

ARI-LUCE SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES COLLABORATORY

Next Generation Scholars

15-26 JUNE 2026

ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE



INAUGURAL EDITION

This program is organized by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, with funding support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

The cultivation of next-generation scholars of Asia has long been a priority for institutions committed to the vitality and diversity of the field. Yet a persistent developmental gap continues to challenge early-career researchers in the years between the award of the PhD and the securing of a tenure-track position or other professional appointment. For scholars trained across the globe—particularly those returning to Southeast Asia after completing doctoral work in North America—access to evolving best practices, career planning, and intellectual mentoring remains scarce and unevenly distributed. The consequences of this gap are felt not only by individual researchers, but by the field itself: in the thinning of the talent pool, the narrowing of scholarly networks, and the slowing of the intergenerational exchange that sustains any intellectual community.

The ARI-Luce Southeast Asian Studies Collaboratory was established to address this deficit directly. Hosted by the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Collaboratory brings together postdoctoral and early-career scholars of Southeast Asia with the senior scholars, institutions, and professional networks that can help them move forward—at precisely the moment in their careers when targeted support makes the greatest difference.

Program Structure

The Collaboratory is organised around four interconnected elements.

The **Academy** offers participants a range of skills training and professional development through Academy Sessions led by senior faculty from NUS, regional partner institutions, and Southeast Asian Studies programmes in North America. The **Writing Residency** pairs scholars in small groups with a Senior Scholar-Mentor, providing dedicated time, structured feedback, and access to NUS Library resources to advance their current writing and publication projects. The **Research Showcase** offers platforms for participants to present their research to an audience of senior scholars, institutional leaders, journal editors, and potential employers from across the region and beyond. The **Networking** element creates structured and informal opportunities for participants to build lasting professional relationships with ARI and NUS faculty, visiting scholars, and fellow cohort members.

Inaugural Edition Program

The Collaboratory's inaugural cohort brings together twenty-two postdoctoral and early-career scholars whose work reflects the full breadth and complexity of the region. Their research spans a remarkable range of themes—from urban life, community, and culture to the Cold War, agriculture, media, and Theravada Buddhism—and draws on disciplines as varied as anthropology, religious studies, film studies, sociology, environmental studies, architecture, and literature. The cohort is equally diverse in its composition: ten scholars from Southeast Asia, ten from the West, and two from East Asia, representing a spectrum of career stages from independent researchers to lecturers and assistant professors.

Guiding the cohort are six Senior Scholar-Mentors from leading research universities across the United States and Southeast Asia, including University of California, Los Angeles, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, National University of Singapore, and the University of Malaya. Each brings decades of scholarly expertise and sustained leadership in the field—ensuring that the mentorship the Collaboratory offers is grounded in both intellectual depth and hard-won professional experience.

Learn more about the Collaboratory at www.ari.nus.edu.sg/ari-luce-collaboratory

COLLABORATORY CONVENORS

Assoc Prof Maitrii V. AUNG-THWIN

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Ms Aishah ALHADAD

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

PROGRAM

DATE	TIME	SESSION
15 June 2026 Monday	10:00 – 11:00 AM	Meet & Greet with Morning Tea
	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Welcome Session Collaboratory Participants (in-person) 21 st Singapore Graduate Forum Participants (online via Zoom)
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 1
	3:30 – 4:00 PM	Afternoon Tea
	4:00 – 5:00 PM	NUS Central Library Tour
16 June 2026 Tuesday	10:00 – 11:30 AM	Writing Residency Session <i>First Group Meeting between Scholars and Mentor</i>
	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 2
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 – 5:00 PM	Writing Residency Block <i>Group Meeting (Peers and Mentor), Peers' Meeting, 1-1 with Mentor Meeting, and/or Individual Time to research and write</i>
	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Welcome Dinner at StraitsKitchen
17 June 2026 Wednesday	10:00 – 11:30 AM	Writing Residency Block Filming Block (Scholars Only) <i>Filming of Scholars' Research Showcase Videos</i>
	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 3
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 4
	3:30 – 4:00 PM	Afternoon Tea
	4:00 – 6:30 PM	Writing Residency Block Filming Block (Scholars Only)

DATE	TIME	SESSION
18 June 2026 Thursday	10:00 – 11:30 AM	Writing Residency Block Filming Block (Scholars Only)
	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 5
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 6
	3:30 – 4:00 PM	Afternoon Tea
	4:00 – 6:30 PM	Writing Residency Block Focus Group Discussion A (Scholars Only)
19 June 2026 Friday	10:00 – 11:30 AM	Writing Residency Block Filming Block (Scholars Only)
	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 7
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 – 6:00 PM	Field Trip to Asian Civilisations Museum

DATE	TIME	SESSION
22 June 2026 Monday	10:00 – 11:30 AM	Writing Residency Block Filming Block (Scholars Only)
	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Welcome Session: 21st Graduate Forum
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 8 (Optional)
	3:30 – 4:00 PM	Afternoon Tea
	4:00 – 6:30 PM	Writing Residency Block Focus Group Discussion B (Scholars Only)
23 June 2026 Tuesday	10:00 – 11:30 AM	Writing Residency Block Filming Block (Scholars Only)
	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 9
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 10
	3:30 – 4:00 PM	Afternoon Tea
	4:00 – 6:30 PM	Writing Residency Block Filming Block (Scholars Only) Focus Group Discussion C (Scholars Only)

DATE	TIME	SESSION
24 June 2026 Wednesday	9:45 AM – 5:30 PM <i>Full Day</i>	21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies
	Collaboratory Scholars' Panels	
	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Panel 1: Cold War Cui Feng Daniel McCoy Morragotwong Phumplab
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Panel 4: Sacred Grounds David Govey Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra Najiyah Martiam
		Panel 5: Media Emily Mitamura Harifa Siregar Kenzell Huggins
	4:00 – 5:30 PM	Panel 7: Food Vien Thi-Thuc Dinh <i>With Graduate Forum Participants</i>
25 June 2026 Thursday	11:30 AM – 5:30 PM <i>Full Day</i>	21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies
	Collaboratory Scholars' Panels	
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Panel 13: Urban Jean Chia Al Lim Olivier Jacques
		Panel 14: Islam Katia Chaterji Muhammad Afdillah Noorhidayah
		Panel 15: Buddhism and Thailand Roni N. Wang Tony Scott Woramat Malasart
26 June 2026 Friday	10:00 AM – 5:15 PM <i>Full Day</i>	21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies
	Collaboratory Scholars' Panels	
	12:00 – 1:30 PM	Panel 22: Cultural Interactions Ayumi Inouchi Carljohnson Anacin Jasmine N. An

