



ARI NEWS

A newsletter of the Asia Research Institute, NUS

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Asean Graduate Research Scholars On Campus

The Asia Research Institute (ARI) is presently hosting 29 Graduate Research Scholars, its biggest delegation by far, under the ASEAN Research Scholars Programme. Initiated by ARI in 2003, the ASEAN Research Scholars Programme was launched to support post-graduate studies in the region by offering the opportunity of conducting research at NUS for three months to post-graduate ASEAN students studying full time in ASEAN countries and working in the Humanities and Social Sciences topics related to Asia. This year, the programme has been widened to give graduate students from China working on ASEAN topics the chance to join the programme. Two students from China are part of the current group.

The programme is based on ARI's recognition that NUS has resources which are unavailable in the scholars' home institutions. NUS libraries and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) make their resources available to the students during their stay. The visiting scholars also have the chance to interact with a wide range of academics at NUS and other Singapore institutions. Each scholar works with a mentor, chosen from ARI or from a range of departments including Sociology, Geography, Chinese Studies, History, English Language and Literature and Architecture. The scholars' topic of research range widely from linguistic areas such as Chong syntax to Manila's urban redevelopment, the role of Myanmar in the Greater-Mekong Sub-region to cross-border marriages between Vietnamese and Singaporeans, indigenous peoples and land tenure issues in Indonesia to a study of Islamic radicalism. Students originate from the Philippines, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

A new feature of this year's programme is a Ford Foundation supported writing and skills workshop. This workshop, under the competent guidance of Dr. Kay Mohlman, was designed to assist the scholars in learning more about the technical aspects of paper writing and presentation, including how to write an abstract, how to develop a well argued paper and, finally, how to prepare an engaging, well organised oral presentation. Dr Mohlman was able

to impart these skills successfully in an informal, non-threatening environment. One scholar related that the workshop became more than skills-building sessions, "it became sessions of expressing and gaining advice about the challenges of being away from home for an extended period (in my case, for the first time). The shared stories among us were funny, comforting, fun and very informative as well." Hopefully, the workshop will become a regular part of the scholars' skills development while visiting ARI and NUS.

Based on the graduate research they have already conducted in their home institution, and the information they have gleaned from their mentors and the resources at NUS, and using the newly acquired skills the scholars gained in their workshop, the scholars' three months of work in Singapore culminates in a formal presentation at the "Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies". The Graduate Forum brings together the 29 ASEAN scholars with an additional 30 graduate students from Singapore and beyond who all present papers on their on-going research. The Forum is a two day workshop which is organised around thematic issues including religion, history, indigenous studies, politics, gender and language. The Forum provides the scholars with an opportunity to receive feedback on their work from their mentors, their peers and other attending NUS academics. They will be able to use the comments they receive in completing their research and writing once they return to their home institutions. We invite everyone to attend the Graduate Forum and hear from the ASEAN scholars and other participating graduate students.

We believe that the programme has been very successful in nurturing young scholars and building humanities and social science research capacity in the ASEAN region since its commencement. From four scholars in the first year, the programme grew between 10 to 20 scholars in the second to the fourth year, and to 29 this year as a result of the Ford Foundation's kind support for the scholars from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Professor Anthony Reid

Director, 2002–2007

A privileged five years



I count myself extremely fortunate to have been part of the first phase of the Asia Research Institute, in the heart of the region that has been my life's work. It was and is a great vision to build a first-class research facility at the centre of a region relatively poorly endowed with strong institutions of the kind,

supported by Southeast Asia's strongest university. For myself, the greatest satisfaction is the extent to which it has helped the region lift its game through greater interaction with the broader social science world; the greatest regret, that it could not do more. I have benefited enormously from the talented scholars who have spent time in ARI, more than a hundred of them - young and established, local, regional and international. Many have achieved great things, and together, they have created an exciting atmosphere of intellectual exchange and enquiry.

I was very lucky to have inherited from the Centre for Advanced Studies a group of capable administrators who knew how to get things done. Both before my arrival and after a number of other talents were drawn in from the private sector - notably Christopher Anthony, Dominic Bose, and Verene Koh successively as managers, Lynn Tan and Rina Yap successively as events officers, Connie Teo first as secretary and later Human Resources officer, Kristy Won as secretary, Henry Kwan as technical officer, Alyson Rozells in events and Chong Mei Peen as HR officer. There has been turnover and occasional drama, but the whole team has been a joy of efficiency and good humour such as I have seldom encountered elsewhere. I want to thank them profoundly for keeping the academics happy, and out of trouble, and making the Institute a great place to work.

I thank Gavin Jones for being willing to pick up the baton as Acting Director. I pass it on with immense gratitude both for being privileged to have held it in these formative years, and for being relieved of it at the right moment with such a great team in place. I wish the Institute ever more creative foresight in rising to the exciting challenges before it.

Professor Gavin Jones

Acting Director, from July 2007

Capitalise on our strengths



In taking up the Acting Director's job, pending the arrival of a new Director, I am conscious of the high standard that has been set by ARI's founding Director, Professor Anthony Reid. Tony was presented with a file (also a CD) of tributes at the final Institute Meeting before he stepped down. The tributes were thoughtful, some profound, some amusing, but all reflected the warm

regard in which he was held and acknowledged his remarkable contribution in developing a unique institution. He is a hard act for anybody to follow.

