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Photo by Dr Rita Padawangi



“ESSENTIALLY ARI IS ALL OF YOU”: A CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR JONATHAN RIGG

DR CÉLINE CODEREY AND DR RITA PADAWANGI

In January 2016, the Asia Research Institute (ARI) welcomed Professor Jonathan Rigg as its new director. Professor Rigg told Céline Coderey and Rita Padawangi how he came to the National University of Singapore (NUS), to ARI, on his vision of the future of ARI, and on his favourite places in the world.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW
A BIT MORE ABOUT YOU,
WHERE YOU ARE FROM,
AND WHAT BROUGHT YOU
TO NUS.**

I started off in the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), in London. So I was always interested in Southeast Asia, and the non-Western world. After being a postdoctoral fellow in SOAS, and then a lecturer, I moved to Durham, in the UK, which has a very strong Geography Department, but weak on Asia. And I was there for 20 years, flying to Thailand, to Laos, to Vietnam for fieldwork, and to Sri Lanka. And I suppose after 20 years our children were the right age to think about a move ... [Then], as I recall, I bumped into Brenda Yeoh in London, and she said, “We’re about to advertise for a professorship in Geography, would you be interested?” It hadn’t really crossed my mind until then. And I thought... “Hmm... maybe.” And so... there is that moment of serendipity; things happen in particular ways. So I was interviewed in 2012, and about 9 months later, was offered the position and joined the Department of Geography at NUS in July 2013.

And then, about a year after joining the Department of Geography, Lily Kong said that Prasenjit was stepping down, returning to Duke, and that the Directorship at ARI was a possibility. So I thought, again: "Why not...?" As a scholar who has always worked on Asia, who wouldn't want to come to ARI? It's a perfect fit.

I suppose the great thing about being in Singapore is that I can get to the field much more easily. Last week I was in Laos... an easy hop rather than spending 13 hours on the plane with an eight-hour time difference. There is also, of course, a vast array of talent and expertise on Asia here at ARI and NUS, something that I never found in sleepy Durham. That sounds all very logical and straightforward. But as you know, when you look back on your career and your life there are certain moments when you make a choice, a decision that defines your path for the next five or ten years. This is one of those decisions and those detours...

HOW DID YOU GET TO KNOW ARI?

In fact, I heard about ARI very early on.... I was on an external review for Southeast Asian Studies here back in about 2000, and Tony Reid was chair of the panel. Tony said to me at that point, as I recall, "I'm leaving California, I'm coming to Singapore to set up this new institute, the Asia Research Institute." So ARI has been on my radar for a very long time. But I suppose I never seriously thought that I would be sitting here being interviewed... as ARI Director. A surprise and a pleasure!

What is really unusual about ARI is the willingness of NUS to commit quite a substantial sum to bring together a body of people – and especially early career researchers – working across disciplines and on themes of importance in the Asian region. Listening to the in-the-beginning talks has made me realise what an extraordinary array of people we are privileged to have here at ARI, enabled by NUS's commitment to the Institute and Tony's vision all those years ago.

SO, NOW YOU'VE BEEN IN ARI FOR ONE AND A HALF MONTHS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING TO ARI? WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF ARI, AND HOW DO YOU SEE ARI TWO OR THREE YEARS DOWN THE ROAD?

That's a good question! Of course, ARI has done amazing things. When I think back to 2001, when I first met with Tony Reid here, this was just an idea. And now... wherever you bump into people working on Asia... they will know about ARI. So in a very short period of time, it has become one of the key centres of research in and on the Asian region. That's an extraordinary achievement in such a short period of time, and very important to bear in mind when one thinks about changing things. Of course I have my own interests. I am a social scientist, a geographer, working on issues of contemporary social and economic change, whereas Tony and Prasenjit were historians.

