

ALVIN JUNUS

ORCID: 0000-0002-8819-0472

E: ajunus@hku.hk

T: (+852) 64094719

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Population mental health; youth mental health; suicide prevention; social psychiatry; psychiatric epidemiology; network science; complexity science; complex contagion

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Research Assistant Professor**, Department of Social Work and Social Administration & HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention (HKJC CSRP), **The University of Hong Kong (HKU)** 2025 - present
- **Postdoctoral Fellow**, HKJC CSRP, **HKU** 2025
- **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Centre for Urban Mental Health & Department of Psychiatry, Amsterdam UMC location AMC, **University of Amsterdam (UvA)** 2023 - 2024

EDUCATION

- **PhD**, Social Work and Social Administration, **HKU** 2023
Thesis: *Network Perspectives in Population Mental Health: Understanding Suicidality and Help-seeking as Complex Phenomena*
- **MPhil**, Electronic Engineering, **The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)** 2016
- **BEng** (First Class Honors), Electronic Engineering, **HKUST** 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. **Junus, A.**, Ye, X., Caine, E. D., & Yip, P. S. F. (2026). Interpersonal factors differentiating current states of suicidal ideation among young Internet gamers with past suicidal ideation. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 393, 120300.
2. van der Spek, N.#, **Junus, A.#**, van Ballegooijen, W., Starreveld, J., Wiers, R. W., & Bockting, C. (2025). Mental health symptom profiles and temporal trends in Dutch young people's social and emotional wellbeing and suicidality, 2017–2023. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 390, 119844.
3. **Junus, A.**, & Yip, P. S. F. (2024). Evaluating potential effects of distress symptoms' interventions on suicidality: Analyses of in silico scenarios. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 347, 352-363.
4. S. Li, **Junus, A.**, & Yip, P. S. F. (2024). Unveiling the impacts of exposure and social proximity to suicidality on help-seeking behavior among the young generation. *SSM – Mental Health*, 100357.
5. Fong, T. C. T., Lu, S., Ye, X., **Junus, A.**, & Yip, P. S. F. (2024). Validation of the 12-item Gamification User Types Hexad Scale in 1,610 Hong Kong young gamers. *International*

Journal of Mental Health and Addiction, in press. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-024-01367-0>.

6. Fong, T. C. T., **Junus, A.**, Wen, M., & Yip, P. S. F. (2024). Comorbidity among symptoms of internet gaming disorder, social withdrawal, and depression in 3,430 young people in Hong Kong: A network analysis. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 359, 319-326.
7. **Junus, A.**, & Yip, P. S. F. (2023). Preventing comorbidity between distress and suicidality: a network analysis. *npj Mental Health Research*, 2(2), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44184-023-00022-1>.
8. Lee, J. & **Junus, A.** (2023). Differences and similarities in youth social-emotional competence measurement between North American and East Asian countries: Exploratory graph analysis using the OECD Survey on Social and Emotional Skills data. *Child Indicators Research*, 17(1), 57-79.
9. Hsu, Y. C., **Junus, A.**, Zhang, Q., Wong, C., Lam, T. M., Cheung, F., Liu, J., Lui, I. D., & Yip, P. S. F. (2023). A network approach to understand co-occurrence and relative importance of different reasons for suicide: A territory-wide study using 2002-2019 Hong Kong Coroner's Court reports. *The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific*, 36 (100752).
10. **Junus, A.**, Hsu, Y. C., Wong, C., & Yip, P. S. F. (2023). Is Internet Gaming Disorder linked to increased risk of suicidal behaviors among the younger generation? *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 161, 2-9.
11. **Junus, A.**, Kwan, C., Wong, C., Chen, Z., & Yip, P. S. F. (2023). Shifts in patterns of help-seeking during the COVID-19 pandemic: The case of Hong Kong's younger generation. *Social Science & Medicine*, 318, 115648.
12. Xiao, Y., **Junus, A.**, Li, T., & Yip, P. S. F. (2023). Temporal and spatial trends in suicide-related visits before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, 2018-2021. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 324, 24-35.
13. Cai, Z., **Junus, A.**, Chang, Q., & Yip, P. S. (2022). The lethality of suicide methods: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 300, 121-129.
14. **Junus, A.**, & Yip, P. S. F. (2022). Suicide risk profile and the social convoy: Population-level patterns of the young generation's help-seeking behavior and implications for suicide prevention. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 297, 559-569.
15. Hossain, M. P., **Junus, A.**, Zhu, X., Jia, P., Wen, T. H., Pfeiffer, D., & Yuan, H. Y. (2020). The effects of border control and quarantine measures on the spread of COVID-19. *Epidemics*, 32, 100397.
16. Cheung, M., She, J., **Junus, A.**, & Cao, L. (2016). Prediction of virality timing using cascades in social media. *ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications (TOMM)*, 13(1), 1-23.