ACADEMY SESSIONS

Below is the list of Academy Sessions conducted by Collaboratory Senior Scholar-Mentors and Guest Speakers

Overview

DATE	TIME	ACADEMY SESSION
15 June 2026 Monday	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 1
		Roundtable: The Craft of Scholarly Writing: Challenges, Strategies, and the Long Work of the Page
		Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin <i>National University of Singapore</i>
		Lisandro E. Claudio <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>
		George E. Dutton <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>
		Mala Rajo Sathian <i>University of Malaya</i>
		Miriam T. Stark <i>University of Hawai'i at Mānoa</i>
		Thongchai Winichakul <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>
16 June 2026 Tuesday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 2
		Confessions of an Ambitious Scholar Who Lacks Some Crucial Academic Skills
		Thongchai Winichakul
17 June 2026 Wednesday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 3
		Embedded Knowledge, Accessible Prose: Why Area Studies Needs Lucid Writers
		Lisandro E. Claudio
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 4
		Sharing Your Research: Reaching and Informing Policy
		Moe Thuzar, <i>ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute</i>

DATE	TIME	ACADEMY SESSION
18 June 2026 Thursday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 5 Academic Publishing Without Tears? Tips for Success in the Academic Publishing World Miriam T. Stark
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 6 Enriching SEAS through “Region-Appropriate” Context Mala Rajo Sathian
19 June 2026 Friday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 7 Roundtable: The Hidden Curriculum of the Job Market Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin, Lisandro E. Claudio, George E. Dutton, Mala Rajo Sathian, Miriam T. Stark, and Thongchai Winichakul
22 June 2026 Monday	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 8 (Optional) Turning Your Dissertation into a Book Peter Schoppert, <i>NUS Press</i> Jacob Rinck, <i>National University of Singapore</i>
23 June 2026 Tuesday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Academy Session 9 Thoughts on Pedagogy: Teaching for Yourself and Your Students George E. Dutton
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Academy Session 10 How to Develop a Research Proposal Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin

ACADEMY SESSION 1

Roundtable

The Craft of Scholarly Writing: Challenges, Strategies, and the Long Work of the Page

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentors

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin, Lisandro E. Claudio, George E. Dutton, Mala Rajo Sathian, Miriam T. Stark, and Thongchai Winichakul

Moderator

Aishah Alhadad

Writing is the primary medium through which scholarly knowledge is produced, evaluated, and disseminated, yet the craft of academic writing—and the difficulties inherent to it—remains under-addressed in the formal training of researchers. This roundtable convenes senior scholars from across the social sciences to discuss their own writing practices and to offer practical, experience-based counsel to early-career colleagues. Drawing on a range of writing contexts—including journal articles, monographs, and dissertations—panellists will address the obstacles that writers at every stage encounter and the concrete approaches they have developed to overcome them.

The session welcomes open dialogue and aims to equip participants with both strategies and a sense of solidarity in the shared challenges of academic writing.

This Academy Session will also be attended online by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 2**Confessions of an Ambitious Scholar Who Lacks Some Crucial Academic Skills**

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentor

Thongchai Winichakul

Moderator

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin

In this talk, I would like to indulge in the story of early years of my career. It is a “confession” since people may not expect to hear this candid story.

I ambitiously wanted to upend the conventional historical ideology because, in my view, it is flawed and oppressive. I need to engage not only with the Thai but also with global scholarship about Thai history. But my English was ... not good; my reading slow; my writing ... umm... “uniquely non-native”. How to overcome those deficits and thrive in the career of letters?

Language is a key to new ideas, concepts and the reframing of history. Alternative history is possible via language. Nonetheless, the counter-history can be advanced despite limited language competence. Intellectual capability—relentless questioning, rigorous criticism, hunger to learn, “wild” imaginations and so on—and the breadth of learning across the regions, subjects, and disciplines, are also keys to good scholarship.

Throughout my career, nonetheless, there are limits on what I can do. Knowing what I can do better and otherwise, guides my efforts in certain directions while keeps arrogance in check.

This Academy Session will also be attended online by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 3

Embedded Knowledge, Accessible Prose: Why Area Studies Needs Lucid Writers

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentor

Lisandro E. Claudio

Moderator

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin

The literary modernism of the late 19th-century/early 20th-century, per John Carey, was elitist. Through their opaque prose, modernists sought to signal their superiority to a newly literate mass public. Today, explains Terry Eagleton, “Theory” has become a form of modernism.

As with the earlier literary modernism, I contend that much “theoretically informed writing” is equally elitist. Worse, it is hypocritical, as “Theory” often claims to speak for the marginalized. Yet much of this prose is disconnected from both grounded facts and defined audiences.

One solution is area studies. Writing about a definite place with real people provides area studies scholars with facts to conjure worlds through words. Writing for a definite audience (those in the region and those who love the region) inoculates us against arrogant generalizations. It also makes us accountable for what we say. And, if, as Orwell argued, totalitarianism emerges amid obfuscation, lucidity becomes a moral imperative during periods of emergent fascism.

In this session, I not only argue for the ethics of plain language. I also discuss practical ways for scholars of Southeast Asian studies (and area studies more broadly) to cultivate a voice that is always public-facing—for what writing has no public? I share my experiences writing for both academic and popular presses—scholarly journals and lifestyle magazines.

This Academy Session will also be attended online by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 4**Sharing Your Research: Reaching and Informing Policy**

Speakers

Guest Speaker**Moe Thuzar**

Moderator

Aishah Alhadad

How can our research findings and analyses better inform non-academic policy-oriented audiences? How can/do scholars and researchers translate academic findings into policy-relevant voices? This session will share personal insights into navigating the policy-making landscape in this region (and beyond), the value of workshops/seminars/panels for this, and practical experience in framing complex, context-heavy qualitative and quantitative data into concise policy briefs and media comments.

This Academy Session will also be attended online by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 5

Academic Publishing Without Tears? Tips for Success in the Academic Publishing World

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentor

Miriam T. Stark

Moderator

Aishah Alhadad

Publishing our research is integral to the academic world, and one's ability to convey research results in writing can determine one's future career. Yet few graduate programs provide adequate guidance on how the process works, and fewer still require PhD students to learn the process before they graduate by completing one or more academic publications. This session is designed to help you understand the process involved in publishing your work in academic settings: as book chapters, as journal articles, and as monographs.

