FASS RESEARCH DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS 2014

A report from the FASS Research Division and its interdisciplinary Research Clusters

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Breakthroughs in the Humanities and Social Sciences

The word ‘breakthrough’ is typically modified by the word ‘scientific’, giving us the impression that all breakthroughs are of a scientific nature. Reading here about the numerous breakthroughs achieved by NUS researchers in the humanities and social sciences during the past several months, we learn that the breakthrough is a much more vast and nuanced product of high caliber thought and research than we had previously imagined—in and out of the lab.

New books, articles, and research projects by faculty members reveal their original theories, innovative methodologies, and research areas ripe for exploration giving rise to potent findings that, for instance, change and advance how we understand nations, their people, and the intangible forces that affect and are manipulated by them.
SELECTED RECENTLY PUBLISHED AUTHORED BOOKS BY FASS FACULTY

The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future (Cambridge UP) by Prasenjit Duara, Professor in the Department of History, is available [here](#). A panel discussion and presentation will be held as a launch event at Seminar Rooms A and B at the Shaw Foundation Building on **Friday, January 30th**. More information can be found [here](#).

In this major new study, Prasenjit Duara expands his influential theoretical framework to present circulatory, transnational histories as an alternative to nationalist history. Duara argues that the present day is defined by the intersection of three global changes: the rise of non-western powers, the crisis of environmental sustainability and the loss of authoritative sources of what he terms transcendence - the ideals, principles and ethics once found in religions or political ideologies. The physical salvation of the world is becoming - and must become - the transcendent goal of our times, but this goal must transcend national sovereignty if it is to succeed. Duara suggests that a viable foundation for sustainability might be found in the traditions of Asia, which offer different ways of understanding the relationship between the personal, ecological and universal. These traditions must be understood through the ways they have circulated and converged with contemporary developments.

Terence Lee’s *Defect or Defend? Military Responses to Popular Protests in Authoritarian Asia* (Johns Hopkins UP) explores the military’s role during regime change in Asia. Lee’s four case studies in the Philippines, Indonesia, China, and Burma are viewed through his theory of “high personalism” and power sharing among the military leadership. His method of understanding the transitional phases of democratization is also used to examine events in Eastern Europe’s democratization process during 1989, as well as the “Colored Revolutions” during the first decade of the new millennium, and the Arab Spring upheavals. Lee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. Read his October 9th opinion piece, “Indonesian, Thai militaries take different tack”, in the Straits Times, where he examines the political role of the military in Indonesia and Thailand, noting democratisation requires the developing of strong and legitimate institutions to separate the political elite from the armed forces, and more importantly, for these institutions to exercise oversight over the military.
Rajesh Rai, Assistant Professor in the South Asian Studies Programme, has written a landmark book that explores how the Indian diaspora was formed in colonial Singapore, revealing how this minority immigrant community affected and was affected by Singapore’s evolution. Published by Oxford UP in September 2014, *Indians in Singapore, 1819-1945: Diaspora in the Colonial Port City* is available here. Read an interview with Rai about his research for this book and plans for a second volume here.

*The Language of Organizational Styling* (Cambridge UP) by Lionel Wee, Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature, is available here.

*A Critical Introduction to Testimony* by Axel Gelfert (Bloomsbury), Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, is available here.

*Resemblance and Representation: An Essay in the Philosophy of Pictures* (Open Book Publishers) by Ben Blumson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, is available here.

*The Lovers’ Quarrel: The Two Foundings & American Political Development* (Oxford UP) by Elvin Lim, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, is available here.

*The Transformation of Governance in Rural China: Market, Finance, and Political Authority* (Cambridge UP) by An Chen, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, is available here.

*How India Became Territorial: Foreign Policy, Diaspora, Geopolitics* (Stanford UP) by Itty Abraham, Associate Professor in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, is available here.

*Globalization and Deregulation: Ideas, Interests, and Institutional Change in India* and *Political Economy of Reforms in India* by Rahul Mukherji, Associate Professor in the South Asian Studies Programme, were published by Oxford UP.

