

Abridged Curriculum Vitae
Nirmala Rao

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Brief Curriculum Vitae

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Biography

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 (CORE), 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. Her 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 has 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.

Academic and Professional Contributions

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 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 child development and education.
- I have presented keynote papers and delivered invited papers on six of the world's continents: Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Australia/Oceania.
- I have published numerous articles in 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\$250 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 in the well-being of children in Hong Kong and worldwide.

- 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 based on 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 recognised 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 developing early childhood programmes at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- I have participated in major university-level committees of HKU including the University Promotion and Selection Panel, the University Research Committee, and the Advisory Group on Academic Reviews.
- 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 (2006-2007)

- Chairperson, Board of the Faculty of Education (2024 -)
- 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).

Contributions to Professional Societies

I have sat on executive committees and councils of numerous professional societies, government committees and voluntary organisations throughout my career. I was the Chair of several international research conferences, with the most recent in 2022. I was the World Treasurer of the Organisation Mondiale pour l'éducation Presoclaire (OMEP) (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) from 2014 to 2016 and sat on the Board of Governors of the English Schools Foundation (2014 – 2020). I have been a Council Member of the Hong Kong Committee of UNICEF since 2014. I am an Executive Committee member of OMEP – Hong Kong and previously the Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association – Hong Kong. I was Associate of *Child Development* (from 2013 - 2022) and *Developmental Psychology* (2013 - 2014), premier journals in Child Development.

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	
	2023	WHO, Geneva
	2022 - 2023	UNESCO Paris
	2019 - 21 2013	World Bank, Washington DC, USA
	2019	UNICEF Bhutan
	2019 2014 - 2015	UNICEF New York, USA
	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, New York, USA
	2015-2016	UNICEF Papua New Guinea
	2015, 2012	Brookings Institute, Washington DC, USA
	2014 - 2015	UNESCO Paris, France
	2013 - 2014 2010, 2007	UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) Bangkok, Thailand
	2010 2006 - 2008	UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau of Education Bangkok, Thailand
	2007, 2009	UNICEF Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea
	2007	UNICEF Lao PDR
	2006 - 2008	UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau of Education, Bangkok, Thailand
	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 Researcher 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

2023	Featured in Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists Worldwide 2022 list Field: Social Science
2023 -	WHO Early Brain Metrics Expert Group
2023 -	Member of Awarding Committee for Khalifa International Award for Early Learning
2022 - 2025	OECD International Early Learning Study Technical Expert Group
2020- 2023	Medical Research Council, UK Global Health Faculty of Experts
2016	OECD Starting Strong Survey, Early Childhood Education and Care Expert Consultant, Questionnaire Expert Group
2016 - 2022	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
2023	Co-chair for the Panel on Solicited Content: COVID-19 Related for the 2023 Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Salt Lake City, USA
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 Lancet Series on Early Child Development
2013-2021	Associate Editor of <i>Child Development</i> , 2019 Impact Factor 4.891 2019 Journal Citation Reports Ranking: 4/77 (Psychology, Developmental); 3/60 (Psychology, Educational)
2013-2014	Associate Editor of <i>Developmental Psychology</i> , 2017 Impact Factor 2.934 2017 Journal Citation Reports Ranking: 18/73 (Psychology, Developmental)
2010	Selected as a global expert in ECCE by UNESCO

Selected Research Output

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.
5. **Rao, N.**, & Pryde, N. (1994). *Child development and classroom learning*. Hong Kong: Open University of Hong Kong (272 pages). (Chinese version, 1996).

Research reports

1. **Rao, N.**, Yang, Y., & Bala, M. (2024). *Early Childhood Care and Education: Landscape Review 2010-2022* (pp.107). UNESCO Paris.
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389380>

2. Law, N.W.Y., Pan, Q., Tao, S., Liang, Q., Chen, L., **Rao, N.**, Reichert, F., & de la Torre, J. (2023). *Hong Kong Students' Digital Citizenship Development 2019-2021: Findings from a Longitudinal Study (Version 1)*. HKU Data Repository. <https://doi.org/10.25442/hku.22085738.v1>
3. **Rao, N.**, Lau, C., Chan, S., & Richards, B. (2022). *Technical Report: Consultancy Study on the Effectiveness of the Provision of Quality Kindergarten Education in Hong Kong under the Kindergarten Education Policy*. Submitted to Educational Bureau, HK SAR Government. https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/edu-system/preprimary-kindergarten/free-quality-kg-edu/Consultancy%20Study/Consultancy%20Study_Technical%20Report.pdf
4. **Rao, N.**, Cohrssen, C., Chan, S., & Richards, B. (2020). *An Evaluation of the Early Childhood Care and Development Programme in Bhutan*. UNICEF: Bhutan. <https://www.unicef.org/bhutan/media/1761/file/ECCD%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf>
5. **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.)
6. 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
7. **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://arnec.net/static/uploads/1530868938055-EAP_ECDS_Final_Report_Maynmar.pdf
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.

11. **Rao, N.** & Lau, C. (2016). *Development of a conceptual framework for the Survey of Teachers in Pre-Primary Education (STEPP) survey*. UNESCO: Paris.
12. **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.
13. **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
14. **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>
15. **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.
16. **Rao, N.**, & Sun, J. (2010). *Early childhood care and education regional report: Asia and the Pacific*. UNESCO <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000189210>
17. **Rao, N.**, Pearson, E., Conostas, M.A., & Pearson, V. (2007). *Evaluation of community preschool and home-based early childhood programmes in Cambodia* (146 pp.). UNICEF: Cambodia.

Journal articles (refereed)

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

1. **Rao, N.**, Yang, Y., Gong, J., Su, Y., Perlman, M., Sun, J., Zhang, L., & Zhou, J. (2025). Regional disparities in family environments, preschool quality and early school attainment in China. *International Journal of Early Childhood*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13158-025-00418-4>
2. *Chan, Y. Y., & **Rao, N.** (2024). Increasing reading motivation and vocabulary of South Asian children in Hong Kong: A home-based intervention. *Early Education and Development*, 36(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2024.2360866>