We will briefly work through the peer review publication process for articles, book chapters, and monographs. But we'll spend more time on strategy vis-à-vis your own work: determining how to publish what you've written, where publications will make the most impact, and developing the 'hook' that helps readers see the value of your work.

Establishing your 'hook' is the starting point of all publications, so bring the following three projects to our session:

- (1) A prepared two-minute 'elevator pitch' of your research that states your research question, why it matters, and how you learned about it.
- (2) A one-paragraph description of what fields and current approaches align with your doctoral research, and conclude that paragraph with a sentence about your publication goals (monograph? Journal articles? Or?).
- (3) A list of 5 potential publication outlets (preferably peer-reviewed journals) that you think fit your research program.

This Academy Session is a closed door, in-person session for Collaboratory and NUS Scholars.

ACADEMY SESSION 6**Enriching SEAS through “Region-Appropriate” Context**

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentor**Mala Rajo Sathian**

Moderator

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin

Transitioning from research to teaching in area studies can be challenging. While most of us have expertise in one country, modules in Southeast Asian Studies programs are broad, encompassing the entire region. There is also a disconnect between multidisciplinary research and department/discipline-based teaching, where modules on a wide range of topics are anchored and taught within the department rather than engaging cross-department/discipline.

Then there is the issue of critique and theory building; the lack of “robustness” in Southeast Asian Studies in the region. Other concerns such as declining student numbers, employability scores of BA Southeast Asian Studies graduates and sustainability indexes — all impact our contracts, position, career. Similarly, publishing in indexed journals, while maintaining local vernacular/national language journals and “censorship” of what can be researched/published, getting research consent and ethics clearance- all add to the problem.

How do we navigate these? I hope to share my personal experiences — teaching in and managing the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Malaya—the oldest in the region, but frequently challenged with threats of merger and closure—and offer some ways to sustain and enrich area studies in the region.

This Academy Session will also be attended online by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 7

Roundtable

The Hidden Curriculum of the Job Market

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentors

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin, Lisandro E. Claudio, George E. Dutton, Mala Rajo Sathian, Miriam T. Stark, and Thongchai Winichakul

Moderator

Aishah Alhadad

Much of what determines success on the academic job market in the social sciences remains unwritten—tacit knowledge passed informally among colleagues or learned through costly trial and error. This roundtable makes that hidden curriculum visible. Senior scholars will draw on their experience as both candidates and hiring committee members to offer frank, practical guidance on preparing a competitive dossier, approaching interviews with confidence, navigating the conventions of the campus visit, and presenting oneself and one's research in ways that resonate with departmental search committees.

The session invites early-career scholars to engage directly with panellists in a candid, collegial exchange aimed at demystifying the hiring process and equipping participants with actionable strategies for the market.

This Academy Session will also be attended online by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 8**Turning Your Dissertation into a Book**

Speakers

Guest Speakers

Peter Schoppert, Jacob Rinck

Moderator

Michel Chambon

This session focuses on various strategies and practices to aid in what can seem like a daunting task: turning a dissertation into a book. Importantly, we address this topic from the perspective of the author as well as the publisher, helping to explain the writing and publication process from both sides. During the session, we will cover aspects important to consider in terms of 1) the logistical tasks involved in revising as well as 2) strategies in contacting and working with a publisher. The speakers approach this session with the idea that there is not necessarily a “one-size-fits-all” template for this transformation, and accordingly, look forward to an open discussion on the topic. We aim to demystify the revision and publication process and to give a range of strategies that can be applied considering the real-life situations and pressures faced by young scholars today.

This Academy Session will also be attended by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 9

Thoughts on Pedagogy: Teaching for your Students and Yourself

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentor
George E. Dutton

Moderator

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin

This session on pedagogy will get attendees to think about course development, classroom strategies and forms of student engagement. I entered academia with almost no real training in how to teach, and have had to learn through doing and observing my colleagues. My presentation shares what I have learned over the past quarter century of classroom instruction. I emphasize an engaged and interactive classroom, in which learning is more dialogic and less about unidirectional lecturing. I believe that the best learning emerges from frequent engagement between students and instructor, and between students among themselves. I also encourage instructors to lean into their broader Southeast Asian training to teach courses outside of their particular disciplinary training. Each of these strategies and pedagogical trajectories can lead to a more rewarding and personally enriching career as a teacher.

This Academy Session will also be attended by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

ACADEMY SESSION 9**How to Develop a Research Proposal**

Speakers

Collaboratory Mentor**Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin**

Moderator

Aishah Alhadad

Developing a compelling research proposal is a critical milestone in the transition from doctoral training to independent scholarship. While the PhD dissertation demonstrates the capacity to conduct original research, the postdoctoral stage requires scholars to articulate where their research goes next: identifying new questions, refining intellectual interventions, and translating emerging ideas into coherent and sustainable programmes of inquiry.

Within Southeast Asian Studies, where scholarship increasingly traverses disciplinary boundaries, engages comparative and transregional perspectives, and responds to evolving methodological and conceptual debates, research proposals play a central role in shaping future scholarly trajectories. Beyond serving as applications for grants or fellowships, proposals function as intellectual roadmaps that communicate the originality, significance, feasibility, and broader contribution of a research agenda.

This presentation approaches the research proposal not simply as a technical document, but as a strategic exercise in scholarly positioning and intellectual development. Drawing on examples and practices from academic research environments, it reflects on how postdoctoral researchers can move beyond the dissertation to formulate persuasive research questions, identify meaningful interventions in existing scholarship, align conceptual and methodological approaches, and communicate future directions for research.

Situated within the ARI–Luce Collaboratory’s commitment to supporting emerging scholarly agendas and intellectual exchange, this presentation invites participants to consider proposal development as a process of transforming ideas into focused, fundable, publishable, and sustainable programmes of research within and beyond Southeast Asian Studies.

This Academy Session will also be attended by participants from the 21st Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, an annual Forum organised by the Asia Research Institute.

