

RGC Reference HKU 37000115

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**The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong
Prestigious Fellowship Scheme under the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel
Completion Report**

(for completed projects only)

Part A: Project and Award Holder

1. Project Title

Explaining Socioeconomic Differences in the Psychological Adjustment Process: A Dynamic Resource Theory

2. Award Holder and Academic Department/Unit Involved

Name/Post	Unit/Department/Institution	Contact Information
Cheng Cecilia/Professor	Department of Psychology/The University of Hong Kong	ceci-cheng@hku.hk

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Part B: The Report

5. Workplan

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5.2 Revised workplan

Date of approval from the RGC: August 15, 2016

Reasons for the change: Our collaborator in Singapore was seriously injured in an accident and was admitted to the hospital in June 2016. The data collection sessions in Singapore were delayed and finally cancelled. Besides, in our conference presentation, we received feedback from scholars who suggested the inclusion of a Western developed country instead so that we can make an East-West comparison instead of comparisons among four Asian countries per se. Hence, we collected data from Canada (that replaced the Singaporean data) in response to this feedback.

- (1) August 2015: Training of interviewers and recruitment of participants in Hong Kong and India
- (2) September 2015 to January 2016: Data collection in Hong Kong and India
- (3) October 2015: Pilot interviews, modifications of interview protocol, training of interviewers, and recruitment of participants in Singapore
- (4) January 2016 to June 2016: Data collection in Singapore (delayed and finally cancelled due to the poor health condition of our collaborator at the Singapore site)
- (5) November to December 2015: Translation of the interview protocol and manual into Indonesian
- (6) January 2016: Pilot interviews, modifications of interview protocol, training of interviewers, and recruitment of participants in Indonesia
- (7) February to June 2016: Data collection in Indonesia
- (8) July to August 2016: Transcription of interview scripts, data coding, and statistical analyses
- (9) September 2016: Training of interviewers and recruitment of participants in Canada
- (10) October 2016 to February 2017: Data collection in Canada

5.3 Realisation of the workplan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the work as stated in the workplan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

All the events stated in the revised workplan have been fully accomplished on time. As explained previously, a change has been made in the original workplan because the

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scheduled data collection in Singapore had been delayed and eventually cancelled due to the poor health condition of our collaborator in the Singapore site. Also, we received constructive feedback from scholars in a conference presentation that our project lacked a Western sample from a developed country for more thorough and meaningful “East vs. West” cultural comparisons. We took this feedback seriously and revised the workplan by collecting data in Canada instead of Singapore. At the end of this project, we still managed to collect data from four different countries that allowed for cross-national comparisons and testing of our hypotheses. The research output derived from this project will be described in Section 6.3.

6. Dissemination plan

6.3 Realisation of the dissemination plan

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(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the output as stated in the dissemination plan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

Apart from the data collection in Singapore that could not be accomplished due to the withdrawal of our Singaporean collaborator who was in poor health condition during the study period, the output as stated in the dissemination plan have been achieved, with details as follows.

In 2016, findings derived from the Indian data have been developed into a conference paper that was presented at a major international psychology conference (see Attachment I):

Cheng, C., & Atal, S. (2016, August). *Explaining Socioeconomic Differences in Deployment of Psychosocial Resources and Coping Strategies: Towards a Dynamic Resource Approach*. Paper presented at the 19th International Conference on Business, Economics, Social Science and Humanities-BESSH, Singapore.

In addition, an original research paper has been written and submitted to an international refereed journals for publication (see Attachment III):

Atal, S., & **Cheng, C.** (2016). Socioeconomic health disparities revisited: Coping flexibility enhances health-related quality of life for individuals low in socioeconomic status. *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes, 14*, 1-7. doi:10.1186/s12955-016-0410-1

We have already distributed the interview protocols, training manuals, research reports, and best practice guides to our coordinators in India, Indonesia, Canada, and Singapore for their information and reference. We have adopted a “train-the-trainer” model to providing extensive training to the Indian and Indonesian coordinators (our Singaporean and Canadian collaborators already have extensive experience in conducting interviews), who in turn trained a total of 43 interviewers, including research assistants, graduate students, and student interns. All of these interview “apprentices” are now equipped with transferable interview skills that will be beneficial for their future research careers.

We have also organized summits to share the project findings with the staff from some non-governmental organizations in India (August 2016) and Canada (June 2017).

In September 2017, the findings derived from Hong Kong and Indonesia will be developed into a conference paper that will be presented as a keynote speech in the upcoming International Conference on Intervention and Applied Psychology in Indonesia (see Attachment II).

Cheng, C., Cheng, F., Atal, S., & Sarwono, S. (2017, September). *Testing of a Dual Process Model to Resolve the Socioeconomic Health Disparities: A Tale of Two Asian Countries*. Keynote speech presented at the International Conference on Intervention and Applied Psychology, Jarkarta, Indonesia.

We are currently drafting a full paper that contained data from all four countries. This paper will be submitted to an internal refereed journal for possible publication. Comments

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obtained from the conference audience will be incorporated before submission, and we plan to submit the paper in October or November 2017.

7. **Other impact** (*e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, knowledge transfer, etc.*)

Keynote speech presented at the International Conference on Intervention and Applied Psychology, Indonesia.

Collaborations with Cambridge University, University of Toronto, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and Universitas Indonesia.