

Hwa, Yue-Yi

Address: Blavatnik School of Government, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6GG, United Kingdom

Email: yue-yi.hwa@bsg.ox.ac.uk

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Research Fellow, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford (Oct 2019–present)

- Lead the synthesis and communication of research on teachers and management across the seven countries in Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme.
- Projects include:
 - a book-length primer synthesising research on teacher careers across contexts and academic disciplines, co-authored with RISE Research Director Lant Pritchett (available [here](#));
 - an asynchronous symposium on teacher professional norms comprising a series of interviews with 14 pairs of researchers and practitioners who have complementary expertise and 3 commissioned discussant-style essays on the interviews (ongoing; interim slides available [here](#)).
- Co-led the development of *Edyclopedia: The Education Systems Wiki* (available [here](#)), a collaborative wiki for synthesising education systems research. Supervised Edyclopedia summer interns from the Blavatnik MPP.
- Proposed and chaired conference panels bringing together research on teachers and management from different RISE teams at Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) 2021 and Teach For All Virtual Education Research Conference 2021.
- Wrote blogs and hosted podcasts communicating RISE research (available [here](#)).

PhD in Education, University of Cambridge (2016–2020)

- Thesis: Teacher accountability policy and sociocultural context: A cross-country study focusing on Finland and Singapore. Degree approved July 2020.
- Proposes an analytical framework for the varied effects of teacher accountability instruments across sociocultural contexts, via teachers' heterogeneous responses to such instruments.
- Multilevel analysis of large-scale datasets on education (PISA, TIMSS, TALIS) and culture (WVS, Hofstede).
- In-depth interviews with 24 teachers in Singapore and Finland.
- Systematic literature search on teacher accountability policy and sociocultural context.

Penang Institute in Kuala Lumpur, Research Fellow (Jan–Aug 2016)

- Proposed, planned, and conducted research on mitigating skills deficits among Malaysian school leavers.
- Wrote working paper (available [here](#)), media statement, and magazine cover story on the completed project.
- Designed and delivered workshop on analysing TIMSS and PISA data at invitation of Universiti Malaya.

Teach For Malaysia, Teaching Fellow (Jan 2014–Dec 2015)

- Taught English full-time to secondary school students (5 classes, 13–43 students in each) in high-need school.
- Selected to represent TFM in receiving classroom visit from education minister, delivering speech to trustees and incoming fellows, and participating in national TV interview.
- Post-fellowship, selected for first cohort of Teach For All's global community of practice in education policy.

Postgraduate Diploma in Education, Universiti Utara Malaysia (2014–2015)

MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government), University of Oxford, *distinction* (2011–2013)

- Dissertation: Authoritarian regimes and middle-class mobilisation in Malaysia and Singapore. Distinction.
- Developed an analytical framework to explain the rise in antiauthoritarian pressures from middle classes.
- Data and methods included logistic regressions of the Asian Barometer Survey and analysis of trends in newswire articles on public demonstrations.

BA in Political Economy and Arabic Studies, Williams College (U.S.A.), *magna cum laude* (2007–2011)

- Dissertation: Lessons from English-medium science and mathematics education in Malaysia. Awarded highest honors and the David A. Wells Prize for an essay in political economy.
- Group capstone paper: Combating corruption in Pakistan: The power of public information and technology. Group awarded the Graves Prize for the delivery of an essay in political economy.

RESEARCH

Published articles

“Our system fits us’: Comparing teacher accountability, motivation, and sociocultural context in Finland and Singapore.” (2022). *Comparative Education* (advance online publication).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/03050068.2022.2102754>

“What works’ depends: Teacher accountability policy and sociocultural context in international large-scale surveys.” (2021). *Journal of Education Policy* (advance online publication).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02680939.2021.2009919>

With Clare Leaver. “Management in education systems.” (2021). *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 37(2), 367–391.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/grab004>

Book chapters

“Contrasting Approaches, Comparable Efficacy? How macro-level trust influences teacher accountability in Finland and Singapore.” (2021). In M. Ehren & J. Baxter (Eds.), *Trust, Accountability and Capacity in Education System Reform: Global Perspectives in Comparative Education* (pp. 222–251). Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429344855-11>

“The wage-productivity question and women in the workforce: A labour statistics approach for the Penang state government.” (2010). In K.B. Ooi & B.L. Goh (Eds.), *Pilot studies for a new Penang* (pp. 251–274). ISEAS; SERI.

Working papers

With Sharon Kanthy Lumbanraja, Usba Adelina Riyanto, & Dewi Susanti. “The role of coherence in strengthening community accountability for remote schools in Indonesia.” (2022). RISE Working Paper Series, 22/090.

https://doi.org/10.35489/BSG-RISE-WP_2022/090

“From drills to skills? Cultivating critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration skills through Malaysian schools.” (2016). Penang Institute Working Paper. (Available [here](#)).

