



WORKSHOP

PLACING ISLANDS IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT HERITAGE, HISTORIES, TOURISM, AND IDENTITY

15-16 AUG 2019

AS8 LEVEL 4
SEMINAR ROOM 04-04
10 KENT RIDGE CRESCENT
SINGAPORE 119260



ARI.NUS.EDU.SG

ORGANISED BY THE ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, AND
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ISLANDS' HERITAGE LANDSCAPES)



Over the past centuries, many smaller, offshore islands across Southeast Asia experienced drastic transformations to their social, physical, and symbolic landscapes. These changes have been brought about by technological advancements, transitions in political regimes and migratory flows, national and regional economic growth, and the shifting positions of these offshore islands within their respective nation-states. But in the course of such multifaceted development, the histories of these offshore islands have been largely forgotten. Although some of these histories may have found sanctuary through informal and intangible memory-making processes such as heritage tourism, the material aspects associated with these histories have largely been abandoned or demolished, ultimately jeopardizing the long-term survival of these histories. Increasingly, the preservation of natural heritage is also the focus of many offshore islands due to interest in ecotourism. There are seldom efforts to bridge the gap between the cultural history and the natural heritage of the islands despite their deep linkages.

This interdisciplinary workshop brings together researchers to share findings on the histories of offshore islands—defined here as the smaller secondary islands within nations—of Southeast Asia and beyond. Of interest to this workshop are islands that, in the past, had robust populations but have since declined for various reasons, and are connected to large cities or urbanising regions. We hope to articulate the possible connections and continuities, along with the emergent development and heritage conservation practices, of these small islands. The speakers assembled for this workshop intend to:

1. Highlight the interplay of cultural and natural aspects of island heritage, challenging divisions between urban/rural, cultural/natural, and tangible/intangible heritage that currently dominate academic and policy approaches to heritage conservation;
2. Explore how memories/heritages of the offshore islands may be made, unmade, or remade within the context of national and global pressures imposed upon them. Of interest are how vernacular memories of former island residents are being remembered and communicated;
3. Examine the possible futures of offshore islands, noting the challenges and opportunities in the conservation of their remaining tangible and intangible heritage

CONFERENCE CONVENORS

Dr Hamzah Muzaini | seahm@nus.edu.sg
Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

Dr Creighton Connolly | cconnolly@lincoln.ac.uk
School of Geography, University of Lincoln, UK

Dr Sonia Lam-Knott | sonia.lam.knott@gmail.com
Independent Researcher

Assoc Prof Ho Kong Chong | sochokc@nus.edu.sg
Asia Research Institute, and Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore

THURSDAY, 15 AUGUST 2019

10:15 – 10:30 REGISTRATION

10:30 – 11:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS REMARKS

Ho Kong Chong | National University of Singapore

Hamzah Muzaini | National University of Singapore

11:00 – 12:30 PANEL 1 | FORGOTTEN ISLAND HISTORIES

CHAIRPERSON **Rita Padawangi** | Singapore University of Social Sciences

11:00 'The Largest Quarantine Station in the British Empire':
Revisiting the History and Memory of Quarantine Station at St. John's Island, Singapore

Desmond Hok-Man Sham | National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

11:20 Pulau Jerejak, The Perfect Place...

Mike Gibby | Independent Researcher

11:40 Pulau Ubin

Imran bin Tajudeen | National University of Singapore

12:00 Discussion and Question & Answer

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 – 15:00 PANEL 2 | SITUATING ISLANDS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CHAIRPERSON **Creighton Connolly** | University of Lincoln, UK

13:30 Tourism, Indigeneity and Urban Development:
The Politics of Heritage on Pulau Carey in Peninsular Malaysia

Cai Yunci | University of Leicester, UK

13:50 Cultural History and the Natural Heritage of the Madura Islands in Indonesia:
The Changing Landscape of Mission-Driven Art Organization

Aluisius Hery Pratono | Universitas Surabaya, Indonesia

14:10 Volcanic Island Lý Sơn, Vietnam: From Military Outpost to New Eco-Tourism Destination

