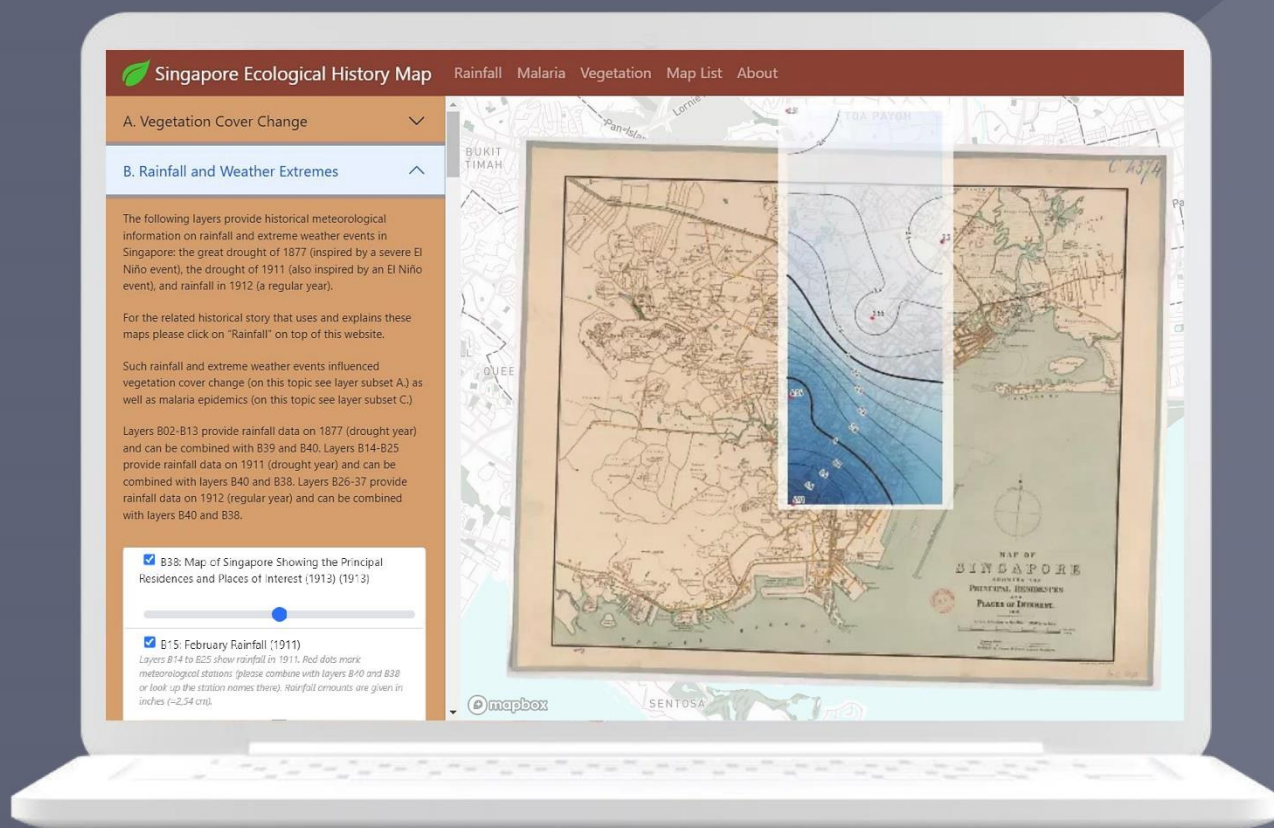


ONLINE WORKSHOP

# PROGRESS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN SINGAPORE AND ABROAD

24-25 November 2022 | Online via Zoom



For more information, visit [ari.nus.edu.sg](http://ari.nus.edu.sg)

---

**This workshop is organized by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS); with support from Yale-NUS College, and funded by the Singapore Social Science Research Council (SSRTG Type A) project on “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia”.**

Applicable across a wide variety of topics reaching from natural history to medical anthropology, religious practices, and many others, Singapore’s digital humanities landscape is dynamic and ever-changing, with new methods being employed and new fields of application emerging. For example, the digitization of historical materials and collections has fostered the collaboration of researchers across multiple disciplines, encouraging exchange, analysis, visualizations and simulations of new ideas and research. The interdisciplinary focus of this workshop also encourages connections between disciplines that do not typically interact with each other. Therefore, the workshop aims to explore and answer the following questions: Why are the digital humanities necessary and relevant? How can the digital humanities create opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration within Singapore as well as between Singaporean and foreign institutions? What innovations and best practices can be learned from today’s digital humanities landscape in Singapore and abroad? Building on our previous event titled “On Asia: Digitizing and Visualizing Historical Sources”, the workshop aims to further contribute to research and collaborations in the digital humanities landscape locally, strengthen Singapore’s position as a digital humanities hub, and gain inspirations from successfully implemented projects abroad.

#### **WORKSHOP CONVENORS**

**Dr Stefan HUEBNER**

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

**Dr Anthony D. MEDRANO**

Division of Social Sciences, Yale-NUS College

## PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

DATE	TIME (SINGAPORE TIME)	SESSION
24 November 2022 (Thursday)	09:15 – 11:00	Welcome Remarks & Panel 1
	11:30 – 13:00	Panel 2
	15:30 – 16:30	Panel 3
	17:00 – 18:30	Panel 4
25 November 2022 (Friday)	09:30 – 11:00	Panel 5
	11:30 – 13:00	Panel 6
	15:00 – 16:30	Panel 7
	17:00 – 18:15	Panel 8 & Closing Remarks
	18:15 – 18:45	Closed Door Discussion

### 24 NOVEMBER 2022 • THURSDAY

<b>09:15 – 09:30</b>	<b>WELCOME REMARKS</b>	
09:15	<b>TIM BUNNELL</b> , National University of Singapore <b>STEFAN HUEBNER</b> , National University of Singapore <b>ANTHONY D. MEDRANO</b> , Yale-NUS College	
<b>09:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>PANEL 1</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>STEFAN HUEBNER</b> , National University of Singapore	
09:30	<b>ANDREA NANETTI</b> Nanyang Technological University	Computational Engineering of Historical Memories
09:50	<b>RACHEL XIN YI LAM</b> National University of Singapore	Development of a Geovisualization Platform for Analysis of Geospatial Relationships between Established Non-Native Species and Historical Pathways in Singapore
10:10	<b>KWOK-LEONG TANG</b> Harvard University	Digital China Initiative of Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies
10:30	Questions & Answers	
<b>11:00</b>	<b>END OF PANEL</b>	
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>PANEL 2</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>GLADYS LOW</b> , National Library Board	
11:30	<b>CRYSTAL YONG</b> National Library Board	Seeing the Land, Cultivating the Nation: Exploring the Possibilities of Archival Digital Visualisation with Singapore's Agricultural History
11:50	<b>TIN SENG LIM</b> National Library Board	Curiocity: The National Library Board's Experience in Using Open-source Applications to Curate its Digitised Materials
12:10	<b>GAYATHRI GILL</b> National Archives of Singapore	Exploring and Accessing NAS's Digital Offerings
12:30	Questions & Answers	
<b>13:00</b>	<b>END OF PANEL</b>	