3. Wong, R.S., Lam, A.L.N., Tung, K.T.S., **Rao, N.**, Xie, S.S.Y., Yam, J.C. & Ip, P. (2024). Early-life family and school impacts on adolescent conduct problems: A path analysis. *Family Process*, 63(4), 2471-2483. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.13021>
4. [#]Li, Z., & **Rao, N.** (2024). Measuring children's developmental status in China using the ECDI2030: Comparing with direct assessment and teacher report. *Child Indicators Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-024-10184-9>
5. [#]**Rao, N.**, Su, Y. & Chan, S.W.Y. (2024). Reliability and validity of the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales: A longitudinal validation study in China. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, 55, 1691–1700. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-023-01526-9>
6. **Rao, N.**, Cahrssen, C., & Bala, M. (2024). The power of research and stakeholder collaboration in enhancing early childhood care and education in low-and middle-income countries. *Children*, 11(6). 698. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children11060698>
7. ^{*}Chan, Y.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2024). Home and preschool influences on early literacy and numeracy development in England, Estonia, and the United States. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 32(3), 399-415. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1350293X.2023.2257913>
8. Tso, W.W.Y., Chan, K.L., Lee, T.M.C., **Rao, N.**, Lee, S.L., Jiang, F., Chan, S.H.S., Wong, W.H.S., Wong, R.S., Tung, K.T.S., Yam, J.C., Liu, A.P.Y., Chua, G.T., Rosa Duque, J.S., Lam, A.L.N., Yip, K.M., Leung, L.K., Wang, Y., Sun, J., . . . Ip, P. (2022). Mental health & maltreatment risk of children with special educational needs during COVID-19. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 130(Part 1), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105457>
9. [#]Yang, Y., **Rao, N.**, & Sun, J. (2024). From pre-service preparation to professional development: Early childhood teachers' learning experiences, ECE quality, and child development in China. *Early Education and Development*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2024.2336659>
10. Wong, R.S., S. Tung, K.T., W. Ho, F.K., **Rao, N.**, Chan, K.L., & Ip, P. (2024). Longitudinal associations between child discipline methods and physical growth patterns across preschool years. *Obesity*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.23977>
11. [#]Yang, H., **Rao, N.** & Pearson, E. (2024). Inequality in access to early childhood care and education programs among 3- to 4-year-olds: Trends and variations across low- and middle-income countries. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 66, 234-244. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2023.10.013>
12. [#]**Rao, N.**, Bala, M., Ranganathan, N., Anand, U., Dhingra, S., Costa, J.C., & Weber, A.M. (2023). Trends in the prevalence and social determinants of stunting in India, 2005 – 2021: findings from three rounds of the National Family Health Survey. *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health*. <https://nutrition.bmj.com/content/early/2023/12/06/bmjnph-2023-000648>
13. Pearson, E., **Rao, N.**, Hendry, H., Horton, C., Aboud, F., & Siraj, I. (2023). Workforce preparation for delivery of nurturing care in low- and middle-income countries: Expert

- consensus on critical multi-sectoral training needs. *Child: Care, Health & Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.13180>
14. *Chan, Y.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2023). Home and preschool influences on early child development of Chinese and South Asian children in Hong Kong. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-023-01589-2>
 15. Tao, S., Reichert, F., Law, N.W.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2023) Digital technology use and adolescent mental health before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: The roles of internet addiction and digital competence. *Cyberpsychol Behavior, and Social Networking*, 26(10):739-746. <https://doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2023.0048>
 16. *#Dong, S., & **Rao, N.** (2024). The double burden of malnutrition among young Chinese children: a hierarchical structure of socioeconomic inequality indicators. *Chinese Sociological Review*, 56(2), 205-232. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21620555.2023.2292535?src=>
 17. **Rao, N.**, Yang, Y., Su, Y., & Cohrssen, C. (2023). Promoting equity in access to quality early childhood education in China. *Children*, 10, 1674. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children10101674>
 18. Man, K.K.C., Gao, L., Lau, W.C.Y., Fan, M., Coghill, D., Chan, E.W., Chui, C.S.L., Li, X., Chan, A.Y.L., Lum, Terry, Luo, H., Au Yeung, S.L., Wei, L., Wong, K.H.T.W., Tung, K.T.S., Wong, R.S., Lee, T.M.C., **Rao, N.**, Wing, Y.K., Ip, P., & Wong, I.C.K. (2023). Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, physical abuse and methylphenidate treatment in children. *Nature Mental Health*, 1, 66-75. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44220-022-00008-6>
 19. *Chan, Y.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2023). Home and preschool influences on early literacy and numeracy development in England, Estonia, and the United States. *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1350293X.2023.2257913>
 20. *Dong, S., & **Rao, N.** (2023). Associations between parental well-being and early learning at home before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: observations from the China Family Panel Studies. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1163009>
 21. **Li, Z., & **Rao, N.** (2023). Advancing equity in early childhood development in China: Progress in meeting Sustainable Development Goal Target 4.2. *International Journal of Chinese Education*, 12(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2212585X231175499>
 22. **Yang, Y., & **Rao, N.** (2023). The status, pathways and discourses of professionalism for early childhood education teachers in Chinese policies. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 99. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2023.102760>
 23. Raikes, A., **Rao, N.**, Yoshikawa, H. *et al.* (2023). Global tracking of access and quality in early childhood care and education. *International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy*, 17(14). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40723-023-00116-5>
 24. Cuartas, J., McCoy, D., Sánchez, J., Behrman, J., Cappa, C., Donati, G., Heymann, J., Lu, C., Raikes, A., **Rao, N.**, Richter, L., Stein, A., & Yoshikawa, H. (2023). Family play,

- reading, and other stimulation and early childhood development in five low-and-middle-income countries. *Developmental Science*, e13404. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13404>
25. #*Gong, J., & **Rao, N.** (2023). Preschool experiences and home learning environments of migrant children in urban China. *Front. Public Health*, *11*, 1086439. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1086439>
 26. #Petermann-Rocha, F., **Rao, N.**, Bala, M., Parshad-Asnani, M., Sifuna, A., Yousafzai, A., Ho, F.K., & Ip, P. (2023). Hygiene practices and early childhood development in the East Asia-Pacific region: A cross-sectional analysis. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, *20*(4), 2798. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20042798>
 27. #*Gong, J., & **Rao, N.** (2023). Early learning opportunities of preschool children affected by migration in China. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, *63*, 228-239. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2022.12.010>
 28. Man, K.K.C., Gao, L., Lau, W.C.Y., Fan, M., Coghill, D., Chan, E.W., Chui, C.S.L., Li, X., Chan, A.Y.L., Lum, T., Luo, H., Au Yeung, S.L., Wei, L., Wong, K.H.T.W., Tung, K.T.S., Wong, R.S., Lee, T.M.C., **Rao, N.**, Yun, K.W., Ip, P., & Wong, I.C.K. (2023). Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, physical abuse and methylphenidate treatment in children. *Nature Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44220-022-00008-6>
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1. Rao, N., & Cohrssen, C. (2023 – 2024). Early Childhood Care and Education in Low- and Middle- Income Countries (2024), *Children*.
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2. Rao, N. & Fisher, P. (2021) The Impact of COVID-19 on Child Development around the world (2021). Special Section of *Child Development*.
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4. **Rao, N.**, & Simonstein, S. (Eds.) (2003). *International Journal of Early Childhood*, 35, (1 & 2) Special double Issue (pp. 140).

