




Going to Work I by Kok Chung Oi, Kay

For Kay, history and culture are used as portals or points of entry in the making of visual artworks. This approach leads Kay to historical texts for inspiration, in this case, *Rickshaw Coolie: a People's History of Singapore* by Professor James Francis Warren:

"The only thing worth acquiring that signified wealth, mobility and security was a rickshaw." pg. 199

"Singapore about 1902 was quite undeveloped, with roads radiating from the business centre for about two miles. These roads were of laterite, and red dust was the order of the day everywhere, especially on warm days." pg. 141



Interview with Professor James Warren

James Warren: A Scholar's Scholar

James Warren is remarkable for the range, depth, and liveliness of his research interests. From maritime raiding in Southeast Asia (Sulu Zone; Iranun and Balangingi) to the social history of early Singapore (Rickshaw Coolie; Ah Ku and Karayuki-San), he has turned to a study of typhoons in the Philippines and the intersections of climate, history and society. Whether dealing with issues like slavery, ethnicity, or state formation, he has been rigorous in documenting the local and sensitive to global patterns of change.

A professor of Southeast Asian History at Murdoch University in Australia, he is one of the first visiting professors at Asia Research Institute. On the eve of his departure from the institute, Resil Mojares from ARI Newsletter talked to him. Excerpts from the interview:

What has driven the choice of problems you have worked on in the course of your career?

My initial desire to teach and write history did not begin with books and formal training. It stemmed from my family upbringing and my experience as a Peace Corps volunteer on the east coast of Borneo, living in a Samal Bajau Laut village of boat dwellers and a semi-sedentary population in varying stages of adaptation to a house dwelling way of life. This experience motivated my interest in Southeast Asian history. I wanted to understand the history behind the social problems that were forcing the Samal Laut to abandon sea nomadism, a lifestyle from which they had drawn their sense of identity.

What abiding themes run through the very diverse subjects you have dealt with?

I have been interested in the production of "culture" and changes in ethnicity, hierarchy and power for many years. How are identities forged? The common assumption of a "culture" enduring over time despite changes in people's lives is both empirically misleading and essentialist.

I have also been concerned with slavery and forms of coerced labour, the realms of what I would call a "culture of silence". Much of my work has grappled with methodological problems in resurrecting the voices of the "little people" and finding a place for them in the historical narrative – Chinese labourers, Malay "pirates", nomadic fishers, nameless artisans. The perennial problem confronting the historian has always been achieving a balance in the historical record. Frequently this record is written by the empowered, laden with their own social bias. Historians like Carlo Ginzburg have challenged us to retrieve social worlds conventional history does not record. I would like to think I have responded to this challenge.

In grappling with such themes as slavery, ethnicity, and now the climate, I have always taken a transhistorical and transcultural view, linking detailed research of a local situation to wider regional and global systems. I have attempted to create a history based on people's lived experience while paying careful attention to the larger historical processes that have shaped this experience.

What excites you about your current project on typhoons?

It takes seriously what has been generally ignored by historians, the impact of climate on society, in this case the Philippines. It looks at environment-human interaction over the long duration, from the fifteenth century to the present. It analyses events and processes from indigenous points of view. It draws on a wide variety of sources and applies interdisciplinary approaches to frame the study.

From your experience as pioneering ARI fellow, what do you consider ARI's unique contribution to the promotion of knowledge in the region?

It has been a privilege to participate in ARI's beginning. ARI's strategic location in Singapore,

combined with the University's excellence in teaching and research on Asia, has enabled ARI to create synergies for pioneering transdisciplinary and transhistorical research on themes of social importance.

ARI has provided a venue for younger Asian scholars to interact with one another and with distinguished scholars from many parts of the world. This raises great hope in the vitality of our next generation of scholars.

The institute has contributed to innovative postgraduate training within the University by having visiting scholars teach a postgraduate seminar or run a workshop for students from around the Asian region. It is working with the Singapore University Press to publish significant work by scholars in and outside the institute. These can only enhance stronger intercultural dialogue within the region and between disciplines.

ARI has just selected its third cohort of appointees as visiting fellows (one year) and post-doctoral fellows (potentially two years). The arrival of these appointees during the next six months will bring ARI to the full strength envisaged at the outset, about fifty scholars in 2005, some of them on a shared appointment basis.

In this round, for the first time, the majority of the eighteen appointees were selected on the basis of the six designated research clusters, by committees designed to represent the campus more widely. A minority of short-term appointments will be kept for outstanding candidates in any area that appears challenging, but the Institute is now focusing much of its research effort on distinct areas where it can make a difference internationally.

In addition, the number of NUS Assistant Professors selected for a writing semester was raised, in view of the large field of exciting candidates, to six during the 2004/5 Academic Year, as against the four in the previous year.

This expansion is not without its costs. We have had to go back time and again to the University to plead for space. Already the researchers are divided between two widely dispersed corridors in the FASS buildings – the original one in AS7 and another at the top of AS6. Once refitted over the next four months, a third space will be opened, even further removed in part of the Hon Sui Sen Library building vacated by the Institute for Policy Studies. We envisage that a thematic section of ARI, including the clusters concerned with Changing Asian Family and Migration as well as the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, will relocate there. We yearn for a dedicated building which can finally reunite us as a place of interdisciplinary interactions.

I take special pleasure in the ASEAN Research Fellows programme, the new name for what in its first year was called the Library Fellows programme (too many librarians thought it was for them!). While in its first year only five graduate students from two Southeast Asian countries were brought in to use the Singapore libraries for three months, this year (April-June) we have thirteen outstanding fellows from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The coming semester will bring new departures. An ARI public lecture series will be inaugurated. The second AsiaTrends annual public conference will be held on August 27th, this time focusing on the changing patterns of marriage in Asia. Prof Gavin Jones has assembled an exciting group of speakers from around the region, and Catherine Lim will begin proceedings with a keynote lecture.