WRITING RESIDENCY

Below is the list of Scholars-to-Mentor assignments for the Writing Residency

MENTOR	SCHOLARS
Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin, <i>National University of Singapore</i>	Jean Chia, <i>University of Toronto</i> Al Lim, <i>Singapore Management University</i> Olivier Jacques, <i>Vietnam National University</i>
George E. Dutton, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	Cui Feng, <i>Independent Scholar</i> Vien Thi-Thuc Dinh, <i>Kyoto University</i> Daniel McCoy, <i>Independent Scholar</i> Morragotwong Phumplab, <i>Thammasat University</i>
Lisandro E. Claudio, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>	Katia Chaterji, <i>Loyola Marymount University</i> Kenzell Huggins, <i>University of Chicago</i> Emily Mitamura, <i>Bentley University</i> Harifa Siregar, <i>Bandung Institute of Technology</i>
Mala Rajo Sathian, <i>University of Malaya</i>	Jasmine N. An, <i>University of Oregon</i> Carl Johnson Anacin, <i>Griffith University</i> Ayumi Inouchi, <i>Arizona State University</i> Muhammad Afdillah, <i>Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya</i>
Miriam T. Stark, <i>University of Hawai'i at Mānoa</i>	Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra, <i>Yale University</i> David Gowey, <i>Glendale Community College</i> Najiyah Martiam, <i>Gadjah Mada University</i> Noorhidayah, <i>State Islamic University of Palangka Raya</i>
Thongchai Winichakul, <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Woramat Malasart, <i>Otani University</i> Tony Scott, <i>University of Tokyo</i> Roni N. Wang, <i>Independent Scholar</i>

**Jasmine N. An**

Assistant Professor, University of Oregon

*Southeast Asian Diaspora Literature
Poetry & Poetics*

Jasmine N. An is poet and scholar specializing in Southeast Asian Diasporic Literature who earned her Ph.D. in English and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Michigan. Her research traces the aesthetic strategies of contemporary, Southeast Asian, diasporic poets who deform bureaucratic paperwork through their poetry as a critique of US empire in Southeast Asia. Before joining the University of Oregon, she was an Assistant Professor of Literature at Fulbright University Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City and a Research Fellow at Chiang Mai University in Thailand. In addition to her scholarly work, Jasmine has published two chapbooks of poetry: *Naming the No-Name Woman* (Winner of the 2015 Two Sylvias Press Chapbook Prize) and *Monkey Was Here* (Porkbelly Press 2020). Her creative work can be found online in journals such as *Poetry Northwest*, *Waxwing*, and *Guesthouse*, among others, or at jasmineanho.com.

E | jnan@uoregon.edu**Carl Johnson Anacin**
Researcher, Griffith University*Cultural Sociology
Migration
Music*

Carl Johnson Anacin is an academic at Griffith University and the University of Queensland in Australia. He received his Ph.D. (cultural sociology) at Griffith University with a thesis on Filipino migrant musician identity, musicality and translocality. His research interests include music, migration, culture, media and interdisciplinary studies.

Carl is a member of the Griffith Social and Cultural Research Centre, working on the ARC project, Voice & Belonging: Pathways to Inclusion for New Migrant Communities. He is also working on a collaborative project, Temporary Migrants as Transnational Musicians, funded by the Australian National University Philippines Institute. Carl is also the 2025 Letty Katts Fellow at the State Library of Queensland and serves as Senior Research Assistant at the Griffith Centre for Social & Cultural Research. He is a practising musician (Nicky Anacin), broadcaster (Radio 4EB), media correspondent (The Philippine Times), and cultural advocate.

Carl's recent publications include his monograph, *Transnational Labour Migration and Musical Performance: Filipino Musicians in Australia* (Palgrave, 2026) and contributions in *Rereading Musicians and their Audiences* (Bloomsbury, 2025), *Journal of Intercultural Studies* (2025), *Media Compass* (Wiley, 2024), and *The Qualitative Report* (2024).

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Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra

Rome Prize Fellow, American Academy in Rome (*upcoming*)

Architectural History & Theory
Religious Studies

Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra is an architectural and religious historian. A recent graduate of Yale University's School of Architecture and Department of Religious Studies, Beyeler-Yvarra's work explores how religious proprietary powers are operationalized in the built environments of postcolonial Southeast Asia, Oceania, and East Asia. Her dissertation, "New Dispensations: Catholic Property, Global Capital, and the Making of the Transpacific," is a study of the spatial politics of Catholic institutions that mediate flows of capital in the Philippines, Guåhan-Guam, and Timor-Leste. It reimagines sacred space itself, exposing how it is mutually produced with nominally secular infrastructures of global commerce.

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Katia Chaterji

Assistant Professor, Loyola Marymount University

Islam
Performing Arts



Katia Chaterji is Assistant Professor of Asian and Asian American Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in history at the University of Washington, and her B.A. in anthropology at the University of Chicago. An interdisciplinary scholar of maritime Southeast Asia, she engages with oral history, performance ethnography, and historical archives to research the shared histories between Islam and the performing arts in Sumatra, Indonesia. Her doctoral research was supported by US-Fulbright, among others, and contributed to understandings of mystical Islam in Sumatra and to ongoing debates around gender, piety, and performance.

Her ongoing scholarship explores Islamic dakwah performing arts traditions of West Sumatra and Riau as embodied archives and as Islamic knowledge production historically contingent upon shifting politics towards permissibility of Muslim creative practice and the institution of the national arts academy.

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**Jean Chia**

Researcher, University of Toronto

Anthropology

Jean Chia is a sociocultural anthropologist who researches infrastructure development, water and social histories in Singapore. Her work examines how identity, national imaginations, and social memories are reshaped by urban and hydraulic infrastructure. She is currently a researcher at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto where she is studying experiences of infrastructural change along Toronto's Don River Valley and Port Lands. Jean also works with community organizations, law firms, university departments, and government and municipal planning agencies to improve delivery outcomes in development projects by designing co-management pathways for the development of land and cultural resources.

E | jean.chia@utoronto.ca**Cui Feng**

Independent Scholar

Cold War History
Southeast Asian Studies

Cui Feng is a historian of Cold War Asia and China–Southeast Asia relations. His research examines transnational networks, borderlands, infrastructure, and historical memory across Thailand, Laos, and China. Drawing on multilingual sources and field-based research, he explores how Cold War political infrastructures were transformed, rather than simply replaced, in the post–Cold War era. His current work focuses on the Golden Triangle as a persistent geopolitical space shaped by revolutionary routes, cross-border mobility, Chinese capital, and new forms of economic governance.

