



ARI's logo depicts rice grains in star-like formation. Rice has been the main staple food for many of Asia's peoples since the 15th century. It forms the basis of communal bonds, an element of ritual in many Asian societies, and a common cultural thread across nations and societies. Rice cultivation, as one of the major agricultural activities in Asia, has implications for population, sustainability and ecology. In symbolic as well as material ways, rice touches upon many of the key socio-economic and cultural issues in Asia, and is fitting emblem of the Asia Research Institute.



1.0

VISION

To be a world-leading hub for
research on Asia

MISSION

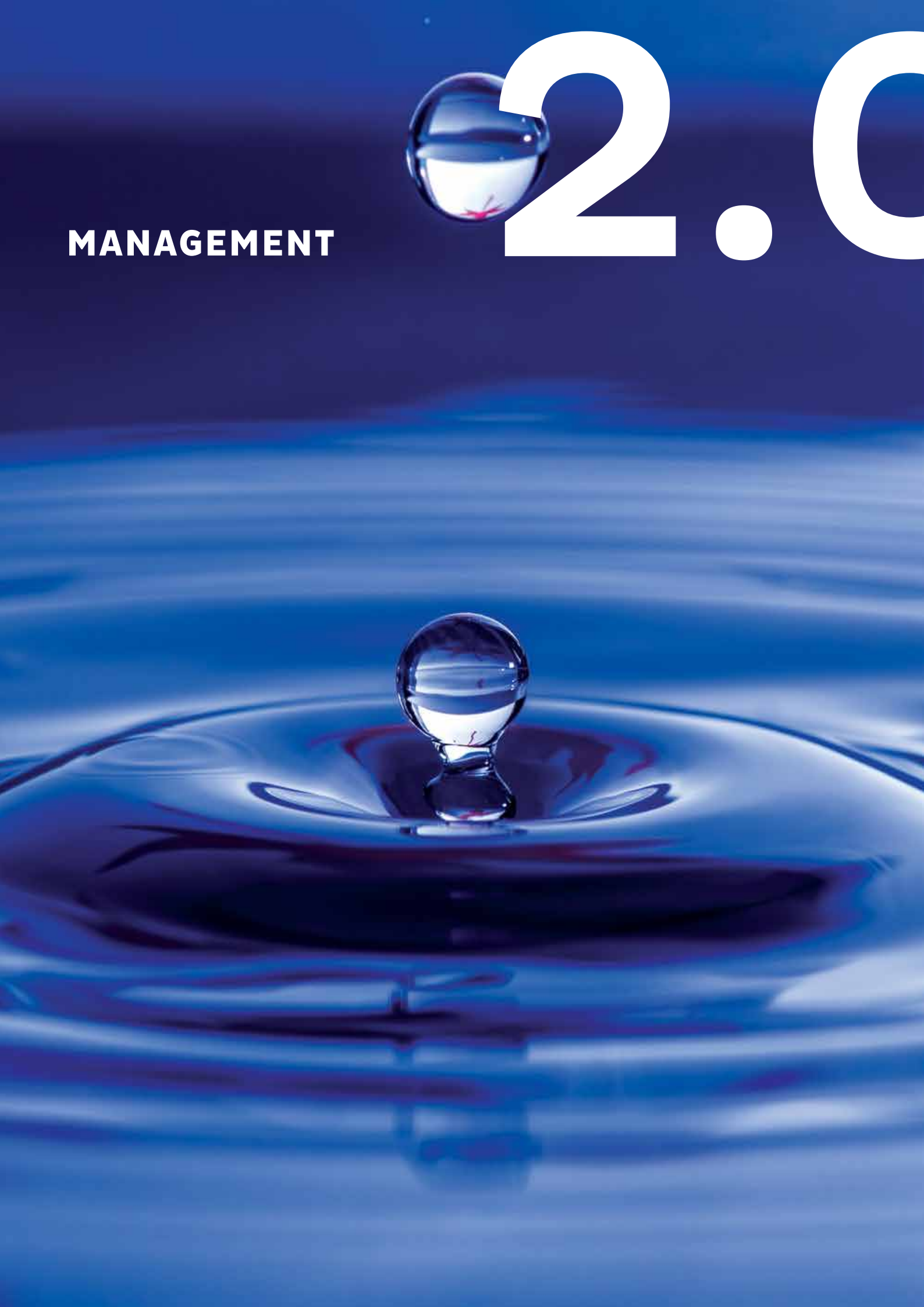
Inspiring new knowledge and
transforming insights into Asia

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MANAGEMENT

2.0



Message from Chair of International Advisory Board

Professor Tommy Koh
Chairman
International Advisory Board



This year, ARI has built upon its unique position as a leading centre in the world of scholarship on Asia, located in one of the top universities in Asia and the world. Positioned to attract renowned international scholars and drawing upon talent across various faculties at the National University of Singapore, ARI has forged a strong partnership that enables a focus on developing a new generation of young scholars eager to collaborate and push boundaries on cutting edge research on Asia.

The seven research clusters, led by distinguished Research Leaders and their team of research fellows and postdoctoral fellows in the fields of Asian Migration, Asian Urbanisms, Cultural Studies, Religion and Globalisation, Science, Technology and Society, Asian Connections and Changing Family in Asia, continue to put ARI in the spotlight with numerous awards, key publications, and international collaborative events.

Recognised for its dedication towards a mission of inspiring new knowledge and transformative insights into Asia, the Institute was awarded a three-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to continue and expand its distinguished Asian Graduate Student Fellowship and

Forum (AGSF) programme. The AGSF was initiated in 2003 and has sponsored more than 300 graduate students from across the region to interact with NUS academics, have access to a wide range of library resources and sharpen their research findings through these critical interactions. The success of this programme is seen in the number of past AGSF students that have returned to NUS to join the PhD programme or have secured highly competitive scholarships for coursework in prestigious universities such as Harvard. More importantly, the students from this programme have formed an ARI AGSF alumni network with various participating universities in the region, allowing for the creation of new exciting synergies.

I congratulate the out-going Director, Professor Prasenjit Duara and all members of the Asia Research Institute for another successful year in 2015. I am very pleased that ARI's new director, Professor Jonathan Rigg is a world class geographer who will lead ARI to ascend higher peaks. I look forward to more exciting events and an even higher level of achievement for the coming year.

International Advisory Board

CHAIRMAN

Prof Tommy Koh

Rector, Tembusu College
Chairman, Centre for International Law,
National University of Singapore
and Ambassador-at-Large,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore

EX OFFICIO

Prof Prasenjit Duara (Till 31 Dec 2015)

Director, Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore

Prof Jonathan Rigg (From 1 Jan 2016)

Director, Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore

BOARD MEMBERS

Prof Tani Barlow

Director, Chao Centre for Asian Studies
Rice University, USA

Prof Craig Calhoun

Director, The London School of Economics
and Political Science, UK

Prof Srirupa Roy

Professor and Chair of State and Democracy and Director,
Centre for Modern Indian Studies
University of Göttingen, Germany

Prof James Scott

Sterling Professor of Political Science and Anthropology,
and Director, Agrarian Studies
Yale University, USA

Prof Takashi Shiraishi

Professor, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University, Japan

Message from Chair of Management Board

Professor Chong Chi Tat
Chairman
Board of Management



In 2015 ARI continued another year of impressive achievements. For this excellent work, the Management Board thanks Professor Prasenjit Duara, Raffles Professor of Humanities and Director since 2011, and his research team in ARI. Professor Duara, who stepped down at the end of 2015, had led the Institute with his forward looking vision and thought leadership. We are pleased to welcome Professor Jonathan Rigg, Raffles Professor of Social Science, to ARI as the new Director from January 2016. Professor Rigg is a renowned scholar in human geography and his appointment offers the prospect of further growth and accomplishments for the Institute in the coming years.

The seven thematic Research Clusters have delivered outstanding results. The Board is pleased to see the Asian Migration Cluster continue to engage the public and policymakers in debates about labour migration. It is also pleased that the Asian Urbanisms Cluster collaborates with the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Duke University, and the Kota Kita Foundation on community participation in special projects on water provision and distribution. The Changing Family Cluster

has been active in engaging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in topics related to caring for the elderly, migration and marriage. The Religion and Globalisation Cluster was awarded a research grant by the Henry Luce Foundation to explore the working of religious NGOs in Asia within policy and regulatory frameworks.

The Science, Technology and Society Cluster's collaboration with D. Kim Foundation led to a workshop on the modern history of science and technology in East Asia hosted in Singapore. The Cultural Studies Cluster expanded its research focus on the social media revolution and cyber cultures.

These and other activities described elsewhere in this annual report show ARI has had a busy and fruitful year. The Institute is now firmly established as a leading research institute that integrates diverse ideas of area studies on Asia. Congratulations to ARI and the Board looks forward to its further development under Prof Rigg's leadership.

Management Board

CHAIRMAN

Prof Chong Chi Tat

Director, Institute of Mathematical Sciences
National University of Singapore

EX OFFICIO

Prof Prasenjit Duara (Till 31 Dec 2015)

Director, Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore

Prof Jonathan Rigg (From 1 Jan 2016)

Director, Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore

BOARD MEMBERS

Prof Neil Coe

Head, Department of Geography
National University of Singapore

Prof Deng Yongheng

Head, Department of Real Estate
National University of Singapore

Prof Andrew Harding

Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies
National University of Singapore

Prof Tan Tai Yong

Executive Vice President (Academic Affairs)
Yale-NUS College

Prof Wang Gungwu

Chairman, East Asian Institute
National University of Singapore

Dr Wang Hui

Director, Division of Research Administration
Office of the Deputy President (Research and Technology)
National University of Singapore

Director's Foreword

PROFESSOR PRASENJIT DUARA

Director
Asia Research Institute (2011-2015)



After a record year for grants and research awards in 2014, 2015 was focused on getting the research done in all of the clusters. However, the end of 2015 saw the award of a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to ARI for the Asian Graduate Student Fellowship Programme to the value of USD270,000. The grants from 2014 also generated a significant crop of young researchers who joined us this year. Seminars, workshops and conferences proceeded apace representing a total of 111.

ARI also participated in the activities of Singapore's 50th National Day celebration with contributions from various scholars including Professor Chua Beng Huat and Dr Sharon Quah. Professor Chua's essay for the *Singapore Chronicles* book by the Institute of Policy Studies features multiracialism in Singapore. He also organised an international conference on *Singapore Studies from the Outside* which registered the scholarly views of the "Singapore model" from China to Botswana. Dr Sharon Quah's public lecture presented key research findings from her newly published book, *Perspectives on Marital Dissolution: Divorce Biographies*

in Singapore (Springer, 2015). Additionally, Professor Brenda Yeoh, Research Leader of the Asian Migration Cluster and Dean of FASS, was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Silver) at the National Day Awards 2015.

The Religion and Globalisation Cluster saw a change of leadership as Associate Professor Michael Feener left for Oxford University in December 2015. He will continue to serve as a Visiting Professor on the Henry Luce grant. ARI welcomes a familiar face, Professor Kenneth Dean who assumes the leadership role for the cluster in January 2016.

As I get ready to leave ARI having served as Director for five years and assume a new role at Duke University, as the Oscar Tang Professor of East Asian Studies, I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the ARI Management Board and the Staff at ARI for their continued support towards moving ARI forward. I wish the incoming Director, Professor Jonathan Rigg, all the best as he takes on the reins to bring ARI to the next level!



PROFESSOR JONATHAN RIGG

Director
Asia Research Institute (from 2016)

I took over the ARI Directorship at the beginning of the year and the many achievements detailed in this report reflect Professor Prasenjit Duara's final year in post. Here, I want to briefly reflect on Professor Duara's tenure as Director and also take a forward-looking view of the year to come.

Professor Duara's five years as Director have provided both a degree of continuity and some departures for ARI, as one would expect. His intellectual mark is seen in the establishment of the Metacluster and even more concretely in the Muhammad Alagil endowment which supports the Chair in Arabia Asia Studies, currently occupied by Professor Ho Eng seng. We see in these initiatives Professor Duara's desire to explore Asian connections to other regions and to re-think area studies historically. His time at ARI also saw the writing and publication of his book *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future*, a major work and clear evidence of his scholarship.

In May we will welcome the first batch of students to ARI under the Henry Luce-funded Asian Graduate Student Fellowship Programme. These 35 graduate

students, the majority from the region, will be with us for eight weeks, helping to cement ARI's links with younger scholars working on Southeast, South and East Asia.

The biggest change before us will be ARI's move back to the main campus in mid-2016, to the top floor of a new building - AS8 - next to the Central Library. While some of us will miss the verdant pleasures of the Bukit Timah campus, the move will, I am confident, enable a whole range of new engagements and collaborations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Duara on behalf of us all for his five years as ARI Director and, more personally, thank my new colleagues at ARI for the warmth of their welcome.

I am truly looking forward to the year ahead.

Steering Committee

DIRECTOR

Prof Prasenjit Duara (Till 31 Dec 2015)

Prof Jonathan Rigg (From 1 Jan 2016)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Assoc Prof Huang Jianli

RESEARCH LEADERS

Prof Chua Beng Huat

Assoc Prof Gregory Clancey

Prof Michael Douglass

Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener (Till 31 Dec 2015)

Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh

Prof Jean Yeung

Prof Kenneth Dean (From 1 Jan 2016)

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr Michiel Baas

Dr Dhiman Das (From 1 Jan 2015)

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Dr Fiona Lee (From 1 Jan 2015)

SENIOR MANAGER (AS SECRETARY)

Ms Sharlene Anthony

Administrative Staff

Sharlene Anthony

MA (Nanyang Technological University)

Senior Manager

Noorhayati Hamsan

Management Assistant Officer (Finance)

Angelina Hwa

 (From 12 Oct 2015)

Management Assistant Officer (Secretarial)

Henry Kwan Wai Hung

Diploma (Singapore Polytechnic)

Specialist Associate (IT)

Priya Latha

 (From 22 Jan to 24 Jul 2015)

Diploma (BMC International College)

Management Assistant Officer (Secretarial)

Sharon Ong

BFA (RMIT/Lasalle College of the Arts)

Senior Executive (Events/Outreach)

Kalaichelvi Sitharthan

Graduate Diploma (Southern Cross University)

Management Assistant Officer (Human Resources)

Vernice Tan

BA (Murdoch University)

Senior Executive (Human Resources)

Tay Minghua

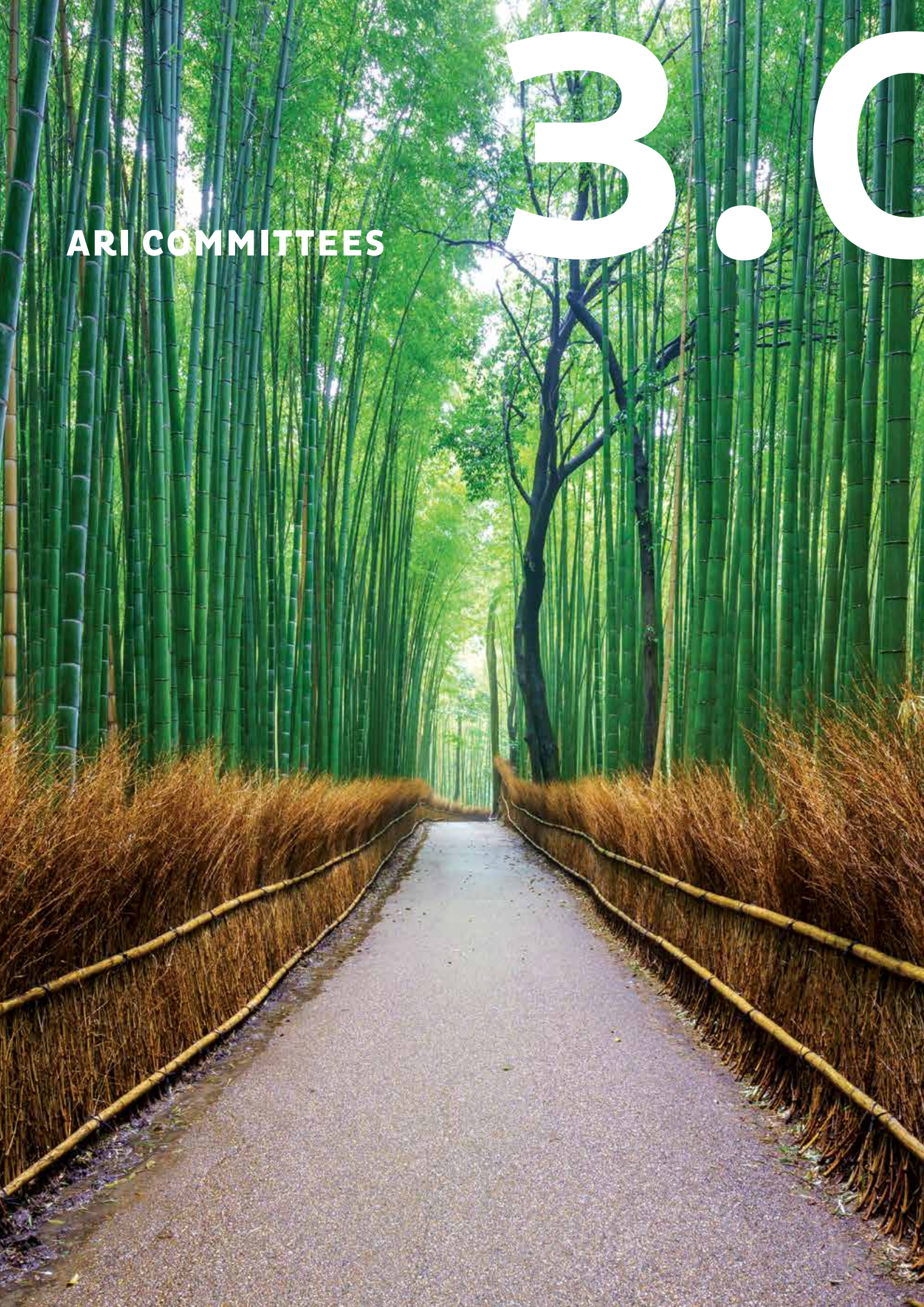
Diploma (Kaplan Higher Education Institute)

Management Assistant Officer (Events)

Valerie Yeo Ee Lin

Diploma (Singapore Polytechnic)

Management Assistant Officer (Events)



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ARI COMMITTEES

Members of ARI actively contribute to the running of the Institute in various ways, including through their participation in committees.

In the year 2015 the following committees took up responsibility for various aspects of work involved in the running of ARI as an Asian centre for research fellows and graduate student researchers from the region and around the world.

Asian Graduate Student Fellowship Committee and Graduate Students Forum

Dr Michiel Baas (Chair)
Assoc Prof Titima Suthiwan
Dr Tabea Bork-Hüffer (Till 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Philip Fountain (Till 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Michelle Miller
Dr Maria Platt
Dr Sharon Quah (Till 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Bernardo Brown (From 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Céline Coderey (From 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Amelia Fauzia (From 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Marie Gibert (From 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Rita Padawangi (From 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Nurfadzilah Yahaya (From 1 Dec 2015)
Mrs Kalaichelvi Sitharthan
Ms Tay Minghua

Conference and Research Grants Committee

Assoc Prof Huang Jianli (Chair)
Prof Chua Beng Huat
Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh
Ms Sharlene Anthony
Ms Valerie Yeo

Finance Committee

Prof Prasenjit Duara (Chair) (Till 31 Dec 2015)
Prof Jonathan Rigg (Chair) (From 1 Jan 2016)
Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh
Assoc Prof Huang Jianli
Dr Rita Padawangi (From 1 Jan 2015)
Ms Sharlene Anthony

Fire Safety Committee

Mr Henry Kwan (Chair)
Ms Wajihah Hamid (Till 20 Oct 2015)
Ms Noorhayati Hamsan
Ms Sharon Ong
Ms Valerie Yeo
Mrs Kalaichelvi Sitharthan
Ms Tharuka Prematillake

Library Committee

Dr Philip Fountain (Chair) (Till 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Malini Sur (Chair) (From 1 Dec 2015)
Dr Tyson Vaughan
Ms Tay Minghua
Ms Valerie Yeo

Newsletter and Outreach Committee

Dr Rita Padawangi (Chair)
Dr Eric Kerr
Dr Céline Coderey
Dr Joshua Gedacht (Till 12 Jun 2015)
Dr Ronjoy Sen
Dr Bernardo Brown (From 8 Jul 2015)
Dr Nisha Mathew (From 8 Jul 2015)
Ms Saharah Abubakar
Ms Sharon Ong

Publications Committee (Working Paper Series)

Dr Michelle Miller (Chair)
Dr Eli Elinoff
Dr Joshua Gedacht (Till 12 Jun 2015)
Dr Eric Kerr
Dr Fiona Lee
Ms Tharuka Prematillake
Ms Valerie Yeo

Seminar Committee

Prof Jean Yeung (Chair)
Prof Chua Beng Huat
Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener (Till 31 Dec 2015)
Dr Jerome Whittington (Till 1 Jul 2015)
Dr Malini Sur (From 1 Sep 2015)
Mrs Kalaichelvi Sitharthan
Ms Valerie Yeo
Ms Tay Minghua

Social and Staff Welfare Committee

Dr Tabea Bork-Hüffer (Chair) (Till 30 Nov 2015)
Dr Nurfadzilah Yahaya (Chair) (From 1 Dec 2015)
Ms Vernice Tan
Ms Wajihah Hamid (Till 20 Oct 2015)
Ms Priya Latha (Till 24 Jul 2015)
Ms Angelina Hwa (From 30 Oct 2015)
Mr Marcel Bandur (From 30 Oct 2015)

Website Committee

Dr Maria Platt (Chair)
Ms Sharon Ong
Ms Valerie Yeo
Mr Henry Kwan

4.0

RESEARCH
PERSONNEL



The Asia Research Institute aims to be the hub for high-quality social science and humanities research on Asia, and attracting high quality researchers is paramount to the success of the Institute.

Since 2005, ARI has brought to NUS a mix of well-established scholars and younger researchers from the region who wish to spend research time in the Institute and interact with the best in their fields. The Institute also attracts many established scholars on paid sabbatical leave from their home institutions to spend time conducting research and establishing connections in ARI and NUS. Scholars who joined under visiting or sabbatical scheme in 2015 are listed in the following section on Visiting Senior Research Fellows.

The research personnel in ARI are diverse; they vary in terms of research foci, nationalities, international experience, and duration of appointments. ARI further maintains a good balance between established scholars and those who are at the start of their promising careers.

The research personnel are led by distinguished research leaders, each heading a research cluster. Most of the research leaders are tenured faculty members, part-seconded on joint appointments from their home departments in NUS, while others have been recruited after exhaustive international searches. The research leaders and senior research fellows provide the stability and experience necessary for implementing longer-term plans of the Institute, while other shorter-term members add agility and vibrancy to the ARI community.

A high proportion of appointees in ARI are short-term visiting fellows who are mostly established scholars on leave from their home institutions, and they are recruited internationally on a competitive basis for periods ranging from three months to up to a year.

Postdoctoral fellows are also appointed through an annual international competition. They are promising young scholars in their research fields, with ARI providing them the space, time, and intellectual environment to build up their research and publication capacities in their early career development. Outstanding performers often go on to succeed in securing tenure-track positions in NUS or other universities worldwide.

In 2015, ARI continued to interact with the faculties of NUS in various ways, particularly by co-organising events and collaborating in research. In addition, the Writing Semester Scheme is designed to enable assistant professors in the faculties to devote six months to writing in ARI, primarily to complete publications needed for tenure review.

A proportion of ARI's research staff was appointed on the basis of external funded programmes or projects. The Muhammad Alagil endowment partially funded a senior research fellow and a postdoctoral fellow in the field of Arabia-Asia studies. The Ministry of Education Tier 2 Research Grant (Singapore) for the *Governing*

Compound Disasters in Urbanising Asia project provided full and partial funding for a research assistant and two postdoctoral fellows respectively. A continuing research programme grant for the Migrating Out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) through the University of Sussex provided full or partial support for one postdoctoral fellow, two research assistants and a research associate.

Director

Duara, Prasenjit, Professor
PhD (Harvard), MPhil (Jawaharlal Nehru), MA (Delhi), BA (Delhi)

Director from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2015; Historical Sociology of Asian Connections Metacluster Research Leader from April 2011; joint appointment with Department of History, FASS. History of China and more broadly of Asia in the twentieth century; historical thought and historiography.

Rigg, Jonathan, Professor
PhD (London), BA (London)

Director since 1 January 2016; joint appointment with Department of Geography, FASS. Human effects of social and economic, migration, urban living, livelihoods, popular participation, and resilience.

Deputy Director

Huang Jianli, Associate Professor
PhD (ANU), BA (Hons) (NUS)

Deputy Director since 1 January 2013; joint appointment with Department of History, FASS, and concurrently Research Associate at the East Asian Institute, NUS. History of Republican China from the 1910s to 1940s; student political activism; local governance; and Chinese diaspora, in particular the relationship between China and the Chinese community in Singapore.

Research Leaders

Chua Beng Huat, Provost's Chair Professor
PhD (York), MA (York), BSc (Acadia)

Cultural Studies in Asia Cluster Research Leader since 1 January 2004; joint appointment with Department of Sociology. Housing and urban studies; comparative politics in Southeast Asia; East Asian pop culture and cultural studies in Asia.

Clancey, Gregory Kevin, Associate Professor
PhD (MIT), MA (Boston), BA (Hons) (Bates)

Science, Technology, and Society Cluster Research Leader since 1 August 2009; joint appointment with Department of History, FASS; Master, Tembusu College, NUS from 27 September 2010. History and anthropology of science and technology; architecture and cities; natural disaster; Japan.

Dean, Kenneth, Professor**PhD (Stanford), MA (Stanford), BA (Brown)**

Religion and Globalisation Cluster Research Leader since 1 January 2016; joint appointment with Department of Chinese, FASS, and concurrently Department Head, from 2 January 2015. Transnational trust and temple networks linking Singapore Chinese temples to Southeast China and Southeast Asia.

Douglass, Clyde Michael, Professor**PhD (UCLA), MA (Hawai'i), BA (UCLA)**

Asian Urbanisms Cluster Research Leader since 1 August 2012; joint appointment with LKYSPP, NUS, from 1 August 2014. Disaster governance; progressive cities; liveable cities; vernacular cities; spaces of hope and alternative development; globalisation and urban development.

