

Professor Nirmala Rao
Abridged Curriculum Vitae

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Abridged Curriculum Vitae

Professor Nirmala Rao, B.A, M.S., Ph.D. C.Psychol., FBPS
Serena H.C. Yang Professor in Early Childhood Development and Education
Chair Professor of Child Development and Education
Director, Consortium for Research on Early Childhood Development and Education
Faculty of Education
The University of Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 3917-7604 Fax: (852) 2517-0075 Email: nrao@hku.hk

Web page: <https://web.edu.hku.hk/staff/academic/nrao>

HKU Scholar Hub: <http://hub.hku.hk/cris/rp/rp00953>

Google Scholar Page: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=bylNG-4AAAAJ>

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5695-3156>

Summary

Nirmala Rao is Serena H C Yang Professor in Early Childhood Development and Education and Chair Professor of Child Development and Education, and Director of the Consortium for Research on Early Childhood Development and Education, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong (HKU). A Developmental and Chartered (Educational) Psychologist by training, her research on early childhood development and education in Asian cultural contexts has been recognised internationally. This work has focused on the development of psychometrically robust and culturally-sensitive measures of both early childhood development and the quality of Early Childhood Education; early educational policy in the Asia-Pacific; evaluation of early childhood programmes; and culture, policy and pedagogy in the early years. Professor Rao has published widely; serves on the Editorial Board for premier scholarly journals; has participated in high-level international meetings; written advocacy materials, and undertaken consultancies for international organisations. She has received awards for both research and teaching. Furthermore, she has also had significant administrative leadership roles in the Faculty of Education and at the Graduate School of HKU.

Present Position and Work Experience

1987 - present	The University of Hong Kong	
Academic	2019-	Chair Professor, Faculty of Education
	2007 -	Professor, Faculty of Education
	1997 - 2007	Associate Professor, Faculty of Education (Promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1999)
	1987 - 1997	Lecturer, Department of Education (from 1994) Lecturer, Department of Psychology (to 1994)
	1987	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Psychology
Administrative	2014 - 2016	Dean, Graduate School
	2012 - 2013	Director of Graduate Studies
	2010 - 2013	Associate Dean, Graduate School
	2010 - 2016	Chairperson, Board of Graduate Studies
	2008 - 2009	Acting Chairperson, Board of the Faculty of Education
	2006 - 2007	Acting Dean, Faculty of Education
	2002 - 2005	Associate Dean, Faculty of Education
	1998 - 2002	Deputy Head, Department of Education
1985 - 1986	Children's Hospital, New Orleans, USA Internship (Full-time) in Paediatric Psychology	

Service/KE	Research-related Consultancies	
	2021	UNESCO Paris
	2019 - 21 2013	World Bank
	2019	UNICEF Bhutan
	2019 2014 - 2015	UNICEF New York
	2019 2015-2016 2006-2007	UNICEF Cambodia
	2018 2013	DFID, UK Government
	2017 2011 - 2012	Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood
	2017	UNICEF Myanmar
	2016-2019	Teachers College, Columbia University
	2015-2016	UNICEF Papua New Guinea
	2015, 2012	Brookings Institute, Washington DC
	2014 - 2015	UNESCO Paris
	2013 – 2014 2010, 2007	UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO)
	2010 2006 - 2008	UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau of Education
	2007, 2009	UNICEF Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea
	2007	UNICEF Lao PDR
	2006 - 2008	UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau of Education,
	2006 - 2007	UNICEF Vietnam

Educational Background

1986	Tulane University, New Orleans, USA Ph.D. (Psychology)
1984	Tulane University, New Orleans, USA M.S. (Psychology)
1981	Bangalore University, India B.A. (First Class) (Psychology)
1979	Bangalore University, India Pre-University Certificate 10 th out of 81,000 candidates

Recent Awards

2019	Sino-British Fellowship Trust Visitorship 2018-19
2019	Nehru Visiting Chair Professor, UGC - Center of Advanced Study in Human Development , MS University, Baroda, India (January 2019)
2018	The University of Hong Kong University Outstanding Research Award (2017-2018)
2018	The University of Hong Kong, Faculty Knowledge Exchange Award 2018
2017	Hong Kong Research Grants Council Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship
2015	Best of UNICEF Research <i>Validation, Finalization and Adoption of the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)</i>
2014	The University of Hong Kong 2012 – 2013 Research Output Prize, Faculty of Education
2014	Universiti Brunei Darussalam Eminent Visiting Professor
2013	Endowed Professorship (conferred in 2014) Serena HC Yang Professorship in Early Childhood Development and Education
2010	The University of Hong Kong Faculty Outstanding Research Supervisor Award

Indicators of Esteem

2021	Education Research Funding Programme (ERFP) Expert Panel
2020	National Institute of Education, Singapore
2021	Global Education Monitoring Report 2021 Committee of Experts, UNESCO Paris
2020	Medical Research Council, Global Health Faculty of Experts
2019	Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Education, University of Oxford (June 2019)
2016 -	Sustainable Development Goal Target 4.2 UNICEF (2016 onwards) Technical Advisor on the Early Childhood Development Index UNESCO (2017 – 2018) Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) Task Force 4.2 WHO (2018 onwards)

	Project Advisory Group for Global Scale of Early Development (birth - 3 years)
2016	OECD Starting Strong Survey, Early Childhood Education and Care Expert Consultant, Questionnaire Expert Group
2020 2018 2016	European Research Council Panel Member Social Sciences and Humanities StG
2016	Senior Advisor to the Director, National Institute of Education, NTU, Singapore, on Early Years Education
2015	Fellow of British Psychological Society
2015	Selected by UNESCO Paris to be an expert member on the International Advisory Group for the Survey of Teachers in Pre-Primary Education (STEPP) Education
2015	Selected by UNESCO, World Bank, Brookings Institution, and UNICEF to be an expert for the Measuring Early Learning Quality and Outcomes Project
2015	Co-chair for the Panel on School Readiness/Child care for the 2015 Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Philadelphia
2014	Steering Committee member 2017 <i>Lancet</i> Series on Early Child Development
2013- 2019	Associate Editor of <i>Child Development</i> , 2017 Impact Factor 3.779
2013- 2014	Associate Editor of <i>Developmental Psychology</i> , 2017 Impact Factor 2.934 Psychology - Developmental: 2017: 18/73 (Psychology, Developmental)
2010	Selected as a global expert in ECCE by UNESCO

Research Output and Funding

My work has been underpinned by the notion that local contexts matter and that better data inform better decisions. It has addressed the empirical lacuna of lack of robust data on early childhood development and preschool quality throughout Asia.