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Vien Thi-Thuc Dinh

Research Fellow, Kyoto University

Migration Studies

Sociology of Food & Nutrition

Vien Thi-Thuc Dinh is a researcher at Kyoto University, Division of Natural Resource Economics, specializing in migrant foodways. Her work traces the culinary adaptation of Vietnamese migrants in Japan through household, restaurant and community-level exchanges. Specifically, her work highlights how migrants' traditional ecological knowledge and foraging practices contribute to local sustainability, cultural continuity and social integration in host societies like Japan and Germany. Bridging academia and community, Dinh actively supports grassroots initiatives like multicultural community gardens and heritage cuisine education to cultivate meaningful cross-cultural connections.

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David Gowey

Adjunct Professor, Glendale Community College

Anthropology



David Gowey is currently Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Mesa Community College and Glendale Community College. He earned his doctorate in Sociocultural Anthropology from Arizona State University. His dissertation entitled “‘Where We Left Off, There We Begin’: Sugidanon Epic Performance in Calinog, Philippines” examined oral tradition, cultural education, and ethnic performance among Indigenous Panay Bukidnon communities. Fieldwork for this dissertation was completed as part of a Fulbright Open Research award with additional funding from the Endangered Language Documentation Programme and the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. Recently, his work has been published in the *Colonial Latin American Review*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, and *Ethnohistory*. His research interests include ethnomusicology, comparative Iberian colonialisms of the Trans-Pacific region, and folkloristics.

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**Harifa Siregar**

Assistant Professor, Bandung Institute of Technology

Film History
Film Studies

Harifa ‘pye’ Siregar is a faculty member at the Visual Culture Literacy Research Group and head of Culture Hub Moving Image Lab at the Faculty of Arts and Design, Bandung Institute of Technology (FSRD ITB), Indonesia. He earned his Ph.D. in Moving Image Studies from Georgia State University. His research focuses on non-theatrical film, film history, and film archives. His dissertation, “Location, Moving Images, and Industrialization: Goodyear’s Documentary, Conquering the Jungle, and Changing Landscape of a Plantation Site,” discusses *Conquering the Jungle*, an industrial film by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in 1920 about their plantation in Sumatra and how it affected the site's development, the global rubber market, and the people's historicity, among other things. Pye has been actively involved in teaching and researching the related issues of Indonesian contemporary visual and material culture, as depicted in film and historical archives, at FSRD ITB.

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Kenzell Huggins

Teaching Fellow, University of Chicago

Anthropology

Kenzell Huggins is a cultural and linguistic anthropologist who studies the construction of social value around and through screened entertainment media industries, with particular attention to the semiotics of media. His dissertation research examines the production of film and television in Singapore. The project explores the values attached to developing film and television production in a place historically perceived to be at the peripheries of global media production. These issues are analyzed through the conceptual lens of animation, understanding media production as the semiotic construction of life. Kenzell holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago and B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Notre Dame. His work has been supported by the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program. He is currently a Teaching Fellow at the University of Chicago.

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Ayumi Inouchi

Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Arizona State University

Anthropology

Ayumi Inouchi is currently a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at Arizona State University. Formally trained in linguistics and sociocultural anthropology and Japanese studies, her research focused on how language practices, daily aesthetics, and cultural production of young women stimulated by popular culture give rise to emergent negotiation of social relations and ideologies, particularly around gender. Her current book project examines the cultural-semiotic processes through which the perception of South Korea has shifted among Japanese young women via aesthetically embodied practices and mediatized discourse. She is also researching the consumption of East Asian popular culture among urban women in Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia, since 2024. Her primary research questions are 1) how “Japan” and “Korea” are (re)imagined through girl culture led by young women, and 2) how the small businesses of young women harnessing the popularity of Korean pop culture reveal local and global economic-cultural logics, especially under neoliberal social transformation.

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Olivier Jacques

Lecturer, Vietnam National University

*Architecture
Urban Studies*



Olivier Jacques is an architect and urban researcher currently teaching at Vietnam National University. He received his Ph.D. in Architecture from McGill University, where his research examined speculative urban development and the cultural, political, and aesthetic frameworks through which ideals of modernization have been pursued in contemporary Hanoi. His work has contributed to reframing debates on urbanization in the Global South through questions of volatility, idleness, and socio-political land dynamics, and has been shaped by long-term, embedded engagement with Hanoi’s urban contexts.

Trained in both professional and research-based architecture, Olivier approaches urban questions through architectural theory, spatial analysis, and design-based inquiry. Alongside academic research, he has been involved in design- and policy-oriented projects in Vietnam, including heritage preservation and community-based planning initiatives. His broader interests include postcolonial planning, everyday urbanism, and the tensions between formal design ambitions and vernacular spatial practices in Southeast Asian cities.

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**Al Lim**

Assistant Professor, Singapore Management University

Anthropology

Al Lim is a Presidential Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Singapore Management University. At a time when finance and technology are reshaping economic life in Southeast Asia, his research examines how people navigate value and risk under conditions of pervasive uncertainty. His current book project explores the social worlds of crypto builders in Thailand, drawing on extended ethnographic fieldwork in Bangkok and across the region. His work has appeared in *Urban Geography*, *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, and *The Journal of the Siam Society*. He was awarded the H. Russell Bernard Paper Prize by the Society for Anthropological Sciences for his work on crypto and AI.

He holds a combined Ph.D. in Anthropology and Environmental Studies from Yale University, following an M.Sc. in Urbanisation and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science (overall best performance) and a B.A. (Hons) in Urban Studies from Yale-NUS College (summa cum laude). He has previously been a Visiting Researcher at Chulalongkorn University and an IvyPlus Scholar at University of California, Berkeley. He has also spent several years in ecosystem building and venture investing in AI and crypto startups.

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JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, Otani University

Religious Studies
Area Studies

Woramat Malasart is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), affiliated with Otani University in Kyoto, Japan. He is working on the research project, “Traditional Meditation: Texts and Illuminations in Endangered Manuscripts from Southeast Asia” in collaboration with Professor Shobha Rani Dash. Prior to this position, Woramat served as a lecturer at the College of Religious Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand, and as a teaching fellow in the Religion Program at the University of Otago, New Zealand where he also completed both his Ph.D. and M.A. in Religious Studies. His research interests center on the intersections of textual traditions, manuscript cultures, and contemplative practices in Theravada Buddhist contexts, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia.