Book chapters

1. Chan, S.W.Y. & **Rao, N.** (2024). Implementing play-based pedagogy in early childhood education in Hong Kong. In R. M. Homes & J. L. Roopnarine, (Eds.). *Culture, Schooling, and Children's Learning Experiences* (pp.165-180). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/9780191982651.001.0001>
2. Chen, L. L., & **Rao, N.** (2022). A multimethod approach to assessing children's 21st century digital skills. In S. Kotilainen (Ed.), *Methods in practice: Studying children and youth online* (pp. 12-15). CO:RE – Children online: Research and Evidence. <https://core-evidence.eu/methods-toolkit/handbook-part1/handbook-multimethod-approach>
3. **Rao, N.**, Pearson, E., Piper, B., & Lau, C. (2022). Building an Effective Early Childhood Education Workforce. In M. Bendini & A. E. Devercelli, (Eds.). *Quality Early Learning: Nurturing Children's Potential*. Human Development Perspectives. Washington, DC: World Bank.
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15. 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
16. 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.
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18. 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.
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Other publications

1. **Rao, N.** (2025, April 25). *Early childhood development*. Interviewed by Gittings, D. & Chan, C.M., Backchat [Radio broadcast]. RTHK.
<https://www.rthk.hk/radio/radio3/programme/backchat/episode/1018600>

2. **Rao, N.**, Yang, Y. & Ranganathan, N. (2022) Measuring equitable access to early childhood education in Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar. *South Asia@ LSE*.
3. **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.
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8. **Rao, N.**, Sun, J. Ip, P., Bacon-Shone, J., Sincovich, A., Ho, F.K., & Gao, S. (2016). *Policy Brief. How are Cambodia's children developing? Evidence-based policy recommendations for Early Childhood Care and Development*. UNICEF: Cambodia.
9. **Rao, N.** & Pearson, E. (2015). Assessment of child development across cultures. *Assessment and Development Matters*, 7(3), 7-9.
10. **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.
11. **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.
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13. 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. <https://hkece.edu.hku.hk/content/uploads/2021/12/promoting-the-development-of-the-under-threes.pdf>

14. 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.
15. **Rao, N.**, & Pearson, V. (2008). Transforming early childhood care and education in the insular south East Asia and Mekong sub-regions: Implications of the Global Monitoring Report 2007. Bangkok, Thailand: UNESCO Bangkok.
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000163156>
16. **Rao, N.** (2007). *Strong foundations for gender equality in early childhood*. Advocacy Brief. Bangkok, Thailand: UNESCO Bangkok.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0016/001611/161195eo.pdf>

Invited/Keynote Papers (2005 onwards)

1. **Rao, N.** (2025). Chair for *Paper symposium: Determinants and Academic Outcomes of Executive Function in Children across Diverse Samples and Contexts*. 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
2. **Rao, N.** (2025). *The Impact of COVID-19 on Development, Learning, and Behavior among Diverse Populations of Families*. Invited keynote speaker at the program spotlight at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
3. **Rao, N.** (2025, April). *Parents versus preschools: Lessons from Hong Kong*. Invited speaker at the 40th Anniversary seminar series by the Faculty of Education, the University of Hong Kong. April 10, 2025.
4. **Rao, N.** (2025, March). *The science and impact of early childhood education*. Invited speaker at CAPS talk: From the start: Advancing ECE for lifelong impact in Asia, by the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS). March 11, 2025.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpgknQdHY9k>
5. **Rao, N.** (2025, February). *Nurturing young minds: Policies, preschools, and home environments*. Invited speaker at the Wippermann lecture, the University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany. February 11, 2025.
6. **Rao, N.** (2024, October). *Enhancing equitable access to quality early childhood education: Noteworthy policy and practices*. Invited speaker at International workshop “Enhancing Early Education and Development in Low- and Middle- Income Countries” by Khalifa Award for Education, October 14, 2024. **(online)**
7. **Rao, N.** (2024, April). Invited panelist at *Pre-schooling in India: Policy, progress, and practice*. Present at the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University, April 19, 2024. <https://mittalsouthasiainstitute.harvard.edu/event/pre-schooling-in-india-policy-progress-and-practice/> **(online)**
8. **Rao, N.** (2023, December). *Measuring Global Progress in Meeting Sustainable Development Goal Target 4.2*. Presented at 12th OMEP Asia-Pacific Conference by the

- OMEP Australia, December 6-8, 2023. Sydney, Australia.
<https://event.mq.edu.au/omep2023/keynote-speakers#Nirmala>
9. **Rao, N.** (2023, November). *Nourishing young minds: Measuring the influence of preschools and homes.* Presented at Study of Early Education and Development (SEED) conference by the Institute (Department) of Early Childhood Education of Beijing Normal University, November 4-6, 2023, Zhuhai, China.
<http://fe.english.bnu.edu.cn/html/003/1/202308/661.shtml>
 10. **Rao, N.** (2023, June). *Regional Disparities in Early Achievement in China.* Presented at Scholars in Residence programme by College of Education, United Arab Emirates University, June 7-9, 2023, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.
 11. **Rao, N.** (2023, April). *Preschool Experiences, Home Learning Activities and Early Achievement in China: Regional and Urbanicity differences.* Invited presentation at the CASER Research Seminar, April 13, 2023. <https://caser.shanghai.nyu.edu/preschool-experiences-home-learning-activities-and-early-achievement-in-china-regional-and-urbanicity-differences/> (**online**)
 12. **Rao, N.** (2022, December). *Beyond Formal Education.* Invited panelist at the UNICEF HK 'Reimagine Education' International Forum 2022, Dec 6, 2022, Hong Kong.
https://www.unicef.org/hk/en/news/latest_news/REIMAGINE_EDUCATION_INTERNATIONAL_FORUM/?back=c3acb621eafb5bd962e215ec85a35c4e
 13. **Rao, N.** (2022, November). *Enhancing Early Childhood Education: Noteworthy Policies, Practices and Innovations.* Invited presentation, Nurturing Early Learners Symposium 2022. (**online**)
 14. **Rao, N.** (2022, November). *Effective Supervision to support the Early Childhood Care and Education Workforce.* UNESCO World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE). November 14-16, 2022. Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
 15. **Rao, N.** (2022, September). *Social Determinants of stunting in China and India Temporal Trends.* Invited presentation, 17th Congress of Asian Society of Pediatric Research. Sept 17-18, 2022. <https://aspr2022.sciconf.cn/cn/web/index/> and <https://aspr2022.sciconf.cn/en/web/program/13624> (**online**)
 16. **Rao, N.** (2022, September). *[Webinar] From Learning Loss to Learning Recovery.* Invited presentation, Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood. Sept 8, 2022, <https://arnec.net/events/webinar-learning-loss-learning-recovery> (**online**)
 17. **Rao, N.** (2022, June). *Non-state actors in education: Lessons and experiences from regional experts.* Invited presentation, APREMC II regional launch of 2021/2 UNESCO GEM Report. https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/non-state_actors (**online**)
 18. **Rao, N.** (2022, February). *Supporting playful learning in the early years: Challenges and opportunities in the COVID-19 era.* Invited keynote speech at the "Play n Gain" project result announcement online symposium, Social-emotional learning through play: Helping children stay connected in times of challenges, CAISE, the University of Hong Kong. <https://www.jcplayngain.edu.hku.hk/symp2022?lang=en> (**online**)