Feener, R. Michael, Associate Professor**PhD (Boston), MA (Boston), BA (Colorado, Boulder)**

Religion and Globalisation Cluster Research Leader from 1 February 2009 till 31 December 2015; joint appointment with Department of History, FASS, since 28 June 2006. Islamic Studies; Religion and Development.

Yeoh Saw Ai, Brenda, Provost's Chair Professor**PhD (Oxford), MA (Cambridge), BA (Hons) (Cambridge)**

Asian Migration Cluster Research Leader; joint appointment with Department of Geography, and concurrently Dean, FASS. The politics of space in colonial and postcolonial cities; heritage issues and tourism studies; cosmopolitanism and highly skilled talent migration; gender, social reproduction and care migration; migration.

Yeung Wei-Jun, Jean, Professor**PhD (Alberta), MA (Illinois State), BA (Soochow)**

Changing Family in Asia Cluster Research Leader from 1 November 2011; joint appointment with Department of Sociology, FASS, since 15 July 2008; and Director of the Centre of Family and Population Research, FASS, since 1 April 2014. Intergenerational studies, family and children's well-being and policies; poverty; fatherhood; China's economic and demographic transition.

(Senior) Research Fellows**Baas, Michiel****PhD (Amsterdam), MA (Amsterdam)**

Research Fellow since 2 June 2014. Mid-level skilled migration from India to Singapore.

Bala, Arun**PhD (Western Ontario), MA (University of Singapore), MA (Sussex), BSc (University of Singapore)**

Senior Research Fellow from 1 December 2011 to 31 March 2015. Civilisations and modern science; different Asian traditions in the making of modern science.

Cho Soung Soo, Philip**PhD (Pennsylvania), MA (Pennsylvania), BS (MIT)**

Research Fellow from 7 July 2011 to 31 January 2015. Influence of popular religion on the development of Chinese science, technology and medicine in late-imperial China and early-modern Europe; contemporary developments in science and technology in China.

Cruz-Del Rosario, Teresita**PhD (Boston College)**

Senior Research Fellow since 1 August 2015. Visiting Senior Research Fellow from 6 January to 31 July 2015. Migration, development and underdevelopment, social movements and civil society, and comparative political transitions.

Das, Dhiman**PhD (CUNY), MPhil (JNU)**

Research Fellow since 16 January 2013. Health; education; poverty; public policy.

Fauzia, Amelia**PhD (Melbourne), MA (Leiden), BA (Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta)**

Senior Research Fellow since 1 September 2015. Islamic history of Indonesia, contemporary issues of Islam in Indonesia, and Islamic philanthropy, looking at dynamics of socio-religious movements.

Fountain, Philip**PhD (ANU), MSc (Wellington), BA (Wellington)**

Senior Research Fellow from 1 November 2013 to 15 December 2015. Religion; international development; humanitarianism; disaster relief; anthropology of Christianity; NGOs.

Jung Sun**PhD (Melbourne), MA (Griffith), BA (Toledo)**

Research Fellow from 26 September 2011 to 25 January 2016. South Korean popular cultures; online youth cultures; creative activism.

Miller, Michelle Ann**PhD (Charles Darwin), BA (Hons) (Northern Territory)**

Senior Research Fellow since 1 January 2014. Decentralisation; governing environmental disasters; urban-rural relations; social conflict and its resolution.

Padawangi, Rita**PhD (Loyola, Chicago), MA (Loyola, Chicago), MA (NUS)**

Senior Research Fellow since 1 January 2013. Sociology of urban design; social movements; environmental sociology.

Platt, Maria Wendy**PhD (La Trobe), BAppSci (Hons) (Deakin)**

Research Fellow since 1 July 2012. Gendered labour migration; migration in colonial and post-colonial contexts; politics of intimacy and international labour migration; transnational relationships; sexual and reproductive health.

Quah Ee Ling, Sharon**PhD (Sydney), MA (NUS), BA (NUS)**

Research Fellow since 1 January 2015. Postdoctoral Fellow from 3 June 2013 to 31 December 2014. Divorce in Singapore and Australia; alternative and transnational intimacies in the global context.

Sen, Ronojoy**PhD (Chicago), MA (South Carolina), BA (Calcutta)**

Senior Research Fellow from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2015. Religion, state and civil society in India.

Sur, Malini**PhD (Amsterdam), MA (Distinction) (Essex), MA (TISS), BA (Jadavpur)**

Research Fellow since 3 June 2015. Postdoctoral Fellow from 3 June 2013 to 2 June 2015. Migration and border studies; anthropology of infrastructure; anthropology of violence; globalisation; transport and mobility studies; material culture; gender and sexuality studies.

Yahaya, Nurfadzilah**PhD (Princeton), MA (Princeton), MA (NUS)**

Research Fellow since 1 July 2015. Mobile Muslim merchants in the Indian Ocean; the Arab diaspora's utilisation of Islamic law in British and Dutch colonial courts of Southeast Asia; regulation of "halal" (lawful) animal slaughter in the Islamic world.

Postdoctoral Fellows

Arlini, Silvia Mila**PhD (NUS), MPP (GRIPS), BA (Gadjah Mada)**

Since 5 May 2015. Macroeconomic issues; social economic and policy issues; human capital development; population, migration, employment and education.

Bork-Hüffer, Tabea**PhD (Cologne), MSc (Distinction) (Cologne)**

From 2 January 2013 to 1 January 2016; and concurrently Fellow at the Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation, Bonn. Changing geographies of migration, health and urban spaces in the 21st century.

Bolotta, Giuseppe**PhD (Milano-Bicocca), MA (UniSR), BA (Milano-Bicocca)**

Since 9 October 2015. Relationship between development and religion in the case of the Catholic, Christian, Buddhist, and (officially) "secular" NGOs dealing with childcare in the Thai capital's shantytowns.

Brown, Bernardo**PhD (Cornell), MA (NCSR), BA (Buenos Aires)**

Since 3 November 2014. Forms of religiosity that emerge in transnational contexts and the encounter of different world Christian traditions.

Chen Lang**PhD (Yale), MTS (Harvard Divinity), BA (Peking)**

Since 15 July 2015. Nation-building and the religious - especially the Buddhist - understandings of evil/violence in early 20th century Asia.

Chung, Simone Shu-Yeng**PhD (Cambridge), MPhil (Distinction) (Cambridge), MSc (Distinction) (London), AA Dipl (London), BSc (London)**

From 8 December 2014. Moving image medium and the discipline of architecture and urban studies.

Coderey, Céline**PhD (Provence), MA (Provence), Dipl (NALCO), MA (Lausanne), BA (Lausanne)**

From 13 January 2014 to 12 January 2016. Health field in Myanmar; therapeutic practices and the health-seeking process; conceptions of health/disease.

Courtney, Christopher**PhD (Manchester), MA (Manchester), BA (Sussex)**

Since 20 July 2015. Problem of flooding in the Middle Yangzi region of China during the twentieth-century, popular religious understanding of the environment and changing patterns of Chinese hydraulic governance since the Republican period.

Gedacht, Joshua**PhD (Wisconsin-Madison), MA (Wisconsin-Madison), BA (McGill)**

From 9 January 2014 to 12 June 2015. Relationship between colonial era war-making; Islamic networks; reconfiguration of religious connections in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Gibert, Marie Anne Madeleine**PhD (Pantheon-Sorbonne), MA (Pantheon-Sorbonne & ENS LSH), BA (ENS LSH & Lyon 2)**

Since 15 July 2015. Dynamics of public and private spaces in the development of Asian cities today, as well as with vernacular architecture and the practices of city dwellers in postcolonial cities.

Hu Shu**PhD (NUS), MA (Renmin), BA (Renmin)**

Since 30 April 2015. Social inequality; poverty; family and child development; education stratification; gender; migration.

Kerr, Eric Thomson**PhD (Edinburgh), MLitt (Aberdeen), MA (Aberdeen), LLB (Aberdeen)**

Since 15 July 2013. Epistemology of technology and risk; petroleum engineering in Thailand; philosophical approaches to disaster.

Ko Pei-Chun

**PhD (Cologne), MA (Utrecht),
MA (National Chengchi), BA (NTNU)**

Since 2 June 2015. Intergenerational relationships, grandparenting, productive ageing, social networks, multilevel analyses and cross-country comparisons.

Krishnan, Shekhar

PhD (MIT), MA (London), BSFS (Georgetown)

Since 26 December 2015. History of industrial technologies, civic institutions and the urban environment in Mumbai and Asian cities.

Lee Hsiao Yen, Fiona

PhD (CUNY), MPhil (CUNY), BA (SUNY Geneseo)

Since 29 July 2014. Modern/contemporary literature and visual media in Southeast Asia; postcolonial/transnational literature; postcolonial, critical race, feminist, and queer theories.

Lee Tsung-Ling

**SJD (Georgetown), LLM (Georgetown),
LLM (National Taiwan), BMedSci (Sydney)**

From 15 December 2014 to 14 December 2015. Intersection of public international law and health, with a focus on regulatory theory, regional migration pathways, elderly care.

Li Haibin

PhD (Sydney), MEd (Sydney), BEd (Nanjing Normal)

From 2 January 2013 to 31 March 2015. Resilience, parenting, and self-concept relating to Chinese migrant children.

Li Luzhou, Nina

**PhD (Illinois, Urbana Champaign), MPhil (CUHK),
BA (Fudan)**

Since 28 July 2015. Digital culture; global media and cultural industries; media and cultural policy; media history and political economy; popular culture; television studies; gender and/in popular media; China studies.

Mathew, Nisha Mary

**PhD (Witwatersrand), MPhil (EFLU), MA (EFLU),
BA (Kerala)**

Since 12 June 2015. Transnational history; Indian Ocean studies; smuggling, counterfeiting and illegal trades; urban history; diasporic studies; gold and the socio-cultural dynamics of money exchange in the post-war world.

Scheer, Catherine

**PhD (EHESS), MA (EHESS & Paris X),
BA (Paris Diderot)**

Since 27 July 2015. Production of knowledge about languages in education by Southeast Asia-based international organisations, including Christian NGOs.

Smith, Catherine

**PhD (ANU), MIS (Queensland),
BSocSci (Hons) (James Cook)**

Since 1 July 2015. Relationship between medicine, the body and socio-political change, global public health, social and political dimensions of malaria in the Asia Pacific; migration and social inequality.

Vaughan, Earl Tyson

PhD (Cornell), MA (Cornell), BA (Stanford)

Since 15 January 2014. Urban planning for post-disaster recovery and disaster risk reduction; community (re-)building.

Zaman, Tabassum

PhD (NUS), MA (Dhaka), BA (Hons) (Dhaka)

Since 20 November 2015. Literary and urban discourse in Dhaka, everyday place making practices, imagination of and aspirations about space in general, popular culture and communication, cinema and literature.

Zuoshi, Aga

PhD (Minzu), MA (Minzu), BA (Minzu)

Since 15 July 2015. Indigenous religion, vernacular development experiences, and the social construction of money in southwest China, particularly among the Yi minority people.

Other Joint Appointments/ Secondments

Coopmans, Catelijne, Senior Lecturer

DPhil (Oxford), MSc (Oxford), BA (Maastricht)

Joint appointment with Tembusu College, NUS since 17 September 2012. Ethnography and discourse analysis; innovation and visual evidence; dynamics of expertise.

Elinoff, Eli Asher

**PhD (UC San Diego), MA (UC San Diego),
BA (Colorado, Boulder)**

Postdoctoral Fellow since 16 December 2013; joint appointment with Department of Sociology, FASS from 1 July 2014. Citizenship, emerging political practices, notions of sustainability; contestations over urban development in Thailand.

Graham, Connor Clive, Lecturer

PhD (Melbourne), BA (Nottingham)

Joint appointment with Tembusu College, NUS since 17 September 2012. Information systems; science, technology, and society; and living and dying in the age of the Internet.

Kamalini Ramdas, Lecturer

PhD (NUS)

From 8 December 2014 to 28 February 2015; joint appointment with Department of Geography, FASS. Transnational familyhood and community; care ethics and responsibility.

Kim Dong Won**PhD (Harvard)**

Visiting Professor from 2 January to 2 June 2015; joint appointment with Tembusu College, NUS. History of physics in the 19th and 20th centuries, and history of science and technology in Korea and Japan.

Koh Yee Woen**PhD (Hong Kong), MBBS (Fujian Medical)**

Postdoctoral Fellow since 15 December 2015; joint appointment with Centre of Family and Population Research, FASS. Perinatal mental health, men's and women's mental health, gender studies and multidisciplinary research.

McNamara, Karen Marie**PhD (Syracuse), MA (Syracuse), BA (NC State)**

Postdoctoral Fellow since 1 July 2015; joint appointment with Tembusu College, NUS. Medical anthropology examining the intersection of pharmaceuticals and traditional medicine in Bangladesh, neoliberal governance and care, and health movements.

Mu Zheng**PhD (Michigan), MA (Michigan), BA (Peking)**

Postdoctoral Fellow since 12 January 2015; joint appointment with Centre of Family and Population Research, FASS. Marriage and family, fertility, ethnicity, gender inequality, child development, globalisation, contemporary China, comparative studies, and quantitative methods.

Tan Ai Hua, Margaret, Lecturer**PhD (NUS), MA (London), BFA (RMIT/LASALLE College of the Arts)**

Joint appointment with Tembusu College since 1 December 2012. Pervasive and wearable computing history and aesthetics.

Visaria, Abhijit**PhD (Pennsylvania), MA (Pennsylvania), MA (TISS), BA (Delhi)**

Postdoctoral Fellow since 4 August 2015; joint appointment with Centre of Family and Population Research, FASS. Measures of sex selection and sex differentials in child health outcomes, socioeconomic differences in healthcare utilisation, female labour force participation.

Whittington, Jerome**PhD (California, Berkeley), MA (California, Berkeley), BA (Texas)**

Research Fellow since 2 August 2011; joint appointment with Tembusu College, NUS, since 3 August 2014. Climate change and energy; ASEAN policy initiatives; East Asian approaches to carbon markets and greenhouse gas management.

Yuk, Joowon**PhD (Warwick), MA (Warwick), MBA (Sungkyunkwan), BA (Seoul)**

Postdoctoral Fellow from 29 September 2014 to 28 August 2015; joint appointment with Department of Geography, FASS. Diversity and cultural policy development, migration and citizenship; the cultural politics of race, gender and class; national/transnational identities; dynamics of cultural memory.

Research Associates/Assistants**Abubakar, Saharah****MA (NUS), BSocSci (NUS)**

Research Associate since 10 July 2007. Social networks and resilience of divorced Malay mothers.

Baey Hui Yi, Grace**MA (Queen's), BA (Western Ontario)**

Research Associate from 1 January to 30 April 2015. Research Assistant from 30 December 2010 to 31 December 2014. Labour migration issues in Southeast Asia; borders and boundary-making; identity politics; international political economy.

Bandur, Marcel**MSSc (NUS)**

Research Assistant since 1 September 2015. Asian urbanism, maritime security, and Southeast Asian regionalism.

Chee Pui Yee, Liz**MA (NUS), BA (NUS)**

Research Associate since 12 January 2015. Use of animal tissue in Chinese Medicine.

Escoffier, Nicolas Rene**PhD (NUS), MSc (Lyon II)**

Research Associate from 10 November 2014 to 9 February 2015. Relationship between speech and music cognition; cognitive and neural underpinnings of musical and vocal communication of emotions.

Goh Jia Min, Charmian**BSocSci (NUS)**

Research Assistant since 1 July 2015. Sociology of inequalities, deviance, and futures.

Hamid, Wajihah**MA (Sussex), BA (NUS)**

Research Assistant from 1 November 2013 to 20 October 2015. Migration; South Asian diaspora; transnationalism.

Hioe Zhi Hui, Joanna**MA (London), BA (NUS)**

Research Assistant from 23 February to 30 June 2015. Addressing vulnerable groups in cities; restoration of personal and social identity after trauma; digital representation of cultural resources and communities.

Ho Wei Pin

BA (Hons) (NUS)

Research Assistant from 2 January to 1 July 2015.

Hu Shu

MA (Renmin), BA (Renmin)

Research Associate from 1 September 2014 to 29 April 2015. Social inequality; poverty; family and child development; education stratification; gender; migration.

Khoo Choon Yen

BSocSci (Hons) (NUS)

Research Assistant since 1 January 2014. Labour migration from/within Indonesia and Southeast Asia; gender and migration; and youth aspirations.

Koh Chiu Yee

BSocSci (SMU)

Research Assistant since 1 September 2015. Irregular migration, particularly human trafficking, labour migration and forced migration.

Lam Choy Fong, Theodora

MSocSci (NUS), BA (Hons) (NUS), BSocSci (Waikato)

Research Associate since 15 November 2005. Transnational migration; children's geographies; gender studies; cities and citizenship.

Lee Hui Ying

MA (Sydney)

Research Assistant since 14 December 2015. Issues of international migration, gender equality and the role of policy entrepreneurs.

Mahtani, Raksha Kirpal

BA (Melbourne)

Research Assistant since 6 April 2015. Analysis of family structures, family violence, social inequalities, migration, media studies and cultural studies.

Ng Xinyi, Esther

BSocSci (Hons) (NUS)

Research Assistant from 1 July 2013 to 30 November 2015. Economic and social impact of casinos, study of children's views on health; food and activity.

Prematillake, Tharuka Maduwanthi

BA (RMIT)

Research Assistant from 1 October 2012 to 2 January 2016. Media and health reporting; women and children; cross cultural communications; religion and globalisation; labour migration and international relations.

Wee Jiaying, Kellynn

BSocSci (Hons) (NUS)

Research Assistant since 2 March 2015. Gendered aspects of migration, how migrant subjects are discursively represented and constructed in mainstream narratives, and the ways that the Internet and other info-communication technologies have reshaped social relations.

Muhammad Alagil **Distinguished Visiting Professor** **in Arabia Asia Studies**

Ho Engseeng, Professor

PhD (Chicago)

Since 2 June 2014. Arab/Muslim diasporas across the Indian Ocean, and their relations with western empires, past and present.

Visiting Senior Research Fellows

Bennett, Linda Rae

PhD (Queensland)

From 13 July to 12 October 2015. Gender; sexuality; biological and social reproduction; reproductive and sexual health and rights; gender-based violence.

De Koninck, Rodolphe

PhD (Singapore)

From 6 July to 29 August 2015. Agrarian and environmental issues in Southeast Asia.

Devasahayam, Theresa W.

PhD (Syracuse)

From 9 January to 8 April 2015. Women's labour force participation, low-skilled migrant women and gender and ageing, old age preparedness among women in Singapore.

Ferzacca, Steve Fredrick

PhD (Wisconsin)

Since 30 December 2015. Medical anthropology, urban ethnography, and the anthropology of popular culture.

Han Suk-Jung

PhD (Chicago)

From 2 January to 25 March 2015. Modern history of Chinese Dongbei (or Manchuria), including the state formation of Manchukuo; cultural diffusion related with colonialism in a wider East Asian setting beyond Manchuria.

Khoo Gaik Cheng

PhD (British Columbia)

From 16 September to 15 December 2015. Production and maintenance of cosmopolitan spaces, civil society, questions of citizenship and belonging and the role of food in facilitating such spaces.

Khoo Olivia Su-Lin

PhD (Melbourne)

From 15 January to 14 April 2015. Asian and Asian Australian film and screen cultures.

Korinek, Kim Marie
PhD (Washington)

Since 12 August 2015. Health, social relationships, life course transitions, and intergenerational support in Southeast Asia and China, especially as they are influenced by processes of migration, conflict, and modernisation.

Liang Yongjia
PhD (Peking)

Since 15 October 2015. Popular religion, religious policy and regulation, nationalism and ethnicity, and kingship in the geographical area of southwest China and its connection with Southeast Asia.

Liu-Farrer, Gracia
PhD (Chicago)

From 20 December 2015. Immigrant groups' economic, social and political incorporation in Japan, identity and belonging issues of Chinese immigrants in different ethno-national social contexts, global mobility of international students and wealthy Chinese.

Ludden, David Ellsworth
PhD (Pennsylvania)

From 2 July to 28 August 2015. Asian economic and social history, from ancient times to the present, South Asia, Global Asia, long distance connectivity in the formation of Asian social and economic environments over the last two millennia.

Paranjape, Makarand Ramchandra
PhD (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

From 13 January to 12 April 2015. India, colonialism, national culture, and Indian English literature, regional inter-referentiality, global connections.

Patel, Sujata
PhD (JNU)

From 1 April to 30 June 2015. Modernity and social theory, history of sociology/social sciences, city-formation, social movements, gender construction, reservation, quota politics and caste and class formations in India.

Phu, Thy
PhD (UC Berkeley)

From 14 October 2015 to 11 January 2016. Cultural politics of visibility, trope of civility on discourses of citizenship, gender and the forging of Cold War visual solidarities.

Ronald, Richard
PhD (Nottingham Trent)

From 2 October to 31 December 2015. Family housing property wealth as a feature of welfare regime restructuring in Europe and East Asia, younger people and their increasing exclusion from urban housing markets, as well as the social, economic and demographic implications, current conditions of younger unmarried people and one-person households in East Asian cities.

Sangren, Paul Steven
PhD (Stanford)

From 11 May to 10 August 2015. Chinese culture and society; gender, religion, and mythic narrative; cosmological and psychological aspects of domestic worship and architecture.

Shah, Bindi V.
PhD (UC Davis)

From 29 June to 18 September 2015. Adaptation and acculturation among second-generation Laotian young women; engagement with community politics and Asian American activism, role and significance of Jainism and Jain organisations in the lives of second-generation Jains in the UK and USA.

Shen Shuang
PhD (CUNY)

From 1 July to 30 September 2015. Modern Chinese literature and culture, Asian diaspora literatures and cultures, postcolonial theory and literature, global Anglophone literature.

Sivasundaram, Sujit Pradin
PhD (Cambridge)

From 24 November 2014 to 23 February 2015. Age of revolutions in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Tosa, Keiko
PhD (Sokendai)

From 30 October 2014 to 29 March 2015. Buddhist missionary work and Buddhist movements in Myanmar.

Winter, Tim
PhD (Manchester)

From 7 October 2014 to 6 January 2015. Heritage diplomacy in Asia; urban sustainability, air-conditioning, and the viability of tradition based low-carbon alternatives in Southeast Asia and the Arabian Gulf.

Wu Xiao An
PhD (Amsterdam)

From 1 July to 30 September 2015. Chinese overseas; Southeast Asian modern history; China and Southeast Asia; and Japan and Southeast Asia.

Assistant Professor on
Writing Semester Scheme**Paul, Anju Mary**
PhD (Michigan)

At ARI from 1 January to 30 June 2015; from Yale-NUS College. Migration patterns adopted by Filipino migrant domestic workers; return migration decision-making processes of Asian-born, Western-trained bioscientists.

**RESEARCH
PROGRAMMES
AND ACTIVITIES**

5.0



Research Clusters

Each research cluster in ARI focuses on research and analysis of a particular feature of Asian society. There are currently seven clusters in ARI and they serve as platforms to bring researchers together in a collective effort to produce useful interactions.

The Institute constantly explores new potential areas of research for ARI, leading to the incorporation of important emergent areas of inquiry. The Disaster Governance in Asia project involving cross-cluster members which received a large grant support from the Singapore Ministry of Education in 2014 entered its second year. In December, the Disaster Governance programme jointly sponsored a workshop on *Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance* which involved site visits to the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and the 2011 Fukushima triple disaster areas.

There are also two active reading groups in ARI, the Asian Connections Reading Group and the Religion

and Development Reading Group, hosted by the Metacluster and the Religion and Globalisation cluster respectively. The Arabia-Asia reading group was formed as an offshoot of the Metacluster, to focus more directly on the historical connections between South and Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Members of the reading groups meet regularly to examine texts, share ideas related to their interests, and to discuss works-in-progress.

Individual cluster members also have independent areas of interest which may overlap and flow between clusters. In addition, a number of scholars from NUS and beyond contribute as cluster associates. They play an active role in the respective cluster workshops, conferences, and other research activities, and serve as resource persons for the Institute. The full diversity and heterogeneity of work carried out at ARI are reflected in its members and their publications.



Photo Credit: Céline Coderey

Fisherman on the Inlay Lake, Shan State, Myanmar.

ASIAN MIGRATION

The Asian Migration Cluster maintains research interest in a broad range of human migrations, mobilities and interconnectivities within and beyond Asia. The cluster has three priority research themes. The first draws attention to the material processes and discourses of globalisation and transnationalism as they intersect in Asian cities. The focus is on exploring new knowledge frameworks through which to understand the complex and diverse linkages **between global change and transnational migration**. The second research theme explores the relationship between **human aspiration, migration and development** in Southeast Asia, with a focus on the development impact of migration in sending communities as well as the costs and risks of migration for the poor. A third research theme highlights the **organisation and constitution of transnational (im) mobility** as a means of (re)conceptualising different mobile practices, rhythms and rationalities that characterise people on the move in Asia.

Cluster members explore a broad range of human mobilities and interconnectivities, including transnational flows of professional, managerial and entrepreneurial elites; contract migrant workers filling low-waged niches in the urban economy; international students; mid-level skilled migration; health and urban spaces; transnationalism; and marriage migrants. Transnational modes of migration—of varying degrees of permanence and transience—have become a compelling force not only in increasing diversity in Asian cities, but have also transformed the social, economic and demographic fabric of source areas.

In July this year, the cluster hosted *Gendered Dimensions of Migration: Material and Social Outcomes of South-South Migration* in conjunction with the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium. This was a three-day international conference that brought issues of gender to the forefront in the analysis of labour migration flows within the South. Academic presentations were accompanied by films, multimedia presentations, a poster exhibition, and a policy roundtable; these diverse mediums examined questions regarding gender dynamics in labour markets, labour and migration regimes, and expectations and moralities surrounding remittances. Cross-country collaborations continued in October with a workshop jointly organised with the Humboldt University of Berlin, titled *A NUS-Humboldt Joint Workshop on Migration, Diversity and Encounters*. This focused on the development of an East-West collaborative approach with regard to migrant encounters by bringing together researchers from both universities. The workshop asked questions about how migrant encounters are shaped by particular contexts; the ways in which public discourse overlaps, contradicts, or differs when engaging with questions of migration, encounters, and diversity; and

the conceptual differences and similarities which exist between Asian and European approaches to migration.

