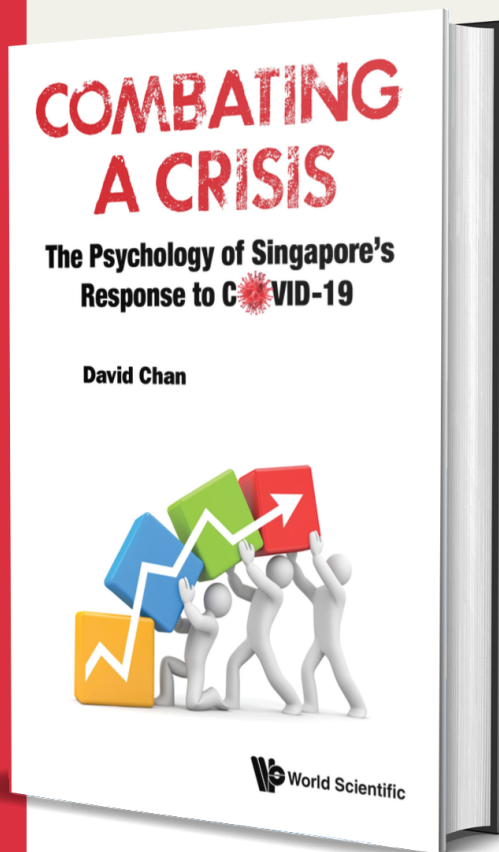


COMBATING A CRISIS

The Psychology of Singapore's Response to COVID-19

by: **David Chan** (Singapore Management University, Singapore)



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information on the book:

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The COVID-19 pandemic has caused, and will continue to cause, great disruptions to lives, livelihoods, ways of life, and quality of life. We will need to learn to live with the coronavirus for a long time, even as we combat the coronavirus crisis collectively and fight our own daily battles individually. This book examines Singapore's reaction and response to the coronavirus and draws lessons for crisis management, psychological preparedness, and adaptability.

Consisting of 12 chapters, the book is organized into three parts. Part 1 elaborates on the context of the coronavirus crisis and discusses human reactions to the outbreak and the key adaptation challenges that people faced. Part 2 discusses Singapore's leadership and public responses, focusing on negative emotions, social responsibility, adoption of new technology for contact tracing, and the handling of the outbreak among migrant workers at the dormitories. Part 3 addresses issues of psychological preparedness amid the evolving COVID-19 situation, in terms of adapting to post-pandemic realities, enabling positive attitudes and experiences, building psychological capital, and learning to work together to emerge stronger and better from the coronavirus crisis.

Readership: Readers interested in understanding more about Singapore's response to COVID-19 and knowing more about the psychology of responding to global health crises.

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Professor David Chan received his PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Michigan State University. He is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Behavioural Sciences Institute at the Singapore Management University (SMU). He is a recipient of the Lee Kuan Yew Fellowship Award for Research Excellence. He was formerly Adjunct Principal Scientist at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Co-Director of the Centre for Technology and Social-Behavioural Insights jointly established by A*STAR and SMU. He was also formerly Deputy Provost of SMU, Deputy Director of Wharton-SMU Research Centre, and the founding Interim Dean of the SMU School of Social Sciences.

Professor Chan's research includes areas in longitudinal modeling, personnel selection, adaptation to changes at work, and subjective well-being. His works have been published in top psychology, management, and methods journals such as *Annual Review of Organizational Psychology and Organizational Behavior*, *Applied Psychological Measurement*, *Cognition*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Human Performance*, *International Review of Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, *Organizational Research Methods*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Personnel Psychology*, and *Professional Psychology*. He has authored or edited 13 books published by Routledge, Sage, and World Scientific in various areas of social and behavioural sciences as well as on social, political and psychological issues in Singapore.

In 2000, Professor Chan was ranked 9th world-wide in the Top 100 most published researchers of the 1990's in the top journals of Industrial and Organizational Psychology. His works have been cited over 10,000 times in various disciplines. He has received numerous international scholarly awards including the Dissertation Research Award from the American Psychological Association and the Scientist-Practitioner Presidential Recognition Award, the Distinguished Early Career Contributions Award, the Edwin Ghiselli Award for Innovative Research Design, and the William Owen Scholarly Achievement Award and from the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

He has served as Senior Editor of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, Advisory Editor for *Oxford Bibliographies (Management)* published by the Oxford University Press, member on editorial boards of several journals and reviewer for several grant agencies in United States, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Professor Chan is consultant to numerous public and private sector organizations in Singapore; a member of the Social Science Research Council, the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), the Diabetes Prevention and Care Taskforce, the Singapore-Japan Joint Committee on Science and Technology, and the International Panel of Experts and Research and Development Advisory Panel for the Urban Redevelopment Authority; a director on the Board of the NParks and the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre; and Chairman of the International Advisory Panel to the NCPG. He has also previously served as a member of Public Hygiene Council, the International Advisory Panel for the SkillsFuture Singapore and the Workforce Singapore, the Governing Board for the Workplace Safety and Health Institute, the Research Advisory Panel for the National Population and Talent Division, and a director on the Board of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority and the Board of the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises.

He is a recipient of the Long Service Volunteer Award and the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Ministry of Social and Family Development, the Long Service Volunteer Award and the Special Recognition Honour by the Ministry of Home Affairs for outstanding contributions to the Home Team in the field of psychology, the Medallion Award for Distinguished Service from the Ministry of National Development, and the Public Administration Medal (Silver) which is a National Day Award presented by the President of the Republic of Singapore.

Professor Chan writes op-ed articles in *The Straits Times'* By Invitation Series, which is a regular newspaper column on social issues. He appears regularly on Channel NewsAsia current affairs television programmes and he is the consultant to the Channel NewsAsia's "Social Experiment", which is a 5-part programme series that examines human behaviours and social phenomena using scientific experiments, as well as "Days of Disasters", which is an award-winning 5-part documentary series that examines the lessons learned from previous disasters in Singapore.

Together with Nobel Laureate in Economics Professor Daniel Kahneman and Professor Ed Diener, Professor Chan served on an international committee that submitted to the United Nations a report on measures of national well-being across countries, which was subsequently incorporated in a report published by the United Nations. He is the first scientist in the world to be conferred the Elected Fellow status from all the following six international psychological organizations: the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, the International Association of Applied Psychology, the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, the Society for Personality and Social Psychology and the American Psychological Association's Division for Personality and Social Psychology.