

Dr Ying Shan LAU

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Education

- PhD (Geography), National University of Singapore
 - MSc Nature, Environment and Environmental Policy, University of Oxford
 - Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Australian National University
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Professional Experience (most recent to oldest)

2023 - PRESENT

Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

- Conducting research on the Climate Governance of Nature-based Carbon Sinks in Southeast Asia (www.cgsea.org), with a focus on terrestrial forests

2014 - 2017

Senior Manager (Sustainability Office), PUB

- Secured funding for the Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) Programme
- Worked with agencies to plan more ABC Waters projects

2014 - 2014

Engineer (Catchment & Waterways Department), PUB

- Assisted with the masterplanning of Singapore's drainage system

2012 - 2014

Manager (Research), Centre for Liveable Cities

- Collaborated with Shell on research about the future of energy
- Conducted historical research on Singapore's environmental public health
- Organised training for Southeast Asian government staff with The World Bank

2010 - 2012

Community Relations Officer (3P Network Department), PUB

- Organised World Water Day events with community partners
- Worked with grassroots organisations to inculcate ownership of water resources

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

- forest governance
- traditional ecological knowledge
- water and agriculture
- sustainable rural development
- Southeast Asia

Short Biography

Yingshan is a Research Fellow in the project 'Climate Governance of Nature-based Carbon Sinks in Southeast Asia' (CGSEA), focusing on forests. As a geographer and socio-hydrologist curious about nature-society interactions, her interests encompass traditional ecological knowledge, forests, water, agriculture and sustainable rural development in Southeast Asia.

Her PhD adopted participatory action research to understand environmentally-beneficial traditional/local practices in the Kuang Si Waterfall's watershed area, in Louangphabang, Laos.

Previously, Yingshan worked for PUB, Singapore's national water agency, where her the portfolios included masterplanning for the Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters Programme, community relations, and a secondment to the Centre for Liveable Cities.

Publications

Book

- Lau, Y.S. and Lau, J. (2016) Urban Systems Studies – Cleaning A Nation: Cultivating a Healthy Living Environment, Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore [available for download at: <https://www.clc.gov.sg/research-publications/publications/urban-systems-studies/view/cleaning-a-nation-cultivating-a-healthy-living-environment>]

Refereed Article

- Zhou, Y., Lau, Y., Tan, Z.D. *et al.* (2025) Transparency, robustness, and consistency in aboveground forest carbon quantification methodologies used for tropical forest carbon projects: a review in Southeast Asia. *Carbon Balance and Management*, 20: 60. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13021-025-00352-x>
- Lau, Y., Kenney-Lazar, M., et al (2025) Challenges in forest carbon governance: insights from Southeast Asia. *WIREs Climate Change*, 16(5): e70018.
- Dang, T.K., Le, H.G., Tran, T.L., Lau, Y. (2025) Seeking carbon justice through grassroots-led forest carbon measurement: learning-by-doing in Vietnam's HEPA farmers field school. *Local Environment*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2025.2483231>
- Lau, Y. and Quevedo, J.M. (2024) The prospects of participatory research in improving climate literacy: Insights and experiences with Indigenous People and Local Communities. *Environmental Justice*, <https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2024.0031>

- Lau, Y. and Daovongdeuan, S. (2024) Irrigating the uplands: A case study analysis to understand the potential and challenges in norther Laos. ACS EST Water, 4(8): 3254–3264, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsestwater.4c00151>
- Lau, Y. (2021) Protecting the mountainous catchment area of the Kuang Si Waterfall, Lao PDR. Asia Pacific Viewpoint, <https://doi.org/10.1111/apv.12316>.
- Lau, Y. and Daovongdeuan, S. (2021) The impact of the 2019 El Nino on soil moisture in Nong Khuay village, Xieng Nguen district, Luangprabang province: Effects of ground cover. Souphanouong University Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development, 7(2): 229-238.

Book Chapter

- Lau, Y.S. and Wong, M. (2014) Water and Cities: The Singapore Story in Shi, N. (ed.) ISOCARP Review 10: Water and Cities – Managing a Vital Relationship, International Society of City and Regional Planners (pp 242-259)

Op-Eds

- Chan, S., Lau, Y., Chng, S. (2025) Commentary: Taking your kids outdoors doesn't always have to be a grand adventure. Channel News Asia, <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/earth-day-kids-screen-time-nature-outdoor-activity-5078336>
- Lau, Y., Ren, Y., Hum, W.M., Wijedesa, L. & Ingalls, M. (2024) Nature-based carbon credits: Where intergenerational justice meets second-order climate justice. ARI Scope, Asia Research Institute. [available at: <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/ariscopes/nature-based-carbon-credits-in-southeast-asia-where-intergenerational-justice-meets-second-order-climate-justice/>]
- Lau, Y. and Soukhy, P. (2023) Waste Management and Rural Tourism at Thapene Village and the Kuang Si Waterfall in Laos. ARI Scope, Asia Research Institute. [available at: <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/ariscopes/waste-management-and-rural-tourism-at-thapene-village-and-the-kuang-si-waterfall-park-in-laos/>]
- Lau, Y.S. (2014) Water: A Vital Ingredient in Liveable Cities in February 2014 issue of Urban Solutions, Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore [available at: <http://www.clc.gov.sg/Publications/urban-solutions-issue-4-social-equity.htm>]

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

- Lee Kong Chian Graduate Fellowship 2017-2021
- Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Professional Fellow 2020
- National Geographic Explorer 2019