

Prof Tim BUNNELL

TIM BUNNELL – Department of Geography

Education

- Ph.D (Geography) University of Nottingham, UK
 - B.A. Hons (Geography) University of Nottingham, UK
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Professional Experience (most recent to oldest)

- 2019-25 Director, Asia Research Institute, NUS
 - 2018- Professor, Department of Geography, NUS
 - 2006-2018 Associate Professor, Department of Geography, NUS
 - 2000-2006 Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, NUS
 - 1999-2000 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Geography, NUS
 - 1998-1999 Research Associate, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, UK
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Research Area/Topic/Discipline

- Urban development in Southeast Asia
 - Malay mobilities and transnational urban linkages
 - Relational conceptions of place and landscape
 - Postcolonial urbanism
 - Inter-Asia urban aspirations and futurity
 - Comparative urban studies
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Short Biography

Tim Bunnell is professor of geography and research leader of the Asian Urbanism cluster at the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore. His research concerns human geographies of urban development in Southeast Asia, focusing mostly on cities in Malaysia and Indonesia. He also has longstanding research interest in inter-urban connections between Southeast Asia and other regions of the world. Tim is currently involved in a Singapore Ministry of Education-funded comparative research project on Putrajaya, Nusantara (the planned new capital of Indonesia), and Singapore as "capitals of the future". He served as Director of ARI between 2019 and 2025.

Publications

Books

- 2016 *From World City to the World in One City: Liverpool Through Malay Lives*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell.
- 2004 *Malaysia, Modernity and the Multimedia Super Corridor: A Critical Geography of Intelligent Landscapes*. London: RoutledgeCurzon.

Refereed Articles (recent selected)

- 2025 'Ecotopian imaginations, urban densities and the dispersal of affect in new cities in Southeast Asia', *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* (online early) [with D.P.S. Goh]
- 2025 'The citizen and the smart city: a global comparison of institutional logics', *Urban Geography* (online early) [with Z. Spicer, B. Miller et al.]
- 2024 'National sovereignty across city networks: Singapore and the diplomacy of a global city-state', *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space* 42(4): 1170-1186 [with Ricardo Martinez]
- 2024 'Insourcing the smart city: assembling an ideo-technical ecosystem of skills, talent, and civic-mindedness in Singapore', *Urban Geography* 45(5): 735-754 [with O. Wood and L. Kong]
- 2023 'Re-engaging the future for (more) human geographies of the future', *Geography Compass* 17(1): e12673 [with H. Ng and S.J.I. Yeo]
- 2022 'Points of persuasion: Truth spots in future development', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 40(6): 1082-1099 [with M. Aung-Thwin, J. Clendenning, D.P.S. Goh and N.R. Smith]
- 2022 'Where is the future? Geography, Expectation and Experience across three decades of Malaysia's Vision 2020,' *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 46(5): 885-895.
- 2022 'Geographies of ruralization', *Dialogues in Human Geography* 12(2): 186-203 [with J. Gillen and J. Rigg]
- 2021 'Productive tensions? The "city" across geographies of planetary urbanization and the urban age', *Urban Geography* 42(7): 1011-1022 [with Ricardo Martinez and Michele Acuto]

Edited Journal Special Issue (selected)

- 2015 'Doing Asian Cities', *Ethnography* 16(3) [with D. Goh and P. van der Veer]
- 2013 'Decentralised Governance and Urban Change in Asia', *Pacific Affairs* 86 (4) [with Michelle Miller]

- 2013 'Recentering Southeast Asian Cities', *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37(3) [with D. Goh]
- 2012 'Re-viewing Informality: Perspectives from Urban Asia', *International Development Planning Review* 34(4) [with A. Harris]
- 2012 'Global urban frontiers? Asian cities in theory, practice and imagination', *Urban Studies* 49(13) [with D. Goh, C.K. Lai and C.P. Pow]
- 2006 'Re-mapping the "Growth Triangle": Singapore's cross-border hinterland', *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 47(2). [with C. Grundy-Warr and J.D. Sidaway]

Edited Books

- 2018 *Urban Asias: Essays on futurity past and present*. Berlin: Jovis. [co-editor with D.P.S. Goh]
- 2014 *Asian Cities in an Era of Decentralisation*. Abingdon: Routledge. [co-editor with Michelle Ann Miller]
- 2013 *Cleavage, Connection and Conflict in Rural, Urban and Contemporary Asia*. Dordrecht: ARI – Springer Asia Series. [co-editor, with D. Parthasarathy and E.C. Thompson]
- 2002 *Critical Reflections on Cities in Southeast Asia*. Singapore: Times Academic Press. [co-editor, with L.B.W. Drummond and K.C. Ho]

Awards/Grants (selected)

- 2026-2028 S\$150,000 as PI, *Urban Food Commoning and Futuring in Singapore* (Singapore Ministry of Education, AcRF Tier 1)
- 2023-2026 S\$859,649 as co-PI, *Capitals of the Future: Place, Power and Possibility in Southeast Asia* (Singapore Ministry of Education's Academic Research Fund, AcRF Tier 2)
- 2020-2023 CAD\$200,000 as co-applicant, *Smart Cities in Global Comparative Perspective: Worlding and Provincializing Relationships* (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Partnership Development Grant)
- 2015 *Urban Studies* best article prize, 2015.
- 2013-2016 S\$ 509,997 grant as principal investigator, *Aspirations, Urban Governance, and the remaking of Asian cities* (Singapore Ministry of Education's Academic Research Fund, AcRF Tier 2)