<b>15:30 – 16:30</b>	<b>PANEL 3</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>SHERYL TEO</b> , Yale-NUS College	
15:30	<b>DANIEL THAM</b> <b>YEN LIN KONG</b> National Museum of Singapore	Beyond the Frame and between the Lines: Narrating Femininity and History in the Visual and Textual Archives of Wu Sijing
15:50	<b>JANE M. JACOBS</b> <b>RONALD MILNE</b> Yale-NUS College	“Assets”, “Users” and “Experiences”: Reflections on the Development of the Digital Historical Maps of Southeast Asia Platform
16:10	Questions & Answers	
<b>16:30</b>	<b>END OF PANEL</b>	

<b>17:00 – 18:30</b>	<b>PANEL 4</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>ANTHONY D. MEDRANO</b> , Yale-NUS College	
17:00	<b>SAYAN BHATTACHARYYA</b> Yale University	Making Digital Humanities Responsive to the Specificity of Local Experience
17:20	<b>DAVID WHARTON</b> Singapore University of Technology and Design	Manuscripts and Modernity – Experiences from the Lao PDR
17:40	<b>FAIZAH ZAKARIA</b> Nanyang Technological University	Polyglot Medical Heritage: Bringing Malay Medical Manuscripts into Global Databases
18:00	Questions & Answers	
<b>18:30</b>	<b>END OF PANEL</b>	

## 25 NOVEMBER 2022 • FRIDAY

<b>09:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>PANEL 5</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>ELYSIA XIN PEI TOH</b> , Yale-NUS College	
09:30	<b>MIGUEL ESCOBAR VARELA</b> National University of Singapore	Network Analysis, Theatre Research and the Digital Humanities
09:50	<b>BEN BLUMSON</b> National University of Singapore	Computational Methods in Philosophy
10:10	<b>GANESH NEELAKANTA IYER</b> National University of Singapore	Using Disruptive Technologies for Indian Cultural Heritage and Arts
10:30	Questions & Answers	
<b>11:00</b>	<b>END OF PANEL</b>	

<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>PANEL 6</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>TRICIA CHO</b> , National University of Singapore	
11:30	<b>KENNETH DEAN</b> National University of Singapore	The Development of a Collaborative Digital Humanities Research Platform on the Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia
11:50	<b>STEFAN HUEBNER</b> National University of Singapore	Singapore Ecological History Map
12:10	<b>MAITRII V. AUNG-THWIN</b> National University of Singapore	Digital Ethno-history and the Making of a Resistance Archive
12:30	Questions & Answers	
<b>13:00</b>	<b>END OF PANEL</b>	

<b>15:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>PANEL 7</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>MIGUEL ESCOBAR VARELA</b> , National University of Singapore	
15:00	<b>ANTHONY D. MEDRANO</b> Yale-NUS College <b>GAETAN BOISSON</b> <b>GANDHIMATHY DURAIRAJ</b> National University of Singapore	Putting Interdisciplinarity and Sustainable Partnerships at the Heart of Digital Scholarship
15:40	<b>PETER SCHOPPERT</b> National University of Singapore	Publishing for the Digital Humanities: Building a Digital Research Infrastructure
16:00	Questions & Answers	
<b>16:30</b>	<b>END OF PANEL</b>	

<b>17:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>PANEL 8</b>	
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>YUSRI BIN ROSLI</b> , Yale-NUS College	
<i>17:00</i>	<b>YI QIAN CHAN</b> <b>SOFIE ANDAL</b> Yale-NUS College	Dokyu Space: Documenting New Art and Writing about Place-based Histories
<i>17:20</i>	<b>MARTYN E. Y. LOW</b> National University of Singapore	SIGNIFY: A Digital Archive of Singapore’s Historical Biodiversity and Potential Digital Humanities Applications
<i>17:40</i>	Questions & Answers	
<b>18:00 – 18:15</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	
<i>18:00</i>	<b>STEFAN HUEBNER</b> , National University of Singapore <b>ANTHONY D. MEDRANO</b> , Yale-NUS College	
<b>18:15 – 18:45</b>	<b>CLOSED DOOR DISCUSSION – THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES AT NUS</b> (For NUS participants only)	
<b>18:45</b>	<b>END OF WORKSHOP</b>	

---

## Computational Engineering of Historical Memories

**Andrea NANETTI**

Nanyang Technological University  
andrea.nanetti@ntu.edu.sg

---

Historical events are the treasure of human experiences, the heritage that societies have used to remain resilient and express their identities. This presentation shares the interdisciplinary methodology supported by practice-based research created by Andrea Nanetti to serve as a pathway between historical and computer sciences to design and build computational structures that analyse how societies create narratives about historical events. This consilience pathway aims to make historical memory machine understandable. It turns history into a computational discipline through an interdisciplinary blend of philological accuracy, historical scholarship, history-based media projects, and computational tools. Nanetti presents the theory behind this methodology from a humanities perspective and discusses its practical application in user interface and experience.

**Andrea Nanetti** is an award-winning and internationally recognised expert in digital humanities. He has carried out trailblazing research in Europe, the United States, China, Africa, and South-East Asia for over 30 years. Since 2013, he has been Professor at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Using the history of Venice as contextualised within late medieval Afro-Eurasian trade systems, he achieved international standing within a broad research spectrum that spans from critical editions of primary historical sources to computational applications and web-based media. As a result, several world's top-level institutions, including Harvard University, Princeton University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Brown University, Johns Hopkins University, and Ca' Foscari University of Venice, invited him to be a visiting fellow.

---

## **Development of a Geovisualization Platform for Analysis of Geospatial Relationships between Established Non-Native Species and Historical Pathways in Singapore**

**Rachel Xin Yi LAM**

National University of Singapore  
e0798206@u.nus.edu

---

Geographic information systems have vastly improved throughout the years, which gives rise to the possibility to gain insights into spatiotemporal patterns and relations through the richer geographic presentations and multi-modal data handling capabilities. For digital humanity projects in natural history, they provide a means to support interactive exploration through visualizing geographically established non-native species and historical vectors (e.g. climate, land use land cover, and anthropogenic factors), their spatiotemporal patterns, and more importantly, their geographic relationships and patterns from which insights of the non-native species could be provided.

This talk will present a prototype geovisualization platform for the analysis of geospatial relationships between established non-native species and historical vectors in Singapore. specifically, it will demonstrate how features of this platform, such as time-based control, querying, and other analytical capabilities, would facilitate data exploration for its users. The talk will also share briefly the issues encountered in the development of such system, and discuss future development directions.

**Rachel Xin Yi Lam** is presently a research student in Master of Social Sciences in the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore (NUS). She received her bachelor's degree in environmental engineering with a minor in geosciences from NUS in 2018. Prior to joining the master's programme, she worked as an environmentally sustainable design consultant in the built environment industry for close to three years. Her research interests are in the field of geographical information systems and spatial data science, and specifically how geospatial technologies can facilitate gaining insights in the field of environmental history.