Anthony Reid
Director, ARI

**a word
from the Director**

New ARI Members

Visiting Fellows

Isa Sulaiman is a Senior Lecturer of History at the FKIP Universitas Syiah Kuala Darussalam, Banda Aceh, and received his PhD in History and Civilisation from EHESS, Paris. His principal interest is the modern history of Aceh. During his stay with ARI, he will write on the roots of the current conflict in Aceh by reviewing his central work on the Darul Islam Rebellion and the Aceh Free Movement. In addition, he will take time to do library research on the left movement in Indonesia. Such movements also existed in Aceh from 1920's to 1965 and played an important role in local politics.



Isa Sulaiman

Aleksius Jemadu is a lecturer at the Department of International Relations, Parahyangan Catholic University in Bandung. He was one of the speakers at the Conference on Aceh held by ARI at the end of May. In addition to participating in this conference, he will use his time at NUS to finish his own research on democratisation and Indonesian foreign policy in the post-Soeharto era.



Aleksius Jemadu

Coeli Barry was a Visiting Fellow in the Southeast Asian Studies Programme, Cornell University, and received her PhD from the same university, specialising in Comparative Government, Southeast Asian Studies, and Political Philosophy. Coeli's forthcoming publication is "Democratising Philippine Catholicism", in *Religion and Democracy in Contemporary Asia*, edited by T.J. Chen and Deborah Brown. Her research at ARI focuses on "Filipinising Catholicism: Politics, Psychology and Religious Life in the Philippine Catholic Church".



Tilman Frasch

Tilman Frasch obtained his doctorate from Heidelberg University with a thesis on the city and the state of Pagan (Burma). Before joining ARI, he had been to Manchester working on early Indian history and the Burmese manuscripts at the John Rylands Library. Combining his interest in South/Southeast Asian history and urban studies, his project at ARI deals with the electrification of colonial cities and its social, economic and cultural implications. He is also interested in Burmese and Sri Lankan history, networks around and across the Bay of Bengal, Asian urban history and Buddhist studies.

Postdoctoral Fellow

Augustina Situmorang received her PhD in Demography from the Australian National University. While at ARI, she intends to work on the topic "Chastity and Curiosity: Attitudes and Behaviour of Young People in Medan Regarding Virginity and Premarital Sex". This study aims to explore socio-cultural factors associated with changing attitudes toward marriage among urban women. These include unmarried women's opinions and attitudes toward marriage, how they cope with social pressures, and how parents and society perceive delayed or non-marriage.



Augustina Situmorang

Senior Administrative Officer

Pauline Chan joined the University Scholars Programme (USP) in mid-2001 and held various portfolios, including Events Management, Corporate Communications, Human Resource (Faculty) and Research (Administration). Prior to joining NUS, she spent over six years in Consumer Banking, first in Branch Network Management, and then moving on to Process Reengineering and Quality/Service Standards Improvements. She will be assisting the Institute in general administration and finance.



Pauline Chan

ARI Awards and Kudos

Professor Gavin Jones has been appointed Affiliated Faculty Member of the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, to collaborate with the CPS in developing a new PhD consortium programme with Mahidol University and the National Institute of Development Administration. He was also the keynote speaker at a national seminar held by the Pusat Pembangunan Keluarga (Family Development Centre) of the University of Malaya on 29-30 May 2004, on the theme "Cabaran Institusi Keluarga Menempuh Alaf Baru" (*Challenges to the institution of the family in the new millennium*).

Professor Merle C. Ricklefs has assumed the Southeast Asian sectional editorship for the 3rd edition of the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, to be published by Brill in 16 volumes.

Associate Professor Brenda Yeoh has assumed editorship of *Gender, Place and Culture*, the leading international journal of gender and geography.

Asean Research Fellows

The ASEAN Research Fellowships are offered to students working in the Humanities and Social Sciences on Asian topics, and allows the recipients to be based at NUS for a period of three months. The aim of the fellowships is to enable scholars to make full use of the wide range of resources held in the libraries of NUS and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The Fellows took up their appointments on 1 April 2004. On 10 -11 June, the Fellows made presentations on their research and received feedback intended to assist them in completing their theses.



Seated (L to R): Nittayaporn Prompanya, Pamaree Surakiat, Prof Anthony Reid, Vissia Ita Yulianto, Nurul Farhana
Standing (L to R): Oetami Dewi, Silapakit Teekantikun, Hathairat Munart, Dinah Tapia Roma, Rudy Ronald Sianturi, A/P John Miksic, Anaton, Chong Shin, Pichet Saiphan, Ari Budiyanto

The Fellows:

Anatona is a lecturer at the History Department, Andalas University, Padang, Indonesia. He obtained his MA in History from the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta. He is currently a PhD student at the same university, working on "Slavery and Slave Trade in the Straits of Malacca Zone, 1786-1880's".

Ary Budiyanto is an MA candidate at the Centre for Religions and Cross-cultural Study, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta. He is working on Javanese Epistemology. His MA thesis title is "The Early Twentieth Century of the Dynamic Orientation of Javanese Religiosity".

Chong Shin is a PhD candidate in the Institute of Malay World and Civilisation, National University of Malaysia. He is researching on the ethnolinguistic situation of the Sekadau community, a rural Chinese community in Western Borneo. He has participated in several dialect research projects in Sarawak and Western Borneo.

Dinah Tapia Roma is a PhD candidate in Literature at De La Salle University, Manila, where she teaches with its Department of Literature. She obtained her MA in Comparative Culture at Kyoritsu Women's University, Tokyo, on a Japan Ministry of Education scholarship. For her doctoral thesis, she is working on gendered travel narratives in colonial Philippines from 1900 to 1915.

