

**KENNETH PAUL TAN 陈思贤, PhD (Cambridge)**

Professor (tenured) of Politics, Film, and Cultural Studies  
Department of Journalism, School of Communication  
Hong Kong Baptist University (Talent100 Professor)

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- Multiple-award-winning educator
- Top 2% of most-cited researchers worldwide since 2021 (Stanford-Elsevier, social sciences, cultural studies)
- Transformative academic leader
- Public intellectual, bridging interdisciplinary knowledge, public policy, and civic activism

**1. EDUCATION**

Certificate in Curriculum and Pedagogy in Higher Education: SoTL Leadership, University of British Columbia, 2014

PhD in Social and Political Sciences, University of Cambridge, 2000

Dissertation: "Political Management in Singapore: A Study of the People's Action Party Government's Efforts at Shaping Consensus on What Kind and How Much of Democracy for Singapore". Supervisors: Prof. Geoffrey Hawthorn, Prof John Dunn. Lee Kuan Yew Scholar. Hughes Hall Junior Research Fellow.

B.Sc. (First Class Honours) in Economics and Politics, University of Bristol, 1994  
Singapore Overseas Merit Scholar.

**2. KEY ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Professor (tenured) of Politics, Film, and Cultural Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), 2021–present

Associate Professor (tenured), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), National University of Singapore (NUS), 2007–2021

Assistant Professor, Joint appointment in Department of Political Science and the University Scholars Programme (USP), NUS, 2001–2007

Visiting and Honorary Appointments: INSEAD (Visiting Professor, 2024), The University of Hong Kong (Honorary Professor, 2021–2023), University of Duisburg-Essen (Hiroshi Kitamura Visiting Professor, 2018), Chinese University of Hong Kong (Visiting Scholar, 2018), Sciences Po (Visiting Scholar, 2017), Griffith University (Visiting Scholar, 2014), Harvard University (Visiting Fellow, 2011), Australian National University (Visiting Fellow, 2010), Georgetown University (Fulbright Visiting Researcher, 2008).

**3. KEY ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ROLES**

Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), LKYSPP, NUS, 2012–2017

Assistant Dean (Academic Affairs), LKYSPP, NUS, 2007–2011

During the School's formative years, led strategic growth through academic planning, curriculum development, faculty hiring, and global partnerships.

Chair, PhD Programme, LKYSPP, NUS, 2013–2017

Oversaw strategic reform of curriculum, supervision, and examination for over 40 doctoral students.

Chair, NUS Teaching Academy, 2011–2013

Elected chair of the university's apex body for educational excellence and innovation, where he championed pedagogical and curricular reform and faculty development university-wide.

Assistant Head, Department of Political Science, NUS, 2003–2005

Supported academic policy planning, curriculum reform, and student affairs.

#### 4. HONOURS, AWARDS, AND DISTINCTIONS

Top 2% of Scientists Worldwide, Stanford-Elsevier Global Author Database, 2021–present

Consistently recognised across multiple years for citation impact in Cultural Studies, Social Sciences, and International Relations. Based on peer-reviewed metrics compiled by Stanford University using Scopus citation data.

Performance Award for Research Supervision, HKBU, 2024

Recognised for excellence in postgraduate mentorship and research culture leadership.

Outstanding Educator Award, NUS, 2009

The university's highest honour for teaching excellence, awarded to 1–2 faculty members annually.

Over 10 other Teaching Excellence Awards, NUS (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, USP, LKYSPP)

Repeatedly recognised for innovative pedagogy, curriculum design, and educational leadership.

#### 5. SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Selected publications demonstrating interdisciplinary contributions across political science, media and communication studies, cultural studies, and public policy. These works reflect a sustained engagement with critical theory, governance, identity, and visual culture in Asia and beyond. A full publication list is available at [kennethpaultan.net/publications](http://kennethpaultan.net/publications).

Selected Books (5)

- *Movies to Save Our World: Imagining Poverty, Inequality, and Environmental Destruction in the 21st Century*. Penguin, 2022.
- *Singapore's First Year of COVID-19: Public Health, Immigration, the Neoliberal State, and Authoritarian Populism*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.
- *Singapore: Identity, Brand, Power*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- *Governing Global-City Singapore: Legacies and Futures after Lee Kuan Yew*. Routledge, 2017.
- *Cinema and Television in Singapore: Resistance in One Dimension*. Brill, 2008.

Selected Journal Articles (5)

- 2025. "Podcasting Politics in Singapore: Hegemony, Resistance, and Digital Media." *Critical Asian Studies*, 57(2), 211–235.
- 2013. "Forum Theater in Singapore: Resistance, Containment, and Commodification in an Advanced Industrial Society." *positions: asia critique*, 21(1), 189–221.
- 2012. "The Ideology of Pragmatism: Neoliberal Globalisation and Political Authoritarianism in Singapore." *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 42(1), 67–92.
- 2010. "Pontianaks, Ghosts and the Possessed: Female Monstrosity and National Anxiety in Singapore Cinema." *Asian Studies Review*, 34(2), 151–170.
- 2008. "Meritocracy and Elitism in a Global City: Ideological Shifts in Singapore." *International Political Science Review*, 29(1).