---

## Digital China Initiative of Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies

**Kwok-leong TANG**  
Harvard University  
kwokleongtang@fas.harvard.edu

---

The Digital China Initiative is a new initiative of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies to promote the adoption of digital tools and practices in Chinese studies. Harvard University has been a long-term contributor to the digital scholarship of Chinese studies. The China Biographical Database Project (CBDB) and the China Historical Geographic Information System (CHGIS) provide a tremendous amount of data for individual research projects and lay solid foundations for numerous tools and platforms. The Digital China Initiative serves the Chinese studies community by supporting the development of digital tools and platforms, providing training to students and scholars, and conducting international collaboration. In this presentation, Kwok-leong Tang will introduce the history of the Initiative, ongoing projects, and past and future events.

**Kwok-leong Tang** is Digital China Fellow of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies and Lecturer of the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University. He provides support and consultation to anyone interested in adopting digital tools and methods in their research related to Chinese studies. He built and maintained the **International China Studies Events Clearing-house** (<http://clearinghouse.fairbank.fas.harvard.edu/>), a platform for sharing information about Chinese studies-related events. Kwok-leong received his PhD in history and Asian Studies from the Pennsylvania State University, where he worked as a postdoctoral teaching fellow after graduation.

---

## **Seeing the Land, Cultivating the Nation: Exploring the Possibilities of Archival Digital Visualisation with Singapore's Agricultural History**

**Crystal YONG**

National Library Board

crystaljongyh@outlook.com

---

Agriculture in Singapore can be a little-understood subject: Is Singapore's climate ever viable for soil farming? Are there farms in Singapore? Agri-tech in Singapore is a growing multi-billion dollar industry. In our pursuit of technological solutions to agriculture, there is an increasing need to understand the historical context and the issues that we are trying to address in the first place. I present the possibilities of data visualisation using library and archival sources on Singapore's farming history since 1965. Applying data visualisation and storytelling techniques, my team and I explored how data can rejuvenate our understanding of a lesser-known sector, and what that means for civic data in the future.

**Crystal Yong** has a research background in critical agrarian and environmental studies. This project is a culmination of her experiences in agri-sociological scholarship and her professional background in stakeholder intelligence technologies and data visualisation. Professionally, she dabbles in agri-tech ventures and stakeholder intelligence software.

---

## **Curiosity: The National Library Board's Experience in Using Open-source Applications to Curate its Digitised Materials**

**Tin Seng LIM**

National Library Board  
lim\_tin\_seng@nlb.gov.sg

---

This paper takes a step away from the technical aspects of digital humanities such as building databases and harvesting big data. Instead, it looks at how the National Library Board is utilising its existing pool digitised collection by discussing the Curiosity website. Curiosity is one of the storyteller initiatives under the National Library Board's latest five-year roadmap, the Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025 or LAB25. It uses open-source applications to curate its digital collections in order to create interactive digital products. Currently, Story Maps, VR Tours, Resource Timelines and Digital Stories are the main digital products on the website. They tell compelling stories about Singapore, covering topics such as buildings, foods and entertainment. The aim of these products is to make the journey to learn Singapore's history interesting for library users. This is to inspire them to use our digitised collections so that they are aware of what the library has. It is also to motivate them to become storytellers themselves to create and share stories about the country's history using reliable historical sources. To expand the reach of Curiosity, the National Library Board has recently launched new programmes and activities such as Treasure Hunts and showcases together with other government agencies such as the National Heritage Board.

**Tin Seng Lim** is Senior Librarian from the Singapore Southeast Asian Collection of the National Library of Singapore. He specialises in the urban transformation and environmental history of Singapore and is a regular contributor to *Biblioasia* which is the flagship quarterly publication of the National Library Board. He has also published widely academically. His recent publications include *Roots: Tracing Family Histories* (2013), *Harmony and Development: ASEAN-China Relations* (2009), *China's New Social Policy: Initiatives for a Harmonious Society* (2010), as well as an article in *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* titled "The Greening of Singapore: Parks and Roadside Tress from Colonial Rule to the Present" (2018). Finally, Lim Tin Seng is also the creator of "Curiosity", a website of National Library Board that uses place-based digital storytelling tools to curate the collections of the National Library and National Archives of Singapore.

---

## Exploring and Accessing NAS's Digital Offerings

**Gayathri GILL**

National Archives of Singapore

nas@nlb.gov.sg

---

Established by the National Archives and Records Centre Act of 1967, National Archives of Singapore (NAS) is the keeper of records of national or historical significance. The records acquired by the NAS come from both public and private sources, in various mediums and formats, including audiovisual collections, oral history interviews and records from the colonial to the independent Singapore government. This sharing will introduce the Archives Online, the main portal where members of public can explore the rich collections of the NAS, dating back to the times of the Straits Settlements collections in the 19th century. As the main port-of-call for access to archival records, Archives Online has been through some changes, with the main one being in 2019 with the introduction of the e-Request system.

**Gayathri Gill** started her career and first job at the National Archives of Singapore with the Archives Conservation Lab as an Assistant Conservation Officer. She later moved to the Archives Reading Room (ARR) and for the last 10 years she has been leading the frontline team. Together with a team of Assistant Archivists, she oversees the management, operation, and development of ARR. She is passionate about enhancing researchers' experience at the ARR through value added services. Over the years NAS has leveraged on technology as a key driver to progressively transform the environment and improve digital access.

---

## Beyond the Frame and between the Lines: Narrating Femininity and History in the Visual and Textual Archives of Wu Sijing

**Daniel THAM**

National Museum of Singapore  
daniel\_tham@nhb.gov.sg

**Yen Lin KONG**

National Museum of Singapore  
hwenqing56@gmail.com

---

This research project examines the multivalent relationship between vernacular photography, autobiography, and the construction of Singapore's historiography through studying the fascinating intellectual life of Wu Sijing (b.1934), a female Chinese author and photographer.

Largely an autodidact, Sijing came to full force as a writer in the 1990s to 2000s, contributing numerous columns recollecting her memories of wartime and post-war Singapore in the Chinese broadsheets. She later published four anthologies compiling all her essays, two of which were translated to English. Interweaved within is a rich corpus of over hundred photographs contributed by her in the National Museum of Singapore's collections. Of particular interest to this research is also Sijing's creative and conjugal partnership with her husband Huang Dali, and the literary lineage embodied by their son, Hooe Wai, an architect, illustrator and accomplished author in his own right.

Read side by side, image and text collectively present an intricate portrait of personal memory, feminine identity and domestic life against a frenetic societal backdrop marked by sweeping political and economic transformations, lending rich insights into memories and experiences of women in Singapore's nation building era.

This multi-disciplinary study also explores the challenges and contestations amateur photography and literature pose to mainstream 'canons' of knowledge, by unpacking the constructed nature of what constitutes historical evidence, and by extension, how are personal archives constituted and interpreted by institutions.