*Dynamic Environments of Singapore* by Daniel Friess, Assistant Professor, and Grahame Oliver, Senior Lecturer, from the Department of Geography, is available here.

*Remembering the Samsui Women: Migration and Social Memory in Singapore and China* by Kelvin E.Y. Low, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, is available here. Read an interview with Low about the book here.
**Neoliberal Health Organizing: Communication, Meaning, and Politics** by Mohan Dutta, Professor and Head of the Department of Communications and New Media, will be published by Left Coast Press in April 2015.

**Arts, Culture and the Making of Global Cities: Creating New Urban Landscapes in Asia** by Lily Kong, Professor in the Department of Geography and Vice-Provost, with Chia-ho Ching and Tsu-Lung Chou, will be published by Edward Elgar in January 2015. A public lecture and launch will be held at the Pod, NLB on **Wednesday, February 25th**, from 4-6pm, in collaboration with the Singapore Research Nexus and the Centre for Liveable Cities. Details are available [here](#).

**Sensorama: A Phenomenalist Analysis of Spacetime and Its Contents** by Michael Pelczar, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy, will be published by Oxford UP in March 2015.

**The Bengal Diaspora: Muslim Migrants in Britain, India and Bangladesh** by Annu Jalais, Assistant Professor in the South Asian Studies Programme, with Claire Alexander and Joya Chatterji, will be published by Routledge in March 2015.


**Cold War Crucible: The Korean Conflict and the Postwar World** by Masuda Hajimu, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, will be published by Harvard UP in February 2015.

**Quest for Political Power: Communist Subversion and Militancy in Singapore** by Bilveer Singh, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, will be published by Marshall Cavendish in February 2015.

**Radicals: Resistance and Mobilization in Colonial Malaya** by Syed Aljunied, Associate Professor in the Department of Malay Studies, will be published by Northern Illinois UP in June 2015.

**Three Centuries of Conflict in East Timor** by Douglas Kammen, Assistant Professor in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, will be published by Rutgers UP in August 2015.
85 LANDMARK BOOKS FOR FASS’S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

To mark the Faculty’s 85th Anniversary, the Research Division together with the HoDs put together a list of 85 landmark books published by Faculty members and notable alumni over the past 85 years. The books are as follows:

Department of Chinese Studies

Xinjiapo minnan huacidian (2002) by Chew Cheng Hai
The Gilded Years (2011) by Lee Chee Hiang
Symmetries and Asymmetries between Affirmation and Negation (1992) by Shi Yuzhi

Department of English Language & Literature

Singapore: From Place to Nation (2011) by Lee Soo Ann
Policy Options for the Singapore Economy (1988) by Lim Chong Yah

Department of Communications & New Media

Voices of Resistance (2013) by Mohan Jyoti Dutta
Ambiguities of Activism: Alter-Globalism and the Imperatives of Speed (2012) by Ingrid Maria Hoofd

Department of Economics

The Singapore Economy: An econometric perspective (2007) by Tilak Abeysinghe
The Economics of Modernization (2004) by Goh Keng Swee
Singapore Studies: Critical Surveys of the Humanities and Social Sciences (1986) by Basant K. Kapur

Singapore: From Place to Nation (2011) by Lee Soo Ann
Policy Options for the Singapore Economy (1988) by Lim Chong Yah

The Structure of Tone (1999) by Bao Zhiming
Contours of Culture: Space and Social Difference in Singapore (2005) by Robbie B. H. Goh
Myth of the Stone (2012) by Gwee Li Sui
Prospect of a Drowning (1980) by Lee Tzu Pheng
Schizophrenic Speech: Making Sense of Bathrooms and Ponds that Fall in Doorways (2005) by Tomasina Oh
Essential English Dictionary (1997) by Vincent Ooi, Lubna Alsagoff, Bao Zhiming, Peter Tan, and Lionel Wee
Postcolonial Poetry in English (2006) by Rajeev S. Patke
A Place for the People (1983) by K.K. Seet
Jungle Lovers (1971) by Paul Theroux
The Best of Edwin Thumboo (2012) by Edwin Thumboo
The Emergence of Buddhist American Literature (2009) by John Whalen-Bridge
Shakespeare in Asia: Contemporary Performance (2010) by Yong Li Lan