All the clusters are doing fantastic work. Some have current grants, like the migration cluster, the religion cluster and the urbanisms cluster; we are committed to deliver on these so there has to be some continuity. That said, I would like to see a bit more economics, political science, environmental studies... but don't read into that statement that other work is going to be squeezed out! In fact, quite the reverse, because ARI is all of you, isn't it? If you weren't here, then ARI would just be a name and a building. So we have to create an environment where people wish to come to ARI and work, study, write and produce. And it's because of people like you that ARI has



the profile it does. In fact, we asked Hui Ying a couple of weeks ago to track down where past ARI PDFs and research fellows have ended up. If you go down the list, we have got former ARI fellows at ANU, Seoul University, University of Melbourne, Queensland, Yale-NUS, Cornell, Monash, Tokyo, Chicago, McGill, and so on. That's extraordinary, don't you think? It means that of these 60 postdocs and research fellows, 95% or so are in academic positions in some of the world's leading universities. That reflects what we're really good at, which is nurturing younger scholars. ARI gives them the inspiration, space, environment and time to do first-class work. This is their personal success of course, but it is also ARI's success.

BUT THERE IS ALSO THE RISK THAT SOMEONE LIKES, LOVES ARI SO MUCH THAT (S)HE WANTS TO STAY/DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE....

The trick is to have a balance between people here for longer periods, who can provide continuity and stability and having a degree of turnover and new blood and energy. Getting that balance is hard and something important for us to think about: what is the right balance between new blood and stability and continuity?

TELL US A BIT MORE ABOUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE WORLD....

Italy... the food, weather, the art, architecture, the street life. When you sit having a coffee or just watching people, you think... "wow...this place!"

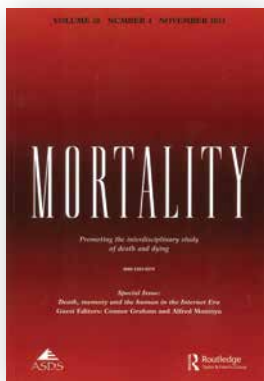
But my favourite country in Southeast Asia is Laos, that's just wonderful... I was in Pakse a couple of weeks ago having not been to the south of the country for many years and I was relieved to find that it is still almost as beautiful and chilled as I remembered it.

HOW ABOUT MYANMAR?

I am embarrassed to say I have never been to Myanmar.... I need to go, then we can share notes. Another love is Nusa Tenggara. Long ago I went by bus through Lombok, Sumbawa and Flores and it just got more and more interesting, and then I reached Sumba and finally East Timor... East Timor, however, was a shock. It was 1990, I think, and the landing craft from the 1975 annexation were still rusting on the beach in Dili; it was the saddest country I had been to at that time and perhaps the only time – so far as I know – that I have been shadowed by the security forces.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

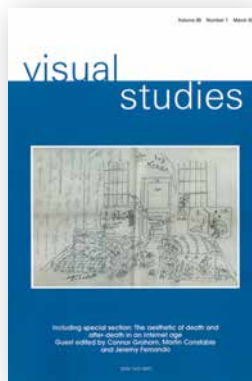
Pleasure...nice to talk to you both.



Connor Graham & Alfred Montoya (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



Connor Graham, Martin Constable, & Jeremy Fernando (guest eds)

Special Section: The Aesthetic of Death and After-death in an Internet Age

Visual Studies 30(1), 2015



Jonathan Rigg

Challenging Southeast Asian Development: The Shadows of Success

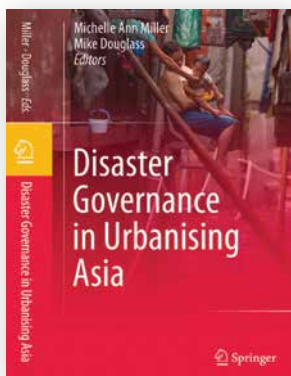
Routledge, London, 2016



Michelle Ann Miller & Mike Douglass (guest eds)

Special Issue: Governing Flooding in Asia's Urban Transition

Pacific Affairs 88(3), 2015



Michelle Ann Miller & Mike Douglass (eds)

Disaster Governance in Urbanising Asia
Springer, 2016



Michelle Ann Miller & Mike Douglass (guest eds)

Special Issue: Decentralising Disaster Governance in Urbanising Asia

Habitat International 52, March 2016

THE MISSION OF DEVELOPMENT: RELIGION AND TECHNO- POLITICS IN ASIA

DR CATHERINE SCHEER
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW
RELIGION AND GLOBALISATION CLUSTER

On 3 – 4 December 2015, the Religion and Globalisation Cluster, with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, brought together historians, anthropologists and religious studies scholars to revisit the nexus between mission and development. Recent rethinking of the established storyline of development has seen Christian missionaries emerge as contested yet important actors. Building on previous events organised as part of ARI's "Religion and Development" project, this conference brought new attention to the roles missionaries played in development in Asia.

