Large Grants for Research in Social Science & Humanities
Selected Large Grants for Humanities and Social Science Research

• Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 2
• Singapore Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Social Science Research Thematic Grant (SSR Thematic Grant)
• MOE Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 3
• John Templeton Foundation Grant
MOE T2 (I)

Objectives

• Research has academic significance and a good potential for creating new knowledge that will benefit the larger academic community.

• Research outcomes advance high-quality research of international excellence that challenges current understanding or provides pathways to new frontiers.

• Research may also have a foundation for discoveries that have or will have direct impact on the economy and society.
MOE T2 (II)

• Research proposals are categorised under 5 clusters:
  Chemical Sciences and Chemical Engineering (EP1)
  Informatics and Mathematics (EP2)
  Biomedical Engineering & Life Sciences (EP3)
  Business, Humanities & Social Sciences (EP4)
  Physics and Engineering (EP5)

• Research must be conducted in Singapore; PI/Co-PI must be full-time faculty of Singapore-based Autonomous Universities; Collaborators can be based overseas.
EP 4

• Budget: $500k-$1m over 3 years

• 2 calls for proposals this year:
  • Exact Date TBC, Feb 2018
  • Exact Date TBC Aug 2018

• Research Proposal: Max 10pp, Arial 10, single-spaced
MOE T2 (IV): Some Recent Projects in Humanities & Social Sciences

• The Auditory English Lexicon Project: A Psycholinguistic Database of 10,000 Words by A/P Winston Goh, NUS Psychology

• Family Dynamics in the Development of Behavioural Addiction in Singaporean Youth by Prof Catherine Tang, NUS Centre for Family & Population Research (CFPR)/NUS Psychology

• Dynamic Models of Transitions in the Indonesian Labour and Marriage Markets by Prof John Ham, CFPR/NUS Economics
Social Science Research (SSR) Thematic Grant (I)

Objectives

• Aims to encourage high-quality and impactful social science and humanities research in **areas of strategic relevance to Singapore**.

• Supports social science and humanities research projects with bearing on **key societal and economic issues affecting Singapore and the region**.

• Aims to **catalyse collaborations** among **existing research performers in Singapore**, and encourage the effective use and adoption of **innovative and inter-disciplinary methodologies, techniques and approaches**.

• Aims to support **pathways to impact**, including the **test-bedding of ideas** arising from research.
SSR Thematic Grant (II)

Additional Guidelines

• Preference for empirical studies that
  • strengthen the evidence base for practice,
  • can be applied to improve the outcomes of policy, business and individual decisions,
  • and are sensitive to the historical and socio-cultural context of the subjects, phenomena and issues that are being examined.

• Collaborations with potential user agencies or institutions to foster the effective translation of research into practical impact are encouraged.

• Comparative work and research that provides insights on the broader region and key developments with bearing on Singapore are also welcome.
SSR Thematic Grant (III)

Budget

**Type A: $100k-$1m for up to 3 years**
- For smaller-scale investigator-led research projects
- Encourages broad-based participation in research areas of strategic relevance

**Type B: >$1-$10m over 3-5 years**
- For research programmes that pursue more ambitious, inter-disciplinary research on issues of cross-cutting interest
SSR Thematic Grant (IV)

• 1 call for proposals this year: **Date TBC, May 2018**
• Research Proposal: **Max 10 pp**, Arial 12, single-spaced, 1 inch margins

• **Joint submissions** from NTU, SMU, SUTD, SIT, SUSS, and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute are allowed, subject to eligibility of applicants.

• Research must be conducted in Singapore; PIs and Co-PIs must be full-time faculty of Singapore-based Autonomous Universities; Collaborators can be based overseas.
SSR Thematic Grant (V)

4 Themes

1) Identities, Social Integration and Resilience
2) Human Development and Skills
3) Growth, Productivity and Innovation
4) Understanding Society in the Digital Age
SSR Grant Theme 1: Identities, Social Integration and Resilience (I)

Our identities, the social fabric, people’s aspirations, and socio-economic outcomes are evolving, and influenced by urban development, demographic changes, globalisation, and community development.

It is important to enhance our understanding of the impact of these factors and processes, bearing in mind the historical, cultural and socio-political contexts that they occur within.

This can inform policy and public actions in Singapore and other cosmopolitan urban cities to build stronger societies that are socially cohesive, resilient and that offer opportunities for all.
Key Questions: Identities, Social Integration and Resilience (II)

1.

-How do urban development and the social composition of communities influence social processes and outcomes such as social integration, identity formation, societal norms and values, and one’s socio-economic status?