Department of Geography

Southeast Asia (1950) by Ernest Henry George Dobby
Southeast Asia: Essays in Political Geography (1982) by Lee Yong Leng
Peninsular Malaysia: Geographies for Advanced Study Series (1963) by Ooi Jin Bee

Western impressions of nature and landscape in Southeast Asia (1984) by Victor R Savage
Contesting Space in Colonial Singapore: Power Relations and the Urban Built Environment (1996) by Brenda S.A. Yeoh
National Development Policy and Urban Transformation in Singapore (1973) by Yue-man Yeung
Department of History

*The Singapore and Melaka Straits: Violence, Security and Diplomacy in the 17th Century* (1999) by Peter Borschberg

*The Defence and Fall of Singapore: 1940-1942* (2005) by Brian Farrell

*Shari’a and Social Engineering: The implementation of Islamic Law in Contemporary Aceh, Indonesia* (2013) by Michael Feener


A New History of Southeast Asia (2010) by M C Ricklefs, Bruce Lockhart, Albert Lau, and Portia Reyes


*A History of Modern Malaysia and Singapore* (1964) by K.G. Tregonning

*Political Development in Singapore: 1945-55* (1973) by Yeo Kim Wah

*The Trade of Singapore, 1819-1869* (1960) by Wong Lin Ken

Department of Japanese Studies

*Embodying Difference: The Making of Burakumin in Modern Japan* (2011) by Timothy D Amos


*Beyond the Western Liberal Order: Yanaihara Tadao and Empire as Society* (2013) by Ryoko Nakano

Centre for Language Studies

*Perspectives on Individual Characteristics and Foreign Language Education* (2011) by Chan Wai Meng, Chin Kwee Nyet, Sunil Kumar Bhatt, and Izumi Walker

*Teaching Taigu Communication: Noticing Speech Styles* (2011) by Izumi Walker
85 LANDMARK BOOKS FOR FASS’S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

Department of Malay Studies


*The Myth of the Lazy Native: A study of the image of the Malays, Filipinos and Javanese from the 16th to the 20th Century and its function in the ideology of Colonial Capitalism* (1977) by Syed Hussein Alatas


*Malays and Modernization* (1977) by Tham Seong Chee

Department of Political Science


Department of Philosophy


*The Great Convergence: Asia, the West, and the Logic of One World* (2013) by Kishore Mahbubani

*Mill on Liberty* (1980) by Ten Chin Liew

*Confucian Democracy* (2004) by Tan Sor Hoon

*From Rebellion to Riots: Collective Violence on Indonesian Borneo* (2008) by Jamie Davidson

*Reconstructing the Cold War* (2012) by Ted Hopf

85 LANDMARK BOOKS FOR FASS’S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

Department of Psychology

Healing Trauma: A Professional Guide (2011) by Tang So-Kum, Catherine


Department of Social Work

China’s One-Child Policy and Multiple Caregiving: Raising Little Suns in Xiamen (2011) by Goh Chor Leng, Esther
An Unexpected Journey: Path to the Presidency (2012) by S.R. Nathan
Intellectual Disabilities: Issues and Challenges (1990) by Rosaleen Ow
Resilience and risk in adolescent health related behaviours in Singapore (2008) by Timothy Sim, Ngiam Tee Liang, and Choo Hyekyung
Preserving our Asian Family Way of Life in the Context of Social Changes in Singapore (1973) by S. Vasoo

Department of Sociology

Communitarian Ideology and Democracy in Singapore (1995) by Chua Beng Huat
Families in flats: a study of low income families in public housing (1977) by Riaz Hassan
Asia.com: Asia encounters the Internet (2003) by Ho Kong Chong
Remembering the Samsui Women. Migration and Social Memory in Singapore and China (2014) by Kelvin E.Y. Low
Family in Singapore: Sociological Perspectives (1994) by Stella R Quah