- I have a lifetime total of over 300 research outputs. I have authored/co-authored 3 books and 14 major research reports; co-edited 2 books; authored/co-authored 27 book chapters and over 100 international peer refereed journal articles; and co-authored policy briefs.
- My books have been published by Routledge, Springer and UNESCO and I have published in the top journals in the fields of child development and education.
- I have presented keynote papers and have given invited papers in Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America and South America.
- I have published numerous articles in what are considered the best journals in the field.
- I have received several external research grants as Principal Investigator (PI) since 1999 including from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Government's Quality Education Fund, the Hong Kong Educational Bureau, UNICEF headquarters and country offices, UNESCO, Department for International Development, UK, and Optimus Foundation. Since September 2012 I have secured research grants as PI or Co-PI totalling over HK\$ 200 million.

Research Impact

A significant contribution of my research has been its impact on equity-focused national early childhood policy development, thus making a positive difference to the well-being of children not only in Hong Kong but across the world.

- The impact of my projects is evident in scientific publications and through their influence on educational policy in Hong Kong and beyond.
- I led the development of the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS), the first developmental assessment tool created on the basis of the culture and values of a world region. The EAP-ECDS were lauded as one of the major events influencing early childhood development policy and practice in the 2017 *Lancet* series on Early Childhood Development. The impact of the EAP-ECDS research has been recognized through a Best of UNICEF Research award for "policy impact, innovative design, thoughtful use of available data, methodological rigour and potential replicability in both the country of origin and other country contexts" (UNICEF, 2015).

Leadership within The University of Hong Kong

- I have played a pivotal role in the development of early childhood programmes at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- I have had significant administrative leadership roles in the Faculty of Education, including:
 - Deputy Head of the Department of Education (1998-2002).
 - Associate Dean (Centres and Outreach) for Faculty of Education (2002-2005)
 - Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education for 18 months (2006-2007).
- My main contribution in terms of administrative service from 2010 to 2016 was to the Graduate School that oversees research postgraduate education in all ten Faculties of HKU.
 - Associate Dean (2010-2013) and Dean (2014-2016).

Selected Research Output for the last 12 years (2009-2021)

Note. Names followed by an asterix (*) are those of doctoral students or post-doctoral fellows whom I am supervising/have supervised. I am the senior author on all articles on which I am the first author. In addition, I am also the senior (last or corresponding) author on citations preceded by a hashtag (#) as they are based on projects on which I am/was the Principal Investigator

Books and monographs

1. **Rao, N.**, Zhou, J., & Sun, J. (Eds.) (2017). *Early childhood education in Chinese societies*. Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.
2. **Rao, N.**, Pearson, E., Cheng, K.M., & Taplin, M. (2013). *Teaching in primary schools in China and India: Contexts of learning*. UK: Routledge.
3. **Rao, N.**, & Sun, J. (2010). *Early childhood care and education in the Asia-Pacific region: Moving towards Goal 1* (97pp). Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Centre, The University of Hong Kong/UNESCO.
4. Chan, C.K.K., & Rao, N. (Eds.) (2009). *Revisiting the Chinese learner: Changing contexts, changing education* (360 pp.). The University of Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Centre/Springer Academic Publishers.

Research reports

1. **Rao, N.**, Cohrsen, C., Chan, S., & Richards, B. (2020). *An Evaluation of the Early Childhood Care and Development Programme in Bhutan*. UNICEF: Bhutan.
<https://evaluationreports.unicef.org/GetDocument?fileID=14256>
2. **Rao, N.**, Lau, C., Chan, S., Koong, M., & Wong, J.M.S. (2019). *International case studies of innovative early childhood systems: The early advantage: Hong Kong*. National Center on Education and the Economy. <http://ncee.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/EA-Hong-Kong-Case-Study-032519.pdf> (292 pp.)
3. Pearson, E., Hendry, H., **Rao, N.**, Aboud, F., Horton, C., Siraj, I., Raikes, A. Miyahara, J. (2017). *Reaching expert consensus on training different cadres in delivering early childhood development at scale in low-resource contexts*. UK Government Department for International Development.
<https://www.gov.uk/dfid-research-outputs/reaching-expert-consensus-on-training-different-cadres-in-delivering-early-childhood-development>
Pearson, E. & **Rao, N.** (2017). *Evidence brief: Training early childhood development cadres in low-resource contexts*. UK Government Department for International Development.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a1d55e7ed915d6665a561ee/DFID_evidence_brief_FINAL_2_.pdf
4. **Rao, N.**, Richards, B., Umayahara, M., Sun, J., Bacon-Shone, J., Ip, P., Lee, D., & Becher, Y. (2017). *Myanmar East Asia- Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS) Project*. UNICEF: Myanmar.
https://arrec.net/static/uploads/1530868938055-EAP_ECDS_Final_Report_Maynmar.pdf

5. **Rao, N.**, Becher, Y., Lau, C., Chen, E., Lee, D., Tse, S.K., McBride, C., Richards, B., & Lo, O. (2017). *Promoting early development and learning in children from ethnic minorities in Hong Kong*. Narrative report. Optimus Foundation, UBS.
6. **Rao, N.**, Lee, D., Becher, Y., Taplin, M. (2016). *Enhancing Early Child Development in Papua New Guinea: Findings from the Early Childhood Facility Survey*. UNICEF: Papua New Guinea.
7. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., Ip, P. Bacon-Shone, J. Sincovich, A., Ho, F.K., & Gao, S. (2016). *Early Child Development Scale in-depth analysis*. Final Report. UNICEF: Cambodia.
8. **Rao, N.** & Lau, C. (2016). *Development of a conceptual framework for the Survey of Teachers in Pre-Primary Education (STEPP) survey*. UNESCO: Paris.
9. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., Bacon-Shone, J., Ip, P. & Becher, Y. (2016). *East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales -Short Form: Final Report*. Singapore: Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood.
10. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., Ng, M., Becher, Y., Lee, D., Ip, P., & Bacon-Shone, J. (2014). *Validation, Finalization and Adoption of the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)*. UNICEF.
<https://arnec.net/static/uploads/EAP-ECDS-Final-Report1.pdf>
 Winner of Best of UNICEF Research
 UNICEF Office of Research (2015). Early Childhood Development in East Asia and Pacific: Culturally sensitive testing. In Best of UNICEF Research 2015 (p.19-23)
 Florence, Italy
https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/00%20Best%20of%20UNICEF%202015_layout_web3.pdf
11. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., Wong, J.M.S., Weekes, B.S., Ip, P., Shaeffer, S., Young, M.E., Bray, M., Chen, E., & Lee, D. (2014). *Early childhood development and cognitive development in developing countries: A rigorous literature review* (pp. 99). DFID, UK Government.
<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/Default.aspx?tabid=3465>
12. **Rao, N.**, Engle, P.L., Sun, J., & Ng, M. (2012). *Final Report. Development of the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)*. Asia Pacific Network for Early Childhood: Singapore.
13. **Rao, N.**, & Sun, J. (2010). *Early childhood care and education regional report: Asia and the Pacific*. UNESCO
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000189210>

Book chapters

1. Reid, J.L., Kagan, S.L., **Rao, N.**, & Landsberg, E. (2019). Strong policy foundations. In S.L. Kagan (Eds.), *Building systems that work for young children. International insights from innovative early childhood systems*. (pp. 20 – 49). New York: Teachers College Press.
2. **Rao, N.**, & Lau, C., (2018). Responsive policymaking and implementation: Enhancing ECEC system quality and equity in Hong Kong. In S.L. Kagan (Eds.), *Early childhood*

systems that lead by example. A comparative focus on international early childhood education (pp. 99 – 127). New York: Teachers College Press.