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Daniel McCoy
Independent Scholar

Modern Asian Diplomatic History

Daniel McCoy earned his History Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University in August 2025. A 2022-2023 Fulbright student research grant to Indonesia produced his dissertation, “To Negotiate a Labyrinth: Indonesia Within and Without ASEAN During the Third Indochina War (1978-1991),” that addresses Indonesian multi-actor, multi-track diplomacy and their impact on conflict resolution within and outside ASEAN during the Third Indochina War. He participated in the COMPOSE Fellowship at the Indonesian International Islamic University from September to December 2025 where he began research for his postdoc project that examines how the Asian Cold War ended and the post-Cold War period began through the development and impact of trilateral Indonesian-Sino-Vietnamese normalization from 1985 until 1995. McCoy will conduct another round of postdoc research sponsored by an AIFIS-CAORC Research Fellowship to Indonesia in 2026. McCoy has served as a remote research consultant to Deepak Nair at the Australian National University since April 2023, assisting on two projects. His research interests include the institutional history of ASEAN, Cold War geopolitics and diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific, Indonesia’s New Order period, and postwar Southeast Asian conflict studies and peace studies.

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Emily Mitamura

Assistant Professor, Bentley University

Feminist Studies
Asian/American Studies



Emily Mitamura is poet and scholar of gender, race, film, and empire. She is currently a Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow in Gender, Sexuality, Women's Studies at Bowdoin College and will begin a permanent position as Assistant Professor of Asian/American Cultural Studies in the Department of Film and Media Studies at Bentley University in Fall 2026. Her book project unpacks narrative afterlives of colonial and mass violence in Cambodian life. With commitments to Third World and women of color feminisms, Southeast Asian anarchisms, critical refugee studies, postcolonial thought, and Asian/American expressive culture, the book project explores how the story of violence becomes a terrain of political life negotiated, contested, and reimagined by survivors and their kin. She mentors students as part of the Ponlok Chomnes program at the Center for Khmer Studies, as well as students at Brown’s Southeast Asian Studies Initiative. Her research has appeared or is forthcoming in *Cultural Studies*, *Theory & Event*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Violence and the Third World* (Routledge 2022).

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**Muhammad Afdillah**

Assistant Professor, Sunan Ampel State
Islamic University Surabaya

Interreligious Studies
Indonesian Islam

Muhammad Afdillah is Assistant Professor of Interreligious Studies at the Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Philosophy, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Indonesia. He earned his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies and Christian–Muslim Relations from Hartford International University for Religion and Peace in 2025. His research centers on interreligious dialogue, Christian–Muslim relations, Indonesian Islam, religious nationalism, and the governance of religious diversity. His recent works include “Indonesian Islam and the Other: Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama Views of Christianity in Twenty-First Century Indonesia” (2025) and forthcoming articles on scriptural nationalism, interfaith marriage, and the Living Quran approach to Tafsir al-Ibriz. Afdillah has contributed to reputable journals like *The Muslim World*. Beyond academia, Afdillah serves as Chief of the Office of Interreligious Dialogue at Muhammadiyah East Java and as a Southeast Asian Fellow at the KAICIID International Dialogue Centre, actively facilitating dialogue among scholars and faith communities.

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Najiyah Martiam

Guest Lecturer, Gadjah Mada University

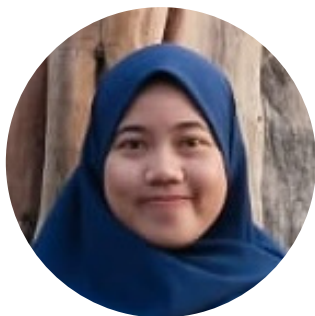
Anthropology



Najiyah Martiam is a guest lecturer at the Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies (CRCS), Universitas Gadjah Mada. She is also the founder and CEO of a new environmental initiative, Godong Sukun Environmental Collective, which focuses on research on religion and the environment as well as environmental action. She is also a consultant of Yadema, an Indonesian organization affiliated with Globethics, focuses on promoting and developing ethical leadership.

She earned her Ph.D. in August 2024 from the University of Florida with a dissertation titled “Tropical Islam: Indigeneity, Religion, Environment, and Gender Relations in Indigenous-Muslim Communities in Indonesia”, which explored the intersections of indigeneity (adat), religion, environmental ethics, and gender dynamics in Indigenous Muslim communities. She holds a B.A. in Agricultural Technology (specializing in food science and microbiology) and an M.A. in Religious Studies both from Gadjah Mada University. Her research interests include science and religion, Indigenous traditions, foodways, art and spirituality/religion, and environmental movements such as permaculture and other creative ecological initiatives.

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Noorhidayah

Lecturer, State Islamic University of Palangka Raya

Anthropology
Islamic Studies
Southeast Asian Studies

Noorhidayah is Lecturer at the State Islamic University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia. She holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from UIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, with research focusing on the intersections of religion, food practices, and socio-ecological dynamics in Southeast Asia. Her work spans food regimes, political ecology, ecological justice, and legal pluralism in multi-ethnic Islamic contexts. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in urban and rural communities, and has participated in international research programs including Goethe University Frankfurt, and the National University of Singapore.

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Morragotwong Phumplab

Assistant Professor, Thammasat University

History
Southeast Asian Studies



Morragotwong Phumplab is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Thailand, and serves as Assistant Director for Research and Academic Service Affairs at the Institute of East Asian Studies. Her scholarship focuses on diplomatic history and the socio-political and cultural histories of Southeast Asia, with particular emphasis on Vietnam and Thailand. Her current research explores Cold War dynamics in the region, especially the interplay between high-level political processes and the lived experiences of people on the ground, as well as transnational mobility and historical interactions between Thailand and Vietnam.

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Tony Scott

Japan Foundation-Global Japan Studies Fellow, University of Tokyo

Buddhist Studies
Dialectical Philology

Tony Scott, trained in Hong Kong and Toronto, is a scholar of Pali literature in Southeast Asia, pioneering a technique of dialectical philology to examine the political and social topographies of modern Pali texts and their commentaries in Myanmar. As a Japan Foundation-Global Japan Studies Fellow at the University of Tokyo, he is currently exploring how a centuries-old religious infrastructure and anti-imperial Buddhist internationalism supplied the raw materials for the world-historical projects of independence, nation building, and reconstruction in Cold War Asia. Tony also has interests in the theories and practices of meditation in early modern and modern Asia, Indigenous epistemologies around fossils and sacred geologies in western North America, and radical labour histories in the mining towns of Alberta, like those of his hometown, the Badlands of Drumheller.

