SUPPORTED PROJECTS FOR THE 2018 SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH THEMATIC GRANT CALL

Projects receiving Type A funding

These projects will receive $100,000 to $1 million for up to 3 years to support smaller-scale research. This funding is meant to encourage broad-based participation in research in areas of strategic relevance.

1.	Project Title	Social Isolation, Loneliness and Health among Older Adults in Singapore
	Name of Principal Investigator	Assistant Professor Huso Yi Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore (NUS)
Details of Project		One issue faced by older adults is social isolation and loneliness. These increase physical and mental morbidity and mortality, and are risk factors for poor health outcomes and low social cohesion in the community. With a growing ageing population in Singapore, it is important to enhance our knowledge of social connections and health in the social-ecological context to address the unmet needs of older adults who are at risk of loneliness, and to increase the effectiveness of community activities designed for social engagement of older adults in Singapore. The overall goal of the study is to understand older adults' experiences with social isolation and loneliness over the course of ageing and its effects on health; identify focal points of interventions to reduce loneliness; and provide evidence of what should be done to improve the existing participatory interventions in Singapore. The project has the potential to inform Singapore's active ageing programmes to better support the needs of older adults who are at risk of loneliness.

2.	Project Title	Digital Historical Maps of Singapore and Southeast Asia
	Name of Principal Investigator	Professor Jane Margaret Jacobs Division of Social Sciences, Yale-NUS College

Details of Project	Historic maps offer a unique insight into the past, both for scholars and the general public. Such maps are much more than a representation of the earth's surface. They also tell us about the priorities of those making and using the maps. Historic maps offer both a cartographic record of a place in time, as well as an insight into social, political, and economic assertions being made about that place. This is especially so with the early maritime trade and colonial maps of Southeast Asia, which delineate routes, resources, and settlements. This project will develop an interactive online platform of digitised historical (pre-1900) maps of Singapore and Southeast Asia. This will serve as a one-stop portal that allows users to view and interrogate an extensive body of historical maps, sourced from select, world-renowned collections, including the National Library (Singapore); the Bodleian Libraries (University of Oxford); the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (Yale University), and the Map Collections of Leiden University. The platform will support high-functionality user interaction, thereby facilitating scholarly research, support teaching, and enhance non-expert public engagement and education. This project will also add value to the local research landscape, building Singapore's digital humanities capacities in digital historical map curation and usage.

3.	Project Title	Defining, Determining and Dealing with Deliberate Online Falsehoods in Singapore
	Name of Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Edson C. Tandoc Jr Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

Details of Project	While there has been significant research on the rising global challenge of deliberate online falsehoods (DOFs), information gaps remain. This project seeks to examine factors that facilitate the spread of DOFs and understand (i) how different stakeholders define DOFs; (ii) how social media users in Singapore determine specific DOFs; and (iii) how social media users in Singapore deal with DOFs. This study will also develop a news media literacy curriculum for use in Singapore. This curriculum will identify key literacies needed to teach students how to responsibly and knowledgeably deal with DOFs.

<u>Projects receiving Type B funding</u>

Type B projects will receive funding of between more than $1 million to $10 million over 3 to 5 years to support larger-scale research. This funding is meant to encourage research institutes to collaborate to pursue more ambitious, inter-disciplinary research on issues of cross-cutting interest.

4.	Project Title	In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting By among the Young
	Name of Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Irene Ng Director, Social Service Research Centre Deputy Head, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore (NUS)
Details of Project		New vulnerabilities are being created by the new disrupted economy. This project seeks to gain new insights on the kinds of "in-work" poverty (i.e experiencing poverty while being employed) that the working class are experiencing. It will focus on the challenges faced by less educated young workers (aged between 21 and 40) and their efforts at advancement, an area that has received less attention. Using traditional and technology-based mixed methods, the project will gain deep and wide understanding of the lived realities of younger low-waged workers through surveys, interviews, ethnographic studies, and data inputs using a mobile application. Through these, we hope to understand the interactions of work and earnings with young workers' mental health and cognitive ability, and how they use their social networks to navigate jobs, family and advancement. The insights gained from this project seeks to inform Singapore on improving the reach of formal programmes to younger low-wage workers, the design of programmes to better meet their needs, and the optimisation of their social networks as a resource to help themselves.