19. **Rao, N.** (2021, December). *Importance of Early Learning Environments for Promoting Equality in Education*. Invited Intervention at the Opening Session of the International Seminar on the Evolving Right to Education. UNESCO, Paris.
<https://events.unesco.org/event?id=968929687> (online)
20. **Rao, N.** (2021, November). *Promoting learning at home and in early childhood education: What works and why?* Keynote address at the OMEP Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2021 - Strong Children Today, Better Asia-Pacific Tomorrow, hosted by OMEP China and China National Society for Early Childhood Education (CNSECE), November 6, 2021, Hangzhou, China. <https://omepworld.org/omep-asia-pacific-regional-conference/> (online)
21. **Rao, N.** (2021, October). *Early childhood education quality matters*. Engaging Policymakers in Early Childhood, World Bank, Early Learning Partnership.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIKI9EaRHZU> (online)
22. **Rao, N.** (2021, July). *Right from the start: Ensuring quality and inclusive early childhood care and education for everyone*. Webinar, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO. <https://events.unesco.org/event?id=4190107614&lang=1033> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17Q0HYeOx1A>
23. **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.
24. **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)
25. **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.youtube.com/watch?v=r_tJVJ2Swh4&ab_channel=ECDAN
26. **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)
27. **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)
28. **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.

<https://www.facebook.com/bhutaneccd/posts/d41d8cd9/3210154139076503/>

29. **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.
30. **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.
31. **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.
32. **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.
33. **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.
34. **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.
35. **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.
36. **Rao, N.** (2019, March). *Assessing whether young children are developmentally on track*. Presented at the Public Lecture of Developmentally on Track: Supporting our youngest learners, March 4, 2019, Hong Kong: The University of Hong Kong.
37. **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.
38. **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.

39. **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.
40. **Rao, N.** (2018, October). *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. <http://nieer.org/publications/anyas-special-series> (**online**)
41. **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, Hong Kong: The University of Hong Kong.
42. **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.
43. **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.
44. **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.
45. **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, Hong Kong: The University of Hong Kong.
46. **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, Hong Kong: The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.
47. **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.
48. **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: Hong Kong Baptist University.

49. **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.
50. **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.
51. **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.
52. **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.
53. **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, Hong Kong: The University of Hong Kong.
54. **Rao, N.** (2016, April). *Kindergarten Education in Hong Kong: Striving for Quality and Equity.* Invited presentation at National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological Institute, Singapore.
55. **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.
56. **Rao, N.** (2015, October). *Assessing child development and the quality of early learning environments.* Invited paper at 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, October 21-24, 2015, Beijing, China.
57. **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.
58. **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.

59. **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.
60. **Rao, N.** (2014, November). *Nurturing future leaders: Why and where should we invest to advance early childhood development?* Keynote Address at ECCE International Conference: First Steps to Nurturing Future Leaders, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam.
61. **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.
62. **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.
63. **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.
64. **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.
65. **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.
66. **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.
67. **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.
68. **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.
69. **Rao, N.** (November 2012). *Evaluating the evidence*. Invited speaker at the 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.

70. **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.
71. **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: Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
72. **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.
73. **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.
74. **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.
75. **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.
76. **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.
77. **Rao, N.** (2011, February). *Preschool participation and school enrollment in Cambodia: A longitudinal study*. Invited paper. Hong Kong: PECERA (Hong Kong) Annual Meeting.
78. **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.
79. **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.
80. **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.

81. **Rao, N.** (2009, December). *Monitoring and evaluating early childhood development policy efforts in Asian contexts: A matter of choice?* Invited paper presented at the Regional Early Childhood Policy Review Development Seminar: Sustainable Policies for Early Childhood Development (Sponsored by UNICEF and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore), Singapore.
82. **Rao, N.** (2008, December). *Social justice in early childhood programs.* Invited paper for conference on “Developing communities of learning and practice: Making a difference by sustaining the influence of early childhood social integration and respect for diversity efforts” (Sponsored by Bernard van Leer Foundation), UNICEF: Geneva, Switzerland.
83. **Rao, N.** (2008, November). *Early childhood care and education policies and practices in Southeast Asia.* Keynote Speech at Southeast Asia Sub-regional Dissemination Seminar on Early Childhood Policy Review (Sponsored by UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Curriculum Development Division and Ministry of Education, Malaysia), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
84. **Rao, N.** (2008, August). *The case for supporting early childhood development: policies and strategies to improve returns to investment.* Paper presented at the World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Policy Symposium on “Beyond Access to Basic Education: Developing a Policy Agenda for the Next Stage of Education Development”, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
85. **Rao, N.** (2008, April). *Investing in early childhood development: Benefits for children in South Asia.* Keynote speech at the UNICEF, UNESCO, and Save the Children Regional Forum on “Making the case for Early Childhood in South Asia”, Bangkok, Thailand.
86. **Rao, N.** (2007, May). *Culture, policy and quality in early childhood education: Observations from Chinese kindergartens.* Keynote speech at conference on, “What is “quality care”? Cultural assumptions in institutions of early childhood education”, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
87. **Rao, N.** (2007, May). *Defining quality in context: Child care programmes for poor and rural children in India.* Invited talk at symposium at conference on, “What is “quality care”? Cultural assumptions in institutions of early childhood education”, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
88. **Rao, N.** (2006, Nov). *Gender issues in early childhood education.* Expert Response at Regional Launch of the UNESCO Global Monitoring Report, Bangkok, Thailand.
89. **Rao, N., & Li, H.** (2006, August). *“Eduplay”:* Beliefs and practices related to play and learning in Chinese kindergartens. Paper in invited symposium presented at the OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) Annual Conference, Tromso, Norway.

90. **Rao, N.** (2006, June). *Quality matters: Early childhood education policy in Hong Kong*. Keynote speech at Shanghai Educational Forum, Shanghai, China
91. **Rao, N.** (2005, September). *The culture of early pedagogy: Observations from Hong Kong kindergartens*. Keynote speech. OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) China International Conference, Hang Zhou, China.
92. **Rao, N.** (2005, July). *Early childhood education in Hong Kong: Policy, curriculum and pedagogy*. Paper presented in an invited International symposium on “Early Childhood Education in different contexts”, at the OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) World Annual Conference, Havana, Cuba.
93. **Rao, N.** (2005, April). *Preparing early childhood educators in South and South East Asia: Commonalities and distinctions in training needs across and within societies*. Keynote speech at the OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) Chile National Seminar. Santiago, Chile.

