CLUSTER UPDATES

A bi-annual newsletter to fill you in on all the latest developments from the interdisciplinary FASS Research Clusters

Click on the Research Cluster banners below to jump to each Research Cluster’s section
**Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014**

**19 February 2014**

*Asian-Australian housing relationships: An international assemblage of economic, technical and cultural practices*

This seminar by Dr Dallas Rogers (Research Fellow, University of Western Sydney) explored the rapidly changing financial, consumption, and technical interrelationships between Australia and Asia. Participants exchanged views on areas of housing policy and urban politics, fields in which Dr Rogers has conducted extensive research. For more on the seminar, visit the [Cities Cluster blog](#).

**Recent Events from Semester 1, AY 2014-15**

**14-15 August 2014**

*Urban Aspirations Asia: A Graduate Urban Studies Workshop*

As part of the MOE-funded research grant on Aspirations, Urban Governance, and the Remaking of Asian Cities, *Urban Aspirations Asia* was a graduate urban studies workshop, organised in collaboration with the Cities Cluster, that included plenary sessions by Professor Ananya Roy (University of California, Berkeley) and Dr Anant Maringanti (Director, Hyderabad Urban Lab). Prof Roy’s presentation “Why Urban Studies now?” was followed by a lively question and answer session. Dr Maringanti discussed his current work at the Hyderabad Urban Lab and his personal journey as an undergraduate and postgraduate student. Urban studies graduate scholars also presented on topics ranging from urban water governance, citizenship in megacities, youth aspirations to urban greening.
18 August 2014
*Territories of poverty: Rethinking North and South*

Following her sessions during the *Urban Aspirations Asia* workshop, Professor Ananya Roy held this wildly popular seminar on urban poverty. Her research and teaching are concerned with global urbanisms, inequality, and international development. The author of several books, she is most recently the co-editor of *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global* (with Aihwa Ong). Taking as its starting point new metropolitan and global geographies of poverty, this talk outlined a new agenda of poverty scholarship. The seminar was extremely well-received with capacity filled to standing room only.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014

16 January 2014
*Tropical wetlands – sensitive archives for reconstructing Asian summer monsoon variability*

Professor Barbara Wohlfarth’s current research is focused on past shifts in Asian summer monsoon intensity using lake sedimentary records from Thailand.

27-28 January 2014
*Holocene Climate Reconstruction Workshop*

The *Holocene Climate Reconstruction Workshop* brought together several researchers from the region who use proxy indicators to explore past climates. The goal of the workshop was to improve NUS’s ability to use these methods to explore the natural history of flooding in the region, as well as to gain a better understanding of changes in the Asian Monsoon.

More on both events can be found on the [Environment Cluster blog](#).
Upcoming Events

Early November 2014 (date TBC)
*Future Floods: An Exploration of a Cross-disciplinary Approach to Flood Risk Forecasting*

This upcoming workshop is co-sponsored by NUS (FASS Environment Cluster and the Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy) and AONBenfield Asia Pte. Ltd.

It brings together experts in both the “traditional” hydrologic analysis of floods with those who use non-traditional sources of information about floods. Expertise will come from risk analysis, hydrology, mathematics/statistics, geomorphology/geology, geochronology, climatology, history, and archives.

Further information will be publicized on the [Environment Cluster website](#).

Steering Committee Update

[Associate Professor Alberto Salvo](#) has joined the Environment Cluster steering committee. A specialist in energy and environmental economics, A/P Salvo brings his expertise to the multi-dimensional challenges of environmental issues. He is currently a faculty member of the Department of Economics.
**Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014**

**Conferences/Seminars**

5-6 December 2013: Conference *Living Alone: One-person households in Asia*, jointly organized with Asia Research Institute

23 January 2014: Seminar *Unemployment among Immigrant and Local-born Youth in Hong Kong* by Prof Eric Fong, University of Toronto, jointly organized with Sociology Department

24 January 2014: Seminar *The nature of play: children's seasonal playing practices in Auckland, New Zealand* by Dr Christina R. Ergler, University of Otago, New Zealand, jointly organised with Geography Department

11 March 2014: Seminar *Privatizing marriage in postsocialist China* by Prof Deborah Davis of Yale University, jointly organized with Asia Research Institute

17 April 2014: Seminar *The Global Diffusion of Inequality since 1970* by A/P Salvatore Babones, University of Sydney, jointly organized with Sociology Department

5-6 May 2014: Workshop *Youthful Futures? Aspirations, Education and Employment in Asia*, jointly organized with Asia Research Institute

1-2 July 2014: Conference *Growing up in one-parent families in Asia*, jointly organized with Asia Research Institute
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014 (continued)