3. **Rao, N., & Wong, J.M.S.** (2018). Early Childhood Development. In M.H. Bornstein (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Lifespan Human Development* (pp. 688-691). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
4. Lau, C., & **Rao, N.** (2018). Early Childhood Education in Hong Kong. In J. Roopnarine, J.E. Johnson, S. Quinn & M. Patte (Eds.), *Handbook of International Perspectives on Early Childhood Education*. New York: Routledge.
5. **Rao, N., & Sun, J.** (2017). Introduction. In N. Rao, J. Zhou, & J. Sun (Eds.), *Early Childhood Education in Chinese societies* (pp.1-8). Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.
6. **Rao, N., & Sun, J.** (2017). Conclusions: Similarities and distinctions in early childhood education across Chinese societies. In N. Rao, J. Zhou, & J. Sun (Eds.), *Early Childhood Education in Chinese societies* (pp.251-257). Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.
7. Ng, S.S.N., Sun, J., Lau, C., & **Rao, N.** (2017). Early childhood education in Hong Kong: Progress, challenges and opportunities. In N. Rao, J. Zhou, & J. Sun, (Eds.), *Early Childhood Education in Chinese societies* (pp.147-169). Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.
8. Sun, J., & **Rao, N.** (2017). Growing up in Chinese families and societies. In N. Rao, J. Zhou, & J. Sun, (Eds.), *Early Childhood Education in Chinese societies* (pp.11-29). Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.
9. **Rao, N.,** Ng, S.S.N., & Sun, J. (2016). Early learning experiences of young Chinese learners in Hong Kong: The role of traditional values and changing educational policy. In R.B. King & A.B.I. Bernardo (Eds.), *The Psychology of Asian learners*, 978-981-287-575-4, 322416_1_En, (39). Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.
10. **Rao, N.,** Sun, J., & Wang, Y. (2015). Cognitive research in developing countries. In A. Farrell, S.L. Kagan, S.L. and K. Tisdall (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Early Childhood Research* (pp.449 – 466). Newbury Park, USA: Sage.
11. **Rao, N., & Sun, J.** (2015). Quality early childhood care and education in low resource level countries in Asia. In P.T.M. Marope & Y. Kaga (Eds.). *Investing against Evidence: The Global State of Early Childhood Care and Education* (pp. 211 – 230). Paris: UNESCO.
12. McHale, J.P., Dinh, K.T., & **Rao, N.** (2014). Understanding co-parenting and family systems among East and Southeast Asian- heritage families. In H. Selin (Ed.), *Parenting across Cultures: Childrearing, motherhood and fatherhood in non-western cultures* (pp.163-173). Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-7503-9_12
13. Sayed., Y, Kanjee, A., & **Rao, N.** (2014). Assessment of and for learning. In D.A. Wagner (Ed), *Learning and Education in Developing Countries: Research and Policy for the 2014 UN Development Goals*. Palgrave Pivot.

14. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., & Zhang, L. (2014). Learning to Learn in early childhood: Home and preschool influences in Chinese learners. In C. Stringher, & R. Deakin (Eds.) *Learning to Learn for all: Theory, practice and international research*. UK: Routledge.
15. Engle, P.L., **Rao, N.**, & Petrovic, O. (2013). Situational analysis of young children in a changing world. In P.R. Britto, P.L. Engle, & C. Super (Eds.). *Handbook of Early Child Development research and its impact on Global policy* (pp.35 – 64). New York: Oxford University Press.
16. *Chen, E.S.L., & **Rao, N.** (2012). Classroom processes of gender socialization in four Chinese kindergartens: A contextual account on the teachers' practices and contributions. In E.L. Anderson and S. Thomas (Eds.). *Socialization: Theories, processes and impact*. New York: Nova Science Publishers.
17. **Rao, N.**, & Sun, J. (2009). Educating Asian adolescents: A developmental perspective. In L.F. Zhang, J.B. Biggs, & D.A. Watkins (Eds.), *Learning and development of Asian students* (pp. 36 - 69). Singapore: Pearson Education Asia.
18. **Rao, N.**, & Chan, C.K.K. (2009). Moving beyond paradoxes: Understanding Chinese learners and their teachers. In C.K.K. Chan, & N. Rao (Eds.), *Revisiting the Chinese learner: Changing contexts, changing education* (pp. 3 - 31). The University of Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Centre/Springer Academic Publishers.
19. **Rao, N.**, Chi, J., & Cheng, K.M. (2009). Teaching mathematics: Observations from urban and rural primary schools in Mainland China. In C.K.K. Chan, & N. Rao (Eds.), *Revisiting the Chinese learner: Changing contexts, changing education* (pp. 211 - 231). The University of Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Centre/Springer Academic Publishers.
20. **Rao, N.**, Ng, S.S.N., & Pearson, E. (2009). Preschool pedagogy: A fusion of traditional Chinese beliefs and contemporary notions of appropriate practice. In C.K.K. Chan, & N. Rao (Eds.), *Revisiting the Chinese learner: Changing contexts, changing education* (pp. 255 - 279). The University of Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Centre/Springer Academic Publishers.
21. Chan, C.K.K., & **Rao, N.** (2009). The paradoxes revisited: The Chinese learner in changing educational contexts. In C.K.K. Chan, & N. Rao (Eds.), *Revisiting the Chinese learner: Changing contexts, changing education* (pp. 315 - 349). The University of Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Centre/Springer Academic Publishers.