-What are the implications for urban planning, design and implementation?
2. How does demographic change associated with increasing global mobility and talent migration influence identity formation, inter-group relations and social cohesion?

3. How will social identities, integration, cohesion and resilience be shaped by the changing diversity in people’s needs, concerns and aspirations, as well as external factors?
As technology, work and the global economy undergo rapid changes, there is a need for a deeper study of the changing nature of work and of labour markets.

To sustain social mobility and better equip people for the future workplace, it will also be useful to understand the processes of knowledge and skill acquisition for different segments of the population and at different stages of life.
Key Questions: Human Development and Skills (II)

1. What changes are occurring in the labour market, and what are the drivers of these changes?

- What is the impact of such changes on different sectors, types of enterprises, occupations and workers from different backgrounds (e.g., demographics, education level, types and levels of skills and expertise)?

- What are the critical competencies and skills that are more resilient to these changes, and more likely to stay relevant?
Key Questions:
Human Development and Skills (III)

2. What is the ‘return on investment’ for the different stages of education and lifelong learning?

What methodologies can be adopted to evaluate the longer term efficacy and outcomes (both positive and negative) of various education and lifelong learning policies?
Key Questions: Human Development and Skills (IV)

3.

-How do **workers of different profiles** (e.g., age, educational background) best **learn and develop new skills**, and **what factors motivate them** to pursue **continuous and lifelong learning**?

-What role does **job re-design** play?

-How do workers **retain or lose skills** at various **stages of their lives**?

-What forms of **education, training, or other interventions** are most effective for people of different profiles to **gain and retain** skills?
Key Questions: Human Development and Skills (V)

4.

- What forms of care and education in the early childhood years have more positive impacts on social mobility and attitudes to learning and skills in adulthood?

- How should these early interventions interrelate with education during the school and post-secondary years?
There is a need to understand how technological developments and changes in the global trading and investment environment, including Asia’s economic expansion, impact the competitiveness of firms in Singapore and the region.

In turn, it is important to study how firms can best adapt to these changes, and what strategies for growth, productivity and innovation are most effective in Singapore’s historical and socio-cultural context.
Key Questions: Growth, Productivity and Innovation (II)

1. How are advances in technology, changes in the global trading and investment environment and the shift to Asia affecting firms in Singapore and the region?

- How do these impacts differ across firms with different characteristics such as size and industry sector?
Key Questions: Growth, Productivity and Innovation (III)

2.

-What economic development, business or management strategies are effective in helping firms to adapt to the changing marketplace and technological landscape?

-What characteristics enable some firms to adapt better than others?

-What path dependencies and historical or cultural factors affect the Singapore economy’s and local firms’ ability to adapt to these changes?
SSR Grant Theme 4: Understanding Society in the Digital Age (I)

• In this digital era, new forms of media, services, and knowledge sharing have transformed people’s everyday lives, social interactions, and how they live, work, play and learn.

• This digital revolution could substantively alter the interrelationships linking people, businesses and governments in both positive and negative ways.

• Advances in big data and data science bring along challenges but also offer new insights.

• The integration of digital/data advances with established social science knowledge and methods will provide more robust evidence-based approaches to better understand Singapore society.
Key Questions: Understanding Society in the Digital Age (II)

1. -What are the impacts of the digital revolution on individuals, consumers, businesses and society?  
-What new challenges and opportunities do these pose for society, industry and policy-makers?

2. What substantive translational research questions can be better addressed by integrating the findings and insights from the social-behavioural sciences and the new data sets, social technologies and modes of analysis from the advances in data science and digitisation, in order to understand complex societal issues and inform policy making?
• **Relevance** to the grant call’s thematic focus.

• Potential **benefits** of the research to Singapore, and potential contribution to knowledge and practice.

Articulation of the potential pathways to impact and plans for **involving and disseminating results** to potential users/industry will strengthen the proposal.
• **Collaborations and synergies** across existing research capabilities in the broader *research landscape in Singapore*. Applicants are encouraged to draw on the best research capabilities across Singapore and **collaborate across institutions and discipline areas**.

• Potential to **boost and catalyse** the development of *local social science and humanities research capabilities* in Singapore, including the development of *human capital and expertise in important fields and sectors*. 
SSR Thematic Grant: Evaluation (III)

• Scientific and intellectual **rigour**, potential to create **new and important knowledge**, and **appropriateness of research design and methods**.