Nguyen Thi Hoai Phuong | Vietnam National University

14:30 Discussion and Question & Answer

15:00 – 15:30 AFTERNOON TEA

15:30 – 17:00 PANEL 3 | FORGING ISLAND IDENTITIES

CHAIRPERSON **Sonia Lam-Knott** | Independent Researcher

15:30 When Culture is Still There but Not Being Practiced:
Minoritization and Conservation of Mangyan Heritage in Mindoro Island

Nota F. Magno | Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

15:50 Framing Vernacular Memories of the Women Fisherfolks:
A Vanishing Cultural Heritage in Namayan Island, Philippines

Arlen A. Ancheta | Research Center for Social Sciences and Education, Philippines,
and University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

Elmira Thrina C. Pelayo | Bulacan State University, Philippines, and University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

16:10 The Many Histories of the Nicobar Islands:
Role of Coconuts in Contact, Culture, Currency and Commodity

Shaina Sehgal | Ambedkar University, India

16:30 Discussion and Question & Answer

17:00 END OF DAY ONE

FRIDAY, 16 AUGUST 2019

10:00 – 12:30 ROUNDTABLE + EXHIBITION @ NUS MUSEUM

VENUE

S T LEE ATRIUM, NUS MUSEUM, LEVEL 1
NUS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE (UCC)
50 KENT RIDGE CRESCENT, SINGAPORE 119279

The Southern Islands Team will be introducing the 'Sites, Stories and Subsequence' exhibit at the NUS Museum. They will also discuss the conceptualisation of the Southern Islands project, the findings to date, and some thoughts regarding the inter-connections between the Southern Islands with the cases presented in the workshop.

Sites, Stories and Subsequence is a prep-room project curated in collaboration with NUS Museum and the Asia Research Institute that excavates, assembles and envisages the complex physical and immaterial tapestries of the Southern Islands, with a specific focus on St John's and Lazarus Islands, formerly known as *Pulau Sekijang Bendera/Besar* and *Pulau Sekijang Pelepah/Kechil*, as well as *Seringat Island*.

Drawing on archival research, oral history interviews, and surveys of its current uses, the project attempts to consolidate knowledge on the islands. This current iteration surveys what could be missing in the consciousness of these islands, and redefines the shifts that are found in its names and functions, thereby furnishing the lacuna present in contemporary understandings of their culture and history. With only vestiges of the islands' former features and attendant narratives existing in the present day, the repository of research and memories in the prep-room also informs its further function of providing prompts for re-imaginings of the Southern Islands' future potentials.

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 END OF WORKSHOP

‘The Largest Quarantine Station in the British Empire’: Revisiting the History and Memory of Quarantine Station at St. John’s Island, Singapore

Desmond Hok-Man Sham

International Center for Cultural
Studies, National Chiao Tung
University, Taiwan

desmondsham@nctu.edu.tw

Offshore islands of/near major ports have been historically used as maritime quarantine stations or lazarettos. The quarantine policies were often much stricter in the colonial contexts than in Europe, partially due to issues of race and colonial panic. After being decommissioned, some former quarantine stations have been left in state of neglect or are redeveloped, while others are preserved as (contested) heritage sites and/or museums.

St. John’s Island of(f) Singapore, together with Jerejak Island of(f) Penang, were major quarantine stations of the Straits Settlement and British Malaya, where many returning Asian migrants and pilgrims were quarantined. The quarantine station at St. John’s Island was once dubbed ‘the largest in the British Empire’. Consulting archival materials, records of oral histories, and old newspapers, this paper is going to revisit the (pre-war) history and memory of St. John’s Island as a maritime quarantine station. How were the practices and experiences narrated and remembered? Were there specific patterns of narrative that still affects later understandings of the historical past?

The paper aims at understanding the history of quarantine station of St. John’s Island in both local temporal and regional contexts. Through revisiting the history and memory of St. John’s Island, the paper wishes to seek a way to incorporate them into future plans of heritage conservation of the island.

