

THE 8TH ASIAN GRADUATE FORUM ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

PROGRAMME

24 - 26 JULY 2013

The Asia Research Institute (ARI) was established as a university-level institute in July 2001 as one of the strategic initiatives of the National University of Singapore (NUS). It aims to provide a world-class focus and resource for research on the Asian region, located at one of its communication hubs. ARI engages the social sciences broadly defined, and especially interdisciplinary frontiers between and beyond disciplines.

One of ARI's aims is to foster research on Southeast Asia, in particular by scholars from the region. To this end, it conducts the Asian Research Scholars programme, bringing more than 35 such graduate students to Singapore each year for a two and a half month period of research, mentoring and participation in an academic writing workshop. Towards the end of this period, we hold the Asian Graduate Forum.

The 8th Asian Graduate Forum is one of ARI's flagship events, a week-long workshop for graduate students who work on Southeast Asia. Held toward the end of the Asian Research Scholars Programme 2013, this Forum provides a platform for postgraduate students who are at an advanced stage to present their work, and also to communicate and interact, as they mature into the next generation of academic leaders.

The participants include ARI's Asian scholars, as well as graduate students from Singapore and other parts of the world. The unifying factor is that the research is on Southeast Asia, although the sessions are organised thematically around issues in Asian dynamics of religion, politics, economy, gender, culture, language, migration, urbanism, science and technology, population and social change, etc. In addition to student presentations, three experts of the region share their insights on challenges and issues facing contemporary social science scholarship in Southeast Asia.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Dr Michelle MILLER (Chair)

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Dr Jonathan BENNEY

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Assoc Prof Johan LINDQUIST

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Dr Kay MOHLMAN

The Writing Practice, Singapore

Dr Kumiko KAWASHIMA

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Dr Maria PLATT

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Dr Nausheen ANWAR

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Assoc Prof Titima SUTHIWAN

Centre for Language Studies, National University of Singapore

Dr ZHANG Juan

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

WEDNESDAY, 24 JULY 2013	
09:00 – 09:20	REGISTRATION
09:20 – 09:30	WELCOME & OPENING ADDRESS (Room 4-4)
	PRASENJIT DUARA Asia Research Institute and Office of Deputy President (Research and Technology), National University of Singapore
09:30 – 10:45	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1 (Room 4-4)
<i>Chairperson:</i>	WILLIAM CALLAHAN , Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
<i>09:30</i>	The Biopolitics of Recognition: Making Female Subjects of Globalization PHENG CHEAH Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
<i>10:15</i>	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
10:45 – 11:00	MORNING TEA
11:00 – 12:30	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
	Room 4-4
	Room 4-3
	PANEL 1
	PANEL 2
	TRANSFORMING ARCHITECTURE
	GENDER
	<i>Discussant:</i> LAI CHEE KIEN
	<i>Discussant:</i> YE JUNJIA
<i>11:00</i>	In What Ways do Modern Mosque Architectural Styles Challenge Colonial Influences and Contribute to Developing Malay Identity in Postcolonial Malaysia? HUMAIRAH BTE ZAINAL National University of Singapore
	The Changing Role of Women in the Process of Urbanization in Peri-Urban Areas in Hochiminh City. A Case Study: Peri-Urban Binh Tan NGO THI THU TRANG University of Social Sciences and Humanities of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
<i>11:20</i>	Transformation of Mosque Architecture in Malaysia MEGAT ARIFF SHAH BIN MEGAT OMAR University of Malaya, Malaysia
	Body Politics and the Spirits of Affective Performance: The Case of Female Flight Attendants ARRATEE AYUTTACORN Chiang Mai University, Thailand
<i>11:40</i>	“Sino-Portuguese”: Tracing the Distinctive Identity of Shophouses in The Southern Peninsula of Thailand NATHATHAI CHANSEN Silapakorn University, Thailand
	Negotiating <i>Waria</i> Identity in Heteronormative Practice of Disaster Management: Experience of <i>Waria(s)</i> in Kota Yogyakarta IRMIYA FITRIYAH Airlangga University, Indonesia
<i>12:00</i>	DISCUSSANT’S COMMENTS
<i>12:10</i>	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH

13:30 – 15:20		BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
		Room 4-4	Room 4-3	Room 4-2
		PANEL 3 FILM AND THEATRE	PANEL 4 CHALLENGING ISLAMIC AUTHORITY	PANEL 5 MIGRANT WORKERS IN SINGAPORE
		<i>Discussant:</i> WARD KEELER	<i>Discussant:</i> MARTIN VAN BRUINSEN	<i>Discussant:</i> LAAVANYA KATHIRAVELU
13:30		'Fragrant' Film: Women's 'Sastra Wangi' Literature on the Silver Screen in Indonesia MEGHAN DOWNES Australian National University	<i>Gus Dur</i> as The Tenth Saint: The Social Construction of understanding <i>Wali</i> in Java ANWAR MASDUKI Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Bangladeshi Construction Workers in Singapore: A Study in the Process of Migration and Employment SANGHITA DATTA Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
13:50		Nationalising Tradition or Traditionalising Nation? The Malay Film Music of Zubir Said in 1950s to 1960s Singapore ADIL JOHAN King's College - London, UK	Ale-Ale: Eroticism and Dance, A Lombok Controversy SALMAN ALFARISI Udayana University, Indonesia	The Role of Views of Home and Social Connections in the Construction of Transnational Lifestyles: A Study on Filipino Highly Skilled Migrants in Singapore KAREN ANNE S. LIAO Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
14:10		Family Rituals in Family Socialization in <i>Tinarantadong Asintado</i> OLIVIA KRISTINE D NIETO University of the Philippines, Diliman	Contesting Islamic Legitimacy and Authority: Religious Court Judges and <i>Tuan Guru</i> in Lombok, Indonesia MOHAMAD ABDUN NASIR Emory University, USA and IAIN Mataram, Indonesia	Food Means Everything: Dietary Acculturation of Asian Indian Migrants in Singapore and Major Influencing Factors SANDRA PAHR-HOSBACH Justus-Liebig University - Giessen, Germany
14:30		<i>Palabas</i> , Intimacy and Domestic Work in Ricardo Lee's <i>DH:</i> <i>Domestic Helper</i> OSCAR TANTOCO SERQUIÑA, Jr. University of the Philippines, Diliman		Mobile Phone and Migrant Acculturation: Understanding South Asian Workers' Experiences in Singapore RAJIV ARICAT Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
14:50		DISCUSSANT'S COMMENTS		
15:00		QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
15:20 – 15:50		AFTERNOON TEA		

15:50 – 17:40	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Room 4-4	Room 4-3	Room 4-2
	PANEL 6 CONTESTED HISTORIES	PANEL 7 VIOLENCE & DISCRIMINATION IN INDONESIA	PANEL 8 HEALTH AND CARE
	<i>Discussant:</i> BRUCE LOCKHART	<i>Discussant:</i> PHILIP FOUNTAIN	<i>Discussant:</i> ADAM CHEUNG
15:50	The Consciousness of National Sovereignty and Interests of Prominent Vietnamese Reformists in the Second Half of the 19th Century NGUYEN TIEN DUNG Vietnam National University, Vietnam	State Regulation and Policy toward the Citizenship Rights: Discrimination of Indonesian Ahmadiyya Community Rights in Kuningan, West Java FLAVIUS FLORIS ANDRIES Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use and Abortion among Female Migrant Workers in Selected Industrial Zones in Hanoi, Viet Nam NGUYEN HANH NGUYEN Institute of Population, Health and Development, Vietnam
16:10	Island or “In-Continent” Topography: Remapping the Postcolonial Archipelago through an Analysis of Representative Philippine Literature and Historiography ANNE CHRISTINE ENSOMO Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines	Ethnic Relations in Transnational Context: The Case Study of Chinese Indonesians – Indonesians Relations in Medan after Suharto CHONTIDA AUIKOOL Thammasat University, Thailand	Pregnancy Caring Practices of Displaced Karen Women in a Refugee Camp, Northwestern Thailand SAW KEH DOE Chiang Mai University, Thailand
16:30	The Making of the Golden Age: The Idealization of Sukhothai History, 1907-1952 WARISARA TANGKAWANICH Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	Cultural Conflict Between Malayu and Dayak in the Hinterland of West Kalimantan EDLIN DAHNIAR AL-FATH Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Obstetric Morbidity among Currently Married Women Age Group between (15-49) Years in Indonesia: A Regional Analysis PUSHPENDRA KUMAR MISHRA Mahidol University, Thailand
16:50	Superego, UMNO and Bersih: Discerning and Subverting a Politics of Jouissance in Malaysian Socio-Political Discourse ALWYN LAU Monash University - Sunway, Malaysia	The Role of Balinese Hinduism during the 1965/1966 Mass Killings and Aftermath in Bali: A Preliminary Study I MADE ARSANA DWIPUTRA Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Social Work in Institutional Care for Children with Disability in Vietnam NGUYEN LE TRANG Curtin University, Australia
17:10	DISCUSSANT’S COMMENTS		
17:20	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
17:40	END OF DAY		
17:50	BUS TRANSFER BACK		