ARI is facing many challenges. The move to the Bukit Timah campus has altered the context in which we work, and we need to profit from the upsides of this, while attempting to deal with the downsides. The upsides are our new neighbours: the Faculty of Law, the LKY School of Public Policy, the East Asia Institute and the South Asia Institute; our location in a historic site holding warm memories for a whole generation of Singaporeans who studied here, and situated closer to the commercial and diplomatic heart of Singapore; and the location of all ARI staff within the one building for the first time. The downsides are the physical separation from our colleagues in FASS, the SDE and the Business School, and from the main university library.

Joint appointments between ARI and the Faculties will help to bridge that gap, as well as providing a tenure track to those in early and mid-career, and we look forward to more of these. Beyond that, the challenge seems to me to be twofold to ensure that the research, conferences, seminars and public lectures we conduct are exciting enough to attract colleagues from Kent Ridge - and indeed from downtown Singapore - to Bukit Timah; and to engage in collaborative activities with our Kent Ridge colleagues so that the ARI-Faculties relationships will be more seamless than in the past. Finally, we still have to aim at striking the appropriate balance between bringing established researchers to ARI and encouraging promising younger researchers, especially from within the region we study.

Having spent four years in ARI, and seen the 100 scholars who have spent time here come and go, I must acknowledge a profound sense of loss when those with whom we have interacted intensively over periods of three months, or one year, or two years, move on. Yet this transience is the essence of ARI, and a major part of its strength, so those of us who stay longer must adjust to it and profit from it.

RECENT ARI EVENTS

Workshop on Mobile City Singapore 1 – 3 March 2007

Immigrant is at the heart of Singapore's social, historical, and economic foundations. This message was echoed repeatedly during the three-day workshop titled 'Mobile City Singapore' jointly organised by ARI and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore (NUS), on 1–3 March 2007. The workshop's major themes included the cultural politics of migration, projected trends and changes in Singapore's migration landscape, and how out-migrants and in-migrants negotiate their identity in the midst of their cross-cultural transitions.

Papers presented were organised along seven thematic panels. These included national narratives, histories and geographies of labour migration, Japanese women at work in the global city, theorisation of the mobile city, diaspora and transnationalism, emigration-sojourn-return, and gender and mobility. The papers were contributed by participants

from various disciplines including sociology, anthropology, architecture, psychology, history, and business studies, with each academic field providing a unique and distinctive lens to explore the concept of global city and the daily and social discourses engaged by people living in Singapore. Some of the papers also examined the views of transnationals in Singapore and Singaporeans residing abroad.

The workshop was attended by a total of 37 speakers and chairpersons and 48 observers from various institutions and agencies. Professor Wang Gungwu, director of East Asian Institute, NUS, delivered a keynote address based on his observations of the historical connections and developments between mobility, dynamic ideas and the formation of nationhood.

Selected papers from the workshop are currently being edited for publication in a special volume.

Workshop on Asian Pop Music in Transition 3 – 4 March 2007



Motivated by the increasing transnational flows, exchanges and consumption of pop music across national and cultural boundaries in East and Southeast Asia, the Asia Research Institute conducted a two-day workshop on Asian Pop Music Transition on 3-4 March 2007, with ARI Visiting Fellow Dr Shin Hyun-joon (Sungkonghoe University, Seoul, Korea) as main organiser.

The workshop brought together young scholars from the two regions who are not only engaged in academic research but also active in promotion of local music and musicians. Eleven papers were presented at the workshop, covering popular music, production, distribution and consumption in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, PRC, Thailand and Singapore.

The themes explored in these presentations include:

- the impact of digitisation, where the distinction between producer and consumer of pop music is progressively blurred as the technology-savvy youth upload and download their products at will;
- the ubiquity of pop music in new communication technologies which redefines music consumption, where purposive listening progressively fades as a practice;
- the different strategies for production of 'stars', from mega-cost, world tours by Korean singer, Rain, to low-cost national singing competitions, such as the Supergirl show in the PRC, in which the contestants effectively provide unpaid work for the sponsoring station;
- the interactions and consequences between lyricist, musician and visual artist in music video production, which results in a hybrid product that subverts every participant's intention and ideology;
- genre-bending music which, for example, combine heavy-metal with religious lyrics or 'indigenising' rock music with local dialect and finally, the effects of music CD piracy, in which global music companies are developing marketing strategies to combat the low market price of pirated products.

Selected papers are being edited for a special issue of the *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* journal.

RECENT ARI EVENTS

Asian Cinematic Practice — Towards an Alternative Paradigm 6 – 7 March 2007



Like the concept of the Orient, Asia is an abstraction created from the history of imperialism and colonialism. Yet Asia has forged ahead in creating postmodern communities with distinctive film and media cultures. What is the distinctiveness of the approaches adopted by Asian filmmakers in telling stories on film? Does the universal language of film preclude a language of cultural idiosyncrasy or uniqueness underwritten by the cultural backgrounds, practices and philosophies of the filmmakers involved? And finally, what are the inherent and active parts of the paradigm and how do they function as a flexible but reliable prototype for film analysis and disciplinary expertise?

A workshop on Asian cinematic practice, organised within the Cultural Studies cluster, was successfully held at the ARI Bukit Timah campus on 6-7 March 2007 to discuss these questions. In discussing the very existence of Asian cinema, or of "Asian-ness" itself, the workshop aimed to identify an Asian cinematic paradigm vis-à-vis the Hollywood cinema, and also sought to expose the difficulties of how an Asian cinema is to be understood given the religious, cultural and political variety in the region.