Questioning the applicability of a rigid separation between the "religious" and the "secular", as a legacy of modern Western thinking that cannot be taken for granted, scholars presented stimulating historic and ethnographic case studies of the porousness characterising interactions between mission and development. Papers addressed the long twentieth century and covered a wide range of Asian contexts.

Keynote speaker Karel Steenbrink from University of Utrecht opened the conference with a talk tracing back the changing interactions between the Christian mission and "development" programmes in Indonesia over three decades. The first day of the conference started with presentations drawing special attention to the mobilisation of social sciences on the crossroads of mission and development—from a lay expertise of mission and its impact in Japan, to the "gospel of intellectuality" with which American missionaries got infused before leaving to teach in China. The relation between education projects run by missionaries and the state—in contemporary Thailand and Indonesia—were in the centre of the afternoon's last panel.

The second day commenced with presentations on missionary involvement in the field of historic and recent agricultural innovations in India and Indonesia. The changing attitudes that Catholic missionaries in Indonesia had towards their environment in the context of development were addressed in the afternoon, while their Protestant counterparts' approach had been scrutinised the day before. The longing for a Christian modernity appeared to be a central driving

force among Papuan and Cambodian Christians who had been marked by foreign missionaries' "development" activities. In the last panel international networks were made visible, bringing French nuns to settle down in Singapore, in what is today known as Chijmes, a converted Arab doctor to travel to China and jewellery produced by Thai and Chinese former sex workers, and channelled by Christian NGOs, to be sold on the North American market.

Each session addressed new ways of seeing the mutual influence that missionary and development ideological discourses and structural organisation had on each other, including the role played by legal and policy mechanisms. In his concluding remarks, Philip Fountain posed a couple of major directions in which questions and reflections had emerged over the two days. His most wide-ranging call was to study the influence of techno-politics on religions comparatively: how far have different religions been reshaped in similar ways, following similar timeframes?

Before closing the conference, Prof Feener was presented with an "Award of Excellence for doing (way too) many ARI conferences." "The Mission of Development" represented in fact the 27th event in which Michael Feener was involved as an organiser since his arrival at the Institute less than ten years ago. It was as well the last one that he prepared in his position of cluster leader, as he has taken up his new position, the Sultan of Oman Endowed Chair, at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. There is little doubt however that Michael will be back in ARI for upcoming conferences - award *oblige*.

ROUNDTABLE – DISPLAYING COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION: HERITAGE, MUSEUMS AND IDENTITY IN SINGAPORE AND BEYOND

DR MICHIEL BAAS
RESEARCH FELLOW
ASIAN MIGRATION CLUSTER

On the 20 January 2016 ARI hosted a roundtable to discuss the way heritage centres and museums put communities and nations on display within the context of Singapore's multi-cultural/ethnic/racial make-up.

The roundtable was organised as part of Professor Peggy Levitt's visit to NUS and took inspiration from her most recent book *Artifacts and Allegiances: How Museums Put the Nation and the World on Display* (University of California Press, 2015). Convened by Michiel Baas, a research fellow at ARI, the roundtable was moderated by Terence Chong of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies-Yusof Ishak Institute.

After an introduction by Peggy Levitt herself in which she highlighted the main findings of her book, seven speakers were invited to comment on her work. Each commentator was selected based on experience with a particular heritage centre/museum or because of his or her expertise within a related field. As such, each commentator was specifically asked to illustrate his or her argument by drawing upon experiences and case examples from one's own field. The first commentary remarks were made by John N. Miksic of the Department of Southeast Asian Studies who brought in a comparative and regional perspective from Indonesia and Malaysia. Throughout his presentation, which he illustrated with visual materials, he raised the question of how other nations, besides Singapore, engage with questions of identity through their museums. His talk was followed by that of Huang Jianli, associate director of ARI and part of the Department of History at NUS. In his address he zoomed in on challenges faced when (re)presenting history and heritage at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall in Singapore, in which he himself is also involved.

