

Curriculum Vitae



Associate Professor Sirene Lim

Vice Dean

S R Nathan School of Human Development

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Education Qualifications

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| 2007 | Ed.D (Early Childhood Education), Teachers College, Columbia University, USA Thesis "Exploring colonization: Situating young children's experiences in the multiple contexts of globalizing Singapore" |
| 2003 | M.Ed (Early Childhood Education), University of South Australia |
| 1996 | B.A. Hons (I), Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, UK |

Academic and Professional Experience

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| 2007 - 2013 | Assistant Professor, National Institute of Education, NTU |
| 2004 - 2006 | Teaching Assistant, Teachers College, Columbia University (Curriculum & Teaching Department and the Rita Gold Early Childhood Centre) |
| 1996 - 2003 | Teacher and Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Singapore |

Memberships and Professional Activities

- National committees -- e.g., Outdoor Learning, Kindergarten Curriculum Framework review, Early Years Development Framework review, Skills Framework review, KidSTART Evaluation, Singapore Preschool Accreditation Framework (SPARK) Committee
- Board member, National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC), Singapore
- Management Committee, Healthy Start Child Development Centre, Beyond Social Services, Singapore
- Editorial Board: International Journal of Early Childhood (Springer)
- Journal reviewer for educational research journals such as Teaching and Teacher Education; International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education; International Journal of Multicultural Education, Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood, International Journal of Inclusive Education

- Workshops for Early Childhood Development Agency and MOE Preschool Branch
- Association for Early Childhood Educators, Singapore (AECES)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA)
- Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education (RECE)

Research Interests

- Early years integrated curriculum; early education policy and pedagogy
- Play, sociology of childhood
- Teacher learning and leadership

Selected Publications

Journal Articles (Refereed):

Lim, S. (2021). Children's playful musicking: peer culture within a daycare setting in Singapore. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*.

Nuttall, J., Grieshaber, S., Lim, S., Yun, E., Oh, J., An, H., Sum, C.W., Yang, W. & Kim, S. (2021). Workforce diversity and quality improvement policies in early childhood education in East Asia. *Early Years*, 1-17.

Yang, W., & Lim, S. (2020). Toward distributed pedagogical leadership for quality improvement: Evidence from a childcare centre in Singapore. *Educational Management Administration & Leadership*.

Lim, S. & Lloyd, E. (2019). Editors for Special Issue: Leadership as praxis in public and private settings within marketised early childhood systems. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 20(1).

Lim, S. M. (2015). Early childhood care and education in a consumer society: Questioning child-adult binary and childhood inequality. *Global Studies in Childhood*, 5(3), 305- 321.

Lim, S. M., Wong, M.E., & Tan, D. (2014). Allied Educators (Learning and Behavioural) in Singapore's mainstream schools: first steps towards inclusivity? *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 18(2), 123-139.

Lim, C., & Lim, S. M. (2013). Learning and language: Educarer-child interactions in Singapore infant care settings. *Early Child Development and Care*, 183(10), 1468-1485.

Tay-Lim, J. & Lim, S. M. (2013). Privileging preschool children's voices in research: Use of drawings and a co-construction process. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 12(1), 65-83.

Tay-Lim, J. & Lim, S. M. (2013). Privileging preschool children's voices in research: Use of drawings and a co-construction process. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 12(1), 65-83.

Lim, S. M. & Lum, C.H. (2012). Creating polyphony with exploratory web documentation in Singapore. *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood*, 37(4), 123-126.

Book Chapters:

Nuttall, J., Grieshaber, S., Lim, S., Yun, E. (2023) Conceptualising professional development with and for a diverse and globally mobile early childhood education workforce. In Tierney, R.J., Rizvi, F. & Ercikan, K. (Eds). *International Encyclopedia of Education* (4th Ed.) pp. 596-603. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818630-5.04064-1>

Lim, S.M. & Sum, C. W. (2022). The next phase of developments in Singapore's ECE: quality in the best interests of all children? In Lee Y. J. (Ed.) *Education in Singapore: People Making and Nation Building*. Springer.

Lipponen, L., Ang, L., & Lim, S. M. with Hilppo, J., Lin, H., & Rajala, A. (2019). *Vital voices for vital years (2): Perspectives on early childhood development in Singapore*. Singapore: Lien Foundation.