The workshop suggested that there is such a thing as an intrinsically Asian cinema, one which could also exist and

function within a transnational, transcultural, heterogeneous and hybrid realm of world cinematic cultures. The rise of East Asian film industries in South Korea, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, has contributed to a greater integration of the different Asian film cultures on an inter-Asian level. Film industries, such as the South Korean cinema, the Hong Kong and the Mainland Chinese cinemas, have well-developed transnational strategies of distribution and production, resulting in the so-called "Pan-Asian" mode of production. The workshop thus presented an opportunity to reflect on the developments of the disparate Asian cinemas while deliberating over the question of an Asian cinema paradigm. The participants also examined questions of how to formulate a pedagogical concept of an Asian cinema, proposing methods through active analyses of film texts, history, theory and criticism in the East Asian region.

Participants in the workshop included leading scholars in the field of Asian cinema who were invited from the United States, South Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore. Malaysian filmmaker Amir Muhammad was specially invited; he took part by showing his latest film *Village People Road Show*, a sequel to *The Last Communist*. The papers presented will be collected into a projected anthology.

A Quarter Century of Physical and Institutional Transformation in Urban China 8 – 10 March 2007



Chinese cities have experienced unpredictable changes in the Reform and Liberalisation era. The speed

of changes and the scale of operations have stimulated an extensive discussion on China's urbanisation. However, dialogue among researchers, officers, urban planners and developers, with differing theoretical and empirical approaches to this issue has been lacking. In order to bridge the gap between academia and industry, and to understand China's urbanisation and its effect on the world, the Asian Cities Cluster of the Asia Research Institute, in partnership with the Architecture Department of the National University of Singapore, organised a workshop entitled "A Quarter Century of Physical and Institutional Transformation in Urban China" from 8th to 10th March 2007. The workshop received generous sponsorship from CapitaLand Ltd., Ascott Group, Huahui Design Inc. (China), and the Lee Foundation.

A total of eighteen participants were invited, comprising of scholars, officers, urban planners and developers to debate on physical and institutional transformation of urban China in the last 25 years. With different academic and professional backgrounds, speakers followed three themes to address urban transformation in China at the macro and micro levels, namely, 1) Institution Reform and Urban Transformation; 2) Urban Transformation and Planning Practice; 3) Comparison between Urban Models in Singapore and China. Many key issues were discussed at the lively two-and-a-half-day workshop, such as, the effect of institutional reform on the urban transformation of Chinese cities; practical problems faced in urban development of Chinese cities; as well as the challenges and opportunities facing Asian cities in globalisation.

The workshop enriched our understanding of China's changing pace and rapid development. The revised papers will be edited and published as a bilingual book which will provide an up-to-date information and analysis on this important topic.

RECENT ARI EVENTS

The Sacred in a Global City: Symposium on Religion in Singapore 10 March 2007

As the secular state of Singapore enters the 21st century, religions and religiosity seem to be going through a phase of revival in the country. In its relentless effort to become a 'global city', the evolution of the country's religious scene is now even more deeply entwined with developments in the rest of the world. Meanwhile, the religious practices of new migrants have enriched the city-state's already fertile grounds of religious diversity, infusing new dynamism and complexity to the country's religious landscape.

"The Sacred in a Global City: Symposium on Religion in Singapore" was held at the National Museum of Singapore on 10 March 2007 to discuss these themes. This event was organised by the Asia Research Institute in cooperation with the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Centre, Nanyang Technological University.

In discussing new perspectives on the study of religion in Singapore the organisers, Dr. Julius Bautista of ARI and Dr. Francis Lim of Nanyang Technological University, hoped to contribute to a broader inquiry into the experience of the sacred in the context of urbanism and globalisation. Aside from these aims, the organisers had held the event in the

effort to foster more collaboration between both educational institutions.

This symposium brought together researchers from both institutions and beyond to provide a comprehensive survey of new religious movements, religious innovations, and sacralisation of urban spaces in Singapore. By taking into account factors such as Singapore's policies on religion, changing demography, processes of globalisation, and migration, speakers at the event addressed questions such as: What are the new religious movements that are currently gaining momentum in the context of the Singapore government's promotion of religious tolerance and harmony? How have advances in communications technology such as the Internet changed the ways religions are practiced in a 'globalised' Singapore? How have religious practices of diverse migrant groups impacted upon existing religious practices and dynamics?

The symposium was a greatly successful event, attended by over 120 people from academic institutions, the media, government agencies, religious groups and the public sector.

Symposium on Chinese Export Trade Ceramics in Southeast Asia 12 – 14 March 2007



This symposium, co-organised by Dr. John Miksic of NUS and Dr. Qin Dashu from Beijing University, brought together archaeologists from China and Southeast Asia to discuss a subject of mutual interest: recent discoveries at the producing and consuming ends of a trade network which formed around the 9th century.

Chinese archaeologists have begun to focus more attention on the south Chinese kiln sites in recent years. These were

some of the first large-scale industries in the world, using mass production techniques, and Southeast Asia formed one of the main centres of demand for this commodity. One ship alone, recently discovered near Java, was carrying 250,000 ceramics when it sank around AD 1000. Such data is beginning to show that the scale of trade and interaction between Southeast Asia and China was even larger than previously supposed.

