

Calvin K.W. Cheng

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Professional Experience

Oct 2017 – Present

📌 **Research Fellow and Programme Lead**, Economics, Trade, and Regional Integration programme

Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia

(Past positions held: Senior Analyst, Analyst, Researcher)

- **Research focus:** jobs and inclusive growth, social protection, economic development
- **Programme leadership:** Direct the Economics programme at the Institute, setting research direction, leading projects, and outlining strategic priorities to achieve the Institute's objectives of driving economic and social progress in Malaysia
- **Research publications and policy impact:** Authored and published a wide array of influential economic policy research, including policy briefs, technical reports, and research articles
- Influenced policy discussions, outcomes, and implementation through both stakeholder engagement as well as through producing and disseminating evidence-based economic policy research
- My research has been cited by international organizations such as the ILO and the OECD, and has also been directly incorporated and referenced by key Malaysian government policy frameworks
- **Policy advisory and stakeholder engagement:** Develop and maintain stakeholder relationships with federal and state governments, international organisations, civil society groups and academia
- Actively contributed as an expert member of several technical working groups and parliamentary committees within the Malaysian government

Mar 2015 – Oct 2017

📌 **Economics Executive**, Economics Research Department

Public Mutual Berhad, Malaysia



- Conducted monitoring of macroeconomic data and developments in Malaysia and ASEAN
- Conducted economic analysis and produced forecasts of key macroeconomic indicators
- Maintained firm economic databases and statistical models

Jan 2015 – Mar 2015




📌 **Research Intern** Economics and Research Department

RAM Ratings, Malaysia


Education

- 2022 – 2023  **Master of Public Policy (*Distinction*)**
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) - London, UK
- *Labour Economics Thesis*: "The causal effect of retirement on wellbeing in Malaysia: a regression discontinuity approach"
 - *Capstone project*: "Index-linking for social protection in developing countries", in collaboration with the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice
 - *Key modules*: Labour Economics, Advanced Empirical Methods for Policy Analysis, Causal Inference for Experimental and Observational Studies
- 2011 – 2014  **Bachelor of Economics**: double majors in Economics and Econometrics
Monash University Clayton - Melbourne, Australia
- *Key modules*: Advanced Econometrics, Economics of Developing Nations, Applied Econometrics



Skills and Miscellaneous

- Languages  Native writing and speaking competencies in English. Professional working proficiency in Mandarin Chinese, Bahasa Malaysia, and Cantonese
- Analysis  Stata, R, Excel, LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite
- Areas of expertise  Economic and public policy analysis, social protection programme design, government and policy consulting, survey design, data analysis, causal inference

Awards

- 2022  **Chevening Scholarship Award**, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
Awarded full scholarship with stipend to study at the London School of Economics and Political Science



Selected training and courses

- 2019  **Applied General Equilibrium for Policy Analysis**. Awarded by Putra University Malaysia.
-  **Economic Analysis of Microdata**. Awarded by Putra University Malaysia.

Selected publications

For updated list please see www.calvinchengkw.com/publications

Journal articles

- 1 C. Cheng, "The socioeconomic impacts of Covid-19 in Malaysia," *Asia Policy*, vol. 17, pp. 35–44, 1 2022, National Bureau of Asian Research.  DOI: 10.1353/asp.2022.0002.
- 2 C. Cheng and H. Zainul, "Trends in Malaysia's future of work," *Chinese on Journal of China-ASEAN Studies*, vol. 2, pp. 99–117, 18 2021, China Social Sciences Press.  URL: <https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/China-ASEAN-Studies-Volume2-2021.pdf>.

- 3 C. Cheng and J. Mohamad, "Youth unemployment in Malaysia and the region," *Japan SPOTLIGHT*, vol. 1, pp. 49–53, 229 2020, Japan Economic Foundation. [🔗 URL: https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/229th_Special_Article.pdf.](https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/229th_Special_Article.pdf)

Technical reports and papers

- 1 C. Cheng and J. Mohamad, "Strengthening digital trade and digitalisation in malaysia: Challenges and pathways towards a resilient digital economy post-covid-19," Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, *Technical report in collaboration with Google LLC*. [🔗 URL: https://www.isis.org.my/2022/02/24/strengthening-digital-trade-and-digitalisation-in-malaysia-2/.](https://www.isis.org.my/2022/02/24/strengthening-digital-trade-and-digitalisation-in-malaysia-2/)
- 2 C. Cheng, F. Rosli, and D. M. Kartika, "The US-China Trade War: Is Malaysia benefiting from "diversions" in US import demand?" Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, Technical Policy Paper Issue 2-19. [🔗 URL: https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/POLICY-BRIEF_REV01.pdf.](https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/POLICY-BRIEF_REV01.pdf)
- 3 C. Cheng, "Pushed to the margins: The unequal impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on marginalised Malaysian workers," Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, *ISIS Malaysia Policy Brief 7-20*, 2020. [🔗 URL: https://www.isis.org.my/2020/11/30/pushed-to-the-margins-the-unequal-impacts-of-the-covid-19-crisis-on-marginalised-malaysian-workers/.](https://www.isis.org.my/2020/11/30/pushed-to-the-margins-the-unequal-impacts-of-the-covid-19-crisis-on-marginalised-malaysian-workers/)

Books and chapters

- 1 C. Cheng, "Post-Covid-19 recovery and quest for 'good jobs'," in *Where Do We Go Work-wise: Malaysia's Labour Landscape*. Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: TalentCorp, 2023, pp. 31–51.
- 2 C. Cheng, "The impact of the pandemic on the future of Malaysia's jobs," in *Crisis and Community*, B. Welsh, Ed. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Strategic Information and Research Development Centre, 2023, In press.
- 3 C. Cheng, "Crisis of inequality: Covid-19's long-lasting impacts," in *Pandemic Papers: Lessons from Covid-19*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, 2022, pp. 6–17.

Conference materials and misc

- 1 C. Cheng. "Pandemic economics: the Malaysian economy and economic responses to Covid-19." (Mar. 2021), [🔗 URL: https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SIRIM-presentation.pdf.](https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SIRIM-presentation.pdf)
- 2 C. Cheng. "Policies for the future of Malaysia's youth." (Jun. 2021), [🔗 URL: https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Policies-for-the-future-of-Malaysias-youth-Calvin-Cheng.pdf.](https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Policies-for-the-future-of-Malaysias-youth-Calvin-Cheng.pdf)
- 3 C. Cheng. "Bantuan Sara Hidup: Programme design considerations for cash transfer programming in Malaysia." (Aug. 2019), [🔗 URL: https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Policies-for-the-future-of-Malaysias-youth-Calvin-Cheng.pdf.](https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Policies-for-the-future-of-Malaysias-youth-Calvin-Cheng.pdf)