



Social Science and Humanities Research Thematic Grant (SSHR-TG)

2 June 2026
MOE Edutorium, Podium Block

A PRESENTATION BY
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE



Agenda

1. Presentation on SSHR-TG by SSRC Secretariat
 - a) Support for Social Science and Humanities Research
 - b) Milestones of the SSHR-TG
 - c) New Theme for the 2026 SSHR-TG Call
2. Q&A session with SSRC Leaders
3. Sharing by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) on potential research topics

Support for Social Science and Humanities Research

Support for Social Science and Humanities Research (SSHR)

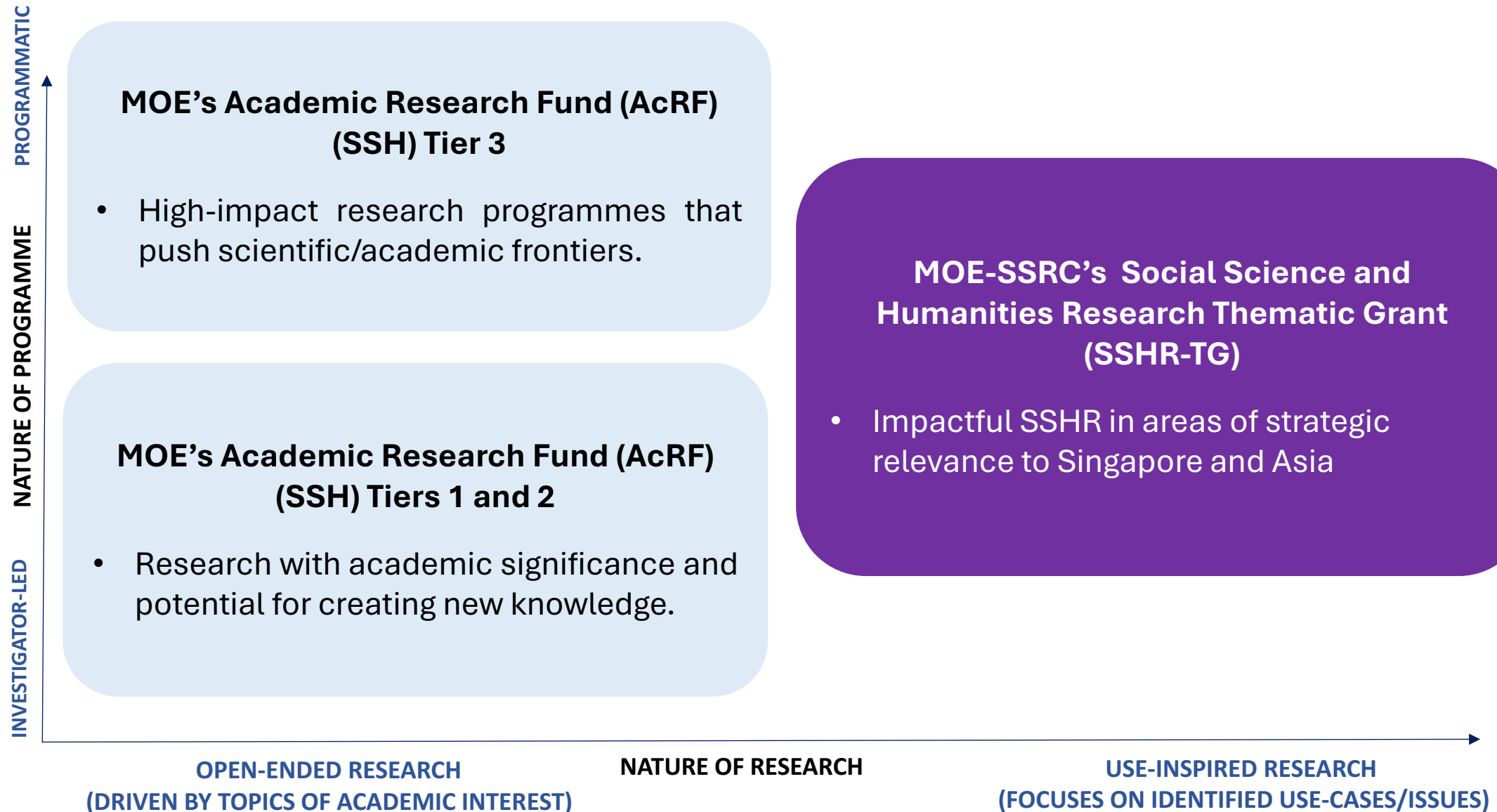
- The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) was established in 2016 as part of a national drive to support high-quality social science and humanities research in areas of strategic relevance to Singapore and the region, and to develop human capital for the SSHR ecosystem in Singapore.
- At the launch event of the 2026 Ideas Festival, Education Minister Desmond Lee announced that funding for SSHR will be raised from \$457M to \$556M to support applied research that can inform policy and achieve real-world impact, and to develop a pool of world-class researchers who understand Singapore's unique context.

