NUS RESEARCHERS AWARDED MAJOR GRANTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

NUS SECURES 5 OUT OF THE 11 AWARDS GIVEN OUT THIS YEAR

NUS researchers continue to be recognised for their creative and impactful research, with five principal investigators securing the 2017 Social Science Research Thematic Grant (SSRTG) awarded by the Ministry of Education. A total of 11 projects, selected from 48 proposals received from seven institutions, were awarded the SSRTG.

The projects were chosen based on intellectual merit and their potential impact on and contribution to society and the economy.

The SSRTG provides two tiers of funding. Type A funding, between $100,000 to $1 million for up to three years, supports smaller-scale research, and encourages broad-based participation in research in areas of strategic relevance. Type B funding, up to $10 million over three to five years, is for research institutes to collaborate on more ambitious, inter-disciplinary research on issues of cross-cutting interest.
Professor Michael Frese from NUS Business School and Professor Teo Hock Hui from NUS School of Computing received Type B funding, while Assistant Professor Tamra Lysaght from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and Associate Professor Choo Hyekyung and Assistant Professor Yu Rongjun from NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, were awarded Type A funding.

Professor Frese’s research looks at how a country’s culture influences innovation processes at various levels such as national markets, companies’ strategies, innovation teams, and among individuals. His project seeks to develop a cross-cultural theory of innovation and develop new instruments to understand cross-cultural differences from an Asia-centric perspective. The results will help foster innovation productivity and enhance the international impact of Singaporean businesses.

Professor Teo aims to develop holistic strategies to improve the innovative capabilities of Singapore firms through the effective use of digital-enabled technologies. Insights from the project will grow Singapore’s knowledge of the digital innovation eco-system and inform Singapore’s policies and strategies as the country transits into the next phase of economic development.

Assistant Professor Lysaght’s study seeks to address the ethical challenges faced in data sharing in a national survey, stakeholder workshops and citizens’ juries. Results from this project will inform the generation of a trustworthy governance model for health-related data-sharing in Singapore. This will help promote cutting-edge health research and will be of interest to scholars and policymakers locally and internationally.

To minimise the socio-economic vulnerabilities of bi-national families and better support their integration into Singapore, Associate Professor Choo and her team will study how different factors have an impact on the families’ social integration at both the individual and familial level. The project will gather information and examine a range of variables, including demographic conditions, psycho-socio-economic challenges, and availability and utilisation of social capital.

Finally, Assistant Professor Yu’s work will examine how digital data from social media can be used to predict the decision-making style of users. The project insights will be valuable in informing Singapore on the effective application of data analytics, to provide evidence-based inferences about individual and community characteristics to better inform government policies and businesses.

Together with the announcement of the results, MOE has launched the grant call for 2018*. This year’s SSRTG is focused on three broad themes – Identities and Social Integration, Society and the New Economy, and Cities and Humanity.

*The deadline for submission of proposal is 10 August 2018.