The symposium was held at Singapore's National Library Board building. The National Library Board has signified its willingness to publish the symposium proceedings. Papers are now being rewritten, and it is hoped that the publication will be ready by the end of 2007.

At the end of the symposium, the speakers went on three-day trip to Jakarta, Indonesia where they visited the National Research Centre for Archaeology and the National Museum. At both locations they were welcomed by the respective Centre and Museum directors and given special access to view and study collections.

RECENT ARI EVENTS

The Body in Asia: Human Cosmos and Culture Canvas 15 – 16 March 2007



Recent decades have seen growing interest in the study of the body in the humanities and the social sciences. Unfortunately the body in Asia is missing in this increasing number of exciting and influential publications which have primarily if not exclusively focused on the body in Western cultures. The handful of works produced by Asian scholars remains largely unknown and irrelevant to Western academics and debate. The Asian field is exceptionally rich because Asia is home to a host of rich body cultures and religions. The peoples of Asia have experiences of colonisation, decolonisation and now globalisation. The Body in Asia conference presented a unique opportunity for ARI, to bring together a number of scholars who work on East, Southeast and South Asia into a conference to present original and cutting-edge research on the body in various Asian cultures.

Reflecting on the body as code (representation), experience and practice, the conference presentations were organised around a number of important questions to which in various ways they present original and striking answers. The principal

themes were: How has the body been represented in Asian cultures? Is there a special phenomenology of the Asian body by which we can understand the bodily practices in devotion, performance and fashion? How in other words and in religious terms is the body disciplined in relations to codes of piety? How has globalisation challenged and changed the Asian body and its forms of embodiment? One common theme in this conference was the relationship between personal virtue and the management or discipline of the body.

The conference lasted two days and many interesting papers were delivered by NUS staff and by academics from overseas. A number of conference papers are currently being reviewed by Indiana University Press with a view to a publication. The remaining papers are being submitted to the journal *Body & Society* as a special issue on images of beauty in Asian bodies. This workshop was organized by Professor Bryan Turner and Dr. Julius Bautista of ARI, and Dr. Zheng Yangwen, University of Manchester.

State Formation and the Early State in South and Southeast Asia Reconsidered 21 – 23 March 2007



This workshop was co-organised by Dr John Miksic of National University of Singapore and Prof Hermann Kulke of Kiel University, Germany. During the British colonial period, scholars based in India and Southeast Asia frequently exchanged information and discussed issues of common interest, focusing on the ancient relations between the two regions.

However, the two regions have been drifting apart since decolonisation. It was through the instigation of Prof Kulke, one of the few historians of premodern South Asia who has also made important contributions to Southeast Asian history, that scholars working on early state formation in the two regions have been brought together to communicate with each other. The workshop showed just how far the two regions have diverged. In South Asia, early political development tends to be the preserve of historians, while in Southeast Asia the field mainly appeals to archaeologists. This is partly a result of the different sources available, and partly an effect of a true difference in the interests of the scholarly communities in the two regions.

In order to close the gap, further contact will be necessary. The workshop's outcome is expected to be preliminary in nature, rather than yield a full-scale publication. Plans are to call for the submission of workshop papers for consideration in the ARI Working Papers series. It is hoped that further meetings can be convened to follow up on this workshop, in order to re-establish a tradition of dialogue between the scholars in the two subcontinents.

RECENT ARI EVENTS

Conference on The Changing Asian Family as a Site of (State) Politics

26 – 27 April 2007



In April 2007, the Changing Family in Asia Research Cluster at ARI organised its annual conference on the theme of “The Changing Asian Family as a Site of (State) Politics.”

Scholars have acknowledged the family as an important site of state action within the context of the many socioeconomic and demographic changes in contemporary Asia. The tendency thus far has been to conceptualise state-family relationship in terms of a “public” state stepping in to interfere with the “private” family. Despite the richness of this scholarship, studies of the family continue to stand somewhat outside of the larger debates about political systems and state-society relations. Contemporary Asian state actors also contribute to perpetuating a view of “the Asian family” as private and primordial, and hence, its own actions as ameliorative and apolitical.

In contrast to these tendencies, over the lively two-day conference, historians, sociologists and anthropologists discussed the ways in which the very definitions and boundaries of “family” are shaped through state actions and state-society interactions. Drawing from empirical contexts across Southeast and East Asia, participants highlighted the complex and sometimes contradictory power struggles and negotiations that render possible or impossible particular definitions of the contemporary Asian family, as well as the consequences of these processes on larger questions of political culture and state-society relationships.

The condition of “the family” has taken on urgent interest in a global context. Issues around dependence and the appropriate roles of states as providers of public goods are becoming politically charged. The family has become a highly emotional site for struggles around appropriate functions and values of societies—a place where contestations over the roles of women, the significance of marriage, and the meaning of childhood and ageing, take place. The relationships between family and state stand at the core of debates and battles. This conference was a timely engagement in this global conversation about key tensions facing contemporary societies. A selection of the papers will be published as a special issue of a journal.

NEW ARI MEMBERS

Assoc Prof Anne Pakir commenced a 5-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow with effect from 12 March 2007.