Journal articles (refereed)

1. **Rao, N.**, & Fisher, P.A. (2021). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child and adolescent development around the world. *Child Development*, 92, e738-e748.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13653>
2. **Rao, N.**, Ranganathan, N., Kaur, R., & Mukhopadhyay, R. (2021). Fostering equitable access to quality preschool education in India: Challenges and opportunities. *International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy*, 15(9).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40723-021-00086-6>

3. **#Rao, N.**, Umayahara, M., Yang, Y., & Ranganathan N. (2021). Ensuring access, equity and quality in early childhood education in Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar: Challenges for nations in a populous economic corridor. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 82, 102380. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2021.102380>
4. **#Rao, N.**, Chan, S. W., Su, Y., Richards, B., Cappa, C., De Castro, E. F., & Petrowski, N. (2021). Measuring being “Developmentally on Track”: Comparing direct assessment and caregiver report of Early Childhood Development in Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar. *Early Education and Development*, 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2021.1928446>
5. **#*Richards, B.**, Umayahara, M., Mirpuri, S., & **Rao, N.** (2021). Correlates and mediators of geo-ethnic inequalities in child development in Cambodia. *International Journal of Early Years Education*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669760.2021.1950648>
6. **#*Su, Y.**, **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., Zhang, L. (2021). Preschool quality and child development in China. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 56, 15-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2021.02.003>
7. ***Chen, L. L.**, & Mirpuri, S., **Rao, N.**, & Law, N. (2021). Conceptualization and measurement of digital citizenship across disciplines. *Educational Research Review*, 33, 100379. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.edurev.2021.100379>
8. **Rao, N.**, Cohrssen, C., Sun, J. Su, Y., & Perlman, M. (2021). Early Child Development in low- and middle- income countries: Is it what mothers have or what they do that makes a difference to child outcomes? *Advances in Child Development and Behavior*, 61, 255-277. <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.acdb.2021.04.002>
9. **#*Chan, S. W.**, **Rao, N.**, Cohrssen, C., & Richards, B. (2021). Predicting child outcomes in Bhutan: Contributions of parenting support and early childhood education programmes. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 126, 106051. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106051>
10. Chua, G. T., Tung, K. T., Kwan, M. Y. W., Wong, R. S., Chui, C. S., Li, X., ... & Ip, P. (2021). Multilevel factors affecting healthcare workers' perceived stress and risk of infection during COVID-19 pandemic. *International Journal of Public Health*, 66. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2021.599408>
11. **#*Richards, B.**, Umayahara, M., Maw, N., & **Rao, N.** (2021). Early Childhood Education, Language of Instruction, and Child Development in Myanmar: Comparisons among Ethnolinguistic Groups. *Early Education and Development*, 32(3), 421-442. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2020.1755179>
12. Schirmbeck, K., **Rao, N.**, Wang, R., Richards, B., Chan, S. W. Y. M & Maehler, C. (2020). Contrasting executive function development among primary school children from Hong Kong and Germany. *European Journal of Psychology of Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10212-020-00519-9>

13. Tso, W. W. Y., Wong, R. S., Tung, K. T. S., **Rao, N.**, Fu, K. W., Yam, J. C. S.,...& Ip, P. (2020) Vulnerability and resilience in children during the COVID-19 pandemic. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-020-01680-8>
14. *Wang, J., & **Rao, N.** (2020). What do Chinese students say about their academic motivational goals – reasons underlying academic strivings? *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02188791.2020.1812513>
15. #**Rao, N.**, Richards, B., Lau, C., Weber, A. M., Sun, J., Darmstadt, G. L., Sincovich, A., Bacon-Shone, J., & Ip, P. (2020). Associations among early stimulation, stunting, and child development in four countries in the East Asia-Pacific. *International Journal of Early Childhood*, 52(2), 175-193. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13158-020-00270-8>
16. Wong, R. S., Tung, K. T., **Rao, N.**, Leung, C., Hui, A. N., Tso, W. W., ... & Ip, P. (2020). Parent technology use, parent-child interaction, child screen time, and child psychosocial problems among disadvantaged families. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 226, 258-265. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2020.07.006>
17. #**Rao, N.**, Weber, A., Ranganathan N., & Ip, P. (2020). Creating equality for girls: on the right track but still a long way to go. *The Lancet: Child and Adolescent Health*, 4(7), 490-491. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(20\)30171-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(20)30171-1)
18. #Richards, B., Umayahara, M., Maw, N., & **Rao, N.** (2020). Early childhood education, language of instruction, and child development in Myanmar: Comparisons among Ethnolinguistic Groups. *Early Education and Development*, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2020.1755179>
19. *Wong, J.M.S., & **Rao, N.** (2020). Pursuing quality in early childhood education with a government-regulated voucher: views of parents and service providers in Hong Kong. *Journal of Education Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02680939.2020.1764628>
20. *Su, Y., Lau, C., & **Rao, N.** (2020). Early education policy in China: Reducing regional and socioeconomic disparities in preschool attendance. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 53, 11-22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2020.02.001>
21. *Yang, Y., & **Rao, N.** (2020). Teacher professional development among preschool teachers in rural China. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10901027.2020.1726844>
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75. **Rao, N.**, & Pearson, V. (2009). Early childhood care and education in Cambodia. *International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy*, 3(1), 13-26.
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Publication in Chinese

1. *Su, Y., & **Rao, N.** (2020). 學前兒童教育支出與家庭背景 - 基於中國家庭追蹤調查的證據 (Relationship between family's socioeconomic status and parental investments in early learning: Evidence from the China family panel studies). *北京大學教育評論 (Peking University Education Review)*, 18(3), 86-103. (in Chinese)
2. #Zhou, J., Zhang, L. & **Rao, N.** (2018). 我國早期兒童學習發展的現狀分析: 一項來自 EAP-ECDS 的研究報告 (The early developmental status and differences of young children in China: A Report from the EAP-ECDS validation study). *全球教育展望 (Global Education)*, 7(47), 114-128. (in Chinese)

Other publications

1. **Rao, N.**, Chan, S. W. Y., Lee, D., & Becher, Y. (2020a). *Early childhood development assessment scale and Caregiver Survey*. Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong.

