

ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



James H. Liu

It is a pleasure and honor to lead the Asian Association of Social

its shores in 2011, it has cut back on financial support for academic associations, and so JGDA can no longer afford to financially support AASP. Our 11th conference in Cebu, the Philippines will be the last year in which JGDA stands as an official partner to AASP. However, but I have no doubt that our friendship to the Japanese scholars who form JGDA will be enduring.

Psychology (AASP) as President as it enters into its third decade as an organization. The thirties are an era of maturity for human beings, and it seems that our association has some human-seeming attributes as well.

First, there is organizational change coming. I want to acknowledge with gratitude and respect the wonderful support over the years that the Japanese Group Dynamics Association (JGDA) has offered AASP. Unfortunately, next year this support is due to end. As Japan retrenches from the tsunami and earthquake that struck

But with bad news comes good news as well. AASP is signing a new agreement with Beijing Normal University (BNU) to publish the Asian Journal of Social Psychology together. Financially, we will remain in good shape with the generous support of BNU. The BNU agreement is in many ways symbolic of the evolution of AASP from its origins in Japan and the 4 little dragons (Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and S. Korea) to the Asia-wide organi-

zation it is today. We welcome very much the emerging trend of China and Chinese scholars playing an important role in the organization. We will be holding collaborative workshops in China annually, hosted by BNU, coaching scholars on how to publish in international journals and establish meaningful research programs of their own.

AASP has held two collaborative publications workshops this year, in Taipei and Manila, led by myself and AASP President-Elect Allan Bernardo. The workshops emerged as a result of enthusiastic responses from Taiwanese and Filipino scholars in response to the Call for Papers for AASPs new Special Issue in the *Journal of Pacific Rim Psychology*. We held the workshops to promote action research in Asia, as a way of making research in Asia more relevant to the social and economic issues facing our societies. The 5 year plan (allowing 100 print pages a year) allows Asia-Pacific scholars a sustainable platform to develop their research along applied lines that might be hard to maintain otherwise, and enables AASP to augment the more mainstream contributions of *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* with second, more applied and actively transformation-oriented outlet for

publication. This more applied publications outlet was called for by AASP members during the development of a mission statement last year, and was an especially salient issue in developing countries. We now have a firm set of publications outlets for AASP, from our entry-level *Progress* series, which highlights selected papers presented at our conferences, to AJSP and JPRP as the “two wings” of an Asian Social Psychology that aspires to both scientific excellence and delivering applied outcomes.

The workshop in Taipei was designed to coincide with the launching of the Taiwanese Association of Applied Psychology, where Chaoming Liu of Fujen University was elected inaugural President of the association. I visited researchers individually, talking about what we were looking for in the Special Issue (to be published in September of 2014), and learning about their research programs. Then we had a collective workshop as part of their association’s inaugural meeting. There has long been a movement of action oriented Taiwanese researchers who have predominantly published in Chinese, for whom AASPs JPRP initiative is a useful opportunity to expand the international reach of their work. We look forward to coordinating

more between Taiwanese and Filipino researchers in the lead-up to the next AASP conference August 19-22 2015 in Cebu, to develop even broader and more effective cross-national programs of action research. We also look forward more generally to other cross-fertilization efforts between AASP and the Taiwanese Association of Applied Psychology.

President-Elect Bernardo and I are committed to providing our membership with whatever support they need as they seek to improve their research capabilities in directions that benefit their societies, and welcome inquiries for more workshops on research and publication in coming years. Please don’t hesitate to contact either of us if you have ideas along these directions!

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

I rejoined the executive committee of the Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) as President-Elect last August 2013, after being away for two years. In the months since I returned, I have quickly come to realize how much and how fast the AASP is developing. Many of the changes relate to transitions and transformations with some of our partners like the Japanese Group Dynamics Association and Wiley Publishing. But the more important changes have arisen as the leaders of AASP try to respond to diverse aspirations of social psychologists in different parts of Asia. As mentioned by AASP President James Liu in his message, the AASP membership is growing from the original bastions of Asian social psychology to new communities with strong potential. Within the AASP, there are new aspirations from emerging groups of social psychologists in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and China, and the AASP is being transformed internally by these new ambitions.