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2013

08:45 – 09:15	REGISTRATION		
09:15 – 10:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2 (Room 4-4)		
<p><i>Chairperson</i></p> <p>09:15</p> <p>10:00</p>	<p>HUANG JIANLI, Asia Research Institute and Department of History, National University of Singapore</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Differentiated Derservedness: Governance Through Familialist Social Policies in Singapore</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TEO YOU YENN School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</p> <p style="text-align: center;">QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</p>		
10:30 – 11:00	MORNING TEA BREAK		
11:00 – 12:40	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Room 4-4	Room 4-3	Room 4-2
	PANEL 9 LITERATURE	PANEL 10 ARCHEOLOGY	PANEL 11 EDUCATION
	<i>Discussant:</i> RAJEEV PATKE	<i>Discussant:</i> LIM CHEN SIAN	<i>Discussant:</i> SUZANNE NAAFS
11:00	<p>A Tale of Two Southeast Asian Thrillers: F.H. Batacan's <i>Smaller and Smaller Circles</i> and Tunku Halim's <i>Vermillion Eye</i> Adapt the Thriller Genre</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALONA U. GUEVARRA University of the Philippines, Diliman</p>	<p>Establishing the Term 'Islamic Motif' for a Stylistic Analysis of Chinese Blue-and-White Porcelain Recovered from Archaeological Sites in the Philippines</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANDREA KINTANAR University of the Philippines, Diliman</p>	<p>The Rise of the English Language Education in Thailand, 1830s-1870s</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ARWUT TEERAEAK Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p>
11:20	<p>An Annotated Indonesian Translation of Philippa Gregory's <i>The Other Boleyn Girl</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DONI JAYA University of Indonesia</p>	<p>Beads Do Tell: The Significance of beads in a 6th to 9th Century A.D. burial site in Catanauan, Quezon, Philippines</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENA LUGA University of the Philippines, Diliman</p>	<p>Exploring Neoliberalism in ELT Aid: The Case of USAID in the Southern Philippines</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HONEY TABIOLA Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines</p>
11:40	<p>Miss Joaquim: Hybridity and Plural Identities In Singaporean Woman Writers' Literary Works</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RANWARAT POONSRI Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p>	<p>Preliminary Analysis of Characteristic Dental Diseases in Vietnam during the Neolithic Period: Evidence From Two Sites In Northern Vietnam</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRAN THI MINH Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam</p>	<p>Sheikh Ibrahim Musa of Parabek (1884 – 1963 CE); A Critical Study of His Contribution to Education in Minangkabau Society, West Sumatera</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KHAIRUL ASHDIQ BIN BASRI International Islamic University Malaysia</p>
12:00	<p>(Dis)assembling the Libraries: Some Case Studies of Alternative Libraries in Post-1998 Urban Indonesia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KATHLEEN AZALI Airlangga University, Indonesia</p>		<p>Comparing Pathways and Outcome for Patani Muslim Women of Different Education Systems since 1959</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TAWELUCK POLLACHOM Walailak University, Thailand</p>
12:20	DISCUSSANT'S COMMENTS		
12:30	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION		
12:50 – 13:40	LUNCH		

