

Dr Kathy K. LENG
Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Physics
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Biography

Dr Kathy K. LENG is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor and Presidential Young Scholar at The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong (PolyU). Her research focuses on hybrid organic-inorganic materials that can be made as thin as graphene and she is enthusiastic about the promise such materials show in smart devices and spintronics. Her recent accolades include the TR35 Award for Asia Pacific in 2023 from MIT Technology Review, the Excellent Young Scientist Fund 2023 (Hong Kong and Macau) from the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the PolyU Young Innovative Researcher Award for 2023. She was the recipient of an Early Career Award from the University Grants Committee of Hong Kong in 2022. She obtained her PhD degree in physical chemistry from the National University of Singapore in 2018. In the same year, she won a Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Student Abroad, followed by a Professor Lee Soo Ying Early Career Gold Award from the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry in 2020. She pursued her postdoctoral studies at the University of Cambridge before joining PolyU in 2020. Her current research is being supported by the Croucher Tak Wah Mak Innovation Award.



Research Areas

2D materials and nano-device applications
Molecularly thin 2D hybrid perovskites from physics to engineering devices
2D heterostructure studies (Molecularly thin 2D perovskite / TMDs / Graphene)
Strain induced phenomena in soft molecularly thin perovskites and other 2D materials
Spintronics and Multiferroicity in 2D hybrid perovskites

Awards and Honours

2023 Croucher Tak Wah Mak Innovation Award
2023 MIT Technology Review “Innovators Under 35” in the Asia Pacific region
2023 The National Natural Science Foundation of China’s Excellent Young Scientists Fund (Hong Kong and Macau)
2023 PolyU Young Innovative Researcher Award
2022 RGC Early Career Scheme Award
2022 Singapore National Institute of Chemistry Prof Lee Soo Ying Early Career Gold Award
2018 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Student Abroad