

GRANTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Alex Jingwei He Receives HKUST Faculty Recognition Award

HKUST's Division of Public Policy is pleased to announce that Professor Alex Jingwei He has received the HKUST Faculty Recognition Award. This prestigious honor acknowledges his exceptional academic contributions, outstanding teaching and research, and dedicated service to the university and society, embodying his commitment to advancing knowledge and nurturing talents.

Professor He is a Professor in HKUST's Division of Public Policy, concurrently serving as Acting Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Co-Director of the Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program. He holds a PhD in Public Policy from the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His research focuses on comparative social policy, policy innovation/entrepreneurship, and health policy/governance (East Asia focus)—areas aligned with Hong Kong's social welfare and health governance needs.

As a distinguished educator, Professor He is committed to high-quality teaching and nurturing public policy talents. As MPP Co-Director, he oversees postgraduate core courses and teaches undergraduates on public policy, social policy and health governance. Praised by students for rigor, vivid instruction and guidance, he has shaped curricula and fostered graduates excelling in academia, public service and related fields.

Professor He has achieved remarkable research breakthroughs, publishing extensively in top international journals (e.g., *Public Administration Review*, *Governance*, *The China Quarterly*) and Chinese outlets, and co-editing *Policy Entrepreneurship: An Asian Perspective* (Routledge, 2020). Since 2021, he has been ranked among Stanford's top 2% most cited scholars in political science/public administration. In Hong Kong's 2020 RAE, his impact case was one of



only two unanimously rated "outstanding" (four stars) in his field. Since 2014, he has secured 10 major grants (5 GRFs, 2 WHO projects), with two GRFs earning perfect 5.0 scores. He also holds key editorial roles, including Editor of *Policy Design and Practice* and Associate Editor of two SSCI Q1 journals.

Beyond teaching and research, Professor He engages in university governance, public outreach and policy advocacy. In addition to his HKUST leadership roles, he serves as Executive Member of the East Asian Social Policy Network and Adjunct Research Fellow at Tsinghua University. He bridges academia and policy via commentaries in major newspapers (e.g., *South China Morning Post*) and interviews with media like CCTV and CBS News.

The HKUST Faculty Recognition Award honors faculty excellence in teaching, research and service, and their contributions to the university and society, reflecting HKUST's commitment to academic excellence and holistic faculty development.

HKUST's Division of Public Policy warmly congratulates Professor He on this well-deserved award, a testament to his dedication and achievements in academia, education and policy advocacy. We look forward to his continued leadership and greater contributions to HKUST, Hong Kong's social/health policy, and the East Asian public policy community.

Congratulations again to Professor Alex Jingwei He on this prestigious honor!



Prof. Masaru YARIME Ranked Among Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists in Environmental Sciences (2025)

HKUST's Division of Public Policy and Division of Environment and Sustainability are proud to announce that Associate Professor Masaru YARIME has been recognized as one of Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists for both Career-Long and Single Year (2025) in the sub-field of Environmental Sciences. This distinguished honor underscores his exceptional academic impact, sustained contributions to sustainability-focused research, and global standing as a leading interdisciplinary scholar.

Professor YARIME serves as Director of the MPhil and PhD Programs in Public Policy at HKUST, with concurrent appointments as Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo's GraSPP and Honorary Associate Professor at UCL's STEaPP. He holds a PhD in Economics and Policy Studies of Innovation and Technological Change from Maastricht University, complemented by a B.Eng. from the University of Tokyo and an M.S. from the California Institute of Technology. His research spans policy design for energy and environment, climate change governance, smart city innovation systems, and big data applications in social science—aligning closely with global sustainability goals and regional environmental governance needs.

A highly interdisciplinary scholar, Professor YARIME has dedicated his career to bridging engineering and social sciences, exploring dynamic interactions between technology and institutions for sustainability innovation. He has published extensively in top-tier journals including *Energy Economics*, *Sustainability Science*, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, and *Environmental Science & Policy*, and authored/edited numerous book chapters and special journal issues. His expertise is widely sought after in international initiatives: he has contributed to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, UNEP Finance Initiative, and IPBES Expert Group, and serves on the editorial boards of journals such as *Sustainability Science and Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*.

Prior to HKUST, he held positions at Japan's NISTEP and City University of Hong Kong, with visiting professorships in France and Malaysia.

The Stanford Top 2% Scientists ranking—based on rigorous metrics including citations, h-index, and co-authorship adjustment—serves as a globally recognized benchmark of academic excellence. Earning dual recognition for career-long achievements and 2025 single-year impact reflects Professor YARIME's consistent dedication to high-impact research and his ability to drive meaningful progress in environmental policy and sustainability science.

HKUST's Division of Public Policy and Division of Environment and Sustainability warmly congratulate Professor Masaru YARIME on this well-deserved recognition. This achievement not only honors his individual contributions but also reinforces HKUST's reputation as a hub for world-class interdisciplinary research in sustainability and public policy. We look forward to his continued leadership in advancing solutions for climate change, energy transition, and smart city governance.

Congratulations again to Professor Masaru YARIME on this prestigious global accolade!

Elsevier Data Repository	
August 2025 data-update for "Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators"	
authfull	sm-subfield-1
Yarime, Masaru	Environmental Sciences
rank sm-subfield-1	sm-subfield-1 count
2,247	130,223



Prof. Masaru YARIME Ranks #80 Globally in Sustainability (Lifetime Achievement, Top 0.05% Scholars) – 2025

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)'s Division of Public Policy and Division of Environment and Sustainability are proud to announce that Associate Professor Masaru YARIME has been ranked #80 globally in the specialty of Sustainability (Lifetime Achievement) in 2025, placing him among the top 0.05% of scholars worldwide in this field. This prestigious honor reflects his decades of profound academic impact, interdisciplinary leadership, and outstanding contributions to advancing global sustainability research and policy practice.

