



**CITATION FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PAULIN TAY STRAUGHAN**

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD**

Associate Professor Paulin Tay Straughan is a recognised leader in the fields of family and medical sociology and social research methodologies. Her expert views are often sought after on social issues. But Paulin remains at heart a teacher. Her students — proactive learners, critical thinkers, and activist change-makers — are her legacy, and are her greatest pride, joy and motivation.

As a teacher, Paulin believes that if students are given the right academic framework, learning environment, with proper encouragement, they will rise to the challenge to learn independently, work collaboratively and think analytically.

Paulin is a skilful teacher, equally adept across a range of modules with different class size, genre and format. Her amiable and cheerful disposition is particularly persuasive and effective. Paulin's students appreciate how she elucidates sociological concepts and demonstrates the relevance of these concepts by drawing inferences from current affairs and everyday life. But more importantly, students become deeply curious, and are inspired to develop independent thinking and a passion for learning.

Beyond the classroom, Paulin has been instrumental in implementing several innovative educational programmes at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She conceived and developed the Freshman Seminars, where first year students get to experience interactive, student-centred teaching in small groups that seeks to hone critical thinking skills. Paulin saw through the establishment of a new major in Global Studies, adding yet another academic pathway for FASS undergraduates who have a keen interest in issues of global significance. Paulin also oversees FASSTrack Asia – a unique Summer School programme offered by FASS where students take courses that are focused on Asia and they are often coupled with field trips for a comprehensive learning experience and in-depth cultural immersion.

Outside campus, Paulin actively conducts training courses on data analysis and research skills for many Voluntary Work Organisations.

Ultimately, Paulin sees her students as more than learners. She is selflessly committed to their welfare and emotional development and sees them as having the critical potential to be ‘thinking and feeling’ leaders of society.

For inculcating the spirit of critical learning and a desire for positive social change, and for her tireless commitment to her students, Paulin is most deserving of the NUS Outstanding Educator Award. My heartiest and sincere congratulations to Associate Professor Paulin Tay Straughan.