Imran Bin Tajudeen of the Department of Architecture and Kevin Y. L. Tan of the Faculty of Law both gave provocative speeches on the engagement with and representation of the various cultural, ethnic and racial histories of

Singapore, especially in relation to questions of space and place. Imran Bin Tajudeen, for one, suggested that we should not just reflect critically on the way heritage centres and museums display communities and the nation in Singapore, but also geographically in the way various parts of the city are labelled as Chinese, Indian or Malay.

Suriani Suratman of the Department of Malay Studies and long-time involved in the Malay Heritage Centre complemented the discussion by raising awareness to the various ways the heritage centre engages with questions of history and representation. Rajesh Rai of the South Asian Studies Programme and Institute of South Asian Studies, discussed issues of displaying and representation at the India Heritage Centre which further highlighted the many issues heritage centres and museums are faced with in their ambition of creating a representative overview of significant moments and aspects of a community's history. Finally Tan Boon Hui, former director of the Singapore Art Museum and current director of the Asia Society Museum in New York, introduced the broader context of "museology" and discussed Levitt's use of the concepts of nationalism and cosmopolitanism.

The event was well-attended with over eighty visitors, many of whom were students with a particular interest in the way the cultural institutions function within Singapore and beyond. In the second half of the afternoon the audience's participation was actively sought and many came forward with case examples from their own field and critical questions for Peggy Levitt and the other members of the roundtable. Feedback from many of the participants clearly indicated that a follow-up event to continue the discussion would be welcomed.



ASSOC PROF STEVE FERZACCA
VISITING SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
ASIAN URBANISMS CLUSTER

SONIC CITY: MAKING MUSIC AND URBAN LIFE IN SINGAPORE

Blues 77 performing at the Saigon Ranger, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, January 2016. Photo by Francis Hum.

Aural and sonic histories, sounded anthropologies, sonic ethnographies, and acoustemologies are becoming more common. I ventured into this realm of research prior to my arrival in Singapore in 2011 to begin a 10-month posting as a visiting senior research fellow assigned to the Cultural Studies Cluster.

While conducting ethnographic research in a kampung in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, as a medical anthropologist on the various medical managements of Type 2 diabetes in that urban setting, I encountered a month's worth of public music making among some of my neighbours. These encounters resulted in publications that explored the making of music, in this case kroncong music, as an attempt on the part of some men in an Indonesian kampung to address their increasing impotence as men in the affairs of kampung life. Making kroncong music in this case, I argued, re-assembled a locally meaningful sonorific structuration in the context of a familiar phonography of social life. The sweet sounds of kroncong music acquired sonic depth as deep sound as a network of correspondences and consequences drawing attention to the current conditions of social life and relations. This was my first foray into sonic ethnography.

The jingle-jangle noise encountered in the basement of the Excelsior Hotel and Peninsula Shopping Centre mall located in the heart of Singapore's business district was to be my next. Several guitar shops are located in close proximity to each other in this ageing shopping mall. Over the course of a 10-month posting at the Asia Research Institute (2011-2012) myself, Lim Kiang a part owner of a guitar shop (Guitar 77) and original bass player of the 1960s rock band *The Straydogs*, James Tan the original drummer of the same group, and several others amateur, semi-professional musicians, and music fans who congregate regularly at the guitar shop jammed blues music in the shop, leading to the formation of a "beats and blues" band known as Blues 77. During the time of my posting and since, the band has since performed a number of times in Singapore as well as on the road in Melaka and Ho Chi Minh City. Recently the band's



Author performing with Blues 77 at The Saigon Ranger, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, January 2016. Photo by Jan Newberry.

performance career was topped off by a reconfiguration as *The Straydogs* for a show at the Esplanade Concert Hall as a part of SG50, Singapore's celebration of 50 years of nationhood.