Several other significant workshops and conferences were held, drawing a number of interested audiences and participants across a multitude of disciplines—this included *The Force of Life: Living in Precarious Spaces and Times in Asia*, which examined the interplay between “life” and “force” within Asia; life in times of uncertainties as exerting vigour and force, ushering in social, economic, and political possibilities; and force as speed, momentum and mobility, which transforms subjectivities, politics, and life itself in precarious times. In August, a two-day conference titled *Migrant Communities and Religious Experience in Asia* situated its participants and attendees at the intersection between migration and religion, exploring how migrants experience their spiritual lives when they are cast loose from the familiarity of home countries. Discussions departed from the investigation of institutional elements of religious participation, structures, and networks, and turned instead towards the ritual, missionary and pastoral aspects of religion, as well as the importance of spirituality to migratory trajectories. The cluster also organised *International Medical Travel and the Politics of Transnational Mobility in Asia* in August, which offered a platform for discussing how international medical travel has developed within the region, and the local, national and regional mechanisms that both impede and aid international medical travel, as well as the negotiations and contestations that accompany such travel. In August, cluster members participated in a workshop in Cambodia, organised by the Casino and Development in Asia Research Network; this focused on the interrogation of the immediate and long-term socio-political impacts of casino-oriented development in parts of Asia and Southeast Asia.

Several cluster seminars were held by researchers, spanning topics such as the labour migration and global labour history of the Javanese; race, education, citizenship and the culture of migration amongst mobile Malaysians; reproductive mobilities and trajectories of infertility, adoption and migration in Indonesia; and the origin-education-gender intersections of migration and marriage in China.

This year, work has continued on three major projects within the cluster, all of which have completed various rounds of fieldwork and/or are developing the publication of emerging findings: *Casino Mobilities: Labour Migration, Global Consumption and Regulation in Singapore*; the *Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium*; and the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, which continues to analyse results from the project on *Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia* (CHAMPSEA). Aside from these projects, cluster members have been actively involved in research that investigates a variety of themes, including labour migration; the migration industry; policy tracing focused on tracking migrant worker regulations in Singapore; the gendered dynamics of remittance usage; the influence of migration on youth aspirations

in migrant-sending communities; borders, mobility, and citizenship in the South Asian context; health and transient urban spaces in Asia; mid-level skilled migration from India to Singapore; forms of religiosity that emerge in transnational contexts and the encounter of different world Christian traditions; diversity and cultural policy development; migration and reproductive rights; and migration and citizenship in Asia.

The cluster has also continued in its work of communicating its results to the public as well as to policymakers, contributing to topical debates about labour migration and recruitment processes in Singapore through the organisation of a public symposium and photo exhibition called *En Route to the Departure Hall: How Migrants Navigate Recruitment Processes*. Featuring Dr Manolo Abella, the former director of the International Labour Organisation's International Migration Programme, this was well-attended, attracting over 100 guests and generating positive feedback—all surveyed attendees reporting learning something new about linkages between migration and poverty through this event.



RESEARCH LEADER
Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh

Research Cluster Members

Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh
Research Leader

Dr Silvia Mila Arlini
Dr Michiel Baas
Ms Grace Baey
Dr Linda Rae Bennett
Dr Tabea Bork-Hüffer
Dr Bernardo Brown
Ms Charmian Goh Jia Min
Ms Khoo Choon Yen
Ms Koh Chiu Yee
Ms Theodora Lam
Ms Esther Ng Xinyi
Dr Maria Platt
Dr Malini Sur
Ms Kellynn Wee Jiaying
Dr Yuk Joowon

Research Cluster Associates

Assoc Prof Michael Ewing-Chow
Faculty of Law, NUS

Dr Esther Goh
Department of Social Work,
NUS

Assoc Prof Elaine Ho
Department of Geography,
NUS

Assoc Prof Shirlena Huang
Department of Geography,
NUS

Dr Lai Ah Eng
University Scholars
Programme, NUS

Assoc Prof Eric Thompson
Department of Sociology, NUS

Prof Wang Gungwu
East Asian Institute, NUS

Dr Sallie Yea
Humanities and Social
Studies Education, NTU

PROJECTS

CASINO MOBILITIES: Labour Migration, Global Consumption and Regulation in Singapore

Casino Mobilities, funded by a NUS-HSS grant for two years (2013-2015) with a project value of just under SGD200,000 was completed in June 2015. Launched in 2013 by the Asian Migration Cluster, the project is the first academic research in the Singapore context that looks into the complex linkages of transnational mobilities of labourers and consumers, the emerging casino economy in Asia, and the transforming regulatory regime in Singapore.

A total of 75 interviews was conducted with casino employees, local and international visitors to the casinos, social workers and family centres working on issues related to problem gambling and addiction management. The team also carried out a total of 21 field visits to casinos in Singapore, Macau and the Philippines, as well as gambling ships docked in international waters outside Singapore. Field trips were also conducted to learn more about the moneylending industry and self-help groups who provide counselling and support for problem gamblers in Singapore.

The team published one journal article entitled "Harnessing Exception: Mobilities, Credibility and the Casino" in *Environment and Planning A* (2015), and presented papers in two workshops in 2015. In May 2015, one of the members from the research team presented "Morality and Sociality of a Casino Space: Examining the Applicability of the Las Vegas IR Model in Singapore" at a seminar organised by the Institute for East Asian Studies, Sungkonghoe University in Seoul, South Korea. In August 2015, members of the team also presented three papers entitled "From Cosmopolitan Centre to Heartlands: The Other Face of Singapore's Casinos"; "Regulatory Regimes and Transnational Labour Brokering in a Grey Casino Space," and "The State of Fun: Casinos and Experiential Capitalism in Singapore" at an international workshop, *Beyond the State's Reach: Casino Enclaves as Spaces of Development or Lawlessness*, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, co-organised with colleagues from the University of Macau, Institut d'Asie Orientale (IAO-ENS Lyon, France), and the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) (Leiden, the Netherlands). Together with these international collaborators and other researchers, the team is now part of a casino research interest group and a network of scholars (the Casino and Development in Asia Research Network) who are working on similar issues in different parts of Asia.

Project Team

Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh
Principal Investigator

Dr Esther Goh
Collaborator

Dr Kamalini Ramdas
Collaborator

Dr Melody Chia-Wen Lu
Collaborator,
University of Macau

Dr Zhang Juan
Collaborator,
University of New England

Ms Esther Ng
Research Assistant

MIGRATING OUT OF POVERTY RESEARCH PROGRAMME CONSORTIUM



Migrating out of Poverty is an international research programme consortium funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). It focuses on the relationship between migration and poverty, with the aim of maximising the development impacts of migration whilst minimising the costs and risks of migration for the poor. A key facet of the Consortium is the communication of research through policy engagement and capacity-building initiatives, directed at delivering high-quality evidence into policy and practice.

The Consortium is coordinated by the University of Sussex, led by CEO Professor L. Alan Winters and Research Director Dr Priya Deshingkar. It has five core partners located across different regions in Asia and Africa: the Asia Research Institute (ARI) in Singapore; the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) in Bangladesh; the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) in Ghana; the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) in South Africa; and the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) in Kenya. As a core partner, ARI's role is to manage and facilitate the Consortium's work within Southeast Asia through a range of research, communications, and capacity-building initiatives.

In 2015, the project team at ARI undertook three new projects under the auspices of the Consortium. The first aims at understanding the migration industry, focusing on private brokerage as an under-studied aspect of the migration trajectory of domestic workers from Indonesia to Singapore. There are several components to this project, aiming at uncovering how and where agents stand at the intersection of the practices of the state, accreditation and professional bodies, private markets, migrant workers, and local clients. In Singapore, in-depth qualitative interviews with employment agents (n=30) were conducted alongside interviews with key stakeholders (n=5), such as embassy officials, Ministry of Manpower officers and non-governmental organisation (NGO) representatives. In Indonesia, in-depth qualitative interviews (n=13) were conducted with NGO representatives, government authorities, recruitment company owners and training centre managers across three sites: Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Ponorogo. Key documents, such as domestic workers' bio-datas, employment contracts, service agreements, and

cost breakdowns were collected for analysis. The key research problematic aims to discover how the migration industry, an essential component of many low-waged migrant flows within Southeast Asia, affects domestic workers' ability to gain upward social and economic mobility for themselves and their families. It also aims to contribute to work surrounding the migration infrastructure of labour brokerage in Asia. Fieldwork started in July 2015 and key findings will be published in mid-2016.

The second project that the team at ARI has undertaken is an analysis of the causal mechanisms that led to the formulation and subsequent institution of the January 2013 "day off" policy for migrant domestic workers in Singapore. This is intended to be a case study for understanding the socio-political dynamics of policy-making processes in the low-waged labour migrant sector in Singapore. Using a process tracing methodology with an emphasis on utilising the three "I"s framework – ideas, interests and institutions – this project aims to chart the stakeholders involved, the impetuses that drove such policy formulations, the role and convergence of these processes with the public domain, and the relationships between stakeholders that developed as a result. Since October 2015, qualitative interviews have been conducted with representatives from NGOs, the government sector, the media, relevant embassies, and other organisations and individuals which have been identified as key players throughout this process (n=15). An analysis of a large amount of secondary material – including newspaper articles, NGO reports, and parliamentary speeches – concerning the lead-up to the "day off" policy is also under way in order to help triangulate what is found in the interviews.

Building on previous research conducted since 2013 with households from migrant-sending villages in rural Ponorogo, Indonesia, the third project that the ARI team has embarked on investigates the socio-economic impacts of migration by taking the household as the unit of analysis. In particular, this project seeks to interrogate the influence of gender on remittance usage, the impact of migration on long-term investment including in human capital and education, and the ways in which migration has affected the life choices of young people living in migrant communities. Drawing a random sample of 24 households from a previous household survey conducted with over 1,200 households, this project considers the perspectives of adults and youths from both migrant and non-migrant households. Three rounds of fieldwork have been completed in 2015, and results are expected to be published in 2016.

The ARI team published three Working Papers in 2015, outlining general findings from fieldwork conducted across 2013-2014. They are titled: *Migration and Precarious Work: Negotiating Debt, Employment and Livelihood Strategies Amongst Bangladeshi Migrant Men Working in Singapore's*

Construction Industry; Structural Conditions and Agency in Migrant Decision-Making: A Case of Domestic and Construction Workers from Java, Indonesia; and Migration and Information Communication Technology Use: A Case Study of Indonesian Domestic Workers in Singapore.

In 2015, there were three major events that marked the culmination and dissemination of the project team's research work, both past and present. From 30 June - 2 July 2015, ARI hosted an international conference organised in conjunction with the Migrating out of Poverty Consortium, entitled *Gendered Dimensions of Migration: Material and Social Outcomes of South-South Migration*. This conference was well-attended by representatives from around the world, including partner institutes within the Consortium; it emphasised academic work produced in the South in order to highlight perspectives which have been historically and systematically undervalued. The conference came to a close with a policy roundtable featuring representatives from international organisations and local NGOs to discuss the way forward for migrants, focusing on labour markets and remittances.

On 2 July 2015, ARI also hosted the Asian Migration Cluster's annual Asia Trends public symposium, titled *En Route to the Departure Hall: How Migrants Navigate Recruitment Processes*. A curated photo exhibition of Indonesian domestic

workers' migration journeys, spanning recruitment from villages to eventual placement in Singaporean homes, was shown in conjunction with journalist collective RUOM. This culminated in an evening of presentations, including the sharing of results from ARI's work with Bangladeshi construction workers, which focused on the processes of recruitment and the workers' experience of conditions of debt, vulnerability, and precarity. Subsequent presentations, a panel discussion and a question and answer section followed, aiming to offer a comparative perspective on the issues and challenges concerning the recruitment of low-waged migrant labour in Asia. The panel featured RUOM journalist and photographer Nicolas Axelrod, ARI and Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) representative Ms Kellynn Wee, and former director of the International Labour Organisation's International Migration Programme, Dr Manolo Abella.

In November 2015, ARI collaborated with the University of Gadjah Mada's Centre for Population and Policy Studies to co-organise a seminar in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Attended by 50 people, including Indonesian government officials, academics, and local NGO representatives, this seminar featured the presentation of a new set of findings from the quantitative household survey that the ARI project team conducted with 1,203 Indonesian households in 2013.



Ristanti, after working in Singapore as a domestic worker for over a decade, returned home to Desa Bader, Dolopo, Indonesia, to set up a community library for the children in her village.

Programme Members

Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh
Principal Investigator

Dr Maria Platt
Dr Silvia Mila Arlini
Ms Grace Baey
Ms Charmian Goh Jia Min
Ms Khoo Choon Yen
Ms Koh Chiu Yee
Ms Theodora Lam
Ms Kellynn Wee Jiaying

ASIAN METACENTRE FOR POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS



Headquartered in Singapore at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS, the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis (AMC) was established in 2000 with funding from The Wellcome Trust's major Awards for a Centre of Excellence in Asia. AMC was constituted through a collaborative effort between ARI, NUS; the College for Population Studies (CPS) at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria. The National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) at the Australian National University joined as a principal collaborator in 2002. AMC's research foci includes: population-development-environment-health interactions at the regional level, rapid urbanisation, urbanism and health in Asia, and demographic change, migration and the "Asian family", and their impacts on social and psychological wellbeing.

One of AMC's major aims is to improve the synergy between existing population studies centres around Asia through an internet platform, training courses, topical workshops, support for project development and a general enhancement of the interaction among scientists working on population, health and sustainable development. It brings together Asian centres, fostering international collaborations and skills transfer. It also aims to consolidate the Asian Population Network (APN), organise relevant workshops, provide training for skills development, develop high quality proposals, engage in research proposals and subsequently publish research papers and books. The series of conferences, workshops and seminars organised through the Asian MetaCentre had thus served as a platform for strengthening demographic research and the analysis of population dynamics in the Asian context in relation to health and wellbeing.

The CHAMPSEA team at AMC had a fruitful year, continuing to yield a string of high quality publications in 2015 using the rich quantitative and qualitative datasets from the project on Child Health and Migrant Parents in South-East Asia, and garnering new grants.

Key members of the team were successful in being awarded three grants to conduct a follow-up longitudinal study for the CHAMPSEA project from 2016 to 2019:

- Child Health and Migrant Parents in South-East Asia (CHAMPSEA): Wave II (S\$592,993.55 awarded by the MOE Academic Research Fund Tier 2 from 2 February 2016 to 1 February 2019);

- CHAMPSEA Wave II (S\$45,000 awarded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through the Gender, Migration and the Work of Care project, Centre for Global Social Policy, for 12 months). Co-Investigator.
- The Impact of Growing Up in a Transnational Household on Youth Transition to Adulthood: A Comparative Mixed Method Study from Southeast Asia (HK\$747,504 awarded by General Research Fund, Research Grants Council HK for 36 months). Collaborator.

Publications by the CHAMPSEA team in 2015 include:

Hoang, L. A. and B. S. A. Yeoh (2015). "I'd do it for love or for money": Vietnamese women in Taiwan and the social construction of female migrant sexuality. *Gender, Place and Culture* 22(5): 591-607. DOI: 10.1080/0966369X.2014.885892.

Hoang, L. A. and B. S. A. Yeoh (2015). Children's agency and its contradictions in the context of transnational labour migration from Vietnam. *Global Networks* 15(2): 180-197. DOI: 10.1111/glob.12057.

Lu, M. C. W., C. Alipio and B. S. A. Yeoh (2015). Special section on Asian Children and Transnational Migration. *Children's Geographies* 13(3).

Hoang, L. A., T. Lam, B. S. A. Yeoh and E. Graham (2015). Transnational migration, changing care arrangements and left-behind children's responses in South-east Asia. *Children's Geographies* 13(3): 263-277. DOI: 10.1080/14733285.2015.972653.

Graham, E., L. Jordan and B. S. A. Yeoh (2015). Parental migration and the mental health of those who stay behind to care for children in South-East Asia. *Social Science & Medicine* 132: 225-235. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.10.060.

Hoang, L. A. and B. S. A. Yeoh, eds. (2015). *Transnational labour migration, remittances and the changing family in Asia*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hoang, L. A. and B. S. A. Yeoh (2015). Introduction: Migration, remittances and the family. In *Transnational labour migration, remittances and the changing family in Asia*, edited by L. A. Hoang and B. S. A. Yeoh, pp. 1-23. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hoang, L. A. and B. S. A. Yeoh (2015). Transnational labour migration, debts and family economics in Vietnam. In *Transnational labour migration, remittances and the changing family in Asia*, edited by L. A. Hoang and B. S. A. Yeoh, pp. 283-310. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

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ASIAN URBANISMS

The Asian Urbanisms Cluster (AUC) advances research on Asia's diverse urban experiences along four major lines: (1) **The Vernacular City** as living urban heritage and participatory city-making in Asia's diverse contexts; (2) **Spaces of Hope** through grassroots initiatives for alternative development that often arise from a milieu of urban discontents for alternative development; (3) **Disaster Governance** in the context of Asia's rapid urban transition and global climate change; and (4) the rise of **Progressive Cities** in Asia and Europe.

The Vernacular City directs research to the exercise of human agency in the production of urban spaces that socially, and physically shape the city. Collaboration continued with the Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA) in Leiden, and the FASS Cities Cluster and Future Cities Laboratory at NUS. In April, the international conference on *Alternative Urban Spaces: Cities by and for the People* brought together scholars contributing to the UKNA book trilogy on cities in Asia.

Two Vernacular City film screenings were held in 2015. Dr Lilian Chee's film, *03 Flats*, focusing on resident perceptions and meanings associated with Singapore's public housing, was shown in April. The screening of Ms Eng Yee Peng's *Diminishing Memories* about the resettlement of the Ama Keng Village to make way for a military training ground was held in July as an ARI Asia Trends public event.

The Vernacular City continued its research collaboration on community participation in water provision and distribution with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), Duke University, and the Kota Kita Foundation. The research team conducted field research involving local residents presenting initiatives in water and sanitation improvements in Indonesia. In addition, AUC members and the Future Cities Laboratory organised a one-day *Ciliwung River Project* symposium at Raffles Hotel, Jakarta, in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in Indonesia and Tarumanagara University. Also in Indonesia, a research project to do cultural mapping of the Old Town (*Kota Tua*) of Jakarta was initiated with Tarumanagara University and UNESCO.

Spaces of Hope research theme features a workshop on *The Quotidian Anthropocene: Reconfiguring Environments in Urbanising Asia* in 2014, which is leading to the preparation of an edited volume to be published in 2016. As an allied Spaces of Hope activity, several AUC members continued to participate in the MOE Tier 2-funded multidisciplinary research on *Aspirations, Urban Governance, and the Remaking of Asian Cities*, organised by FASS Cities Research Cluster. The project examines the conditions and consequences

of community and institutional aspirations in 15 cities across seven different countries in Asia.

Research on **Disaster Governance** in an age of urban transitions and global climate change has produced extensive international research collaborations and publications, with a longer term objective of establishing Singapore as a centre of leadership in Asia in the growing field of Disaster Research.

The expansion of the Disaster Governance theme has been facilitated by an MOE Tier-2 grant on *Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanising Asia* [MOE2014-T2-1-017], awarded in 2014. Led by the AUC, this three-year multidisciplinary programme involves cooperation with STS and aims to improve understandings of the changing risks, vulnerabilities, responses and resilience to compounded environmental disasters in an increasingly interconnected urbanising Asia.

The AUC continues to nurture international scholarly networks around disaster governance by convening five international events with the support of the MOE Tier-2 grant, as well as ARI and partner institutions. The AUC international conference on *Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia and the Pacific*, held at ARI in November, gathered 34 scholars to explore the complexities of governing environmental disasters with compounding impacts that traverse national borders. This event received financial support from UKNA, and the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), in addition to ARI and the MOE Tier-2 grant.

Other international disaster governance events at ARI included the *Workshop on Decentralised Disaster Governance in Urbanising Asia* (March) and the *Workshop on Research, Experiences, Teaching and Training in Disaster Governance* (June). In September, the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, in cooperation with NUS collaborators in the MOE Tier-2 grant, met in Chengdu, China, for a *Workshop on Post-Disaster Governance for Resilient City Regions*.

In December, the Disaster Governance programme jointly sponsored the first half of a two-part workshop on *Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance*, hosted by co-sponsor University of Tokyo. Both the Chengdu and Tokyo workshops involved site visits to areas impacted by environmental disasters, namely, the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and the 2011 Fukushima triple disaster.

AUC members celebrated the publication of three edited volumes linked to previous ARI disaster governance events through a triple launch at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in November. Collectively, the new contributions to scholarship on *Disaster Governance in Urbanising Asia* (Springer), *Governing Flooding in Asia's Urban Transition* (Pacific

Affairs) and *Decentralising Disaster Governance in Urbanising Asia* (*Habitat International*) bring together contextually rich studies from 29 authors.

In 2015 the Disaster Governance programme soft-launched DisasterGovernance.Asia, a blog dedicated to sharing information and instigating discussion about research on disaster governance in Asia.

Research on **Progressive Cities** was initiated through an NUS-Université Sorbonne grant that funded a dialogic workshop in Singapore in February and a Symposium in Paris in May under the theme of the *Rise of Progressive Cities in Asia and Europe*. In this

project, cities and city governance are assessed in terms of their contributions to the core idea of human flourishing along four dimensions: inclusion, distributive justice, conviviality, and the natural environment.

In October, the City of Seoul sponsored the International Symposium on *Making a Progressive City: Seoul's Experience and Beyond*, held in Seoul's City Hall. A prior International Symposium on *Asian Human City Network* was sponsored by and held in Suwon, South Korea. Both symposia were held to initiate further research on progressive cities in Korea, Asia and beyond in the coming years.



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PROJECT**GOVERNING COMPOUND
DISASTERS IN URBANISING ASIA**

Building on ARI's established record of research on disasters in Asia, in late 2013 the Asian Urbanisms Cluster (AUC), in cooperation with the Science, Technology, and Society (STS) Cluster, initiated a new programme on Research on Disaster Governance in an age of urban transitions and global climate change. Over the subsequent two years, the programme has produced extensive international research collaborations and publications, with a longer term objective of establishing Singapore as a centre of leadership in Asia in this expanding field of Disaster Research.

The expansion of the Disaster Governance theme within ARI is facilitated by an MOE Tier-2 grant on *Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanising Asia* [MOE2014-T2-1-017] awarded in 2014 and led by the AUC with the STS Cluster. This three-year multidisciplinary programme seeks to improve understandings of the changing risks, vulnerabilities, responses and resilience to compounded environmental disasters in an increasingly interconnected urbanising Asia. The programme is the only university-based disaster research effort in Asia that brings together the social sciences, humanities and technical science disciplines in collaborative research.

The team of scholars on the Disaster Governance grant have nurtured international networks involved in disaster governance research by convening five international events with the support of the MOE Tier-2 grant, as well as ARI and partner institutions' contributions. In March 2015 the *Workshop on Decentralised Disaster Governance in Urbanising Asia* was successfully held at ARI. This was followed by the *Workshop on Research, Experiences, Teaching and Training in Disaster Governance* in June. In September, the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, in cooperation with NUS collaborators in the MOE Tier-2 grant, met in Chengdu, China, for a *Workshop on Post-Disaster Governance for Resilient City Regions*.

The largest disaster governance event of 2015 at ARI was the international conference on *Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia and the Pacific*. Held in November, it brought 34 participants together to share their research on the complexities of governing environmental disasters with compounding impacts that traverse national borders. This event received financial support from UKNA and the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), in addition to ARI and the MOE Tier-2 grant. Just prior to this conference, a book launch of three publications — an edited book and two special journal editions — from AUC's disaster governance research was hosted by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS.

In December, the Disaster Governance programme jointly sponsored the first half of a two-part workshop on *Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance*, hosted by co-sponsor University of Tokyo. Both the Chengdu and Tokyo workshops involved site visits to areas impacted by environmental disasters, namely, the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and the 2011 Fukushima triple disaster.

To expand its networking efforts, AUC launched its DisasterGovernance.Asia blog dedicated to sharing information and instigating discussion in Asia and around the world on disaster governance in Asia. The blog features monthly themes on selected aspects of Disaster Governance.



One of the preserved buildings along the uninhabited streets of Beichuan that was devastated in the 12 May 2008 Sichuan earthquake, which resulted in 70,000 deaths and at least 5 million people left homeless. Photo taken in September 2015 by Mike Douglass.

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CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA

The Changing Family in Asia Cluster reaches a new height in our endeavours to examine the dimensions of family change in the region, their causes and implications. These dimensions include rising ages at marriage and decreasing non-marriage, declining fertility and declining size of the nuclear family, increase in one-person households and alternative family forms, changing gender roles within families, and changes in family structures consequent on population ageing. The cluster identifies many new underexplored issues in the field, challenges established theoretical paradigms about global family changes and plays a thought leader role in research on family and population changes in Asia.

This year, the cluster worked hard to publish many volumes from past conferences we had organised. A special section of six papers presented in the conference *Discrepancies between Behaviour and Attitudes toward Marriage and Fertility in Asia* held in ARI was published in the premium journal in the family field, *Journal of Marriage and Family* (vol. 77, issue 5, 2015). From the conference *Youthful Futures: Transition to Adulthood*, two special issues focusing on youth's work and family formation behaviour are scheduled to be published in *Children's Geography* in 2017.

In addition, we have been studying emerging family types in Asia. A special collection of papers presented in the conference on *Living Alone: One-Person Households in Asia*, held in ARI on 5 - 6 December 2013, was published in 2015 by the convenors Professor Jean Yeung and Dr Adam Cheung under the same title in the journal *Demographic Research*, volume 32. This collection is the first body of literature that systematically investigates this fastest growing family type—one-person households—outside of Western societies. It documents and explains the varying rates of increase in one-person households in Asia. This research collection has been quoted in the international magazine *The Economist* this year in two separate articles.

We also examine another growing family form in Asia—one-parent families. We produced a double issue in another leading internally reviewed journal, *Marriage and Family Review*, titled *Growing Up in One-parent Families in Asia* (guest editors, W. Jean Yeung and Hyunjoon Park) to demonstrate the heterogeneity and complexity of one-parent families with respect to its causes and consequences. In different countries, divorce, labour migration, or parental death accounts for why there has been an increasing number of children growing up with one

or both parents absent. This is a collection of ten papers presented in the conference on *Growing Up in a One-parent Family in Asia* held in ARI on 1 - 2 July 2014.

In 2015, the cluster organised a conference on *Educational Resilience among Asian Children in Challenging Family Environment*, 4 - 5 February 2015, and cluster members are working on two special issues in *Educational Psychology and Social Indicators Research*. We also co-sponsored the *Conference on Singapore Families and Population Dynamics* on 28 April 2015 which also marked the official launch of the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) directed by the cluster's research leader, Professor Jean Yeung. Ms Grace Fu, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for the Environment & Water Resources, and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, was the Guest of Honour at the event. Preparations are now underway for a conference on *Caring for Elderly in ASEAN Plus Three: Long-term Care in the Familial Context* to be held on 1-2 March 2016. This conference is organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Preparation has been underway for another conference on *Migration and Marriage in Asia* to be held on 26 - 27 July 2016.

