

**MSF SOCIAL AND FAMILY RESEARCH FUND**  
**AWARDED PROJECTS - UNDERGRADUATE CATEGORY**

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**2019 Grant Call**

<b>1</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>A Qualitative Study on Factors Influencing Early Childhood Educators' (De)Motivation in Singapore</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Chua Jin Yi</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	Despite the growing demands of early childhood care in Singapore, there has been relatively little scholarly research examining ways to improve retention and attrition rates of early childhood educators. In particular, more information is required on both motivational and demotivational factors that influence early childhood educators and the effects of broader cultural and societal factors on motivation levels. There is also a need to discriminate between educators teaching in different settings. Using qualitative methodologies (participant observation and in-depth interviews), the proposed study fills the gap by exploring (1) what factors, at the personal, social, cultural and institutional levels, motivate and demotivate early childhood educators; (2) how these factors interact with one another to shape the early childhood educator's decision to stay in or leave the profession; (3) if there are differences in the motivational and/or demotivational factors for educators teaching in government-funded childcare centers and large commercial operators.
<b>2</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Impact of Parent-Child Media Engagement on Mobile Devices on Language Development During Early Childhood</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Ng Li Ting</b> School of Social Sciences Singapore Management University
	<b>Aim</b>	Young children's media consumption on mobile devices has been a source of serious concerns for parents and educators as media consumption replaces time for parent-child interaction. Given the crucial role of parents as the main socialization agent in influencing a child's language development, it is essential to examine the impact of parent-child media engagement on early language development. This study aims to investigate the impact of parent-child media engagement on mobile devices on a child's language development in pre-schoolers. Further, the study examines the potential moderators for the relation between parent-child media engagement and language development. Lastly, given the paucity of research on the underlying mechanism, the study examines selective attention as a potential factor that mediates the relation between parent-child media engagement on mobile devices and language development during early childhood.

## 2018 Grant Call

1	<b>Project</b>	<b>Unravelling the Remedy to the Effects of Work-Family Conflict on Child Outcomes</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Hon An Chi</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	In a competitive and fast-paced country such as Singapore, many working parents report difficulty achieving work-life reconciliation. Accumulating evidence suggests that conflict between family and work life (work-family conflict; WFC) exerts negative impact on children, as well as working adults themselves. This study aims to examine (i) whether parents' WFC relates to their pre-school children's self-regulation (SR) and (ii) whether parental characteristics – boundary management practice and trait mindfulness – moderate the WFC-SR link, using multi-source data collected from parent-child-teacher triads.
2	<b>Project</b>	<b>Impact of Mothers' Work and Family Boundaries on Family Dinner Outcomes</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Tan Hwee Boon, Simone</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	This study seeks to investigate predictors of working mothers' involvement in family dinner. Specifically, this study aims to examine whether working mothers' work-family boundaries relate to family dinner frequency and mealtime interaction quality. Data show that the involvement of Singapore working mothers in family dinner has declined. This is concerning given research findings on the benefits of family meals, such as heightened family identity and reduced risk of childhood obesity. Knowledge of the antecedents of family meal may help foster these positive outcomes.
3	<b>Project</b>	<b>Family Environment as a Contributing Factor to Brain Synchrony in Mother-Child Dyad in response to Social Interactions</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Leck Wan Qing</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University