Department of South Asian Studies Programme

Region, Nation, and “Heartland”: Uttar Pradesh in India’s Body Politic (2006) by Gyanesh Kudaisya
The Encyclopedia of the Indian Diaspora (2006) by Rajesh Rai and Peter Reeves

Department of Southeast Asian Studies

Old Javanese Gold (2011) by John Miksic
A Mountain of Difference: The Lumad in Early Colonial Mindanao (2013) by Oona Paredes
NEW FACULTY RESEARCH CENTRES

Four new research centres have come into being at FASS! They are: the Centre for Family and Population Research, the Social Service Research Centre, the Next Age Institute, and Global Production Networks. These centres will be located at Ventus, 8 Kent Ridge Drive.

CENTRE FOR FAMILY & POPULATION RESEARCH

http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/

Updates from August–December 2014

The Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) was established as a faculty-level center in April 1, 2014 with Professor Jean Yeung from the Department of Sociology and Asia Research Institute (ARI) as its founding Director. The Centre is dedicated to the scientific advancement of research and training in the study of global trends, determinants, and consequences of family and population changes, with a specific focus on Asia. CFPR envisions to provide thought leadership in family and population research, become a regional training centre, bridge research and public policies that affects families, and collaborate with family and population centres around the world. CFPR’s main research themes include marriage and fertility, ageing and health, children and youth, migration, population dynamics, intergenerational relations, human capital, labour force and gender.

Steering the Centre towards its goals is a committee composed of faculty members in various FASS departments including Japanese Studies, Psychology, Economics, Malay and Southeast Asian Studies, and Sociology and advised by an international advisory committee. CFPR’s research team is composed of an interdisciplinary group of faculty research associates, postdoctoral fellows, research fellows, and students from FASS and other faculties.

CFPR organizes regular conferences and seminars participated by NUS and non-NUS students, researchers, faculty members as well as staff from the government ministries. This year CFFPR has co-sponsored two international conferences. Two more conferences to be held in early 2015 are currently under preparation. This semester, CFPR held 10 well attended seminars that touched upon a wide range of topics including single-parent families, ageing, education, migration, divorce, and intergenerational relations.
Grant calls for faculty members and research scholarships for PhD students

To further boost its research capacity on family and population issues, every year, the Centre provides seed grants to FASS faculty members who are Centre research associates. The first grant call was announced in November 2014 with a deadline of 31 Dec 2014.

CFPR also provides opportunities for students. Two research scholarships are available each academic year for PhD candidates who are interested in completing research on the family and demographic domain.

Academic Visitors

CFPR provides visiting fellowship to host family and population scholars. Visitors recently hosted by the center include:

20 Aug 2014: Dr Bei Wu, Pauline Gratz Professor of Nursing, Duke University School of Nursing

15–18 Oct 2014: Prof Huang Min-Hsiung, Research Fellow/Professor and Deputy Director at the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

20–21 Nov 2014 (co-hosted with ARI): Dr Kristin Natalier, Senior Lecturer, University of Tasmania

27–28 Nov 2014 (co-hosted with ARI): Prof Peter McDonald, Professor of Demography, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

27–29 Nov 2014 (co-hosted with ARI): Prof Peter Xenos, Lecturer, College of Public Health Sciences, Chulalongkorn University

24 Nov–2 Dec 2014 (co-hosted with ARI): Prof Frank Furstenberg, Zellerbach Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

List of seminars

20 August 2014: Grandparents raising grandchildren: the impact of caregiving on Chinese older adult’s life satisfaction (joint with Health cluster) by Dr Bei Wu, Pauline Gratz Professor of Nursing at Duke University.