The social that emerges in these activities connects a cosmopolitan sonic history that serves this community of interests in the reproduction of a way of thinking and feeling organised in a vernacular milieu. I have returned to ARI to continue with this sonorous project in order to

explore the deep sound of situated sources of identity among this group of Singaporeans that I believe enriches the aurality of the Singapore story mostly left, as Lily Kong might say, unsung. As a visiting research fellow, again, assigned to the Asian Urbanisms Cluster, I am exploring the making of music as the making of urban life, following the past four years of ethnographic work that includes conventional methods of participant-observation with performance with an attention to writing sound in order to understand the social life of urban space. The sonic cosmopolitanism I encountered forged from a historically situated conviviality continues to be expressed acoustemologically. This sonic cosmopolitanism remains central to the lives and livelihoods of the Singaporeans who frequent these guitar shops and those I met who participate in Singapore's local music scene.

The "cosmopolitan commitment" I encountered is framed by an intense loyalty to Singaporean identity, even though for many of Singapore's 1960s music legends their nationalist loyalty has been established and nurtured out of a marginal aesthetic footnote in the Singaporean story.



The Straydogs after the performance backstage at the Esplanade Concert Hall, November 2015. Photo by Veronica Young.



Professor Chua Beng Huat gave a keynote speech on “Return to/of the Political Popular in Cultural Studies in Asia”, at the *17th Annual Conference of Hong Kong Sociological Association*, Shue Yen University, Hong Kong, 5 December 2015. He was also appointed Member of the Singapore Social Science Research Council from February 2016.



Professor Jonathan Rigg gave 2 keynote speeches: “Finding Space for the Rural in Southeast Asia”, at the *6th International Conference of the Rural Research and Planning Group*, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia, 28 - 29 September 2015; and “Five Migration Puzzles: A View onto Resilience, Vulnerability and Precarity in Southeast Asia”, at the workshop on *Migration, Security and Development in South-East Asia*, Nordic Southeast Asia Network and Asia Dynamics Initiative, University of Helsinki, 23 - 24 October 2015. He also joined the Editorial Board of the *InterEspaço: Revista de Geografia e Interdisciplinaridade* (*InterEspaço: Journal of Geography and Interdisciplinarity*), published by Federal University of Maranhão - UFMA – Brazil, in October 2015.



Professor Brenda Yeoh gave a keynote speech on “Transnationalising Families, Negotiating Borders: Simultaneities, Rhythms and Rupture”, at the *Blurred and Brittle Borders: Transnational Familial and Gender Relations Conference*, International Gender Studies Centre, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and Arizona State University, Oxford, UK, 23 - 25 September 2015; and a plenary speech on “Negotiating Intimacies and (Il)legality: Migrant Workers, Migrant Wives and the (Im)mutable Subject in Singapore”, at the conference on *Intimacies across Asia*, University of Sussex, Sussex, UK, 12 November 2015. She was also appointed International Board Member, Asian Pathways Research Lab for 2016, and Member, URA Architectural Heritage Awards (AHA) Assessment Committee, Urban Redevelopment Authority, 2015 - 2016.

QUALITY SERVICE AND LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Management and Staff of ARI congratulate Ms Kalaichelvi (Selvi) A/P Krishnan, Management Assistant Officer, for receiving the NUS Quality Service Award 2015. This award recognises her outstanding and exemplary performance in delivering consistent and high quality administrative service to the Institute. She receives this award for the second consecutive year.

In February 2016, long service awards were also given to Dr Maria Platt (5 years), Dr Michelle Miller (5 years), Ms Theodora Lam (10 years), and Ms Kalaichelvi A/P Krishnan (25 years). The award acknowledges their contributions and loyal years of service to NUS.



GROWING UP IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES IN ASIA

PROFESSOR JEAN YEUNG
RESEARCH LEADER
CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA CLUSTER

In two recent issues of *Marriage and Family Review* (V.52, No. 1/2, 2016), Jean Yeung and Park Hyunjoon assembled nine articles that examine the trends and patterns of one-parent families in Asia and the consequences of such family structure for children's well-being.

Yeung and Park point out that certain unique Asian contexts have shaped how the experience of growing up with parent(s) absent affects children's well-being in Asia compared to that in Europe or in the US.

Weak welfare systems, strong gender inequality in the labour market in several Asian countries, and strong cultural norms in other Asian societies that favour traditional two-parent families may have more severe consequences for children in Asia. Conversely, other contextual features in the region such as the prevalence of extended families as a source of support may reduce the social and economic advantages of one-parent families.