	<b>Aim</b>	The family has long been recognized as having a critical role in children's development. Development of emotion regulating abilities are also found to be crucial to the child's success later on in life. Research has shown that dyadic parent-child synchrony early in childhood has a long-lasting impact on the child's later social abilities. In this study, a multi-level approach is utilized where the contributions of the family environment to the mother and child responses to emotional events are examined. More specifically, Nears-Infrared Spectroscopy will be used to detect brain synchrony in the mother-child dyad when exposed to different emotional situations.
4	<b>Project</b>	<b>Are two heads better than one? Determining the relationship between spousal synchrony, relationship quality and resilience in a neurological context</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Lim Mengyu</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	The transition to parenthood is one of the most important, yet stressful, periods for the family. To deal with familial stress, relationship quality between spouses is of utmost importance. This study aims to make use of functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) and electrocardiogram (ECG) readings to uncover features of spousal synchrony, thus clarifying the role of spousal synchrony in contributing to marital satisfaction. Additionally, this study aims to determine if spousal synchrony has a relationship with individual levels of resilience.
5	<b>Project</b>	<b>Exploring the Interactions, Tensions and Negotiation Process between Family and State: A Study of Fostering Policies and Foster Families in Singapore</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Faith Kwok</b> Department of Sociology National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	Foster families are unique, as they mimic normative ideals of a 'family', by taking a nuclear family form comprising a couple and children, yet they also receive much closer inspection and regulation by the state than ordinarily so. Foster children are identified as a vulnerable population, due to past experience of trauma. Foster care inevitably causes the displacement of children from their natural homes into a new, foreign family environment, which points to its potentially disruptive nature. The study aims to uncover the challenges and risks of foster care to better inform policy and programme development.
6	<b>Project</b>	<b>How does Social Network Discourses Affect Mature Workers Understanding of Health and Economic Policies?</b>

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Lim Jing Wei</b> Department of Sociology National University of Singapore
<b>Aim</b>	Policy literacy is increasingly important, especially amongst the elderly who must now navigate complex policies that has been revised extensively. This study aims to find out whether the various personal networks and connections our senior citizens have formed would influence their policy literacy and what will constitute as social network to them. The study also hopes to find out the potential measures that communities and governments do to assist them, especially “solo-agers” with limited networks to rely on.

### 2017 Grant Call

<b>1</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Understanding the Saving Patterns of Lower-Income Individuals</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Lee Jia Min, Jasmine</b> Department of Economics National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	The objectives of this research are to uncover some of factors that explain the saving behaviour of Singaporeans, especially that of the low-income individuals. While it is intuitive that low-income individuals are less able to save, thus have lower savings, there might also be other significant factors that result in their low savings rate, such as their willingness to save. Upon understanding the factors that affect their savings decisions, institutions can act accordingly to encourage saving.

### 2016 Grant Call

<b>1</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Too Young to Get it: Eldercare Arrangement in Family for Young Onset Dementia Patients</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Yong Jing Rong</b> Department of Sociology National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	The objectives of this research are to explore the different types of eldercare arrangement in family and the various factors that affect the types of arrangement provided for Early Onset Dementia (EOD) Patients.
<b>2</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Singaporean Parents’ Perspectives And Experiences On Raising A Child With Autism</b>

	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Chong Hui Xian Jessica</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	This study aims to better understand the insights of parents with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This included their diverse experience ranging from negotiation of identity between the resources provided by government and Voluntary Welfare Organisations, lay public's perception of ASD and their views on their child's future prospects.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>The Right to Education: An Inclusive Education for the Deaf in Singapore</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Stephanie Loo Pei Ning</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	The study serves to find out the attitudes and concerns of both parents of typically-developing children and parents of deaf children towards inclusive education and the mainstream integration policy in the context of Singapore.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>The Influence of Culture and Familial Values on Subjective Well-being: Comparison between Chinese and Malays in Singapore</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Sarah Chan Hian May</b> <b>Siti Halimahtul Raudah</b> School of Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	This research examines the predictive power of cultural and familial factors on differences in happiness between the two ethnic groups in Singapore (i.e. Chinese and Malays) and explore how different dimensions of cultural and familial indices vary in their effect on subjective well-being.

