generation of social psychologists in Asia-Pacific to develop their research skills and network with international researchers. We have recently supported three student members (Diwa Quinones, Darren Dumaop, and Myrtle Orbon from the Philippines) attend the 2018 Summer School organised by the SASP (Society of Australasian Social Psychologists). They enjoyed their week in the south coast of New South Wales in Australia, learning and socialising with PhD students from Australia and New Zealand. AASP has its own summer school, established in 2007 at Universiti Malaysia Sabah by late Prof Kwok Leung from Hong Kong.

Since the inaugural summer school, more than 100 students have participated in an AASP summer school. During a typical summer school, students work on a selected research topic and develop a group project, working with an international expert. They may have a chance to apply for research funding from AASP, and further, to report their research findings at a later AASP conference. The next summer school in July 2019 will take place in Taiwan, and the conference organisers led by Prof Kuang-Hui Yeh are already working hard on their plan. There would be a call for teachers and students in the next AASP Newsletter.

June-July is a season for many people to travel for conferences/holidays. I wish you a safe travel.

Emi Kashima
AASP President, 2017-9
Rest in Peace, Dr. Yang Kuo-Shu

We are very sorry to inform you the sad news, that Dr. Yang Kuo-Shu passed away on July 17, 2018. He was Professor Emeritus of National Taiwan University which was renowned for his works in indigenous social psychology, social attitudes, cognitive style, and personality psychology. He passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 86.

Dr. Yang made the monumental contribution to the Chinese indigenous psychology, establishing the insight that personality of Chinese individuals has gone through substantial transformation within globalization. His work also explored the role of modernization in shaping the psychology of Chinese people.

According to sinica.edu.tw, Dr. Yang was the first person in Taiwan who has a Ph.D. degree in psychology. He taught in National Taiwan University since 1959, in which he was appointed twice as director of psychology department. He was also a former president of Asian Association of Social Psychology.

His monumental legacy in the field of social psychology will continue, as we witness the growing bodies of indigenous perspectives in the last decades. Thank you so much for your contribution, Dr. Yang Kuo-Shu. May you rest in peace.

Hamdi Muluk with Joevarian Hudiyana,
Universitas Indonesia

Yang Kuo-Shu’s Notable Works


We are saddened to convey that Dr. Toshio Yamagishi, Professor Emeritus of Hokkaido University and Adjunct Professor of Hitotsubashi University, passed away on May 8, 2018.

Toshio was an internationally renowned scholar, researching topics such as social exchange, social dilemmas, and culture.

Originally trained as a sociologist at Hitotsubashi University and the University of Washington, Toshio was first and foremost a “social scientist” before he was a social psychologist. In recent years he had extended his research program to include evolutionary and neuroscience approaches. He was passionate about using interdisciplinary approaches to understand the interplay between human behavior and social structure.

Toshio’s theory explaining cultural differences in trust (vs. assurance) in Japan and the United States is among his most well-known and renowned work. His more recent work sought to reinterpret culture as a “social institution”: a self-sustaining equilibrium of beliefs and behavior shared and transmitted across generations in a society. Common to both of these theories was his vision of human behaviors as ‘adaptive strategies’ tailored to social institutions. He hoped that his theories would be used to improve society in Japan and around the world.

He was passionate about research until the very end. He worked long hours every day (and night), and enthusiastically engaged in theoretical debates with colleagues, students, and other scholars. His loss will be felt deeply by many scholars who have been influenced by his research and perspectives.

May he rest in peace (or research in peace!), and may his legacy continue to shape Asian social psychology for the better.

Masaki Yuki, Hokkaido University with Joanna Schug, College of William & Mary

Toshio Yamagishi’s Notable Works


Yamagishi, T., Horita, Y., Mifune, N., Hashimoto, H., Li, Y., Shinada, M., ... & Simunovic, D. (2012). Rejection of unfair offers in the ultimatum game is no evidence of strong reciprocity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 109*(50), 20364-20368
Participation in Summer School – Society of Australian Social Psychologists
19-25 February, 2018

This year, AASP awarded several postgraduate students to participate in Summer School organized by Society of Australasian Social Psychologists (SASP). It was held at the Australian National University’s Kioloa Coastal Campus in Kioloa, New South Wales, Australia. These students obtained knowledge and established strong networks in various social psychological issues such as political psychology, leaderships, and prejudice.

Darren E. Dumaop: On prejudice and being a social psychologist

One important point I realized was that my previous understanding of prejudice came from the point of view of the disadvantaged. I think most literature took the same perspective. For the longest time, thus, prejudice was deemed wrong. Rethinking about it, however, we come to realize that prejudice is subjective: For any group (regardless of privilege or status), a negative attitude towards another is just right (and not prejudice!). Therefore, prejudice depends on the norms of the group who calls it prejudice.