The collaborative publication initiative with *Journal of Pacific Rim Psychology* is one activity that tries to respond to these potential growth areas. In addition to providing a respected publication venue for locally relevant social psychology research, the AASP has also undertaken capacity-building workshops to better assist psychologists from these emerging groups to participate in the competitive world of peer-reviewed publications. Last April, James Liu and I conducted such a workshop with about a dozen psychologists in the Philippines who were writing on a diverse range of socially relevant social psychology topics. We hope that some of the

manuscripts being prepared would be published in the special issue, but more importantly, we hope that the skills acquired by the participants would motivate and enable them to publish in other reputable psychology journals. In August, I will try to reach a bigger audience during the Annual Convention of the Psychological Association of the Philippines and advocate for action research oriented approaches to studying the social psychological aspects of social change. This opportunity to reach out to a wider group of psychologists in the Philippines is being spearheaded by the local psychology association, and I hope to have similar opportunities to work with psychology groups in other countries, especially in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and China.

As part of AASP's efforts to reach out to more social psychologists in all the Asian countries, we are now conducting consultations regarding the membership fee structure of the AASP to find out how the membership fees can be revised to encourage more psychologists and students of psychology to join the AASP and to maintain their membership with the AASP over the years. If you have any thoughts on this matter, I encourage you to send an email to me or to your Regional Representative or your country Representative-at-Large. If the consultations move on as planned, we might have a revised membership fee structure by 2015 in time for the next AASP Conference in Cebu City.

The goal is not just to grow the AASP in terms of membership numbers, but also to grow the AASP in terms of the programs and

Allan B. I. Bernardo



activities it has for its growing and increasingly diverse membership. As we anticipate that most of these programs would relate to capacity-building among social psychologists, I would like to acknowledge the special inputs of AASP Past-President and current Chair of the Training and Education Committee, Sik Hung Ng. We hope to have a wider menu of capacity-building programs within the AASP in the next few years.

As I have committed to serving the AASP with the other AASP Executives until 2019, I am filled with excitement and hope about the future changes that the AASP will undergo. We know that path of development is always marked by obstacles and difficulties, but we remain optimistic that about the growth trajectory that AASP has taken. I hope that this enthusiasm I have is shared by the members of the AASP. And if you have ideas about how we can sustain these pathways to growth please email our James Liu, myself, or any of the AASP Executives.

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REPORT ON ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, 2013



Fanny M. Cheung

include James Liu, Zhi Liu & Michael Morris, Gerald Echterhoff, Chi-yue Chiu & Lin Qiu, and Melody Chao & Jason Wong.

We have added four virtual issues based on articles published in AJSP which would provide you with relevant research in areas of your interest:

- Responses to disasters in Asia
- Japanese social psychology: Cross-cultural comparison with Western samples
- Self-esteem and well-being in Asia
- Traditional values and social changes in Chinese societies

Do check out these resources on the AJSP online portal.

The new editorial team led by co-editors Emiko Kashima and Jianxin Zhang have taken up their role since the beginning of 2014. For smooth transition, my editorial team has been complet-

ing our remaining manuscripts and we officially step down after the second issue this year. Six of the AEs of my editorial team Allan Bernardo, Cecilia Cheng, Hoon-Seok Choi, Luo Lu, Ronald Fischer, Catherine Tang and Lei Wang, will be retiring together with me this summer. Keiko Ishii, who joined the editorial team last year, has kindly agreed to continue on in the new editorial team. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my editorial team for their dedication and support. I am sure AJSP will flourish in the coming year under the new editorial team.

Fanny M. Cheung, Ph.D.