## 2015 Grant Call

<b>1</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Absence for a Cause? A Study on Pre-school Attendance Rates of Children from Low-income Households</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Ng Woon Chian</b> Department of Economics National University of Singapore

	<b>Aim</b>	This study aims to better understand the insights of parents with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This would include their diverse experience ranging from negotiation of identity between the resources provided by government and Voluntary Welfare Organisations, lay public's perception of ASD and their views on their child's future prospects.
2	<b>Project</b>	<b>The Effects of Smartphone Use on Female Adolescents' Body Concerns</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Wang Jiaqi Joy</b> School of Social Sciences Singapore Management University
	<b>Aim</b>	The study seeks to explore the effects of smartphone's appearance-related content on female adolescents' body esteem and social appearance anxiety.

### 2014 Grant Call

1	<b>Project</b>	<b>Motivation and Family Caregivers of Elderly Individuals: Exploring the Relevance of Self-Determination Theory and Filial Piety</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Nur 'Atiqah Binte Mohd Farhan</b> School of Humanities and Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	To explore how the components of Self-Determination Theory (SDT) - autonomy, competence and relatedness - could help to alleviate caregiver burden, specifically in the context of caring for elderly individuals.

### 2013 Grant Call

1	<b>Project</b>	<b>Tapping the Potential of Married Women in Singapore: The Role of Married Women in Supplementing Singapore's Shrinking Labour Force</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Wan Tin Wai</b> <b>Nur Atiqah Binte Abdul Razak</b> <b>Celestia Tan Wan Cheng</b> Department of Economics Nanyang Technological University

	<b>Aim</b>	To investigate how women spend their time and the corresponding value that Singaporean women place on unpaid work (e.g. household chores, childcare and eldercare) as well as the challenges that prevent them from remaining or returning to paid work or formal production.
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## 2012 Grant Call

1	<b>Project</b>	<b>What is Holding You Back from Giving Birth? An Investigation of the Proximate Factors Affecting the Intention to Give Birth in Singapore</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Vivian Lau Shi Ni</b> <b>Tee Siew Lee</b> <b>Tan Siok Ling</b> <b>Yu Jianfei</b> Department of Economics Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	To investigate and provide insights on the proximate factors influencing fertility intentions in Singapore.

## 2011 Grant Call

1	<b>Project</b>	<b>Singlehood and the Changing Perspectives on Marriage and Childbirth</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Tan May Jan Clara</b> Department of Sociology Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	To examine how various factors could have affected the decisions of Singaporeans on marriage, with a focus on the role of policy.
2	<b>Project</b>	<b>From Policy to Praxis: Understanding the Implementation Gap in Flexible Working Arrangements</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Febrin Low Chao Jing</b> Department of Sociology National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	To explore the factors motivating people to take up flexible working arrangements, so as to provide insights into the low take-up rate.
3	<b>Project</b>	<b>Drivers of Family Social Support for the Elderly in Singapore</b>

	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Chong Ruixin</b> School of Social Sciences Singapore Management University
	<b>Aim</b>	To explore the role of family structures, contrasting those of elderly with and without children, in enabling and encouraging the provision of instrumental and emotional support for the elderly and the effect on the provision of instrumental and emotional support by families on the psychological and physical well-being of the elderly.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>The Value of Marriage</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Lee Mei Rong</b> <b>Koh Mi Zhi Mitzi</b> <b>Liew Si Min</b> Division of Economics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	To examine how singles value marriage using an economics framework, to provide insights into how individuals make choices on whether to marry.
<b>5</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Family Bonding Before and After Marriage: A Key to the Pillar of Support of the Nation and Individual Level</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Gina Tay Pei Ru</b> <b>Stephanie Yeo Yan</b> <b>Felicia Tan Li Xuan</b> <b>Law Xue Fen</b> Division of Economics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	To examine the factors that are related to family bonding and the impact of family bonding at the individual level specifically, on the development of altruistic tendencies in children.