**Daniel Tham** is Principal Curator (Pre-colonial and Colonial Singapore) at the National Museum of Singapore. He joined the museum as Assistant Curator in 2010, when he curated and set up in the following year the new Goh Seng Choo Gallery featuring the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings. Specialising in paintings, prints and photography, Daniel has curated special exhibitions at the museum like *A Changed World: Singapore Art 1950s-1970s*, and was centrally involved in the revamp of the museum's permanent Singapore History Gallery in 2015. Daniel was the lead curator of *An Old New World: From the East Indies to the Founding of Singapore, 1600s-1819*, a special exhibition commemorating Singapore's bicentennial, and most recently in 2021, *Picturing the Pandemic: A Visual Record of Covid-19 in Singapore*.

**Yen Lin Kong** works in the visual arts sector of Singapore, playing diverse of roles from educator, programme manager, curator to policymaker. During her time with the National Arts Council Singapore (NAC), she led commissioning projects for public art for milestone events like the Singapore Bicentennial (2019), and spearheaded 'Rewritten: The World Ahead of Us' (2020), the council's largest display of public artworks, featuring 14 artists. From 2019 to 2020, she also piloted NAC's inaugural international artist residency partnerships in Yogyakarta and Manila. Aside from her professional practice, Yen Lin is an avid photo researcher, focusing on Singapore's modern photography history from the 1950s to 80s. Having earned her Masters in Asian Art Histories from Lasalle College of the Arts in 2016, she is particularly keen in examining the wider systemic frameworks governing the history of visual culture in Singapore. Topics of interest include the sociopolitical forces which aided photography's rise to prominence as an art form, the applications of vernacular photography, as well as the use of photographic imagery as a means of challenging or reinforcing societal and national perceptions.

---

**“Assets”, “Users” and “Experiences”:  
Reflections on the Development of the Digital Historical Maps of  
Southeast Asia Platform**

**Jane M. JACOBS**

Yale-NUS College

jane.jacobs@yale-nus.edu.sg

**Ronald MILNE**

Yale-NUS College

ronald.milne@yale-nus.edu.sg

---

This paper will offer reflections on the Digital Historical Maps of Southeast Asia Platform (<https://historicalmaps.yale-nus.edu.sg/>), which is the culmination of a Singapore Ministry of Education Social Science Research Thematic Grant. That project sought to build digital humanities capacities in Yale-NUS College and NUS more broadly. The platform focused on using the IIIF (International Interoperability Image Framework) to gain access to pre-1900 maps of Southeast Asia. It then enhanced their discoverability through metadata elaboration and user-linked design. The paper will showcase and demonstrate the platform and offer reflections on the challenges and opportunities of digital humanities.

**Jane M. Jacobs** (BA (Hons), MA, PhD, CFBA) is Professor of Urban Studies at Yale-NUS College and Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. Her training is in cultural geography and she has published on postcolonial geographies and histories, history of cartography, the relationship between architecture and society, and the politics of heritage. She is the author of numerous books, including *Edge of Empire: Postcolonialism and the City* (1996), *Cities of Difference* (1998), and *Buildings Must Die: A Perverse View of Architecture* (2014). She was Principal Investigator for the Ministry of Education-funded Digital Historical Maps of Southeast Asia project, which developed an online platform of pre-1900 maps of Southeast Asia.

**Ronald Milne** holds an MA in Library and Information Studies (University of London), as well as an MA Honours in German from the University of Edinburgh and an MA from the University of Oxford. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Mr Milne has more than 35 years of working experience and currently serves as Dean of Educational Resources and Technology at Yale-NUS College. Much of Dean Ronald Milne’s career has been spent working in research libraries with significant holdings of documentary heritage collections. Immediately prior to joining Yale-NUS, Dean Milne was George Lyndon Hicks Fellow with the National Library of Singapore, where he developed a framework for the development of Singapore and Southeast Asia collections. Prior to this, he held leadership roles at the New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage; the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand; Oxford University Library Services (now the Bodleian Libraries) and the British Library.

---

## Digital Approaches for Difficult Times?: Qualitative Interviewing during the Pandemic

**Yasmin Y. ORTIGA**

Singapore Management University  
yasmino@smu.edu.sg

---

Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed qualitative researchers to seek alternative ways to document and examine people's experiences and perspectives. An increasing number of scholars have written on the potential of digital tools in performing in-depth interviews – a method that relies heavily on in-person interactions. Yet, in most of these reflections, researchers have mainly focused on how specific types of online platforms can impact rapport and the data that emerges from these interactions. Often missing are questions of whether these tools can help researchers navigate the physical and technological constraints that their participants might face. This presentation is based on my experience of leading a research project on Filipino would-be migrant workers who had been stranded in the Philippines during the pandemic. I share how our research team brought together different technologies (Facebook groups, Viber, and mobile banking) to recruit, organize, and conduct our interviews for participants who had poor internet connectivity, limited knowledge of online platforms like Zoom, and few opportunities to leave their homes. While qualitative researchers have often referred to digital approaches as “less than ideal,” I discuss how these tools served as important means of accessing research participants, in a time when few other researchers were able to do so. I also reflect on how using digital methods can go beyond developing new tools to apply in new ways. Rather, innovation may emerge from combining widely available technologies to work around difficult contexts.

**Yasmin Y. Ortiga** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Singapore Management University. She studies how the social construction of “skill” shapes people's migration trajectories, changing institutions within both the countries that send migrants, as well as those that receive them. In 2019, she received the National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. She recently published a book, *Emigration, Employability, and Higher Education in the Philippines* (Routledge). Her work has also been published in *Global Networks*, *International Migration Review*, and *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*.

---

## Making Digital Humanities Responsive to the Specificity of Local Experience

**Sayan BHATTACHARYYA**  
Yale University  
sayan.bhattacharyya@yale.edu

---

An overall goal of contemporary humanistic pedagogy is to help make students connect the “great questions” of human life to the specificity of their lived experience through situated learning that engages with the local, rather than stage the humanities as a confrontation with generalities and abstractions that stand outside time and place. DH, with its investment in the computational as the dominant paradigm for processing and the digital as the normative code for exchange, tends to have a bias towards universalist, and even homogenizing, forms of representation. While this tendency might suggest an uneasy relationship with the pedagogical focus on valorizing locality and specificity, I show how to achieve a pedagogical rapprochement between the universalist impulse of DH on one hand, and the emphasis on the specific and the particular that the humanities traditionally emphasize, on the other hand — not just in terms of specific content to analyze with DH methods, but also at the level of principles. The presentation draws upon my experience of designing and/or teaching courses as part of Digital Humanities curricula, including within formal undergraduate “DH minor” concentrations, both for a university in Singapore (the Singapore University of Technology and Design) and for universities in the USA (University of Pennsylvania, the University of California, Berkeley, and Yale University). The presentation will be comparative, describing how differences in institutional contexts, cultural backgrounds of students and academic expectations about the disciplinary role of DH within the overall courses of study that students pursue, have shaped my approaches.