Another key takeaway I had was that, as an academic, I had been in an economically privileged position in my country. This somehow made me conservative about social change. I was contented in giving handouts to the underprivileged and in waiting for change to happen naturally. This summer school forced me to remember the works of previous social psychologists and inspired me to think of large scale social change again. It occurred to me that we (social psychologists) can catalyze change. I realized that we have a political duty to stand for people whose sufferings had been the subject of our research.

I personally thank AASP and SASP, especially Drs. Emi Kashima, Kate Reynolds, Wendy Li, and Allan Bernardo, for extending their help and support in one way or another that allowed me to join the summer school. I am also grateful to my adviser, Dr. Maria Cecilia Conaco, for submitting a fantastic recommendation on my behalf. I cannot fail to thank the overwhelming support of my home institution, De La Salle University, especially the efforts of my colleagues Drs. Robert Javier and Guada Salanga and our Vice Chancellor, Dr. Merlin Suarez. Finally, I want to thank Drs. Martha Augustinos and Michael Platow for challenging my notion of prejudice and energizing my revolutionary spirit.

Darren E. Dumaop

Ph.D. student, University of the Philippines
Faculty member, De La Salle University
Myrtle C. Orbon: “The experience made me appreciate more the diversity of social psychology”

I am truly grateful for the experiences I had during the SASP summer school. It was my first time attending a Summer School, and it was so enriching. The activities were filled with many fun and interesting activities that someone like me would definitely enjoy.

One of the activities was a group discussion on some interesting topics related to Psychology. To accomplish its objectives, three streams were created. Each stream was composed of 15 students with three highly esteemed teachers. The streams focused on prejudice, leadership and political psychology. I was part of the Political psychology stream, and the members in our stream represent three associations such as EASP, AASP, and SASP.

The group discussions were very interesting as well as informative. I learned a lot from those teachers who shared new insights and ideas about certain topics. The experience made me appreciate more the diversity of social psychology, specifically political psychology from different contexts.

Towards the last part of the summer school, each stream was divided into subgroups (at least 3-5) to come up with a study and have the chance to apply for a research grant. There was no dull moment at the summer school. All activities such as bonfiring, playing board games, beach swimming were truly fun and exciting.

The ANU Kioloa campus was surrounded by Kangaroos, big trees, beautiful flowers and relaxing air breeze. In addition to that, even the food, bunkhouse and classrooms were all great. I could say that the venue was really a perfect place for learning. No wonder that the coordinators and the sponsors chose to hold the event in that place.

Kudos to the SASP for the successful summer school. An advice given by a teacher during the closing program empowered me in my academic journey. She said, “never compare yourself with others; compare yourself from where you have started”. I am indeed inspired that I’ve met individuals at the summer school who are passionate about conducting research in social psychology and aim to have a better society to live in at present and in the near future. I am forever thankful for the grant of AASP. It was truly a life-changing experience!

Thank you so much AASP!

Myrtle C. Orbon
Adventist University of the Philippines, Philippines
As outlined in the previous newsletter, the AASP Summer School in Auckland (Aug, 2017) was attended by 19 students from several different Asian countries and others (including Indonesia, China, Philippines, Germany and so on). They were broken up into four research streams led by an international team of social psychologists.

Although it was officially entitled as a ‘summer’ school, being held in the southern hemisphere meant that it was actually winter! The venue was the lovely (albeit chilly at the time) Kawaipurapura Retreat with the students residing dormitory style, and sessions taking place, in a traditional marae-style room (see picture with Liz Jones leading the class).

The all-day working sessions (over 4 days) included presentations by the leaders and students, workshops with the whole body of students as well as working with fellows within each research stream. The main aim of the school was for the research teams to draft outline research proposals and present them on the final day to the whole school.

The atmosphere of the school was lovely and lively, with critical and friendly collaborations and cross-fertilisation of ideas. Lovely vegetarian and vegan fare was served in accordance with the spiritual aims of the venue, and we even managed to give a surprise birthday cake to William Crano! A stimulating work, social and spiritual time was had by all participants.

AASP has offered to support these students to follow up on their work together by providing $1000 funding per working group, in the hopes that they can realize their projects and present the results at the next AASP conference in Taipei in 2019.

The topics of the 4 research-school streams were: i) ‘Quasi-experimental designs’ led by William Crano (USA); (ii) ‘Health Communication’ led by Liz Jones (Australia); (iii) ‘Fear of Ageing in Asia’ led by Darrin Hodgetts (NZ) and Dr. Wendy Li (Australia) & (iv) ‘Vitality of Urban Multilingualism (VuM)’ led by Itesh Sachdev (UK).
Roomana N. Siddiqui is a social psychologist and is broadly interested in issues of social relevance. Her research articles have been published in reputable international and national journals like Environment and Behavior, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, European Journal of Personality, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Psychological Studies, Psychology and Developing Societies and Indian Psychological Abstracts and Review. Her current line of research includes issues related to environment, identity and intergroup relations and identifying the shared spaces between diverse groups which has implications for intergroup harmony. Her teaching interests include Applied Social Psychology, Environmental Psychology, Intergroup Relations, Personality, Experimental Psychology, Adjustment and Mental Health and Research methodology.

