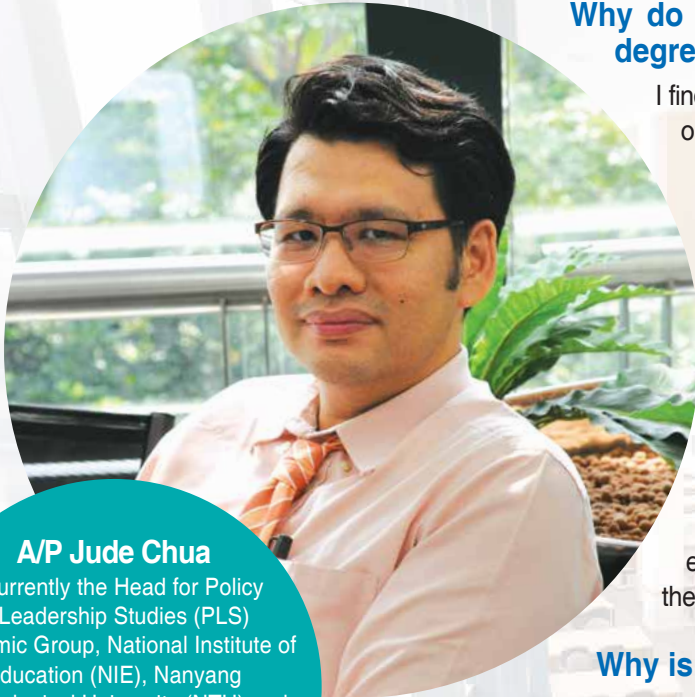


Getting To Know Our Professors

A/P Jude Chua



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is currently the Head for Policy & Leadership Studies (PLS) Academic Group, National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and formerly an Assistant Dean for Higher Degrees by Research at the Office of Graduate Studies & Professional Learning.

Why do you enjoy teaching and mentoring higher degree students?

I find the students at NIE intelligent and critical, and they draw on their professional experience to engage the theoretical works they read. This produces very exciting insights that have great scholarly and also practical value.

What research area(s) are you working on now? How does it impact your work at NIE?

I am revisiting the epistemological foundations of normative principles, which I employ as an evaluative criteria for discerning focal meanings employed critically in educational discourse. Part of this work is multidisciplinary and builds on the work in jurisprudence, ethics, economics, semiotics, media theory and design theory, for instance.

Why is NIE a good place for you to do your work?

Because education is a field where different disciplines fight to have a say about, NIE becomes very special. This is a place where different disciplinary experts come together, irritate each other by defending their paradigms, and then decide to revisit their ideas or press others with compelling reasons to integrate *their* views—in a word – generate innovative viewpoints. I have been able to stretch in new directions in ways I probably might not have if I had not worked here.

What does NIE offer to higher degree students that is unique?

There is a kind of virtuous serious play, I should say, at NIE. On the one hand, as scholars, our students are encouraged to experiment with new ideas and push intellectual frontiers; and to do that, there is some license for abstraction and to risk untested waters. At the same time, the subject matter is recognised as having a real-life implication for a great many people, sometimes children, to whom we have a great responsibility. Virtuously balancing this tension and steering away from vicious extremes is what we seek to communicate to our students.

How would you describe NIE higher degree students?

I would say they are very motivated and produce excellent work and are the very people you should be hiring just like that if you need to recruit someone for your faculty!

What have you learned from your students?

In my students I often revisit my earlier curiosity and that obsession to find that intellectual pearl of great price, for which everything else is (almost) worth sacrificing for. It is a fire that they help me rekindle.