The heterogeneity and complexity of one-parent families in Asia are demonstrated in the nine articles in this collection which studied the phenomena in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, India, Singapore, Korea, Cambodia, China and Vietnam. In terms of causes, one-parent families due to divorce are relatively prevalent in more developed economies such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong whereas migration is the main cause of one-parent families in China and Vietnam. Death of one or both parents has been an important reason for Cambodian and Indian children to grow up with one parent or no parents at all. In terms of understanding the importance of support that lone parents receive from their extended families, the studies on Taiwan and Cambodia report potential beneficial effects of grandparental co-residence while the studies in Korea, Japan and India caution against this assumption because of the often limited resources of the extended families and the stigma attached to divorced women in these societies. In some societies, the impact of living in one-parent families depends on the gender of the child and the causes of lone parenthood. Lone fathers appear to receive more help from their own parents. The effect of cultural norms such as son preference and labour market constraints for women in India shows how children, especially female children, of lone parents are greatly disadvantaged. In rural China, left-behind children are not found to be more disadvantaged than their counterparts who co-reside with both parents.

Yeung and Park underscore the importance of cultural, political and developmental context in understanding family change and its impact in Asia, where religion, patriarchy, rapid industrialisation and globalisation, and state play key roles in family lives.



Prof Jonathan Rigg has commenced a 3-year appointment as Director of ARI with effect from 1 January 2016. He has been Professor in the Department of Geography, NUS, since 2013. Prior to that, he was Head of the Geography Department at Durham University in the UK. He received his PhD in Geography from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. He is currently working on a new book with the working title "Thai Rural", and three research projects—on resilience to earthquakes in the continental interior of Asia (Nepal/Bihar, Kazakhstan and China); on the issue of land ownership, use and transfer in Thailand; and on the smallholder in East and Southeast Asia's development.



Dr Shekhar Krishnan has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Science, Technology, and Society Cluster in ARI with effect from 29 December 2015. Dr Krishnan is a historian and anthropologist of South Asia and the Indian Ocean. He received his PhD in the Program in Science Technology & Society (STS) from MIT. At ARI his research will be focussed on the history of industrial technologies, civic institutions and the urban environment in Mumbai and Asian cities, based on his forthcoming work, "Empire's Metropolis: Money, Time and Space in Colonial Bombay, 1860-1920".



Ms Lee Hui Ying was appointed Institute Research Assistant on 14 December 2015. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Sydney. Her research interests include political and social issues such as issues of international migration, gender equality and the role of policy entrepreneurs.



Assoc Prof Steve Ferzacca commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Asian Urbanisms Cluster with effect from 30 December 2015. His areas of research include medical anthropology, urban ethnography, and the anthropology of popular culture. At ARI, he is working on a book manuscript from his ethnography of the music scene in Singapore, as well as continued analysis and publication of a large dataset collected by a research team at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health at NUS using qualitative methods on food, eating, and gender in Singapore.



Dr Koh Yee Woen commenced a 1-year joint appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Changing Family in Asia Cluster and the Centre for Family and Population Research with effect from 15 December 2015. She received her PhD in Psychiatry from The University of Hong Kong in 2013. Her research interests fall mainly in the field of perinatal mental health, men's and women's mental health, gender studies and multidisciplinary research. At ARI, she will investigate the family functioning and the well-being of individual family members in the contemporary Chinese population.



Dr Anjeline de Dios has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Migration Cluster with effect from 5 January 2016. She obtained her PhD in Geography from NUS. Outside the academe Dr de Dios is a musician and vocal meditation teacher, and uses her work to explore the interfaces between performance, meditation, and participatory music-making. At ARI she will be developing her dissertation for publication and contributing to the Casino Mobilities project.



Dr Arunima Datta has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Migration Cluster and South Asian Studies with effect from 5 January 2016. She received her PhD in Southeast Asian Studies from NUS. At ARI, she is finishing her book manuscript based on her PhD dissertation entitled, "Life beyond Dependency and Victimhood: Indian Coolie Women on Rubber Estates of Colonial Malaya (1900-1945)", and developing a new ethnographic research project concerning South Asian migrant communities in Malaysia and Singapore.