MOE to raise spending to \$556m over next five years to boost social science and humanities research



Education Minister Desmond Lee speaking at the launch of the 2026 Social Science and Humanities Ideas Festival, held at SMU on Feb 26.
ST PHOTO: SHINTARO TAY

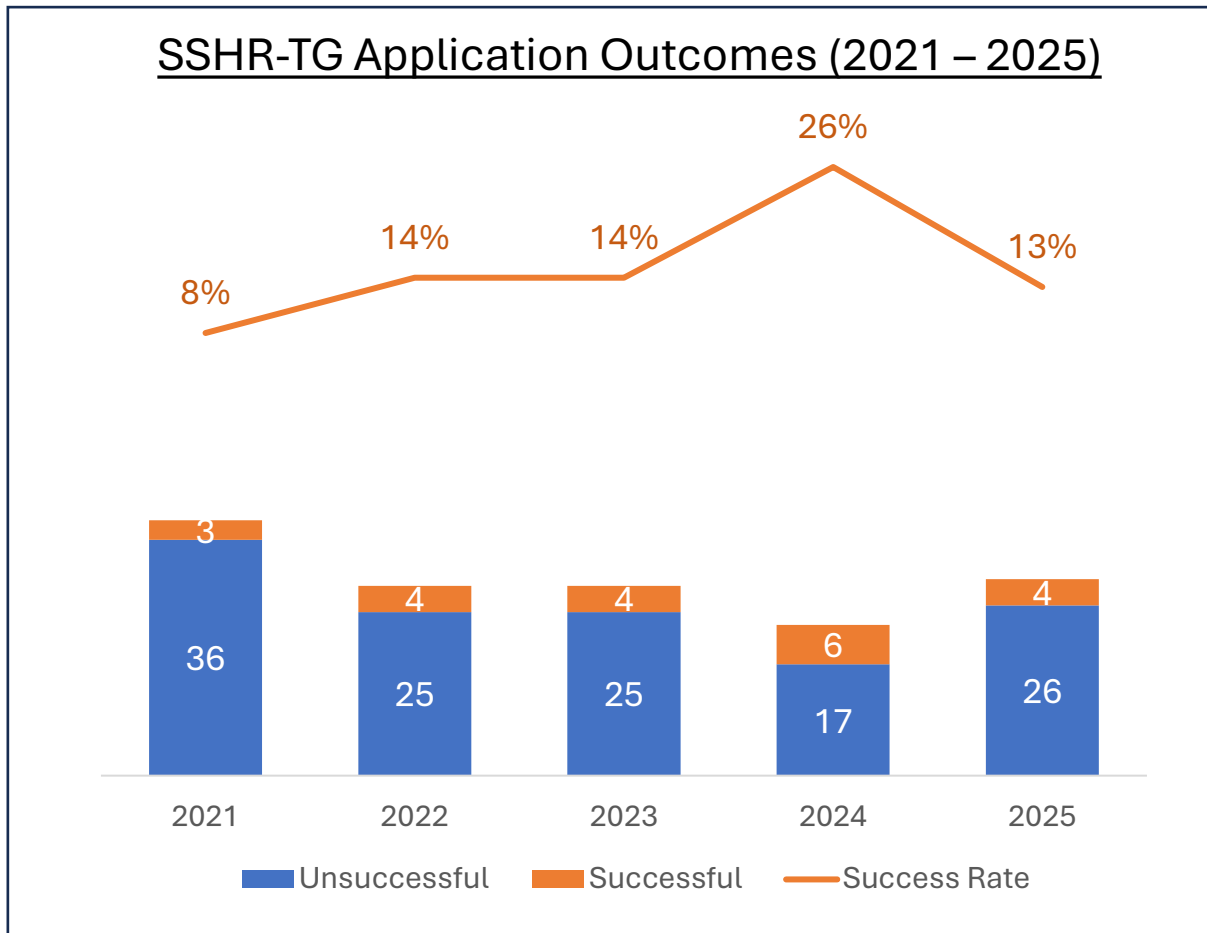
MOE and SSRC offer a comprehensive range of grants catering to all types of projects.