**Sayan Bhattacharyya** is Lecturer in Digital Humanities, and Associate Research Scholar in the Program in Humanities, Yale University. Before joining Yale in 2022, he taught at the Singapore University of Technology and Design for four years, subsequent to completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Price Lab for Digital Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. His teaching and research interests are transdisciplinary across humanities and the sciences, especially the computational disciplines. In his pedagogy, he aims to make his students aware of the tropes and patterns that unite the humanities and the sciences and those that also distinguish and divide them. His most recent work has appeared as chapters in two edited volumes, *Global Debates in the Digital Humanities* and *The Digital Black Atlantic*, both published by the University of Minnesota Press. His PhD was in comparative literature from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and he holds an M.S. degree in computer science and engineering, also from the University of Michigan; his bachelor’s degree, in engineering, was from Jadavpur University in Calcutta, India.



---

## Manuscripts and Modernity – Experiences from the Lao PDR

**David WHARTON**

Singapore University of Technology and Design

davidwharton.lao@gmail.com

---

The rich manuscript literatures and related traditions of the Lao PDR were a significant part of its cultural heritage for over 500 years before becoming critically endangered in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. While this change is partly due to the influence of modern media in Lao society, recent interventions have also made use of modern technologies in response to the situation, such as the digitisation and internet presentation of manuscripts, the digital documentation of cultural practices, and the initial development of a national database of manuscript cultures to be used as a foundation for future preservation and research efforts. Several questions arise when using digital technologies within an endangered culture rather than within a library or museum setting, and there are significant gaps to be bridged between traditional and modern cultures, media, technologies, and age-groups.

While most traditional manuscript cultures seem destined to become ‘extinct in the wild,’ will they survive in digital formats? Can they be made accessible for others to appreciate online in a way that at the same time benefits the local cultures themselves? This presentation will examine some of the lessons learned on the interface between tradition and modernity within the Lao context and question how to bridge the gap between old and new cultures in ways that may also enhance and sustain local traditions rather than simply extracting selected elements for digital preservation or for use in modern formats.

**David Wharton** is currently a research fellow in Theravada Buddhist Studies at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). He has worked on the manuscript cultures of mainland Southeast Asia for the past 20 years, including large digital repositories of Lao and Northern Thai manuscripts. Before moving to Singapore, his most recent projects involved the audio and audio-visual documentation of endangered manuscript cultures in Laos and a survey and database to support local preservation efforts.

---

## **Polyglot Medical Heritage: Bringing Malay Medical Manuscripts into Global Databases**

**Faizah Zakaria**

Nanyang Technological University

faizahz@ntu.edu.sg

---

The project “Polyglot Medical Heritage in Maritime Southeast Asia: Foundational Resources and Digital Tools” investigates the intersection of traditional medical systems in the region and medical languages. Sponsored by the National Heritage Board, it is helmed by Michael Stanley-Baker, Faizah Zakaria and Francesco Perono-Cacciafoco, specializing in Chinese, Malay and Abui respectively. It synthesizes Malay, Chinese and Abui medical histories from the Southeast Asian region that has hitherto been studied separately to illuminate the polyglot character of medical traditions in Singapore and its maritime neighbours.

In this paper, I present some insights and challenges in transliterating, translating and processing 19<sup>th</sup> century Malay medical manuscripts into segmented, searchable texts that can be brought into comparative inquiry with texts from other languages. On behalf of the team, I highlight some of the tools that have been formulated by our research team to facilitate this process, including a Jawi-Malay transliterator and the Malay botanical entries incorporated into the Medicinal Plant Name Services at Kew Gardens. The presentation will then discuss the issue of comparability across medical traditions, in particular the vexed position of ‘magic’ and the translatability of ‘magical remedies’ into different medical contexts.

**Faizah Zakaria** holds a PhD in History from Yale University and an MA in Southeast Asian Studies from the National University of Singapore. Her scholarship centers on religion and ecology in maritime Southeast Asia. Her book, titled *The Camphor Tree and the Elephant: Religion and Ecological Change in Maritime Southeast Asia* is forthcoming in January 2023. In Nanyang Technological University, she teaches courses on the Muslim World, the Malay World, heritage medicine and environmental history. She is the co-coordinator of the school's Southeast Asian Studies research cluster and a member of the Environmental Humanities as well as Religion, Society and Trust research clusters.

---

## Network Analysis, Theatre Research and the Digital Humanities

**Miguel Escobar VARELA**

National University of Singapore

m.escobar@nus.edu.sg

---

Networks are mathematical models of reality which are well suited to represent connections and collaborations. In this talk, I explain how we can model two aspects of Southeast Asian theatres as data. Using examples from Singapore and Indonesia, I show how we can represent cultural phenomena ranging from oral literary traditions to artistic collaborations as networks. Interactive versions of these networks can provide new avenues for exploring an aspect of a cultural phenomenon. For example, we can use a network visualization of the storyworld of Javanese *wayang kulit* (puppet theatre) as a way to organize a data-driven encyclopedia of its main characters and stories. However, network analysis also provides a wide range of quantitative metrics that can characterize networks as they change over time. For example, we can explore how theatre companies, such as the Singapore-based The Necessary Stage, grow over time, and how they respond to internal changes in the collaborative strategy of a company. In this talk, I will explain the main tenets of network analysis for the digital humanities, describe a few case studies and close with a reflection on what this might imply for other areas of inquiry.

**Miguel Escobar Varela** is a theatre scholar, web developer and translator. His main interests are the digital humanities and the performing arts of Southeast Asia (primarily Indonesia). In his research, he aims to combine ethnographic and computational methods to study theatre performances. He directs the Contemporary Wayang Archive (<http://cwa-web.org>), an online resource for the documentation of contemporary *wayang kulit*. He is Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and convenes the informal Digital Humanities Singapore group (<https://digitalhumanities.sg>). At NUS, he teaches courses on interaction design for digital scholarship, data methods for the humanities, and traditional theatre in Southeast Asia. He is the author of *Theater as Data: Computational Journeys into Theater Research* (University of Michigan Press, 2021) and has also written several articles on Indonesian theatre, digital archiving, and intercultural exchanges through theatre. A full list of his publications is available at <https://miguelescobar.com>.

---

## Computational Methods in Philosophy

**Ben BLUMSON**

National University of Singapore

benblumson@nus.edu.sg

---

In this talk I discuss recent applications of computational methods in philosophy. Notable examples include: (i) computer assisted analysis of philosophical text, such as in Brian Weatherson's recent "A history of Philosophy Journals", and necessary preliminaries to this, such as Peter Millican and Amyas Merivale's digitization of David Hume's works, (ii) computer simulations of game theoretic problems relevant to evolution of language and ethics, such as signalling games, the prisoner's dilemma and the stag hunt, and (iii) automated reasoning and interactive proof assistants, most notably in connection with ontological arguments for the existence of God, as well as a project to produce a digital edition of Russell and Whitehead's magnum opus *Principia Mathematica* using the proof assistant *coq*, and work on the theory of parts and wholes (which includes my own recent work).