Hathairat Munart is an MA student at the Graduate School of Regional Studies, Chiangmai University, Thailand. She works on Vietnamese education. The title of her thesis is "The Construction of Vietnam National Ideology through Compulsory Education, 1975-2003".

Nittayaporn Prompanya is an MA student at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, majoring in Southeast Asian History. The title of her thesis is "The Burma Road and Change in the Hinterland 1937-1956: A Case Study of Bhamo".

Nurul Farhana Low bt Abdullah holds an MPhil in Critical Theory from the University of Birmingham. She is a PhD candidate at University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her area of research is "Shakespeare in Malaysia". Nurul is a fellow with the Academic Staff Training Scheme of University of Science Malaysia in Penang.

Oetami Dewi holds an MA in Sociology from the University of Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta. A PhD candidate in the Sociology Studies Programme in the University of Indonesia, she works in the Planning Bureau at the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. Her research is on the resistance of slash-and-burn farmers against the oil palm plantation in Sanggau District.

Pamaree Surakiat is a PhD candidate in the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Her research topic is "Dynamism in Thai-Burmese Warfare from the Mid-Sixteenth Century to the Mid-Nineteenth Century".

Pichet Saiphan is a PhD candidate in Ethnology at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. His research topic is "*Dien Bien Phu* in Transition: Understanding the Tai Ethnic Group in the Context of Vietnam's Nationalisation and Urbanisation (1945-present)".

Rudy Ronald Sianturi is a graduate student at the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He is working on how cinema (prison films are his special interest) can contribute to the shaping of a distinctly Indonesian philosophy as the country deals with her multiculturalism and multicontextuality.

Silapakit Teekantikun is a PhD candidate at Department of Ethnology, Faculty of History, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. He is working on contemporary Vietnamese popular religion, and the title of the research is "*Dao Mau*: Spirits, Women Mediums, and Modern Life in Post-Socialist Vietnam".

Vissia Ita Yulianto is an MA candidate at the Magister Ilmu Religi dan Budaya, Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She is working on a thesis entitled, "The Allure of Whiteness in Indonesia". She is interested in popular culture and postcolonial studies.

Graduate Student Fieldwork Support

In keeping with its mandate to enhance research and graduate training at NUS, ARI offers funding packages to support field research by NUS graduate students in the faculties of FASS, SDE, Law and Business. Ten graduate students from the four faculties have been awarded support for the academic year 2004/05. These support packages were allocated on the basis of quality and innovation of the research proposal, support of supervisors, language preparation where appropriate, the need of the case (taking into account other grants available), and the integrity of the research locale.

Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars



1 Recent Conferences and Workshops

16–17 January 2004

Workshop on “Revisiting History, Nation and Culture in Late Socialist Laos”

The workshop convened by ARI Postdoctoral Fellow Vatthana Pholsena was an opportunity to gather together scholars from Southeast Asia, North America and Europe (France in particular), providing them with a forum to discuss the current state of Lao studies. The workshop tackled issues in four perspectives: a Laos-centred view with a rereading of historiographies of Laos derived from Lao-language sources and archeological materials; an ethnic Lao-based view by revisiting the Majority’s culture and identity through studies of the politics of heritage in Luang Prabang and local literature; a decentred view with a focus on ethnic minority peoples’ agency vis-à-vis the state and the dominant culture; and an “outsider” view by examining the long and dynamic historical, political and cultural interactions between the Lao people and the Isan people in northeastern Thailand.

29–31 January 2004

International Workshop on “Working and Mothering: Asian Women Negotiating Work Challenges and Family Commitments”

Across Asia, as in the rest of the world, women are finding themselves increasingly involved in wage employment, since a dual income makes it easier for families to meet the rising costs of living. Although the model of male as breadwinner has been changed, wage employment for women has not taken them away from their traditional roles. This workshop explored



whether Asian working women have been able to affirm their personhood or ‘self’ beyond their role as caretakers of children and family life or whether they continue to construct their primary identity in terms of their role as mothers even when engaged in the wage economy. Specifically, the workshop aimed to understand the extent to which the engagement in wage employment has shaped women’s experiences as mothers. The sub-themes of the workshop included: the work of mothering by working mothers; the cultural construction of motherhood by working mothers; motherhood and kinship (family) systems; mothering as a site for women’s empowerment or disempowerment; single mothers and work; the stresses that working mothers encounter, e.g., maternal leave and benefits; mother work carried out by relatives, maids, and daycare providers; immigrant mothers, mothering and domestic labour; and legal issues around mothering. The focus was on the unique role of working women with children, who are challenged by traditional values and struggling with problems from all sides.

5–7 February 2004

Workshop on “A Plural Peninsula: Historical Interactions among Thai, Malays, Chinese and Others”

Under the joint sponsorship of the Asia Research Institute, the Regional Studies Programme of Walailak University, and the Institute of Asian Studies of Bangkok’s Chulalongkorn University, the “Plural Peninsula” workshop took place on the campus of Walailak University in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Southern Thailand. Keynote addresses were offered on “A Plural Peninsula” by Prof Anthony Reid of NUS; on “Ties of Brotherhood: Southern Thai-Malay Cultural Roots” by Prof Suthiwong Phongphaibun of the Institute for Southern Studies, Songkhla, Thailand; and by Prof Surichai Wankaew of Chulalongkorn University.

Papers presented at the conference treated sources for the writing of the early history of the peninsula; linguistic interactions, culture and politics on the peninsula; religion, nation and identity; and family, ethnicity and politics. In all, sixteen papers were presented, by scholars from institutions in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the United States. Recent tragic events in southern Thailand made the workshop especially timely. The quality of discussion during the event’s two days reflected both that timeliness and the high quality of the papers presented.

The workshop’s convenors, Michael Montesano of the Southeast Asian Studies Programme at NUS and Patrick Jory of the Regional Studies Program of Walailak, are now at work in the preparation of an edited volume of papers presented at the workshop.