Profile:
Designation: Professor
Affiliation: Department of Psychology, Women’s College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh – 202002
Nationality: India

Books:

Research Papers:


**Dr. Chien-Ru Sun**  
Regional Representatives for Taiwan  
chienru@nccu.edu.tw

**Chien-Ru Sun** is a social and personality psychologist and is broadly interested in self in social world, particularly in Chinese society. Her research articles have been published in many reputable journals. She is currently involved in research projects related to the "self" area. Major research topics are the Chinese self, self-regulation, & self-evaluation. In addition, social exclusion and Chinese guanxi (interpersonal relationship) are also her areas of interest.

**Profile:**  
Designation: Professor

Affiliation: Department of Psychology, National Chengchi University, WenShan Dist. 111605, Taipei, Taiwan

Nationality: Taiwan

**Book Chapters:**


**Research Papers:**


The AASP/AJSP launched its social media accounts a couple of months ago. We are now present on Twitter, Facebook, and Weibo (China). The launch of these accounts is part of our strategy to increase the association and journal's presence on social media. Two social media managers manage the accounts: Daniella Hult Khazaie (a.k.d.hult.khazaie@keele.ac.uk) manages the Twitter and Facebook accounts, whereas Dr Yinang Wang (11312015246@bnu.edu.cn) manages the Weibo account.

If you have any news that you would like to share with the AASP/AJSP followership/readership and externally, please get in touch with the managers and they will in turn ensure that the content that you send is shared on the social media pages (assuming that it is relevant and appropriate). Examples of such news include (but are not limited to) new publications (relevant to Asian social psychology/social psychology in Asia), conference presentations, research achievements, and/or relevant local news.

Please also support the social media accounts by following/liking the pages, announcing the launch of the pages via your own social media accounts, and retweeting/sharing new AASP/AJSP posts, particularly those about the association/journal.

Please find the links to the social media pages below:

- https://twitter.com/aasp_ajsp
- https://www.facebook.com/ajspaasp
- http://weibo.com/AASPAJSP
The main theme of the 13th biennial Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) conference in Taipei, Taiwan, July 11-13, 2019, is “Consolidating the future of Culture-Oriented Psychology: Progress and achievements”, and hosted by Academia Sinica (Prof. Yuh-Huey Chou, Prof. Kung-Hui Yeh, and Prof. Jen-Ho Chang), and National Taiwan University (Prof. Bor-Shiuan Cheng).

The 2019 AASP conference’s theme is based on the 3rd AASP conference, also hosted by Academia Sinica in 1999. In that year, the 3rd AASP conference started an inspired discussion among three main fields on Asian social psychology: the perspectives of cross-cultural psychology, cultural psychology, and indigenous psychology. These inspiring dialogues thereby contributed to a classic special issue of *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* in 2000 (Volume 3, Issue 3).

Now, based on two decades of the research findings on Asian social psychology, in 2019 AASP, we have decided to make deep reflections on both theoretical and empirical developments, and hope to bring innovative integrations on different psychological perspectives in order to consolidate future directions Asian social psychology.

conference include (1) Shinobu Kitayama, the Robert B. Zajonc Collegiate Professor at the University of Michigan, who just received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Advancing Cultural Psychology from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), and also serves the current editor of *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (JPSP), and the former editor of *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* (PSPB). (2) Michele J. Gelfand, the Distinguished...
Professor at University of Maryland, and also received the 2017 Outstanding International Psychologist Award from the American Psychological Association. (3) Kwang-Kuo Hwang, the Distinguished Professor at Kaohsiung Medical University and the Emeritus Professor at National Taiwan University, and also as the past president of AASP and AAICP (Asian Association of Indigenous and Cultural Psychology). More information on new keynote speaker will announce on future AASP newsletter.

The conference website is scheduled to be opened in this summer, and will have a first round “Call for Papers” in order to allow delegates who need early confirmation of paper or poster acceptances. In addition, we encourage delegates with creative plans such as cross-cutting theme in Asian social psychology, symposia, and workshops, and then work with conference organizers to contribute these plans to the fullest extent for 2019. Finally, a Summer School will take place just prior to the main conference as usual. Plans and schedules for the main programs of the 2019 AASP are now underway. After the final confirmation, we will announce the detail information in further AASP newsletter.