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VOICES FROM AASP AWARD-WINNERS

2013 Michael Harris Bond Award for Early Research Contributions

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Sylvia Xiaohua Chen

As an academic discipline, psychology originated in the West. Despite its rapid development and prevalence around the world, psychological theories,

constructs, methods, and practices are still deeply entrenched in Western ideologies and institutions. Even in the field of social psychology that emphasizes con-

textual affordances and



constraints, the study of cultural influences on psychological processes has made profound impacts by researchers based in North America. As a response to the dominance of Western psychology, Asian psychologists have advocated the development of indigenous psychology, attending to traditions, ideologies, and beliefs in Asian cultures and emphasizing the use of Asian languages, concepts, and methods. I believe that this focal approach is important to the advancement of psychology, but Asian psychologists may also adopt a global approach that exports indigenous constructs to identify the universality of psychological processes and searches for culture-general dimensions to interpret human behavior.

In particular, I am intrigued by research questions in the fields of personality and social behaviors in cultural contexts. For instance, can theories and models in social psychology be applied to other cultural contexts? Do personality and social behaviors manifest similar patterns in groups socialized into non-Western cultural heritages? Do individuals speaking different languages and influenced by different cultural background exhibit the same personality traits and communicative behaviors across linguistic contexts? To this end, I have been conducting empirical studies on the social psychology of bilingualism and biculturalism, multiculturalism

and globalization, personality and social behaviors in cultural contexts, and socio-cultural influences on illness behaviors and help-seeking patterns.

One of my most enjoyable and rewarding experiences is working with and learning from researchers who are enthusiastic, inspiring, and enlightening, such as Michael Bond, Fanny Cheung, and Winnie Mak, just to name a few. Though I held a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Santa Clara University in the U.S. and worked for a few years in California, most of my research training was from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where I obtained a first-class education during my postgraduate diploma, M.Phil., and Ph.D. training in psychology. I also greatly benefit from the supportive academic environment provided by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University where I have been working since graduation. While the young generation of Asian researchers aspires to studying and working in the West, I wish to attest that Asia-based institutions and researchers can likewise offer invaluable research training and nourishing work environments.

Nevertheless, such affordances also present great challenges, one of which I face is how to publish in prestigious journals. Researchers trained and based in Asia are at a relative disadvantage, in the sense that deliverables in international outlets entail a high level of

English proficiency, localized work is often ignored by mainstream psychology, and insufficient networks limit Asian researchers' visibility and recognizability in Western academia. Despite these difficulties, we are making every effort to promote the Asian voice in social psychology. We ought to go beyond offering Asian samples to validate extant measures and models and compare cross-cultural differences at the mean level, but uncover and unpack how culture influences the mechanisms underlying psychological processes, with an aim to produce research that makes strong impact on mainstream psychology and creates a distinctive, dynamic and field-expanding voice for Asian social psychology.

In the foundational statement for the Asian Association of Social Psychology, the first Editor of the Asian Journal of Social Psychology Uichol Kim advocated Asian social psychology as a "third force" to move beyond the historical precedents of American and European influences and to promote psychological research arising from Asian traditions, philosophies, and ideas. Recent years have witnessed the rise of China's economy and the impact of Korean entertainment across the globe. The changes they brought are being extended to political and cultural domains. I hope the "third force" in social psychology also becomes more and more

influential in the years to come.

In a review on the achievements, threats, and opportunities of Asian social psychology in 2007, Kwok Leung outlined three major areas of contributions made by Asian social psychologists, including indigenous psychologies, culture and social psychology, and specific topics in social psychology, especially in group processes and intergroup relations. I intend to do more work in these areas and examine the links between Asian and Western ideologies that may

offer unique perspectives to culture and social psychology.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Asian Association of Social Psychology for conferring the Michael Harris Bond Award for Early Career Research Contributions on me. It is not only a recognition for my previous work with collaborators, but also a starting point for me to further my research, promote international collaborations, and provide professional service to the academic commu-

nity, so as to contribute to the advancement of psychology in Asian societies.