Conference papers/posters (refereed) (2020 onwards)

1. **Rao, N.,** Dong, S., & Wang, H. (2025). *Educating mothers, saving children: Exploring the global link between maternal education and children's health outcomes*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
2. **Rao, N.** & Jiang, Y. (2025). *Attitudes towards gender equality in education in India: A multigenerational comparison*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
3. Chan, Y.Y. & **Rao, N.** (2025). *Promoting the inclusion of South Asian children in Hong Kong mainstream classrooms: An intervention study*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
4. Gong, J., **Rao, N.**, Lau, C., Chan, S.W.Y., Ng, R.Y.T., Liu, J., & Liu, W.M. (2025). *Home learning environments and early child development in Hong Kong*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
5. Gong, J., Lau, C., Chan, S.W.Y., Ng, R.Y.T., Liu, J., Liu, W.M. & **Rao, N.** (2025). *Development and validation of the child literacy and numeracy assessment scale for preschool children*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
6. Chan, S.W.Y., Lau, C., **Rao, N.**, Li, Z., Chan, Y.Y., & Liu, J. (2025). *Socioeconomic disparities in development across preschool years: Evidence from child assessments, parent and teacher surveys*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

7. Wang, H. & **Rao, N.** (2025). *Public policy, son preference, total fertility rate and sex ratios at birth in China*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
8. Zhang, R. & **Rao, N.** (2025). *Development and validation of the Chinese School Readiness Scale (CSRS)*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
9. Zhang, R. & **Rao, N.** (2025). *Navigating three transitions from childhood to adolescence: A Cross-lagged panel model among parental expectations, involvement, investment, and children's academic performance*. Poster to be presented at the 2025 biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
10. Chan, S.W.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2025). Socioeconomic gradients in early Chinese language and math skills: The role of executive functions. To be presented at the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA) Conference 2025, February 27-28, 2025, Cebu, Philippines.
11. **Rao, N.** (2024). *Measuring China's Progress towards Sustainable Developmental Goal Targets Related to Early Childhood Development and Education*. Chair and Moderator of Symposium at 76th OMEP World Conference, Right from the Start for ECCE Step beyond All Together, July 15-19, 2024, Bangkok, Thailand.
12. Chan, S.W.Y., Li, Z., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Developmental Goal Target 4.2.1: Comparing Caregiver Report and Direct Assessment*. Paper presented at 76th OMEP World Conference, Right from the Start for ECCE Step beyond All Together, July 15-19, 2024, Bangkok, Thailand.
13. Li, Z., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Measuring Participation in Early Childhood Education Programmes in China: Progress and Challenges*. Paper presented at 76th OMEP World Conference, Right from the Start for ECCE Step beyond All Together, July 15-19, 2024, Bangkok, Thailand.
14. Dong, S., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *The Double Burden of Malnutrition Among Young Chinese Children*. Paper presented at 76th OMEP World Conference, Right from the Start for ECCE Step beyond All Together, July 15-19, 2024, Bangkok, Thailand.
15. Chan, S.W.Y., Li, Z., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Exploring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Chinese preschoolers' socioemotional development: comparing between two cohorts*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
16. Chan, Y.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Increasing intrinsic reading motivation and expanding Chinese oral vocabulary of South Asian children in Hong Kong: a home-based intervention*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.

17. Li, Z., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Measuring young children's developmental status in China*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
18. Wang, H., Liu, J., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Sibling contexts and temporal changes in gender role attitudes among Chinese adolescents*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
19. Gong, J., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Chinese caregivers' use of questions during free-play and structured activities*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
20. Li, Z., Gong, J., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Maternal education, home learning environment, and accuracy in parent report of child development in China*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
21. Zhang, R., Lau, C.G.L., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *From beliefs to behavior: a latent profile analysis of parental attributions for success and the correlates with parental involvement and investment*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
22. Wang, H., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Gendered views: a cross-generational study of gender stereotypes in China*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
23. Zhang, R., & **Rao, N.** (2024). *Early family socioeconomic status and academic achievement in adolescence: the roles of educational expectations, investment, and academic monitoring*. Poster presented at the 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 16-20, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
24. Dong, S., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *Associations between parental wellbeing and early learning at home before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in China*. Paper presented in the European Congress of Psychology 2023, Brighton, U.K.
25. Gong, J., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *Development and validation of the Chinese Home Learning Environment Scale for preschool-aged children: a modified E-Delphi Study*. Poster presented at the 12th OMEP Asia-Pacific Conference by the OMEP Australia, December 6-8, 2023, Sydney, Australia.
26. Maehler, C., Schirmbeck, K., Chan, S.W.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *Test-fairness assessing executive functions in preschoolers from Germany and Hong Kong*. Poster presented at the 20th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI), August 20-26, 2023, Thessaloniki, Greece.

27. Chan, S.W.Y., Su, Y., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *The East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales: A Longitudinal Validation Study in China*. Poster presented at the 20th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI), August 20-26, 2023, Thessaloniki, Greece.
28. Li, Z., Chan, S.W.Y., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *Development of young children in China: Comparing parent report and direct assessment longitudinally*. Poster presented at the 20th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI), August 20-26, 2023, Thessaloniki, Greece.
29. Chan, L., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *Stability and change in digital technology use: A longitudinal study of primary school students*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
30. Sun, J., Zhang, Y., Guo, Q., Liang, M., **Rao, N.**, & Li, Z. (2023). *The Latent Classes and Predictors of Early Childhood Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
31. Li, Z., **Rao, N.**, & Gong, J. (2023). *Concordance between Direct Assessment and Adult Report in Child Assessment: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
32. Gong, J., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *Socioeconomic Disparities in Chinese Children's Academic Outcomes: The Mediating Role of Early Learning Experiences*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
33. Chan, S.W.Y., **Rao, N.**, & Wang, H. (2023). *Development of Executive Functions, Language and Math Skills in Chinese Preschoolers*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
34. Li, Z., **Rao, N.**, & Chan, S.W.Y. (2023). *Developmental Status of Young Children in China: Findings from Parent Report and Direct Assessment*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
35. Zhang, R., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *SES, Home Learning Environments, Migration Status, and Academic Achievement: An Eight-Year Longitudinal Study in China*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
36. Yang, Y., Dong, S., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *How does community influence cultural capital reproduction: Observations from the China Family Panel Study*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.