13:40 – 15:30	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Room 4-4	Room 4-3	Room 4-2
	PANEL 12 URBAN SPACE	PANEL 13 SOUTHEAST ASIAN HISTORY	PANEL 14 CONSTRUCTING RELIGIOUS IDENTITY
	<i>Discussant:</i> RITA PADAWANGI	<i>Discussant:</i> MAITRII AUNG-THWIN	<i>Discussant:</i> DIN WAHID
13:40	Beg in the City: Leprosy-affected Bodies, Agency and Stigma: A Case Study of Leprosy-affected Beggars in Vietnam LE HOANG NGOC YEN Australian National University	Vietnam – Japan Relations in the 17 th Century: A Case Study of the Port Settlement of Hoi An HOANG THI MY NHI Vietnam National University, Vietnam	Islam in a Frontier Area: How Religious Organisations Negotiate Social Change and Cultural Accommodation in Rao, West Sumatra Since Reformasi SYAFWAN ROZI State Islamic University (UIN), Indonesia
14:00	Urban Transition and Public Spaces in Vietnam: A View from the Streets of Ho Chi Minh City MARIE GIBERT University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Prodig Geographical Research Unit, France	King Vajiravudh and the Making of his Military Image THEP BOONTANONDHA Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	Musjid Nurul Islam : Social Capital in a Religious Space WAHYU KUNCORO Chiang Mai University, Thailand
14:20	Planned Housing Environments and Children's Outdoor Play in Singapore: Is Child-Friendliness Possible? MD RASHED BHUYAN National University of Singapore	Elites and the Construction of Knowledge in Early Modern Siam BOONPISIT SRIHONG Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	Switching Code as an Arab-Hadrami Identity in Indonesian Islam: The Case of Kampong Arab Ampel Surabaya LUTFIYAH ALINDAH Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University (UIN), Indonesia
14:40		The Shipbuilding of “Ghe bầu” – Quang Nam ship and the Role of the Ship in Vietnamese History (XVI-XVIII Centuries CE) THIEU THI THANH HAI Vietnam National University, Vietnam	
15:00	DISCUSSANT'S COMMENTS		
15:10	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION		
15:30 – 16:00	AFTERNOON TEA		

16:00 – 18:30		BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
		Room 4-4	Room 4-3	Room 4-2
		PANEL 15 CIRCULATION AND EXCHANGE	PANEL 16 CIVIL SOCIETY	PANEL 17 MIGRATION
		<i>Discussant:</i> MOHD EFFENDY	<i>Discussant:</i> ITTY ABRAHAM	<i>Discussant:</i> TABEA BORK-HÜFFER
16:00		Ports, Commodities and Trade: Towards a Maritime Economic history of Nagara Campa (9th-15th Centuries CE) DO TRUONG GIANG National University of Singapore	Vernacular Forms of Human Rights' Ideas and Perceptions in Timor-Leste MARISA RAMOS GONÇALVES University of Wollongong, Australia	A Cost-benefit Analysis of Documented versus Undocumented Indonesian Low/Semi-skilled Labour Migration to Peninsular Malaysia BALAMBIGAI BALAKRISHNAN University of Adelaide, Australia
16:20		Ceramic Trade between China and Southeast Asia under the Maritime Trade Ban in 1368-1505 XU WENPENG Peking University, China	Emerging Civil Society and Democratization in Myanmar: A Case Study of the Dawei Special Economic Zone NAY LIN AUNG Chiang Mai University, Thailand	New Insights into the Contemporary Filipino Migration in Thailand MARY ROSE GERALDINE A. SARAUSAD Mahidol University, Thailand
16:40		Innovation, Identity, Lineage: Local knowledge in Sago (<i>Metroxylon sagu</i> Rottb) Production in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, Philippines JESSIE G. VARQUEZ, JR. University of the Philippines, Diliman	Outside of Mainstream but Intertwined With the Mainstream: The Habitus of Subcultural Journalists in Singapore SIM JUI LIANG Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Reconfiguring Parenting: Filipino Mothers in Diaspora and Their Construction of Parenting Away from Home ROSEL SANCHEZ SAN PASCUAL University of the Philippines, Diliman
17:00		From the Chisel to the Digital Photograph: Representations of Power and Expressions of Devotion in Cambodian Kingship JOANNA WOLFARTH University of Leeds, UK		
17:20		DISCUSSANT'S COMMENTS		
17:30		QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION		
18:00		END OF DAY		
18:10		BUS TRANSFER BACK		