The ranking, developed by Professor John P.A. Ioannidis' team at Stanford University, is a globally recognized benchmark of academic influence, evaluated through rigorous metrics including standardized citations, h-index, and co-authorship-adjusted hm-index. Among tens of thousands of researchers in the sustainability field, Professor YARIME's placement in the top 0.05% underscores the exceptional citation impact of his work and affirms his international standing as a pioneer in bridging engineering, social sciences, and policy. His research focuses on critical global challenges—policy design and innovation, energy transition, climate change governance, and smart city data governance—

aligning closely with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as climate action, affordable clean energy, and sustainable cities.

Professor YARIME currently serves as Director of HKUST's MPhil and PhD Programs in Public Policy, with concurrent appointments as Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo's GraSPP and Honorary Associate Professor at UCL's STEaPP. A scholar with a distinguished interdisciplinary background—holding degrees from the University of Tokyo, California Institute of Technology, and Maastricht University—he has published over 100 papers in top-tier journals including *Energy Economics*, *Sustainability Science*, and *Journal of Cleaner Production*, and contributed to pivotal global initiatives such as the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and UNEP Finance Initiative. He also serves on the editorial boards of leading sustainability journals, driving the field's advancement through academic leadership and cross-regional collaboration.

This ranking marks a significant milestone for HKUST's sustainability and public policy disciplines, validating the university's global excellence in the field and reinforcing Hong Kong's role as a bridge for Asian sustainability research to engage with the global community. HKUST's Division of Public Policy and Division of Environment and Sustainability extend warmest congratulations to Professor YARIME, and look forward to his continued leadership in exploring cutting-edge sustainability issues, fostering international collaboration, and providing actionable insights for global climate governance, energy transition, and smart city development. Congratulations to Professor Masaru YARIME on this well-deserved world-class honor!



Prof. James Ka Lei WONG Receives the Academy of Education Excellence (AEE) Fellowship Award

The Division of Public Policy is proud to announce that Prof. James Ka Lei WONG, Senior Lecturer (Division of Public Policy & Division of Social Science), Associate Dean of Humanities and Social Science, and Assistant Professor of Social Science Education, has been awarded the title of Junior Fellow by the Academy of Education Excellence (AEE).

The AEE, facilitated by the Center for Education Innovation (CEI), recognizes faculty members at HKUST who exhibit a strong commitment to enhancing their teaching skills and contributing to effective teaching practices. Among the awardees is Prof. James Wong, Associate Dean of Humanities and Social Science (Undergraduate Education), Assistant Professor of Social Science Education, and Senior Lecturer in the Divisions of Social Science and Public Policy.

A Fellow of the British Higher Education Academy, Prof. Wong obtained his PhD in Government from the London School of Economics and Political Science and joined HKUST in 2014. He teaches a wide range of politics and public policy courses, and is devoted to inspiring students through rigorous and engaging pedagogy.

His research focuses on democracy, citizen participation, environmental politics, and political philosophy, with publications in leading journals including *Political Studies* and *Philosophy Compass*. Through his dedication to teaching excellence and impactful academic research, Prof. Wong fully embodies the values celebrated by the AEE.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. WONG and look forward to his impactful contributions as he embarks on this exciting journey with the AEE.



Dr. Michael Tyrala Receives the Academy of Education Excellence (AEE) Fellowship Award

The Division of Public Policy is proud to announce that Dr. Michael Tyrala, Lecturer I and an accomplished interdisciplinary social scientist, has been awarded the title of Junior Fellow by the Academy of Education Excellence (AEE).

The AEE, facilitated by the Center for Education Innovation (CEI), recognizes faculty members at HKUST who exhibit a strong commitment to enhancing their teaching skills and contributing to effective teaching practices. As a Junior Fellow, Dr. Tyrala will embark on a three-year fellowship commencing on January 24, 2025, and concluding on January 23, 2028. During this period, he will engage in various initiatives aimed at improving educational practices, including hosting workshops, participating in seminars—building on his expertise in bridging academic research, real-world practice, and student-centered learning.

Dr. Tyrala holds a PhD in Asian and International Studies from City University of Hong Kong, with research interests spanning world-systems analysis, global offshore finance, global tax governance, the political economy of development, and the social psychology of late capitalism. His work intersects historical macrosociology, international relations, public policy, and development studies, with a geographic focus covering Asia, the US, and the EU. Beyond academia, he brings extensive professional experience from the NGO sector, international organizations (including NATO, the EESC, and the OECD's Trade Union Advisory Committee), and HKUST's Institute for Emerging Market Studies—insights he seamlessly integrates into his teaching to enrich student learning.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Tyrala has co-authored books with Routledge and Oxford University Press, and published research in top-tier journals such as *Nature Communications*, *Science Advances*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, and *Globalizations*. This prestigious AEE recognition highlights his dual dedication to professional growth and fostering academic excellence—marrying rigorous research with a commitment to delivering impactful, practice-informed teaching that benefits students and the broader academic community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Tyrala and look forward to his impactful contributions as he embarks on this exciting journey with the AEE, further elevating educational practices within our division and beyond.