19–22 February 2004

International Conference on “Our Modernities: Positioning Asian Art Now”

This conference, organised by Professor John Clark, brought together art historians, curators, and critics from, or working on Asia-Pacific. Several speakers also came from Europe and North America. It aimed to see if there were new ways of understanding modernities in Asian art as parallel but contiguous discourses across the region, without privileging one art culture as a model, or thinking of modernity in art as a singular phenomenon drawn from Euramerican precursors.

The first session examined the intersection of cultures, haunted by the notion of ‘tradition’ in a complementary defining pair with ‘modernity’, and indicating ways of re-situating concerns with the culturally authentic or the essential, despite the role of gender in reconfiguring the ‘tradition’ being somewhat overlooked. The second session dealt with the dynamics of location in the legitimising of contemporary practice. In the third session, structures of mediation and particularly the role of curators were examined. The fourth session examined how art works have been received in different Asian contexts. The fifth session looked at practices and their constraints with an examination of action and display in Chinese performance art with some reference to Indonesia, an inquiry into the relationship between everyday life and contemporary Chinese imaginaries of the modern. The final session employed a number of different cultural studies, ethnographic and visual geographic

approaches which could contribute to formal art historical analysis or cultural studies approaches.

The unspoken theme of the conference which emerged in many papers was the problematics of alternative modernities, which could only be conceptualised by a situation within the penumbra of whatever was constructed as tradition by a particular art culture.



13 March 2004

I La Galigo Forum

On March 13th, following the world premiere of Robert Wilson’s production *I La Galigo* in Singapore, the Asia Research Institute co-hosted with The Esplanade a free public forum on the La Galigo epic and the production at the Esplanade’s Recital Studio. The forum was convened by Dr Jennifer Lindsay of ARI.

A capacity of audience came from various circles. Prof Anthony Reid, Director of ARI, gave a brief introduction. Dr Roger Tol, current director of KITLV-Jakarta, opened his paper “Bugis literature and the power of La Galigo”, by relating La Galigo scholarship to Singapore. Roger then interviewed Drs Moh. Salim, the most prolific translator of Galigo manuscripts into Indonesian. Dr Ian Caldwell (University of Leeds) gave his presentation on “La Galigo: Distant past or imagined reality?” in which he challenged the view that the La Galigo refers to a period of Bugis civilisation before the rise of the historical kingdoms in the fourteenth century.



Prof Leonard Andaya (University of Hawaii) presented his paper “The La Galigo Epic beyond South Sulawesi”. Discussion then moved to the production. Restu Kusumaningrum and Rhoda Grauer, Artistic Coordinator and Dramaturg for the production respectively, introduced the genesis of the current project, the idea of inviting Robert Wilson to direct it, and the integration of the traditions of South Sulawesi into the final piece. Prof Rahayu Supanggah, the composer and music director of the production, spoke of use of South Sulawesi music and musicians in the project. Ibu Andi Ummu Tunru, member of the Board of Advisors for the *I La Galigo* production, spoke about the dance, the use of children’s games and ordinary daily movement of people in South Sulawesi as inspiration for movement in the production. The forum ended with a short excerpt of traditional South Sulawesi pakarena dance.

26–27 March 2004

Workshop on “*Adat* Revivalism in Indonesia’s Democratic Transition”



More than twenty scholars and activists from Indonesia, Singapore, Europe and North America convened on Batam Island, Indonesia to examine the social and political ramifications of the many *adat* (customary law) movements currently underway in post-Suharto Indonesia. The conference’s first day sought to situate contemporary interest in *adat* in historical perspective. Topics included exploring the historical foundations and legacies of *adat* in Dutch colonial scholarship, the romantic allure of traditional thinking and leadership in Indonesia, land law and related claims, and in what way the *adat* movement is unfolding at the national level. The second day then delved into case studies drawn from across the archipelago, ranging from West Sumatra and West Kalimantan to Central Sulawesi and Flores. Participants came away with a renewed appreciation for the complexities of ‘on-the-ground’ realities in Indonesia where history, ideology, colonialism, authoritarianism, religion, democracy and violence all have met and left their imprint. An edited volume based on the papers presented is expected to be published sometime in 2005.



23–24 April 2004

Workshop on “Problematising Global Knowledge: Towards a New Encyclopedia for a Global Knowledge”

On 23–24 April, 2004, the “Problematising Global Knowledge” colloquium was co-sponsored by ARI and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This is part of an ongoing series related to the Theory Culture and Society Centre’s New Encyclopaedia Project; other colloquia had been held at Cambridge, the Sorbonne, Goldsmith’s and the University of Tokyo. This particular international gathering included Mike Featherstone, Bryan Turner, Couze Venn, Scott Lash, Pheng Cheah, Josephine Ho, Susantha Goonatilake, Shunya Yoshimi, John Hutnyk, Rajeev Patke, Saranindra Nath Tagore, Pal Ahuwaliwa, Robbie Goh, Ismail Talib, Chua Beng Huat, Li Shiqiao, Shiv Visvanathan, Ryan Bishop, John Phillips, Brenda Yeoh, Bobby Wong, Andy Wernick, and Kenichi Kawasaki.



The Colloquia on Global Knowledge explore the impact of globalisation and digitalisation on knowledge classification. Increasingly, academics have to consider the impact of globalisation, the intensification of communication flows which bind us in ‘one world.’ To theorise about an expanding world with increasing awareness of different accounts of world history and alternative visions of modernity is demanding. The process of knowledge formation and circulation is made more difficult to map, through the impact of digitalisation, the capacity of new information technologies to store and retrieve vast amounts of data in vast databases which can be traversed at great speed through hyperlinks and search engines. Yet who should take the responsibility to code-up and maintain the databases, hyperlinks and search engines: state, corporations, university?