Sylvia Xiaohua CHEN, Ph.D.

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2013 Michael Harris Bond Award for Early Research Contributions

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Melody Chao

Growing up in Macau, I had developed a keen interest in understanding culture. As a then high school student, I thought that culture was the Ruins of St. Paul's that is adjacent to Fortaleza do Monte (Mount Fortress), the St. António Church that is right next to my home, the A-Ma Temple that faces the sea, and the many other historic sites that are now known as UNESCO World Heritage. I also thought that being culturally competent means studying English, Mandarin, and Portuguese at school and speaking Cantonese

at home. To me then, culture was what we see, what we speak, and what we hear. It was my curiosity to know more about "culture" that led me to go to the other side of the globe by myself, seeking new opportunities to learn and grow at age 17.

I began my undergraduate education in the US, where my cultural adventure started. The first class that I attended in college was an Introduction to Psychology class. On the very first day of class, when the professor walked into the classroom, I stood up and prepared to greet her. It was a formality expected of all students when I was in high school. It came so natural to me that I did not even think about it. As I stood up half way, I realized that no other student in

the class stood up, except me and another classmate, who was from the same high school as I did. Naturally, we paused, turned around, and looked at each other in search for answers, "Do the students take longer to stand up here in the US? Should we wait for the others to stand up? Do they not greet the professor? Why do they not greet the professor? What are we supposed to do? What is going on here?" I was puzzled. Even though years have gone by, I still vividly remember this scene from my first day of class. From that point on, I started to realize that "that" is culture. Culture is not only what we see and speak. Culture is something that is often unquestioned. It is something that defines the normative standards of behaviors, some-

thing that influences our world view and behaviors with or without our conscious awareness.

After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in psychology, I joined the Asian American Recovery Services, Inc., a community-based organization in the Bay Area that provided substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services. As a research assistant and coordinator, I worked with a very diverse group of people, from preschool children, parents, teachers, clients with dual diagnosis, to administrators, clinical practitioners, and researchers. All of them were from different ethnocultural backgrounds with unique experiences. Despite this diversity, two common questions prevailed: Could and how could the services and assessment methods be tailored to the need of the different populations? How could one be culturally competent? To answer these questions, understanding how cultures differ and how people are influenced by their cultural norms and values is critical, I thought.

These questions led me to pursue a PhD in social psychology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where I got the opportunity to explore culture and intergroup relations systematically. These experiences made me realize that culture is not a monolithic entity

with stable attributes, and that individuals are not passively influenced by culture. Rather, culture is a dynamic meaning system that evolves continuously, and that individuals play active roles in building and changing it. After completing my PhD, in 2009, I moved to Hong Kong and started my academic career as an Assistant Professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, where I continue my research in multicultural psychology and intergroup relations in social and organizational contexts.

I enjoy conducting research because I love asking questions and enjoy finding answers to those questions. Whenever I am asked about which aspect of my work I find to be the most challenging, I find it hard to quantify challenges and to say whether one is more significant than another, because there are different kinds of challenges in life along the way, no matter what we choose to do (or not to do). Often times, we might encounter challenges that are seemingly insurmountable at that point in time. But when we look back years later, they might just be a microscopic speck in our lives. I am grateful to have wonderful mentors and peers, and of course loving parents, who provide invaluable support and encouragement to me, not just in the academic domain, but also in many other aspects of life. I feel thankful to get to experience different challenges and,

most importantly, to have people walk with me along the way. I hope that I would be able to support the others, just like how the others have supported me.

In 2013, I received the Michael Harris Bond Award for Early Research Contributions from the Asian Association of Social Psychology, and the International Academy of Intercultural Research Early Career Award. I feel grateful to receive these awards because they recognize the contributions of me and my colleagues to Asian social psychology and to the field of intercultural relations, appealing to an interdisciplinary audience. I am inspired to continue my work to advance the science and practice of psychology.