29 August 2014: Parental migration and adolescents’ transitioning to high school in rural China by Ms Hu Shu, a PhD Candidate from the NUS Department of Sociology and currently a Research Associate at the Changing Family cluster at ARI.
NEW FACULTY RESEARCH CENTRES

7 October 2014: *Inventing the authentic self: American television and Chinese audiences in Global Beijing* (joint with ARI) by Dr Gao Yang, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Singapore Management University (SMU)

10 October 2014: *Immobilized migrancy: family, labor and the law for migrants in the Gulf* (joint with Sociology) by A/P Pardis Mahdavi, Associate Professor at Pomona College and Visiting Senior Research Fellow at ARI

17 October 2014: *Who participates in after-school tutoring and who benefits from it? A cross-national and inter-grade analysis* (joint with Sociology) by Prof Huang Min-Hsiung RF/Prof & Deputy Director, Institute of European and American Studies from the Academia Sinica in Taiwan

7 Nov 2014: *The success frame and the achievement paradox: The Children of Chinese immigrants and Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles, USA* (joint with ARI) by Prof Zhou Min, Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor of Sociology at Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

20 Nov 2014: *Re-conceptualizing child support as an expressive resource and a form of labour: lessons from the Australian case* (joint with ARI and SSRC) by Dr Kristin Natalier, Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences at University of Tasmania
NEW FACULTY RESEARCH CENTRES

27 Nov 2014: *Intergenerational relations in aging societies: A future perspective* by Prof Frank Furstenberg, Zellerbach Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania (joint with ARI)

28 Nov 2014: *Retirement celebration in honor of Prof Gavin Jones* (joint with ARI and Dept of Sociology)

Prof Gavin Jones, a prominent demographer and one of CFPR's steering committee members, delivered his ‘retirement talk’ on Demography as Destiny which essentially provided his demographic take on Asian development.

1 December 2014: *Launching an academic career: What you need to know and do* (joint with ARI) by Prof Frank Furstenberg

**Forthcoming events**

**Conferences**


April 2015: *Conference on Singapore Families*

**Seminars**

3 Feb 2015: *Seminar* by Prof Merril Silverstein, Marjorie Cantor Endowed Professor in Aging, Syracuse University

6 Feb 2015: *Seminar* by Dr Ko Chong-fang, Director of Institute for American and European Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

27 February 2015: *Methodology workshop on secondary data analysis in Asia research* by Dr Hu Shu, Research Associate at ARI

April 2015: *Official Launch of CFPR* concurrently held with a *conference on Singapore Families*
NEW FACULTY RESEARCH CENTRES

The Social Service Research Centre (SSRC) brings together resources and ideas to test social innovations and help evolve a new social service infrastructure for Singapore’s next phase of social development. It meets the need for a think tank and test bed for large-scale, community-based service innovations to help lay the foundation for a new long-term infrastructure. Directed by Associate Professor Irene Ng from the Department of Social Work, SSRC champions the cause for social interventions and applied research in Singapore through collaborations with social service leaders in government, civil society and private philanthropic institutions. The Centre’s work will benefit a variety of Singaporeans and provide numerous opportunities for researchers to work hand in hand with the social sector.

The Centre, which started operations in July 2014, is looking forward to its formal launch and inaugural conference, slated for 24 April 2015, with Guests of Honour ESM Goh and Minister Chan Chun Sing.

Seminars on “Effect of the Work Support Programme on Well-being: Understanding Successes and Failures” and “Evaluation of school-based group work intervention programme for adolescents with excessive video-gaming” have recently been held as part of a monthly series.

SSRC is collaborating with the Ministry of Social and Family Development on several research projects, focusing on needs of children from vulnerable families, transnational families and low wage workers. Work on two of these projects have started, with several more in the pipeline. In addition, SSRC is discussing and developing with external funders and voluntary welfare organizations strategic research projects on low-income families, transnational families, and varied services for a diverse elderly population. SSRC received a grant from Quantedge which will be used for scans and analysis of social trends and needs.