Lunchtime talks

21 February 2014: Early Adolescents’ Relationship with their parents in the United States and China by Dr Lily Qin, Psychology Department

21 March 2014: Wealthy Neighbourhoods and the Reproduction of Gender and Ethnic Inequalities in Elite School Enrolment in Singapore, 1971-2010 by Dr Vincent Chua, Sociology Department

FCY Research Cluster has been developed into a faculty-level Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR). The centre will be dedicated to advancement of research and training in the study of trends, determinants, and consequences of family and population changes, particularly changes in Asia. Its main activities will aim to promote: (1) research, (2) training, and (3) mentoring on family and population research. Stay tuned for the official launch of this new centre in the upcoming semester and check out the centre’s website here!
Recent and Upcoming Events: Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

29 August 2014, 12:00-1:30PM
Lunchtime talk Parental Migration and Adolescents’ Transitioning to High School in Rural China by Ms Hu Shu, PhD Candidate, FASS Sociology Department

16 or 17 October 2014 (date TBC)
Seminar Who Participates in After-School Tutoring and Who Benefits from It? A Cross-National and Inter-Grade Analysis by A/P Huang Min-Hsiung, Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014

**13 February 2014**: Roundtable on *Challenges and Opportunities of Population Ageing: the approach of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*. This event is jointly organized with the Institute of Policy Studies, LKYSPP.

**26-28 March 2014**: Series of seminars, workshops, and conferences on ageing issues

26 March: *Workshop on best practices for active ageing*, supported by College of Alice and Peter Tan, Council for Third Age, and Fei Yue Community Services

27 March: *Annual Scientific Conference on Ageing: Successful Ageing in Asia Pacific*, jointly organized with the Gerontological Society of Singapore

28 March: Seminar *Why women live longer than men: lifestyle, the gender gap and public health policy implications for longevity in Okinawa* by Professor D. Craig Willcox, jointly organized with the Institute of Policy Studies, LKYSPP
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014 (continued)

17 April 2014: *Inaugural Conference of the Singapore Health Economics Association*
This conference was jointly organized with the Singapore Management University and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

Recent Events: Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

20 August 2014
Seminar titled *Grandparents raising grandchildren: The impact of caregiving on Chinese older adults’ life satisfaction* by Dr Bei Wu, Pauline Gratz Professor of Nursing, Duke University, School of Nursing; jointly organized with the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR).

Workshop on Intergenerational Learning: *What can the youth and seniors learn from each other?*, by A/P Thang Leng Leng, FASS Japanese Studies Department and Dr Teresa Tsien, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014

20 January 2014
Seminar on *Lives of Exclusion: The Experiences of Contract Workers at Sea* by Prof Helen Sampson, Director of Seafarers International Research Centre, Cardiff University

20-21 February 2014
*Asia-Pacific Worlds in Motion 6 – Migrations: Within & Beyond Nations and States*
Now into its 6th year, APWIM continues its series of annual graduate student conferences, which have been co-organized by NUS and UBC.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014 (continued)

7 March 2014
Book Launch: The ‘Bare Life’ of Thai Migrant Workmen in Singapore, authored by the late Dr Pattana Kitiarsa

Recent and Upcoming Events

4-5 August 2014
Workshop on Manoeuvring through Physical and Virtual Spaces: Mobility and New Media in Asian Cities, jointly organized by FASS & ARI Migration Clusters and CNM Department

18 August 2014, 12-2pm
Migration Cluster Reading Group Session 1 – Discussing Everyday Multiculturalism with guest facilitator Dr Selvaraj Velayutham (Sociology, Macquarie University)

7 November 2014, 3:30pm-5pm
The Cosmopolitan Working-Class: The Uses and Limitations of Cultural Capital amongst Filipino Migrant Domestic Workers by Dr Anju Mary Paul (Yale-NUS); co-organized with Sociology Department
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014

**27 February 2014**

*Exhibiting Islam in the Malay World*

The seminar featured guest speakers Dr Sven Schottmann (La Trobe University, Australia), Dr Chris Joll (Chiang Mai University, Thailand), and A/P Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid (Universiti Sains Malaysia). It was convened by A/P Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied (Malay Studies) and Dr Jeremy Kingsley (Tembusu College).