At the colloquium in Singapore, participants tabled drafts of entries and supplements to the new encyclopaedia for discussion, in addition to discussing the shape of the overall project. It was followed by a half-day executive editorial meeting, and two full days of continued editorial work, as the project moves toward the first publication of the NEP: a double issue of *Theory Culture & Society*, slated for Feb. 2005, which will be simultaneously published as a book by Sage.

29 April 2004

Workshop on “Identities, Nations and Cosmopolitan Practice: Interrogating the Work of Pnina and Richard Werbner”

The workshop took place on 29 April 2004 at Asia Research Institute. Around forty people attended. The two main speakers, Professors Pnina Werbner from the University of Keele and Professor Richard Werbner of the University of Manchester, opened proceedings by speaking about their own research and writing and the main themes of the conference. They were followed by presentations by Dr Ariel Heryanto from the University of Melbourne (on ‘Chineseness, Citizenship, and Asianness; Notes from Indonesia’) and Dr Sumit Mandal from the Malaysian National University (‘Scattered Problems and Challenges Encountered in Working on Cultural Diversity in Malaysia and Indonesia’). In the afternoon, five participants from ARI (Reid, Chua Beng Huat, Maila Stevens, Mark Frost, Joel Kahn) and one from the Southeast Asian Studies Program (Goh Beng Lan) at NUS spoke on the relation between the central workshop themes and their own ongoing research on Southeast and South Asia. Each presentation was followed by a period of lively and fruitful discussion. The proceedings of the workshop, including edited versions of most of the papers, will appear shortly in the ARI Monograph Series.



3–4 May 2004

Conference on “New Southeast Asian Cinemas : Where Big Budget Meets No Budget”

The ARI conference “New Southeast Asian Cinemas: Where Big Budget Meets No Budget” (May 3-4th, 2004) gathered independent ASEAN filmmakers and producers, film critics and young scholars from the region and beyond. The fact that papers were grouped loosely under country names belied the diversity and complexity of issues and theories: Third Cinema, postmodernism, cosmopolitanism, genre and film aesthetics, gender, class and religio-cultural identity, and the tensions between local and global in terms of marketing, distribution and spectatorship. The two filmmaker panels also allowed scholars to hear from filmmakers, producers and those working closely with grassroots independent filmmakers themselves, bringing theory and practice closer together. Since independent filmmaking in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines is in its infancy, this conference helped to build networking among independent filmmakers, film activists and scholars and raise the level of film activity in the region to academic status within Southeast Asian and Film Studies. Selected conference papers are to be published in an anthology of “New Southeast Asian Cinemas”.



24-26 May 2004

Conference on “The Changing Asian Family: A Support System with Holes?”

The ARI-sponsored conference entitled “The Changing Asian Family: A Support System with Holes?” which was convened at the Trader’s Hotel in Singapore on 24-26 May 2004 brought together academics and policy-makers from twelve Asian countries as well as European, Australian and American scholars whose work focused on the Asia-Pacific region. Its focus was on ways in which changing economic, social and demographic conditions have impacted familial support for vulnerable individuals. Drawing parallels between the support offered in various contexts and at different points in the age-span, the conference included panels on: childcare, eldercare, family co-residence patterns, informal care for those who are ill, gender and caregiving, and support for vulnerable youth.

Prof Elizabeth Croll (SOAS, University of London) opened the conference with an address on “Filial and Familial Obligations in the Changing Asian Family” which set the tone for the meetings by highlighting the cultural and environmental factors contributing to a

redefinition of the family and its support roles. Other plenary speakers included A/P Mary Beth Ofstedal, Prof John Knodel, and Dr Maruja Asis. NUS participants in the conference included Prof. Elspeth Graham, A/P Brenda Yeoh, and Dr Santosh Jatrana, Prof Gavin Jones, Dr Theresa Devasahayam, and Dr Rachel Safman, who organised the conference. Reflecting on the conference Dr Safman commented, “The family has historically been the central pillar of support for vulnerable individuals, and this role has become more critical, not less, as societies have industrialised... the government and industry need to create an environment which allows families to perform their support functions, and family members themselves have to show flexibility and creativity in dividing their time between work and family. Striking this balance at both the personal and societal level will be one of the critical challenges we face in the coming decade as populations age and financial pressures become more intense”.



25–26 May 2004

Workshop on “Place, Memory and Identity in ‘New Asia’”

This workshop arose from an MOU between the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore and the Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of Hong Kong, signed in 2001. A total of 11 presentations were delivered over two days (25-26 May 2004) focusing on the intersecting themes of urban landscapes, social memory and identity as they pertain to a rapidly transforming Asia. Reflecting a multi-disciplinary perspective, the

workshop presenters come from the fields of anthropology, architecture, geography, history, sociology, urban design and Area (Asian) studies. Empirically, the papers focused on the myriad urban experience in various Southeast and East Asian cities with specific themes in tourism, urban festivals, symbolic landscapes and the changing cityscape.



28–29 May 2004

Conference on “The Historical Background of the Aceh Problem”



In May 2003, scarcely two months after the US invasion of Iraq, the Indonesian military launched its own “invasion” of the northwestern province of Aceh, ending an internationally supervised peace process between itself and the Aceh Independence Movement (GAM). After the highly publicised spectacle of the invasion, complete with “embedded journalists” on the Iraq model, Aceh was quickly closed to foreign journalists and largely disappeared from the world’s media. The problem however remains of a profoundly unpopular military occupation and a state of emergency which negates the democratisation occurring elsewhere

in Indonesia. A conference was called in this unhappy context, to examine the deeper causes that gave rise to this tragic conflict.

Aceh’s most prominent historians, Ibrahim Alfian and Mohamad Isa Sulaiman, were joined by a number of other Indonesian scholars and Aceh specialists from around the world. People with sharply opposed views of how the conflict should be resolved found much common ground in analysing how it had come about. The continuities became very clear in the Acehnese motif of resistance to outside control over four centuries, and particularly in the pattern of leadership and rhetoric of the 1950s and the 1990s.