• Effective use of **innovative, novel** and **inter-disciplinary** approaches that draw on **new qualitative and quantitative tools** **not necessarily confined to traditional social science methods** will strengthen the proposal.
SSR Thematic Grant: Evaluation (IV)

• Capabilities and track record of the proposed research team.

• Coherence in the proposed execution plans, feasibility of carrying out the research within the given timeframe, and the cost effectiveness and value for money of the research.
SSR Thematic Grant: Some Recent Projects

• Population ageing, old age labour and financial decisions in Singapore by A/P Liu Haoming, NUS Economics

• Identifying Positive Adaptive Pathways in Low-income families in Singapore by A/P Esther Goh, NUS Social Work

• Building Capacity in Singapore’s Population: Testing Innovations in Human Development by Prof Jean Yeung, CPFR/NUS Sociology
MOE T3 (I)

- Objectives include:
  - building intra and inter university synergies to consolidate expertise in research programmes
  - building capacities in local Autonomous Universities (AUs)
  - supporting longer-term investigator led research so as to allow AUs to build up expertise in key thematic areas

- Research must be conducted in Singapore; PI/Co-PI must be full-time faculty of Singapore-based Autonomous Universities; Collaborators can be based overseas.
MOE T3 (II)

Budget
• Type A: $5-10m per 5 year project
• Type B: $10-25m per 5 year project

Timeline
• 1 call a year for Whitepaper: Due DATE TBC March/April 2018
• Whitepaper: Max 6pp single-spaced, Arial 12, excluding Annexes, PDF.
• Full Proposal (invitation only): Due DATE TBC End-Jul/Early Aug 2018
• Final Presentation Slides (invitation only): Due DATE TBC Mid-Dec 2018
Additional Guidelines

• A Tier 3 research programme comprises several research project groups and may also include individual researchers who do not belong to any group for reasons which must be specified.

• Each Tier 3 programme cluster is expected to be embedded within existing university departments, research centres or Research Centres of Excellence (RCEs).
MOE T3 (IV) Recent Project: SMU Centre for Research on the Economics of Ageing (CREA)

Objective:
CREA brings together top researchers in ageing and age-related issues from Singapore and abroad to conduct a long-term study of ageing in Singapore, with particular reference to retirement adequacy and its contributing factors.

Research Questions:
• How well-prepared are Singaporeans to cope with the financial demands and related risks associated with ageing in this unprecedented and rapidly evolving environment?
• What can Singapore do to enhance this preparedness?

Research infrastructure:
A unique longitudinal panel data set (Singapore Life Panel®), a suite of purpose-driven models (Singapore Life Cycle Model) and new econometric methodology will provide the platform for ongoing investigation of economic issues for Singapore and other ageing populations.
Templeton Grant (I): Introduction

• **Objectives:** The John Templeton Foundation aims to advance **human well-being** by supporting **research on the Big Questions**, and by promoting character development, individual freedom, and free markets.

• **Budget:** In the [Past Grants Database](https://www.templeton.org/grants) funding has ranged from **US$200k to over 2m** for up to **3 years** (& very occasionally up to 5).

• **To apply:** Make Online Funding Inquiry (OFI) at [Templeton Portal](https://www.templeton.org/funding), where you will be able to submit your **Project Justification & Description** of max 5000 characters (you can also upload a file of up to 10MB).
1) Science and the Big Questions

Supports innovative efforts to address the deepest questions facing humankind, such as:

• Why are we here?
• How can we flourish?
• What are the fundamental structures of reality?
• What can we know about the nature and purposes of the divine?
1) Science and the Big Questions: i) Human Sciences

- What are religious experiences and what is their significance?
- How do we conceptualize the divine?
- How do religious and spiritual practices affect our health?
- How are religions and religious communities changing globally?

Projects should aim to catalyse discovery about human nature, human flourishing, religion and spirituality, and other fundamental structures and realities within the social, behavioural, and cognitive sciences.

- Funding supports basic and applied scientific research projects, especially those that seek to increase enthusiasm for neglected topics within the academy.
Templeton Grant (IV): Some Recent Projects in Human Sciences

Do Yourself a Favour: Prudence as Inter-temporal Kindness
by Psychology Professors Daniel Gilbert (Harvard) & Timothy Wilson (University of Virginia)

Research Questions:
- Why don’t we take obvious and often easy actions in the present to prevent negative consequences in the future?
- If the future self is another person, then might the laws that govern how we treat other people also govern how we treat our future selves?

