THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Research Output Prize
for the Dean's Research Fund 2021/22

Brief Introduction of Awardee's
Research Output/Publication and Future Research Development

Awardee (Dept):	Dr Wong Yee Hang Mathew, Assistant Professor (SSC)
Publication/Research Output Title/project:	Democracy and Inequality: New Perspectives

A. Briefly introduce your research output/publication for which you have received the prize.

This project revisits the age-old question on the relationship between democracy and income inequality. The project (consisting of two standalone journal articles) provides novel perspectives towards answering the question. Scholars have long debated why democracies, against theoretical expectations, do not demonstrate a strong and clear effect on reducing income inequality (given the expectation of majority rule and redistribution). This research highlights two possibilities that have thus far been largely overlooked: (1) the different conceptualizations and dimensions of democracy might produce divergent effects; and (2) the people's understanding of democracy would determine how a regime would react to inequality. Taken as a whole, this project contributes to the literature by providing new perspectives towards our understanding of the democracy-inequality nexus.

B. How you used/will use your prize and perhaps its usefulness to your research development?

The prize is used to cover the costs of hiring research assistant(s). The research assistant will be responsible for expanding on the research, such as to identify suitable datasets to use, as well as to perform data aggregating, cleaning, and basic analysis.

C. Expected research outcomes/outputs/impacts arising from this prize.

The prize would support the continued efforts in expanding research in this area. This is expected to lead to further publication in refereed journals. Applications to external grants (eg. GRF) will also be made in the coming years.