

## Curriculum Vitae



### **Dr Eunice Tan**

Head, Special Education Programme  
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### **Education Qualifications**

2019	Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education, Nanyang Technological University Dissertation: A Study on the Perceptions of Parents and Teachers on Savant Skills of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
1997	Master of Education. University of Melbourne
1993	Post Graduate Diploma in Special Education. University of British Columbia
1992	Bachelor of Education. University of British Columbia
1989	Bachelor of Arts. University of British Columbia

### **Academic and Professional Experience**

2019 – present	Head of Special Education, NSHD, Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
2017 - 2019	Assistant Divisional Director, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities
1998 - 2016	Teacher, School Principal and Curriculum Planner, Ministry of Education (MOE)
1994 - 1998	Special Education Teacher, Dover Court International School

### **Membership and Professional Activities**

2024 – present	National Council of Social Services (NCSS) Ethics Review Committee
2021 – present	Board Member. Mamre Oaks Day Activity Centre
2020 – present	Executive Committee Member. Programme and Services. Mamre Oaks Day Activity Centre
2021 – present	Executive Committee Member: Adult Services and Children Services. Rainbow School
2023 – present	Minister for Social and Family Development (MSF). Review Board
2022 – present	Executive Committee Member. Association for Person with Special Needs (APSN)
2020 – 2021	Executive Committee Member. AWWA schools

### Research Interests

- Special Education
- Autism
- Adult Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Early Intervention

### Conference Papers

1. 'A Study on the Perceptions of Parents Savant Skills of Individuals with ASD'. Keynote Speaker. World Congress on Down Syndrome, Autism & Cerebral Palsy, Tokyo, Japan. September, 2019.
2. 'A Study on the Perceptions of Parents on Savant Skills of Individuals with ASD'. World Congress on Special Needs Education (WCSNE), London, United Kingdom. December, 2019
3. 'Strength-Based Approach For Children With Developmental Needs'. Early Childhood Conference by Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA). Singapore. October, 2021.
4. 'Harnessing the Interest of Children with Special Needs to Maximise Learning Potential'. 5th World Conference on Research in Education (WORLDCRE). Paris, France. November, 2021.
5. 'Aptitudes, capabilities, and interests of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder'. 5th International Conference on Education, Teaching and Learning (IACETL). Vienna, Austria. June, 2022.
6. 'Improving pedagogical methodologies for children with special needs: A strength-based approach'" Keynote Speaker. Teaching and Education Summit Conference. Online. November, 2022.
7. 'Reaching out and motivating the 'hard to teach' child in your class'. Good Start Early Intervention Conference. Singapore. 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022
8. 'The Incidence And Link Between Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorder And Special Abilities'. International Congress on Education and Learning (CEL-22). Pattaya, Thailand, December 2022.
9. 'The 'Unteachable' Child – Developing Instructional Pedagogies to Motivate'. The 9th Asian Conference on Education & International Development. Tokyo, Japan. March 2023.
10. 'Transforming Higher Education in Adult Learning for Inclusivity'. Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS) Conference & World Educational Research Association (WERA)Focal Meeting 2023 National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore. November 2023.

11. Improving and Facilitating Enhancement in Terms of Care for Adults with Disabilities in Singapore. 4th International Conference on Education (EDU2023). The future of education: inclusive and interdisciplinary responses to global challenges. Athens, Greece. December 2023.
12. 'Neurodiverse Narratives: A Case Study on Autism's Special Abilities from a Parent's Perspective.' International Conference on Multilingual Education and Sustainable Diversity (ICOMESD-24). Vancouver, Canada. July 2024
13. 'Strength-Based Approach for Children with Special Need.' 7th International Conference of Advanced Research in Education. Cambridge, United Kingdom. June 2024.

### **Publications**

1. Abusalih, A. F., Tan, E., & de Cruz, N. (2023). Associations between parental conflict and externalising behaviours in children with ASD in a local Singaporean sample: Parenting styles as a moderating mechanism. *European Journal of Teaching and Education*, 5(2), 13-35.
2. Chia, I., & Tan, E. (2023). Unleashing the Artistic Ability of Students with Special Needs: Towards an Ability-Driven Paradigm in Special Education. In V. Zhuang, M.E. Wong, & D. Goodley (Eds.). *Not Without Us: Perspectives on Disability and Inclusion in Singapore*. Ethos Books.
3. Tan, E., & Poon, K. (2022). Aptitudes, Capabilities, and Interests of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *European Journal of Teaching and Education*, 4(4), 32–43. <https://doi.org/10.33422/ejte.v4i4.863>
4. Tan, E.M.Y. ,& Poon, K.K. (2023). Exceptional Abilities and Individuals with Autism. A Historical Account. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research*, 9(1), 17-21. doi: 10.36713/epra2013
5. Tan, E.M.Y. & Poon, K.K. (2023). Parental Involvement and Influence in the Development of Talents for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Three Modern Case Studies. *International Journal of Research and Development*, 8(1), 40-44.
6. Tan, E., & Chia, I. (2023). Supporting and Enabling Improvements in the area of care for adults with disabilities in Singapore. *International Journal of Research & Development*, 8(1), 106-108.
7. Tan, E., & Chia, I. (2023). An Overview of the Landscape of Adults with Disabilities in Singapore. A Literature Review. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research*, 9(1). 150-152.
8. Tan, E.M.Y, & Poon, K.K (2023). A Literature Overview on the Relationship between Autism Spectrum Disorder and Savant Skills. *International Journal of Innovation Scientific Research and Review*, 5(1), 3870-3874.
9. Tan, E.M.Y., & Poon, K. K.L. (2023). A Literature Summary on the Typology of Giftedness Among Savants . *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development*. 10(4), 19-22.

