



MARCH 2023

RESEARCH PULSE

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WELCOME TO RESEARCH PULSE

Hello everyone and welcome back to Research Pulse.

For this second issue for 2023, we take the opportunity to highlight Curtin Singapore's continuing research capability development. As a budding research hub of Curtin University for Singapore and the ASEAN region, we take pride in highlighting the developmental achievements of our academics. We are also developing our academic staff members to prepare for supervision of PhD candidates for the PhD program at Curtin Singapore. We will provide more public information on this at a later stage. However, we have started to accept applications with a soft launch.

In the following sections, we are happy to make introductions for two of our staff members. They are Dr Justin Kung, who has recently been conferred his doctoral qualifications, and Dr Nicolas van der Nest, who has recently started his research fellowship at Curtin Singapore.

Additionally, we are also happy to share a video that introduces Curtin Singapore's research capability. We would like to thank Ms Carmen Wong and her marketing team for developing this video. Please view the [video](#) from YouTube or visit the [Curtin Singapore](#) website.

Thank you for continuing to stay connected with Research Pulse.

Best Wishes,

Dr Adrian Tan
Research Director
Curtin Singapore

JOURNEY TO A PHD: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR JUSTIN KUNG

We congratulate Dr Justin Kung on the completion of his PhD with the University of Stirling (UK). We like to take the opportunity to allow Justin to share his experience on the journey with his doctoral studies, and to inspire future aspirants who are considering pursuing a higher degree by research. In an interview, this is what Justin has to share:

What was your journey like throughout your PhD candidature?

I am glad that my journey started with the blessings of my family. They made huge sacrifices to accommodate my normal teaching work and thesis writing time. My two supervisors were most encouraging because they were the experts in the field of research. They read and made critical feedback to my drafts so that I could move on quickly to improve my narratives. I am most grateful to Ms Wong Lee Nah (Curtin Singapore Director of Academic Services) for allowing me to continue teaching with Curtin Singapore while researching for my PhD.



The first three years were the most intensive. I had to delve into literature related to my field of research, i.e. sustainability and consumerism. I had to be thorough in the research and not miss out on vital clues leading to my research model. Then, I had to select the research paradigm and design a methodology for data collection and model testing.

Due to the purpose of my research, I had to adopt a positivist approach to examine the data collected and to test the research model, while ensuring its reliability and validity. I used structural equation modelling to test the model using IBM AMOS. Thankfully, the test was fitting. Thereafter, it was about writing and rewriting the chapters of my thesis to make the narratives convincing for the examiners. This came to an end in the fifth year. However, there was yet another major hurdle to clear – VIVA VOCE.

Attending the VIVA VOCE was the most stressful. The defence of the thesis was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The internal and external examiners interrogated a lot to make sure that I was the author of the thesis. They wanted me to clarify various parts of my thesis. It was a gruelling three hours questioning session without a break. Then, the examiners adjourned for deliberation and the 20 mins wait outside the room was like eternity. When I was invited back to the room, the examiners announced that I had performed well in the defence of my thesis, and this was extremely delightful.

JOURNEY TO A PHD: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR JUSTIN KUNG continued...

All came to an end when I was informed that I had passed my VIVA. I proceeded to do minor revisions to my thesis and submitted it shortly thereafter.

What was your journey like throughout your PhD candidature?

It was exhilarating when I received news from my supervisor that the internal examiner had accepted my revised thesis and more so when I received the official notification that I was awarded with the PhD. Completing the PhD journey was like a closure of an important chapter in my life. A massive load off my back. It was a long journey of 6 years that I had decided to embark on to test my endurance and build up my intellectual capacity. It was all about determination. In the end, it's worth all the effort. I had a mix of feelings as well. On one end, I was glad that my PhD work had come to an end, but on the other end, it felt like I had entered a vacuum in my life. However, I guess I can now channel the energy to do other research and consulting work, and spend time with my family and friends.

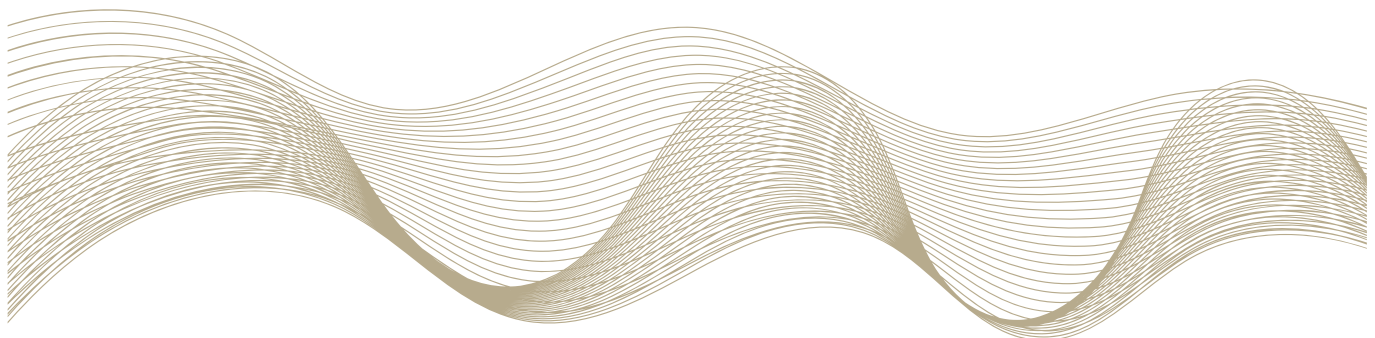
Could you share some advice to those intending to pursue a PhD or are currently in the midst of their candidature?