Several events and books have resulted from conferences and cluster members' research. On 12 March 2015, Research Fellow Sharon Quah delivered a roundtable presentation at the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), discussing housing issues confronting Singaporean divorcees. Based on her findings, she suggested that the Singapore Housing & Development Board policies disadvantage divorced women and need to better address the needs of divorcees.

Dr Sharon Quah also launched her book, *Perspectives on Marital Dissolution: Divorce Biographies in Singapore* (Springer, 2015), and conducted an ARI Asia Trends public lecture. Using Singaporean divorcees' narrative accounts, this book explores how divorcees design and construct what the author calls, a divorce biography, to dissolve an unsatisfying marriage, cope with the crisis, negotiate associated risks, organise post-divorce personal communities and make future plans. The book has attracted attention from policy makers on the needs of single parent families in Singapore.

Cluster members have many publications this year including articles in two premium journals, *Demography* and *Annual Review of Sociology* by Professor Yeung, articles based on Dr Hu Shu's dissertation on China's left-behind children, and articles by Dr Mu Zheng. The cluster's monthly research brief, *Asian Family Matters*, continues to feature a wide range of family issues such as son preference, policies for older adults, left-behind children, productive aging, migration and gender in

East, South and Southeast Asia. Some titles in 2015 are *Religion and Son Preference in India*; *Ageing in East Asia*; *Governance, Welfare and the Familial in Singapore*; *Living Alone in Asia*; and *Coming of Age in China*.

In addition to individual projects, cluster members have been collaborating on several large external research grants including Professor Yeung’s project on *Age of Retirement and Intergenerational Transfer in China and India: Implications for Human Capital and Labour Market* and *The Impact of Internal Migration on Family and Child Well-being in China*. Dr Sharon Quah’s study on transnational divorces in Singapore, funded by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) Family Research Fund,

has been ongoing since 2014 and promises to generate important policy relevant findings.

On a smaller scale, a number of cluster seminars were convened in 2015 including *Marriage and Migration in China: The Origin-gender-education Intersections* by Dr Mu Zheng, 10 September 2015; and *China Family Panel Studies* by Professor Xie Yu, 13 November 2015. Finally, cluster members’ research expertise is also sought after in the media—Professor Jean Yeung gave an interview to The Supper Club on the topic “Men now expected to bring home the bacon - cook it” on 9 May 2015 and a television interview with Mediacorp on “Living Alone for Elderly in Singapore” on 4 December 2015.



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PROJECT**TRANSNATIONAL DIVORCES
IN SINGAPORE**

One of the notable changes in Singapore's family patterns in recent years, as scholars and practitioners have observed, is the steady increase of international marriages between Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans and the prevalence of transnational families. According to official statistics, Singapore has a large proportion of transnational marriages with 38.7% of marriages in 2008 comprising marriages between a Singaporean citizen and a non-citizen. Transnational family patterns including transnational divorce therefore deserve the attention of family scholars. There is a need to gain a deeper understanding of this growing social phenomenon, specifically, the variations in transnational marriages; the configurations of transnational family relationships and practices; the reasons behind transnational marital dissolution; the consequences transnational divorced families face and the adaptations they make in the face of a new family set up across borders and time zones.

Led by its Principal Investigator, Dr Sharon Quah, this study sets out to explore trends and issues concerning transnational divorced families in Singapore. The project is funded by the Ministry of Social and Family Development Family Research Fund for one and half years with a grant of S\$77,502 and supported by the Asia Research Institute's Changing Family in Asia Cluster.

The research questions this project sets out to investigate are as follows:

1. What are the main reasons behind the dissolution of transnational marriages in Singapore?
2. What are the unique, cross-border challenges that confront transnational divorcees and their families?
3. How do transnational divorcees navigate cross-border family legislative frameworks concerning marital dissolution, property settlement, child support maintenance and child custody?
4. How do transnational divorced parents manage cross-border post-divorce parent-child relationships, childcare matters, visitation and access issues?
5. How do transnational divorcees maintain post-divorce personal relationships with kin, friends, and former in-laws?
6. How do the existing legislative and support systems in Singapore adapt to and cope with such changing family forms and demographics of the population?

7. What are the policy possibilities in improving the condition of transnational divorcees and their families?

In 2015, in-depth, one-on-one interviews were conducted with 50 transnational divorcees in Singapore. The interviews were carried out on a one-on-one basis at venues that were convenient and comfortable for the participants who are from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Out of the 50 participants, 40 are Singaporean citizens or permanent residents who have terminated their transnational marriages with a foreign spouse. A third of the sample are men. To understand the experiences of foreign spouses as well, this project also conducted in-depth interviews with 10 non-Singaporean divorcees who had dissolved their marriage with a Singaporean spouse. The study is currently at its final stage where data analysis and report writing are being carried out.

The findings will not only inform our understanding on the experiences and situations of Singaporean divorcees from transnational marriages but also the particular social phenomenon of transnational divorce that is becoming more prominent and complex in the global context. This will contribute to the conceptualisation of intimacy, and personal and family life beyond conventional familial forms and beyond the borders of nation-states. It is also hoped that the project will offer suggestions and recommendations for policy improvement so that transnational divorcees and their families could be more appropriately and effectively supported.

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CULTURAL STUDIES IN ASIA

Having consolidated its place as an international centre for the study of East Asian Pop Culture, the Cultural Studies Cluster has begun to expand its research focus to social media and cyber cultures. An earlier foray into this expanding research field was hosting an *Inter-Asia Roundtable*, in 2012, on *Methodological and Conceptual Issues in Cyber Activism Research*. Methodological and conceptual issues in social media and cyber cultural studies continue to be important issues, as without conceptual and methodological rigour, researches in these areas remain as “opportunistic” substantive studies of particular events which, while necessary, are but the basic building blocks of a more coherent field of investigation. Meanwhile, two political events in 2014 provided opportunity for comparative analysis of the use of social media and cyber activism in Asia.

In March 2015, the cluster organised an international conference on *Mob Politics in Asia*. Motivated by the Sunflower Movement or Occupy Taiwan Legislative Yuan in Taipei and the Umbrella Movement or Occupy Hong Kong Central demonstrations, this conference brought together papers that examined different instances of street demonstrations and occupations across Asia. Apart from the two movements, presentations included the Bersih

(Clean) demonstrations demanding “clean” elections in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Candle Light Vigil against American Beef Importation in Seoul, Korea, and the aftermath of the People’s Power Movement in the Philippines. In all but the Philippines instance, online activities in social media were as much part of the offline political demonstrations in the streets; the affective dimension of in situ offline activities were amplified and globalised through instant, spontaneous and constant streaming of images and texts of the street activities. Bringing these instances together also provided an opportunity to flesh out “inter-referencing” Asia as a comparative methodology in Cultural Studies in Asia.

As part of the celebration of SG50 (50th Anniversary Celebrations of Singapore’s independence), the cluster organised a two-day international conference on *Singapore Studies from the Outside*. The aim was to discover how and what the world beyond thinks of Singapore as an object of academic analysis. Among the many ideas presented are novel ways of looking at the Singapore state as its “constitutional modernism”, its “pragmatism” resembling American “New Deal” politics and as a “property state”.

Moving forward, it is envisaged that the multi-dimensions of the social media “revolution” will be centre stage in the future activities of the cluster. With this additional emphasis will also be a change of leadership. Professor Chua Beng Huat, who has been with ARI and led the Cultural Studies in Asia Research Cluster since the beginning, will be stepping down as the cluster leader at the end of June 2016, after fifteen years.



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METACLUSTER: ASIAN CONNECTIONS

The Metacluster originated as an attempt to articulate a new paradigm that looks at Asian nations, cultures, and civilisations in terms of their connections, interactions, and interdependencies in both historical and geographical space. The motive for such an exploration derives from contemporary research that exposes the entangled relations between countries in East, Southeast, South and West Asia not only in contemporary affairs but also in the distant past. Indeed as these regions are increasingly deriving benefits and facing challenges in emergent or re-emergent Asia, there is even greater imperative for a new historical and sociological paradigm going beyond the enclaves of “methodological nationalism,” area studies, and civilisational analyses.

One great leap for this orientation came in January 2014 when ARI received a donation of SGD3 million (plus SGD240,000 initial operating fund) from Mr Muhammad Alagil of Saudi Arabia to establish a Muhammad Alagil Distinguished Chair in Arabia Asia Studies aimed at enhancing inter-Asian research, particularly between the Arabian peninsula and South, Southeast and East Asia from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Professor Ho Engseong of Duke University has been appointed Visiting Professor for two months a year for five years beginning April 2014. Following the first successful inaugural conference on 23-24 June 2014, the second conference was held on 29-30 July 2015 entitled *Silk Roads, Muslim Passages: The Islam Question in China's Expansion*. A significant number of scholars from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea and the USA participated with about 50 attendees from Singapore and the region.

In June, the Arabia-Asia reading group was formed as an offshoot of the Metacluster, to focus more directly on the historical connections between South and Southeast Asia and the Middle East. This attracted several scholars and researchers from various departments at NUS. The group held regular monthly meetings to discuss and obtain feedback from various works-in-progress among the scholars. Diverse topics included tribe and place in Dubai, diasporic labour to Mecca from the Pattani region in southern Thailand, Chinese-Arab labourers in France, and Arab migration to pre-colonial Philippines. Members of the group come from China, Hungary, India, the Philippines, and Singapore. On 21-22 December, a formal roundtable meeting was held to discuss *Of Sand and Soil* (Nadav Samin, Princeton University Press, 2015) and

to present and discuss specific research projects including book proposals, draft articles and book chapters. The participants came from China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore. Professor Ho Engseong returned to Singapore to chair the meeting. Plans to continue this event on a yearly basis, and to expand the reading group beyond Singapore have been discussed and agreed to.

On 14 July 2015, a *Preliminary Workshop on Religious and Trade Networks in Southeast Asia* was held at ARI. Professor Kenneth Dean, Head of the Chinese Studies Department, NUS with joint appointment at ARI, was convenor. This one-day conference brought together scholars from Canada, Germany, Singapore and the USA. The conference focused on the transnational networks established in Singapore with linkages throughout Southeast Asia. A unique feature of this conference was the business linkages formed inside religious temples (*huiguan*) to bolster business trust through rites dedicated to specific deities.

Another conference *Chinese Diaspora Studies in the Age of Global Modernity*, 19-20 November 2015, was jointly sponsored by ARI, NUS Office of the Deputy President (Research and Technology), the History Department and the Centre for the Study of Chinese Overseas at Peking University, China. This conference sought to investigate the changes in Chinese diasporic studies in a context of China as an emergent global power and also within a context of transnational mobility of ideas, capital, people and goods. The historical formation of Chinese overseas communities in Southeast Asia remains an interest, although new clusters of communities in other parts of Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas provide the basis for cross-disciplinary and comparative inquiries on various related themes such as transnationalism, translocality, Chineseness, hybridity, business networks, linguistic transformation, and the like. The two-day conference brought participants from various regions and backgrounds including Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, the UK, and the USA.

The Metacluster also continued to organise a number of talks over the course of the year. These included a public seminar by Associate Professor Shuang Shen of Pennsylvania State University and currently Fulbright Scholar in residence at Hong Kong University. Her talk entitled *A Cold War Transpacific Cultural Network: A Study of Youlian's History in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia* focused on the largely neglected cultural aspect of the Cold War. A discussion of the activities of the Union Publishing House based in Hong Kong yielded the formation of a diasporic Chinese community in Malaya, Myanmar, and Indonesia, all of which formed part of a transcultural network complexly embedded in Cold War politics, post-colonial nation-building, and Chinese diasporic identity formation.

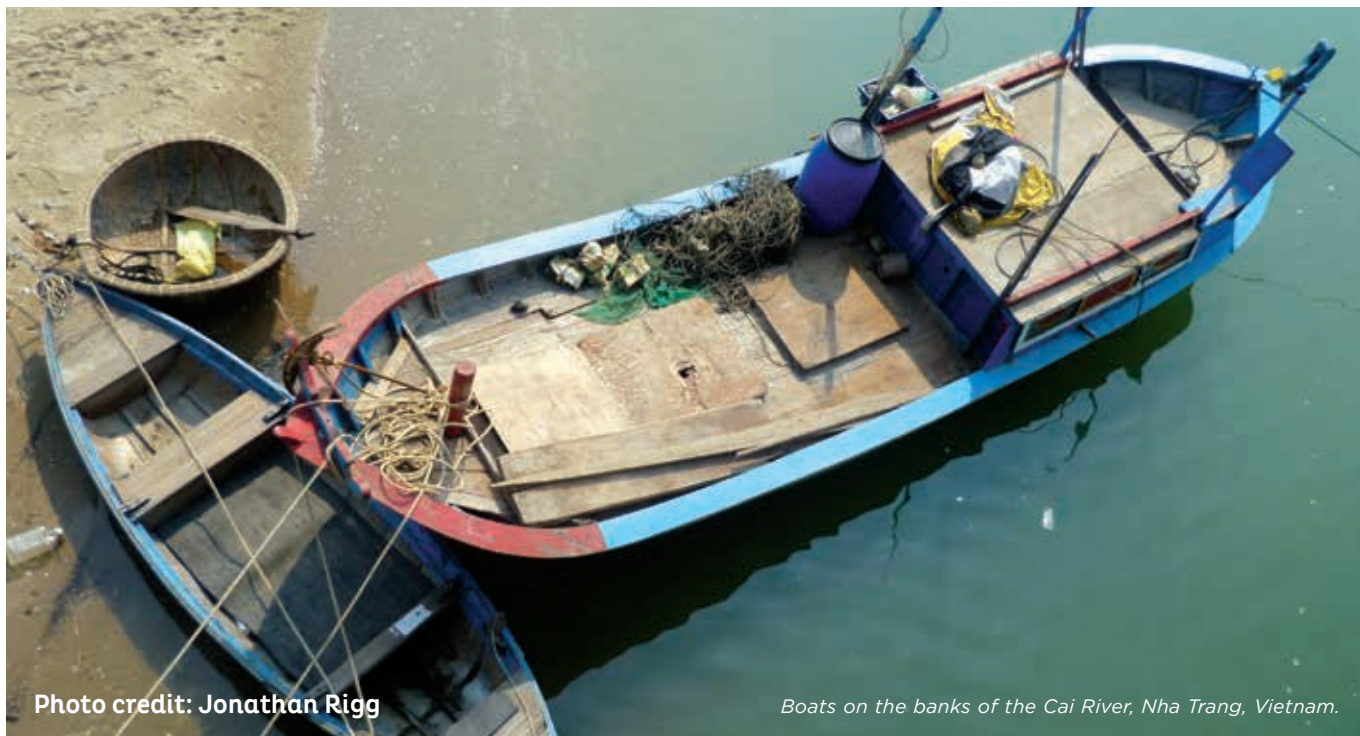


Photo credit: Jonathan Rigg

Boats on the banks of the Cai River, Nha Trang, Vietnam.

Publications for 2015 include:

Duara, Prasenjit. A tale of two Chinas. Review essay for *Development and Change*, May 46(3): 562-569.

Duara, Prasenjit. The agenda of Asian studies and digital media in the Anthropocene. *Asiascape: Digital Asia* (e-journal Leiden) 2: 11-19

Cruz-del Rosario, Teresita. From execution to e-mobilization: Luneta Park as dramaturgical protest space. *International Sociological Association* (e-Symposium for Sociology) 5: 7-15

Cruz-del Rosario, Teresita. Nascent and latent: Civil society at the advent of democratic transition in Southeast Asia. Middle East-Asia Programme, Middle East Institute, Washington D.C. (15 September 2015).

As in previous years, the Metacluster continued to meet every month in 2015 as a reading group with members drawn from social scientists, historians and area studies specialists in both ARI and the Faculties. This year's reading group tackled a divergence of themes and topics that ranged from global inequality, the global environmental crisis, and a global history of civil society. Always, the historical connections between and among countries in South, Southeast, East and West Asia remained an overriding theme during the discussions.

Finally, one of the key developments of the Metacluster this year has been the launch of Professor Prasenjit Duara's *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). Professor Duara has travelled

extensively throughout the world to discuss the book. The first launch was appropriately held in January at NUS. In this major study Professor Duara expands his influential theoretical framework to present circulatory, transnational histories as an alternative to nationalist history and argues that the present age is defined by the intersection of three global changes: the rise of non-western powers, the crisis of environmental sustainability, and the loss of authoritative sources of what he terms transcendence—the ideals, principles and ethics once found in religion or political ideologies.



RESEARCH LEADER
Prof Prasenjit Duara

Research Cluster Members

Prof Prasenjit Duara
Research Leader

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Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener
Prof Ho Eng seng
Assoc Prof Huang Jianli
Dr Lee Tsung-Ling
Dr Teresita Cruz-Del Rosario

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PROJECT

MUHAMMAD ALAGIL DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN ARABIA ASIA STUDIES

This Professorship is supported by Mr Muhammad Alagil, CEO of Jarir Investments and Chairman of the Jarir Group of Saudi Arabia. Born in Saudi Arabia and educated in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and Berkeley in the U.S. Mr Alagil gave a generous endowment of SGD3 million in early January 2014. The endowment promotes research on Arabia-Asia relations—historic and contemporary relations between the Arabian Peninsula and Asia, especially South, Southeast and East Asia—in ARI.

In June 2014, Professor Ho Engseong commenced a two-month, annual appointment as the Muhammad Alagil Distinguished Visiting Professor in Arabia Asia Studies in ARI's Metacluster. Professor of Anthropology and Professor of History at Duke University in the U.S., Prof Ho is a specialist on Arab/Muslim diasporas across the Indian Ocean, and their relations with western empires, past and present. He has been involved in Inter-Asia collaborations among the Social Science Research Council, NUS, Hong Kong University, Göttingen University and others since 2008, including the SSRC Inter-Asia postdoctoral fellowships programme. Prof Ho also co-edits the Asian Connections book series at Cambridge University Press.

At ARI, Prof Ho held a series of meetings and workshops to bring together scholars working along various Arabia-Asia axes from different parts of Arabia and Asia. Some were held abroad, in Riyadh, Beirut, Maluku and Duke University. This culminated in the *Slender but Supple Threads: Arabia-Asia Relations Then and Now* conference held on 23 and 24 June 2014. In 2015, he organised at ARI an international conference, *Silk Roads, Muslim Passages: The Islam Question in China's Expansion*, from 29 July - 30 July 2015. This conference sought contemporary and historical answers to this question through panels on transport infrastructure, port cities and security, nodal cities, energy hubs, finance, diasporic traders and brokers, and geostrategic rivalry. In 2015, Prof Ho was joined by Dr Nisha Mathew as the Muhammad Alagil Postdoctoral Fellow, and Assoc Prof Teresita Cruz-del Rosaria in the work of the Arabia Asia Chair. Since 2015, Prof Ho has been convening a monthly seminar on Arabia Asia relations with participants from ARI, the Middle East Institute, and NUS Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and from overseas on video conference. He has also been actively giving lectures and keynote speeches at the University of Chicago, Harvard, University of Ghana, Leiden and Thammasat universities, and elsewhere.

In 2015, the programme established many new partnerships, which have greatly facilitated data collection in the field. These include:

King Faisal Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr Muhammad Sbitli of the Centre has participated in both of the ARI conferences, and is undertaking research on Asian Muslim communities in Mecca. He has been conducting textually based historical, literary and biographical studies on these communities, and has begun field research as well.

Tarim Centre for Research and Publications, Tarim, Yemen

One of the most important partners thus far, the Centre has extensive collections on Hadrami history, and on works written by Hadramis and about Hadramawt and its Asian diaspora. Under its Director Mr Abdul Rahman Bilfaqih, the Centre is active in collecting and digitising manuscripts and documents in Yemen, and branching out abroad to places like Indonesia.

Al-Kaff Centre for Research and Publications, Say'un, Yemen

Run by Mr Anis al-Kaff, who publishes prodigiously on Hadrami history, with special interest in the al-Kaff family and tribal affairs, this Centre works closely with the Tarim Centre. We cooperate with the Centre and support it through the Tarim Centre. The complete documents of the al-Kaff family, the most successful Hadrami family in Singapore in the twentieth century, have been deposited at the al-Kaff Centre in Say'un. We are working with the Centre to organise and digitise this important archive for Arabia-Asia research.

Al-Ahqaf Library, Tarim, Yemen

Housing the largest manuscript library in southern Yemen, we are working together to support the work of the Library under the currently challenging circumstances, including digitising manuscripts in their collection.

Kerala Arabic History Documentation Initiative (KAHDI), Calicut, India

Dr Abdul Jaleel, an expert on Malayali Arab Sayyids in Southeast Asia, has been actively working with us to locate and digitise manuscripts and documents related to the Arab community in Kerala, including those linked to the important Makhдум family of scholars.

Anthropology Department, University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

We have begun a partnership with the Department to study relations between Arab descendants and others, including native Indonesians and Chinese, in the Maluku region of eastern Indonesia, including Ternate, Ambon and Seram, the original Spice Islands. Prof Tony Rudyansjah, Chairman of the Department, and Mr Ikhtiar Hatta, a doctoral researcher, are our primary collaborators.

RELIGION AND GLOBALISATION

The Religion and Globalisation Cluster explores changing understandings and experiences of “religion” in diverse Asian contexts. In terms of coverage, the cluster explores major established religions such as Buddhism, Daoism, Christianity and Islam, as well as more localised indigenous traditions and new religious movements across Asia, broadly conceived.

Our work examines dynamics of secularisation and religion in the modern period, as well as related issues of authority and tradition in contemporary religious discourse and practice. The cluster’s central focus in 2015 was on Religion and Development in Asia. This research project, funded by a major grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, explores how religious actors, discourses, and practices intersect with development efforts, and how these engagements result in changes in our understandings of both “religion” and “development”. This work aims to stimulate a re-thinking of long held assumptions about the apparent binary opposition between “religion” and “development”. A prominent feature of our work in this area is the cultivation of sustained engagement between practitioners and academics, with an eye to producing analysis that is relevant both to theory and to practice. The central research question that this project asks is, “How do religion and development interact, engage and transform each other in the Asian region?” Can engaging with religion in development processes help improve outcomes in areas such as poverty alleviation, conflict mitigation, disaster response and sustainable development? In what ways does engagement with religion present a challenge to established models of both development practice and traditional conceptions of religion and its role in Asian societies? A book launch of a co-edited volume entitled *Religion and the Politics of Development* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), based on research on these questions was held in June 2015.

In connection with this central cluster project, we hosted a conference in February 2015 on *Christianity, Anthropology, and the Problem of Difference*. A second conference was held in May 2015 on *The Mission of Development: Religion and Techno-politics in Asia*. The history of development has recently become a lively and debated field. We questioned the established storyline of development’s sudden invention by American and European powers in the wake of the Second World War and instead considered development in the longue durée. In this re-historicisation effort, Christian missions emerged as particularly important, if also contested. Some argue that development is a child of missionaries

drawing direct moral and political sustenance, and also organisational patterns, from earlier extensive missionary activities in education, health, fundraising, and advocacy. Others contest this view. Regardless, it is becoming increasingly clear that an adequate understanding of the rise and operations of development must take into account a range of religious actors that have previously been ignored and sidelined. This conference reflected on the key question of what the relationships between mission and development are and how these have changed over time. Scholars from around the world and the Southeast Asian region presented historical and/or anthropological examinations of detailed case studies involving missionaries and development actors interacting in key sites of negotiation of aspirations and project implementation. These discussions built upon a rich base of empirical case studies from countries including China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and Singapore on diverse religious traditions. Critical reflection on this newly presented materials has enabled us to gain better understanding of the interaction between normative ideals and actual practices of religious giving in diverse communities across the region.

As mentioned above, the Religion and Globalisation Cluster has been awarded a major grant by the Henry Luce Foundation for research on the topic of “Religion and NGOs in Asia”. The goal of this project is to explore the negotiations and engagement of religious NGOs in Asia with policy and regulatory frameworks at multiple levels—sub-national, national, and trans-national. This work explores four policy dimensions: 1) policies of states towards religious NGOs; 2) policies of development organisations (donors, UN agencies, state agencies) in engaging with religious NGOs; 3) policies and tactics of religious NGOs in responding to states and trans-national actors; and 4) internal policies and practices of religious NGOs. This project carried out new field research in selected sites in East and Southeast Asia conducted by current cluster staff and by two postdoctoral fellows hired for the project.

In addition to the above-mentioned events, the cluster has continued its long-standing research focus on religious networks in practice. This has been the broad rubric under which the Religion Cluster has framed a diverse set of projects investigating dimensions of connectivity and circulation among religious communities across and beyond the region. Over the years this has included projects of mapping the itineraries and institutional infrastructure of mobile monks and seafaring Sufis, explorations of religious traditions and their transformations across diasporic contexts, and studies of new configurations of trans-regional forms of religious discourse and practice, as well as literary lineages across and through histories of translation. This has also been the framework for the Religion Cluster’s sustained



Photo credit: R. Michael Feener

Buddhist nuns at the Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar.

and productive interaction with ARI's Metacluster on "Inter-Asia" connections. In July 2015 Professor Kenneth Dean, the incoming director of this research cluster, organised a workshop on *Inter-Asian Religious Networks*, exploring the historical connections between trade networks and trust-building rites and institutions such as temples and credit pooling. The conference held in January 2015 entitled *Wild Spaces and Islamic Cosmopolitanism* was also a part of this research project.

The cluster benefited from the visit of Senior Research Fellow Steve Sangren (Cornell) who presented his work on Chinese religion in a talk on *Spirit Possession*,

Family Issues and the Production of God's Biographies. Visiting Senior Researcher Tosa Keiko presented in March 2015 on *Buddhist Missionary Work in Myanmar: Conversion, Pagoda-building and Welfare*.

The cluster maintained its Religion and Development reading group, with meetings on a monthly basis throughout the year. We also convened regular Work in Progress sessions to provide postdoctoral fellows, and junior and senior research fellows with feedback on their research. Over the course of the year, the group explored the relations between religion and NGOs in line with the phase of emphasis in the cluster's work on Religion and Development.



