

Dr Hema KIRUPPALINI

Education

- PhD (History), National University of Singapore
 - Master of Arts (South Asian Studies), NUS
 - BA (Hons) History, NUS
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Professional Experience

JULY 2022 - PRESENT

Research Fellow, Inter-Asia Engagements, Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS

- Core research team member - MOE Tier-2 Grant: 'Archiving the Underclasses: Knowledge, Law and Everyday Agency in Modern Southeast Asia'. PI: A/P Mairii Victoriano Aung-Thwin

OCTOBER 2010 - OCTOBER 2013

Research Associate, Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), NUS

- Core research team member (with Prof Peter Reeves and A/P Rajesh Rai) involved in managing and editing a book volume – *The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora* (2013)
- Appointed as a Special Rapporteur in April 2011 for the inaugural 'India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue' held in New Delhi and led by Professor Tommy Koh
- Appointed as Research Secretary for the 'Diaspora Cluster'
- MAY 2006 - AUGUST 2006, Research Internship

Teaching Assistant, NUS

2018-2019 - Department of History, SSA2221: Popular Culture in Singapore

2016 - South Asian Studies Programme, GES1007/SSA2219: South Asia in Singapore

2009-2010 - South Asian Studies Programme, SN1101E: People, Culture and Society

Ministry of Education (MOE)

- JANUARY - APRIL 2009 – Research consultant, book project (*Timeless treasures*)
- 2003 – 2009 - Relief teacher, Singapore, Ad-hoc basis

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2007

English teacher for foreign students, Westminster School

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

Migration; transnationalism; soldiering; labour mobility; ethnic minorities; war and society; gender; race, citizenship and belonging; colonial knowledge production; research methods; South Asia; Himalayas; inter-Asia

Short Biography

Dr Hema Kiruppalini is a Research Fellow with the Inter-Asia Engagements Cluster at ARI. She is a historian with research interest on trans-regional migration within the context of South Asia and Southeast Asia. Her research delves into critical questions related to empire, race, gender, soldiering, and socio-cultural histories. Dr Kiruppalini's research focus on the trans-Himalayan region and its connections to Southeast Asia sheds light on the understudied linkages within and between the region(s). Her doctoral dissertation, which focused on reconstructing the social worlds and transnational history of Nepali Gurkha families in Asia, has received scholarly accolades such as the BNAC PhD Dissertation Prize and the Craig A. Lockard Prize for Best Journal, among others. Prior to her current position at ARI, she served as a Research Associate at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) where she gained valuable experience. Currently, at ARI, she is working collaboratively with a research team on the project – *Archiving the Underclasses: Knowledge, Law, and Everyday Agency in Modern Southeast Asia* – which seeks to yield insights into the lives of marginalised communities in the region.

Publications

Book

- Siglap at the Crossroads: Memories of its only HDB estate* (with Mindy Tan), Ethos Books, 2018.
- 2022: Featured in the exhibition of the Changi Precinct in Singapore
 - 2019: Conducted a walking tour around Siglap in collaboration with NHB and Ethos books

Refereed Articles

- 'Imperial Inheritance: The Transnational Lives of Gurkha Families in Asian contexts, 1948-1971', *Modern Asian Studies*, 57:2 (March 2023), pp.669-690 (online first November 2022).
- Winner, Craig A. Lockard Prize for Best Journal 2022

'From Sentries to Skilled Migrants: The Transitory Residence of the Nepali Community in Singapore'. *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research (EBHR)*, Number 40: 59-82, 2012.

Edited Book

The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora (with Peter Reeves and Rajesh Rai). Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS. Editions Didier Millet, 2013.

Book Chapters

"Scotsmen of the East": Ceylon Tamils in Singapore.' In Arun Mahizhnan and Nalina Gopal, eds., *Sojourners to Settlers: Tamils in Southeast Asia*, Institute of Policy Studies and Indian Heritage Centre, Singapore, 2019.

"Riots, 'Residence' and Repatriation: The Singapore Gurkhas." In Tanka Subha and A.C. Sinha, eds., *Nepali Diaspora in a Globalised Era*, pp.259-271. Routledge India, 2016.

"Singapore." In Peter Reeves, Rajesh Rai and Hema Kiruppalini, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora*, pp.85-93. Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS. Editions Didier Millet, 2013.

"Introduction" (with Gopinath Pillai). In Gopinath Pillai, ed., *The Political Economy of South Asian Diaspora: Patterns of Socio-Economic Influence*, pp.1-6. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

2023	Winner, Craig A. Lockard Prize for Best Journal 2022
2023	Nominee for the Wang Gungwu Medal and Prize - Best PhD Dissertation
2023	Longlisted, Best Dissertation in the Humanities, ICAS (International Consortium of Asian Scholars)
2023	ARI-FASS Book Manuscript Workshop Grant
2022	Winner, BNAC PhD Dissertation Prize
2017-2021	President's Graduate Fellowship, NUS
2008-2010	NUS Research Scholarship

Conferences, masterclasses and workshops (selected) By invitation

- 2023 'Archival research processes: Ethnographies and experiences', Methodology Masterclass, *18th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies*, ARI, NUS, 14 June.
- 2021/2022 'Oral history as method: documenting the transnational lives of British Gurkha families in Asia', guest lecture, NUS History module, *Theory and Practice of Oral History*.
- 2019 'Scotsmen of the East: The Ceylon Tamils of Singapore', paper presenter, Conference: *Sojourners to Settlers: Tamils in Southeast Asia*, IPS-IHC, Singapore, 7 December.
- 2019 'Colonialism: historicizing the subaltern', discussant, *Annual Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya*, Social Science Baha, Kathmandu, Nepal, 24-26 July.
- 2011 'Riots, 'Residence' and Repatriation: The Singapore Gurkhas', paper presenter, Conference: *Nepali Diaspora in a Globalised Context*, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, 28 -30 November.

Workshops/conference panels organised

- 2024 'In service of security: The gendered politics and everyday experiences of military labour across Asia', ARI workshop, main organiser (with Sahana Ghosh), 25-26 January.
- 2023 ARI-FASS Book Manuscript workshop on my forthcoming monograph, 13-14 July.
- 2023 "Girls sold like cattle": *Mui tsais* and the making of a female underclass in the Straits Settlements', Panel Organizer of 'Gender, law and human trafficking: Female servitude in colonial Southeast Asia', *Association for Asian Studies (AAS)*, 17-18 Feb, Virtual
- 2012 'Engagement with the lion city: repatriated Singapore Gurkhas', paper presenter and co-organiser (with Mizanur Rahman and Mamta Sachan Kumar), ISAS Workshop, *Diaspora and Development: South Asian Diaspora Engagement in South Asia*, 25-26 September.

Papers presented (latest)

- 2023 "Slaves' to tradition: Gender, law, and female child servitude in colonial Singapore,' ARI workshop, *Underclasses and the Law in Southeast Asia: Epistemologies and Experiences*, 3-4 August.
- 2022 'They too served: Nepali women and children of the Gurkha regiment in Asia', BNAC *Nepal Study Days*, University of Oxford, 13-14 April.