A/P Pakir of the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore (NUS) specialises in language policy and planning in Singapore and Asia with a special focus on English-knowing bilingualism. She serves on the boards of numerous journal and book series. She worked on Austronesian linguistics for her PhD at Hawaii (1986), and wrote her dissertation on Baba Malay.

In recent years her research has focused especially on the language situation in Singapore, bilingual education, English knowing bilingualism, and the development of global Englishes in Asia.

While at ARI, A/P Pakir will continue her research and writing on the topic of language planning in Singapore with a focus on English-knowing bilingualism.

Dr Xiang Biao commenced a one-year appointment as Visiting Research Fellow (Asian Migration cluster) with effect from 3 April 2007.



Dr Xiang is an RCUK Academic Fellow at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and research officer at the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford. He is the author of *Transcending Boundaries* (Chinese, 2000; English, 2005), *Global “Body Shopping”* (2007), and has over 30 papers on migration and social change in Chinese and English. Before joining Oxford, he worked at the International Organization for Migration and ARI-MetaCentre, NUS. During his affiliation with ARI, he will work on a book project on international labour recruiters in China.

Dr Liew Kai Khiun commenced a one-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow (Cultural Studies Cluster) with effect from 14 May 2007.



Kai Khiun obtained his B.A (Hons) and M.A at the National University of Singapore and has his doctorate conferred from the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University

College London. His main research interests are in Medical History and Labour histories as well as Cultural Studies pertaining to film and popular music in both East and Southeast Asia.

Having completed his PhD thesis on health movements in British Malaya, Kai Khiun is currently embarking his new project on the representations of medicine in East Asian Cinema and television dramas.

Prof Adam McKeown commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the SEA-China Interactions Cluster with effect from 15 June 2007.



Adam McKeown is an Associate Professor of History at Columbia University. He has written on the Chinese diaspora and the history of globalisation. He has recently finished a book on the global standardisation of international identity documents and migration control procedures, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders, 1834-1930* (forthcoming).

While with ARI, he will begin research on a new project on the organisation of overseas Chinese trade and labour from 1760-1860 in a comparative global context.

Dr Markus Zahnd commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Research Fellow in the Asian Cities Cluster with effect from 29 June 2007.



Dr. Zahnd is a research fellow and writer based alternately in Switzerland and Indonesia. At ARI he will be working on a book based on his PhD dissertation, which was nominated for best research at the University of Stuttgart during the year of 2005. The book deals with Urban Design within an Indonesian context with special focus on Islamic and Chinese urban quarters. The book presents a new perception and approach for choosing contextual strategies for making urban planning more effective within a broader South-East Asian context.

Prof Stephen Legomsky commenced a 6-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Migration Cluster with effect from 29 June 2007.



Prof Legomsky is the John S. Lehmann University Professor at Washington University in St. Louis, USA. He has a 1969 mathematics degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a 1977 J.D. degree from the University of San Diego School of Law (first in his class of 237), and a 1984 D.Phil degree from the University of Oxford.

Prof Legomsky has chaired several national and international migration committees. He is the author of *Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy* (now in its fourth edition). His other books have been on the subjects of migration and specialised courts.

While with ARI, Professor Legomsky will be researching on Southeast Asian migration issues.

Prof Anthony D'Costa commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Migration Cluster with effect from 29 June 2007.



Prof D'Costa is a Professor of Comparative International Development at the University of Washington. His recent books are *The Long March to Capitalism* (2005), *The New Economy and Development* (2006), and *China, India, and the New Asian Innovation Dynamics* (in progress). He has been a recipient of several competitive fellowships. In 2007, he received the University's Distinguished Research Award.

At ARI, he will research Japan's impending shortage of technical talent and how it might cope with this predicament to retain its global economic competitiveness. Using empirical data, he will map the movement of Asian technical talent to Japan and project some scenarios by examining the significance of foreign technical talent to the global information and communications technologies.

Prof Himanshu Ray commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the SEA-China Interactions Cluster with effect from 2 Jul 2007.



Prof Ray teaches at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and her present research interests include the History of Archaeology in South and Southeast Asia and the archaeology of religion, while her earlier work has been on maritime history and archaeology of the Indian Ocean. Her recent books include *Colonial Archaeology in South Asia: The Legacy of Sir Mortimer Wheeler*, (forthcoming 2007) and *The Archaeology of Seafaring in Ancient South Asia* (2003), as also edited volumes titled *Memory as History: The Legacy of Alexander in Asia*, edited with Daniel T. Potts (2007) and *Sacred Landscapes in Asia: Shared Traditions, Multiple Histories* (2007).

While with ARI, she will work on her book titled *The Archaeology of Religious Complexes in South and Southeast Asia (4th to 10th Centuries AD)*.

Mr Suhadi commenced a 3-month appointment as a Research Assistant to the Changing Family Cluster with effect from 3 Jul 2007.



Suhadi is a lecturer the Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies (CRCS) of Gadjah Mada University of Indonesia. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Islamic Family law from the State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta and his MA degree in an interdisciplinary religious study from Gadjah Mada University of Indonesia. Suhadi has written two books: *Kawin Lintas Agama: Perspektif Kritik Nalar Islam* (Inter-Religious Marriage in Islamic Critical Perspective) (2006); and *Membangun Pluralisme dari Bawah, Modul Belajar Bersama* (Building Pluralisme from the Botton, A Module of Training) (2007).