37. Bala, M., & **Rao, N.** (2023). *Progress in Ameliorating Stunting in India: Trends in Prevalence and Social Determinants*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, USA.
38. Chen, L., **Rao, N.**, Law, N. (2022). *How children use digital technologies matters to digital literacy: A multigroup latent profile analysis*. Poster presented at the 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 19-23, 2022, Rhodes, Greece.
39. Maehler, C., Schirmbeck, K., Wang, R., Chan, S., Richards, B., **Rao, N.**, (2022). *Contrasting executive function development in kindergarten and primary school children from Germany and Hong Kong*. Poster presented at the 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), June 19-23, 2022, Rhodes, Greece.
40. Chan, Y.Y., Chan, S.W.Y., Perlman, M., & **Rao, N.** (2022). *Home and preschool influences on early literacy and numeracy development in England, Estonia, and the United States*. Poster presented at Development 2022, June 15-16, 2022. https://carleton.ca/pickeringcentre/wp-content/uploads/Program_Development202_12june2022.pdf (online)
41. Yang, Y., Su, Y., Perlman, M., & **Rao, N.** (2022). *Home and preschool influences on early achievement in China: A three-year longitudinal study*. Poster presented at Development 2022, June 15-16, 2022. https://carleton.ca/pickeringcentre/wp-content/uploads/Program_Development202_12june2022.pdf (online)
42. **Rao, N.** (2021). *Chair and discussant of Early Childhood Development Session*. Presented at 16th Congress of Asia Society for Paediatric Research (ASPR), December 11-12, 2021. https://aspr2021.sciconf.cn/en/web/program/1695?hall_id=7517&date_id=0&class=0&is_satellite=0 (online)
43. **Rao, N.** (2021). *Discussant for Paper symposium: Examining the relationship between parenting and young Chinese children's emotional, sociocognitive, and academic development*. Presented at Society for Research in Child Development 2021 Virtual Biennial Meeting, April 7-9, 2021. <https://srcd21biennial.vfairs.com/en/hall#> (online)
44. Yang, Y., & **Rao, N.** (2021). *Preschool teachers' professional development experience and classroom quality across regions and urban-rural areas of China*. Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development 2021 Virtual Biennial Meeting, April 7-9, 2021.

External Research Support (2010-2025)

Funding Scheme	Project Title	Award Date	Amount (HKD)	PI/Co-PI/Co-I
ESRC/NSF	Learning to innovate: Development and diversity	2024	£1.65 M	Co-I PI: Bruce Rawlings
Collaborative Research Fund C7098-23GF	Early Childhood Development in Hong Kong: A Longitudinal Study (withdrew from participation)	Jan-24	8,485,947	Co-PI PI M. Wen
Collaborative Research Fund C7101-23WF	Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder Care in Children: Organised Research Data (ACCORD) Platform	Jan-24	8,168,164	Co-PI PI: ICK Wong
General Research Fund (GRF) HKU 17609521	Enhancing Early Childhood Development in China and India: Understanding the Contributions of Maternal Education and Policy Variations	Jun-21	1,137,572	PI
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	6,933,591	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	2,203,537	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	331,522	Co-I PI: C. Cohns
The University of Oxford	Harnessing the power of global data to support young children's learning and development: Analyses, dissemination and implementation	Dec-19	1,020,350	Co-PI
UNICEF Bhutan	An Evaluation of the Early Childhood Care and Development Programme in Bhutan	Jul-19	604,273.8	PI
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	Are young children developmentally on track? Comparison between adult ratings and direct assessment in China and India	Jun-19	1,086,640	PI

UNICEF Cambodia	Assessing the impact of socio-emotional learning in children in target preschools	Nov-18	488,022	Team Leader PI: C. Lau
Funding Scheme	Project Title	Award Date	Amount (HKD)	PI/Co-PI/Co-I
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	Impact of early exposure to electronic devices on long term cognitive and psychosocial development of Chinese children: a 7-year cohort study	Jun-18	480,272	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	805,900	PI
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	Early childhood development, preschool quality, school readiness and early achievement: A longitudinal study in China	Aug-17	902,994	PI
Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust	Early Childhood Intervention to Reduce Deficits of Underprivileged Children	Jun-17	109,561,879	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	2,948,876	PI
DFID	Reaching expert consensus on training different cadres in delivering ECD at scale	Nov-16	468,295	Co-PI PI: E. Pearson
UNICEF Myanmar	Provision of Technical Support for East Asia Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)	Oct-16	275,278	PI
HK Research Grants Council	Learning and Assessment for Digital Citizenship	Jul-16	22,222,000	Co-PI PI: N. Law
UNICEF Papua New Guinea	Baseline survey of ECCE facilities in AROB and PNG	Mar-16	407,160	Yes
Teachers College, Columbia University	A comparative study of early childhood education in selected high performing countries	Feb-16	421,590	PI for HK Overall PI S.L. Kagan
UNESCO Paris	Survey of Teachers in Pre-Primary Education (STEPP)	Dec-15	215,280	PI
UNICEF Cambodia	Early Child Development Scale in-depth Analysis	Nov-15	99,119	PI
ARNEC*	EAP-ECDS Short-form	Sep-15	93,600	PI

Optimus Foundation	Promoting early development and learning in children from ethnic minorities	Nov-14	1,521,510	PI
Funding Scheme	Project Title	Award Date	Amount (HKD)	PI/Co-PI/Co-I
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	The gap between the rich and the poor: From school readiness to school success	Jun-13	371,028	Co-I PI: P Ip
HK Research Grants Council (GRF)	The early development of children from different socioeconomic backgrounds	Jun-11	753,048	Co-I PI: P Ip
UNICEF	Validation, Finalization and Adoption of the EAP-ECDS	Mar-13	1,536,397**	PI
DFID	Early childhood development and cognitive development in developing countries	Mar-13	465,809	PI
ARNEC	East Asia Pacific Early Child Development Scales- Phase II	Mar-11	150,045	PI

* Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood

** Please note the funds only cover technical support. The study of 8200 children and the parents with representative samples in 6 countries cost millions of dollars. Countries are funded separately to conduct the empirical research and separate funding for travel and local accommodation for the consultant team from HKU is also provided.