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2015 AASP CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

Preparations are underway for the 2015 AASP Conference will be held in Cebu, Philippines on August 19 - 22, 2015. With the theme "Psychology and Asian Societies in the Midst of Change", the confer-

Maria Regina M. Hechanova

ence will be hosted in partnership with the Psychological Association of the Philippines and the University of San Carlos.



Confirmed keynote and plenary speakers are:

- ◆ Stuart Carr (Massey University, New Zealand) on Psychology of Poverty
- ◆ Saadi Lahlou (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) on Social Representations and Social Change
- ◆ Winnifred Louis (University of Queensland, Australia) on Psychology of Collective Action
- ◆ Fathali Moghaddam (Georgetown University, USA) on Psychology of Dictatorship and Democracy
- ◆ Jungsik Kim (Kwangwoon University, Korea) on Experience in Times of Social Change: Cases of Korea, Hong Kong, and Germany
- ◆ J. Christopher Cohrs (Jacobs University Bremen) on peace and conflict and social change
- ◆ Ragini Sen (Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution) on religion, secularism, multiculturalism and social change
- ◆ Michael Platow (Australian National University) on justice, leadership and social change
- ◆ Ying-yi Hong (Nanyang Technological University) on culture, cognition and social change
- ◆ Colleen Ward (Victoria University of Wellington) on acculturation, intercultural relations and social change

Aside from the keynote and plenary talks, the conference will include several symposia organized by various distinguished psychological scientists on issues and themes relevant to social change, particularly in the region. Oral presentation and poster sessions will also showcase current work by researchers. Prior to the conference the AASP summer school will be held at the University of San Carlos. The Call for Papers for the conference and Announcement for the summer school will be posted in July 2015 at <http://www.papconvention.org> and in the AASP mailing list.

Situated in the Visayas region, Cebu City is dubbed "Queen City of the South." It is the oldest and one of the most developed cities in the Philippines and a significant hub of culture and education. A tourist gateway to Central and Southern Philippines, it has an international airport with direct flights from Hongkong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, China, South Korea, Bangkok and Manila.



number of pristine beaches for snorkeling and diving. Condé Nast Traveler Magazine named Cebu Top 5 Islands in Asia in 2013.

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There are many monuments, churches, museums and cathedrals in Cebu City that reflects the rich historical legacy of the city. It also boasts a

Cebu diving



University of San Carlos Library



Waterfront Hotel

Waterfront Hotel

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY



Rogee Pe-Pua

The 10th Biennial Conference of the Asian Association of Social Psychology was held at the Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Indonesia, on 21-24 August 2013.

Soon after the conference, the Editorial Team for the Proceedings was formed, consisting of the following members: Rogelia Pe-Pua (University of New South Wales, Australia), Faturrochman and Kwartini Yuniarti (UGM, Indonesia), Ronnel B. King (National Institute of Education, Singapore), Takeshi Hamamura (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong), and Augustinus Supratiknya (Sanata Dharma University, Indonesia). The Team is supported by Rasti and Buldan of the Center for Indigenous and Cultural Psychology at UGM.

We received 76 submissions after the deadline for the call for papers. The majority of these are from Indonesian authors. Out of the 76 submissions, 50 were sent out to reviewers. After the review, 34 were asked to revise their manuscripts. The deadline for the submission of revised manuscripts was 30 May 2014. The revised manuscripts are currently being reviewed for final decision on being accepted for publication in the Proceedings. The target publication date is September-October 2014.

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AASP WINTER SCHOOL: THE BEGINNING OF AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT, HOPE

In December 2009, we had a chance to take part in the 8th Biennial Conference of the Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) in New Delhi, India. Among the events organised on the side of the conference was a Winter School for PhD students. We were excited as, like many graduate students, we were starving for opportunities to learn from experts in our fields of interest.