Key Milestones

Highlights from SSHR-TG funded projects

- **58** projects awarded since SSHR-TG's launch in 2016, including **10** (17%) in Humanities disciplines
- **38** completed projects, with impactful findings.



Seniors are taking the kampung spirit beyond the neighbourhood

It's time to support an “ageing in networks” approach – one that recognises mobility, community, and connection beyond the block.

These findings tell us that proximity to neighbours and neighbourhood facilities is only one of the factors that seniors consider in their daily activities and social interactions. The depth of the social relations that they have with other contacts in their lives matters as well. Seniors engage with amenities not only because they are nearby. It is also because their networks make those places socially meaningful.

The work of government and non-profit organisations that reaches out to older Singaporeans is often shaped by planning boundaries that correspond to where an organisation is located. Providing more funding could offer incentives to encourage more organisations to foster cross-sector collaboration and social mixing across neighbourhoods.

Older Singaporeans can flourish better from participating in a wide range of social activities happening in different parts of Singapore, maintaining a variety of social networks for supportive care.

The Straits Times, 26 April 2025

Highlights from SSHR-TG funded projects

Building Human Capacity in Singapore's Population: Testing Innovations in Human Development



Led by Prof Jean Yeung, the Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS) has been used to inform *Grow Well SG*, a new national health promotion strategy jointly launched in January 2025 by MOH, MOE and MSF to enhance preventative care and inculcate healthier lifestyles in children and adolescents.

Wave 1 and 2 data collection was first funded by the Social Science Research Thematic Grant in 2016.

In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting by among the Young

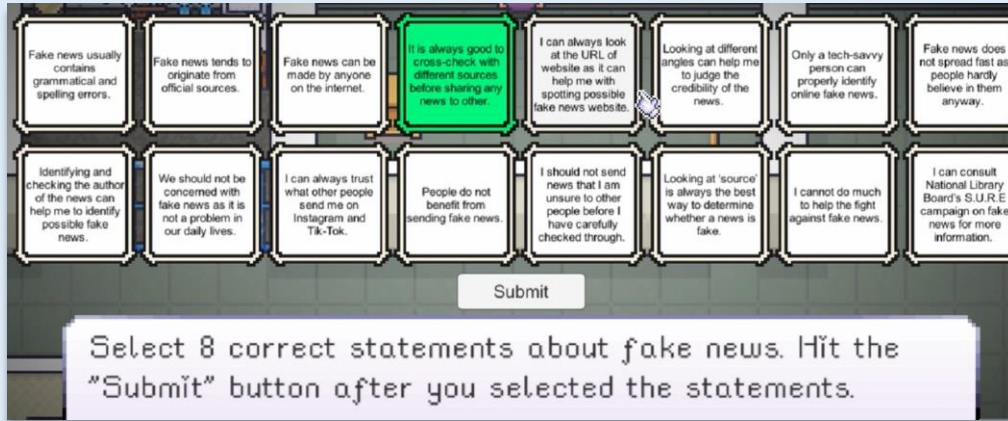
Delivery, private-hire platform workers risk being trapped in poverty, precarity: Study



When compiling their report on strengthening protections for platform workers in 2022, the Advisory Committee on Platform Workers was informed by two IPS working papers that were produced under A/Prof Irene Ng's 2018 SSHR-TG project. The recommendations of the advisory committee were accepted and led to the passing of the landmark *Platform Workers Bill* in September 2024.

Highlights from SSHR-TG funded projects

Defining, Determining, and Dealing with Deliberate Online Falsehoods in Singapore



As part of his 2018 SSHR-TG project, Prof Edson Tandoc's team partnered with NLB's S.U.R.E celebrates M.I.L. (Media and Information Literacy) programme to develop *Fake News Detective*, an educational web-based game to help students spot fake news.

<https://fakenewsdetective.com>

The Anatomy of Choice: Southeast Asia between the Superpowers



Led by Prof Khong Yuen Foong, this project sought to trace and explain the strategic alignments of the ten ASEAN countries in the wake of intensifying US-China geopolitical rivalry. The Alignment Index produced by this project, which was the first of its kind to measure the alignment movements of the ASEAN-10, showed a consistent but gradual Southeast Asian shift in China's direction over the last 26 years.