Work in progress

Project editor for “(Re)setting teacher professional norms amid the global learning crisis.” Research project on teacher norms that will culminate in a volume of edited transcripts of interviews with 14 pairs of researchers and practitioners who have complementary expertise, along with three commissioned discussant-style essays and a synthesis paper by the project editor.

Other publications

With Lant Pritchett. Teacher Careers in Education Systems That Are Coherent for Learning: Choose and Curate Toward Commitment to Capable and Committed Teachers (5Cs). (2021). Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Primer. https://doi.org/10.35489/BSG-RISE-Misc_2021/02

With Michelle Kaffenberger and Jason Silberstein. “Aligning Levels of Instruction with Goals and the Needs of Students (ALIGNs): Varied Approaches, Common Principles.” (2020). RISE Insight Series. 2020/022.

https://doi.org/10.35489/BSG-RISE-RI_2020/022

With Carmen Belafi and Michelle Kaffenberger. “Building on Solid Foundations: Prioritising Universal, Early, Conceptual and Procedural Mastery of Foundational Skills.” (2020). RISE Insight Series. 2020/021.

https://doi.org/10.35489/BSG-RISE-RI_2020/021

“Toward coherent policy making and implementation in Malaysia” (2017). In M. Samuel, M.Y. Tee & L.P. Symaco (Eds.), *Education in Malaysia: Developments and challenges* (pp. 162–164). Springer.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

2019	CIES New Scholars Committee Merit Travel Grant
2016–2019	Gates-Cambridge Scholarship for PhD study at the University of Cambridge
2016–2019	Tunku Abdul Rahman Scholarship (expenses only)
2011–2013	Donovan-Moody Fellowship for MPhil study at the University of Oxford
2010	Class of 1945 & Charles W. Hufford Memorial Research Fellowships
2009–2011	Harry A. Garfield Scholarship

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- RISE Conference, Oxford, U.K., Jun 2022 – “Teacher professional norms in the Global South: Intersections between selves, situations, standards, and society”
- CIES Conference, virtual, Apr 2022 – “Teacher professional norms in the Global South: Competing priorities, dominant practices, and prospects for change”
- Teach For All Virtual Research Conference, Jul 2021 – “A systems approach to teacher careers: Choose and curate toward commitment to capable and committed teachers” (TED-style talk)
- CIES Conference, virtual, Apr 2021 – “A systems approach to teacher careers: Choose and curate toward commitment to capable and committed teachers”
- RISE Online Presentation Series, virtual, Jul 2020 – “How to manage teacher careers: Getting the best you can Out of the best you can attract”
- CIES Conference, San Francisco, U.S.A., Apr 2019 – “Investigating the influence of sociocultural context on teachers’ responses to accountability instruments in Finland and Singapore”
- EARLI SIG 18 & 23 Conference, Groningen, the Netherlands, Aug 2018 – “Teacher accountability policy, sociocultural context, and student outcomes across countries”
- Kaleidoscope Conference, Cambridge, U.K., May 2018 – “A realist framework for a mixed-methods study of teacher accountability policy and sociocultural context across countries”
- ASEASUK Annual Conference, Durham, U.K., Sept 2012 – “Competing voices: Authoritarian regimes and middle-class mobilisation in Malaysia and Singapore”

WRITING FOR A BROADER AUDIENCE

- Dialog Pendidikan**, discussion platform on Malaysian education. Founder and writer (Mar–Nov 2019)
- The Nut Graph**, Malaysian news website. Politics and current affairs columnist (2011–2013)
- The Williams Record**, weekly campus newspaper. Writer (2007–2011); editor-in-chief (Spring 2010)
- Office of Public Affairs**, Williams College. Press release writer (2007–2011)
- theSun**, Malaysian national daily newspaper. Editorial intern (Feb–May 2007)
- Ad hoc commentary on Malaysian education published in *The Malaysian Insight* (Aug 2017), *Penang Monthly* (cover story, Feb 2017), *Cilisos* (Jan 2017)

SERVICE, ENGAGEMENT & OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Research Ethics Committee, Blavatnik School of Government**, University of Oxford.
Committee member (Mar 2020–present)
- Short-term Consultant, World Bank**, part-time remote appointment
MENA Education Unit (Mar 2017–Jun 2017; Oct 2017–Feb 2018); EAP Education Unit (Feb–June 2020)
- Policy Challenges**, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange.
Researcher (Mar–Nov 2018); Coordinator (Dec 2018–Aug 2019)
- Local Governing Body, Bewick Bridge Community Primary School**, Cambridge, U.K.
Governor (Dec 2016–Feb 2019)
- Socio-economic and Environmental Research Institute**, Penang, Malaysia
Intern (Summer 2009)

LANGUAGES

English (native), **Malay** (spoken: fluent; written: fluent), **Arabic** (spoken: basic; written: basic)