2. **Rao, N.**, Chan, S. W. Y., Lee, D., & Becher, Y. (2020b). *Developmentally on Track Assessment Scale and Caregiver Survey*. Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong.
3. **Rao, N.**, & Wong, J.M.S. (2018). Early Childhood Development. In M.H. Bornstein (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Lifespan Human Development* (pp. 688-691). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781506307633>
4. **Rao, N.**, Becher, Y., Lee, D., Richards, B., Sun, J., Bacon-Shone, J., Ip, P., Umayahara, M., & Chen, E. (2017). *Assessing early development and learning: The East Asia-Pacific Early Childhood Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)*. EAP-ECDS Brief. ARNEC. UNICEF.
5. **Rao, N.** & Pearson, E. (2015). Assessment of child development across cultures. *Assessment and Development Matters*, 7(3), 7-9.
6. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., & Becher, Y. (2015). Assessing early development and learning across cultures: The East Asia Pacific-Early Child Development Scales. *Assessment & Development Matters*, 7(2), 21 - 25.
7. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J., & Wong, J.M.S. (2013). *Early childhood development and cognitive development in Low- and Middle- income countries*. Evidence Brief for DFID, UK Government.
8. **Rao, N.**, & Sun, J. (2011). Scaling-up early childhood programs: Moving towards evidence-based decision making in Asia. *Bulletin of the International Society of Behavioral Development*, Special Section on Intersections between Research and Social Policy. 60(2), 23-27. http://www.issbd.org/resources/files/JBD_Nov11.pdf
9. Sun, J., **Rao, N.**, & Zhang L. (2011). *Policy Brief 1. Promoting the development of the under-threes: The critical role of government investment*. Singapore: Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood. <http://hkece.edu.hku.hk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/promoting-the-development-of-the-under-threes.pdf>
10. Sun, J., **Rao, N.**, & Becher, Y. (2011). *Policy Brief 5: Promoting the development of the under-threes: What does research tell us?* Singapore: Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood.

Webinars

1. **Rao, N.** (2021, July). Right from the start: Ensuring quality and inclusive early childhood care and education for all – Launch Webinar. Global Education Monitoring Report and UNESCO. <https://events.unesco.org/event?id=4190107614&lang=1033> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17Q0HYeOx1A>
2. **Rao, N.** (2021, June). *Scaling up quality early childhood Education: What gets measured gets done*. Invited panelist at the Education Global Practices BBL Series, June 3, 2021. World Bank Education Practice.
3. **Rao, N.** 2020, December). Challenges in measuring participation in pre-primary education. Webinar on Harnessing Global Data for young children. Early Childhood

Development Action Network (ECDAN). <https://www.ecdan.org/assets/harnessing-global-data-webinar-10-12-2020-presentations.pdf>

4. **Rao, N.** (2020, September). *ECD Strategies in reaching out to children from poor communities during COVID 19, lessons learnt and policy implications*. Invited moderator at the SAFECDP's 2nd Webinar on 'ECD in the times of COVID-A South Asia Perspective', September 3, 2020, Bangladesh. <http://www.ichdbd.org/professional-forum>
5. **Rao, N.** (2020, August). *ECD Strategies in reaching out to children from poor communities during COVID 19, lessons learnt and policy implications*. Invited moderator at the SAFECDP's 1st Webinar on 'ECD in the times of COVID-A South Asia Perspective', August 6, 2020, Bangladesh. <http://www.ichdbd.org/professional-forum>

Invited/Keynote Papers

1. **Rao, N.** (2021, March). *The Evolution of Early Childhood Education in Hong Kong: Prioritizing Quality in Policy*. Keynote presentation at the College of Education, UAE University on Emirati Child Day, March 15, 2021 **(online)**
2. **Rao, N.** (2020, December). Invited panelist at the 3rd KICCE Webinar in collaboration with the UNESCO Bangkok & ARNEC on ECCE Policy Development Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region: Outcomes and Future Tasks. December 29, 2020. Korea. https://kicce.re.kr/eng/board/view.do?menu_idx=20&board_idx=41191&manage_idx=99 **(online)**
3. **Rao, N.** (2020, November). *Working with young children: What's psychology got to do with it?* Invited speaker at The Hong Kong Psychological Society Golden Jubilee Webinar Series II – Loving our work with children and families. November 20, 2020, Hong Kong. https://hkps.org.hk/en/conferences_and_events/detail/5/ **(online)**
4. **Rao, N.** (2019, November). *Promoting holistic early childhood development across sectors in diverse Asian countries: The critical role of research*. Presented at the National ECD Conference 2019 on Lending momentum to holistic early childhood development across sectors, November 6-7, 2019. Dhaka, Bangladesh.
5. **Rao, N.** (2019, September). *Building and retaining an effective ECE workforce*. Presented at the 2019 Executive Program on Education Development: Prioritizing Early Childhood Education by World Bank. Sept 23-24, 2019. Kunming, China.
6. **Rao, N.** (2019, August). *Building and retaining an effective ECE workforce: Challenges and opportunities*. Presented at the Quality Early Learning Project Authors' Workshop by World Bank. August 12, 2019. Washington DC. New York.
7. **Rao, N.** (2019, June). *The quality of early learning environments and early child development: Observations from diverse Asian contexts*. Paper presented at the Qualitative Methods Hub. June 13, 2019, Department of Education, University of Oxford.

8. **Rao, N.** (2019, June). *Early Childhood Policy and preschool quality: Observations from diverse Chinese contexts*. Paper presented at the Child Development and Learning Seminar. June 5, 2019, Department of Education, University of Oxford.
9. **Rao, N.** (2019, March). *The quality of early learning environments and early child development: Observations from diverse Asian contexts*. Presented at the Conference on Home and School Influences on Early Learning: Cross Cultural Perspectives. March 28-29, 2019, University of Chicago Hong Kong Campus.
10. **Rao, N.** (2019, January). *Early Childhood Education and the way forward: South and South East Asia*. Keynote address at the International Conference on Human Development in a Globalizing World: Perspectives from South and South-East Asia, January 31–February 2, 2019, M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara.
11. **Rao, N.** (2019, January). *Promoting classroom quality: What can teachers do?* Invited speaker at the KeySteps@JC Conference: Building strong foundations for early development and Learning, Hong Kong Jockey Club, January 26, 2019, Yew Chung International School, Hong Kong.
12. **Rao, N.** (2018, December). *Policy and quality: Observations from diverse Chinese contexts*. Keynote address at the International Conference on Preschool Education Quality (ICPEQ) 2018, December 13-14, 2018, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China.
13. **Rao, N.** (2018, October 3). *Implementation issues and continuous improvement within preschool settings*. 2nd webinar of webinar series: What, why and how ECD interventions work. Series for the New York Academy of Sciences, October 3, 2018, National Institute for Early Education Research. Retrieved from <http://nieer.org/publications/anyas-special-series> **(online)**
14. **Rao, N.** (2018, August). *Overcoming Barriers to Gender Equality in Education in Developing Countries: What works and why?* Keynote Speech presented at the IB World Student Conference 2018, July 31-August 6, 2018, The University of Hong Kong.
15. **Rao, N.** (2018, July). *Bridging Research, Policy and Practice in Early Childhood Education in the Asia Pacific*. Keynote Speech presented at the Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association Annual Conference 2018(PECERA 2018), July 6-8, 2018, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
16. **Rao, N.** (2018, June). *Supporting children from ethnic minorities in kindergartens in Hong Kong & Evaluating the Effectiveness of Early Childhood Education in East Asia-Pacific: What counts as evidence?* Invited Panel speaker at 2nd International Early Childhood Action Congress, June 14-15, 2018, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Headquarters, Château de la Muette, Paris.
17. **Rao, N.** (2018, May). *How can we use evidence to improve early childhood education?* Invited speaker for Early Childhood Education Panel at Human Welfare Conference 2018, May 11-12, 2018, Green Templeton College, Oxford, UK.