Desmond Hok-Man Sham is a Postdoctoral Fellow at International Center for Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. His research interests are in postcolonial studies, Inter-Asia cultural studies, cultural heritage, and cultural memory. He is working on the politics, economies, and possibilities of cultural heritage and memory in the East and Southeast Asian context.

Pulau Jerejak, The Perfect Place...

Mike Gibby

Independent Researcher

mikegibby@gmail.com

Jerejak is a small island, 4 kilometers x 2 kilometers, off the east coast of Penang, Malaysia, composed primarily of granitic forested, steep sided hills and small areas of flat coastal terrain. Its proximity to a busy and developing port in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries led to increasing use of its accessible areas, to a point where they were all being fully utilised. Changing practices subsequently led to the closure then repurposing of the islands' isolation hospitals and quarantine station. Parts of the island, primarily heritage areas, have since been redeveloped for ship-building and as a holiday resort: these latter two ventures have performed poorly in economic terms.

A new major redevelopment to include three 10 storey condominium towers, a 350-room hotel, service apartments, luxury villas, a theme park and a four lane bridge to link with Penang Island was recently approved. This redevelopment overlaps with heritage areas and will affect several other areas of historical interest.

Mike Gibby is a British-born educator who has spent the majority of his life in South East Asia. He has a BSc in Biology from Leeds University and a MSc in Evolution from Liverpool University. His primary interests in the life sciences are in the related fields of ecosystems, conservation and evolution; he has a passion for historical investigation. After working for 30 years in Singapore he retired to Penang where he now explores its past and present. He is the author of several books on Malaysia, to name a few, *Jerejak*, *Penang's Untold Story* (Entrepot Publishing, 2018), *Penang Hill: A Journey through Time* (Entrepot Publishing, 2017), and *Street Art Penang Style* (Entrepot Publishing, 2016).

Pulau Ubin

Imran bin Tajudeen

Department of Architecture,
National University of Singapore

imran.tjdn@gmail.com;
akiit@nus.edu.sg

Located off the northeastern coast of Singapore across Changi, Pulau Ubin is the second largest offshore island within Singapore's territorial waters and is the last remaining one with a sizeable rural resident population. Its vicissitudes reflect Singapore's changing policies towards her offshore islands from the late colonial period when Ubin, like other offshore islands, had thriving communities supported by state provision of social services, infrastructure, and industries; to the period of evictions and withdrawal of various amenities in the last two decades of the 20th century; to the present promotion of the island as an eco-tourism destination and an emphasis on maintaining its "rustic" character. Now placed under the management of the board in charge of parks and forests, NParks, the island's cultural and settlement histories and architecture and their present conditions have received little attention until more recently, when these have come under the ambit of more wide-ranging efforts to produce Ubin as a rustic destination. In this paper I explore the current possibilities of dissolving the natural-cultural dichotomy in the official narrative for the island through original fieldwork, focussing on the documentation of four houses in Kampong Sungei Durian and Kampong Surau in eastern Pulau Ubin in particular in effecting this shift. It also discusses the changing outlook on tangible and intangible heritage on the island, including the stories of its residents and that of their houses and settlements, and the frameworks for their conservation, restoration, and documentation.

Imran bin Tajudeen is Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore. He researches architectural encounters in Singapore and Southeast Asia across the *longue durée*, first in their intersections with colonial practices, modern interventions, and colonial and nationalist representational tropes in heritage representation, and second through historiographical questions on Southeast Asia's Indic and Islamic architecture from a vernacular architectural perspective. He was a postdoctoral fellow at MIT's AKPIA (2009-2010) and the IIAS in Leiden (2010-2011). He is currently a consultant in the documentation of four historical houses on Pulau Ubin, Singapore, and was named Most Promising New Civil Society Advocate in 2015 for his active work on heritage criticism. He is co-editor (with Chang Jiat Hwee) of *Southeast Asia's Modern Architecture: Questions in Translation, Epistemology and Power* (2018). He is currently working on a monograph that extends his doctoral dissertation (NUS, 2009; ICAS Book Prize for Best PhD, Social Sciences, 2011) on the local/regional and cosmopolitan in the vernacular urban heritage of maritime Southeast Asia.