Cognitive, Cultural, and Motivational Influences on Religious Belief and Disbelief
by Assistant Professor of Psychology Will Gervais (University of Kentucky)

Research Questions:
- Why do some people not believe in supernatural beings — when most people do?
- What predicts who becomes a non-believer?
1) Science and the Big Questions: ii) Philosophy & Theology

• Is there a divine reality, and how is it related to the cosmos?
• Do we have free will?
• Are minds wholly material?
• What are the virtues and how do we acquire them?

• Supports research that promises genuine progress in our understanding.
• Encourages research that engages deeply with the sciences, including interdisciplinary collaborations in which philosophical or theological understanding informs and is informed by the findings and methods of the sciences.
**Templeton Grant (VI): Some Recent Projects in Philosophy & Theology**

**Advancing Scientific and Theological Literacy in Madrasa Discourses in India**

by Islamic Studies Professor Ebrahim Moosa (History Department, University of Notre Dame)

**Research Aims:**

- To teach graduate-level students in traditional Muslim schools in India and Pakistan to understand the role that *reason and evidence* plays in the *scientific method*.

- To help students evaluate questions not only in science, but in their theological studies as well, in ways that draw on both *empirical data and the affirmations of religious texts*.

**Aspects of Religious Experiences: Investigations from Science, Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies** by Professors of Philosophy Michael Rea & L.A. Paul (University of Notre Dame)

**Research Question:**

- What do *transformative religious and spiritual experiences* reveal about connecting to the divine?
1) Science and the Big Questions: iii) Public Engagement

• How might media coverage of the Big Questions become more substantive and less sensationalistic?

• Are there ways to inspire high school and undergraduate students to think deeply about the universe and their place in it?

• Can faith communities engage scientific research in ways that inform and enrich the lives of religious believers?

• Supports innovative programs that advance the Foundation’s mission beyond the academy.

• The Public Engagement department works with a wide variety of partners to find ways to translate scientific research and inspire reflection on its deeper significance.
2) Character Virtue Development

The Character Virtue Development funding area seeks to advance the science and practice of character, with a focus on moral, performance, civic, and intellectual virtues such as humility, gratitude, curiosity, diligence, and honesty.

Research funded promises greater insight into the developmental science of virtues and character, including the identification of relevant precursors, correlates, developmental trajectories, and the assessment of potential inter-individual differences.

The Foundation provides support to organizations such as schools, religious institutions, and community organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate applied and translational research on character and virtue.
The Development of a Test of Rational Thinking by Keith Stanovich & Richard West (James Madison University), Professors of Psychology
Details: https://www.templeton.org/grant/the-development-of-a-test-of-rational-thinking

The Toolbox Project: Changing the way children learn about self-control by
Details: https://www.templeton.org/grant/the-toolbox-project-changing-the-way-children-learn-about-self-control
Templeton Grant (X): Humanities & Social Sciences Funding Areas

3) Individual Freedom and Free Markets

Religious, political, and economic freedoms are the building blocks of both spiritual and material progress.

Individual and economic freedoms are deeply interconnected; one affects the other and both must be undergirded by genuine virtue and a deep sense of personal responsibility.

• Supports education, research, and grassroots efforts to promote individual freedom, free markets, free competition, and entrepreneurship.

• Grounded in the ideas of classical liberal political economy, the Foundation seeks and develop projects that focus on individuals and their place in a free society.

• Whether by academic research, instruction, public outreach, or supporting debate on public policy, the Foundation aims to contribute toward making the nation and the world more just, more prosperous, and more conducive to human flourishing.
Efficient Government Service Provision: Replacing Administrative Processes with Smart Market Designs

Details: https://www.templeton.org/grant/efficient-government-service-provision-replacing-administrative-processes-with-smart-market-designs

The Ideal of Self Governance

Details: https://www.templeton.org/grant/the-ideal-of-self-governance
4) Voluntary Family Planning
Supports research, programs, and policy development efforts around the world that seek to:

• better understand factors that influence family planning decisions
• provide information on and access to family planning methods
• strengthen policy related to effective family planning

• The Foundation is particularly interested in partnering with faith-based organizations to support this work in their local communities.

• Funding only supports research and programs that affirm the value of human life from conception until natural death.
5) Exceptional Cognitive Talent & Genius

- Supports programs that aim to recognize and nurture exceptional cognitive talent, especially for those at an early stage of life.

- Also supports research concerning the nature of cognitive genius, including extraordinary creativity, curiosity, and imagination.

Recent Project: Genesis of Genius and Unleashing Its Creative Force: A 40-year Longitudinal Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth by David Lubinski & Camilla Benbow, Professors of Psychology (Vanderbilt University)

Details:
Thank you!