18. **Rao, N.** (2017, November). *Trends in Early Childhood Education: Observations from OECD and high-performing jurisdictions*. Keynote Speech at the New Free Quality Kindergarten Education Forum, Nov 17, 2017, The University of Hong Kong.
19. **Rao, N.** (2017, October). *Stunting, Socioeconomic Status and Early Child Development in the East Asia Pacific*. Invited paper presented at the 13th Congress of Asian Society for Pediatric Research (ASPR 2017), Oct 6-8, 2017, The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Hong Kong
20. **Rao, N.** (2017, September). *Preschool dosage and child development: findings from the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)*. Invited talk at China Development Research Foundation (CDRF) Symposium on Promoting ECD in China's Poor Rural Areas. September 19-20, 2017, GuiAn, China.
21. **Rao, N.** (2017, May). *A systematic analysis of Hong Kong's journey to quality kindergarten education*. Keynote Speech at the OMEP Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2017, May 18-19, 2017, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong.
22. **Rao, N.** (2017, April). *Population-based monitoring of Early Child Development: Experiences with the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)*. Keynote Speech at the International Early Child Development Conference Promoting nurturing care for children 0 - 3years, April 24-25, 2017, Beijing, China.
23. **Rao, N.** (2016, November). *Preparing our youngest learners for a changing world. Keynote address*. Annual Conference of the China National Society of Early Childhood Education, November 19-22, 2016, Nanjing, China.
24. **Rao, N.** (2016, Oct). *The magnitude of child development potential lost-an update*. Plenary speech at Roadmap for scaling up early child development: Investment in Human Capital for Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation, the 5th International Conference on Poverty Reduction and Child Development, October 27-28, 2016, Beijing, China.
25. **Rao, N.** (2016, July). *Promoting Early Child Development in low- and middle-income countries: What works and why?* Invited presentation 24th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), Vilnius, Lithuania.
26. **Rao, N.** (2016, April). *Winning the Relay: Joint effort of home and school for non-native learners in Hong Kong*. Keynote speaker at Lifting a Heavy Weight with Ease 舉足輕重 - Smooth Transition to Primary Education for Young Chinese Language Learners. The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
27. **Rao, N.** (2016, April). *Kindergarten Education in Hong Kong: Striving for quality and equity*. Invited presentation. National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological Institute, Singapore.
28. **Rao, N.** (2015, December). *Supporting the development of 21st century skills in the early years*. Keynote Speech at Early Childhood and Elementary Education Division Academic Seminar (ECEED-AC), Hong Kong Baptist University, School of Continuing Education.

29. **Rao, N.** (2015, October). *Assessing child development and the quality of early learning environments*. Invited paper. Fourth International Conference on Poverty Reduction and Child Development & ARNEC's 2015 Asia-Pacific Regional ECD Conference, A Bright Start for Every Child: Transformative Power of ECD for Equitable Development. Beijing, China, October 21-24, 2015.
30. **Rao, N.** (2015, September). *Enhancing curriculum, pedagogy and assessment to support the development of 21st century skills in our youngest learners*. Invited Plenary Paper presented at the ECDA Early Childhood Conference and Carnival, 2015, Singapore.
31. **Rao, N.** (2015, June). *Early childhood education programmes and early development and learning in the East Asia and Pacific Region*. Keynote Speech at the 2015 Quality Childhood Conference International. Hong Kong: The Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong.
32. **Rao, N.** (2015, March). *Early childhood development in the East Asia Pacific: Preliminary findings from the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales*. Invited paper. Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
33. **Rao, N.** (2014, November). *Nurturing future leaders: Why and where should we invest to advance early childhood development?* Keynote Address. ECCE International Conference: First Steps to Nurturing Future Leaders. Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam.
34. **Rao, N.** (2014, November). *Early childhood development in the East Asia Pacific: Preliminary findings from the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales*. Public Lecture at Launch of Education and Cognitive Developmental Lab (ECDL) Singapore; National Institute of Education.
35. **Rao, N.** (2014, April). *Assessing the early development and learning of children in Hong Kong*. Invited speaker at the ECE Public Seminar by the Department of Early Childhood Education, The Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong.
36. **Rao, N.** (2014, March). *Helping non-Chinese children learn Chinese in preschools in Hong Kong*. Distinguished Keynote Speech. Conference on the Learning of Chinese in Multicultural Preschool, Hong Kong: The University of Hong Kong.
37. **Rao, N.** (2013, December). *Influencing policy through evaluation research: Assessing early child development in the Asia-Pacific Region*. Keynote Address. Alliance for International Education – China Chapter 2013 Conference, Beijing, China.
38. **Rao, N.** (2013, November). *Early childhood development in the Asia-Pacific region: Influencing policy through impact evaluations*. Keynote Address. Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) Regional Conference, "Early childhood development on the global agenda: Giving all children equal opportunities for lifelong learning, health and success", Singapore.
39. **Rao, N.** (2013, September). *Development and validation of the Hong Kong early child development scale*. Invited address. Korean Institute of Child Care and Education, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