Tourism, Indigeneity and Urban Development: The Politics of Heritage on Pulau Carey in Peninsular Malaysia

Cai Yunci

Museum Studies,
University of Leicester, UK

yc277@leicester.ac.uk

An island off the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia and north of Port Klang along the Straits of Melaka, Pulau Carey's history is intricately intertwined with the ebbs and flows of Malaysia's development. Once part of the vast native customary lands of the indigenous Mah Meri people, much of the island has been cleared for rubber cultivation by British planter Edward Valentine Carey in 1905 and later, converted to a large palm oil plantation with processing plants by Sime Darby Plantation, Malaysia's largest palm oil producer. Pulau Carey's indigenous heritage came to the fore in 2012 with the establishment of Mah Meri Cultural Village, and its colonial heritage was put in the spotlight in 2016, with the designation of ten colonial bungalows owned by Sime Darby Plantation as heritage buildings by The Heritage of Malaysia Trust. The island was thrust into controversy as the earmarked site for the proposed RM200 billion port extension project in 2018, but regained interest for palm oil tourism amidst EU's negative palm oil campaign in 2019. Based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork at Pulau Carey, I examine how memories and heritages of Pulau Carey are made, unmade and remade within the local, national and global contexts, and the cultural politics of multiple claims to heritage. Drawing on the notion of heritage as an active production of the past in the present to serve contemporary needs, I demonstrate how heritage- and memory-making of Pulau Carey are intricately entangled with the contemporary politics of Malaysia.

Cai Yunci is Lecturer in Museum Studies and Director of the MA/MSc in Museum Studies (campus-based) programme at the School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester. Yunci holds a PhD in Museum and Heritage Studies and a Master of Arts with Distinction in Museum Studies, both from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and a First-Class Honours in Geography from the National University of Singapore. She has interests in the cultural politics and museologies in and of Asia. Her forthcoming sole-authored monograph *Staging Indigenous Heritage* explores the politics of heritage-making at four indigenous cultural villages in Malaysia. She has been conducting research with the indigenous Mah Meri communities on Pulau Carey in Peninsular Malaysia since 2014.

Cultural History and the Natural Heritage of the Madura Islands in Indonesia: The Changing Landscape of Mission-Driven Art Organization

Aluisius Hery Pratono

Faculty of Business and Economics,
Universitas Surabaya, Indonesia

hery_pra@staff.ubaya.ac.id

This article seeks to understand how mission-driven art organisations bridge the gap between cultural history and the natural heritage of the Madura Islands in Indonesia. Madura Islands are close to Surabaya City. However, Surabaya and Madura demonstrate the unbalanced economy in Indonesia. Madura Islands face challenging issues of poor infrastructure, low investment and skills, while Surabaya provides a major port for the Eastern part of Indonesia. The island looks forward to managing the autonomy for centuries since the Mataram era in the Middle Age.

This study adopts qualitative approaches by observing three organisations, which attempt to promote the creative industry in Madura. The first is a non-government organisation, which concerns to promote open innovation for the batik industry. The second one is a group of photographers that promotes cross-culture by exploring the wedding party organisers. The last one is young people, which manages the traditional event and heritage conservation.

The arts and creative industries are fundamental to Madura's identity, which allows society to become not only an inclusive society and more confidence but also competitive. The creative industries demonstrate maritime culture. As a product of the remote area, the art and creative industry seem to be not very intellectual. Secondly, the art and creative industry allow the customers to explore the heritage of the Madura islands within the global competitive context. It is their interest in how vernacular memories of former island residents are remembered and communicated. This study also examines the possible futures of the islands by adopting scenario approaches to deal with challenges and opportunities in the conservation of their remaining heritage.

This article contributes to the theory of identity by drawing inspiration from the work of creative social enterprises, which concern to promote art and creative products from Madura. The result is also expected to contribute to changing impacts on support for artists and policymakers to provide cutting-edge insights relevant to contemporary theory and practices.