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Roni N. Wang

Independent Scholar

Thai Buddhist Studies

Roni Wang (she/her) holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her doctoral research examined Thai cosmological parks, with particular attention to representations of the apāya, the lower realms of existence. She also holds an M.A. in religions, during which she began her preliminary research on cosmology and its articulation in Thai Buddhism.

An independent scholar based in Lampang, northern Thailand, Wang's multidisciplinary research engages with Buddhist visual, material, and ritual culture in Thailand. Her work explores temples as artistic platforms, cosmological narratives, and their tangible and visual manifestations, focusing on the intersections between Buddhist teachings, sacred spaces, and contemporary cultural expression in Thailand. In addition, her ongoing study of Thai dance informs her interest in performative traditions and embodied approaches to religion and visual culture.

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Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin

Associate Professor, National University of Singapore
Deputy Director, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

*Colonial, Post-Colonial Myanmar
Southeast Asian History*

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin is Associate Professor of Myanmar/Southeast Asian history and Convener of the Comparative Asian Studies Ph.D. Program at the National University of Singapore. His research is concerned with nation-building, law, knowledge production, and resistance in Asia. His publications include: *A History of Myanmar since Ancient Times: Traditions and Transformations* (2013), *The Return of the Galon King: History, Law, and Rebellion in Colonial Burma* (2011), and *A New History of Southeast Asia* (2010).

He was the Editor of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (2017-2025). He also served the Association for Asian Studies in several capacities, including Chair of the Burmese Group and Chair of the Southeast Asia Council. He is currently the incoming President of the Burma Studies Foundation (USA), Board Member of the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program Foundation (SEASREP), and Deputy Director of the Asia Research Institute, NUS. He has held research grants from the Ministry of Education (Singapore), Japan Foundation, and the Henry Luce Foundation.

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2026 MENTORS

**Lisandro E. Claudio**

Associate Professor, University of California, Berkeley
Chair, Center for Southeast Asia, University of California, Berkeley

Philippine History
Southeast Asian Studies

Lisandro E. Claudio is Associate Professor of South and Southeast Asian Studies at UC Berkeley, where he also chairs the Center for Southeast Asia Studies—one of the oldest Southeast Asian area studies centers in the United States. In this role, he coordinates cross-campus collaboration among Southeast Asianists and oversees initiatives enabling graduate research. Before Berkeley, he taught at Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, and held a postdoctoral fellowship at Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

He is an intellectual and cultural historian whose work examines liberalism, nationalism, and decolonization in Southeast Asia. His book *Liberalism and the Postcolony: Thinking the State in Twentieth-Century Philippines* received the 2019 George McT. Kahin Prize from the Association of Asian Studies and the 2019 EuroSEAS Humanities Book Prize. His latest book, *The Profligate Colonial: How the U.S. Exported Austerity Through the Philippines, 1902–1986* (Cornell University Press, 2025), traces the historical and cultural roots of economic conservatism in the Philippines through textual and interdisciplinary methods.

Beyond academia, Claudio has contributed to Philippine public discourse through writing for *Rappler* and *Esquire Magazine*, a collection of popular essays (*Basagan ng Trip*, Anvil, 2016), hosting a public history web show, and co-hosting a civics podcast and cable television program.

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George E. Dutton

Professor, National University of California, Los Angeles
Chair, Southeast Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies
Chair, Benda Book Prize Committee

Social and Literary History
Vietnam

George E. Dutton is Professor of Vietnamese History and Southeast Asian Studies at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He completed his Ph.D. in History at the University of Washington (UW), Seattle after an M.A. degree in International Relations at Yale University. As an undergraduate, Dutton also spent a year studying at the National University of Singapore (NUS) (1987-1988). He did graduate coursework with Ben Kiernan and James Scott at Yale, and studied with Laurie Sears, Christoph Giebel, and Dan Lev at UW. He has written books on early modern Vietnamese history and edited several volumes on Southeast Asian literary and historical texts, including *Sources of Vietnamese Tradition*, the most comprehensive anthology of Vietnamese primary documents in English translation.

Dutton's teaching interests, in addition to Vietnamese history, include contemporary Southeast Asian religion and society, upland ethnic minorities in mainland Southeast Asia, and modern Southeast Asian literature.

He served two terms as Director of the UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies and as Vice Chair for his home department. He has also served as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Consortium for Graduate Education and Training on Southeast Asia (GETSEA) of which he was a founding member. Dutton has served as Chair of the Southeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), where he is currently serving a second term and has also served on the AAS Program Committee. He is currently serving as Chair of the AAS Benda Book Prize Committee.

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**Mala Rajo Sathian**

Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya

Board Member, Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program

Board Member, Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia

Thailand, South Thailand

Ethnic Minorities

Mala Rajo Sathian is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Universiti Malaya, where she previously held the position of Head of Department. She has been involved in the B.A. and M.A. Southeast Asian Studies curriculum development at her university. She promotes internationalization of the SEAS program through outbound and inbound mobility and enrichment programs to strengthen student numbers and visibility. She initiated the first International Conference on SEA (ICONSEA) in the region, in 2005, that remains a vital platform for emerging scholarship on the region. She is also a Board Member of the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) and the Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA); encouraging networking among Southeast Asian Studies scholars in the region. She has collaborated with Thai scholars from “provincial” universities and grassroots communities in south Thailand on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and peace building projects.

Her research and publications relate to Thailand, focusing on Patani Malay Muslims in south Thailand, concerning identity, conflict, governance, human rights and public history. She has conducted archival and field research in northern, central and southern Thailand and more recently in the Thai-Malaysia border region, focusing on ethnic Thai in northern Malaysia and Malaysia-Thai relations. She has also published on Indian minorities in Malaysia and on methodologies and approaches to Southeast Asian Studies. Her book: *Siamese in Malaysiawas* published in 2018 and her articles have appeared in the *Public Historian*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Sojourn*, *Asian Affairs*, *JATI* and *Suvannabhumi*.

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Miriam T. Stark

Professor, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Archaeology
Anthropology

Miriam T. Stark has conducted research in Southeast Asia for nearly four decades, beginning in the Philippine Cordilleras and, since 1996, in Cambodia's Lower Mekong Basin. Her archaeological work focuses on the political ecology of urbanism, landscape-based research, and early state formation. She currently leads four collaborative, field-based archaeological projects across Cambodia and directs the LuceSEA Environmental Transitions: Environment, Society, and Change initiative, which aims to strengthen Southeast Asia-based research capacity on agrarian transitions across the region. Both in her own scholarship and in the Luce-funded initiative, Stark works closely with Southeast Asian colleagues and integrates mentorship into all aspects of her research activities.

