

## **(Mary) Shaocong MA**

PhD Candidate, Division of Social Science

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

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### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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**Developmental psychology:** Socio-cognitive development, socio-emotional development

**Social psychology:** Judgment and decision-making, social influence

**Education:** Early childcare, parent-child relationships

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### **EDUCATION/ACADEMIC TRAINING**

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**Visiting Scholar, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, 2022-2023  
(Expected)**

Advisor: Professor Paul L. Harris

Research Interests: Socio-cognitive and socio-emotional development

**PhD, Division of Social Science, HKUST, 2020-2023 (Expected)**

Thesis: *Examining Children and Adults' Trust Preferences Toward Others Based on Perceived Competence and Warmth*

Advisors: Professor Eva E. Chen & Professor Michelle Yik

**MPhil, Division of Social Science, HKUST, 2018-2020**

Thesis: *Preferring Naturals or Strivers: People's Perceptions and Behaviors Towards Others with Different Sources of Achievement*

Advisor: Professor Eva E. Chen

**MEd, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong, 2017-2018**

Specialty: Early Childhood Education

Thesis: *Foreign Domestic Helpers' Involvement in Non-Parental Childcare: A Multiple Case Study in Hong Kong*

Advisor: Professor Hui Li

**BS, School of Psychology, Nanjing Normal University, 2013-2017**

Specialty: Applied Psychology

Thesis: *Father Involvement and Children's Resilience: The Role of Implicit Identity of Masculine Characteristics*

First Prize in Bachelor Thesis Competition among around 272,000 competitors

Advisor: Professor Xiaoping Li

Awarded University Excellent Graduate

## RESEARCH

### JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Ma, S.,** Tsay, C., & Chen, E. E. (2022). Preference for talented naturals over hard workers emerges in childhood and consequently shapes behavior. *Child Development*. doi: 10.1111/cdev.13886. SJR 3-year Impact Factor: 6.20.
- Ma, S.,** Li, J., & Chen, E. E. (2022). Does screen media hurt young children's social development? Longitudinal associations between parental engagement, children's screen time, and their social competence. *Early Education and Development*. doi: 10.1080/10409289.2022.2151401. SJR 3-year Impact Factor: 2.62.
- Ma, S.,** Chen, E. E., & Li, H. (2020). Foreign domestic helpers' involvement in non-parental childcare: A multiple case study in Hong Kong. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*. doi:10.1080/02568543.2019.1701588. SJR 3-year Impact Factor: 1.64.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

#### Revised and Resubmitted

- Ma, S.,** Tsay, C., & Chen, E. E. (2022). Talented naturals are perceived as more competent and trustworthy than hard workers. *Current Psychology*. Impact Factor: 4.30.
- Chen, E. E., **Ma, S.,** Bala, M., Groves, J. M., & Gaither, S. E. (2022). Whom do I like more? Examining ethnic majority and minority children's socializing preferences in Hong Kong. *Developmental Science*. SJR 3-year Impact Factor: 5.51.
- Chen, E. E., **Ma, S.,** Bala, M., Groves, J. M., & Gaither, S. E. (2022). Do we perceive ethnic ingroup members as wealthier? Examining Hong Kong children's inferences of wealth status based on resources and ethnic group membership. *Cognitive Development*. Impact Factor: 2.98.

#### SUBMITTED

- Ma, S.,** Cui, Y. K., Chen, Suárez, S., Chen, E. E., & Corriveau, K. H. (2022). Are dominant figures more trustworthy? Examining the relationship between parental authoritarianism and children's trust preferences in the U.S. and China.

#### IN PREPARATION

- Children weigh informants' explanation quality over their power in explaining present, but not future, questions.
- Is conformity always appreciated? Children and adults' evaluations of conformists versus non-conformists across different contexts.
- Do people always prefer truth-tellers over lie-tellers? Development of weighing truth-telling against social conventions.
- Longitudinal associations between non-indigenous, indigenous, and immigrant mothers' engagement and children's socio-emotional development in Taiwanese Chinese families.
- Examination of children's trust decision-making processes in different evaluation modes.

## SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED

*Observing, conforming, and internalizing: How does social learning occur across different contexts and cultures?* To be co-chair with E. E. Chen at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Ma, S.,** & Chen, E. E. (2023, March 23-25). Social learning of conformity: Children and adults' evaluations of conformists versus non-conformists across different contexts. In **S. Ma** & E. E. Chen (Co-Chairs), *Observing, conforming, and internalizing: How does social learning occur across different contexts and cultures?* [Symposium]. Paper to be presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
- Ma, S.,** & Chen, E. E. (2023, March 23-25). Longitudinal associations between non-indigenous, indigenous, and immigrant mothers' engagement and children's socioemotional development in Taiwan. In E. E. Chen (Chair), *Examining familial and early developmental processes among ethnic majority and minority families in Asia* [Symposium]. Paper to be presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
- Chen, E. E., **Ma, S.,** Bala, M., Groves, J. M., & Gaither, S. E. (2023, March 23-25). Is my group better? Investigating Hong Kong ethnic majority and minority children's socializing preferences. In E. E. Chen (Chair), *Examining familial and early developmental processes among ethnic majority and minority families in Asia* [Symposium]. Paper to be presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
- Ma, S.,** Cui, Y. K., Chen, E. E. & Corriveau, K. H. (2023, March 23-25). *Children weigh informants' explanation quality over their power in explaining present, but not future, questions* [Poster presentation]. Paper to be presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
- Ma, S.,** Li, J., & Chen, E. E. (2022, July 13-15). How does screen time impact Taiwanese Chinese children's development? Longitudinal associations between parental engagement, children's screen time, and social competence. In J. Chang (Chair), *Self and Relationships: Perspectives on Cultural and Social Change* [Symposium]. The 12th Conference for Chinese Psychologists, Taipei, Taiwan. <https://www.12thcpc.org/>
- Ma, S.** (2021, November 27). *Succeeding from talent or effort? Source of achievement impacts competence-related judgments and consequently shapes trust decision-making* [Paper presentation]. The Inaugural Hong Kong Judgment and Decision-Making Day, Hong Kong SAR, China.
- Ma, S.,** & Chen, E. E. (2021, April 7-9). Talent versus hard work: Examining the parental influence on children's preferences for talent over effort. In E. E. Chen (Chair), *Examining the relationship between parenting and young Chinese children's emotional, sociocognitive, and academic development* [Symposium]. The Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, United States. <https://www.srcd.org/event/srcd-2021-biennial-meeting>

- Ma, S., & Chen, E. E.** (2021, April 7–9). *Does source of achievement matter? Examining the naturalness bias in Chinese children and adults* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, United States. <https://www.srcd.org/event/srcd-2021-biennial-meeting>
- Ma, S., Cui, Y. K., Munoz, M., Qiu, F. W., Suárez, S., Chen, E. E. & Corriveau, K. H.** (2021, April 7–9). *\*Examining the relationship between parental authoritarianism and children's trusting preferences in China and the U.S.* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, United States. <https://www.srcd.org/event/srcd-2021-biennial-meeting>
- \*This presentation was selected as the 2021 SRCD Strategic Plan Poster Winner exemplifying international research related to child development.
- Ma, S., & Chen, E.E.** (2020, May 2–4). *The natural or the striver? Examining gender differences and parental impact on the naturalness bias* [Poster presentation]. Construction of the 'Other': Development, Consequences, and Applied Implications of Prejudice and Discrimination in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, United States. <https://www.srcd.org/event/construction-other-development-consequences-and-applied-implications-prejudice-and> (Conference canceled as impacted by COVID-19)
- Ma, S., Chen, E.E., & Li, H.** (2019, March 21–23). *Foreign domestic helpers' involvement in non-parental childcare: A multiple case study in Hong Kong* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- Ma, S., Wang, Y., & Li, X.** (2019, March 21–23). *Father involvement and children's resilience: The impact of implicit identity on masculine characteristics of different genders.* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- Ma, S., & Hua, S.** (2017, May 18–20). *Investigating exceeding early childhood education in China* [Paper Presentation]. The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Hong Kong SAR, China.
- Hua, S., & **Ma, S.** (2017, May 18–20). *Investigation of parental companion for preschoolers in China: Taking Parents in Nanjing as an Example* [Paper Presentation]. The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Hong Kong SAR, China.

## GRANTS

- Research Grants Council General Research Fund Grant (GRF). The naturally talented or the hard worker? Examining the emergence and development of the naturalness bias over time (GRF 16601921). Student Investigator; Principal Investigators: Eva E. Chen & Michelle Yik. 2021-2023. 325,701HKD.
- University Grants Council Research Travel Grant (RTG). SCRCD 2021 Biennial Meeting (RTG20/21.HSS003). Grant Awardee. 2021. 662HKD.
- University Grants Council Research Travel Grant (RTG). SCRCD 2019 Biennial Meeting (RTG18/19.HSS010). Grant Awardee. 2019. 10,500HKD.
- Nanjing Normal University Research Travel Grant. OMEP 2017 Asia Pacific Regional Conference. Grant Awardee. 2017. 3,800RMB.