Outside the main conference agenda, a premier viewing was arranged of the harrowing documentary of the conflict by independent photo-journalist William Nessen, who spent several months on both sides of the conflict before being imprisoned by Indonesian authorities late in 2003. The suffering of ordinary Acehnese in this war was made very vivid to conference participants.

2 Recent Seminars



13 Jan 2004	Community and the Metropolis: <i>Lenong, Nyai Dasima</i> and the New Order Dr Keith Foulcher (<i>Dept of Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Sydney</i>)
20 Jan 2004	Mobile Genealogies and the Unmaking of Creole Polities in the East Indies Dr Ho Engseng (<i>Dept of Anthropology and Social Sciences, Harvard University, USA</i>)
27 Jan 2004	Impacts of Rural to Urban Migration on the Health of Young Adult Migrants in Vietnam and Thailand A/P Mark Jennings VanLandingham (<i>School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Dept of International Health and Development, Tulane University</i>)
3 Feb 2004	Addressing Past Evil: Timor Leste's Two-Track Approach Ms Cheah Wui Ling (<i>Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore</i>)
10 Feb 2004	Okakura Kakuzo and Aesthetic Nationalism Prof John Clark (<i>University of Sydney</i>)
17 Feb 2004	Words that are not Moving: Civil Society in The Philippines Dr Resil Mojares (<i>Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</i>)
24 Feb 2004	Talking on TV in Indonesia Dr Jennifer Lindsay (<i>Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</i>)
2 March 2004	Interpreting Strands of Political Culture of Singapore Prof Chua Beng Huat (<i>Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</i>)
9 March 2004	Malaysian Shorts – A Case of the Cosmopolitical? Analysis of Amir Muhammad's <i>6horts</i> and Huzir Sulaiman's <i>That Historical Feeling</i> Dr Khoo Gaik Cheng (<i>Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</i>)
16 March 2004	Ethnicity and a Reassessment of Southeast Asian History Prof Leonard Andaya (<i>University of Hawai'i</i>)
23 March 2004	Global Development Concepts and National Development Policy: Targetting the Rural Poor in Bangladesh in the 1970s Dr Hans Christian Gerlach (<i>Department of History, National University of Singapore</i>)
30 March 2004	Buying Advice: Government Use of Consultants in Indonesia and Malaysia Dr Natasha Elvina Hamilton-Hart (<i>Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore</i>)
2 Apr 2004	Awakening the 'Asiatic': the Politics of Theosophy in Madras and Beyond, 1880-1920. Dr Mark Frost (<i>Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</i>)
6 Apr 2004	How Pervasive are Sex Differentials in Childhood Care and Nutrition in Haryana State of India? Dr Santosh Jatrana (<i>Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</i>)
13 April 2004	“天下无双”：Doubling, History and Gender in Two Hong Kong Films Dr Lo Mun Hou (<i>University Scholars Programme, National University of Singapore</i>) & Dr Daisy Ng Sheung-Yuen (<i>Dept of Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore</i>)
16 Apr 2004	Streams of Islamic Thought in Southeast Asia Prof Peter G Riddell (<i>London School of Theology, Brunel University</i>)
20 Apr 2004	Seeds of Hope or Hype: A Reflection on Possible Implications of Genetically Modified Seeds for the Indian Peasantry Mr Kumbamu Ashok (<i>Dept of Sociology, National University of Singapore</i>)
27 Apr 2004	Causes and Consequences of Global Religion and Religions: Eleven Theses Prof Bryan Turner (<i>University of Cambridge</i>)

3 Recent Study Group Seminars

Indonesia Study Group

28 April 2004

Roundtable on the 2004 Indonesian General Elections: Social, Religious and Political Dynamics
Prof Merle Ricklefs,
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
Mr M Syafi'i Anwar
Exec Director, International Center for Islam and Pluralism
Dr Suzaina Kadir
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Malaysia Study Group

16 January 2004

The Works of Malaysia Interdisciplinary Visual Artist Wong Hoy Cheong
Mr Wong Hoy Cheong

12 March 2004

Malayan Architecture: Signs of Change, Intimations of Nationalism
Mr Tay Keng Soon
Principal Partner, Akitek Tenggara Singapore/Malaysia

2 April 2004

Some Recent Trends and Issues in Malaysia/Singapore Theatre: A Practitioner's Perspective
Mr Huzir Sulaiman
Director, Checkpoint Theatre

Burma-Thailand Study Group

6 May 2004

Manners and Thai National Identity
Dr Patrick Jory
Walailak University, Thailand

Study Group on Migration & Diaspora

12 May 2004

Regional Arrangements in Liberalising Migration and Services Trade: Lessons from the ASEAN Experience with 'Mode 4'
Dr Chris Manning
Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University

Study Group on Vietnam-Cambodia-Laos

13 January 2004

The Legacy of the Ancient Champa Kingdom in Central Vietnam
Mr Tran Ky Phuong
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

23 February 2004

Vietnamese Modernism, Going out to the Ocean
Ms Boi Tran Huynh
Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney

23 April 2004

Dangerous Spaces: Vietnamese Nationalists in 1920s Colonial Chinese Concessions
Ms Lorraine Paterson
Pacific Asia History Division, Australian National University

Study Group on Experience & Interpretation Across Domains

1 Mar 2004

Intellectual Creativity and Non-European Knowledge Systems
Dr Susantha Goonatilake
World Academy of Arts and Sciences

Study Group on Family & Lifecycle Changes

21 April 2004

Intermarried Issei and Mestizo Nisei: Reflections on the Origins of Philippine Problems
Mr Shun Ono
Australian National University

5 May 2004

Modernity and Intergenerational Ties Among Chinese Singaporeans
Ms Kristina Goransson
Lund University

8 May 2004

The First and Second Demographic Transitions in Southeast and East Asia
Prof Gavin Jones
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