Conferences

1. **Junus, A.**, Ye, X., Bai, Y., Caine, E. D., & Yip, P. S. F. (2025, June). Interpersonal factors differentiating current states of suicidal ideation among young Internet gamers with past suicidal ideation. In 33rd IASP World Congress 2025.
2. **Junus, A.** & Yip, P. S. F. (2024, August). Unpacking the link between Internet Gaming Disorder and suicidality in young people: a network analysis. In 20th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (ESSSB20).
3. **Junus, A.**, Kirkley, A., & Yip, P. S. F. (2024, June). Inference and influence of macro-micro social forces shaping the younger generation's help-seeking. In *NetSci 2024*.
4. **Junus, A.**, Kusters, M., Segeren, M., Bockting, C., & Wiers, R. (2024, March). Interrelations between forms of care and facets of recovery in people with serious mental illnesses. In *International Conference on Urban Mental Health 2024*.

5. Lee, J. & **Junus, A** (2024, January). Similarities and differences in the measurement of youth social-emotional competence across Eastern and Western countries. In *SSWR 2024 Annual Conference*.
6. **Junus, A.**, & Yip, P. S. F. (2022, July). Preventing comorbidity of distress and suicidality: A network analysis. In *NetSci 2022*.
7. Lam, R. C. Y., **Junus, A.**, Mak, J. Y. W., Lam, L. C. H., & Lee, P. K. K. (2018, July). Blockchain for civil engineering practices in smart cities. In *2018 IEEE International Conference on Internet of Things (iThings) and IEEE Green Computing and Communications (GreenCom) and IEEE Cyber, Physical and Social Computing (CPSCom) and IEEE Smart Data (SmartData)* (pp. 1294-1300). IEEE.
8. Lam, R. C. Y., **Junus, A.**, Cheng, W. M. Y., Li, X., & Lam, L. C. H. (2017, December). IoT application in construction and civil engineering works. In *2017 International Conference on Computational Science and Computational Intelligence (CSCI)* (pp. 1320-1325). IEEE.
9. **Junus, A.**, Ming, C., She, J., & Jie, Z. (2015, March). Community-aware prediction of virality timing using big data of social cascades. In *2015 IEEE First International Conference on Big Data Computing Service and Applications* (pp. 487-492). IEEE.

Selected Working Papers

1. **Junus, A.**, Goudsmidt, M., van Campen, J., Hedin, J., Bockting, C., van Weert, J. C. M., Krugers, H., Waldorp, L. J., & Wiers, R. W. Unique possible pathways to dementia in native and migrant older adults: A causal psychometric network analysis. Manuscript under review.
2. **Junus, A.**[#], van der Spek, N.[#], van Ballegooijen, W., Starreveld, J., de Beurs, D., Wiers, R., & Bockting, C. Dynamics of precipitating factors for young people's suicidality in pre- and post-pandemic societal contexts: Clustered psychometric network analyses. Manuscript to be submitted.
3. **Junus, A.** & Yip, P. S. F. Inference and influence of social forces shaping the younger generation's help-seeking tendency. Manuscript under review.
4. **Junus, A.**, Hsu, Y. C., Yip, L., Chan, C. S., & Yip, P. S. F. The younger generation's preferences and underlying reasons for AI functionalities in counselling. Manuscript to be submitted.