Publishing in both academic and public-facing venues—from technical reports to magazine articles—has been central to Stark's career since graduate school. She has edited or co-edited several scholarly volumes with major academic presses, authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and publications, and held editorial positions with 15 academic journals. She also serves on the editorial board of the Cambridge University Press World Archaeology book series. Her recent publications explore topics ranging from ceramic studies and Angkorian citizenship to the influence of James Scott's ideas on Southeast Asian archaeology. In 2023, she co-edited *The Angkorian World* (Routledge). Stark is equally committed to professional service, having served on committees and boards for numerous national and international organizations, as well as directing her university's Center for Southeast Asian Studies for eight years. She currently serves on the U.S. State Department's Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

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2026 MENTORS

**Thongchai Winichakul**

Emeritus Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Thailand**Southeast Asian History*

Thongchai Winichakul enjoyed the communities both at History Department and at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was the Center's director in 1997-1999. He is also a co-editor of Southeast Asia series, U Wisconsin Press (2003-2016). For the broader academic community, he serves in editorial boards of many journals, and regularly reviews manuscripts for journals and publishers. He served in the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) in various roles: Southeast Asia Council, the Benda and Kahin prize committees, program committees, the AAS executive board, and was its President in 2013/2014 when, in partnership with Asia Research Institute (ARI), the first AAS-in-Asia took place at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

He was a fellow at ARI in 2010-2012 (plotting a book), at Kyoto-CSEAS and the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in 2015 (continue plotting), and at IDE-JETRO in 2017-2019 (finishing it). Apart from dozens of articles, he published only two monographs in English: the first one based on his thesis, *Siam Mapped* (awarded the Harry Benda Prize, 1995), and *Moments of Silence: Unforgetting of the October 1976, Massacre in Bangkok* (awarded the EUROSEAS Humanities prize, 2022, and Kahin Prize, 2023). He was also honored by the prestigious Guggenheim (1994) and the Fukuoka (2023) awards.

Thongchai's interests are in the intellectual foundations of modern Siam under colonial conditions (1880s-1930s). Throughout his career, while one foot is in the ivory tower, his other foot has never left the streets in Thailand. He has published eight books and several articles in Thai and is a vocal critic of Thai political and social issues.

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Moe Thuzar

Senior Fellow and Coordinator of Myanmar Studies Programme,
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

History

Southeast Asia, ASEAN

Moe Thuzar is Senior Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, where she coordinates its Myanmar Studies Programme. Moe joined ISEAS in 2008, as lead researcher in the ASEAN Studies Centre up to August 2019. Prior to joining ISEAS, Moe spent ten years at the ASEAN Secretariat, where she headed the Human Development Unit from 2004 to 2007. A former diplomat, she researched Burma's foreign policy implementation (1948-1988), for her Ph.D. at the National University of Singapore. Moe was a Fox International Fellow (2019-2020) at Yale University's MacMillan Center during her Ph.D. candidacy. Her research interests include Myanmar's foreign policy, ASEAN integration impacts and issues (socio-cultural areas) and ASEAN's dialogue relations. Moe has co-authored, co-edited, and contributed to several compendia and edited volumes on ASEAN, and on Myanmar.

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Peter Schoppert

Director, National University of Singapore (NUS) Press

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.

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2026 SPEAKERS

**Jacob Rinck**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Global Inequality
Migration
Agrarian Change

Jacob Rinck is an anthropologist studying global inequality through the lens of migration, agrarian change and development economics as storytelling in Nepal. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. Before joining ARI, Jacob was a Visiting Scholar and lecturer at George Washington University. He has a Ph.D. in anthropology from Yale University (May 2020), and an M.Sc. (Violence, Conflict and Development) from School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. In a professional capacity, Jacob has worked for the International Crisis Group, and as a consultant for the Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank among others. He is currently working on a book manuscript and articles on his research on transnational migration, agrarian change, and histories of developmental thought in Nepal, with an article in the *Journal of Peasant Studies* forthcoming. His new research focuses on the emergence of new transnational publics around a 2018 bilateral labor agreement between Nepal and Malaysia.

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ABOUT THE HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

The Henry Luce Foundation seeks to deepen knowledge and understanding in pursuit of a more democratic and just world. Established in 1936 by Henry R. Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., the Luce Foundation advances its mission by nurturing knowledge communities and institutions, fostering dialogue across divides, enriching public discourse, amplifying diverse voices, and investing in leadership development.

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ABOUT THE COLLABORATORY CONVENORS

Maitrii V. AUNG-THWIN

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin is Associate Professor of Myanmar/Southeast Asian history and Convener of the Comparative Asian Studies Ph.D. Program at the National University of Singapore. His research is concerned with nation-building, law, knowledge production, and resistance in Asia. His publications include: *A History of Myanmar since Ancient Times: Traditions and Transformations* (2013), *The Return of the Galon King: History, Law, and Rebellion in Colonial Burma* (2011), and *A New History of Southeast Asia* (2010).

He was the Editor of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (2017-2025). He also served the Association for Asian Studies in several capacities, including Chair of the Burmese Group and Chair of the Southeast Asia Council. He is currently the incoming President of the Burma Studies Foundation (USA), Board Member of the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program Foundation (SEASREP), and Deputy Director of the Asia Research Institute, NUS. He has held research grants from the Ministry of Education (Singapore), Japan Foundation, and the Henry Luce Foundation.

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Aishah ALHADAD

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Aishah Alhadad is Research Associate (Program Manager) with the ARI-Luce Southeast Asian Studies Collaboratory, a Henry Luce Foundation-funded initiative hosted by the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She has an M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies (NUS) and a B.A. in History (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore). Her dissertation projects reflect a sustained interest in how Islamic frameworks, feminist thought, and institutional power shape—and are shaped by—Muslim women's lives in the region.

Aishah is a researcher, writer, and community worker, whose work explores the intersections of gender, race, class, and Islam in Singapore, bridging academic research with community-based engagement and realities. She is involved in community-led organisations and initiatives, most of which center local Muslim-raised women experiences.

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Image

I Dewa Gde Raka Turas (1917–1993)
Balinese painter, woodcarver, and dancer