40. **Rao, N.** (2013, September). *Advancing equity in early childhood development: The critical importance of high quality services and effective systems*. Keynote Address. Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education, “Are children ready to learn? Are schools ready for children?” Seoul, Republic of Korea.
41. **Rao, N.** (2013, April). *The East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales*. Invited speaker at the EASHD in Asia "Streetfood" BBL series, World Bank, Jakarta.
42. **Rao, N.** (November 2012). *Evaluating the evidence*. Invited speaker. International Conference on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) “Supporting Children’s Holistic Learning and Development: Homes, Schools and Communities” Jakarta, Indonesia. Organised by Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), the Indonesian National Coalition for ECCD, and the World Bank.
43. **Rao, N.** (2012, September). *Evidence-based decisions about early childhood programmes: Observations from Asia*. Invited paper presented at Conference on Maternal and Child Health: The Foundation of Population Health. Hong Kong. Organised by Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR Government.
44. **Rao, N.** (2012, September). *The development and validation of contextually relevant scales to assess and monitor child development and learning in the East Asia Pacific Region*. Pre-conference Seminar of Early Child Development: Recent research on brain development and assessment tools. Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
45. **Rao, N.** (2012, August). *Using early learning and development standards in the East Asia Pacific region*. Invited speech at the South Asia Regional Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education Policies and Practices: Towards 2015 and beyond. New Delhi, India.
46. **Rao, N.** (2011, November). *The development of the East-Asia Pacific - Early Child Development Scales*. Invited speech at the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood: Early Experiences matter: Policies and Practices for Ensuring the Holistic Development for Very Young Children. Singapore.
47. **Rao, N.** (2011, July). *Driving Equity in Early Childhood Services: Examples from Asia*. Keynote speech presented at 63rd OMEP World International conference - Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of our Youngest Citizens. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Institute of Education.
48. **Rao, N.** (2011, May). *Enhancing government commitment to equity in early childhood education*. Invited Speech at Asia-United States Partnership (AUSP) conference - Building a Global Commitment to Families: Supporting Mothers, Fathers, and Young Children, Manila, Philippines.
49. **Rao, N.** (2011, April). *Construction of early child development measures: Two examples from the Asian context*. Invited speech at UNICEF DPRK Early Learning and Development Standards Workshop. DRPK, Korea.
50. **Rao, N.** (2011, February). *Preschool participation and school enrollment in Cambodia: A longitudinal study*. Invited paper. Hong Kong: PECERA (Hong Kong) Annual Meeting.

51. **Rao, N.** (2010, October). *Educational policy, kindergarten curriculum guidelines and the quality of teaching and learning: Lessons from kindergartens in Hong Kong*. Presidential Invited Address at the International Conference of the Korean Society for Early Childhood Education, Busan, Republic of Korea.
52. **Rao, N.** (2010, September). *Quality matters: Observations from early childhood programs in low resource environments in Asia*. Key Speech at World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education: Building the Wealth of Nations, Moscow, Russian Federation.
53. **Rao, N.** (2010, April). *Evaluating the quality of early childhood programs in poor and rural areas in Asia: Observations from China, India and Cambodia*. Invited paper at Conference on “Beyond Child Indicators: A Framework to Assess and Evaluate the Quality of Early Childhood Services and Programs in Global Contexts”. Abu Dhabi.

Conference papers/posters (refereed)

Omitted from Abridged CV

External Research Support (2009-2021)

Funding Scheme	Project Title	Award Date	PI
General Research Fund (GRF) HKU	Enhancing Early Childhood Development in China and India: Understanding the Contributions of Maternal Education and Policy Variations	Jun-21	Yes
One-off CRF Covid-19 and Novel Infectious Diseases Research Exercises	Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Hong Kong children and support to families during crisis	2020	No, Co-I PI: P. Ip
Collaborative Research Fund (CRF)	International Big Data Network for Attention Deficit and/Hyperactivity Disorder: Development and Application of Data Platform	2019/20	No, Co-I PI: I. Wong
Public Policy Research (PPR) (Special Round)	Protestors and Police: Kindergarten Children's Perceptions of the 2019 Social Unrest in Hong Kong	Mar-20	No, Co-PI PI: C. Cohrsen
The University of Oxford	Harnessing the power of global data to support young children's learning and development: Analyses, dissemination and implementation	Dec-19	No, Co-PI
UNICEF Bhutan	An Evaluation of the Early Childhood Care and Development Programme in Bhutan	Jul-19	Yes
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	Are young children developmentally on track? Comparison between adult ratings and direct assessment in China and India	Jun-19	Yes
UNICEF Cambodia	Assessing the impact of socio-emotional learning in children in target preschools	Nov-18	Team Leader
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	Impact of early exposure to electronic devices on long term cognitive and psychosocial development of Chinese children	Jun-18	No, Co-PI PI: P. Ip
HK Research Grants Council (HSSPFS)	Assessing early childhood development and learning: the first step to building human capital in One Belt One Road countries	Aug-17	Yes
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	Early childhood development, preschool quality, school readiness and early achievement: A longitudinal study in China	Aug-17	Yes
Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust	Early Childhood Intervention to Reduce Deficits of Underprivileged Children	Jun-17	No, Co-PI PI: P. Ip
Education Bureau, HKSAR	Provision of consultancy services to study the effectiveness of the provision of quality kindergarten education in Hong Kong under the free quality kindergarten education policy	Apr-17	Yes

Funding Scheme	Project Title	Award Date	PI
DFID	Reaching expert consensus on training different cadres in delivering ECD at scale	Nov-16	No, Co-PI PI: E. Pearson
UNICEF Myanmar	Provision of Technical Support for East Asia Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)	Oct-16	Yes
HK Research Grants Council	Learning and Assessment for Digital Citizenship	Jul-16	No, Co-PI PI: N. Law
UNICEF Papua New Guinea	Baseline survey of ECCE facilities in AROB and PNG	Mar-16	Yes
Teachers College, Columbia University	A comparative study of early childhood education in selected high performing countries	Feb-16	PI for HK Overall PI S.L. Kagan
UNESCO Paris	Survey of Teachers in Pre-Primary Education (STEPP)	Dec-15	Yes
UNICEF Cambodia	Early Child Development Scale in-depth Analysis	Nov-15	Yes
ARNEC*	EAP-ECDS Short-form	Sep-15	Yes
Optimus Foundation	Promoting early development and learning in children from ethnic minorities	Nov-14	Yes
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	The gap between the rich and the poor: From school readiness to school success	Jun-13	No, Co-PI PI: P. Ip
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	The early development of children from different socioeconomic backgrounds	Jun-11	No, Co-PI PI: P. Ip
UNICEF	Validation, Finalization and Adoption of the EAP-ECDS	Mar-13	Yes
DFID	Early childhood development and cognitive development in developing countries	Mar-13	Yes
ARNEC	East Asia Pacific Early Child Development Scales- Phase II	Mar-11	Yes

* Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood

Participation in International Meetings as a Specialist (2009 - 2021)