The AASP brings together scholars from all over the world who have a particular interest in social psychological theories, ideas, and phenomena in Asian cultures. For graduate students at the beginning of their PhD studies—as we were back in 2009—taking part in the AASP conference was an incredible experience. It gave us opportunities to learn about the latest research findings and trends, discuss our own research



Shang-Hui Shin

ideas outside of our usual research environments, and gain new insights. Above all, we were



Laura De Pretto

We were trained for three days. One part of the lectures was aimed to all streams, while in the other part groups were separated and received training specific to their areas of interest. For example, in our stream we learned about the history of cultural, cross-cultural, and indigenous psychologies, as well as how we can apply knowledge from each of three cultural areas to nation-specific psychological phenomena. Each group of all streams was asked, as part of the learning process, to think of a new research project that could be carried out together by its members.

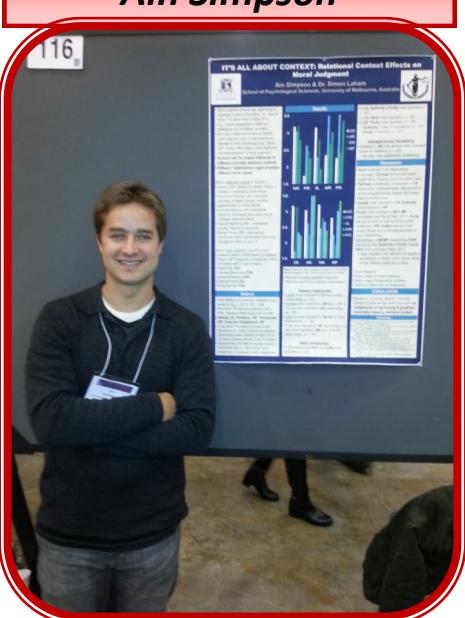
Our project entailed research on the construct of hope that lay people have in different cultures. At first, we expected that this would be a purely didactic exercise, and that we would present our own ideas on the final day. To our surprise, however, we received regular feedback regarding our project, and we were encouraged to try and conduct it as a real study. And so our adventure started! A huge mission that, almost five years on, is still in process.

A lot of things have happened since then. Some of our stream members dropped out of the research group, and we have thus "lost" some colleagues (even including the one who had the initial idea for our topic of research!), while another member left the group only to eventually

return for the second phase of the study. Also, we gained others along the way, including Dr. Ain Simpson from Australia. He was a PhD candidate back then and must have been bewildered when we introduced our project to him for the first time, given how different it was to his own doctoral research! However, he was courageous enough to join us in our adventure. With the three of us eventually on board together, we were able to finalise our first step of the project!

We all finished our doctorates, and now work in different positions in different universities around the world. Dr. Shang-Hui Shin, the project leader of HOPE, is working in Korea University as a researcher, and Dr. Laura De Pretto, the project manager of HOPE, is an Assistant Professor in the University of Nottingham in Malaysia. Ain completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and will take up a post-doctoral research

Ain Simpson



position at Ohio University, USA, in August, 2014.

Our first study was about how people conceptualize hope under achievement-oriented settings. We first picked this subject because hope has been investigated most frequently as a concept related to achievement in psychology so far. We instantly noticed that the concept of hope in the existing literature of psychology was too narrow (see Aspinwall & Leaf, 2002; Ki, Lee, & Kim, 2008; Wiles, Cott, & Gibson, 2008), compared with the concept of hope of lay people. We decided to extend the concept of hope from academic settings only to our everyday lives. We planned two steps to explore lay people's conceptualization of hope: first, qualitative analysis under achievement-oriented settings; second, qualitative and survey research in everyday lives.