Participation in International Meetings as a Specialist (2005 - 2025)

Period	Title of Meeting
July 3-5, 2024	Education Research Funding Programme (ERFP) Expert Panel Meeting Organised by: Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
2024	Strategic Basic Research (SBO) Steering Committee, Organised by: Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Vlaanderen, Netherlands
Jun 19-21, 2024 Leuven, Belgium	Technical Expert Group Meeting on International Early Learning and Child Well-Being Study Organised by: Australian Council for Educational Research
October 4-6, 2023 Hamburg, Germany	Technical Meeting on Brain Health Metrics Organised by: WHO
May 2-3, 2023 Geneva, Switzerland	World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE) Organised by: WHO
November 14-16, 2022 Tashkent, Uzbekistan	European Research Council Starting Grant Evaluation, Step 1 & 2 Panel Meeting Organised by: ERC, Brussels
March & June 2022 March & June 2020 March & June 2018 March & June 2016	Technical Meeting on the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Organised by: UNICEF, New York
June 18-19, 2019 Tarrytown, New York, USA	Early Advantage 2 Release Event Organised by: National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
May 16, 2019 Washington DC, USA	Project Advisory Group Meeting on Global Scales of Early Development Project (GSED) Organised by: World Health Organization
November 2, 2018 Washington, D.C. USA	IBE Technical Consultation Meeting on Early Childhood Care and Education Organised by: UNICEF, UNESCO and UAE Ministry of Education
September 24-26, 2018 Dubai, UAE	Technical Meetings on the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Organised by: UNICEF, New York, USA
May 2019 November 2018 September 2016	East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS) Short Form Regional Training Workshop
July 12 to 14, 2017 Bangkok, Thailand	

	Organised 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) Organised 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) Organised by: UNESCO Paris
March 11-12, 2014 Geneva, Switzerland	Meeting on Population-level Assessment of Early Child Development, Centre International de Conférences, Genève (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland Organised by: WHO
January 27-28, 2014 Geneva, Switzerland	First and Second Meetings of the Steering Committee for the Lancet Series on Early Child Development Organised by: WHO
June 21-22, 2012 New York, USA	Holistic Early Childhood Development Indicators: Technical Committee Meeting Organised by: UNESCO at UNICEF House, New York, USA
March 7 - 9, 2012 Paris, France	Global Compact on Learning - Research Task Force Organised 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 Organised by: UNESCO Paris
June 2009 to Sept 2010, Moscow, Russia	World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (Expert Committee) Organised by: UNESCO, City of Moscow & the Russian Federation
Dec 2009 Singapore	Regional Early Childhood Policy Review Development Seminar: Sustainable Policies for Early Childhood Development. Organised by: UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

Dec 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	Developing Communities of Learning and Practice: Making a difference by sustaining the influence of early childhood social integration and respect for diversity efforts Organised by: Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands; Teachers College, Columbia University, United States; & UNICEF Regional Office (CEEIS)
Nov 2008 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Southeast Asia Sub-regional Dissemination Seminar on Early Childhood Policy Review Organised by: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education; UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office; & Ministry of Education, Malaysia
April 2008 Bangkok, Thailand	Regional Forum on Making the case for Early Childhood in South Asia Organised by: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education; UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office; & Save the Children
Feb 2008 Bangkok, Thailand	Third Early Childhood Policy Review Seminar Organised by: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education & UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
July 2007 Bangkok, Thailand	Second Early Childhood Policy Review Seminar Organised by: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education & UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
July 2006 Bangkok, Thailand	Early Learning and Development Standards Seminar Organised by: UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
Oct 2005 Hanoi, Vietnam	Early Learning and Development Standards Seminar Organised by: UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

International Consultancies

Period	Organisation and Task
August 2022 - March 2023	UNESCO Paris World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE) Preparation of Conference Background Report
Feb 2021 – Mar 2023	Ministry of Education, Government of Singapore Review of NEL - Research and Policy Work in Early Childhood Development
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, USA
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	UNICEF Cambodia

Feb 2016	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
Nov 2007 to Feb 2008	UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (Bangkok) Analysis of Application of the recommendations of 2007 Global Monitoring Report to South East Asian Countries
Nov 2007 to Dec 2007	UNICEF Lao Worked with UNICEF Lao and relevant Ministries of Education to develop and validate Early Learning and Development Standards
Nov 2007	UNICEF Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) Worked with UNICEF and the Ministries of Education and Public Health to introduce them to processes undertaken by other Asian countries to reform Early Childhood Education
Sept 2007	UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (Bangkok)

	Evaluation of Early Childhood Section on reports for Education for All Mid-Decade Assessment for several Asian countries
Oct 2006 to Aug 2007	UNICEF Cambodia Evaluation of Community Preschools and Home-Based Early Childhood Programmes in Cambodia
Nov 2006	UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (Bangkok) Provided Expert Response at launch of Education for All Global Monitoring Report Wrote Advocacy Brief. <i>Strong Foundations for Gender Equality in Early Childhood.</i>
Mar to Sept 2006	UNICEF (East Asia and Pacific Regional Office) Worked with UNICEF Cambodia and Vietnam and relevant Ministries of Education to develop and validate Early Learning and Development Standards

Teaching and Supervision

Recently Taught courses taught at The University of Hong Kong (2020 - 2025)

Degree	Courses
Undergraduate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl Power in a Man's world (Common Core Course) • Perspectives on Early Childhood Development and Learning • Introduction to Research Methods • Observation and Assessment of Children and Early Childhood Programmes
M.Ed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Methods • Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood Education • Developmental Psychology for Educators

Supervised over 50 Master's and Bachelor's theses

Supervision of Ph.D. / Ed.D students (as primary supervisor only)

	Name of student	Degree	F/T or P/T	Registration (mm/yy)	Thesis submission	Date of Award
1.	WANG, Hechunzi	Ph. D.	F/T	09/22		
2.	ZHANG, Rui	Ph. D.	F/T	09/22		
3.	CHAN, Yau Yu	Ph. D.	F/T	09/21		
4.	NG, Rita Y.T.	Ed. D.	P/T	09/21		
5.	LI, Zeyi	Ph. D.	F/T	01/20	12/24	2025
6.	GONG, Jing	Ph. D.	F/T	09/19	11/23	2023
7.	CHEN, Lu	Ph. D.	F/T	09/18	8/22	2023
8.	YANG, Yi	Ph. D.	F/T	09/18	12/21	2022
9.	SU, Yufen	Ph. D.	F/T	09/16	01/20	2020
10.	TAN, Ching Ting	Ph.D.	F/T	09/14	09/17	2018
11.	WANG, Jing	Ph.D.	F/T	09/14	06/18	2018
12.	WANG, Rhoda	Ph.D.	P/T	09/13	08/19	2020
13.	NDIJUYE, Laurent	Ph.D.	F/T	09/13	08/17	2018
14.	IWAN, Ailin	Ph.D.	F/T	09/12	8/16	2016
15.	LAU, Carrie	Ph.D.	F/T	09/11	08/13	2014
16.	ZHANG, Li	Ph.D.	F/T	09/09	01/13	2013
17.	LEE, Diana	Ph.D.	F/T	09/08	05/15	2015
18.	WONG, Jessie	Ph.D.	F/T	01/08	12/12	2013
19.	BECHER, Yvonne	Ph.D.	F/T	09/08	04/11	2011
20.	NG, Mei Lee	Ph.D.	P/T	06/07	03/11	2011
21.	ZHANG, Jun	Ph.D.	F/T	09/07	05/13	2014
22.	SUN, Jin	Ph.D.	F/T	09/05	03/09	2009
23.	MTAHABWA, L.	Ph.D.	F/T	09/05	12/07	2008
24.	WU, Shu Chen	Ph.D.	F/T	09/04	07/08	2009
25.	CHAN, Wai Ling	Ed.D.	P/T	09/04	02/09	2009
26.	CHENG, Mei Lin	Ed.D.	P/T	09/03	07/11	2011
27.	CHEN, Sui Ling	Ph.D.	F/T & P/T	01/02	07/06	2007
28.	NG, Sui Ngan	Ph.D.	P/T	06/01	08/04	2005
29.	CHI, Jin	Ph.D.	F/T	03/01	02/04	2004
30.	LI, Hui	Ph.D.	F/T	05/97	05/00	2000
31.	PEARSON, Emma	Ph.D.	F/T	06/96	07/99	2000