## 2010 Grant Call

<b>1</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Do you know what they are thinking about? On the Improvement of Social Understanding in Pre-schoolers</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Shen Pinxiu</b> <b>Long Ying Ying</b> School of Humanities and Social Sciences Nanyang Technological University

	<b>Aim</b>	To find out whether role-play helps in the Theory of Mind development (i.e. the social understanding) of pre-schoolers in Singapore.
2	<b>Project</b>	<b>The Impacts of Working Parent(s) on Adolescents: Moderating Effects of Adolescent's Perception of Working Parent(s) on Family Characteristics-Adolescent's School Related Outcome Relationship</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Pan Shiying Serene</b> Department of Psychology National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	To test a theoretical model examining the relationship between family characteristics and adolescents' school related outcomes, and how this relationship may be moderated by adolescents' perceptions of their working parent(s) in single and dual-income families.
3	<b>Project</b>	<b>Messages on Marriage and Family in Singapore's English Language Mainstream Print Media: A Content Analysis</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Benita Aw Yeong Huiyi</b> School of Social Sciences Singapore Management University
	<b>Aim</b>	To understand the problem of Singapore's marriage and baby gap from the perspective of the media, and the role it plays in influencing the marriage and family decisions of young adults.
4	<b>Project</b>	<b>Dinner Table Woes: A Decline of the Family</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Diana Ang Shu Zhen</b> Department of Sociology National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	To use the practice of family mealtimes as a lens through which to view the family, exploring how the idea of the family is sustained and experienced. Mealtimes act as a platform via which the family presents itself to itself and others - constituting and reaffirming the idea of the family. The thesis thus illustrates how the family is not a natural entity, but one configured through a range of symbolisms and social practices which change continuously over time.
5	<b>Project</b>	<b>The Social Construction of Fatherhood in Dual-Income Families</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amaria Janoah Ponniah</b> Department of Sociology National University of Singapore

<b>Aim</b>	To challenge the assumption of minimal paternal involvement in family work by asking how fathers in dual-income household perceive their role through an analysis of the father in the everyday life of the family. It challenges notions of gender division-of-labour to understand the implications of fatherhood today on family-life patterns and family size decisions.
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## 2009 Grant Call

<b>1</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>The Impact of Gender-role Adherence on Singaporean Men and Women Managers' Career and Family Outcomes</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Madeline Ong Li Xuan</b> Lee Kong Chian School of Business Department of Organisational Behaviour and Human Resources Singapore Management University
	<b>Aim</b>	To gain a better understanding of how gender-based views relating to work and home affect Singaporean managers' career and family outcomes.
<b>2</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>American TV Series and their Effects on Attitudes Towards Marriage: A Cultivation Analysis</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Grace Swee Hui En</b> Department of Communications and New Media National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	To understand the effects of selected popular American television series on the attitudes of local adult females towards marriage. The study will explore the different messages pertaining to marriage and female singlehood, conveyed through such series and assess the attitudes held by heavy and light viewers.

## 2008 Grant Call

<b>1</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Inter-Generational Relationship Differences in Romantic Beliefs of Singaporean Chinese Women</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Lee Yoke Wen</b> <b>Kelda Tan</b> <b>Rachel Lim</b> Division of Psychology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences National Technological University

	<b>Aim</b>	To understand the Asian beliefs on love and marriage; identify the attachment styles of Singaporean Chinese women; and identify generational differences in the above two objectives.
<b>2</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>How the Elderly in Singapore Satisfy their Emotional and Social Needs through Leisure Activities in a Public Space</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Shen Weixiong</b> Division of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences National Technological University
	<b>Aim</b>	To examine how senior citizens satisfy their emotional and social needs (in lieu of the family) through leisure activities participation in a public space; and the strategies that they adopt in order to experience graceful ageing.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Impact of Senior Volunteering on Volunteers and Their Family Members in Singaporean Context</b>
	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Nagoor Mohideen Fatimah</b> <b>Tang Chyi Yueh</b> Department of Social Work National University of Singapore
	<b>Aim</b>	To identify benefits and strains as a result of senior volunteering, as perceived by the senior volunteers and their family members; study the relationship between the socio-demographics and individual capacity characteristics of the senior volunteers and the perceived benefits and strains from volunteering; and the association of the benefits and strains from senior volunteering with family functioning.