Dr Song Dong Hyun has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Post-doctoral Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster with effect from 12 January 2016. He received his PhD in Media and Communications from Goldsmiths University of London. At ARI he will examine social media culture in East Asia within the privacy and security concerns of the state's ideology. In particular, he will follow the changing perceptions of the governments of Asia (China, Singapore, Korea, Japan, and India) regarding data security issues in the era of blending big data and cloud storage.



Prof Ding Naifei has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster with effect from 26 January 2016. Prof Ding is Professor in the English Department at the National Central University, Taiwan. She received her PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley. At ARI she will work on a book manuscript on the relations among women's movement, sex work, and feminisms in Taiwan.



Prof Tejaswini Niranjana has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster with effect from 6 January 2016. She is co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society in Bangalore and currently Chair, Centre for Indian Languages in Higher Education, TISS Mumbai, and Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Humanities at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. She received her PhD in English from University of California, Los Angeles. At ARI she will be working on a book on music, modernity and the public domain, focussing on the career of Hindustani classical music in Mumbai city.



Dr Till Mostowlansky has commenced a 2-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Religion and Globalisation Cluster with effect from 1 February 2016. Dr Mostowlansky is also a Research Associate at the Universities of Sussex (UK) and Bern (Switzerland). He holds a PhD in Central Asian Studies at the University of Bern and has conducted extensive fieldwork in Tajikistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and India since 2005. At ARI he will pursue a project on Shia networks which transcend the modern frontiers of Tajikistan, Pakistan, Iran and India through development and charity.



Ms Grace Chan Yee Bei has commenced a 1-year appointment as Research Assistant with effect from 1 March 2016. She holds a Bachelor of Business degree from the Nanyang Technological University. Prior to joining ARI, she worked at International Enterprise Singapore, engaging Singapore trade associations and chambers to assist local companies in going overseas.

ASIAN MIGRATION

MS THEODORA LAM

Professor Brenda Yeoh has been awarded the Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund Tier 2 from 2 February 2016 to 1 February 2019 for a research project on Child Health and Migrant Parents in South-East Asia (CHAMPSEA). This project, referred to as CHAMPSEA II, follows up the first CHAMPSEA project which was carried out between 2007 and 2011. The first round of CHAMPSEA, funded by The Wellcome Trust, involved a research team that collected survey data from around 1,000 households in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to uncover the impacts of parental migration on children who stay behind.

CHAMPSEA II investigates the longer-term impacts of parental absence on the CHAMPSEA children in Indonesia

and the Philippines. Using a mixed-methods research design that capitalises on the complementary strengths of quantitative and qualitative methods, this project will collect primary data using carefully designed survey instruments in order to create a unique longitudinal data set that will allow the investigation of multiple dimensions of children's health and well-being. Anchored by an international research team with years of collaborative research experience, CHAMPSEA II will be the first mixed-method longitudinal study on the health and well-being of left-behind children in the region. Its findings will not only contribute to the academic literature but also help families, communities and government to understand better any vulnerabilities and risks that must be weighed against any material benefits of parental migration.

CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA

PROFESSOR JEAN YEUNG

This year, the Changing Family in Asia Cluster worked hard on the fruits of labour from our past conferences. 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), which is elaborated further in a special article in this newsletter.

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.

Cluster members have many publications this year including articles in two premium journals—*Demography* and *Annual Review of Sociology* by Prof Yeung, a dissertation by Dr Hu Shu on China's left-behind children, and articles by Dr Mu Zheng.

ASIAN URBANISMS CLUSTER CONFERENCES

DR RITA PADAWANGI

Since November 2015, the Asian Urbanisms Cluster has organised four conferences/workshops funded in part by an MOE Tier 2 grant on *Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanising Asia*. Dr Michelle Miller and Prof Mike Douglass organised *Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia and the Pacific* from 5 to 6 November 2015. The conference, which examines the ways in which environmental disasters with compounding effects are being governed as they traverse sovereign territories across rapidly urbanising societies in Asia and the Pacific, was also jointly organised by the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) through its Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA) and the United Nations University in Bonn.