Co-supervision of many students.

Administrative Responsibilities at HKU (2005 - 2025)

Position	Body	Period of appointment
Chairperson Faculty Board of Education	Faculty of Education	2024 - 2027
Dean*	Graduate School	2014 - 2016
Associate Dean Director of Graduate Studies	Graduate School	2010 - 2013 2012 - 2013
Chairperson Board of Graduate Studies	Graduate School	2010 - 2016
Acting Chairperson Faculty Board of Education	Faculty of Education	2008 - 2009
Acting Dean*	Faculty of Education	2006- 2007
Associate Dean* (Centres & Outreach)	Faculty of Education	2002 - 2005

Position	Body / Programme	Period
Course Director	M.Ed. Psychological Studies in Education	2009 - 2011
Course Director	M.Ed. Early Childhood Education	Several times
Programme Director Minor in Applied Child Development	Faculty of Education	2007- 2009

* As Dean and Associate Dean of the Graduate School, I oversaw MPhil, PhD, SJD and professional doctorate education for students from all 10 Faculties. I chaired/served a number of committees and represented the University internationally.

Current and Recent Committee Membership

Name of Committee (at the Faculty)	Position Held	Period
Faculty of Education Faculty Research Committee	Member	2019 -
Faculty of Education Promotion and Tenure Panel	Member	2017- 2020
Faculty of Education Human Resource Committee	Member (2006- 2018) Chair (2006-2007)	2006 - 2018

Name of Committee/Ad Hoc Group/Task Force (at the University)	Position Held	Period
Disciplinary Committee	Panel Member	01/07/2024 - 30/06/2025 01/07/2014 - 30/06/2015
University Selection and Promotion Committee (Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Business and Architecture Panel)	Panel Member	01/07/2020 - 30/11/2024
Advisory Group on Academic Reviews	Member	01/09/2017 – 31/08/2023
Research Awards Sub-Committee	Member	01/09/2019 – 31/08/2024
Committee of Management of the Endowment Funds for Music and Fine Arts	Member	01/10/2016 - 30/09/2020
University Research Committee	Member	01/01/2022 - 31/12/2024 01/02/2018 - 31/01/2020 09/12/2011 - 30/04/2016
Committee for the Hong Kong Jockey Club Building for Interdisciplinary Research (HKJCBIR)	Member	31/12/2017 - 30/12/2019
Committee of Management Robert Black College	Member	15/06/2016 - 14/06/2019
Committee on Swire Scholarships	Member	01/01/2017 - 14/06/2019
Committee of Enquiry into Possible Good Cause	Member	01/07/2014 - 30/04/2016
Committee of the Senior Management Team and the Deans	Member	09/02/2014 - 30/04/2016
Governance Committee of the Residential Colleges on Lung Wah Street	Member	01/01/2014 - 30/04/2016
Board of Graduate Studies	Chairperson	01/10/2010 - 30/04/2016
Board for Professional Doctorates	Chairperson	01/09/2013 - 30/04/2016

Teaching and Learning Quality Committee	Member	01/01/2014 - 30/04/2016
Senate	Member	01/01/2014 - 30/04/2016
Policy Board of Postgraduate Education	Member	01/10/2010 - 30/04/2016
Graduate House Committee of Management	Vice-Chairman	01/01/2014 - 30/04/2016
Committee on Discontinuation	Member	01/01/2014 - 30/04/2016
Disciplinary Committee	Member	01/07/2014 - 30/06/2015

Current Professional Memberships

OMEP (World Organization of Early Childhood Education – Hong Kong)	Member
Society for Research in Child Development	Member
Hong Kong Psychological Society	Fellow
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 since 2000

Position	Body	Period of appointment
Member	SBO Steering Committee, Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek	2024
Core Reference Group	Gender and Early Childhood Development Review, Education Research Team Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK Government	Oct 2020 – Jan 2021
Member, Technical Advisory Group	Joint initiative for a Formative Assessment Package for preschool age children in South Asia UNICEF (Regional Office for South Asia) and Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)	June 2021 - 2022
Member, Reference Group	USAID Pre-primary Guidance US Government	Nov 2020 - 2022
Member, Advisory Group	Early Childhood Workforce Initiative, ISSA and R4D, Netherlands	2018 -
Member	Advisory Committee of ECD Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), Harvard, UNICEF, HarvardX	2019 - 2020
Member Co-Chair	Knowledge Fellow Steering Committee Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN)	2024 2019 - 2023

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, Technical Advisory Group	Sustainable Development Goal Target 4.2 Technical Advisor on the Early Childhood Development Index UNICEF New York	2016 - 2020
Member	Vetting Committee of SCOLAR's Research and Development Projects 2018-19	2017 - 2019
Council Member	HK Committee for UNICEF	2014 - 2024
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
Member	High-level Advisory Panel of the Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence	2008 - 2009
Council Member	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	2006 - 2008
World Treasurer, World Executive Committee	Organisation Mondiale pour l'éducation Presoclaire (OMEP) (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education)	2014 - 2016 2003 - 2006
Membership and Professional Stds. Secretary, Registration Board	Hong Kong Psychological Society	2012 - 2014 2002 - 2004
External Examiner	The Open University of Hong Kong	2000 -2004

Executive Committee Member	Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights	1996 - 2013
Executive Committee Member	Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Prescolaire (OMEP - HK)	1995 - present

Editorial Board Membership

Associate Editor

Child Development (from 2013 - 2022)

Developmental Psychology (2013 - 2014)

International Journal of Early Childhood (2010 - 2014)

Editorial Board for Journals

Asia-Pacific Journal of Research in Early Childhood Education

International Journal of Child Care and Educational Policy

International Journal of Play

Scientific Reports (2023 -)

Book Series

International perspectives on early childhood education and development (Springer)