**Ben Blumson** is Associate Professor in Philosophy at the National University of Singapore. His book *Resemblance and Representation* defends the resemblance theory of pictorial representation by drawing a close analogy between pictures and language. He has also published on non-classical logic, philosophy of mind, philosophy of fiction, and the metaphysics of properties. More recently he is interested in applications of automated reasoning in philosophy, particularly to the ontological argument for God's existence, and the metaphysics of parts and wholes.

---

## Using Disruptive Technologies for Indian Cultural Heritage and Arts

**Ganesh Neelakanta IYER**  
National University of Singapore  
gni@nus.edu.sg

---

Kathakali is a traditional dance originated in 17th Century. It is known for complex makeups, specific literature, hand-gestures and body movements. Music in Kathakali literature is written mostly in specific Indian languages such as Malayalam and Sanskrit. All these make it difficult for audience to understand the meaning of Kathakali performances. While, there are several efforts by different people and organizations to increase its reach, this session will focus on how some of the technologies such as artificial intelligence (e.g. deep learning techniques) and image and audio processing techniques for tackling various problems in understanding this art better such as hand gesture identification, character type identification, music segmentation etc. It will brief about the data collection challenges, data processing strategies, technologies useful for tackling such problems etc.

**Ganesh Neelakanta Iyer** currently works as a faculty at National University of Singapore (NUS) in the Department of Computer Science and founder of STeAdS group. He brings in a decade of industry experience in various companies including Salesforce, Sasken Communication Technologies, NXP semiconductors and Progress Software. He has handled several roles in the software industry including QA architect, technical support manager, engineering development and technology evangelist. He is also an expert in performing Kathakali, a traditional Indian dance. He has composed a story in Kathakali and he spends a considerable amount of his personal time to uplift this traditional art by organizing Kathakali performances, workshops and demonstrations and performance by himself. One of the strong focuses of STeAdS group founded by him is on the research of using technologies for the upliftment of traditional art and cultural heritage. He is actively researching on using technologies for the benefit of traditional arts such as Kathakali.

---

## The Development of a Collaborative DH Research Platform on the Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia

**Kenneth DEAN**

National University of Singapore

chsdek@nus.edu.sg

---

This presentation introduces a digital platform for collaborative DH research on the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia, focusing on networks of Chinese temples and associations extending from Southeast China to the various port cities of Southeast Asia. The Singapore Historical GIS (SHGIS: <http://shgis.nus.edu.sg>) and the Singapore Biographical Database (SBDB: <http://sbdb.nus.edu.sg>) are expandable Web-GIS platforms gathering and linking data on cultural and religious networks across Southeast Asia. This talk will introduce new WebApps developed as offshoots of these websites, including one on Ritual Alliances of the Putian Plains, Malaysian Historical GIS, and a project on temples and spirit altars in Sinkewang developed with Emily Hertzman.

**Kenneth Dean** is Raffles Professor of Humanities, Chinese Studies Department, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is the research cluster leader for Religion and Globalisation at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. His recent publications include *Epigraphical Materials on the History of Religion in Fujian: Zhanghou Region*, Fuzhou 2019, *Secularism in South, East, and Southeast Asia*, NY: Palgrave, (2018) co-edited with Peter van der Veer, and *Chinese Epigraphy of Singapore: 1819-1911* (2 vols.), Singapore: NUS Press (2017), co-edited with Dr. Hue Guan Thye. He directed *Bored in Heaven: a film about ritual sensation* (2010), on celebrations around Chinese New Year in Putian, Fujian, China. Other publications include *Ritual Alliances of the Putian Plain*, 2 vols., Leiden: Brill, 2010 (with Zheng Zhenman); His current project is the construction of an interactive, multi-media Singapore Historical GIS (SHGIS) and Singapore Biographical Database (SBDB) databases. These projects can be viewed online at <http://shgis.nus.edu.sg> and <http://sbdb.nus.edu.sg>.

---

## Singapore Ecological History Map

**Stefan HUEBNER**

National University of Singapore

arihust@nus.edu.sg

---

This digital humanities project investigates Singapore's ecological history through a focus on land-use change (e.g. deforestation, plantation spread, and urbanization), extreme weather events, and malaria epidemics. We (Principal Investigator: Stefan Huebner, Co-Principal Investigator: Kenneth Dean, and team) employ digital humanities methods and feature newly digitized historical source materials (such as historical maps and data on rainfall, etc., many of which were granted by the NLB) to visualize often drastic environmental transformations over time. Methodologically, we created and incorporated about 60 georeferenced GIS layers into our *Singapore Ecological History Map* platform in order to enable overlay analysis of spatiotemporal correlations between land-use change, the impact of extreme weather (flooding, El Niño-caused droughts, etc.), and mosquito-borne malaria epidemics. These topics are also discussed in three related storymaps compiled by our project team. The interactive platform can be found here: [https://nus.edu.sg/nuslibraries/dsprojects/singapore\\_ecological\\_history\\_map/index.html](https://nus.edu.sg/nuslibraries/dsprojects/singapore_ecological_history_map/index.html). The GIS layers are freely available for use in other projects.

**Stefan Huebner** is a historian interested in environmental and oceanic topics and Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute. He was U.S. SSRC Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellow at Harvard University, Fulbright Scholar also at Harvard, History and Public Policy Fellow at the Wilson Center, and Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellow at the German Historical Institute Washington and the German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo. Currently, he is Co-Principal Investigator of the Singapore SSRC project on "Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia". He is working on his second book, a history of the industrialization and urbanization of the ocean.

---

## Digital Ethno-history and the Making of a Resistance Archive

**Maitrii V. AUNG-THWIN**

National University of Singapore

hismvat@nus.edu.sg

---

Conventional studies of archives regularly question their authoritative and central role in the process of knowledge production. Once understood solely as physical repositories that preserved the records of society's elite institutions, archives were regarded as the starting point for the discovery and reconstruction of our historical narratives and experiences. Scholars now recognize that archives are themselves constituted within varying epistemological contexts, established in particular legal-bureaucratic settings, organized through different schema, and constructed by and for different actors. The ambiguity of archives is attributed to the inflation of its form and meaning; partly the result of scholarly interventions, but also as the outcome of digital technologies and the democratization of the knowledge production process.

This paper provides an overview of a recent research project that seeks to explore this expanded understanding of the archive by focusing on the role of the epistemological underclasses—here defined as unconventional or 'public' archivists—and the role of digital archives in the historical production of modern Southeast Asia. Questions concerning archive-making, their ethnography, their authority, inter-referencing, their makers, and their digital lives are considered in relation to the discovery of rare materials depicting a pivotal event in modern Myanmar history and the mystery surrounding the origins of the "collection". In relating the circumstances surrounding the search for the story behind the collection, this study explores the role of digitization in the making and re-making of archives.

**Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin** is Associate Professor of Myanmar/Southeast Asian History at the National University of Singapore. His research is concerned with nation-building, heritage, identity-politics, knowledge production and resistance in Myanmar. His publications include *A History of Myanmar since Ancient Times: Traditions and Transformations* (co-authored with Michael A. Aung-Thwin, 2013), *The Return of the Galon King: History, Law, and Rebellion in Colonial Burma* (2011), and *A New History of Southeast Asia* (co-authored with Merle Ricklefs et al, 2010). Dr Aung-Thwin served on the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Board of Directors and chaired the AAS's Southeast Asia Council. He is currently a trustee of the Burma Studies Foundation (USA), board member of the SEASREP Foundation, convener of the Comparative Asian Studies PhD Program and editor of *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*.



---

## Putting Interdisciplinarity and Sustainable Partnerships at the Heart of Digital Scholarship

**Anthony D. MEDRANO**

Yale-NUS College  
anthony.medrano@yale-nus.edu.sg

**Gaetan BOISSON**

National University of Singapore  
gaetan@nus.edu.sg

**Gandhimathy DURAIRAJ**

National University of Singapore  
clbgd@nus.edu.sg

---

NUS Libraries has been a living habitat encompassing evolving relationships among library professionals, innovation, facilities, collections and the NUS community. In recent years, rapid technological advances sensitised by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have brought complexity and interconnectivity that drive faster and more radical change.

As the pace of technology keeps accelerating, we see the importance of not only disciplinary knowledge but the ability to work across disciplines to solve complex problems at the multiplicity of worlds – physical, virtual, augmented and digital.

Digital scholarship creates opportunities to blur these lines and make connections across disciplines through digital methods, concepts, expertise and tools. In this panel, we discuss how faculty, librarians and students can engage in new scholarship with traditional scholarship in innovative and sustainable ways necessary to address the changing landscapes in research and education.

**Anthony D. Medrano** is the National University of Singapore (NUS) Presidential Young Professor of Environmental Studies at Yale-NUS College with a joint appointment in the Department of History at NUS. He is also Research Affiliate at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, Research Associate at the Asia Research Institute, and Principal Investigator of the MOE-funded (SSRTG) project titled “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia”. His teaching and scholarship focus on the histories and intersections of economic life and biodiversity change in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Most recently, he is the editor of *La-la Land: Singapore's Seafood Heritage* (Epigram Books, expected in 2023).

**Gaetan Boisson** has worked for more than 10 years in libraries around the world. After doing his master's degree in Library and Information Science in Canada and France, he soon found himself managing the library at Alliance Française de Delhi in India, before working as a project manager for BibLibre, a French company dedicated to helping libraries set up Open Source software to manage their mission. This allowed him to serve as a consultant to libraries in Sweden, Iraq, Italy, Denmark, Iran and many other countries. Gaetan has been a longstanding discreet advocate for Open Source technologies and Open Access to data for more than a decade.

**Gandhimathy Durairaj** is Head of Collections at the NUS Libraries and works with digital projects for special collections and NUS archives. Her goal is to build excellent, meaningful collections that are open and significant to the NUS community. Prior to joining NUS Libraries, she worked as a senior manager at ISEAS Library (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute) supporting the institution's research.

---

## **Publishing for the Digital Humanities: Building a Digital Research Infrastructure**

**Peter SCHOPPERT**

National University of Singapore

schoppert@nus.edu.sg

---

What role can academic publishers play in the development of digital humanities? NUS Press launched its first online open access resource together with the Asia Research Institute in 2004 with “Southeast Asia in the Ming Shilu” (<https://epress.nus.edu.sg/msl>). We continue to develop new offerings here in the fields of history and archaeology. This short presentation will set out the NUS Press strategy and projects to date, set within different paradigms of digital research infrastructure that we see starting to develop in dialogue between standards groups, funders, scholarly publishers and university administrators. In addition to the possibilities, we will be sure to scrutinize the potential downsides and risks to researchers and institutions in Singapore that come as these paradigms evolve.

**Peter Schoppert** has been Director of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Press since 2012. He made his career in publishing in Singapore after arriving on a Fulbright Fellowship to study politics and administrative ideology in Singapore, earning a Masters from NUS in 1986. He then entered the profession of book publishing, spending a period as Editorial Director for Editions Didier Millet, working with well-known photographers, writers and prominent academics on illustrated book and reference projects. Peter became an early proponent of the internet as a medium for publishing, negotiating some of the first internet content licensing deals and developing translation management and publishing systems with US brands like MTV, CNET and E!Online. He co-founded Asiacontent.com, which went public on the Nasdaq. He recovered from the dotcom boom and bust by reviving Singapore University Press, now NUS Press, from 2002 to 2005. From 2006 to 2011 Peter worked for global strategic consultancy McKinsey & Company, supporting the firm’s outreach in the region, serving mostly public sector clients and managing the firm’s reputation risk across Asia. NUS Press over the last ten years has continued to make steady progress in building its academic reputation and global footprint, now routinely winning book prizes in Asian Studies and beginning to win accolades in the different disciplines as well.

---

## **SIGNIFY: A Digital Archive of Singapore's Historical Biodiversity and Potential Digital Humanities Applications**

**Martyn E. Y. LOW**

National University of Singapore

[martyn.low@nus.edu.sg](mailto:martyn.low@nus.edu.sg)

---

SIGNIFY (Singapore in Global Natural History Museums Information Facility) is an initiative of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) at the National University of Singapore. The project aims to digitise and document approximately 10,000 historically-important animal specimens collected from Singapore over the last 200 years that are currently housed in museums worldwide, with an emphasis on type specimens – the exemplars on which scientific names are based. The data generated will include not just high-resolution specimen images but also the associated collection data – information on the collector and the circumstances of the collecting event. These data have a well-worn role in traditional specimen-based fields of study such as zoology, botany, ecology and conservation where exact locality information is needed for species identification. Preliminary research done before the launch of the project has shown that these data can also be used for humanities-based research. As the information generated by the project are digital from the outset and will eventually form a significant dataset, we discuss the potential of SIGNIFY data for digital humanities research.

**Martyn E. Y. Low** is Research Associate at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) at the National University of Singapore. His main research interest is natural history – the intersection of human and environmental histories. He currently manages SIGNIFY: A Digital Archive of Singapore's Historical Biodiversity, an LKCNHM project that will digitise historically-important specimens collected from Singapore and now deposited in natural history museums worldwide.

---

## **Dokyu Space: Documenting New Art and Writing about Place-based Histories**

**Yi Qian CHAN**

Yale-NUS College  
yiqian@u.yale-nus.edu.sg

**Sofie ANDAL**

Yale-NUS College  
sofia.andal@u.yale-nus.edu.sg

---

Dokyu Space is a series of collaborative workshops and conversations that seeks to reconsider the notion of document. Bringing together the practice of three artists, three writers, and three historians, whose work has involved the use of historical archives, Dokyu Space aims to establish an experimental space that fosters interdisciplinary dialogue, transform artistic and scholarly methodology and inform the ways the interdisciplinary in the humanities is both practised and taught. Two research assistants document this space's past, present and ever-changing energies. How do we reaffirm the language and methods of the relationships built in this space in a public way - not just documenting works but also transmitting the energy created at that moment in time? In an attempt to answer this question, they have used a collaborative white board platform which has turned into a digital sketchbook of the exchanges that occur in Dokyu. Additionally, they manipulate the digital sphere to visually represent and reinterpret the collaboration on the dokyu.space website. Dokyu Space has urged them to think deeply about questions on memory, narrative, place-making and the document's boundless ability to dismantle what we know about poetry, art, and history as practices. The project has inspired them in their own projects in school and personal research efforts, informing their practices as artists, writers, and researchers. Dokyu Space is a dynamic playground where creatives and academics, all one in their differences, get to experiment, interact, and grow with one another. YQ and Sofie take on the task of visually and verbally interpreting and deconstructing the wonderful mess that ensues.