Period	Title of Meeting
March & June 2020 (online) March & June 2018 March & June 2016	European Research Council Starting Grant Evaluation, Step 1 & 2 Panel Meeting Organized by: ERC, Brussels
August 12, 2019 Washington, DC	Quality Early Learning Project Authors' Workshop Organized by: World Bank
June 18-19, 2019 Tarrytown, New York, US	Technical Meeting on the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Organized by: UNICEF, New York
May 16, 2019 Washington DC, US	Early Advantage 2 Release Event Organized by: National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
November 2, 2018 Washington, D.C. US	Project Advisory Group Meeting on Global Scales of Early Development Project (GSED) Organized by: World Health Organization
September 24-26, 2018 Dubai, UAE	IBE Technical Consultation Meeting on Early Childhood Care and Education Organized by: UNICEF, UNESCO and UAE Ministry of Education
May 2019 November 2018 September 2016	Technical Meetings on the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Organized by: UNICEF, New York
July 12 to 14, 2017 Bangkok, Thailand	East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS) Short Form Regional Training Workshop Organized by: UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and ARNEC
April 25-27, 2016 NIE, Singapore	Special Advisor to National Institute of Education (NIE) Director and Senior Management
February 16-18, 2016 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	International Advisory Group (IAG) Organized by: UNESCO Ethiopia
July 20-23, 2015 Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania	Technical Workshop on Measuring Early Learning Quality and Outcomes (MELQO) Organised by the Brookings Institution, UNESCO, World Bank and UNICEF
July 15-17, 2015 Paris, France	International Advisory Group for the Survey of Teachers in Pre-Primary Education (STEPP) Organized by: UNESCO Paris

Period	Title of Seminar/Conference
March 11-12, 2014 Geneva, Switzerland	Meeting on Population-level Assessment of Early Child Development, Centre International de Conférences, Genève (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland Organized by: WHO
January 27-28, 2014 Geneva, Switzerland	First and Second Meetings of the Steering Committee for the Lancet Series on Early Child Development Organized by: WHO
June 21-22, 2012 New York, USA	Holistic Early Childhood Development Indicators: Technical Committee Meeting Organized by: UNESCO at UNICEF House, New York
March 7 - 9, 2012 Paris, France	Global Compact on Learning - Research Task Force Organized by: Center for Universal Education, Brookings Institute at UNESCO Paris Headquarters
September 13-15, 2011 Paris, France	UNESCO (interagency) Technical Meeting on the Holistic Early Child Development Index (HECDI) meeting Organized by: UNESCO Paris
June 2009 to Sept 2010, Moscow, Russia	World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (Expert Committee) Organized by: UNESCO, City of Moscow & the Russian Federation

International Consultancies (2009 - 2021)

Period	Organisation and Task
Feb 2021 – Mar 2023	Ministry of Education, Government of Singapore Review of Nurturing Early Learners Curriculum
March 2020	UNESCO Paris Global Education Monitoring Report 2021 Committee of Experts
Aug 2019 – June 2020	World Bank Quality Early Learning (QEL) project
Jul 2019 to Jan 2020	UNICEF Bhutan An Evaluation of the Early Childhood Care and Development Programme in Bhutan
Nov 2019 to Dec 2019	UNICEF Cambodia Assessing the impact of socio-emotional learning in children in target preschools
2019 2014 - 2015	UNICEF New York
2018 2013	DFID, UK Government Reaching expert consensus on training different cadres in delivering early childhood development at scale
2017 2011 - 2012	Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood
Feb 2016 to May 2019	Teachers College, Columbia University PI for Hong Kong overall for a comparative study of early childhood education in selected high performing countries
Oct 2016 to June 2017	UNICEF Myanmar Provision of Technical Support for East Asia Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)
June 2016 to June 2017	Rand Europe OECD Expert
March 2016 to Dec 2016	UNICEF Papua New Guinea Baseline survey of ECCE facilities in AROB and PNG Develop a survey to assess early childhood facilities and use the results to promote change
Nov 2015 to Feb 2016	UNICEF Cambodia Early Child Development Scale in-depth Analysis
Dec 2015 to May 2016	UNESCO Paris

	Development of conceptual framework for the international Survey of Teachers in Pre-Primary Education (STEPP) project
June to Dec 2015	The Brookings Institution Provide technical support to help identify constructs and items to measure government policies, regulations, and monitoring systems, structures, and quality setting in young children's learning environment.
Summer 2014	UNESCO Paris Sun, J., Rao, N. , & Pearson, E. (2015). <i>Achieving Goal 1. Policies and Strategies to enhance the quality of early childhood educators</i> . UNESCO. Paris. http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002324/232453e.pdf
April 2013	World Bank Short Term Consultant (10 days), Education Team Gave talks in Educational Staff Development Program in Sydney and Jakarta
May 2011	UNICEF Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) Worked with UNICEF, the Education Commission and Ministry of Public Health to introduce them to processes undertaken by other Asian countries to reform Early Childhood Education
July 2010 to present	UNICEF (East Asia and Pacific Regional Office) under the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood Development of the East Asia/Pacific (EAP) Child Development Index under the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood
May 2010 to June 2010	UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (Bangkok) Analysis of the status and trends of early childhood care and education in the Asia-Pacific region since 2006

Current Professional Memberships

OMEP (World Organization of Early Childhood Education – Hong Kong)	Member
National Association for the Education of Young Children (US)	Member
Society for Research in Child Development	Member
Hong Kong Psychological Society	Fellow
American Psychological Association	Member
British Psychological Society	Fellow
Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights	Member
Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association - HK	Member

Contributions to Professional Societies, Government Committees and Voluntary Organizations (2009 - 2021)

Position	Body	Period of appointment
Core Reference Group	Gender and Early Childhood Development Review, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK Government	Oct 2020 – Jan 2021
Member	Advisory Committee of ECD Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), Harvard, UNICEF, HarvardX	2019 - 2020
Co-Chair	Knowledge Fellow Steering Committee Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN)	2019 - present
Member	Thematic Group on ECCE Teachers and Facilitators (TG-ECCE) of the International Taskforce on Teachers for Education 2030 (TTF), UNESCO	2018 - present
Member, Advisory Board	South Asia Forum of Early Childhood Development Professionals (SAFECDP)	2018 - present
Member	Vetting Committee of SCOLAR's Research and Development Projects 2018-19	2015 - present
Council Member	HK Committee for UNICEF	2014 - present
Member, Board of Governors	The English Schools Foundation	2014 - 2020
Member	Free Kindergarten Committee, Hong Kong SAR Government	2013 - 2015
Member	Sub-committee of Free Kindergarten Committee on Objectives, Teacher Professionalism and Research, Hong Kong SAR Government	2013 - 2015
Specialist	Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications	2015 - 2022 2006 - 2012
Member	Advocacy Sub-committee HK Committee for UNICEF	2014 – present 2006 – 2012
Executive Committee Member	Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA) - Hong Kong	2008 - present
Steering Committee Member /Executive Committee member	Founding Member Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)	2008 - 2010 2009 - 2010

Editorial Board Memberships

Associate Editor

Child Development (from 2013)

Developmental Psychology (2013 - 2014)

International Journal of Early Childhood (2010 - 2014)

Editorial Board for Journals

International Journal of Child Care and Educational Policy

Asia-Pacific Journal of Research in Early Childhood Education

International Journal of Play

Book Series

International perspectives on early childhood education and development (Springer)