FRIDAY, 26 JULY 2013

08:45 – 09:15	REGISTRATION		
09:15 – 10:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3 (Room 4-4)		
<i>Chairperson:</i>	TIM BUNNELL , Asia Research Institute and Department of Geography, National University of Singapore		
<i>09:15</i>	Academic Fields and Scholarly Networks in Global Academia ERIC C. THOMPSON Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore		
<i>10:00</i>	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
10:30 – 11:00	MORNING TEA		
11:00 – 12:50	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Room 4-4	Room 4-3	Room 4-2
	PANEL 18 RECREATING HERITAGE	PANEL 19 BORDERS	PANEL 20 DEVELOPMENT
	<i>Discussant:</i> ANDREW CONROE	<i>Discussant:</i> IRVING JOHNSON	<i>Discussant:</i> JEROME WHITINGTON
<i>11:00</i>	In Search of a Glorious Past: A Historiography of Heritage Conservation in Trowulan, East Java in 1963 – 2010 ADRIAN PERKASA Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Reduction the Poverty and Vulnerability of Displaced Persons in Temporary Shelters along Thai-Myanmar Border JIDAPA MEEPIEN Mahidol University, Thailand	Bridge to Prosperity? Development of the Bangkok-Kunming Highway and the Implications of the Chiang Khong-Houay Xay Friendship Bridge SUNSANEE MCDONNELL University of Melbourne, Australia
<i>11:20</i>	The Symbolic Function of Lego-lego as Oral Tradition of the Kui in Alor Islands, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia KATUBI University of Indonesia	Identities, Border and Linkages between Northeast India and Myanmar HAOKAM VAIPHEI North Eastern Hill University, India	The Impact of Contract Rice Farming on Smallholder Farmers' Incomes in Cambodia: A Case Study KONG SOPHEAK Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
<i>11:40</i>	An Interpretation of Cultural Landscape through Layered Images of Place Memory: Korea's Janghang industrial city from 1920 to 2010. PARK JAE MIN Seoul National University, South Korea	Landmine Victim Assistance on the Thai-Myanmar Border and in Kayin State: Accessibility and Future Prospects GABRIELA STEINEMANN Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	A Buddhist-Principled Human Resource Development Model for Professionals in the Healthcare Business in Thailand PETCHARAT LOVICHAKORNTIKUL Shinawatra International University, Thailand
<i>12:00</i>			"Imagined Authenticity" in Travel Experiences between Real and Virtual World: A Case Study of Japanese Backpackers in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR YOSHIYUKI IWAKI Chiang Mai University, Thailand
<i>12:20</i>	DISCUSSANT'S COMMENTS		
<i>12:30</i>	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION		
12:50 – 13:00	BREAK		
13:00 – 13:30	CLOSING REMARKS & PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO SPEAKERS (Room 4-4)		
	MICHELLE MILLER Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore		
13:30 – 15:00	LUNCH		

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1

The Biopolitics of Recognition: Making Female Subjects of Globalization

Pheng Cheah

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This paper evaluates the rise of recognition as an important analytical category in critical theory for understanding the normative grounds of social and political struggles for global justice in the contemporary world. Drawing on examples from Southeast Asia, the paper argues that none of recent variants of the recognition paradigm (Nancy Fraser, Axel Honneth, and Judith Butler) can adequately account for the formation of various female subjects of globalization. Questions addressed include: How does the account of normativity in the recognition paradigm ironically consolidate and reinforce the oppressive dynamic of power in contemporary globalization? How are progressive policies for global human development focusing on women and their supporting human rights instruments necessarily woven into the processes and technologies of power that capitalize humanity?