While at ARI, he will write an ethnographic study of Muslim-non-Muslim marriage families titled "The politico-religious contestation behind the hardening of the Islamic law on Muslim-non-Muslim marriage" that will be published by ARI in a working group book in 2007.

Dr Michelle Miller commenced a 1-year appointment as Postdoctoral Fellow in the Open Category with effect from 2 Jul 2007.



Dr Miller completed her PhD on Aceh at Charles Darwin University in November 2006. Since completing her dissertation, Michelle has been working as a researcher in Deakin University's Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation and as a lecturer in Deakin's Masters of International and Community Development program.

While at ARI, she intends to update her previous research on Jakarta's security and autonomy policies in Aceh and to prepare its publication in book form. Her new research at ARI will mainly focus on Aceh's experience with decentralisation under Indonesia's first four post-New Order governments.

Prof Bernard Formoso commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Religion and Globalisation Cluster with effect from 4 Jul 2007.



Bernard Formoso is Professor of Anthropology at Nanterre University (France) where he started his career as a lecturer in 1989. His main centres of interest concern ethnicity and the study of religious institutions in the context of globalisation. He published several books on these topics about Thai peasants and Sino-Thai traders (*Ban Amphawan et Ban Han*, 1997; *Destins chinois en milieu bouddhiste thaï*, 2000; *Thaïlande, Bouddhisme renonçant, capitalisme conquérant*, 2000). More recently, he received a grant from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation to study Teochiu shan tang and shan tang-like organisations.

His fellowship at ARI is motivated by the editing of a book about one of these organisations named De Jiao, as well as the writing of a forthcoming one on the cult of a Teochiu bodhisattva named Song Da Feng.

Dr Ulrich Kozok commenced a 6-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the SEA-China Interactions Cluster with effect from 3 Jul 2007.



Dr Kozok (MA, PhD Hamburg University, 1989, 1994) is Associate Professor in Indonesian at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he took up his post after resigning from the University of Auckland where he taught from 1994-2001. Dr. Kozok's interest is Sumatran philology (Batak, Kerinci, Bengkulu, Malay), paleography of Southeast Asia, and prehistory and history of Sumatra.

At ARI, Dr Kozok will complete his book on two Malay legal codes from the 14th and the 18th century. He will also commence his project on digitising manuscripts from private collections in Kerinci.

NOTICE OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

PhD Research Scholarship at NUS

The Asia Research Institute is pleased to offer Ph.D. research scholarships from August 2008 in the following interdisciplinary areas:

- 1) Asian Migration
- 2) Religion & Globalisation in Asian Contexts
- 3) Cultural Studies in Asia
- 4) Asian Interactions
- 5) Cold War in Asia
- 6) Reconstruction and Heritage in Aceh
- 7) Changing Asian Family

The PhD scholarship is to be taken up jointly with the appropriate discipline-based department. This would normally be with a department of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, but where appropriate could also be with the Faculty of Law, School of Business or School of Design & Environment at the National University of Singapore.

Interested applicants are required to submit their application to ARI at the address stated below by 15th November 2007, indicating clearly both which ARI interdisciplinary area they wish to join and which department they would be attached to. Application procedures and forms can be obtained from the NUS website via this URL: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/prospective/graduate/application.htm>

Applicants must use the application forms in the respective Faculty websites depending on the Faculty to which they wish to seek admission. They should send their applications to ARI directly.

The following clusters on interdisciplinary areas are offering scholarships:

- 1) **The Migration Cluster** (Research Leader: Professor Brenda Yeoh) explores the issues arising from increased levels of human mobility in the region, both within and across national borders. Mobility of high-level professional and managerial personnel, labour migration, both documented and undocumented, and human trafficking all raise theoretical and methodological questions and major policy issues, as does the role of migration in urban change.
- 2) **The Religion and Globalisation Cluster** (Research Leader: Professor Bryan Turner) explores the changing patterns of religious practice, belief and identity in recent times, particularly in Southeast Asia, China and South Asia. The title implies a particular interest in transnational and diasporic interactions, the engagement with modern technologies and values, and new global or 'glocal' forms of identity.
- 3) **The Cultural Studies Cluster** (Research Leader: Professor Chua Beng Huat) consciously challenges disciplinary boundaries to address new topics, issues and concerns thrown up by the rapid globalisation of contemporary cultures. ARI is interested in new understandings of the everyday life cultural practices of contemporary Asia, as in adaptations of older patterns in literature, and the performing and graphic arts, in rapidly changing contemporary conditions.
- 4) **The Southeast Asia-China Interactions Cluster** (Research Leader: Professor Anthony Reid) is evolving in the direction of 'Asian interactions', involving work relating especially to the historical transactions between South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia. It also oversees the following two projects.
 - a) The Cold War in Asia project welcomes applications, particularly involving relations between the two Chinas (CCP and KMT) and the parties, movements and governments of Southeast Asia;
 - b) The Aceh project is concerned with issues of reconstruction, heritage recovery, reconciliation and Islamic law in Aceh.

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- 5) **The Changing Family in Asia** Cluster (Research Leader: Professor Gavin Jones) explores the dimensions of family change in the region, their causes and implications. These dimensions include rising ages at marriage, 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. They are studied in the context of the changing political-economic structures and changing state/family roles in the provision of services and support.