Aluisius Hery Pratono is a senior lecturer at Faculty of Business and Economics in the Universitas of Surabaya. He also serves as the Director of Centre for Humanity and Social Studies. His research interest is on behaviour economics, social enterprises, cross-culture, and interfaith.

Volcanic Island Lý Sơn, Vietnam: From Military Outpost to New Eco-Tourism Destination

Nguyen Thi Hoai Phuong

Department of Cultural Studies
and Vietnamese Culture History,
Vietnam National University

phuongnguyenhoai.ls@gmail.com

Lý Sơn is an island formed by the eruption of a 5-mouth volcano about 25-30 million years ago. Because of its geological features, Lý Sơn island has extremely majestic and unique natural landscapes, exemplified by Tò Vồ gate, (a natural stone gate) and Câu cave (a big stone cave)... These geological features also cause many difficulties for human life because of a lack of arable land and fresh water on this island. Historically, Lý Sơn Island served as an outpost position to defend the East Sea of Vietnam, as seen from the establishment of the Hoàng Sa detachment in the early 17th century, which managed and exploited resources from the archipelagos of Hoàng Sa and Trường Sa, and also implemented the sovereignty of Vietnam over these archipelagos. In the next centuries, most of the Hoàng Sa detachment's ships came from Lý Sơn Island. Nowadays, Lý Sơn Island is focused on developing tourism, and is known as the Maldives of Vietnam. Tourism activities have strongly transformed the landscapes and cultural life of Lý Sơn's residents. This paper is structured in three parts, which will address:

1. The establishment of Lý Sơn Island, especially its natural heritage
 2. The role of Lý Sơn Island in Vietnamese military history, especially in defending the East Sea
 3. The changes of Lý Sơn Island today because of tourism, especially the exploitation of the island's natural, historical, and cultural values for sustainable tourism development.
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Nguyen Thi Hoai Phuong is a lecturer at the Department of Cultural Studies and Vietnamese Culture History, Faculty of History, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University. Her teaching and research area focus on the history of Vietnamese Culture. She is now teaching subjects such as: *Fundamentals of Vietnamese Culture*, *Cultural Exchanges and Acculturation in Vietnam*, and *Cities and Urban Culture in Vietnam*. She has presented papers in international conferences such as: *Trading line from Cam River to Yunnan from The End of 19th Century to The Beginning of 20th Century*, at the International Forum of the Red River Valley (Yunnan, China, December 2010); *The Chinese Community in Hai Phong city, Viet Nam: A Story of Diaspora*, keynote speaker in the 1st ASEANale Conference 2018: Capturing the Spirit of ASEAN in the Digital Times (Asian Center, University of the Philippines, March, 2018); *The Chinese Community in Hai Phong city: History of Establishment, Development and Migration in the Late 20th Century* at the International Conference China and Viet Nam Relation: History, Present and Future (Sun Yat Sen University, Guangzhou, China, May, 2018).

When Culture is Still There but Not Being Practiced: Minoritisation and Conservation of Mangyan Heritage in Mindoro Island

Nota F. Magno

Department of Sociology and
Anthropology, Ateneo de Manila
University, Philippines

nmagno@ateneo.edu

In the last two centuries, Mindoro Island experienced two demographic shifts: an increase in lowland migrants and a sharp decline in indigenous Mangyan populations. Mangyan minoritisation is a window into environmental and social changes that relate to: 1) the island's politically and economically structured anchorage in mainland Luzon, the center of the Philippine state, 2) the entanglements of various groups with the Mangyan, and 3) the strategies of Mangyan in maintaining their way of life. The Mangyans are minoritised in terms of their territory, being pushed inland and upland, and in their inability to practice their traditions, being pressured to integrate in the towns or cities near the coasts. And whether they are displaced or granted ancestral domain, they are minoritised in terms of their identity. Minoritisation is now a product of the historic processes (of ethnoscaping), and a product of the discourses on protecting indigeneity by conserving Mangyan cultural heritage in the region. This study takes Kirschenblatt-Gimblett's (2004) view that heritage is the creation of a metacultural process, which in this study include Mindoro's ethnoscape, cultural and developmental intervention efforts, and the strategies of the Mangyan themselves. A short-term ethnographic inquiry in the northern town and major tourist spot of Puerto Galera reveals the linkage of the local and national, territory and identity, heritage and social change. This is also a practical inquiry into the seemingly unimaginable but necessary in-between of the modern indigenous Iraya. How do we reconcile their minoritisation and conservation? What happens when Iraya culture is still there but not being practiced?