Have a workable thesis topic that has the potential to be developed into something exciting and that you want to see through to the end of the research for the PhD. Plan your approach to identify your key constructs or factors for the research framework early. Set the research hypotheses or questions accurately so that the right research methodology can be identified.

Have a workable timetable for the entire PhD process. Ensure you follow through with all important deadlines you set for yourself. Do not delay reading and writing the drafts. Develop a good working relationship and communication strategy with your supervisors to avoid delays in getting feedback.

When in doubt, speak to your supervisors. They can often inject fresh perspectives when you become so dull in your train of thought.

Remember - you are solely responsible for the completion of the PhD thesis. One must be self-motivating to the end. Have positive thoughts and do not procrastinate. Reward yourself when you accomplish every important milestone. Exercise regularly and have enough sleep.



JOURNEY TO A PHD: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR JUSTIN KUNG

continued...

How do you intend to develop your research profile?

I think I will start to do research based on my own specialisation. I will write one to two papers based on my PhD thesis and get them published as soon as possible. This was exactly one of the questions that my examiners asked during my VIVA VOCE and it was also about where I intend to publish my research output. I will also explore joint research opportunities within related research areas with possibilities in the areas of sustainable events management and sports marketing.

Curtin University and Curtin Singapore are fertile grounds for joint research and there are adequate resources to embark on these research opportunities. I want to thank Professor Linley Lord (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Curtin Singapore) and Dr Adrian Tan (Research Director, Curtin Singapore) for being strong advocates for research.

RESEARCH FELLOW: DR NICOLAS VAN DER NEST

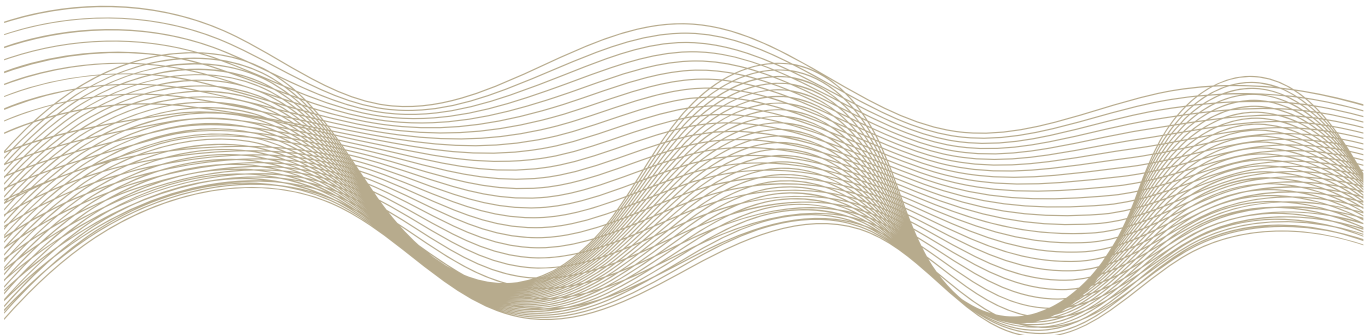


Curtin Singapore has recently appointed Dr Nicolas van der Nest as Research Fellow. He also teaches business and supply chain management courses. Nicolas holds undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in logistics and supply chain management and recently graduated with a PhD in Information Systems. His interests include business and supply chain management with a keen focus on supply chain relationships.

About Nicolas's Research Fellowship Project

The research project is focused on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on interorganisational trust. Trust plays a pivotal role in supply chain relationships where the levels of trust between the organisations are gauged by various behaviours referred to as the indicators of trust. In research before the pandemic, Nicolas identified 51 indicators of trust by utilising content analysis of newspaper articles. Of those indicators, ten behaviours were identified that represented 80% of the findings. The ten indicators included performance, communication & transparency, reputation, fairness, relationship duration, quality, security, social-bond, investment, and collaboration.

In a recent pilot study by Dr van der Nest and his co-authors, Dr Sharyn Curran and Dr Elizabeth Jackson, they identified that the importance of some of the indicators might have shifted post-pandemic. The research fellowship aims to examine the indicators of trust further to gauge the impact of the pandemic on how organisations view trust indicators. In addition, the research would assist organisations within collaborative relationships seeking to build or rebuild trust between the organisations. Finally, from an academic perspective, the study would add to extant interorganisational trust literature by confirming whether the trust indicators remained constant despite the global pandemic.



SPOTLIGHT



Curtin Singapore Research Video

A Curtin Singapore Research video clip has been launched to share our research profile and capability. The video is available on the [research website](#) or [YouTube](#).

ABDC Journal Quality List

There is a latest update to the ABDC Journal Quality List as at 15 March 2023. The list can be searched via the following link <https://abdc.edu.au/abdc-journal-quality-list/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

These are some of the events planned for the year. Full details of the events will be made known through official communication nearer the time.

When

Event

29

March

International Women's Month
Gender Equality - Is Technology Helping?

tentative

August

Global Campuses Brown Bag Seminar by
Dr Ashley Tong

26

September

Curtin Singapore Research Symposium

18

October
tentative

Global Campuses Brown Bag Seminar by
Dr Tien Nguyen

tentative

November

SDG Symposium 2023