Please send application to:

c/o Ms Kristy Won Asia Research Institute National University of Singapore 469A Tower Block, Bukit Timah Road, #10-01 Singapore 259770

Fax: (65) 6779 1428

Three-Month Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowships

Applications are invited for a 3-month Visiting (Senior) Fellowships at ARI to commence on 2 January, 2 April and 2 July 2008. The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers on Asian topics, with a balance anticipated between senior and junior, the Asian region and the world. At least one published outcome is expected, and applicants who do not normally publish in English will be encouraged and assisted to do so. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. "Asia" as a research field is defined loosely in terms of the region in which Singapore is positioned.

The positions will be allocated to one of the ARI clusters sketched in the preceding ad. Most of these represent the Institute's current areas of research focus, while the **Open Cluster** ensures openness to any innovative and promising project in the social sciences and humanities on Asia. Applicants should mention which category they are applying in, and which term.

Terms and Conditions

Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowships: This 3-month fellowship comes with a competitive remuneration and benefits package depending on seniority; within the range SGD3,000 - 10,000 a month.

Invitation to Apply

Interested applicants are invited to email/mail their applications, consisting of:

- i) Application form (available through the ARI website*);
- ii) Curriculum Vitae;
- iii) Synopsis of the proposed research project (no restriction on the number of pages);
- iv) At least one sample of their published work;
- v) Ensure that 2 or 3 referees submit directly to us (email is also acceptable) a confidential report on the applicant's academic standing as well as comment on their research project by 03 September 2007.

The closing date for applications is on 3 September 2007. The next opportunity to apply will take place in 4 months with an anticipated closing date of January 2008. Candidates who do not hear from the University within 8 weeks after closing date of the advertisement may assume the post has been filled.

Address for applications and references:

Human Resources
c/o Ms Chong Mei Peen
Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore
469A Tower Block, Bukit Timah Road, #10-01, Singapore 259770
Fax: (65) 6779 1428
Email: joinari@nus.edu.sg

*For more information on the following announcement, visit: www.ari.nus.edu.sg

ARI RECOGNITION AND NEW BOOKS

Prof Chua Beng Huat gave a keynote address entitled "East Asian Pop Culture: An assessment of the field" at the Conference on Studies in Transnational Cultural Flows in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature of the National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan, on 24 March 2007.

Noorhayati Bte Hamsan has been awarded the Long Service Award for 15 years of service to NUS.



Congratulations to **Leong Chan Hoong** for garnering the second best thesis award from the International Academy of Intercultural Research for 2007 and for his newborn baby girl Leong Kai En.



Prof Anthony Reid delivered the keynote speech entitled "Understanding Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia" in the Second International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities (ICOSH) at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Malaysia on 13 March 2007; and another entitled "Internationalising Knowledge in Asia: the Problems and the Prospects" for the first POSCO Asia Forum themed "Asia for Us: Vision for Future Prosperity" sponsored by the POSCO TJ Park Foundation in Seoul, Korea, 16 May 2007.

He also gave the Chairman's address entitled "Religious Pluralism in Asia" at the opening of South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) in Bangkok, Thailand, 25 May 2007.

Prof Bryan Turner gave a lecture with the title "The Enclave Society: Towards a Sociology of Immobility" at the Cambridge University Faculty of Social and Political Sciences on 1 March 2007.

Dr. Johannes Widodo gave a keynote speech entitled "Architectural Education in Asia" at the International Conference for the 20th Anniversary of the Department of Architecture of the Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) themed "Challenges and Experiences in Developing Architectural Education in Asia" on 8 June 2007.

He was also recently appointed as a Scientific Committee Member to the International Forum on Urbanism (IFoU), as well as a Jury Panel member of the UNESCO Asia Pacific Awards for Culture and Heritage Conservation for June 2007.

New Books

Director in Action: Johnnie To and the Hong Kong Action Film

Stephen Teo

Hong Kong University Press
2007



Kuasa Leluhur: Nenek Moyang, Orang Suci dan Pahlawan di Indonesia Kontemporer

Henri Chambert-Loir and Anthony Reid

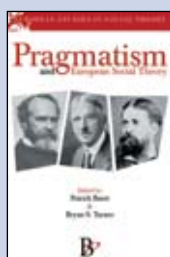
Penerbit Bina Media Perintis, Medan
2006



Pragmatism in European Social Theory

Patrick Baert and Bryan S. Turner (eds)

Oxford Bardwell Press
2007



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EARLY INDIAN INFLUENCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: REFLECTIONS ON CROSS-CULTURAL MOVEMENTS 21 – 23 November 2007

The Conference on Early Indian Influences in Southeast Asia: Reflections on Cross-Cultural Movements is scheduled to be held from 21–23 November 2007 in Singapore.

Organised in conjunction with an exhibition on Early Indian Influences in Southeast Asia (EIISEA) by the National Library Board, Singapore, the conference will be jointly hosted by the Asia Research Institute (ARI), the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS).

Conference papers will cover the characteristics of the cultural interactions during the period from pre- and proto-history through the classical period of state formations in Southeast Asia, in particular:

- Naval expeditions and background history of Rajendra Chola in Southeast Asia.
- Ancient and medieval commercial activities and Chola maritime relationship between India and Southeast Asia.
- Archaeological and inscriptional evidence and the historical background of cross-cultural movements.
- Regional cultures and localisation of Indian influences in Southeast Asia.
- Early Indian science, astronomy, mathematics, art and architecture in Southeast Asia.