Nota F. Magno obtained her Master of Arts in Anthropology from Ateneo de Manila University. Her main interests in the study of culture are on food, heritage, anthrozoology, education and well-being. Her published works are on food strategies among Filipino migrants in Japan and food sharing in Romblon Province. She lectures in Ateneo de Manila University and co-directs the Ateneo de Manila University summer program in Philippine cultural heritage. She is currently taking her doctoral degree in anthropology with the University of the Philippines—Diliman.

Framing Vernacular Memories of the Women Fisherfolks: A Vanishing Cultural Heritage in Namayan Island, Philippines

Arlen A. Ancheta

Graduate School, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, Research Center for Social Sciences and Education, Philippines, and University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

arlen_ancheta@yahoo.co.uk

Elmira Thrina C. Pelayo

Graduate School, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, and Bulacan State University, Philippines

elmira105@yahoo.com

Eric B. Zerrudo

Graduate School, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics, Philippines, and University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

ust_cccpet@yahoo.com

This paper captures the vernacular memories of the women *namamaklad* (manner of scooping fish in the fish corral) focusing on fish corrals, specialized nets, or sorting fish catch in the boat ready to be delivered in the fish landing, framing their everyday life in the island. The narrative is to highlight how *namamaklad* practices crafted women lived experiences in the small island of Namayan, off the shore of Central Luzon, Philippines. It is a vanishing cultural heritage that has to be retold in the midst of urbanization valuing the nightlife of the women fisherfolks. Anchored on the framework of vernacular memories (Stangl, 2008), methods used were non-participant observation and interviews. It is argued that vernacular memories create a picture of family relations in the small island. As an ethnographic study, women *namamaklad* recall their chants; how they sort the fishes while their husbands scoop in the fish corral, or framing stories of intimacy in the fishing boat. Their closeness to the sea made them realize that food security is at stake as development takes place in the adjacent cities. In conclusion, vernacular memories require historical space in urbanization to highlight the significance of the small scale fishing industry.

Arlen A. Ancheta is a faculty researcher, affiliated at the Faculty of Arts and Letters and Research Center for Social Sciences and Education, University of Santo Tomas.

Elmira Thrina C. Pelayo, Development Studies, PhD candidate in University of Santo Tomas and teaches at the Bulacan State University, Malolos City.

Eric B. Zerrudo is a faculty researcher, and the Director of the Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics, University of Santo Tomas.

The Many Histories of the Nicobar Islands: Role of Coconuts in Contact, Culture, Currency and Commodity

Shaina Sehgal

School of Human Ecology,
Ambedkar University Delhi, India

shaina@aud.ac.in

The Nicobar Islands lie on a sea route from West Asia to South-East Asia with coastlines favourable to navigation under both Northeast and Southwest monsoon winds. Historically, vessels visiting the Nicobars—intentionally or under distress—found safe natural harbours and anchorages, food, freshwater and a coastal-dwelling indigenous community keen on barter, thereby explaining the sporadic mentions of the Nicobar archipelago throughout written history from the 2nd to 17th century CE. Consequently, various islands in the Nicobar archipelago gained prominence chiefly for bartering, as evidenced by the islands' trading of resources derived from Nicobar's forest, their plantation and marine ecological produce, along with the Nicobar's possession of metal implements and European commodities that were impossible to produce with the island's ecological resources alone. In the 17th-18th century, the Nicobars came to be coveted by various trading companies and European colonial governments with the object of creating settlements.