Pheng Cheah is Professor of Rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1999. He has published extensively on the theory and practice of cosmopolitanism. He is the author of *Inhuman Conditions: On Cosmopolitanism and Human Rights* (Harvard UP, 2006) and *Spectral Nationality: Passages of Freedom from Kant to Postcolonial Literatures of Liberation* (Columbia UP, 2003) and co-editor of *Cosmopolitics: Thinking and Feeling Beyond the Nation* (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1998). He is also the co-editor of *Thinking through the Body of the Law* (Allen and Unwin, New York University Press, 1996); *Grounds of Comparison: Around the Work of Benedict Anderson* (Routledge, 2003); and *Derrida and the Time of the Political* (Duke University Press, 2009). He is completing a book on theories of the world and world literature from the postcolonial world in an age of financial globalization and a related book on globalization and the three Chinas as seen from the perspectives of the independent cinema of Jia Zhangke, Tsai Ming-Liang and Fruit Chan.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2

Differentiated Deservedness: Governance through Familialist Social Policies in Singapore

Teo You Yenn
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How are people governed? When the case of Singapore is mentioned, people assume that Singaporeans are governed through “force”—via a repressive state that sets hard limits on collective action and dissent. This is a partial picture. Indeed, there is—through elaborate mechanisms and institutions of familialist social policies—governance *through* the bodies and sensibilities of people in the Foucauldian sense. Singaporeans are disciplined and compelled to discipline themselves insofar as they are shaped through and constrained by social/welfare policies that forefront “families as the first line of support” and insist upon “self-reliance” as the ultimate Singaporean virtue. This paper illuminates the ways in which Singaporeans are governed and disciplined through a familialist anti-welfare set of discourses and practices. I then consider the implications of these, arguing that the familialist approach creates complex gendered and classed differentiations within the category of “citizen” and a political culture in which to be a good citizen is essentially to retreat from demanding anything from society.

Teo You Yenn is Assistant Professor in the Division of Sociology at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her research examines state-society relations, social policies and citizenship, and the experiences of poverty in Singapore. Her book, *Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society*, was published by Routledge in 2011. Recent writings have been published in *Social Politics*, *Signs*, and *Economy and Society*.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3

Academic Fields and Scholarly Networks in Global Academia

Eric C. Thompson

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This is an exciting and challenging time for the social sciences and postgraduate researchers in Asia. Researchers in Asia have more opportunity than ever before to participate in global academia. The economic rise of Asia is opening up new pathways to excellence in education and other fields. These opportunities will only be realized if academics and institutions in Asia dedicate themselves to both locally relevant research and engagement with global trends in theory and scholarship. Based on a decade of experience involved in the development of postgraduate studies at the National University of Singapore, in this talk, Associate Professor Thompson will outline strategies for success that young researchers can pursue individually and collectively to make their mark in global academia. The talk will first outline the broad parameters of the state of postgraduate studies in the social sciences in Asia; followed by suggestions for paving a way to excellence – and recognition of that excellence – for postgraduate students engaged in the social sciences at Asian universities.

Eric C. Thompson is Associate Professor and Chair of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. Before joining NUS, he completed a PhD in sociocultural anthropology at the University of Washington and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of California Los Angeles. He teaches anthropology, gender studies, urban studies and research methods. He has conducted research for over two decades throughout Southeast Asia, primarily in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Indonesia. His research interests include transnational networking, gender studies, urbanism, culture theory, and ASEAN regionalism. His work has appeared in the journals *American Ethnologist*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Field Methods*, *Global Networks*, *Political Geography*, and *Urban Studies* among others. He is author of *Unsettling Absences: Urbanism in Rural Malaysia* (NUS Press, 2007) and *Attitudes and Awareness toward ASEAN: Findings of a Ten-Nation Survey* (with Chulanee Thianthai, ISEAS Press, 2008).