**Yi Qian Chan** is a senior at Yale-NUS College where she is majoring in Arts and Humanities, specialising in the Art Practice track. Having always had an interest in learning about the arts and the world around her, she is currently working on her final year project on Final Year Projects, which was greatly inspired by her experience as Research Assistant for Dokyu Space. She has dabbled in a broad range of topics like astronomy, biodiversity, music, drones, 3D modelling and web design, and is excited to learn more. She aspires to continue her artistic practice after graduation, and spends her free time learning different artistic mediums and languages.

**Sofie Andal** is a sophomore at Yale-NUS College. She has not decided on what to major in yet which is likely why the multi-faceted and dynamic dialogue in Dokyu interests her. She grew up with her nose stuck in a book and pen in hand, writing anything from poetry, to short stories, to political commentary and essays. Working on Dokyu Space has inspired her to look into Philippine Martial Law archives to understand how documents are used to form and transform political memory, a topic that is near and dear to her heart as a Filipino. She continues to develop her passion for the digital humanities through her digital newsletter and hopes to better comprehend the intersection between writing, activism, and archival research.

## ABOUT THE CHAIRPERSONS

**Anthony D. MEDRANO** is the National University of Singapore (NUS) Presidential Young Professor of Environmental Studies at Yale-NUS College with a joint appointment in the Department of History at NUS. He is also Research Affiliate at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, Research Associate at the Asia Research Institute, and Principal Investigator of the MOE-funded (SSRTG) project titled “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia”. His teaching and scholarship focus on the histories and intersections of economic life and biodiversity change in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Most recently, he is the editor of *La-la Land: Singapore’s Seafood Heritage* (Epigram Books, expected in 2023).

E | [anthony.medrano@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:anthony.medrano@yale-nus.edu.sg)

**Elysia Xin Pei TOH** (B.ES, MSc.) is a research associate at Yale-NUS College, managing the SSRTG grant “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia”. Before joining Yale-NUS, her research background included freshwater ecology and decapod crustaceans (introduced and native). Her undergraduate years were spent understanding behavior of a non-native freshwater prawn, and how this potentially contributed to spread of the species; while her master’s focused on understanding threats to the critically endangered Singapore freshwater crab; further informing conservation of the species.

E | [elysiatxp@nus.edu.sg](mailto:elysiatxp@nus.edu.sg)

**Gladys LOW** has been with the National Library Board since 2008. She is at present the Head of the Singapore and Southeast Asia Collections at the National Library, Singapore, where she oversees a team of librarians who deals with Singapore and Southeast Asian content. She oversees the Fellowship programmes at the National Library, including the National Library Digital Fellowship which encourages digital humanities research. Together with her team, they manage NL websites such as NewspaperSG, BookSG, PictureSG, and Infopedia where the rich data are potential sources for digital humanities research.

E | [gladys\\_low@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:gladys_low@nlb.gov.sg)

**Miguel Escobar VARELA** is a theatre scholar, web developer and translator. His main interests are the digital humanities and the performing arts of Southeast Asia (primarily Indonesia). In his research, he aims to combine ethnographic and computational methods to study theatre performances. He directs the Contemporary Wayang Archive (<http://cwa-web.org>), an online resource for the documentation of contemporary *wayang kulit*. He is Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and convenes the informal Digital Humanities Singapore group (<https://digitalhumanities.sg>). At NUS, he teaches courses on interaction design for digital scholarship, data methods for the humanities, and traditional theatre in Southeast Asia. He is the author of *Theater as Data: Computational Journeys into Theater Research* (University of Michigan Press, 2021) and has also written several articles on Indonesian theatre, digital archiving, and intercultural exchanges through theatre. A full list of his publications is available at <https://miguelescobar.com>.

E | [m.escobar@nus.edu.sg](mailto:m.escobar@nus.edu.sg)

**Sheryl TEO**’s current research explores the intersection between conservation science and the anthropology of religion, investigating contemporary nuances and innovations in the practice of religious animal release. Sheryl is passionate about Southeast Asian cultural narratives and fascinated by cross-border social, political, and historical connections in the region. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Anthropology from Yale-NUS College, and has been involved with “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia” since 2020. She currently coordinates digitisation and public education efforts for the project.

E | [sherylt@nus.edu.sg](mailto:sherylt@nus.edu.sg)

**Stefan HUEBNER** is a historian interested in environmental and oceanic topics and Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute. He was U.S. SSRC Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellow at Harvard University, Fulbright Scholar also at Harvard, History and Public Policy Fellow at the Wilson Center, and Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellow at the German Historical Institute Washington and the German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo. Currently, he is Co-Principal Investigator of the Singapore SSRC project on “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia”. He is working on his second book, a history of the industrialization and urbanization of the ocean.

E | [arihust@nus.edu.sg](mailto:arihust@nus.edu.sg)

**Tricia CHO** is a research assistant with the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. She obtained her Bachelor of Science (Honours) with the National University of Singapore. In the final year of her undergraduate studies, she researched on the ecology of the recently introduced Greenhouse Frog, *E. planirostris*. Continuing her research and interest in invasion biology, she is currently working on a digital humanities project "Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia", constructing a database on the introduced fauna in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

E | [triciacho@nus.edu.sg](mailto:triciacho@nus.edu.sg)

**Yusri Bin Rosli** is a research assistant at Yale-NUS College assisting with the Social Science Research Thematic Grant (SSRTG) project titled, "Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia". He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours (Distinction) in History from Nanyang Technological University in 2022. For his graduation thesis, he explored and argued how "Green Policies" aided in Singapore's journey from a third-world country to a first-world country. His research interest lies in the field of environmental history, in particular the interaction and relationship between plants and humans throughout history. Having graduated from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Landscape Design and Horticulture, he has a strong affinity towards the field of botany. His current responsibilities as a research assistant for the SSRTG projects, allows him to utilize both his knowledge and skill set from his diploma in botany and degree in history. He is currently writing a research paper on the history of *Jamu*, a form of traditional Malay medicine that had a peculiar rise and fall story in Singapore. His paper aims to look into the past, present, and future of *Jamu* in Singapore through examining naturalised plant species that are used in the production of *Jamu*.

E | [yusri@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:yusri@yale-nus.edu.sg)

*Secretariat*

**Ms Minghua TAY**

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

E | [minghua.tay@nus.edu.sg](mailto:minghua.tay@nus.edu.sg)