Using archival and field based ethnography, I re-examine the history of India's Nicobar archipelago as an interplay of ecological and social actors to understand the factors shaping life, livelihood and identity in the Nicobar Islands. The ecological processes underlying the origin of local ecological produce is enmeshed the social phenomena of its creation and collection, using various technologies and knowledges. Trade therefore is a useful entry point to understand the long and varied history of relationships between the Nicobarese and their island surroundings. In addition, the present day trade in coconuts explains the current way of life, livelihoods and culture of the distinct communities in the islands; including the Nicobari tribes and diverse groups resettled from the mainland by the state since the 1960s. These two distinct production systems are emblematic of distinct engagements with the island ecology, which could explain their persistence despite being materially affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 and subsequent redevelopment of the region.

Shaina Sehgal is a PhD Candidate at the School of Human Ecology, Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), India. Her doctoral thesis examines the emergence and social-ecological implications of trade in ecological produce at the Nicobar Islands, India using a mixed methods approach. Shaina has participated in interdisciplinary research projects and teaching at Ambedkar University Delhi since 2012, including a project on the ecological restoration of degraded iron ore mines in Odisha, India for India's largest Steel producer, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). She most recently taught an introductory course on Environment, Ecology and Development at the School of Design, AUD.

About the Roundtable Panelists and Organisers

Creighton Connolly is Lecturer in Development Studies and the Global South with the University of Lincoln, UK. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. He is an urban and cultural geographer, whose research focuses primarily on contestations over urban (re)development, and environmental governance in Peninsular Malaysia. Creighton received his PhD in Geography from the University of Manchester in June, 2016, where he was a member of the European Network of Political Ecology (ENTITLE). His PhD thesis, *A Landscape Political Ecology of 'Swiftlet Farming' in Malaysian Cities* examined the contested emergence of urban swiftlet farming (cultivation of edible birds' nests) in Malaysian cities, and the socio-ecological transformations involved. Creighton's previous MA research was conducted at the Memorial University of Newfoundland which focused on Singapore's role in the global trade and traffic in electronic waste (e-waste). He has published this work in various journals, including the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* (IJURR), *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, *Journal of Political Ecology*, *Cultural Geographies* and *Geoforum*. Creighton's work is participatory in nature, developed in collaboration with local actors, which aims to have policy as well as social implications.

Hamzah Muzaini is a cultural and historical geographer with strong interests in social and spatial theory particularly as applied to heritage, memory and remembrance. His primary research area centres on how heritage associated with the Second World War is currently (and historically) commemorated in Singapore and Malaysia, although he has also published on backpacking and 'dark tourism' in Southeast Asia, international peace and heritage museums, Singapore's transborder geographies and histories, and 'new nature' in the Netherlands. His current research looks at the phenomenon of 'heritage from below' or forms of (non-state) memory and heritage produced and consumed on the ground or within more intimate spaces that are not highly visible and so very much at risk. This will be empirically accomplished through his (field)work on/with war memoryscapes and cultural theme parks within the region, as well as migrant Southeast Asian communities in Europe and elsewhere. Hamzah received his PhD in Human Geography in 2009 from Durham University (UK). He was a heritage consultant, licensed tour guide and curator of the Changi Chapel and Museum

(Singapore), Research Associate at Durham University (UK), Visiting Fellow at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore (NUS), and, until recently, Assistant Professor with the Cultural Geography chair group of Wageningen University (the Netherlands). Dr Hamzah joined the Southeast Asian Studies Department family at NUS in August 2016 and has been teaching courses related to Southeast Asian heritage, vice, and socio-cultural landscapes in Southeast Asia. He is co-author of *Contested Memoryscapes: The Politics of Second World War Commemoration in Singapore* (2016, Routledge) and *After Heritage: Critical Perspectives of Heritage from Below* (2018, Edward Elgar).