## Selected Chapters in Books (5)

- In press. "Conspiracy Theories, Their Critical Value, and the Limits of Factchecking: Climate Change Documentaries." In Margolin, Song & Thussu (eds.), *Checking the Fact-checkers: A Global Perspective*, Routledge.
- 2024. "Rhizomatic Strategies for Activist-Scholars in University-Corporations." In C. Singam & M. Thomas (eds.), *We Are Not the Enemy: The Art of Advocacy II*, Ethos.
- 2017. "Civic Education and Deliberative Democracy in Singapore." In C. Soon and G. Koh (eds.) *Civil Society and the State in Singapore*, World Scientific.
- 2013. "Meritocracy and Political Liberalization in Singapore." In D.A. Bell and C.Y. Li (eds.) *The East Asian Challenge for Democracy: Political Meritocracy in Comparative Perspective*, Cambridge University Press.
- 2012. "Alternative Vision in Neoliberal Singapore: Memories, Places, and Voices in the Films of Tan Pin Pin." In D.C.L. Lim and H. Yamamoto (eds.) *Film in Contemporary Southeast Asia: Cultural Interpretation and Social Intervention* (pp. 147-167), Routledge.

## 6. TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

With a teaching career spanning a quarter of a century and three institutional contexts—liberal arts (University Scholars Programme, NUS), disciplinary departments (Political Science, Journalism, Film), and professional graduate schools (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, HKBU School of Communication)—he has taught over 20 undergraduate and postgraduate modules across the humanities, social sciences, and professional studies. His teaching has consistently received the highest possible student feedback scores, with qualitative comments frequently highlighting his transformative impact on students' intellectual growth, confidence, and worldview. He was conferred the National University of Singapore's Outstanding Educator Award (the university's highest honour for teaching) and has received multiple faculty-level teaching excellence awards.

### Hong Kong Baptist University

- Political Communication and Public Opinion (Masters elective, School of Communication)
- Morally Controversial Issues in the Media (Undergraduate, Department of Journalism)
- Governing Global-City Singapore (Undergraduate, Department of Government and International Studies)
- Imagining Poverty, Inequality, and Revolution in 21st-Century Films (Undergraduate, Academy of Film)
- Asian Techno-Cities: Hong Kong and Singapore (Undergraduate, Department of Government and International Studies)

### University of Hong Kong (as Honorary Professor)

- Public Governance in East Asia (Doctor of Public Administration; team-taught)

### National University of Singapore

- Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; Graduate courses  
Pragmatism and Public Morality in Singapore (Masters elective)
- Globalization, Nation-Building, and Singapore's Identity (Masters elective, dual degree with Sciences Po)
- Governing Nation-State and Global-City Singapore (Masters elective)
- Governing Global-City Singapore (Masters core)
- State-Society Relations in Singapore (Masters elective)
- Evolving Practices of Governance in Singapore (Masters elective; team-taught with former Head of Singapore Civil Service)
- Politics and Public Policy (Masters core)
- Singapore: The City (Masters elective; team-taught with visiting Harvard professor)

#### Political Science Department

- Politics, Art, and Popular Culture (Undergraduate, Honours undergraduate)
- Community Service and Social Action (Undergraduate, General Education Module)
- Government and Politics of Singapore (Undergraduate, Level 2000)
- Introduction to Political Science (Undergraduate, Level 1000)

#### University Scholars Programme

- Civil Society: Theory and Practice (Advanced undergraduate)
- Democratic Possibilities in Singapore (Core undergraduate)
- Thinking about Politics (Core undergraduate)
- Singapore: The Making of a Nation (Core undergraduate)

#### Research Supervision

Tan has supervised or co-supervised 18 PhD students across institutions including the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Hong Kong Baptist University, the University of Hong Kong, and the University of Michigan. His doctoral students have worked on a wide range of topics, from foreign policy, grassroots governance, and place branding to digital masculinity, decolonial cinema, and the politics of grief and media representation. Several have received prestigious fellowships, including the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS), and many have gone on to publish, teach, and lead in academia and policy. In recognition of his commitment to postgraduate mentorship, he received the 2024 Performance Award for Research Supervision from HKBU. He has also supervised numerous M.Phil., M.Sc., and professional masters theses (MPP, MPA, MPM) across the fields of political science, public policy, media and communication, and cultural studies. A full list of supervision records and sample dissertation topics is available on request.

## 7. SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### University Service

Tan has held major leadership roles at NUS and HKBU. He served as Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) at the LKY School, Chair of the NUS Teaching Academy, and Assistant Head of NUS Political Science. At HKBU, he coordinates RAE2026 (UoA29) and chairs the School's Research Ethics Committee.

#### International Academic Service

He has served on editorial boards (e.g., Global Storytelling, Asian Journal of Political Science), peer-reviewed for over 40 international journals and book publishers, and advised institutions such as the Centre for Public Impact (Boston Consulting Group), Aga Khan University, and Thailand's NIDA. In 2025, he joined the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) as a Panel Member for institutional and programme-level academic accreditation.

#### Public Engagement and Thought Leadership

He was the Founding Chair of the Asian Film Archive, chaired the board of theatre company The Necessary Stage, and served on advisory boards of the National Museum of Singapore and National Arts Council. He has delivered executive education on leadership, communication, and policy to thousands of mid- to senior-level professionals around the world, and led major training programmes for public, civic, and non-profit leaders. He is a frequent contributor to public discourse, through public lectures and media interviews.

Full CV available upon request.

Full portfolio of publications, media appearances, and public talks available at [kennethpaultan.net](http://kennethpaultan.net).