RESEARCH LEADER
Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener

Research Cluster Members

Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener
Research Leader

Dr Giuseppe Bolotta
Dr Bernardo Brown
Prof Kenneth Dean
Dr Amelia Fauzia
Dr Philip Fountain
Dr Joshua Gedacht
Dr Liang Yongjia
Prof Paul Sangren
Dr Catherine Scheer
Dr Ronojoy Sen
Dr Bindi Shah
Prof Keiko Tosa
Dr Nurfadzilah Yahaya
Dr Aga Zuoshi

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Kyoto University, Japan

Assoc Prof Gary Bell
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Dr Patrick Daly
Earth Observatory of
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Dr Zeliha Gul Inanc
(Till 30 June 2015)
Department of History, NUS

Dr Arif A. Jamal
Faculty of Law, NUS

Dr Jeremy Kingsley
(Till 30 June 2015)
Tembusu College, NUS

Assoc Prof Vineeta Sinha
(Till 30 June 2015)
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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Science, Technology, and Society (STS) collaborated for the second year with the Asian Urbanisms Cluster on our joint project *Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanising Asia*. This is the first Tier 2 grant project to bring two ARI clusters together. Members of the STS Cluster have been conducting ARI-sponsored research on “Disaster-STs” since 2003, making this one of the longest-lived ARI research initiatives. This year co-Principal Investigator Assoc Prof Gregory Clancey participated with PI Prof Mike Douglass in a collaborative workshop on *Post-Disaster Governance for Resilient City Regions* in Chengdu, China, sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Urban Planning and Design (CAUPD) which involved a moving trip to the preserved ruins of the city of Beichuan. Relatedly, Assoc Prof Clancey was invited to attend an innovative workshop on *Protecting the Weak* at the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies at Goethe University in Frankfurt, which considered disaster victims as one category (along with workers, cultural heritage, and animals). His paper on Japanese earthquake victims was subsequently accepted for publication.

The grant has complemented the cluster’s existing project, ongoing since 2012, of supporting the Japanese medical research community in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear accident. This year saw the second of three scheduled forums on *STS Perspectives on Nuclear Science, Radiation, and Human Health: The View from Asia* at Hiroshima University, Nagasaki University, and NUS respectively (with all three universities credited with the sponsorship of the series). The NUS Forum in 2016 will be hosted by ARI, but funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) through a grant from the government of Japan. Cluster leader Assoc Prof Clancey delivered a paper at this year’s Nagasaki Forum, along with former ARI Visiting Senior Research Fellow Prof Michael Fischer of MIT, and attended side-meetings to plan for the Singapore event. In August Assoc Prof Clancey and former Director of the IAEA Division of Human Health Dr Rethy Chhem published a commentary in *The Lancet* introducing a special section of papers featuring the research of Forum participants.

The cluster continued to partner productively with Tembusu College, where many of its members share appointments. The College and cluster co-hosted the annual meeting of the

board of trustees of the D. Kim Foundation, a philanthropic organisation concentrating on the modern history of science and technology in East Asia. The Foundation paid for an associated workshop inviting papers from fresh STS PhDs in and from Southeast Asia. The Foundation subsequently donated a significant sum to the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) to fund graduate student travel to Singapore related to the SHOT Annual Conference 2016 (see below). The Foundation’s chairman, Dr Kim Dong-Won, who was Ngee Ann Kongsi Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College, was also co-appointed Visiting Professor at ARI.

Building on the legacy of our previous Tier 2 grant (on *Biomedicine and Society in Asia*) the cluster continues to attract scholars interested in medicine and medical science in Asia. Three new Postdoctoral Fellows who research in this area joined us in 2015: Drs Liz Chee, Catherine Smith, and Karen McNamara. Dr Céline Coderey, who studies medicine in Myanmar, mounted a path-breaking international conference on *Governance and Circulation of Asian Medicines* with the participation of all three new members. Dr Coderey and Dr Eric Kerr (involved in the *Governing Compound Disasters* project) have been promoted this year to Research Fellows, and Dr Jerome Whittington returned to ARI as Research Fellow. At the end of the year the cluster welcomed yet another Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Shekhar Krishnan, a graduate of the STS Programme at MIT, who will be working on the history of technology in India.

Dr Connor Graham continued to pioneer the new area of “death studies” related to the internet, co-authoring a special section on *The Aesthetic of Death and After-Death in the Internet Age* in the journal *Visual Studies*, and a special issue on *Death, Memory and the Human in the Internet Era* in the journal *Mortality*. He has received funding to organise a major workshop on this theme in 2016.

STS Cluster Associates were also active. Assoc Prof Itty Abraham conducted an ARI-sponsored workshop on *Infrastructures: Provocations toward an Interdisciplinary Dialogue* and Assoc Prof John DiMoia presented a paper on “Medical Migration and Cosmetic Surgery in Northeast Asia” at the Asian Migration Cluster sponsored workshop on *Medical Travel and the Politics of Transnational Mobility in Asia*. Dr John van Whye published an annotated version of Alfred Wallace’s *The Malay Archipelago*.

The cluster spent much time in 2015 planning and preparing to host the *2016 Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)*, the largest event it will have mounted in its six-year history. This will be only the second time that

one of the three major STS scholarly societies (4S, HSS, and SHOT) has held an annual meeting in Asia. Professor Bruno Latour, probably the world's leading STS scholar, will be delivering a plenary, while Professor Francesca Bray will deliver her own address as the first SHOT President who is also a scholar of Asia. The location of this conference in Singapore demonstrates that ARI has succeeded in becoming a major global centre for STS-related research in just six years.



RESEARCH LEADER
Assoc Prof Gregory Clancey

Research Cluster Members

Assoc Prof Gregory Clancey
Research Leader

Dr Liz Pui Yee Chee
Dr Céline Coderey
Dr Catelijne Coopmans
Mr Nicolas Rene Escoffier
Dr Connor Graham
Dr Eric Kerr
Dr Kim Dong-Won
Dr Shekhar Krishnan
Dr Karen McNamara
Dr Sujit Sivasundaram
Dr Catherine Smith
Dr Margaret Tan
Dr Jerome Whittington

Research Cluster Associates

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Department of Southeast Asian Studies, NUS

Assoc Prof John DiMoia
Department of History, NUS

Assoc Prof Axel Gelfert
Department of Philosophy, NUS

Dr Denisa Kera
Department of Communications and New Media, NUS

Assoc Prof John Phillips
Department of English Language and Literature, NUS

Dr John van Wyhe
Department of Biological Sciences, and Tembusu College, NUS

EXTERNAL FUNDED PROJECTS

Tabea Bork-Hüffer

Principal Investigator in project on “Formation and Change of Migrants’ Notion of Place Under the Influence of Information and Communication Technologies and Glocalization. The Example of German Expatriates in Singapore”, €132,000 funded by the Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation, Germany, 1 January 2013 - 31 December 2015.

Kenneth Dean

Principal Investigator in project on “Chinese Temple Networks in Southeast Asia”, CAD185,000 funded by the Canadian SSHRC Insight Grant, 2015-2020.

Mike Douglass

Principal Investigator in project on “Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanizing Asia”, Greg Clancey (Co-PI), Rita Padawangi, Michelle Ann Miller, Jerome Whittington, Eric Kerr, Robert Wasson, Caroline Brassard, Lisa Onaga, Sulfikar Amir, Earl Tyson Vaughn (Collaborators), S\$709,410 funded by Ministry of Education Tier 2 Research Grant (Singapore), October 2014 - October 2017.

Principal Investigator in project on “Progressive Cities in Asia and Europe”, S\$50,000 funded by USPC-SPO-NUS-01 (Université Sorbonne Paris Cité - Sciences Po - National University of Singapore), August 2014 - July 2015.

Eli Elinoff

Principal Investigator in project on “Politics in the Time of ‘Post Politics’: Rethinking Anthropology’s Conception of the Political for the 21st Century”, Nancy Postero & Nicole Fabricant (Co-PIs), US\$20,000 funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation Workshop Grant, 2015.

R. Michael Feener

Principal Investigator in project on “Religion and NGOs in Asia”, Philip Fountain, Robin Bush, Wu Keping (Co-PIs), S\$500,000 funded by the Luce Foundation, November 2014 - October 2016.

Liang Yongjia

Principal Investigator for project on “Religious Activities in Ethnic China”, Aga Zuoshi (Collaborator), S\$44,000 funded by the Chinese National Social Science Foundation, 2014-2017.

Michelle Miller and Rita Padawangi

Collaborators in project on “Aspirations, Urban Governance, and the Remaking of Asian Cities”, Tim Bunnell (PI); Daniel Goh and Eric Thompson (Co-PIs); Peter Marolt, Kelvin Low, Vineeta Sinha, Jamie Gillen, Elaine Ho (Collaborators), SGD634,997 funded by Academic Research Council, Ministry of Education (ARC, MOE), Singapore, for AcRF Tier 2, 2013-2015.

Rita Padawangi

Co-Principal Investigator in project on “Community Participation in Urban Water Management”, Marc Jeuland (Co-PI), S\$14,940 funded by Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS, September 2014 - August 2015.

Sharon Quah

Principal Investigator in project on “An Exploratory Study on Singaporean Divorcees from Transnational Marriages”, S\$77,502 funded by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (Family Research Fund), 8 July 2014 - 31 August 2016.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh

Principal Investigator in project on “The Global City of Encounters: Migration, Precarity and Diversity in Asian Urbanism”, S\$40,000 awarded by HSS Seed Funding, 1 August 2014 - 31 January 2016.

Principal Investigator in project on “Casino Mobilities: Labour Migration, Global Consumption and Regulation in Singapore”, S\$199,867.50 awarded by Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, April 2013 - March 2015.

Principal Investigator in project on “Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium”, approximately £116,688 awarded by Department for International Development (DFID), UK, through the University of Sussex for the inception phase from June 2010 - September 2011, and approximately £500,000 for 6 years from October 2011 to September 2017.

Principal Investigator in project on “Changing Ethnicities: Peranakans and Eurasians across Generations”, S\$54,575 awarded by the MOE Academic Research Fund Tier 1, January 2015 - December 2016.

Principal Investigator in project on “Child Health and Migrant Parents in South-East Asia (CHAMPSEA): Wave II”, S\$592,993.55 awarded by the MOE Academic Research Fund Tier 2, 2 February 2016 - 1 February 2019.

Principal Investigator in project on “The Migration Industry in Asia: A Case Study on Recruitment and Placement Agencies for Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore”, £55,743 awarded by UK Aid through the University of Sussex, 1 February 2015 - 31 July 2016.

Principal Investigator in project on “The Dynamics of Policy Formulation and Implementation: A Case-study of Singapore’s Mandatory Weekly Day-off Policy for Migrant Domestic Workers”, £36,000 awarded by UK Aid through the University of Sussex, 1 April 2015 - 31 July 2016.

Principal Investigator in project on “Intra-household Dynamics”, £83,715 awarded by UK Aid through the University of Sussex, 1 February 2015 - 31 July 2016.

Co-Investigator in CHAMPSEA Wave II project, S\$45,000 awarded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through the Gender, Migration and the Work of Care project, Centre for Global Social Policy, for a period of 12 months.

Collaborator in project on “The Impact of Growing Up in a Transnational Household on Youth Transition to Adulthood: A Comparative Mixed Method Study from Southeast Asia”, HK\$747,504 awarded by General Research Fund, Research Grants Council HK, for a period of 36 months.

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung

Principal Investigator for project on “China’s Internal Migration, Family Relations, and Youth Development”, S\$250,000 awarded by Lippo Pte Limited, with matching fund of S\$250,000 from the Singapore Ministry of Education, April 2011 - current.

Principal Investigator for project on “Age of Retirement and Intergenerational Transfer in China and India: Implications for Human Capital and Labor Market”, Feng, Q. (Co-PI), S\$168,000 funded by Global Asia Institute, NUS, March 2013 - 31 March 2016.

6.0

EVENTS

Photo Credit: Mike Douglass

Doors at art and craft complex, Jinxiu, Chengdu, China.

Conferences and Workshops

ARI continues working on its objective “to be a place of encounters between the region and the world” by hosting seminars, workshops and conferences aimed at the generation and exchange of ideas.

During the year 2015, the Institute organised 19 conferences and workshops. These conferences were driven by ARI’s research fellows and postdoctoral scholars. The participants came from diverse academic communities in Singapore and throughout the world.



Wild Spaces and Islamic Cosmopolitanism in Asia

14–15 Jan 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Jointly organised with International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding, The University of South Australia

Convenors: Dr Joshua Gedacht, Dr Amrita Malhi, Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener, and Prof AbdouMaliq Simone

State and non-state actors often seek to organise local populations within discrete geographic formations and homogenous religious communities—a project we denote as “enclosure.” Yet, in spite of such efforts to contain Islamic communities, Muslims have simultaneously forged myriad connections, affiliations, and open-ended identities in a process that we refer to as “Islamic cosmopolitanism”. The conference organisers therefore sought to explore this dynamic tension between these two forces, to interrogate the interplay between efforts to enclose local Muslims in discrete geographical territories and the fashioning of Islamic mobilities and subjectivities across recognised boundaries.

Young scholars and leading experts from interdisciplinary backgrounds were brought together to conceptualise the ways in which the forces of containment and connection helped to generate new social, political, and ethical frameworks that can be understood through the explanatory framework of “Islamic cosmopolitanism”. Lively discussions produced many insights, on the specificities and commonalities of historical case studies in Asia broadly defined, including but not limited to Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Ottoman Turkey, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Through these examples, our discussions situated the processes by which state and non-state powers excluded and included, disconnected and re-connected, the Muslims of Asia.

Keynote lectures from two leading scholars of Islam, Professors Faisal Devji of Oxford University and Bruce Lawrence of Duke University, provided thought-provoking reflections on ways to conceptualise Islamic and “Islamicate” cosmopolitanism amidst a larger backdrop of unequal power relations and militancy.



Educational Resilience among Asian Children in Challenging Family Environment

4–5 Feb 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

With support from the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR), NUS

Convenors: Dr Haibin Li, and Prof Jean Yeung

This conference sought to address the research need for a more detailed and wide-ranging discussion to identify the nature and role of different educational contexts in Asia, the challenges at-risk children face in these educational systems, how they cope, and what resilience looks like in this context. Just as much has been learned from research in Western contexts, we suggest this conference would offer the West insights into the generality (or otherwise) of risk and resilience factors among children and young people in Asia. Moreover, an international issue of this kind can contribute to the development of effective policies and practices for promoting resilience across countries.

Together, the papers use either quantitative or qualitative methods to examine and identify factors which promote academic resilience. Based on data from censuses, surveys, or in-depth interviews, these studies investigate academic resilience in about a dozen countries in East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and West Asia. Several studies involve longitudinal or comparative analyses. Keynote speaker Andrew Martin from University of New South Wales, Australia, opened the conference by giving a brief introduction about academic resilience and comparing young people's academic buoyancy and adaptability across China, North America and the UK. The conference explored academic resilience for children from disadvantaged families, neighbourhood, and rural areas, underprivileged social or ethnic groups, or migrant families in different Asian countries. It also included an investigation of social capital within school, family and youth.



Christianity, Anthropology and the Problem of Difference

27 Feb 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenors: Dr Bernardo Brown, and Dr Philip Fountain

The symposium set out to critically approach one of the main theoretical ideas that has guided the emergence of the "Anthropology of Christianity." The problem of difference, discontinuity and radical change – often highlighted as key to understand Christianity – was refashioned from creative ethnographic viewpoints from across South and Southeast Asia. Papers were interested in missionary work, ethnic conflict and sacrificial narratives undertaken primarily by Catholic traditions. The forum was one of dynamic debate by anthropologists about the various possible relationships that exist between the theoretical concepts that underpin the symposium and the lived experiences of Christian communities. As the majority of presentations focused on the dynamics of Asian Catholicism, the symposium provided a unique critical view on the Anthropology of Christianity from the perspective of Catholic cultures.

The event brought together six scholars conducting research work in different parts of the Asian

region but institutionally based across the globe – UK, Japan, USA, Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore. Introductory and concluding remarks were given by Assoc Prof Feener and Dr Fountain. Over 50 people attended the event and many of these observers were not academics and students, but came from the NGO sector and local religious institutions.



Decentralised Disaster Governance in Urbanising Asia

5–6 Mar 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenors: Dr Michelle Miller, and Prof Mike Douglass

The overall aim of this multidisciplinary workshop was to examine decentralised governance from the perspective of environmental disasters. Throughout Asia, political reforms are devolving state authority to sub-national jurisdictions to improve governance processes and outcomes by imbedding them in local contexts and capacities. Often portrayed as the preferred means for bringing government closer to the people, decentralised governance is expected to more effectively respond to societal needs by empowering people and their communities to politically articulate their expectations and priorities through public decision-making. Decentralised decision-making is also expected to more quickly respond to environmental disasters due to proximity to events and better ability to mobilise social resources and local knowledge in planning for, responding to and gaining resilience to future disasters.

Nineteen junior and more established scholars with publishing records in this highly focused field were brought together to better understand and theorise important questions about governance practices through disastrous events, such as: Does the devolution of political power effectively lead to participatory forms of disaster governance? How do environmental disasters reveal or even magnify relations of power and social cleavages? What lessons can we draw from assessing the politics of disasters? In addressing these questions, our presenters acknowledged, as a starting point, the multiple scales, causalities and increasingly interconnected impacts of environmental disasters in Asia's urbanising populations, including the diverse demographic

characteristics of the populations affected. As such, they concurred that any meaningful interrogation of decentralised disaster governance must involve a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder platform that links knowledge to action.



Mob Politics in Asia

12–13 Mar 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenor: Prof Chua Beng Huat

The workshop was motivated by a recent political development in Asia; namely, the frequency of mass demonstrations and occupation of public spaces. Two signal events stood out: the Occupy Central or Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong and the Occupy Taiwan Legislature or the Sunflower Movement in Taipei. The focus was thus primarily on these two events, with supplementary presentations on similar “occupy” politics in Seoul, Korea and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the historical “People Power” event in Manila, Philippines.

The first day was dedicated to the Umbrella Movement: the aesthetic dimensions of the artworks, calligraphic hangings and wall-newspapers and other arts and crafts productions at the sites; an anthropological account of how the occupied spaces are used and transformed by the occupiers/protestors; and the back-stories of the students who were the “human” faces of the Umbrella Movement. The second day was dedicated to “Anti-American beef” Candlelight Vigil in Seoul in 2008—the on-site activities of the nightly vigil by an activist-academic-participant and an analysis of a particular website which supported the movement. Two papers analysed the Bersih movements in Malaysia—the cyber activities, individuals who progressively moved from spectators/readers of social media to participants of the demonstration, and how two Malaysia artists responded to the movement in their artistic productions. The final paper was on the disappointing political development of the People Power Movement in the Philippines. It was obvious from the start that the term “mob” in the theme of the workshop was inappropriate as the demonstrators were very orderly and able to maintain a high sense of community,

with assistance from sympathisers who were not part of the occupation. The theme was thus changed immediately to “Occupy Politics in Asia”.



Alternative Urban Spaces: Cities by and for the People

27–28 Apr 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenors: Dr Rita Padawangi, and Prof Mike Douglass

This workshop was a continuation of research collaboration among the Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA) scholars. It brought together urban scholars in the Asian region to advance theoretical concepts and provide empirical evidence as well as future research frameworks to further the agreed upon “Cities by and for the People” theme.

Convenors Dr Rita Padawangi and Prof Mike Douglass delivered the theoretical framework and preliminary structure of the workshop, which will be the structure of the subsequent publication. In this introductory paper, Dr Padawangi and Prof Douglass jointly work with Prof Yves Cabannes, Professor Emeritus from the University College London, to bring the focus on the city for human flourishing and the importance of human agency in constructing seemingly sectoral, but interconnected, functions in the city, such as housing, marketplace, food, as well as arts and cultural events. These various facets of urban life indicate strategic projects that often bring people together in the city to construct alternative spaces based on their social, cultural and economic realities in the city. The morning session was opened by Dr Paul Rabé, who is the coordinator of the Urban Knowledge Network Asia initiative at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden. With two papers per panel format, the workshop allowed ample time for discussions and comments on each paper. The panels included neighborhoods by and for the people, public spaces and human agency, the conviviality of urban art and music scenes, collective urban food and agriculture, and urban landscapes of empowerment.

The workshop also featured presentations by two graduate students from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, who brought case studies from India and Pakistan.



Singapore Families and Population Dynamics

28 Apr 2015, NUS Kent Ridge Campus

Organised by the CFPR; co-sponsored with Singapore Research Nexus, and the Department of Sociology, NUS

Convenor: Prof Jean Yeung

Since Independence in 1965, Singapore has come a long way to become one of the most economically-developed countries in Asia today. Accompanying Singapore's economic transformation in the past five decades is the significant change in its social system and institutions, including the family. Changes in the demographic landscape, socioeconomic structures, technology and globalisation have transformed family structure, attitudes about family formation, and relations among family members. These changes in family systems are manifested by the rise in age at marriage and singlehood rates, rapid decline of fertility, increase in divorce and cohabitation, ageing population, and a more diverse population in Singapore today.

As Singapore culminates its half a century's history, it is timely to look back at the transformations in Singapore families and population, examine relevant policy responses, and reflect on future opportunities and challenges posed by these changes. This conference was therefore organised by the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) to commemorate the official launch of the Centre, Singapore's 50 years, and NUS 110th anniversary celebration.

Minister Grace Fu, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Environment and Water Resources & Second Minister for Foreign Affairs was the Guest of Honour. NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan and FASS Dean Prof Brenda Yeoh were also present. More than a hundred policy experts, academics, students and practitioners deliberated on issues related to Singapore population dynamics and family relations, changes in structure and values in Singapore families, children and young adults in Singapore, and policies for vulnerable families. A special issue or book volume will be produced from this event.



Gendered Dimensions of Migration: Material and Social Outcomes of South-South Migration

30 Jun – 2 Jul 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Organised by The Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium; hosted by ARI, NUS

Convenors: Dr Maria Platt, Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Dr Dorte Thorsen, and Dr Priya Deshingkar

In this conference, researchers, policy analysts and civil society representatives looked at how gender shapes and is shaped by contemporary migrant journeys undertaken as a poverty reduction strategy within low and middle-income countries. Key points highlighted were: gender is a driver of migration; the migration industry creates gender norms; intermediaries play a role in shaping the migration process; and labour is shaped by gender.

Many presentations touched on the fact that migrants are often pushed into jobs that would be shameful for their families if they did them at home. Keynote speaker, Dr Trond Waage's film "Les Mairuuwas" depicted the dynamics among migrants from the Central African Republic working in northern Cameroon and between the migrants and the local Fulani population. Dr Maria Platt's analysis of temporary migrants in Singapore found that debt-financed migration create greater insecurity. However men and women's debt pathways differed. Issues of who sent money home, to whom and how much were all discussed. Dr Patience Mutopo, in her paper "Reflections on Gender Patterns in Zimbabwe", explained that in Zimbabwe men remitted more than women, with the latter tending to remit soft goods. Dr Rozana Rashid's presentation on "Gendered Practices and Expectations of Remittances" found that in Bangladesh more women tended to remit and female migrants sent more than men. Meanwhile Dr Pamungkas A. Dewanto discussed the notion of the "Remittance Hero" in Indonesia.

Issues of debt, infidelity and masculinity were explored in Dipesh Karel's film *When Ram Left Home*, while keynote speaker Dr Deirdre McKay looked at the role of information communication technologies in facilitating family contact transnationally.

One of the conference's closing messages was that while more large scale survey research is needed to build a knowledge base, qualitative methods including ethnographies, and visual and participatory research techniques are also required to help paint a more vivid picture of migrant life.

Preliminary Workshop on Comparative Religious and Trade Networks in Southeast Asia

14 Jul 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

With support from Office of the Deputy of President (Research and Technology), NUS

Convenor: Prof Kenneth Dean

This workshop brought together scholars specialising in specific fields such as Chinese religion or Southeast Asian studies, to explore commonalities and differences between transnational networks established by Chinese merchants and Southeast Asian traders. We sought to examine the concrete interactions between religious organisations of different ethnic groups who developed trade networks within and across Southeast Asia.

The first panel presented papers on religious networks and interactions in Vietnam and Burma. Speakers explored the different strategies of distinct groups of Chinese traders in Vietnam and Burma, in relation to shifting Vietnamese power groups, rising colonial powers, and the Chinese state. Some speakers also explored local Vietnamese pragmatic transformations of Chinese Confucian concepts for local strategic purposes. In the subsequent panel on trade and religion in Southeast Asia, Kenneth Hall discussed up-river polities and down-river/coastal traders, and pointed to sea-based trading networks of Bugis and other mobile trans-local sea-based traders which complicate model of port city trade networks. Prof David Ludden, referencing Indian trade networks, pointed out the need to examine dialectics of territorialisation and deterritorialisation in trading groups working between and across national polities. Assoc Prof Derek Heng used archaeological finds from Singapore to show a historical pattern of shifting trade networks long prior to British occupation. A third panel discussed Chinese religious and trade networks. Concrete and exciting studies of religious organisations and networks underlying local political institutions and trans-local trade networks were provided for Kalimantan, Singapore and Penang. A concluding session on theoretical approaches examined the limits of social network analysis for the study of religious networks and called for more anthropological analysis of underlying aspirations and the processes of generating and exchanging value within these long-distance networks.



The Force of Life: Living in Precarious Spaces and Times in Asia

20-21 Jul 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

With support from the Newton Fellowship funded by British Academy and Royal Society

Convenors: Dr Malini Sur, Dr Sidharthan Maunaguru, and Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh

This conference brought together anthropologists, historians, political theorists and geographers to think about the concept of force in relation to violence and precarity. Across the vast continent of Asia and elsewhere, stranded refugees, earthquakes and protracted hunger, and states that muscle-flex and yet come apart at their seams, invite scholars to reflect on life's unevenness. Alongside devastations, the more insidious workings of violent nationalisms and arbitrary state power compel us to engage life in relationship to force; force that destroys life and force as life's productive potential.

Panelists delivered eleven papers covering Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, Lebanon, India, Iran, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria and Turkey. Some explored how societies who live in circumstances of prolonged deprivations and uncertainties, not only survive but also mobilise, and flourish. Others showed how violent margins are vibrant centres of exchange and profit. Prof Partha Chatterjee's keynote lecture presented new research foregrounding the tensions between the sufferings of forced migrants and new political and class based alliances in a re-settled context. The first panel interrogated force as latent energy, political action, time and mobility, while the second explored how ambiguous forces that materialise through prolonged waiting, dreams and uncertainties define the refugee condition. The final panel investigated how precarious labour, place-making and cinema reflect the ethics of the urban condition. Prof Itty Abraham summarised that the papers engaged with spaces and times—the former as precarious and the latter as forceful.