On 10 December and then one month later, Dr Tyson Vaughan organised *Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance Part 1* at the University of Tokyo. He and Dr Eric Kerr followed this event with *Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance Part 2*. Both workshops looked at contests and collaborations across scales, across disciplines, and engaged scholarship in environment-related disasters. In between these two workshops, Dr Rita Padawangi organised a panel in the inaugural *SEASIA Consortium Conference* in Kyoto, under the theme *Expanding Environmental Consciousness through Multi-Scalar Movements in Urban Asia*, which involved Prof Douglass, Dr Eli Elinoff and Dr Tyson Vaughan. Also partly funded by the MOE Tier 2 grant, the Asian Urbanisms Cluster organised a workshop in collaboration with the U.S. National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawai'i on *Gaps in Disaster Governance Research* in Honolulu, Hawai'i, on 10 - 12 March 2016. A week later Dr Simone Chung and Prof Douglass organised a symposium in collaboration with the NUS Museum entitled *Hard State, Soft City: The Urban Imaginative Field in Singapore* held on 17 - 18 March 2016.

17 – 18 MARCH 2016

HARD STATE, SOFT CITY: THE URBAN IMAGINATIVE FIELD IN SINGAPORE

Contact Person:

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12 – 13 MAY 2016

CONSTRUCTING ASIA MATERIALITY, CAPITAL, AND LABOR IN THE MAKING OF AN URBANIZING LANDSCAPE

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26 – 28 MAY 2016

INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER, HUMAN CAPITAL AND INEQUALITY

Details at <http://singaporerc28.nus.edu.sg/>

7 – 8 JULY 2016

CHILDREN, FAMILY AND MIGRATION IN EAST ASIA

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12 – 14 JULY 2016

11TH SINGAPORE GRADUATE FORUM ON SOUTHEAST ASIA STUDIES

Contact Person:

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26 – 27 JULY 2016

MIGRATION AND MARRIAGE IN ASIA

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Details of events are available at:
<https://ari.nus.edu.sg/Event>

RECLAIMING THE CITY: URBAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE CIVIL SOCIETIES IN INDONESIA

DR RITA PADAWANGI

Photos by Dr Rita Padawangi

Indonesia is one of the largest projects of political decentralisation in the world, but it still suffers from the lack of scholarly attention towards urban social movements.

Eighteen years after the Reform Movement in 1998, there has been perceived post-reform democratisation and growth of civil society in Indonesia, but those have not changed the course of urban development trajectory from the top; a trajectory that has eventually constructed urban spaces that physically affect the social imagination of the inhabitants.



Reclaiming the City: Urban Social Movements and the Civil Societies in Indonesia on 23 February 2016 featured papers that engage in in-depth discussion on the relationship between capitalist production of space, democratisation,

civil society and urban social movements. Started by two presentations on social (dis-)engagement in smart cities of Indonesia, Merlyna Lim of Carleton University and Etienne Turpin from Peta Jakarta examined the ways in which “smart” urbanism plays out in contemporary Indonesian cities, with examples of Jakarta and Bandung. The next panel was on public participation in city-making, which featured Ahmad Rifai from Kota Kita Foundation, Ida Widianingsih of Universitas Padjadjaran, and Kathleen Azali from the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The presentations discussed the potentials of participatory planning and the new citizenship post-1998 from cases of Solo and Surabaya. The discussion also included a critical examination on the recent trend on beautification and the urban fascination towards the creative industry that captures the youth. The third panel, on livelihoods and social justice, featured three presentations by Anton Novenanto of Universitas Brawijaya, Veronika Kusumaryati of Harvard University, and Mark Philip Stadler of the University of Copenhagen. Specific cases in the papers spanned from Jakarta, Porong-East Java to Timika in West Papua. The papers highlighted societal diversities across geographies and inquired possibilities to mobilise for social justice.

The final session of the one-day symposium was a film screening of *Kala Benoa*, a documentary film on the experiences and the struggles of the Balinese in responding to and in resisting the reclamation plan of Benoa Bay in the island province of Bali. The film was produced by WatchdoC, an audiovisual production house that focuses on documentary films in Indonesia. The screening was followed by a presentation by Gilang Pratama of ForBALI on reclamation resistance movement.