**14-15 March 2014**

*Workshop on Material Religion, Film, and Video in Asia*

The workshop, convened by A/P John Whalen-Bridge (ELL), featured a host of international scholars on material religion who presented their research from a variety of social contexts such as Japan, South Asia, the Philippines, and other parts of Asia. Their papers are slated to be published in an upcoming issue of Material Religion.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014 (continued)

30 May 2014
*Bringing the Gospel Revolution from Singapore to America – A Case of “Reverse Mission?”* by Dr Katja Rakow (Heidelberg University, Germany); chaired by Prof Robbie Goh (ELL)

Other Events

17 March 2014
*A History of Religion in 5 1/2 Objects* by A/P Brent Plate (Hamilton College, USA)

1 April 2014
Seminar on *The role of the Po Gru and the Po Pasaih in Cham society of Vietnam: Preservation of Cham religion, culture and historical memory* with Dr Thanh Phan (Vietnam National University HCMC), A/P Bruce Lockhart (History), and Dr Mohamed Effendy (SEASP)

6 June 2014
Roundtable Discussion on *Religion and Minorities in Thailand and Tibet* with Prof Thanet Aphornsuvan (Thammasat University, Thailand), A/P John Whalen-Bridge (ELL), and Mr Martin Kovan (University of Melbourne, Australia)

Recent Events – Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

12 August 2014
Seminar by Professor Greta Austin (University of Puget Sound, USA) titled *The Western Frame of Secularization Narratives*
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014

7 March 2014
Half-day Seminar titled *Making Space for Migrant Workers in Multicultural Singapore*, jointly organized by the FASS SSP Research Cluster and Department of Geography. This event brought together researchers and NGOs to discuss “Multiculturalism”, “urban diversity”, and enabling a more inclusive environment for migrant workers in Singapore.
Upcoming Events

28 November 2014 (TBC)
Half-day workshop on *The Middle Class in Singapore*, jointly organized by SSP Research Cluster and IPS Social Lab

27 February 2015 (TBC)
Workshop titled *Reflecting on the Past and Extrapolating on the Future: The Social, Economic, Political Dimensions of Singapore*, jointly organized by SSP Research Cluster and the Singapore Research Nexus (SRN)

July 2015 (date TBC)
*Graduate Student Panel on Social Development*, organized as part of The 19th International Symposium of the International Consortium for Social Development
13 January 2014

*From Model Organisms to Synthetic Biology: STS Perspectives on Experimentation in the Life Sciences*

This international workshop featured Prof Rachel Ankeny, (University of Adelaide, Australia), Dr Jane Calvert (University of Edinburgh, UK), Dr Tamra Lysaght (ARI, NUS), and A/P Axel Gelfert (Philosophy).
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014 (continued)

24 January 2014
*Crafting Ignorance: Secrecy and Suggestion in Science and Technology*

23 January 2014
*SECRECY* Film Screening and Roundtable Discussion

21-22 July 2014
*Spaces of Technoscience: An International Workshop*
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014

16-17 January 2014  
Conference on State Policy and the Cultural Politics of Heritage-Making in East and Southeast Asia, featuring the panel Heritage in Singapore: Challenges, Conversations and Consequences (jointly organized with ISEAS and IIAS)

12 March 2014  
Singapore on Screen II

The winner of Singapore on Screen II in the Non-fiction Category was Cai Hui Bin’s nostalgic documentary Old Times – Singapore’s Provision Shops, available on the NUS YouTube channel. For the Fiction Category, Ghazrizal Azry Ghazali Nor won for his charming vignette ★ or ✗ ?, also viewable at NUS YouTube.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2013-2014 (continued)

21 May 2014 – FASS Faculty Research Visibility Workshop
The Research Visibility Workshop series is a joint initiative by SRN and NUS Libraries to enhance faculty research visibility and assess their research impacts. The workshop can be viewed at NUS YouTube. The next installment is planned for Reading Week (Week 13, 17 to 21 November 2014). For updates, watch the SRN website.

Recent and Upcoming Events from Semester 2, AY 2014-2015

1 July-15 August 2014 – Picture Singapore
Picture Singapore is a photography competition that encourages FASS students, alums, faculty and staff to embody Singapore through photographs depicting Singapore’s culture, environment, heritage, diversity, society, community, everyday life and more. Click here for further information on Picture Singapore and check out our Facebook photo album.

4 September 2014 – Picture Singapore Award Ceremony
The competition’s Award Ceremony will take place from 11am-12pm at Central Library’s Theatrette 2 on Level 4 (Room 5). To attend, RSVP to nexus@nus.edu.sg. The top photographs will also be exhibited at Central Library's ArtsBuzz from 4 to 22 September.
Upcoming Events from Semester 2, AY 2014-2015

12 December 2014

*Singapore on Screen III* submission deadline

Now in its third year, the FASS Student Short Film Competition, *Singapore on Screen*, is open to any NUS student, undergraduate or graduate, who is taking a FASS module during the 2014 calendar year.

Click [here](#) to find out more about *Singapore on Screen III*!