

Mr Benjamin KHOO

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Education

- MA (Colonial and Global History) Leiden University
- BA (History and European Studies) (Honours) National University of Singapore

Professional Experience

JULY 2022 – PRESENT

Research Associate (Communications)

- Coordinator and Editor for ARIscope, the Asia Research Institute's academic platform and publication page.
- Journal coordination for Asian Population Studies (APS).
- Media monitoring, social media and brand management, providing support for media outreach opportunities across the Institute's communication channels.
- Supporting efforts to increase traffic to website, events, and academic workshops and analysing appropriate social media metrics and analysis, with implementation of insights to improve performance and outreach.
- Researching and creation of engaging media content and collateral materials for digital platforms in line with the Asia Research Institute's objectives and communications strategy.
- Lead for Asia Research institute's website revamp, including the implementation of design enhancements, and the coordination with web developers and engineers to improve website usability and user experience as well as user interactions.

SEPTEMBER 2021 – JUNE 2022

Research Associate, Institute of Southeast Asia Studies–Yusof Ishak Institute

- Assistant Editor for the Temasek Working Paper Series.
- Social media and brand management, including the monitoring of media coverage of the Temasek History Research Centre. Supporting efforts to increase traffic to website, events, and academic workshops and analysing appropriate social media metrics and analysis, with implementation of insights to improve performance and outreach.
- Research on Singapore's history in the eighteenth century through Dutch archival sources
- Assisted in the coordination and editing of the book publication for an ISEAS publication on the shipwrecks in Singapore waters, including a book chapter contribution.
- Assisted in the video coordination and production of the Archaeology and Art History Webinar Series by the Temasek History Research Centre.
- Drafted article for publication for the Temasek Working Paper Series.
- Assisted in the production of Info-cards on historical artefacts in Singapore to be used as teaching materials.

FEBRUARY 2021 – FEBRUARY 2022

Researcher and Project Manager, Singapore Heritage Society

- Principal Researcher for National Heritage Board Grant (HRG-043) looking into Dutch sources surrounding Singapore's founding after the Anglo-Dutch Treaty, 1824.
- Managing and coordinating administrative matters for the grant, including keeping the project on task, creating Gantt charts to measure deliverables, liaising with research assistants and associates overseas, and providing general assistance to the research team, alongside preparing the research materials for publication.
- Transcribed and translated key documents from early nineteenth century related to Singapore as well as diplomatic negotiations between the court of Riau and the Dutch.
- Organised and presented at two public talks – one as a seminar for undergraduate and the other as part of the Malay Heritage Centre *Cerita Kita* Series.

OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

Research Fellow, National Library Board

- Conducted a systematic review on early modern European materials in the National Library's collection.
- Conducted research into the Circulation of Knowledge on Singapore and its Straits before the modern era through the library's special collection.
- Gave two talks regarding knowledge about Singapore among the European reading public before 1819.
- Wrote two *BiblioAsia* articles as well as a contribution to Chapters on Asia.

FEBRUARY 2020 – OCTOBER 2020

Research Assistant, National University of Singapore

- Conducted systematic literature review.
- Research and editing for the Singapore History Anthology Project (SHAP).
- Drafted several articles with PI for publication.

JULY 2017 – JULY 2018

Research Assistant, National University of Singapore

- Conducted systematic literature review.
- Research and editing for the Singapore History Anthology Project (SHAP).
- Drafted several articles with PI for publication.

JUNE 2015 – JULY 2015

Intern, Singapore Book Publishers' Association

- Exposure to digital marketing, sales processes, client management, event-planning, data-entry, and general editorial work

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

Early Modern Diplomacy
Dutch East India Company (VOC)
Golkonda and Coromandel
Singora

Short Biography

Benjamin J.Q. Khoo is a Research Associate (Communications) in the Asia Research Institute. He manages ARI's communication channels and coordinates ARIscope. He is also a historian researching on diplomacy in early modern Asia and has several publications on Singapore's history before 1819.

Publications

Books

B.J.Q. Khoo and P. Borschberg (2023). *Knowing Singapore*. Singapore: MBRAS.
P. Borschberg, B.J.Q. Khoo, and Kwa C.G. (TBD). *Archiving Singapore before 1800*. Singapore: NUS Press.

P. Borschberg, Kwa C.G. with B.J.Q. Khoo, and Xu S.W. (2018). *Studying Singapore before 1800*. Singapore: NUS Press.

Refereed Articles

B.J.Q. Khoo (TBD). "Approaching Singapore's History in the 18th century", *Temasek History Working Paper Series*.

B.J.Q. Khoo, P. Borschberg (2022). "Compendia Entries on Singapore and the Straits Region from the 16th to the Early 19th Century", *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 95, 1: 1–33.

B.J.Q. Khoo, P. Borschberg (2021). "References to Singapore and its Straits from the 16th to the Early 19th Century", *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 94, 2: 67–95.
P. Borschberg, B.J.Q. Khoo (2018). "Singapore as a Port City, c. 1290–1819", *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 91, 1: 1–27.

Book Chapters

B.J.Q. Khoo (2022). "The Circulation of Premodern Knowledge of Singapore and its Straits before 1819" in *Chapters on Asia: Selected papers from the Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship* (2021). Singapore: National Library Board, pp. 7–33.

B.J.Q. Khoo (TBD). "Singapore's Waterways before the Modern Era" in *Shipwrecks and the Maritime History of Singapore* edited by Kwa Chong Guan. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Book Review

B.J.Q. Khoo (2018). "Constructing a German Diaspora, The "Greater German Empire, 1871–1914", *Jahrbuch für Europäische Überseegeschichte*, 18: 271–73.

Other Selected Publications

B.J.Q. Khoo (2022), “A Royal Wedding Gone Wrong: The 1820 Uprising in Riau that brought the Bugis to Singapore” *BiblioAsia*, 18, 2: 4–9.

B.J.Q. Khoo (2021), “Strange and Alternative Visions of Singapore and the Malay Peninsula”, *BiblioAsia* 7, 13: 38–43.

B.J.Q. Khoo (2018), “The Path of the Storms and 14th-Century Singapore”, *Passages* (May): 12–13.

Resource Guide

National Library Resource Guide for Pre-Colonial Singapore (2021)

Blog Contributions

“Diplomacy in Southeast Asia, The Conversation”, International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) (2021) <https://blog.iias.asia/conversation>

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

Heritage Research Grant (HRG-043), National Heritage Board, Singapore (2021)

Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship, National Library Board, Singapore (2020)

Leiden University Excellence Scholarship (LExS), Leiden University (2018)

Cosmopolis Advanced Scholarship, Leiden University (2018)

Van Leur Scholarship, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands (2018)

NUS Awards for Study Abroad (NASA) Scholarship, National University of Singapore (2015)