Prof Veena Das' keynote lecture showed how the durable and the ephemeral are woven together to think of the idea of "life". A panel on precarious trans-gendered bodies, displacements and the

politics of care in Istanbul and Tokyo followed, and the next two panelists investigated Iran's borders with Syria, Turkey, Pakistan and Baluchistan, showing how gold and oil smuggling produce speculative exchange and imaginaries that narrated commodities as forces. The final paper explored everyday life, land cultivation and amputated bodies in the landmine regions of Cambodia. Prof Vineeta Sinha, in her summary, asked whether precarity and force could be used as a methodological and theoretical tool to think about Asia.



Silk Roads, Muslim Passages: The Islam Question in China's Expansion

29-30 Jul 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenors: Prof Ho Engseeng, and Dr Nisha Mathew

China's Belt and Road Initiative, better known as OBOR, a project linking China with Europe through maritime routes and terrestrial corridors in Southeast, South, Central and West Asia, points to a shifting world order in contemporary times. The conference aimed to consider Islam and the questions it raised for China and its partner states within multiple geographies from many different disciplinary standpoints as well as corporate ones. The first panel brought in facets of a past characterised by trade as well as exchange of cultural and religious ideas between China and the Muslims in the Middle East and Persia, thus shifting the narrative away from states to the everyday concerns and realities of the people on both sides. The intimate ties characterising China, Arabia and Southeast Asia in the pilgrimage to and from Mecca, including its social dynamics in contemporary times brought to the fore connections that involve both states and people in fostering such dynamics.

The panel opened the following day with Central Asia in focus, bringing to the fore questions around both local trading communities and transnational communities of Muslims in the region and the ways in which transnational networks of Muslims became mediators between states and communities performing political, social and cultural functions of communal self-regulation. At the end of the conference, the participants highlighted the need for China to think like

an empire, rather than a state, with layered and nested sovereignties, a complex and participatory fabric of power that incorporates states, citizens, migrants, traders, industrialists and others within OBOR. The note on which it ended was that China should think Islam as a destination rather than as a passage, a concept that will offer answers and possibilities to many questions relating to Islam that lie at the heart of the new global order envisaged by China.



Migrant Communities and Religious Experience in Asia

18-19 Aug 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenors: Dr Bernardo Brown, Dr Malini Sur, and Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh

This event successfully brought into conversation scholars in Migration Studies with scholars working on Religion in Asia. Although the conference was organised under the banner of the Asian Migration Cluster, several researchers at ARI affiliated with the Religion and Globalisation Cluster offered their support and helped increase the visibility of the event. It was also an important boost to further diversify the already broad range of research activities pursued by the Asian Migration Cluster.

This conference investigated the connections between the phenomenon of transnational migration – often studied for its socio-economic dimension and the policy challenges it generates – from an anthropological perspective that emphasises the religious aspects of the migratory experience.

Two prestigious lead speakers opened each day's session—Prof Kenneth Dean presented sections of his ongoing research project, and its strong emphasis on Singapore and adjacent regions helped give a central place to research that emphasises local interests and religious dynamics. Presentations by Prof Vineeta Sinha and Dr Diana Wong also contributed to stressing contemporary dimension of religious mobility in Malaysia and Singapore. Prof Janet Hoskins' presentation reflected the growing interest in interdisciplinary conversations between the fields of migration and religion.



International Medical Travel and the Politics of Transnational Mobility in Asia

26–27 Aug 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

With support from the School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia

Convenors: Dr Chee Heng Leng, Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh, and Assoc Prof Andrea Whittaker

Although travelling across nations and crossing borders to seek medical care is not new, the rapidly increasing volume and velocity of medical travel at the turn of the 21st century soon raised its international profile and visibility. In tandem with the growth of the phenomenon, medical travel/tourism as a field of research has also grown, with recent works encompassing ethnographic studies of patients' experiences and subjectivities in the context of diverse types of medical travel as well as critical studies of international medical travel as a form of engagement embedded within struggles for access and rights to health care, as a reflection of shifting geographies of care and responsibility, and as forms of interactive encounter at the bodily, local and national scales, shaped by processes of globalisation.

This workshop provided a platform for discussing empirical and conceptual works on international medical travel in the context of the politics of transnational mobilities in Asia. Papers explored the ways in which international medical travel has developed in the region, the national and local mechanisms that both impede and aid international medical travel, and the negotiations and contestations that accompany it.

Two major strands cut through the papers presented: historical continuities and geographical logics underlying the motivations, reasons, and decision-making for medical travel, and interrogated meanings of borders, citizenship entitlements, and state-citizen relationships; the salience of body politics and identity in the individual tactics, negotiations and responses within medical travel. Discussion raised issues such as the meaning of choice when patients

feel that they have “no choice”, the production of diasporic ethnic identity through the circulation of healing knowledge, and the “modern” patient as active, informed and critical.



Governance and Circulation of Asian Medicines

22–23 Sep 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Jointly organised with the Research Centre on Science, Medicine and Society (Cermes3 – EHESS, CNRS, INSERM) Paris; in partnership with the PharmAsia Network on Social Studies of Herbal Pharmaceutical Industry in Asia

Convenors: Dr Céline Coderey, Assoc Prof Gregory Clancey, and Dr Laurent Pordié

The production and circulation of so called “traditional medicines” within Asia and their regulation by national and international organisations is becoming an extremely relevant and yet still largely unexplored topic. In the last fifty years Asian medicines have undergone an important transformation initiated by corporate firms or encouraged by the States. This transformation is characterised by a strong industrialisation and standardisation which is increasingly dependent of biomedical know-how, categories and clinical targets. Hybrid forms of manufacturing practices – often inspired by so-called universal models of GMPs – and peculiar modes of regulation and (scientific) marketing characterise this industry. This situation led to new questions pertaining to safety and efficacy. A series of guidelines have been established to regulate and monitor these transformations. The World Health Organisation is a typical actor in this field, alongside national institutions. However, the content, and degree of compliance to international guidelines varies considerably from one country or one manufacturer to the other, which are free to implement them or not. This space of freedom, often fostered by the loose nature of the controls, which in turn largely enables the circulation of unregistered or illicit herbal pharmaceuticals, which may comprise plants, minerals or metals banned in the national pharmacopoeias of targeted countries.

To study this complex landscape therefore requires a collective, multi-sited and multidisciplinary approach, covering several configurations and geographic areas in Asia. We brought together young scholars and leading experts coming from different disciplines and working on different countries in order to have a multidimensional and comprehensive discussion on the topic. With this workshop we aimed at unpacking the organised sets of practices that govern contemporary Asian medicine from their production to their circulation within circuits and networks of all kinds.

“authoritarian state” paradigm. Two American scholars presented different “American” understanding of the Singapore state—the PAP pragmatism as a form of American “New Deal-ism”, and the American constitutional law community’s interest in how to characterise conceptually Singapore’s constitutionalism. An Indian scholar argued for the Singapore school of “Asian Values” as “political theory” and an urban economist examined Singapore’s development and management of land use in terms of Singapore as a “property state”.



Singapore Studies from the Outside

8–9 Oct 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenor: Prof Chua Beng Huat

This conference was intended to find out what “non-Singaporeans” are thinking and researching on Singapore on the 50th anniversary of Singapore’s independence. Therefore, all paper presenters were non-Singaporeans with Singaporean commentators. No speakers were pre-selected; it was entirely an open call for papers. A total of ten papers were presented in thematic sessions, namely, Space, Performance and Politics. In the Space session, one paper by two Sri Lankan economists teaching in South Korean universities considered Singapore as “model” for Sri Lankan economic development; one by a researcher in the Future Cities Laboratory, based at CREATE, University Town, NUS, analysed the influence on the trade development of neighbouring Riau that requires support by air freight through Changi Airport, and, the third by a young Indonesian academic, was on Indonesian sojourners’ experience of living in Singapore. All three papers in the Performance session were from India: a senior film scholar analysed Eric Khoo’s film “My Magic” with reference to Indian film aesthetics; an Indian PhD candidate at NUS Theatre Studies Programme analysed two “Shakespearean” plays by Singaporean director, Ong Keng Sen, and finally, two young Indian postgraduate students look at the history of the incorporation of urban Singapore in Indian films.

The final session focused on the re-conceptualisation of the Singapore polity beyond the conventional



A NUS-Humboldt Joint Workshop on Migration, Diversity and Encounters

29 Oct 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Jointly organised with FASS Migration Cluster, and Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Convenors: Dr Michiel Baas, and Prof Brenda S.A. Yeoh

The focus of the workshop was primarily on “migrant encounters”, especially where it concerns new or recent migrants and their arrival and subsequent integration into cities. It raised the question how migrants encounter each other and the local population in Eastern and Western contexts? How do these encounters take shape and what direction do they take? What can be learned from these encounters with respect to the development of the study of migration in Asia and Europe?

The workshop was the first step in a longer-term commitment to develop an integrated perspective on what Asian and European studies of migration can learn from each other and how they can benefit from each other. It brought together researchers from two prominent universities, National University of Singapore and Humboldt University, into dialogue about what we can learn from each other’s research findings.

Dr Michiel Baas (ARI) opened the workshop, followed by an overview presentation by Dr Magdalena Nowicka (Humboldt, TRANSFORMIG team) who discussed her research group’s findings of a recently conducted research project in Europe on migration, diversity and encounters. Prof Brenda Yeoh (FASS/ARI)

then presented an overview of the various researches conducted with ARI's Asian Migration Cluster and at FASS. While Dr Nowicka introduced a European perspective, Prof Yeoh followed with one which was distinctly Asian-themed. These addresses were then followed by three commentaries, the first coming from Dr Łukasz Krzyżowski (Humboldt, TRANSFORMIG Team), followed by Assoc Prof Eric C. Thompson (FASS, Department of Sociology) and Dr Maria Platt (ARI). Closing remarks were provided by Assoc Prof Shirlena Huang (FASS, Department of Geography).



Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia and the Pacific

5-6 Nov 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

In collaboration with Institute for Environment and Human Security, United Nations University (UNU-EHS), and Urban Knowledge Network Asia, International Institute of Asian Studies (UKNA-IIAS); with support from Singapore Ministry of Education grant on "Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanising Asia"

Convenors: Dr Michelle Miller, Prof Mike Douglass, Dr Matthias Garschagen, and Dr Paul Rabé

All too often, environmental disasters cannot be neatly contained within sovereign territories. While cross-border disasters are becoming ever more frequent in our global age, the division of the world into nation-states has meant that environmental disruptions continue to be largely treated as domestic concerns. Yet when disasters do spill over territorial boundaries, governance structures and mechanisms must be improvised if disasters are to be mitigated.

This conference brought together thirty-four scholars to explore the complexities of governing environmental disasters with compounding impacts that traverse national borders. Keynote speaker Prof Anthony Reid, ANU, spoke about the need to develop a shared global responsibility for environmental disasters among states, non-governmental organisations, donors and ordinary citizens. Prof John Hannigan, University of Toronto, delivered a keynote address on borderlands

as spaces of hope and innovation in the geopolitics of environmental disasters.

To the limited degree that previous conferences have dealt with environmental disasters crossing borders, this multidisciplinary event departed from and contributed to these conversations in at least three ways. First, unlike previous events around these themes that have privileged the relationship between disasters and displacement or on humanitarian missions, we approached the topic from an inclusive governance perspective that takes into account the socioeconomic and political impacts of environmental disasters across borders. Second, this was the first academic event to conceptually frame cross-border disasters as compound events with multidimensional causalities and cascading consequences. Third, the urban dimension is commonly lost from studies of disasters that traverse national borders. Our conceptual approach to the urbanisation of disasters across borders calls for fundamental changes to how the complex dynamics of catastrophic events are spatially conceived and governed.



Chinese Diaspora Studies in the Age of Global Modernity

19-20 Nov 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenors: Prof Prasenjit Duara, Assoc Prof Huang Jianli, and Prof Wu Xiao An

This workshop was conceived upon the notion that studies of the Chinese diaspora have entered into a new era, not only in the spatial and temporal sense of the research subject, but also in terms of a generational shift in scholars. Chinese migration is now multidirectional and of complex socio-economic composition. Relationship dynamics are no longer centred on nation-states and bilateral inter-state relations, but drawn towards transnational routes and networks connecting multiple nodal points. Southeast Asia with its historical concentration of early Chinese Overseas communities remains an important hub, but it has been complemented by growing new clusters of Chinese settlements in other parts of Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. Therefore, it is timely and useful to capture some recent trends within the studies

of Chinese diaspora to see whether they reflect the vastly changing global situations and to ask whether they will lead to a better understanding of China and the world and of the nature of Chinese diaspora.

Twenty-one speakers from across the world of different disciplinary training presented in eight panels over a two-day period. The opening keynote speech was by Prof Wang Gungwu who spoke on “A Mix of Expectations.” The four panels of the first day dealt with “Shifting Paradigms,” “The Rise of China,” “The American Experience,” and “Southeast Asia Ethnicity.” The second set of four panels on the second day focused on “Diasporic Entrepreneurship,” “Colonial Legacies,” “Transnational Routes,” and “Entanglement of Sovereignty and Chineseness.” The workshop concluded with Prof Duara delivering his insightful “Reflection and Critique.”



The Mission of Development: Religion and Techno-Politics in Asia

3–4 Dec 2015, NUS Bukit Timah Campus

Convenors: Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener, Dr Philip Fountain and Dr Catherine Scheer

This conference theme emerged to interrogate the complex historical and contemporary relationships between Christian mission and international aid and development in Asia. This required us to attend to the drawing of a porous boundary between mission and development, varying through space and time and influenced by diverse social imaginaries, legal and policy mechanisms, and theological/doctrinal discourses justifying and proscribing particular patterns of interaction. How have missionary discourses, practices, and imaginations been shaped by development actors and vice-versa? To what extent does policy at international, national, regional, and organisational levels influence mission/development practices? What disciplinary interventions enable a division to be seen as ordinary (or contested)?

Young scholars, leading experts and practitioners from multidisciplinary backgrounds came together to better understand the ways in which mission and development have been interconnected and

have influenced each other in Asia. Stimulating discussions have brought forth rich historic and ethnographic data—from the long twentieth century to today, covering India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Japan, South-Korea, with a strong accent on Indonesia. The presentations yielded insights for a fruitful analysis of the mission-development nexus.

Keynote speaker Prof Karel Steenbrink from University of Utrecht traced back the changing interactions between the Christian mission and “development” projects in Indonesia over three decades. Other presentations highlighted the mobilisation of social science on the crossroads of mission and development, the challenging implementation of Christian development, the missionary involvement in the field of education, Christian actors engaged in agricultural projects, and the role played by missionaries in the cultivation of a “will to improve”. Dr Philip Fountain’s concluding remarks—suggesting future research avenues—were followed by valuable contributions.

ARI SEMINAR SERIES

The Asia Research Institute Seminar Series features seminars that vary in scope and are able to appeal across various academic disciplines. Seminars are usually scheduled on a Tuesday afternoon from 4.00pm to 5.30pm at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus.

20 JAN 2015

From Casino to Integrated Resort: Nationalist Modernity and the “Art of Blending”

Dr Lee Kah Wee
Department of Architecture, NUS

21 JAN 2015

Governance and Identities Formation in British Colonial Port Cities: A Case Study of Stewart Lockhart, Hong Kong and Weihaiwei

Dr Simon Shen
Chinese University of Hong Kong, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

27 JAN 2015

Islanded: Britain, Sri Lanka and the Bounds of an Indian Ocean Colony

Dr Sujit Sivasundaram
University of Cambridge, UK, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

2 FEB 2015

From the Mountaintop: Marginality and Centrality in the Writing of Modern Chinese History

Jointly organised with Department of Chinese Studies, NUS

Prof Yeh Wen-Hsin
University of California - Berkeley, USA

3 FEB 2015

ROUNDTABLE - The Environmental Crisis and Rural Development: Policies and Realities in Developing Asia

Prof Wen Tiejun
Renmin University of China
Mr Jairam Ramesh
Former Indian Minister for Rural Development
Prof Zheng Yongnian
East Asian Institute, NUS
Prof Jonathan Rigg
Department of Geography, NUS
Assoc Prof Teresita Cruz-Del Rosario
Thammasat University, Thailand and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

6 FEB 2015

Migrant Care Workers in Italy and Taiwan: A Comparative Study

Jointly organised with the CFPR, and FASS Migration Cluster, NUS

Dr Ko Chyong-Fang
Academia Sinica, Taiwan

10 FEB 2015

The Democratic Contribution of Participatory Budgeting

Prof Yves Cabannes
University College London, UK

16 FEB 2015

How a New Deal for the World Came to Grief in Southeast Asia

Assoc Prof David Ekbladh
Tufts University, USA

17 FEB 2015

Short Circuits of Southeast Asian Cinema: Vidsee and the Project of Online Social Viewing

Dr Olivia Su-Lin Khoo
Monash University, Australia, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

24 FEB 2015

Lively Water: Corporations, Publics, States and Water Care in Fiji, New York, Singapore

Prof Martha Kaplan
Vassar College, USA, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

3 MAR 2015

Was There Secularism in Ancient India?

Prof Rajeev Bhargava
Balliol College, UK, and
Australian Catholic University

10 MAR 2015

Buddhist Missionary Work in Myanmar: Conversion, Pagoda-building and Welfare

Prof Keiko Tosa
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

17 MAR 2015

Colonial Ideologies behind the Figures? A Meta-analytical Approach to the Indian Ocean Slave Trade

Prof Peter Dirksmeier
Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

19 MAR 2015

Manchurian Westerns, or Filmic Construction of Korean Masculinity through Colonial Experience

Prof Han Suk-Jung
Dong-A University, Korea, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

24 MAR 2015

Parental Migration, Middle School Context and Adolescents' Transition to High School in Rural China

Ms Hu Shu
Asia Research Institute, NUS

7 APR 2015

Seeing Like a Company, Seeing Like an Empire, Seeing Like a Whig, Seeing Like a Tiger: The British and the Asian Highlands Reconsidered

Prof John D. Kelly
University of Chicago, USA,
Yale-NUS College Singapore, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

13 APR 2015

Governance as Service Delivery: Performance Rating of Indian States

Jointly organised with the Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS

Prof Sudipto Mundle
National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, India

21 APR 2015

Army Transport, Colonial Warfare and Animal Management

Jointly organised with Department of History, NUS

Prof James L. Hevia
University of Chicago, USA

21 APR 2015

Clinging to Hope through Education: Consequences for the Rural Poor in Telangana, India and Central Lombok, Indonesia

Jointly organised with South Asian Studies Programme, NUS

Dr Tanya Jakimow
University of New South Wales, Australia

6 MAY 2015

Unity or Partition: Mahatma Gandhi's Last Stand, 1945-1948

Prof Sugata Bose
Harvard University, USA

12 MAY 2015

Writing Dictatorship: Literature of Authoritarianism in South Korea and the Philippines

Assoc Prof Jini Kim Watson
New York University, USA, and
University of Melbourne, Australia

19 MAY 2015

The Transformative Power of Food in Ritual Cosmogogenesis and Ontogenetics in Sri Lanka

Dr Wim Van Daele
University of Oslo, Norway

26 MAY 2015

The Kris and the Cross: The Intersection of Migration and Religiosity among Arab Filipinos

Assoc Prof Teresita Cruz-Del Rosario
Thammasat University, Thailand, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

2 JUN 2015

Rethinking Resistance: Takeuchi Yoshimi's Lu Xun and the Conundrums of Asian Modernity

Jointly organised with Departments of Chinese Studies and Japanese Studies, NUS

Dr Viren Murthy
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

4 JUN 2015

The Great Famine in Vietnam, 1944-1945

Prof Gregg Huff
University of Oxford, UK

9 JUN 2015

Imagination, Fantasy, and Movement in Chinese Ritual Processes

Prof P. Steven Sangren
Cornell University, USA, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

16 JUN 2015

A "Postcolonial"/Decolonial Lens on Cities and Urbanisms: Reflections on the System of Petty Production in India

Prof Sujata Patel
University of Hyderabad, India, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

4 AUG 2015

What Kind of Expert(ise) Matters in Disaster Governance?

Dr Tyson Vaughan
Asia Research Institute, NUS

29 SEP 2015

**Scalar Toggling & Trans-localism:
Observations on Spatial Sustainability
from Inner, East & South Asia**

Dr David Sadoway
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

7 OCT 2015

India and its Northeast

Jointly organised with Institute of South Asian
Studies, and South Asian Studies Programme, NUS

Prof Sanjib Baruah
Bard College, USA

13 OCT 2015

**(Mis)understandings of Disaster in
Chinese History: The Case of the Gansu
Earthquake of 1920**

Dr Pierre Fuller
University of Manchester, UK

20 OCT 2015

**Unexpected Encounters: Chinese and
Arab Labourers in the American Expeditionary
Forces in WWI France**

Dr Wen Shuang
Middle East Institute, NUS

3 NOV 2015

**Penang Hawker Food: Preserving Taste,
Affirming Local “Distinction”?**

Assoc Prof Khoo Gaik Cheng
University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

24 NOV 2015

**“Is it Manipulative? Sure. But That’s How
You Tell Stories”: The Graphic Novel, Metahistory
and the Artist in *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye***

Prof Philip Holden
Department of English Language and Literature, NUS

30 NOV 2015

**The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor:
A Political and Economic Game Changer?**

Dr Siegfried O. Wolf
Heidelberg University, Germany, and
South Asia Democratic Forum, Belgium

15 DEC 2015

**Velo/city: How to Read the Postcolonial
Megalopolis**

Prof Peter Hitchcock
Baruch College, and
City University of New York, USA

CLUSTER SEMINARS

Cluster seminars are given by members of
ARI’s different clusters or by invited speakers,
usually on topics related to the clusters’ work.

ASIAN MIGRATION

25 FEB 2015

**ROUNDTABLE – Post-colonial Migration and
Urban Encounters**

Jointly organised with the FASS Migration Cluster

Dr Michiel Baas
Asia Research Institute, NUS

Dr Peter Dirksmeier
Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Assoc Prof Daniel P.S. Goh
Department of Sociology, NUS

Assoc Prof Elaine Ho
Department of Geography, NUS

25 MAR 2015

**Labour Migration and Global Labour History:
The Case of the Javanese**

Jointly organised with the FASS Migration Cluster

Prof Vincent J.H. Houben
Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

4 MAY 2015

FILM SCREENING – *03-FLATS*

Jointly organised with Department of Architecture,
and FASS Cities Cluster, NUS

Dr Lilian Chee
Department of Architecture, NUS

11 JUN 2015

**Race, Education, and Citizenship:
Mobile Malaysians and a Culture of Migration**

Dr Koh Sin Yee
City University of Hong Kong, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

20 AUG 2015

Deciphering Reproductive Mobilities in Indonesia: Trajectories of Infertility, Adoption and Migration

Dr Linda Rae Bennett
University of Melbourne, Australia, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

ASIAN URBANISMS

9 JUL 2015

The Humanitarian Village, a Response to Small-medium Sized Disaster

Jointly organised with Indonesia Study Group

Dr Yenny Rahmayati
Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

22 JUL 2015

**The “Will to Improve the Self”:
Ethical Dilemmas in a “Community-driven”
Development Programme in Medan, Indonesia**

Dr Tanya Jakimow
University of New South Wales, Australia

27 OCT 2015

**The Rural-urban Contexts during and
after the 2010 Merapi Volcano Eruption**

Dr Estuning Tyas Wulan Mei
Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA

17 AUG 2015

FILM SCREENING - *Victoria Home*

Ms Waruni Anuruddhika
Independent Filmmaker & Art Photographer,
Sri Lanka

10 SEP 2015

**Migration and Marriage in China:
The Origin-education-gender Intersections**

Dr Mu Zheng
Asia Research Institute, and
Centre for Family and Population Research, NUS

13 NOV 2015

China Family Panel Studies

Jointly organised with the CFPR, NUS

Prof Xie Yu
Princeton University, USA, and
Peking University, China

16 NOV 2015

Income and Wealth Inequality in China

Jointly organised with the CFPR, NUS

Prof Xie Yu
Princeton University, USA, and
Peking University, China

CULTURAL STUDIES IN ASIA

11 FEB 2015

**Same Blood or Cultural Other?:
The Paradoxical Racialisation of Korean Chinese
Migrants amid South Korea’s Multicultural Turn**

Dr Yuk Joowon
Asia Research Institute, and
Department of Geography, NUS

18 MAR 2015

**Culture, Discourse, and Gameplay:
New Media Citizenship in Singapore**

Assoc Prof J. Patrick Williams
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

29 APR 2015

FILM SCREENING - *My Place*

Mr Emmanuel Moonchil Park
Korea National School of Arts

17 JUN 2015

FILM SCREENING - *Sound of Old Rooms*

Mr Sandeep Ray
Department of History, NUS

19 AUG 2015

**Cold War Literary Transnationalism:
A Study of Youlian’s History in Hong Kong
and Southeast Asia**

Assoc Prof Shen Shuang
Pennsylvania State University, USA, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

16 SEP 2015

**Arcades of Possibility: Prestige and Modernity in
the Consumer Spaces of 1930s and 1960s Manila**

Dr Elmo Gonzaga
Centre for English Language Communication, NUS

9 DEC 2015

**Revolutionary Vietnamese Women and Global
Solidarity**

Assoc Prof Thy Phu
Western University, Canada, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

METACLUSTER: ASIAN CONNECTIONS**15 OCT 2015**

**A Cold War Trans-Pacific Cultural Network:
A Study of Youlian's History in Hong Kong and
Southeast Asia**

Assoc Prof Shen Shuang
Pennsylvania State University, USA

12 NOV 2015

**Vernacular Online Practices and the Rise of the
Video Industry in China**

Dr Li Luzhou Nina
Asia Research Institute, NUS

RELIGION AND GLOBALISATION**12 JUN 2015**

**Book Launch & Discussion of the Book on
*Religion and the Politics of Development***

Assoc Prof R. Michael Feener
Asia Research Institute, and
Department of History, NUS

Dr Robin Bush
Research Triangle International, Indonesia

Dr Philip Fountain
Asia Research Institute, NUS

1 SEP 2015

**Compassion and Sanskara in the Context of
Neoliberalism: The Role of a Jain Faith-based
Organisation in Eradicating Rural Poverty in
Gujarat, India**

Dr Bindi Shah
University of Southampton, UK, and
Asia Research Institute, NUS

21 SEP 2015

**Towards Placing the Dusun Nyoir Rebellion of
April 1948 in its Wider Geo-political and Religious
Context: Post-WWII Chaos and Invulnerability Cults**

Dr Christopher M. Joll
Chiang Mai University, Thailand

23 NOV 2015

**Mission and Development: "Cycles of Concern" in
the History of an Indonesian and Dutch Church**

Dr Philip Quarles van Ufford
VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY**13 MAY 2015**

Making Genomic Medicine

Prof Steve Sturdy
University of Edinburgh, UK

13 AUG 2015

**Views of "Within"? Science, Buddhism and the
Ineffable in Representations of Meditation**

Prof Brian Rappert
University of Exeter, UK

Dr Catelijne Coopmans
Asia Research Institute, and
Tembusu College, NUS

STUDY GROUP SEMINARS

While ARI seminars are designed to address a wide academic audience, ARI also acts as host to a variety of study groups, bringing together NUS scholars and others to discuss interdisciplinary issues. There are five country-based study groups that provide the nucleus for scholars working on particular areas or themes. The members include our own research staff working in collaboration with other faculty members, and the convenors may vary from year to year. This is a listing of the seminars that were organised by each of the study groups in 2015.