4 Forthcoming Conferences & Workshops (June–Dec 2004)

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events.htm>

14–15 June 2004

Workshop on the Archaeology of Early Harbours and Evidence for Inter-Regional Trade
Contact: Dr Edmund Edwards McKinnon (arimee@nus.edu.sg)

15–18 June 2004

Performance Studies International Panel
Contact: Dr Jennifer Lindsay (arijml@nus.edu.sg)

16 June 2004

Kuda Kepang Performance
Contact: Dr Jennifer Lindsay (arijml@nus.edu.sg)

24–25 June 2004

Growth Dynamics of Mega-urban Regions in Asia
Contact: Prof Gavin Jones (arigwj@nus.edu.sg)

9–11 July 2004

Childhood Conference
Contact: A/P Brenda Yeoh (geoyosa@nus.edu.sg)

19–20 July 2004

Transnational Religions: Interactions of the 'Global' and 'Local'
Contact: Dr Vineeta Sinha (socvs@nus.edu.sg)

23–24 July 2004

Polarisation and Politicisation along Lines of Religious Differences in Javanese Society (By Invitation Only)
Contact: Prof Merle Ricklefs (arimcr@nus.edu.sg)

29–30 July 2004

Workshop on the Post-Cold War International Order and Domestic Conflict in Asia
Contact: Dr Vedi Hadiz (sochvr@nus.edu.sg)

5–6 August 2004

New Scholarship on Champa
Contact: Dr Geoff Wade (arigpw@nus.edu.sg)

12–14 August 2004

Workshop on Exploring Theravada Studies: Intellectual Trends and the Future of a Field of Study
Contact: Dr Guillaume Rozenberg (arigr@nus.edu.sg)

17–18 August 2004

Workshop on Southeast Asia and the Middle East: Islam, Movement and the Longue Duree
Contact: Dr Eric Tagliacozzo (ariet@nus.edu.sg)

27 August 2004

Asia Trends 2 - (Un)tying the Knot: Ideal and Reality in Asian Marriage
Contact: Prof Gavin Jones (arigwj@nus.edu.sg)

28 August 2004

Workshop on Collaborative Studies on Asian Marriage
Contact: Prof Gavin Jones (arigwj@nus.edu.sg)

6–8 September 2004

Comparative Health Policy and Reforms in East Asia
Contact: Prof Ake Blomqvist

9–11 September 2004

Workshop on Healthcare in Malaysia
Contact: Dr Chee Heng Leng (arichl@nus.edu.sg)

23 September 2004

Public Lecture Series
Contact: Ms Lynn Tan (aritanl@nus.edu.sg)

23–24 September 2004

PostGraduate Research Students Work-In-Progress
Gender Studies in Asia: Peoples, Politics and Power
Contact: arigrad@nus.edu.sg

11–12 October 2004

Malaysian Literature and Cultural Studies Conference
Overcoming Passions: Race, Religion and the Coming Community in Malaysian Literature
Contact: Dr David Lim (aridlcl@nus.edu.sg)

29–30 October 2004

Northeast Asia in Maritime Perspective: A Dialogue with Southeast Asia
Contact: Dr Geoff Wade (arigpw@nus.edu.sg)

ARI Working Papers Series 2004

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/pub/wps2004.htm>

No. 20: "Community and the Metropolis: *Lenong, Nyai Dasima* and the new New Order"
Keith Foulcher

No. 21: "Social Communication and Colonial Archaeology in Vietnam"
Haydon Leslie Cherry

No. 22: "Cosmopolis and Nation in Central Southeast Asia"
Anthony Reid

No. 23: "A Culture of Cherishing Children: Fertility Trends of Tertiary-Educated Malay Women in Malaysia"
Theresa W. Devasahayam

No. 24: "User Behaviour and the Impact of the Internet: A Study on Chinese Net Users in Beijing and Shanghai"
Jiang Wei

No. 25: "*Sagong Tasi*: Reconciling State Development and Orang Asli Rights in Malaysian Courts"
Cheah Wui Ling

No. 26: "The Asian Male Spectacle in Glen Goei's Film *That's The Way I Like It* (a.k.a. *Forever Fever*)"
Khoo Gaik Cheng

No. 27: "Cambodia and Its Neighbours in the 15th Century"
Michael Vickery

New Books by ARI Members



Communitarian Politics in Asia

London; New York: Routledge, 2004

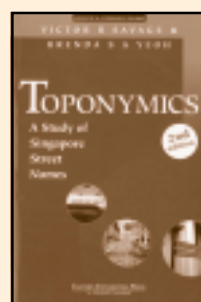
Chua Beng Huat (ed.)



State/Nation/Transnation: Perspectives on Transnationalism in the Asia-Pacific

Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, 2004.

Brenda S. A. Yeoh and Katie Willis (eds.)



Toponymics: A Study of Singapore Street Names

2nd edition.
Eastern Universities Press,
Times Media Private Limited, 2004

Victor R Savage and Brenda S A Yeoh



A Study of the History of Nestorian Christianity in China and Its Literature in Chinese: Together with a New English Translation of the Dunhuang Nestorian Documents.

2nd revised edition. European University Studies Series 27, Asian and African Studies Vol. 87. Frankfurt am Main, et al: Peter Lang, 2004.

Li Tang



The Geography of Health Inequalities in the Developed World: Views from Britain and North America

Ashgate: Aldershot. 2004.

Paul Boyle, Sarah Curtis, Elspeth Graham and Eric Moore (eds)

Activities of the **ASIAN META CENTRE** for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis

New Staff

Visiting Senior Research Fellow

Elsbeth Graham is currently Reader in Geography at the School of Geography and Geosciences, University of St Andrews. She is concurrently the Commissioner for both the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, and Boundary Commission for Scotland. She received her PhD from the University of Durham and MA from the University of St. Andrews. Her current research interests include contemporary population studies (including low fertility in Scotland and Singapore), geography (including social deprivation and health; migration and health), and history and philosophy of geography (especially social theory). Whilst at Asian



MetaCentre & ARI, she intends to develop a proposal on transnationalism and the health of left-behind families and collaborate with colleagues at NUS in her field of research.