10. Seah, V. Y.Z. & Tan, E. M.Y. (2023). Nudging for Improved Academic Performance and Motivation in Higher Learning Institutions. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR)*, 9(5), 74-77. <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra13113>
11. Tan, E. (2023). Improving and Facilitating Enhancement in Terms of Care for Adults with Disabilities in Singapore. In M. Kefalaki (Ed.), *Responses to Global Challenges on Education and Communication* (pp. 38-39). Athens, Greece: Communication Institute of Greece. [http://coming.gr/ISBN: 978-618-85622-5-7](http://coming.gr/ISBN:978-618-85622-5-7).
12. Tan, E.M.Y (2024). Psychological Accounts For The Difficulties Experienced By Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorder. *International Journal of Research and Development*, 9(1), 238-241. <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra15658>
13. Tan, E.M.Y.(2024). Myth vs. Reality: Examining Common Misconceptions Surrounding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 6(2), 1-3. DOI 10.36948/ijfmr.2024.v06i02.14935. <https://www.ijfmr.com/papers/2024/2/14935.pdf>
14. Tan, E.M.Y. (2024). The Relationship Between Autism Spectrum Disorder Traits And Exceptional Abilities: Insights Into The Savant Syndrome. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 10(4). <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra16244>.
15. Tan, E. (2024, April 20). Don't isolate kids with autism, involve them in regular activities. *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/don-t-isolate-kids-with-autism-involve-them-in-regular-activities>
16. Tan, E. M. Y. & Kuo, M.C.C. (2024). Supporting the Wellbeing of Children with Special Needs through Strength Based Curriculum. *International Journal for Innovation Education and Research*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.31686/ijer.vol12.iss1.4206>
17. Tan, E. M. Y. & Kuo, M.C.C. (2024). Enhancing Developmental Resilience in Children with Special Needs through a Strength-Based Paradigm. *International Journal for Innovation Education and Research*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.31686/ijer.vol12.iss1.4205>

### Research Studies (Grants)

1. SUSS SEED Grant: (2022). Topic: *Improving And Facilitating Enhancement In Terms Of Care For Adults With Disabilities In Singapore*. Principal Investigator (PI)
2. MOE Start –up Grant. (2023). Topic: *Striving for Success (StriveS) - tracking academic trajectories of MENDAKI participants*. \$250,000. Co -Investigator (Co-PI)
3. National Institute of Education (NIE). (2023). Research Grant. Principal Investigator. *Strength-Based Approach for Children with Special Needs*. \$100,000. Principal Investigator (PI)
4. Analytics Informed Nudging. ST2. Strategic Trust 2. Study looking at dropout rates of SUSS students and increasing GPA of academically weaker students at SUSS. Co -Investigator (Co-PI)
5. MOE Start –up Grant. (2023). Topic: *Striving for Success (StriveS) - Tracking academic trajectories of MENDAKI participants*. \$223,494. Co -Investigator (Co-PI)

6. Singtel Research Study (2023). Singtel Touching Lives Fund Impact Report for Parents/Caregivers and Teachers.
7. Temasek Foundation Grant. (2024): Topic: Social robots for older persons and children with disabilities. \$445,000. Co-Investigator (Co-PI).

## **Workshops**

1. Institute for Higher Learning. IAL. (Oct 28th, 2021). Topic: Child Development Stages and Milestones. Online
2. CaringSG. (16 Oct 2021). Topic: Supporting students with special needs in higher learning institutions. Online.
3. Persons with Special Needs (APSN). Parent training. (15th March 2021). Topic: Managing Autism Meltdowns, Tantrums and Aggression'
4. Social Service Agencies. 8 hours. Topic: Introduction to Special Education (Nov 5th, 2021). Online
5. Koinonia Inclusion Network. (30 July 2022). Topic: Behavioural Management and Meltdown Control.
6. Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). For faculty staff and associates (March 25th, 2022). Topic: Helping students with special needs in Higher learning institutions
7. Ministry of Education. 20 Primary Schools. 2 days workshops. (Feb 11th 2022) 1<sup>st</sup> Topic: SEN in general. Understanding Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). (Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022). 2<sup>nd</sup> Topic: Understanding and Managing Students with Disruptive, Defiant and Aggressive Behaviours
8. Singapore School of Technology. Workshop for associates. (2022) Topic: Supporting students with special needs in higher learning institutions. Taped.
9. Lifelong Learning Institute. Brown Bag session by Headhunt. (8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022). Topic: Diversity
10. SkillsFuture Festival (23rd July 2022). Topic: How to manage challenging behaviours of children in an inclusive environment.
11. Singapore University of Social Sciences (Unilearn) (2023). 18 taped workshops for India on the topic of Special education for mainstream teachers in India.
12. Singapore University of Social Sciences (Enrichment talk) (26<sup>th</sup> August, 2023): Changing landscape of Special Education in Singapore
13. Singapore University of Social Sciences (Conference) (22nd September, 2023). Pixel and Possibilities Conference. Part of a panel discussion. Topic: Benefits of Gaming.
14. Catholic Family Life Family Conference 2024. (28th January, 2024). Topic: Parenting Children with Special needs.

15. Singapore University of Social Sciences. Research Forum (19th February 2024). Topic: Improving And Facilitating Enhancement In Terms Of Care For Adults With Disabilities In Singapore.
16. Singapore University of Social Sciences Open House (SUSS) (31 August 2024). Topic: The Progressive Transformation of Special Needs Provision in Singapore.

*Updated 19 June 2024*