Please address all correspondence to: Professor A. Mani (amani@iseas.edu.sg)/ Professor Rama (prsamy@iseas.edu.sg), Conference Coordinators, the Conference Secretariat, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119614.

ASIAN METACENTRE FOR POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

Recent Publications

Selected papers from the International Workshop on The Impacts of Migration on the Left-Behind in Asia, organised in March 2005, have been published in a special issue of the internationally refereed journal, *Population, Space and Place* titled "Migration and the 'Left-behind' in Asia". The special issue is published in Volume 13, Issue 3 (May/June 2007) with Mika Toyota, Brenda S. A. Yeoh and Liem Nguyen as guest editors.

Two other special issues containing papers presented at the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia: Critical Issues for a Sustainable Future that was held in March 2006 have also been published. The first special issue on "Growing Old in Asia: Implications and Challenges", published in *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*, Volume 23, Issue 3, December 2006 arose out of the panel on Ageing and Development organised by Evi Nurvidya Arifin. The second special issue titled "Population Changes and Violent Conflicts in Southeast Asia" was published in Volume 45, Issue 1, 2006 of *Population Review*, and was guest edited by Aris Ananta who was also the organiser of the conference's panel on Population, Ethnicity and Violent Conflicts in Southeast Asia.

New Staff

Dr Andiara Schwingel commenced appointment as Postdoctoral Fellow (Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis) with effect from 30 May 2007.



She recently earned a Ph.D. degree from University of Tsukuba (Japan) in Sport Medicine. Her research interests are in the areas of public health, well-being of immigrants and ethnic minorities, prevention of non-communicable diseases, and lifestyle.

While at ARI she will be working on a research project entitled 'Transnational Migration in South-East Asia and the Health of Children left Behind'.

FORTHCOMING ARI EVENTS

FEMALE LABOR MIGRATION IN GLOBALISING ASIA: TRANSLOCAL / TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITIES AND AGENCIES 13 – 14 September 2007

Over the past decades, the globalising economies of Asia have undergone dramatic growth. This has been accompanied by a rise in labour migration within the region — across local and national borders — that is increasingly commercialised, irregular, and feminised. Understanding these trends is important for policy making in the region and for furthering critical theory on gender and globalisation. This workshop aims to explore the mutual interactions of global and local discourses and practices that shape female migration and labour in and across Asia, particularly in Southeast Asia and China, as well as Asian migrant women workers' experiences, identities and agencies.

Detailed ethnographic case studies have documented the myriad ways that gender, as it intersects with other forms of inequality, conditions women's incorporation into global capitalism. Gender roles and ideologies structure migration decisions and expectations, labor recruitment and production processes, and the global stratification and commodification of care, for example. Yet women migrants are also agents in globalisation. Placing them as subjects at the center of inquiry is integral to challenging normative paradigms that implicitly posit globalisation as agentive and masculine and local processes as reactive, passive, and feminine.

The organisers seek insightful perspectives grounded in original empirical research. Contributions from anthropology, gender studies, human and cultural geography, political economy, and sociology are especially welcome. Selected workshop papers will be published in a special journal issue(s).

Possible topics for consideration include:

- Migrant women's labor in global factories and global cities
- Subjective understandings and experiences of migration and work
- Translocal/transnational identities and emplacement practices
- Spatial and social mobility (and social capital) of women migrants

- Resistance/accommodation to global capitalism and gender ideologies & roles
- Translocal/transnational spaces, technology, and communities of resistance
- Rethinking globalisation theory through a focus on women's agency

For further information, please contact:
Dr Arianne Gaetano: ariamg@nus.edu.sg

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IN AND OUT OF ASIA: MIGRATING TALENT, GLOBALISING CITIES 19 – 21 November 2007

**University Hall Auditorium, Level 2, Lee Kong
Chian Wing, National University of Singapore**

In today's highly globalised economy, many countries and their globalising cities are increasingly turning to global talent for economic development, especially in high growth sectors. Current migration trends show that global talent flows are growing and are moving mainly to the European Union, USA, Canada and Australia, particularly to their main cities.

Asia, as the world's fastest growing economic region, has joined in the global competition for talent, both in terms of talent outflows from home countries to other Asian countries and other parts of the world, and of talent inflows from the rest of the world to Asia. Of concern too is the need to encourage Asian talent to "return" to home countries in Asia. The overall major focus is the creation of a conducive working and living environment that will attract and retain global talent.

Global talent includes highly mobile skilled workers such as business creators, technical experts, technology innovators, health professionals, and those in scientific, educational and cultural sectors. For such skilled individuals, globalization has opened up unprecedented and immense opportunities to work and live as expatriates. Typically based in high growth industries within globalising cities, career development prospects and cosmopolitan lifestyles together make the "career-city-country" combination a natural and attractive growth path to follow.

While talent migration flows contribute to high economic growth, they pose issues related to economic competition, acculturation and cross-cultural relations, and social integration and community cohesion, with complex consequences and challenges for countries, companies, communities, families and individuals.

This conference aims to explore the intertwining economic, social, cultural and socio-psychological issues of global talent in-migration in Asia, with a focus on the following themes:

- The Attractions of Places and Policies
- Socio-Psychological Dimensions of Global Talent Management
- Cultural Politics of Everyday Encounters

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