Research Assistant

Theodora Lam was a Graduate Research Scholar at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore and is currently completing her M.Soc.Sci thesis focusing on the increasing mobility of knowledge through the transnationalisation of a Singapore-style educational system as well as educators. Her research interests cover transnationalism, migration, population, gender studies and geographical education.



Recent Workshops and Conferences



23–25 February 2004

International Workshop on “Contemporary Perspectives on Asian Transnational Domestic Workers”

Organised by Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Asia Research Institute; in association with the Commission on Gender and Geography, International Geographical Union

The condition of women in developing countries who now journey as transnational domestic workers (TDWs) was critically examined by some 30 scholars gathered at this 3-day international workshop, held at the National University of Singapore. Diverse perspectives were shed on complex factors that underscore the persistent flows of (mostly) Asian women as TDWs, their major characteristics and the associated social, economic and health issues.

Presentations on sending countries (Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia) touched on salient themes such as the agency of the women in deciding to leave for overseas work; the channels of their passage which sometimes involved complex transnational social networks, the representation of the women by the media and the state; the consequences of their migration on their own family and children; and the historical patterns and culture of migration in Asia.

Through discussions of cases from receiving countries of TDWs like Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Canada, the definition of ‘domestic work’ was questioned, leading to a reconsideration of feminist politics itself. Research on TDWs in these countries shows a range of motivation and coping strategies of these women, and the roles of the crucial actors were examined.

ven as new findings challenged conventional understandings, old perceptions remain entrenched. A consideration of Australia, South Korea and Japan showed that even in countries where there was less dependence on TDWs, domestic work (and its alternatives) in these countries remained highly gendered.



Forthcoming Events

Invitation to Apply: **Training Workshop on Advanced Demographic Techniques** **20 September – 22 October 2004, Bangkok**

The Asian MetaCentre is organising a 5-week training workshop on “Advanced Demographic Techniques” that will be held at the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok on September 20 – October 22, 2004.

The training course is an intensive hands-on course that covers both demographic and population-related methods, and the ways

these methods could be applied to solve typical tasks of demographic analysis using basic and advanced spreadsheet techniques. Training will be conducted by qualified experts via in a series of lectures, practical sessions and computer exercises.

The organiser invites applications from junior scientists or researchers as well as PhD students in fields related to population and who wish to strengthen their basic analysis skills and learn advanced demographic analysis techniques. More detailed information about the training workshop and application procedures are available at <http://www.chula.ac.th/college/cps/APN-training/Announcement-cover.html>.

All applications and queries should be sent to Ms Delphine Gay (cpsamc@Chula.ac.th).

Call for Papers and Workshop Announcement: **International Workshop on Population Dynamics and Infectious Disease in Asia** **27–29 October 2004, Singapore**

This workshop focuses on infectious diseases in Asia, especially their interaction with population and development. Evolving links of regional populations and their economies, changing physical environments, and the ecosystem itself, drive the infections that occur and in turn affect population dynamics and development. Population change, directly and via socio-economic and environmental effects, acts as a primary driver of changing infectious diseases. The workshop will discuss drivers of infectious disease trends in Asia (eg. migration, rapid urbanisation and high-rise urban housing, ecosystem changes, etc) and their impacts on vulnerable groups and society as well as population responses to these infections.

This Workshop invites submissions of abstracts (500 words) or full length papers with accompanying complete CVs, from any relevant discipline on the following themes to be submitted to Ms Verene Koh (popnasia@nus.edu.sg):

- Migration and travel – internal or international, including displacement and pilgrimage
- Environmental effects of human activity, including climate change
- Methods of food production and distribution, and zoonoses
- Microbial opportunism, emergence or catastrophes, and population responses
- Health technology and system influences – supply or demand
- Gender, social capital and civil effects
- Economic or political consequences of infectious diseases
- History or prospects of infection and control
- Comparative government policies and responses
- Policy implications for national and international action



Polygamy

Societal Pressure

Freedom

Delayed Marriage

(Un)tying The Knot:

Ideal and Reality in Asian Marriage

Cohabitation

Divorce

ASIA TRENDS 2004
27 AUGUST, FRIDAY
MARINA MANDARIN SINGAPORE

Inter-ethnic Marriage

Dowry

ROMANCE MARRIAGE MIGRATION TRENDS WEDDING MUSLIM COMMUNITY
SOCIAL DUTY HAPPILY EVER AFTER INTER-RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE CHOICE
ARRANGED MARRIAGE TEA CEREMONY WORK STARTING A FAMILY ISLAM
MR. RIGHT LOVE TIE THE KNOT STATISTICS MONEY STRESS COMMITMENT
INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE BABIES REMAINING SINGLE MARRIAGE REGISTRY TALAQ
ENGAGEMENT BRIDE PRICE PREJUDICES RACE-ING MARRIAGE DELAYED MARRIAGE
POTENTIAL HUSBANDS DOWRY DEATHS MATCHMAKER REPRODUCTION WORKING WIVES
EDUCATED ASIAN WOMEN TABOOS SOCIAL CHANGE TRADITIONS CHANGING PRACTICES
SOCIAL PRESSURE HOUSEWORK DOWRY REALITY RESEARCH IDDAH DILEMMAS
ECONOMIC CHANGE NORMS MARRIAGE MARKET POLYGAMY FREEDOM
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COHABITATION DIVORCE INTER-ETHNIC MARRIAGE

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Fax: (65) 6779 1428
Website: www.ari.nus.edu.sg/conf2004/asiatrend.htm



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