INDONESIA**CONVENORS:**

Dr Michelle Miller
Asia Research Institute, NUS

Dr Andrew Marc Conroe
University Scholars Programme, NUS

Dr Joshua Gedacht
Asia Research Institute, NUS (Till 12 Jun 2015)

30 APR 2015

**Populism and Oligarchy in Indonesia:
Can Jokowi Survive?**

Prof Richard Robison
Murdoch University, Australia

28 MAY 2015

**Celluloid Coolies: Early Cinematic
Representations of Labour and Management
in the Dutch East Indies**

Mr Sandeep Ray
Department of History, NUS

9 JUL 2015

The Humanitarian Village, a Response to Small-medium Sized Disaster

Jointly organised with Asian Urbanisms Cluster

Dr Yenny Rahmayati
Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

13 JUL 2015

Making a “Career” in People-smuggling in Indonesia: Protracted Transit, Restricted Mobility and Asylum-seekers’ Need for Protection

Dr Antje Missbach
Monash University, Australia

3 SEP 2015

FILM SCREENING - *Papuan Voices*

Ms Kartika Pratiwi
EngageMedia, Indonesia
Mr Seelan Palay
EngageMedia, Singapore

26 NOV 2015

Wayang Kontemporer: Innovations in Javanese Wayang Kulit

Dr Miguel Escobar Varela
Department of English and Literature, NUS

MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CONVENORS:

Assoc Prof Mairii Victoriano Aung Thwin
Department of History, NUS

Dr Titima Suthiwan
Centre for Language Studies, NUS

29 JAN 2015

FILM SCREENING - *How I Became a Refugee*

Dr Marilyn Metta
Curtin University, Australia

9 APR 2015

Comparing Anadeh and Kreng Jai: Theatre-making as Social Context and Research Tool

Mr Matthew James Yoxall
Department of English Language and Literature, NUS

23 APR 2015

Coping with Health and Disease in Rakhine (Myanmar): An Anthropological Study of the Local Pluralistic Health System and its Accessibility

Dr Céline Coderey
Asia Research Institute, and
Tembusu College, NUS

8 JUN 2015

Gender, Youth and the Aged: Responding to the Needs of Vulnerable Groups in Disaster Risk Reduction

Dr Helen James
Australian National University

23 JUL 2015

Can there be People’s Invented Traditions? Some Evidence from the Sino-Vietnamese Imperial Romance: The Tale of a Prince

Jointly organised with Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Dr Chang Yufen
ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Prof Ho Engseeng
Asia Research Institute, NUS, and
Duke University, USA

28 OCT 2015

Discussion of Nilanjana Sengupta’s Book on *The Female Voice of Myanmar: Khin Myo Chit to Aung San Suu Kyi*

Ms Nilanjana Sengupta
Independent Scholar, Singapore
Dr Ma Thida
Independent Writer & Surgeon, Myanmar

MALAYSIA

CONVENORS:

Assoc Prof Maznah Mohamad
Departments of Malay Studies and
Southeast Asian Studies, NUS

Assoc Prof Goh Beng Lan
Department of Southeast Asian Studies, NUS

PHILIPPINES

CONVENOR:

Dr Oona Paredes
Department of Southeast Asian Studies, NUS

OTHER EVENTS

5 JAN 2015

D. Kim Foundation Workshop on the History and Social Study of Science, Technology and Medicine in Asia

Co-hosted with Tembusu College, NUS, with funding from the D. Kim Foundation; held at Learn Lobe, Tembusu College

6-7 JAN 2015**War Memoryscapes in Asia Partnership (WARMAP)**

Jointly organised with University of Essex, UK, with funding support from The Leverhulme Trust

21 JAN 2015**Navigating Research Spaces in Migration Studies**

Jointly organised with FASS Migration Cluster, NUS; held at AS7, FASS

30 JAN 2015

A Discussion of Prasenjit Duara's Book on *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future*

Co-hosted with FASS; held at AS7, FASS

12-13 FEB 2015

Dialogic Workshop on Progressive Cities in Asia and Europe

Jointly organised with LKYSPP, NUS; held at Singapore-ETH Centre - Future Cities Laboratory

7 APR 2015**Sneak Peeks + Meet the Director of *Unlucky Plaza***

Mr Ken Kwek, Writer & Director

Held at LT10, FASS

30 APR 2015

A Reading & Discussion of Prasenjit Duara's Book on *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future*

With support from the Singapore International Foundation; held at International Involvement Hub, The Atrium@Orchard

11-12 MAY 2015

International Symposium on the Rise of Progressive Cities East and West

Jointly organised with Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3, and LKYSPP, NUS; held in Paris, France

15 JUN 2015

Workshop on Disaster Governance: From Research and Experiences to Teaching and Training

Co-hosted with LKYSPP, NUS

21-22 AUG 2015

Beyond the State's Reach: Casino Spaces as Enclaves of Development or Lawlessness?

Jointly organised with Casino and Development in Asia Research Network, gathering together the University of Macau, ARI, NUS, Institut d'Asie Orientale (IAO-ENS Lyon, France), and IIAS; held in Siem Reap, Cambodia

26 AUG 2015

Exploring Collaborative Research Opportunities at the Intersection of Family, Gender and Social Change

Jointly organised with CFPR, NUS; held at AS7, FASS

28-29 AUG 2015

Infrastructures: Provocations towards an Inter-disciplinary Dialogue

Jointly organised with Department of Southeast Asian Studies, and FASS STS Research Cluster; held at AS7, FASS

5 OCT 2015

Film Screening & Discussion on *The Borderlands of Northeast India*

Mr Pankaj Butalia

Indian Documentary Filmmaker

Prof Willem van Schendel

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Prof Sanjib Baruah

Bard College, USA, and Centre for Policy Research, India

11-12 NOV 2015

Environment in Asia: Interdisciplinary Discussion and Future Directions

Jointly organised with Department of Sociology, NUS; held at AS7, FASS.

27 NOV 2015

Reflection on the Journeys for Asian Studies and in Celebration of Prof Prasenjit Duara's ARI Leadership

12-13 DEC 2015

Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA) Conference 2015

Held in Kyoto, Japan

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

7.0



ARI is committed to sharing research knowledge with the larger community in Singapore and worldwide. Its outreach efforts are made simultaneously on three fronts—locally, regionally and internationally—in various forms carried out throughout the year.

ASIA TRENDS SERIES

ASIA TRENDS is an ARI flagship public outreach platform which is now running into the thirteenth year. The most important objective of this annual series of lectures is to bridge the perceived gap between the academia and the general public by providing a channel for sharing our research ideas and outputs with the community and interacting with them through a lively dialogue appended at the end of the session. It is also meant as a vivid demonstration of how some of ARI’s research projects have been deliberately crafted to dovetail with key issues within our contemporary Singapore society and to relate to recent significant trends in the larger region and the world. In addition, the locations in which these events are held are consciously selected in order to provide convenience and maximise public contact.

This well-attended public symposium and photo exhibition were organised by Asia Research Institute, with funding from Migrating Out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium and with *SCAPE as a programme partner. The symposium segment comprised of three presentations which together offered a comparative perspective on the issues and challenges concerning the recruitment of low-waged migrant labour in Asia. It highlighted the obstacles and opportunities that governments face while trying to institute policies that regulate labour migration and it examined the ways low-waged migrant workers are recruited to Singapore. It was noted that migrants are often driven by hope, but the migration process is actually a huge gamble because migrants face high fees and debts, demanding training procedures, and powerful worries about the unknown. Accompanying the presentations was a photo exhibition titled “Dreaming Singapore” which was shot by the photojournalist collective RUOM and which powerfully chronicled the repeated journeys of Indonesian migrant domestic workers to Singapore. The aim was to give voice to global issues that are underreported by the mainstream media as well as to share the experience of photographing and writing the stories of Indonesian women who come to Singapore to work.



En Route To The Departure Hall: How Migrants Navigate Recruitment Processes

2 Jul 2015,
*SCAPEmedia Hub

With funding from Migrating Out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium, and *SCAPE as a Programme Partner

Dr Manolo Abella,
Centre for Migration Policy and Society (COM-PAS), University of Oxford, UK

Mr Nicolas Axelrod,
Ruom

Ms Kellynn Wee,
Asia Research Institute, NUS, and Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2)



Finding Singapore

14 Jul 2015,
The Substation Theatre

Assoc Prof Ho Kong Chong,
Department of Sociology, NUS

Ms Braema Mathi, MARUAH,
Singapore

Dr Imran bin Tajudeen,
Department of Architecture, NUS

Moderator - Dr Rita Padawangi,
Asia Research Institute, NUS

Documentary Screening | *Diminishing Memories I* (2005) by Director Eng Yee Peng

This event was held in the packed Substation Theatre, with a short film screening followed by a panel discussion. The award-winning documentary “Diminishing Memories I” (2005, 27 minutes) was independently produced by Ms Eng Yee Peng, charting the filmmaker’s personal journey as she attempted to unlock memories of her childhood home in the village of Lim Chu Kang which was displaced in the 1980s as part of the state-planned urban development. It highlighted the underlying complications in fostering community ties amidst the dismantling in service of state progress and problematised the theme of “Hope, Heart, Home” as encapsulated in the Prime Minister’s 2012 National Day Rally speech. It aimed at encouraging the audience to think about how we could manage the past as we strive to move forward in our lives. The post-screening panel discussion ruminated on the future of Singapore on the eve of the nation’s landmark anniversary by addressing a wide range of important issues concerning urban development, conservation of heritage, social values, demographic transformation, migration impact, ethnic relations, and civil society activism. The final segment of question-and-answer was well participated by the full-house audience.



Perspectives on Marital Dissolution: Divorce Biographies in Singapore

18 Sep 2015, The Pod, National Library Board

Dr Sharon Quah,
Asia Research Institute, NUS

This public lecture presented some of the key research findings discussed in Dr Sharon Quah’s newly published book, *Perspectives on Marital Dissolution: Divorce Biographies in Singapore* (Springer, 2015). She used a pool of divorcees’ narratives or biographies to illustrate to her attentive audience how some divorcees ended their unsatisfying marriage, coped with the crisis, negotiated the associated risks, organised post-divorce personal communities and made future plans. She therefore argued that the experience of divorce might not be all debilitating. On the contrary,

it could provide opportunities for productivity, self-responsibility and relationship formation. By highlighting how divorcees navigated their divorce biographies within the broad economic policy and social context they were located in, she alerted her audience to conditions that facilitate or hinder the pursuit of productivity in different aspects of their post-divorce lives. In short, the Singapore divorce biographies as narrated by Dr Quah were far from being a standard story of divorce.

PUBLIC LECTURES

As part of its public outreach initiative, ARI also organises public lectures to reach out to the greater Singapore and regional community. The lectures are presented by distinguished scholars of Asian affairs, including scholars visiting ARI in various capacities. The lectures provide up-to-date analysis and assessments of contemporary issues and long-term trends, not only to decision makers but also to all who are concerned and seek to be informed about regional and world events.

13 JAN 2015

The Koran in English

Jointly organised with Malay Heritage Centre, The Malay Heritage Foundation, and National Heritage Board; held at Malay Heritage Centre

Prof Bruce Lawrence

Duke University, USA, and Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakf University, Istanbul

19 OCT 2015

The Cunning of Uncertainty

Jointly organised with The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, and the Hawke Research Institute at the University of South Australia; venue sponsored by the National Library Board Singapore

Prof Helga Nowotny

ETH Zurich, ERA Council Forum Austria, and Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

NEWSLETTERS AND REPORTS

Thirteen years after its first issue launch in March 2003, ARI News as the official ARI newsletter now reaches thousands of local, regional and global readers. ARI News is published every March and September as a medium to highlight updates from ARI and its members. These updates include research work of individual researchers, academic publications, keynote speeches, reading groups, ARI events, as well as awards and recognition won by staff members. ARI News is circulated as print copies as well as electronically through the ARI website, Facebook and email.

Similarly, the *ARI Annual Report* starting from its 2002/2003 issue to this latest 2015 issue is published in print and uploaded on ARI's website. The report gives our stakeholders and other interested parties an update of the Institute's developments and achievements for the past year.

Academic reports such as the *ARI Working Paper Series* and specific-themed *Aceh Working Paper Series*, and selected conference reports and proceedings are also available on ARI's website for knowledge sharing. Such academic reports have been highly accessed by the community.

MEDIA COVERAGE

ARI researchers have also been active in sharing their expertise and expert views in the media. In 2015, there were at least 27 media reports of interviews of ARI researchers by local and international presses and media, published editorials by ARI researchers and their appearance in public affairs broadcasts as guest speakers. There are currently 95 (and growing) records of media activities of ARI researchers and these are accessible from the ARI website.

DIGITAL AND SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY

ARI has been using the internet platform for many of its outreach activities and to share research findings. Its *ARI website* (<https://ari.nus.edu.sg>) provides up-to-date information about its research programmes, events and publications, among others. It also serves as a rich resource for research on Asia studies. The website is regularly revamped or redesigned to enhance its ease of navigation, quality of information and design.

Since January 2015, ARI has been using its *ARI Facebook* page as a communication platform to keep its members updated of the latest developments in ARI such as announcements of upcoming events, new fellowships and new publications. It has also become a popular and effective tool for connecting among ARI members, students, alumni, and the public who are interested in ARI happenings.

Since 2010, the Institute has been exploring other popular media-sharing platforms such as *YouTube* to further extend its outreach. Selected webcasts of ARI lectures, seminars and keynote addresses of flagship events are posted on *YouTube*. To date, more than 70 videos have been posted.

ARI continues to explore new avenues of social media to further enhance its social connectivity with its various stakeholders locally, regionally and internationally.

8.0

PUBLICATIONS

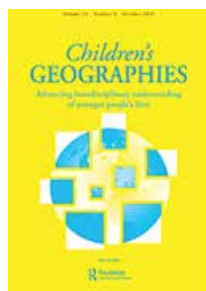


A total of 39 monographs, jointly-authored books and edited volumes were published by ARI scholars and alumni in 2015, of which 10, in the form of edited volumes and special issues of journals, were results of workshops and conferences held and sponsored by ARI in the years 2010 to 2015.

Books and Journal Special Issues

The disciplines and specialities of ARI members are remarkably diverse, a diversity which is reflected in the books they produce. Books published in 2015 are detailed below. In some cases, the terms of ARI appointees are shorter than the period required for seeing a book through to publication, and in such instances, two codes are used:

- * Published during the period of the ARI appointment but based largely on earlier work
- + Published after the member has left ARI, but based on work wholly or partly done in ARI

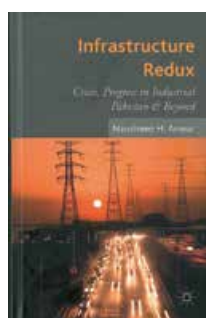


Alipio, Cheryl; Lu, Melody C. W.; & Yeoh, Brenda S. A. (guest eds)

Special Issue: Asian Children and Transnational Migration

Children's Geographies 13(3), 2015

(from ARI organised *Inter-Asia Roundtable 2010 on Transnational Migration and Children in Asian Contexts*, 2-3 August 2010)



Anwar, Nausheen H.

+ *Infrastructure Redux: Crisis, Progress in Industrial Pakistan & Beyond*

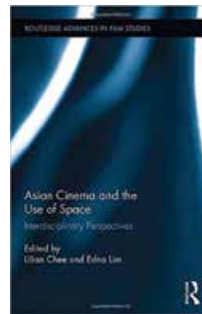
Palgrave Macmillan, UK, 2015



Baas, Michiel (ed)

Transnational Migration and Asia: The Question of Return

Amsterdam University Press, 2015

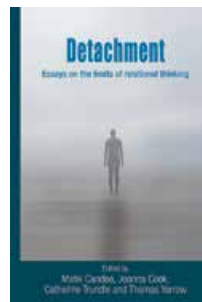


Chee, Lilian & Lim, Edna (eds)

Asian Cinema and the Use of Space: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Routledge Advances in Film Studies
Routledge, New York, 2015

(from ARI co-organised workshop *Performing Space in Asian Film: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, 22-23 February 2010)



Candea, Matei; Cook, Joanna; Trundel, Catherine; & Yarrow, Thomas (eds)

+ *Detachment: Essays on the Limits of Relational Thinking*

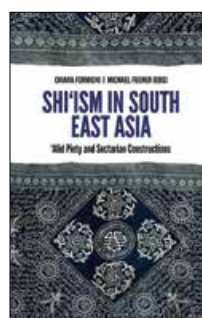
Manchester University Press, 2015



du Cros, Hilary & McKercher, Bob

+ *Cultural Tourism, 2nd Edition*

Routledge, New York, 2015



Formichi, Chiara & Feener, Michael (eds)

Shi'ism in Southeast Asia: 'Alid Piety and Sectarian Constructions

Oxford University Press, New York; Hurst Publishers, London, 2015



Fountain, Philip; Bush, Robin; & Feener, R. Michael (eds)

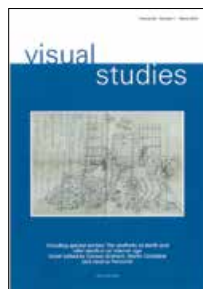
Religion and the Politics of Development

Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire & New York, 2015

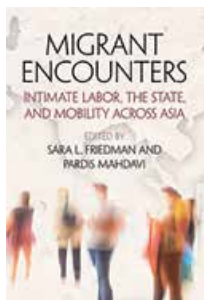
(from ARI co-organised workshop *Religion and the Politics of Development: Priests, Potentates and "Progress"*, 28-29 August 2013)



Fountain, Philip; Bush, Robin; & Feener, R. Michael (guest eds)
Special Issue: Religious Actors in Disaster Relief
International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters 33(1), 2015
 (from ARI organised workshop *Salvage and Salvation: Religion, Disaster Relief, and Reconstruction in Asia*, 22-23 November 2012)



Graham, Connor; Constable, Martin; & Fernando, Jeremy (guest eds)
Special Section: The Aesthetic of Death and After-death in an Internet Age
Visual Studies 30(1), 2015



Friedman, Sara L. & Mahdavi, Pardis (eds)
 + *Migrant Encounters: Intimate Labor, the State and Mobility across Asia*
 University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015



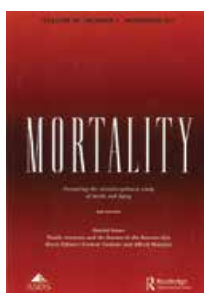
Hjorth, Larissa & Khoo, Olivia (eds)
 + *Routledge Handbook of New Media in Asia*
 Routledge, London & New York, 2016
 (Available in November 2015)



Goh, Daniel P. S.; Bunnell, Tim; & van der Veer, Peter (guest eds)
Special Issue: Doing Asian Cities
Ethnography 16(3), 2015
 (from ARI co-organised workshop *Doing Asian Cities: A Workshop on Urban Aspirations*, 5-6 June 2012)



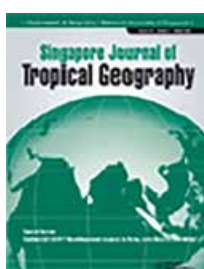
Ho E. L-E.; Hickey, M.; & Yeoh, Brenda S. A. (guest eds)
Special Issue: Diaspora Strategies: Critical Perspectives and New Directions
GeoForum 59, 2015
 (from ARI organised workshop *The "Diaspora Strategies" of Migrant-sending Countries: Migration-as-development Reinvented?*, 5-6 November 2012)



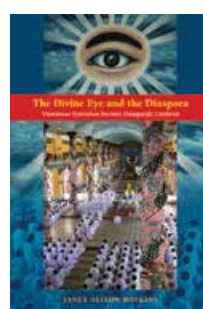
Graham, Connor & Montoya, Alfred (guest eds)
Special Issue: Death, Memory and the Human in the Internet Era
Mortality: Promoting the Interdisciplinary Study of Death and Dying 20(4), 2015



Hoang, Lan Anh & Yeoh, Brenda S. A. (eds)
Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia
 Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire, 2015
 (from ARI co-organised workshop *Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia*, 27-28 July 2010)



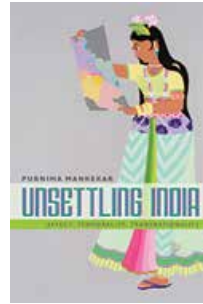
Hickey, M.; Ho E. L-E.; & Yeoh, Brenda S. A. (guest eds)
Special Issue: Establishing State-led "Diaspora Strategies" in Asia: Migration-as-development Reinvented?
Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 36(2), 2015
 (from ARI organised workshop *The "Diaspora Strategies" of Migrant-sending Countries: Migration-as-development Reinvented?*, 5-6 November 2012)



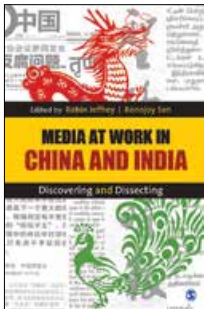
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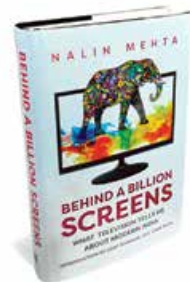
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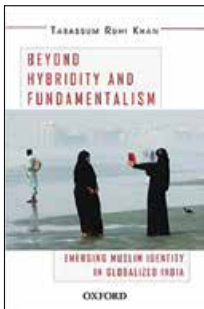
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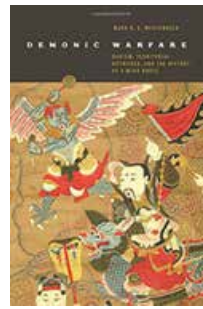
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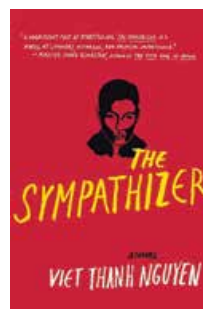
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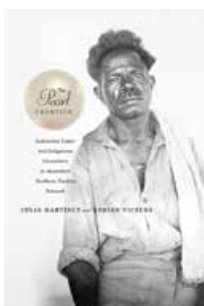
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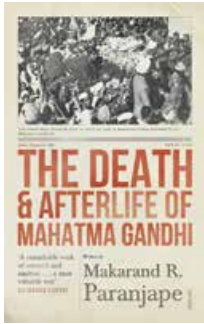
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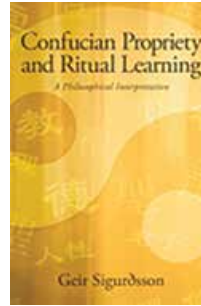
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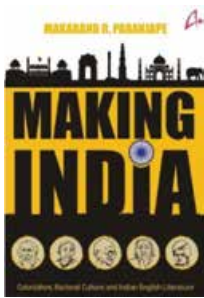
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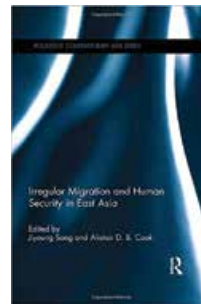
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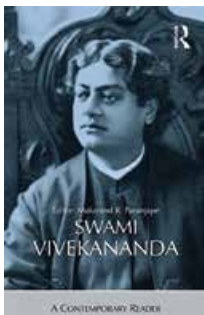
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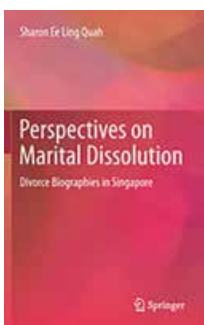
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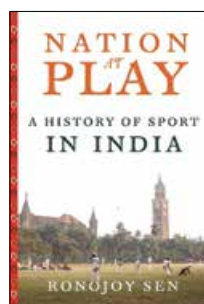
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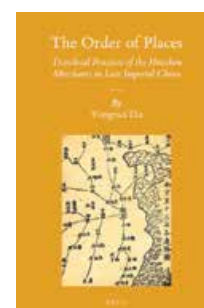
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- Multiple mobilities and entrepreneurial modalities of Chinese marriage migrants in Malaysia (co-authored with Lu M. C. W., Zhang J. & Chee H. L.). *Current Sociology*. DOI: 10.1177/0011392115594466.
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**ARI
RECOGNITION**

9.0



Awards and Honours

Dr Linda Rae Bennett's edited volume published during her ARI term, *Sex and Sexualities in Contemporary Indonesia: Sexual Politics, Health, Diversity and Representations* (co-editor, Sharyn Graham Davies) received the 2015 Ruth Benedict Prize in the category of Outstanding Edited Volume awarded by the Association for Queer Anthropology (AQA) in November 2015.

Professor Prasenjit Duara was Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the International Centre for Muslim-non-Muslim Understanding, University of South Australia, Adelaide, 4 -12 July 2015.

Dr Marie Gibert won the Grand Prize for Best Thesis on Cities 2015 or *Grand prix de Thèse sur la Ville* 2015 from the PUCA-APERAU (Planning, Urbanisation, Construction and Architecture - Association to Promote Teaching and Research in Urban Planning) for her thesis titled "The Alleyways of Hồ Chí Minh City (Việt Nam), The Street Patterns and the Evolution of Ordinary Public Spaces," which she completed in University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France, in June 2014.

Dr Connor Graham was awarded the NUS Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award 2014/15 in November 2015.

Assoc Prof Viet Thanh Nguyen's novel *The Sympathizer* won among others, the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and the Asian/Pacific American Literature Award.