indicates co-first authorship.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

HKU

- Guest Lecturer, *Social Work and Applied Social Science Research Methods: Theory and Applications* (for Research Postgraduate students) 2022, 2025
- Teaching Assistant, *Social Work Research* (for Taught Postgraduate students) 2022
- Teaching Assistant, *Social Divisions in Contemporary Societies* (for Undergraduate students) 2022

HKUST

- Teaching Assistant, *Media Production: Technology and Design* (for Undergraduate students) 2014
- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Electro-Robot Design* (for Undergraduate students) 2013-2014

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Software Engineer, *LR Construction Technologies Ltd., Hong Kong* 2016-2019

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- **Editorial board member**, *BMC Psychology* 2025 - present
- **Peer reviewer** for >25 journals in population mental health and suicide prevention, including *The Lancet Psychiatry*, *npj Digital Medicine*, *Computers in Human Behavior*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences*, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.
- **Grant reviewer** for *NWO (Dutch Research Council) Open Competition Domain Science – XS grants package 24-2 (2024)*.
- **Invited speaker**
 - *Preferences for AI functionalities in emotional counselling among youth and young adults*. Invited talk at HKU Research Hub of Population Studies Symposium on Public Health in a Ubiquitous Media Environment: Big Data and Innovative Methods, October 2025.
 - *A primer on network analysis & its applications in suicide research*. Invited talk at the Life-course Suicide Epidemiology Research Lab, Douglas Hospital Research Centre, McGill University, July 2024.
 - *Evaluating potential effects of interventions in a comorbid symptom network: In silico scenarios for distress symptoms' intervention and suicidality*. Invited talk at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, HKU, December 2023.
 - *Network analysis in suicide research: Why, how, and what next*. Invited talk at Guangzhou Medical University, May 2023.
- **Scientific Committee member**
 - *International Conference on Urban Mental Health 2024*, in collaboration with EACLIPIT, March 2024.

SERVICE TO SOCIETY

- **Mentor**, *Indonesia Mengglobal Mentorship Program* 2023-2025
One-on-one intensive mentoring to help aspiring young Indonesian mentees pursue research-focused further studies abroad. Mentees have secured Dphil / PhD admissions at Universities of Oxford, Fribourg.
- **Mentor**, *Indonesian Students Association at Netherlands Academic Coaching Program* 2024

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Summer *Institute of Computational Social Science (SICSS) – Hong Kong* 2021
- Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, *HKU* 2020
- Research Assistantship, *Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, City University of Hong Kong* 2019-2020
- Summer Internship, *Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research* 2013

Institute

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, *Network Science Society* 2021-present
- Member, *International Network for Social Network Analysis* 2021
- Student member, *IEEE* 2015-2016

HONORS & AWARDS

- Outstanding Presenter Award, 22nd Annual Research Postgraduate Conference, Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU 2022
- Simatelex Charitable Foundation Scholarship (HKD 20,000 every year) 2011-2013
- Dean's List (every semester; awarded to top 7-9% students each semester) 2010-2012
- Robin Y H Chan Scholarship for International Students, School of Engineering Scholarship, ECE Department Scholarship (HKD 120,000; highest entrance scholarship for new students) 2010
- Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award – Highest mark for IGCSE A-Level Computing in Indonesia 2010

OTHER SKILLS

Programming: R, Matlab, C, SQL, Latex, Python

Languages: Indonesian (native); English (bilingual); Mandarin (intermediate); Cantonese (basic); Dutch (basic)