Trained as an urban sociologist at the University of Chicago, Associate Professor **Ho Kong Chong's** research interests are neighbourhood and community development, heritage and place-making, the political economy of cities as well as a more recent interest in higher education. Much of his published work is on East (Hong Kong, Seoul and Taipei) and Southeast Asian (Bangkok and Singapore) cities. Recent publications include "The Neighbourhood Roots of Social Cohesion: Notes on An Exceptional Case of Singapore" *Environment and Planning C* (2018, with Vincent Chua) "The Cultivation of Research Labour in Pacific Asia" *Asia Pacific Education Review* (2018, with Ge Yun) and "Discrepant Knowledge and InterAsian Mobilities: unlikely movements, uncertain futures" *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education* (2018, with Francis Collins). Forthcoming publication include *Neighbourhoods for the City in Pacific Asia* with the University of Amsterdam Press (2019).

Sonia Lam-Knott was Postdoctoral Fellow of the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore. She is a sociocultural and urban anthropologist, and was awarded a doctorate in Anthropology from the University of Oxford for her research on youth activism in Hong Kong, which looks at the emergent political subjectivities and the changes in state-civil society relations in the contemporary era. Her current research explores the socio-political ambiguities in post-1997 Hong Kong, viewed through the lens of heritage politics, nostalgia, and the vernacular city. Her work has been published in *Asian Anthropology*, *Anthropology Matters*, and *Urban Studies*.

Rita Padawangi is Senior Lecturer at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. Previously, she was Senior Research Fellow of the Asian Urbanisms cluster at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS). She received her PhD in sociology from Loyola University Chicago, where she was also a Fulbright Scholar for her Master of Arts studies. She holds a bachelor of architecture degree from the Parahyangan Catholic University. Her research interests include the sociology of architecture and participatory urban development. She is a member of the collaborative Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network (SEANNET), a four-year initiative for urban studies research, teaching and dissemination through the prism of the neighborhood, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation through the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS). Her recent publications include *Routledge Handbook of Urbanization in South East Asia* (Routledge, 2018) and *Cities in Asia by and for the People*, University of Amsterdam Press (2018, with Yves Cabannes and Mike Douglass). She can be reached at ritapadawangi@suss.edu.sg

prep-room

Sites, Stories and Subsequence



NUS MUSEUM

Free Admission

Starts on 26 Apr 2019

Ends on 31 Dec 2019

S T Lee Atrium, NUS Museum

Sites, Stories and Subsequence is a prep-room project with Asia Research Institute that excavates, assembles and envisages the complex physical and immaterial tapestries of the Southern Islands, with a specific focus on St John's and Lazarus Islands, formerly known as *Pulau Sekijang Bendera/Besar* and *Pulau Sekijang Pelepah/Kechil*, as well as *Seringat Island*. Drawing on archival research, oral history interviews, and surveys of its current uses, the project attempts to consolidate knowledge on the islands. This current iteration surveys what could be missing in the consciousness of these islands, and redefines the shifts that are found in its names and functions, thereby furnishing the lacuna present in contemporary understandings of their culture and history. With only vestiges of the islands' former features and attendant narratives existing presently, the repository of research and memories in the prep-room also informs its further function of providing prompts for re-imaginings of the Southern Islands' future potentials.

About the team

Consisting of six researchers led by principal investigator Dr Hamzah Muzaini from the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore, the prep-room in the NUS Museum was conceived in conjunction with the team's ongoing ARI project entitled *Mapping the Southern Islands' Heritage Landscape: Integrating Culture and Nature in Heritage Conservation*. Funded by the National Heritage Board, the team seeks to develop a holistic picture of heritage landscapes in Singapore, with its specific interest in the Southern Islands potentially framing future developments.

About prep-room DRILLS

prep-room DRILLS is a series of public presentations of ongoing research and studio works by invited practitioners and researchers. Invited to work around the open-ended framework of the NUS Museum's *prep-room*, the collaborators engage with the framework of the prep-room and its features to interpose objects within the permanent collection or research trajectories of the NUS Museum. DRILLS introduces many explicit and tacit modes of working by the artists and researchers within the context of a university museum.

Supported by: National Heritage Board & Asia Research Institute (NUS)

Image: Cordoned off housing quarters on St. John's Island. Its roof was removed and walls partially demolished when asbestos was found in some of the structures at the beginning of last year. Taken during the ARI team's third field trip on 8 November 2018. Image courtesy of Grace Chong.