Dr Nurfadzilah Yahaya won the Book Prize from Al-Wehdah Arab Association of Singapore on 14 September 2015, for her PhD dissertation "Courting Jurisdictions" which she completed in Princeton University in November 2012.

Professor Brenda S.A. Yeoh was appointed Chair, Heritage Advisory Panel (HAP), National Heritage Board; Member, Advisory Board, Center for Aging, Research and Education ("CARE"), 1 February 2015 - 31 January 2020; Editorial Board Member of *Medical History*, 2015-2017; and International Editorial Board Member, *Migration and Development Journal*, 2015-2017. She was also appointed Member, URA Architectural Heritage Awards (AHA) Assessment Committee, Urban Redevelopment Authority (2015-2016); and Member, Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Board (1 April 2015 -31 March 2018). On 3 March 2015, she was awarded the Distinguished Visiting Fellowship of the Home Team Academy for 2015 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore. She was also awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) 2015.

Keynotes and Plenaries

Chua Beng Huat

“Inter-referencing Southeast Asia: Absence, Resonance and Provocation”, *Bridges to Southeast Asia: Perspectives from the Ateneo*, Ateneo De Manila University, 27 February 2015.

“Return to/of the political popular in sociology in Asia”, *Hong Kong Sociological Association 17th Annual Conference*, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Hong Kong, 5 December 2015.

Kenneth Dean

“Ritual alliances and ecological sustainability”, *Confucius Institute Opening Conference*, University of California Santa Barbara, 2 February 2015.

“Comparative Religious Networks in Southeast Asia”, *Workshop on Comparative Religious Networks in Southeast Asia*, Max Planck Institute for Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Gottingen, 5 June 2015.

“Comparative approaches to Chinese religious networks”, *Preliminary Workshop on Comparative Religious and Trade Networks in Southeast Asia*, ARI, NUS, 14 July 2015.

“Ritual sensation and ritual change: The Heng Hwa spirit medium networks between Putian and Southeast Asia”, *Migrant Communities and Religious Experience in Asia*, ARI, NUS, 18 August 2015.

“New directions in the study of Chinese local communal religion”, *Seminar on Chinese Religion*, Fudan University, Shanghai, 21-23 August 2015.

“The transformation of the Chinese temple network in Singapore: The case of Cheang Hong Lim (1840-92)”, *International Conference on Minnan Studies*, Jinmen University, Jinmen, Taiwan, 18-19 September 2015.

“Beyond Daoist studies: The use of GIS in the study of Chinese temple networks”, Taiwan University Department of Anthropology, 23 September 2015.

Mike Douglass

“Toward a research framework for progressive cities - The Seoul Experience”, *Progressive Cities in Asia and Europe*, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, 12-13 February 2015.

“Making a progressive city - The Seoul experience” (with Myungrae Cho), *The Rise of Progressive Cities East and West*, Paris Sorbonne University, 11-12 May 2015.

“Asia’s urban transition – The spatiality of human and planetary flourishing in the Anthropocene”, *International Exploratory Workshop – Humanistic Scholarship in the Anthropocene: Approaching China from a Sustainability Paradigm*, Asien-Orient-Ins’tut – Sinologie Universitärer Forschungsschwerpunkt (UFSP) Asien und Europa, Zurich, 15-18 May 2015.

“Post-disaster resilience in Asia’s urban transition – Neighborhoods, city regions and mega-trends in disaster governance”, *National University of Singapore-China Academy of Urban Planning and Design Collaborative Workshop on Post-disaster Governance for Resilient City Regions*, Beichuan, China, 18-19 September 2015.

“City by city – The rise of progressive governance for human cities in a global age”, *International Symposium on Asian Human City Network*, Suwon, South Korea, 13 October 2015.

“The rise of progressive cities for human and planetary flourishing – A global perspective on Asia’s urban transition”, *International Symposium on Making a Progressive City: Seoul’s Experience and Beyond*, City Hall, Seoul, and the Seoul Institute, 15-16 October 2015.

Prasenjit Duara

“Sacralising the Landscape: Trans-Pacific Engagements for a Sustainable Region”, *Transpacific Orientations*, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, 23 January 2015.

“How relevant is the concept of secularism to Asia? Historical and comparative perspectives”, *Santander Summer International School “What is Caesar’s, What is God’s”*, Kyoto, Japan, 10 March 2015.

“Sustainability and the Crisis of Transcendence: The Long View from Asia”, *4th S. Gopal Annual Memorial Lecture*, King’s College, London, 14 May 2015.

“How Relevant is the Concept of Secularism to Asia? Questions for a Global Ethics of Diversity”, *InterculturAdelaide*, Adelaide, 9 July 2015.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh

“Plural diversities and the politics of migrant encounter”, *Hawke ICAS 9 Distinguished Public Lecture, 9th International Convention of Asia Scholars*, Adelaide, Australia, 5-9 July 2015.

“Transnational care migration in Asia, Asians on the move”, *3rd Asian Population Association Conference*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27-30 July 2015.

“Transnationalising families, negotiating borders: Simultaneities, rhythms and rupture”, *Blurred and Brittle Borders: Transnational Familial and Gender Relations*, International Gender Studies Centre, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and Arizona State University, Oxford, United Kingdom, 23-25 September 2015.

“Negotiating intimacies and (il)legality: Migrant workers, migrant wives and the (im)mutable subject in Singapore”, *Intimacies across Asia*, University of Sussex, Sussex, UK, 12 November 2015.

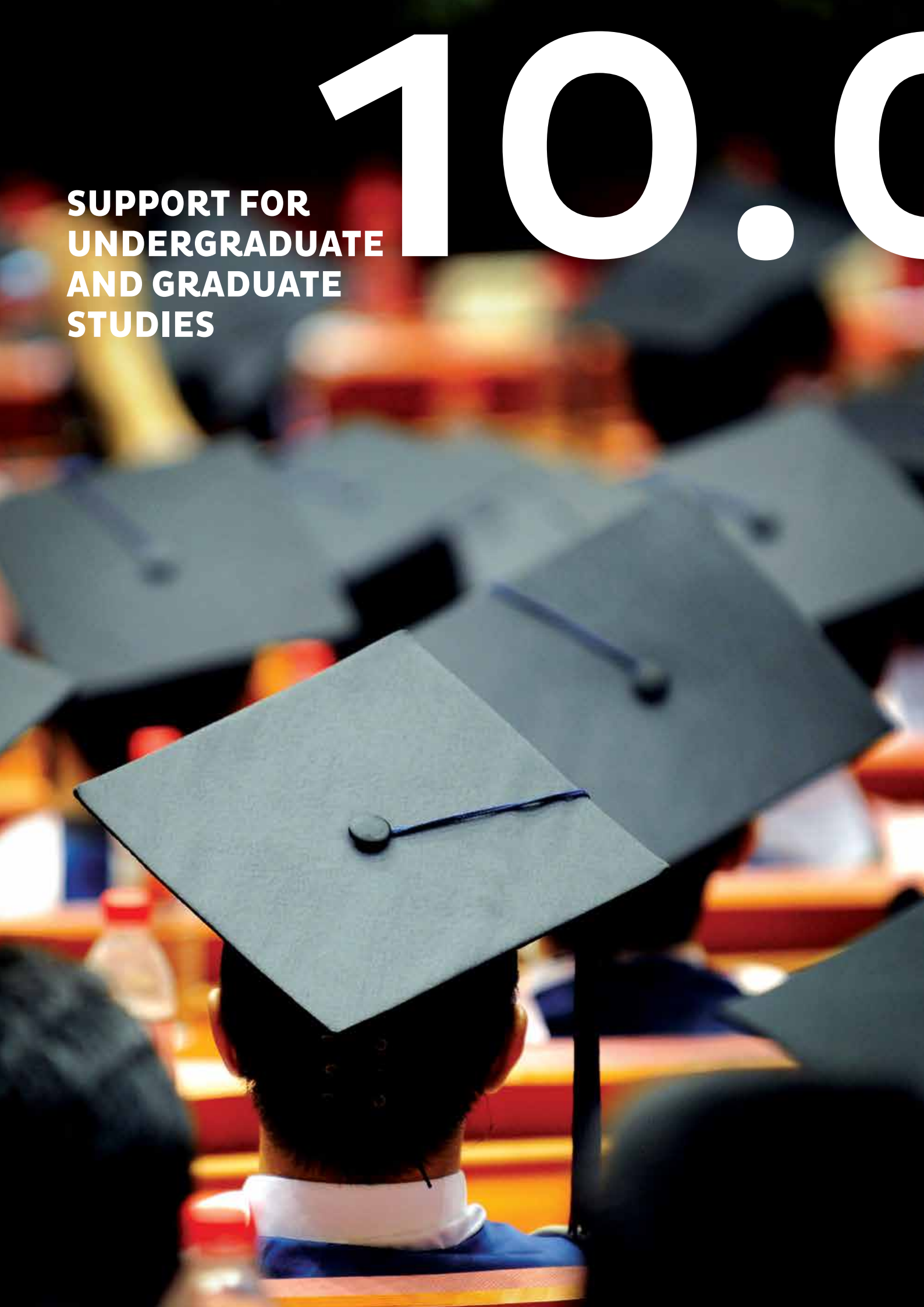
Wei-Jun Jean Yeung

“Divergent destinies: China’s hukou system, education reforms, and intergenerational mobility”, *Life Course Centre Conference*, University of Queensland, Australia, 28-31 October 2015.

“Female migrants’ transition to adulthood in China: Marriage and job trajectories” (with Mu Zheng), *North American Chinese Sociologists Association Annual Conference*, Chicago, USA, 21 August 2015.

10.0

**SUPPORT FOR
UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE
STUDIES**



Graduate and Other Teaching at NUS

In 2015 ARI researchers, mostly those on joint appointment with their respective faculties in NUS, contributed to the University in the following teaching and supervisory roles:

Chua Beng Huat: Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, taught SC4101 Reflections on a Sociological Education.

Supervised 5 PhD students, Cultural Studies in Asia Programme (Sociology), and 2 honours students, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Céline Coderey: Tembusu College, taught UTC2101 Time and Life (Senior Seminar).

Catelijne Coopmans: Tembusu College, taught GEM1902C Fakes; and UTC2101 Time and Life.

Kenneth Dean: Department of Chinese Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, taught CHS3882 Chinese Temples in Southeast Asia.

Supervised 1 PhD student, Department of Chinese Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Mike Douglass: Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, taught PP5416 Gateway to Social, Environmental and Urban Policy; and PP5153 Urban Development Policy and Planning in Asia.

R. Michael Feener: Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, taught HY3246 History of Muslim Southeast Asia and HY6770 Graduate Research Seminar.

Supervised 1 honours, 1 MA, and 1 PhD student, Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Connor Graham: Tembusu College, taught and coordinated GEM2902 Climate Change and UTC1102S/GEM1902S Living and Dying in the Internet Age; and taught GEM3901 Tembusu Undergraduate Research Opportunity.

Huang Jianli: Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, taught HY4214 Approaches to Chinese History.

Supervised 1 honours, 1 MA and 4 PhD students, Department of History; and 1 PhD student, Department of Chinese Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Eric Kerr: Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, taught GEK2037/PH2223 Introduction to the Philosophy of Technology.

Ko Pei-Chun: Tembusu College, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, taught SC4220 Aging and Health.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh: Supervised 2 MA and 2 PhD students, Department of Geography; and 1 PhD student, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung: Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, taught SC3222 Social Transformation in Modern China.

Supervised 4 PhD students, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Asian Graduate Student Fellowship Programme

18 MAY – 27 JUN 2015, NUS BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS

The Asian Graduate Student Fellowships are offered to graduate students from Asian countries working in the Humanities and Social Sciences on Asian topics, and allow the recipients to be based at NUS for a period of one and a half months. The aim of the fellowships is to enable scholars to make full use of the wide range of resources in the libraries of NUS and ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, and to provide them with guidance from mentors. They have access to writing classes, as well as other “academic bootcamp” activities, such as how to make academic presentations and write proposals.

The graduate students take up their appointments from May to July each year.

As part of their programme at ARI, Asian Graduate Students are also given an opportunity to present a synopsis of their research at ARI’s annual Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies and to describe how their stay at NUS has contributed to their intellectual development. This enables the students to receive feedback and additional resources from the academic community here during their time at ARI.

5-YEAR STATISTICS

Country	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
	Applications Received (AR)	Shortlisted (S)	AR	S	AR	S	AR	S	AR	S
Bangladesh	1		1	1					2	1
Cambodia	1	1	3	1	7	1	1	1	2	2
China	6	1	5	1			6	1	5	2
East Timor			2	1						
India	3	2	12	1	3	1	2		6	1
Indonesia	37	8	34	4	33	11	59	11	35	9
Iran	2								1	
Japan					1	1			1	
Korea	1				2	1			1	
Laos					1	1	2	2		
Malaysia	3	1	4	2	3		14	5	6	4
Myanmar			2	2	2	2	1			
Nepal			2							
Pakistan			12							
Philippines	16	7	12	7	9	8	9	3	8	4
Sri Lanka			3							
Taiwan	3	1								
Thailand	5	4	1	1	9	5	10	6	11	9
Uzbekistan			1							
Vietnam	5	1	16	4	10	4	11	4	10	3
TOTAL	83	26	110	25	80	35	115	33	88	35

Asian Graduate Students 2015

Name	Institution	Research Topic
Aditya Eko Adrianto	MA Candidate, Cultural Studies, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia	The Influence of Surveillance against Social Practice in Kaskus Website
Agnes Pranugrahaning	MA Candidate, Anthropology, The Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Reordering Harmony, Redefining Identity; Javanese Kampung Community's Response within the Changing Urbanscape in Yogyakarta
Aimee C. Faunillan	MA Candidate, Department of English Language & Literature, Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan, Philippines	Counter-Memory to Philippine Marcosian History: Arlene J. Chai's <i>Eating Fire and Drinking Water</i> as Historiographic Metafiction
April Jade A. Ramayan	MA Candidate, Department of English Language & Literature, Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan, Philippines	History as Gossip: The Alternative History of Negros Occidental, Philippines in the Selected Narratives of Rosario Cruz Lucero
Carlos III Monteza Pioscos	PhD Candidate, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Hong Kong	Suffering that Counts: The Problem of Sacrifice in Southeast Asian Literature and Film on Labour Migration
Clarissa del Rosario Ruzol	MA Candidate, School of Environmental Science and Management (SESAM), University of the Philippines Los Baños	A Network Perspective to Collaborative River Basin Governance
Husnul Abid	MA Candidate, Department of Communication, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Local Newspapers in Post-New Order Indonesia: The Case of Jambi, Sumatra
Ida Fitri Astuti	MA Candidate, Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Sharia Tourism: Religion and Social Transformation through Commodification of Muslim's Piety
Jera Beah Lego	PhD Candidate, International Christian University, Japan	Prospects for a Regional Protection Regime for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Southeast Asia
Jesada Buaban	MA Candidate, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Walailak University, Thailand	Religion and Translocality: The Propagation of Thai Theravada Buddhism in Indonesia by Dhammayut Monks
Juan Miguel Leandro Lim Quizon	MA Candidate, Literary and Cultural Studies, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines	Terminal Nations, Capital Performances: The Physicalisation of State Power in Two Southeast Asia Airports
Konthoujam Sarda	MA Candidate, Department of Political Science, North Eastern Hill University, India	India-ASEAN Relations and Emerging Regional Economic and Security Scenario
Kridsana Chotisut	MA Candidate, Southeast Asian Studies Program, School of Liberal Arts, Walailak University, Thailand	In Collective Memory of Aung San – The Case Study of Myanmar Migrant Workers in Ranong Province, Thailand

Name	Institution	Research Topic
Kunnawut Boonreak	MA Candidate, Ethnicity and Development Program, Chiang Mai University, Thailand	Rohingya Diaspora in Thai-Burma Borderland
Loh Jen May	MA Candidate, English Department, University of Malaya	Defining Self: Locating Identity of Early Malaysian Chinese in Lee Kok Liang's Fiction
Maya Dania	MA Candidate, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	The Withered Flowers: A Local Narration of Indonesian Jugun Ianfu Survivors
Mylene T. De Guzman	MA Candidate, Geography, University of the Philippines—Diliman	Locating the Filipina Lesbian: Navigating Spaces of Inclusion and Exclusion in Call Centers in the Philippines
Pongsakorn Paobphet	MA Candidate, Faculty of Art, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	Irrigation System Development in the Chao Phraya River Basin, 1945-1964
Sam Rany	PhD Candidate, School of Educational Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia	The Influence of Institutional Factors and Integrations towards Students' Academic and Intellectual Developments in Cambodian Public Universities
Samson Wong Kei Shun	PhD Candidate, Department of Visual Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong	Reimagining and Reshaping Urban Living through Art
Sarah Rosemary Megumi Wouthuyzen	MA Candidate, Department of Coastal Resources, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Diponegoro University, Indonesia	Introduction of Coastal Conservation Education for Elementary School in the Pari Island, Seribu Islands, Jakarta, Indonesia
Shen Hao Ting	PhD Candidate, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National Chi Nan University, Taiwan	The Cultural Resistance of Chinese Theatre in Singapore: The Practice of Left-wing Modernity (1959-1976)
Sulfia Lilin	MA Candidate, Center for Religious and Cross-Culture Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	The Dialog to Reach Agreement: The Dynamics of Conflict and Conflict Resolution in the Ritual of Nawu Sendang
Thanggoulen Kipgen	PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University, India	Kuki Migrants in Singapore - A Sociological Study
Truong Quang Hoan	MA Candidate, Thai Studies Program, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	The Structure of Commodity Trade between Thailand and Vietnam (2004-2013)
Yulianti	PhD Candidate, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Producing Buddhism in Modern Indonesia (ca. 1927-1959)

10th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies

24-26 JUN 2015, NUS BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS

ARI's annual Asian Graduate Fellowship Programme and the Forum which concludes the programme have become an ARI institution. Every year ARI receives a surge of applications from the Asian region with backgrounds in Humanities and Social Sciences working on Southeast Asia related topics who are keen to join the six-week long Fellowship Programme and/or present their work at the Forum.

This year the Fellowship Programme offered 26 candidates from across Asia the opportunity to come to Singapore and work on their researches while making use of NUS libraries and connect with scholars working on related themes at the University as well as in ISEAS. Each student is paired with a mentor who provides guidance and advice for the duration of the programme. Students are also encouraged to contact other scholars at NUS and thus build on their own network. Besides working on their research and developing a research paper which they will present at the Forum, students also participate in an intensive English academic writing course. For the Fellowship programme we had students join us from the following countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Graduate Fellows were joined by 34 other PhD and masters students from across the globe for the

Forum on Southeast Asian Studies. The diversity of themes is reflected in the headings of the 21 panels: Art & Anthropology, Asian Governance; Asian Politics; Colonial History; Globalisation & the Market; Migration Remittances & Regimes; Mobility, Society & Health; Surveillance & Self-Censoring Society. Three keynote speakers gave the programme extra body. Professor Prasenjit Duara, the departing head of ARI, opened with a keynote which took inspiration from his most recent book *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future*. Professor Duara has always strongly supported the Programme and the Fellowship Committee would like to recognise and thank him for this. The next day Professor Michelle Ford of the University of Sydney and director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC) delivered a riveting keynote on the importance of doing empirical research/fieldwork. The final keynote was delivered by Associate Professor Itty Abraham, head of the Department of South East Asian Studies at NUS. He specifically zoomed in on the concept of the Anthropocene which is currently gaining strong traction across the Humanities and Social Sciences. All three keynotes were warmly appreciated by the graduate students who in their evaluations specifically mentioned how they had found them inspirational and thought provoking.



Research Scholarships

A number of NUS PhD scholarships have been allotted to ARI, although administration, coursework and assessment of graduate students remain with the relevant departments. In 2015, 2 students graduated, bringing the total number of graduates of ARI's PhD scholarships programme to 21 since the start of the programme. 4 students remain on ARI's scholarships and are supervised through the different departments.

GRADUATED IN 2015

Angeline Eloisa Javate Dios
PhD (Geography)

June Yap
PhD (Cultural Studies in Asia)

ON-GOING

Bubbles Beverly Asor
Department of Sociology

Danicar Mariano
Department of Geography

Shelley Mae Jalandoon Sibya
Department of Sociology

Robert David Williamson
Office of Programmes

ARI Internship Programme

ARI has been receiving undergraduates and postgraduates from local and overseas tertiary institutions under the ARI Internship Programme since 2006. The objectives of the programme are to create opportunities for students to be exposed to an academic research environment, to observe the workings of a research institute, and to participate more fully in one particular designated area at the Institute. The intern gains work experience in a research environment, and is introduced to professional research practice and administration. Interns may join the research work of a cluster, and/or assist the administrative team in providing support functions.

Over the years, ARI has provided internship opportunities to students from The Chinese University of Hong Kong; City University of Hong Kong; University of British Columbia, Canada; University of California-Berkeley, USA; Tsinghua University, China; Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and others. In total, ARI provided internship opportunities to the following 4 interns in 2015.

8 JUN - 15 AUG 2015

Ms Marcella Mak King Man

Third year BA (Hons) student majoring in English Studies, City University of Hong Kong

8 JUN - 31 JUL 2015

Mr Jackey Cheung Wai Yu

Third year BA student majoring in Government and Public Administration, Chinese University of Hong Kong

8 JUN - 31 JUL 2015

Ms Angela Kwan Ching Yi

Second year BA student majoring in English, Chinese University of Hong Kong

8 JUN - 31 JUL 2015

Mr Jacky Tong Yiu Yeung

Second year BA student majoring in Sociology, Chinese University of Hong Kong



**EXTERNAL
RELATIONS**

11.0

MOU/External Funding Received

Organisation/ Foundation	Date Of Agreement/Award	Project Title/ Description	Amount/ Sponsorship
Ministry of Social & Family Development, Singapore	Jan 2015	An Exploratory Study on Singaporean Divorcees from Transnational Marriages	\$64,585.00
University of South Australia	Jan 2015	Wild Spaces, the Subject, and Islamic Cosmopolitan	Sponsorship of airfare
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS	Feb 2015	Dialogic Workshop on Progressive Cities in Asia and Europe	Sponsorship of airfare and accommodation
Centre for Family and Population Research, NUS	Feb 2015	Educational Resilience among Asian Children in Challenging Family Environment	\$1,856.14
Centre for Family and Population Research, NUS	Apr 2015	Singapore Families	\$10,500
Henry Luce Foundation	Apr 2015	Religion and NGOs in Asia	\$495,398.32
Singapore Tourism Board	Jun 2015	AAS-NUS CONFERENCE Asia in Motion: Heritage and Transformation	\$15,616
The Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium	Jun 2015	Gendered Dimensions of Migration: Material and Social Outcomes of South- South Migration	Sponsorship of airfare
*SCAPE	Jul 2015	ARI ASIA TRENDS 2015 - En Route to the Departure Hall: How Migrants Navigate Recruitment Processes	Sponsorship of lecture venue
Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fund, Office of Deputy President (Research & Technology), NUS	Jul 2015	Comparative Religious Networks in Southeast Asia	\$11,000
Newton Foundation	Jul 2015	The Force of Life: Living in Precarious Spaces and Times in Asia	\$5,936.65
Monash University, Australia	Aug 2015	International Medical Travel and the Politics of Transnational Mobility in Asia	\$11,000
Research Center on Science, Medicine and Society (Cermes3 - EHESS/CNRS/ INSERM), Paris	Sep 2015	Governance and Circulation of Asian Medicines	Sponsorship of airfare
National Library Board	Sep 2015	ARI Asia Trends 2015 - Perspectives on Marital Dissolution: Divorce Biographies in Singapore	Sponsorship of lecture venue
NUS - Humboldt Grant	Oct 2015	Migration, Diversity and Encounters	\$1,750
Humboldt University, Germany	Oct 2015	Migration, Diversity and Encounters	\$4,950
United Nations University, Germany	Nov 2015	Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia	Sponsorship of airfare
Urban Knowledge Network Asia	Nov 2015	Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia	\$8,311.84
Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fund, Office of Deputy President (Research & Technology), NUS	Nov 2015	Chinese Diaspora Studies in the Age of Global Modernity	\$9,629.83

International Visits

By Director, Prof Prasenjit Duara

23-24 JAN 2015

Transpacific Re-Orientations: Religion, Spirituality and the Invisible Connections Between Asia and the Americas
Centre for Transpacific Studies,
University of Southern California, USA

25-28 JAN 2015

Inter-Asia Connections
Seoul National University Asia Center, South Korea

7-8 MAR 2015

The Future of Asian Studies: National, Transnational, & Regional Approaches Centre for Asia-Pacific Future Studies, Kyushu University, Japan

9 MAR 2015

Network Asia Globalisation and Regional Studies The Global Japan Studies Network,
The University of Tokyo, Japan

9-16 MAR 2015

What is Caesar's, What is God's? A Transcultural Perspective on the Legitimation of the Political and Religious Spheres
Kyoto University, Japan

25-29 MAR 2015

Thinking across Regions and Disciplines: A Conversation on Inter-Asia Research 2015 Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, USA

8-14 MAY 2015

Discussion of The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future University of Cambridge, UK

The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Network Asia: Globalisation, Region and a Sustainable Future
King's College London, UK

Dr S. Gopal Annual Lecture - Sustainability and the Crisis of Transcendence: The Long View from Asia King's College London, UK

15-17 MAY 2015

Humanistic Scholarship and the Anthropocene Approaching China from a Sustainability Paradigm
University of Zurich, Switzerland

19-21 MAY 2015

Rethinking Historical Space
New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE

4-12 JUL 2015

The 9th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS), Adelaide, Australia University of South Australia

18-31 AUG 2015

Duke University, USA

16-17 SEP 2015

New York University Shanghai, China

21 SEP 2015

Duke Kunshan University, China

Visitors

4 JUN 2015

Dr Taberez Ahmed Neyazi

Centre for Culture, Media & Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, India, and India's Coordinator for "Media Campaigns and Influence in Elections"

9 JUN 2015

Assoc Prof Morgan Pitelka

Director, Carolina Asia Centre University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

11 JUN 2015

Assoc Prof Kim D. Reimann

Director, Asian Studies Center
Georgia State University, USA

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Theodora Lam
Valerie Yeo
Vernice Tan**

The background features a central blue band with white text. Above and below this band are decorative borders with traditional patterns, including a repeating diamond motif and floral designs, all in a light brown/gold color. The patterns are separated by wavy, torn-edge-like borders.

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