Lim, S. M. & Lipponen, L. (2018). Pedagogical leadership and conflict of motives in commercial ECEC environment. In S. Cheeseman & R. Walker (Eds). *Thinking about pedagogy in early education: Pedagogies for leading practice*. Routledge.

Sum, C. W., Lim, S. M., & Tan, C. T. (2018). Pragmatism in policy making: influencing a largely privatized early childhood education and care sector in Singapore. In C. Pascal, T. Bertram, & M. Veisson (Eds). *Early childhood education and change in diverse cultural contexts*. Routledge.

Lim, S. M. (2017). Marketization and Corporatization of ECCE in Singapore. In M. Li, J. Fox, and S. Grieshaber, *Contemporary issues and challenge in early childhood education in the Asia-Pacific region*, pp. 17-32. Singapore: Springer.

Lim, S. M. (2017). Early childhood education and development in Singapore. In M. Fler and B. van Oers (Eds.). *International handbook of early childhood education and development*, pp. 649-662. Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.

Lim, S. M. & Lim, S. E. A. (2017). Governmentality of early childhood care and education in a global city. In Rao, N., Zhou, J., Sun, J. (Eds.). *Early childhood education in Chinese societies*, pp.185-216. Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.

Lim, S. M. (2016). "I have...do you have?": Facilitating children's play and talk in a consumer society. In M. Waniganayake & M. Ebbeck (Eds). *Play and pedagogy in early childhood* (2nd ed.), pp.134-146. Melbourne, Australia: Oxford University Press.

Op-Eds / Commentaries (selected)

- Lim, S.M. & Lim, C.** (2023, 13 Nov). Preschool admission only the first step in helping disadvantaged kids. *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/pre-school-admission-only-the-first-step-in-helping-kids-from-disadvantaged-families>
- Lim, S.M.** (2022, 12 July). Improving S'pore's preschool sector is everyone's business. Here's what needs to be done. *TODAY*. <https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/commentary-improving-spores-preschool-sector-everyones-business-heres-what-needs-be-done-1941826>
- Lim, S.M.** (2019, 15 September). Long-neglected but now in the spotlight, Singapore's pre-school sector. *Channel News Asia*. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/pre-school-enhanced-subsidies-access-moe-kindergartens-11890488>
- Yang, W.P. & **Lim, S.M.** (2019, 26 May). Hong Kong and Shenzhen showed us what quality early childhood education looks like. *Channel News Asia*. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/quality-early-childhood-education-preschool-hong-kong-singapore-11534618>
- Lim, S. M. & Kaveri, G.** (2018, 15 January). Uncovering myths of early childhood education. *TODAY*. <https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/uncovering-myths-early-children-education>

Invited Addresses (selected)

- Lim, S.M. (2022, 22-24 Nov). Spotlight speaker "Can infants and toddlers think?" What we know about children as meaning makers to support their playful STEM engagement. Singapore International Science Teachers' Conference.
- Lim, S.M. (2021, October). Keynote - Reaching every child: responsive preschool practices. Early Childhood Conference 2021 organised by Early Childhood Development Agency.
- Lim, S.M. (2012, July). Children as co-researchers and participants in Singaporean research: Perils and promise. Pacific Early Childhood Research Association Annual Conference.
- Lim, S.M. (2011, Nov). Plenary 1: Engaging, developing and assessing young learners. Keynote Address, 'Celebrating learning, Transforming practice' Academy Symposium, 10 Nov 2011, organised by the Ministry of Education Academy of Singapore Teachers. Singapore.
- Lim, S.M. (2011, Sept). 优质教学的定义是什么?: 探索学前课堂中教师与幼儿的互动(What is quality teaching?: Exploring teacher-child interactions.) Keynote Address, 第二届“华文作为第二语言之教与学”国际研讨会: 学前专场 (2nd International Conference on Teaching and Learning of Chinese as a Second Language: Preschool Symposium), 8 Sept 2011, organized by Singapore Centre for Chinese Language. Singapore.