## HONORS

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Overseas Research Awards for PhD Students (2021-2023)  
Dr Charles Chan Postgraduate Scholarship (2021-2022)  
Postgraduate Studentship (HKUST, 2018-2023)  
Rolling Scholarship for Excellent Students (Nanjing Normal University, 2014-2017)

### AWARDS

Overseas Research Awards, HKUST, 2021-2023  
Dr Charles Chan Postgraduate Scholarship Award, HKUST, 2021-2022  
Strategic Plan Poster Winner, The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, 2021  
First Prize, Bachelor Thesis Competition, Jiangsu Province, China 2018  
First Prize, Bachelor Thesis Competition, Nanjing Normal University, 2018  
University Excellent Graduate, Nanjing Normal University, 2017  
Second Prize, Psychological Research Paper Competition, Academic Conference of Psychology in Jiangsu Province, 2016  
First Prize, Best Research Paper Competition, Contemporary Educational Practice and Teaching Research (Chinese Journal), 2015  
Merit Student Award, Nanjing Normal University, 2013-2015

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### TEACHING ASSISTANT, HKUST (2018-2022)

#### ***SOSC 1960: Discovering Mind and Behavior***

A common core course in Psychology for 120 undergraduates from different schools  
Assisted in teaching; graded assignments; offered essay consultation

#### ***SOSC 2210: Social Psychology***

A specialized course in Psychology for 80 undergraduates from different schools  
Gave guest lectures; assisted in teaching; graded assignments; offered assignment consultation

#### ***SOSC 2400: Intermediate Statistics for Social Research***

An advanced statistics course for students who conduct research in Social Science  
Led tutorials; gave lectures; graded quizzes and problem sets; offered assignment consultation

#### ***SOSC 3120: Economic Development***

A specialized course in Economics for undergraduate students in Social Science  
Graded assignments; offered assignment consultations

**SOSC 3550: Educational Psychology**

A specialized course in Psychology for undergraduates from different schools  
Gave guest lectures; assisted in teaching; graded assignments; offered assignment consultation

**SOSC 3700A: Quantitative Social Analysis Practicum**

A one-on-one supervision course for undergraduates conducting research in Psychology  
Supervised an undergraduate to design research, conduct a literature review, collect survey data, and write up research reports

\*The supervisee has enrolled in a postgraduate research program awarded a full scholarship.

**OTHERS**

**Mandarin Teacher Intern, Victoria International Kindergarten at Hong Kong, 2017-2018**

Curriculum: The International Baccalaureate (IB) Curriculum  
Class: An upper class (K3) with a trilingual (Mandarin, Cantonese, English) environment  
Responsibilities: Led class activities; observed teacher’s teaching and teacher-child interactions to give feedback to teachers

**Teaching Assistant, Talented Identification Program, Duke Kunshan University, 2017**

Course: Psychology and Decision-Making  
Class: High-school students from the United States and China  
Responsibilities: Gave guest lectures; organized in-class activities and field trips; led tutorials; graded assignments; offered assignment consultation

**SKILLS**

**Research Methods**

Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Method

**Programming/Statistics**

R/RStudio, JAMOVI, JASP, SPSS, Inquisit, E-Prime, CLAN, NVivo, Qualtrics

**Languages**

Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), Cantonese (Conversational)

**KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

**TALKS**

“Whom do I prefer? Examining the impact of perceived warmth and competence on children and adults’ socializing and learning preferences.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, United States. September 27, 2022.

“How to teach effective lessons in a Hong Kong kindergarten?” National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan [virtual]. May 20, 2022.

“Be a good-enough parent to facilitate children’s learning.” Parenting Forum, Hebei, China. May 19, 2022.

“How can educational psychology promote learning in kindergarten?” HKUST, Hong Kong. October 26, 2021.

“The psychology of happiness.” HKUST, Hong Kong. November 30, 2020.

“Statistics workshop: What is moderating effect?” HKUST, Hong Kong, May 6 & November 2, 2020.

“Learn with fun: How to design play-based learning activities for kindergarteners.” Tongyuan Kindergarten, Jiangsu, China. June 11, 2019.

“Get ready for graduate schools: How to build a study plan that works?” Excellent Graduate Forum, School of Psychology, Nanjing Normal University, China. May 28, 2017.

## **MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

Understanding preschool-aged children’s habits to collect “junk,” *Slow Growth Magazine* [Chinese], to be published in March 2023.

Helping parents to rebuild secure relationships with children after separations, *Slow Growth Magazine* [Chinese], November 2022.

Understanding preschool-aged children’s sensitive period for order, *Slow Growth Magazine* [Chinese], May 2022.

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| <h2><b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICE</b></h2> |
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**Volunteer Research Assistant:** Assisted in coding transcripts for research (see Chen, E. E., Ng, C. T. K., Corriveau, K. H., Yang, B., & Harris, P. L. (2020). Talking about personality: Evidence for attributions to self and others in early childhood. *Journal of Cognition and Development*, 21(2), 191-212.)

**Journal Reviewer/Co-Reviewer:** *Child Development, Developmental Science, Developmental Psychology, Personality and Individual Differences, Infant and Child Development, Frontiers in Psychology*

**Book Co-Reviewer:** *Mental Health Education Textbooks (for Primary Schools in China), Encyclopedia of Mental Health 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Chinese Translation)*