2026 SSHR-TG Call

Objectives



Theme 5: The Geopolitics of a Changing World

- A new theme entitled ‘The Geopolitics of a Changing World’ will be introduced for the **2026 SSHR-TG Grant Call**, which focuses on understanding how geopolitical developments impact the stability, security, development and cohesion of Singapore and/or the region.
- This change is intended to incorporate geopolitics more explicitly as a focus area for the SSHR-TG, in view of the growing challenges to the rules-based international order that Singapore relies upon for its survival.



Research Themes

Themes	Category	Description
Theme 1	The Future of Society	Understanding issues relating to culture, society and community in the face of challenges arising from evolving local and global, social and political dynamics, population trends, as well as technological and economic shifts in work and lifestyles.
Theme 2	The Future Economy	Understanding how governments, firms and the workforce can be resilient to or take advantage of structural shifts in the global, regional and local economies, and evolving geopolitical, social, technological and economic trends.
Theme 3	Climate Change and the Environment	Understanding how economic activities and individual/collective behaviour affect climate change and other emerging environmental changes, the impact of such changes on social and economic life, and the regulatory, governance and behavioural measures that could be taken by governments, enterprises and communities to address them.
Theme 4	The Human Condition	Understanding issues relating to the human experience, values, philosophies, histories and cultures of Singapore and/or the region, including how these may have evolved over time and shape contemporary society.
[NEW] Theme 5	The Geopolitics of a Changing World	Understanding how geopolitical developments impact the stability, security, development and cohesion of Singapore and/or the region.

Note: Research proposals which do not fall under any of the research themes may be submitted under the Open Category.

Eligibility, Grant Types and Evaluation Criteria

Eligibility	Grant Types	Evaluation Criteria
Applicants must hold a primary full-time appointment in eligible institutions.	<p>Type A: S\$100,000 to S\$1.5 million for up to 3 years Supports smaller-scale investigator-led research, and encourages broad-based participation in research in areas of strategic relevance.</p> <p>Type B: >S\$1.5 million to S\$5 million over 3 to 5 years.</p> <p>Type C: >S\$5 million to S\$10 million over 3 to 5 years. Supports research programmes that pursue more ambitious, inter-disciplinary research on issues of cross cutting interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevance• Potential Impact• Synergy• Capability-Building• Technical Merit• Quality of Research Team• Execution

Timeline

Application	2 June 2026	Launch of 2026 SSHR-TG Call
	25 Aug 2026	Close of 2026 SSHR-TG Call
Award	Mar/Apr 2027	Announce grant call results

- Administrative guidelines and application forms are available through OREs/DORs.
- Proposals must be submitted to the Ministry of Education (MOE) through the Host Institution
- Host Institutions are to submit endorsed proposals to MOE_SSRC_secretariat@moe.gov.sg

Feedback from previous calls

Topic	Feedback
Ambition and Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposals should demonstrate ambition to make both scientific/academic and practical contributions relevant to the social sciences and humanities fields.[NEW] Where possible, applicants should also articulate how their projects have potential impact in Singapore, as well as beyond Singapore.[NEW] Applicants are also encouraged to look beyond the role of individuals or groups, and also engage with broader issues of governance, the evolving role of the state, or the wider regional and global contexts.
Methodology and Research Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The use of multiple or mixed methods, as well as the involvement of researchers from different fields, should be more clearly driven by the nature of the research. PIs should provide more details to show the purpose, integration, and value of using the identified multi-method/multi-disciplinary approach.
Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data collection should be done in-house where feasible to build capability for research teams and institutions.

Feedback from previous calls (continued)

Topic	Feedback
Letters of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Letters of support from private companies or government agencies should provide details on the involvement of these parties in the research (e.g. to carry out field work, interviews, or provide data). This would assure the panel of the feasibility of the project and the collaboration.
Engagement plan for stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants should clearly articulate their plan to engage the relevant stakeholders to disseminate findings and extend research impact.
Preliminary Studies / Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principal Investigators (PIs) are encouraged to conduct preliminary studies to sharpen their hypothesis, as well as demonstrate the value and feasibility of the proposed research.Applications that build on previous research should clearly show the incremental contribution of the new project over previous work. This includes providing details on the outcomes of the previous work.



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

Q&A