Our first step is complete, has been presented at a conference about hope in Lisbon, and recently published as an edited book chapter titled "What does hope mean to people?" (Shin, De Pretto, & Simpson, 2013). This chapter is for qualitative analysis under achievement settings in three countries, Australia, Italy, and South Korea. The results showed that people actually sometimes tried harder to achieve their

hopes when life circumstances were difficult. That is, people actually tried harder to achieve their hopes under conditions that may have rendered their hopes more difficult to achieve! It implies that people may not have

5 from the national psychologies and national development stream (the second left is Shang-Hui, the second right is Laura)



hopes only when they are optimistic for their future achievement, and that hope may serve functions outside of the pursuit of achievement (e.g., hope may provide comfort in the face of likely failure). Therefore, we conclude that it is a limited view if hope is conceptualised merely as trait or cognitive factors, only considering achievement-oriented goal pursuit. Also, we suggested that hope should be studied from new perspectives, including perspectives that emphasise the roles of situational and emotional factors.

We also found evidence for different types of hope: people in all three countries have personal, relational, and social motivations

when they hope for something. One of most intriguing findings, however, is that the frequency differences among these three different categories of motivation were not consistent with the well-known cultural differences. That is, relational hopes seemed to be more important in Italy than its two counterparts. It is particularly striking because Koreans are known to have a full set of relation-oriented cultures (Kashima et al., 1995; Yuki, 2003). It arguably raised a question to the current dichotomy of psychological theories about cultures that habitually associate individualism with western and collectivism with eastern cultures (i.e., Brewer & Chen, 2007; Oyserman, Coon, Kemmelmeier, 2002).

The second, larger study is now in process: we are now collecting data with more participants in five countries, Australia, India, Italy, South Korea and Venezuela. It is about hope in everyday lives, without any constraints, not only in achievement-oriented settings, but also for anything and everything related people's hopes. The results are planned to be presented at the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology Conference in France in July this year. We hope to confirm the results of our first qualitative analysis (described above) and to elaborate our theoretical framework based on the results of this second study.



Taking lectures of all Winter Shcool attendees or other team project presentation (the middle one in the first line is Shang-Hui and the second right in the second line is Laura)

We are actually excited about how hope in everyday lives would be different from hope as conceptualized in the existing literature in psychology!

The AASP Winter School gave us the opportunity to start a large cross-national research project as explicated above. For us personally, it was an amazing chance. Cross-national research is extremely fascinating, yet difficult to implement even for more experienced researchers. Creating and maintaining connections in different sides of the world is challenging. Nowadays, information and communication technologies give us a great advantage in these ventures, compared to the past. However, having the chance to meet your research team members in person, at least at the start, remains vital. The AASP Winter School gave us the possibility to meet each other,

external advice. Supervision was provided, when we felt the need, by Professor James Liu.

One of the main difficulties in the life of a PhD student is the lack of a sense of connectedness. This applies to many areas of life: graduate students can feel not connected with others because they are working fourteen hours a day on their thesis:

supposedly a very unique piece of work, of which they, and them only, are the experts. They might feel lonely because this hinders their social life in general, or they might feel like they cannot have real contact with

understand the common research interests, imagine a project, and discuss its viability. Following the Winter School, we were provided with an online platform in the website of the Victoria University of Wellington, where we could discuss our ideas, track the project's

progresses, share documents and get

people who hold exactly the same interests. Supervisors and fellow students share perhaps some of their interests, but very likely not all of them. Or they might not feel connected to the real world of research, which is somewhere "out there"... This gets even more upsetting in the social sciences and in social psychology in particular: you want to study social behaviour, how people interact, and your own social life struggles in the maze of the academic wold. Thanks to the AASP Winter School, we found some direction a few years ago and created an important project that we are still pursuing as part of our academic path. The opportunity of participating in international research projects is crucial for PhD students. Even more so if cross-national research is one of your areas of interest. Now, a few years after embarking on our cross-national research, we have finished our PhDs and now

Team project presentation of the national psychologies and national development stream (the most left is Shang-Hui and the second left is Laura)



actually teach psychology and culture! We want to thank the AASP for helping us in the process of developing our research skills and building our careers.

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