Research Grants/Awards

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| 2022 - 2024 | Principal Investigator – Preschool Outdoor Learning Evaluation Study (ECDA) |
| 2018 - 2019 | Co-Principal Investigator: <i>Vital Voices (2)</i> , Lien Foundation |
| 2010 - 2013 | Co-Principal Investigator: <i>Images of practice in arts education in Singapore</i> (OER 7/10 LCH) ERFN NIE (S\$214,097) |
| 2010 - 2011 | Co-Principal Investigator: <i>A study of current practices employed in the care and</i> |

education of children aged 2 months to 30 months in Singapore

Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (S\$61,067)

- 2009 - 2010 Co-Principal Investigator: *A Development Project for the Scoping of the Singapore Early Years Longitudinal Study*
(OER 15/08SW) ERFP NIE (S\$ 95,039.81)
- 2009 - 2011 Principal Investigator: *Teaching diverse learners: Conceptualisations and pedagogies of preschool teachers*
(OER04/08SL) ERFP NIE (S\$99,990)
- 2009 - 2010 Principal Investigator: *Exploring emerging identities of special needs officers in Singapore primary and secondary schools*
(OER05/08SL) ERFP NIE (S\$54,486.56)

International Conference Presentations (peer reviewed)

- Lim, S., Lee, I.-F., & Ailwood, J. (2023). Considering space and power in study tours: Australian and Singaporean teacher educators' encounter of 'the other'. Panel presentation at Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia (PESA) Conference, Auckland, New Zealand (6 – 9 December).
- Lim, S. & Sum, C.W. (2023). Exploring Migrant Teachers' Well-Being and Professional Development Opportunities: Enhancing Cosmopolitan Ethic in Singapore's EC Sector. Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA) Conference, Bali (7-9 July).<https://www.pecera.org/conference/detail/10000028>
- Li, J., Kaveri, G., & Lim, S. (2023). Resilience and wellbeing in a sample of five-year-olds in Singapore: Implications for early childhood educators. Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA) Conference, , Bali (7-9 July).<https://www.pecera.org/conference/detail/10000028>
- Nuttall, J., Grieshaber, S., Yun, E. & Lim, S. (2022, February). Early childhood workforce diversity, quality improvement and professional learning in the Asia-Pacific. Paper presented at Australian Journal of Early Childhood (AJEC) Research Symposium 2022 (10-11 February).
- Grieshaber, S. Nuttall, J., Lim, S., Yun, E. (2021, 28 Nov – 2 Dec). Workforce diversity and quality improvement in East asia: the state of the policy field. Paper presented at the 2021 Conference of the Australian Association for Research in Education.
- Lim, S.M. (2017, November). Leading for social change? Exploring the role of early childhood leaders in Singapore's pragmatic landscape. Paper presented at Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education (RECE), Toronto, Canada.
- Lim, S.M., and Chen, D.W. (2016, September). Improving equity in Singapore's early childhood education landscape. Paper presented at European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA), Dublin, Ireland.
- Miyazawa, K. and Lim, S.M. (2016, April). Homo economicus in Japan and Singapore. Paper presented at American Education Research Association (AERA) Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Lim, S., Yang, C.H., and Li, L. (2015, June). Quality of infant/toddler programmes in Singapore. Paper presented at Quality Childhood Education International, Hong Kong Institute of Education, 18-19 June.
- Ang, A., Lim, S. M., & Wong, M. E. (2011, May). Experiences of a Child with Down Syndrome in a Mainstream Primary School. Paper presented at Redesigning pedagogy: Transforming teaching, inspiring learning, NIE, Singapore.
- Lim, S. M. (2011, April). Web documentations of teaching: Steering debate about "good" practice and exploring ways of enhancing teacher learning. Paper presented at American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies, New Orleans, United States.
- Lim, S. M., Lum, C. H., & Zhou, X. (2011, April). *Images of teaching: Making the familiar strange through multimedia web representations*. Paper presented at American Education Research Association (AERA), New Orleans, United States.
- Lim, S. M., Wong, M.E., Cohen, L., & Tan, C.T.D. (2011, May). *Experiences of Allied Educators (LBS) in mainstream schools*. Paper presented at Redesigning Pedagogy: Transforming teaching, inspiring learning, NIE, Singapore.
- Lim, S. & Lim, A. (2010, August). Through the eyes of a Singaporean child: What's missing in ECCE policy and practice. Paper presented at OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) XXVI World Congress, Göteborg, Sweden.

Updated on 18 January 2024