Already very active, the SSRC is poised to cement efficient and effective partnerships between academics and social workers in Singapore and serve as a model for bringing together the research and action domains of social work.
The Next Age Institute (NAI), an international collaboration between NUS and Washington University in Saint Louis (WUSTL) is slated to officially launch on **February 23 2015** with a conference titled “Older Adults in Community: Capacities and Engagement for Ageing-in-Place” (programme available [here](#); click [here](#) to register). The conference will bring together scholars and policy makers to exchange knowledge about community level challenges and opportunities brought about by a rapidly ageing population.

Led by Associate Professor Chia Ngee Choon (Department of Economics) and Associate Professor Corinne Ghoh (Department of Social Work) at NUS, and Professor Michael Sherraden (George Warren Brown School of Social Work) at WUSTL, NAI is established to study, design, and test social innovations in order to address global challenges facing many families and communities, among them ageing populations and rising inequality. Its activities directly respond to some of the most pressing issues Singapore and other globalized nations are facing.

NAI, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Development Asia at the Department of Social Work, will be embarking on research to examine the pathways of informal and formal care for older people transiting from acute to post-acute care services, and the implications on caregiving. It has also begun a project examining alternative options for financing retirement needs of home-owning elderly in Singapore. The options include 'right-sizing' the lease buyback scheme and reverse mortgages. NAI will additionally lead a session on pensions and retirement at the upcoming 2015 Singapore Economic Review Conference, in which papers will be published as part of a World Scientific Series on Ageing in Asia.
The **Global Production Networks Centre at NUS (GPN@NUS)** focuses on global production and economic development, particularly in East Asia, and is directed by Professors Henry Yeung and Neil Coe from the Department of Geography. Its mission is to understand and explain how the complex production of goods and services is globally organized and what this means for economic development in different regions and national economies, particularly those in Northeast and Southeast Asia. Officially launching on **January 26 2015** (more details and programme available [here](#)), it is currently in recruitment and planning phases and will conduct novel empirical studies illuminating the changing nature and organization of global production in East Asia, looking at the impact of global production on, among other factors, economic development, technological innovation, economic and social upgrading, national competitiveness, industrial and corporate change, entrepreneurship and business strategy, investment patterns, global governance, shifting consumption patterns, and global environmental change.

This research is extremely relevant for economic development in the East Asian region, particularly Singapore. As a major intermediary in global trade, producer services, and manufacturing, Singapore has been a key player in coordinating and managing evolving global production networks. In trade and services, Singapore has served as a leading international hub for sea and air transport, logistics, legal and accounting, and financial services enabling value-added activity in these production networks. Commodities traders such as Olam and Wilmar are also lead firms in key agro-food global production networks. In manufacturing, Singapore’s strength in semiconductors (e.g. microprocessors), pharmaceuticals (e.g. active ingredients), petrochemicals (e.g. feedstocks), and aerospace (e.g. engines) provides critical and high value intermediate inputs for lead firms producing industrial or final goods in other East Asian locations. In so doing, Singapore has created and captured significant value-added from these cross-border production networks. The Centre’s research will benefit Singapore’s growing capacity in industrial and trade policy-making, business decisions, risk management, and regulatory regimes. Furthermore, it will provide crucial knowledge to decision makers in Singapore who can leverage on these production networks and move up the value chain.

Visit the website [here](#).

### From Research to Policy

These new research centres are primed to influence future policies in regards to ageing, healthcare, parenthood, childcare, and eldercare; develop innovative methods of social service provision, intervention, analysis, and evaluation together with the public, private, and civil society sectors; investigate the global organization of goods and service production and what it means for economic development in different regions and economies; and be at the forefront of examining, building, and testing social innovations.
Department of Communications & New Media
(2014-). Culturally Centering Health among Transgender Sex Workers in Singapore, MOE, PI Mohan Dutta
(2015-). Heart Health among Malay Singaporeans, Singapore Heart foundation, PI Mohan Dutta

Department of Social Work
(2010-2014). Singapore Youths in the Cyber world: A 4-Year Longitudinal Study on Cyber-Wellness, Inter-ministry Cyber wellness Steering Committee, Singapore, PI Choo Hyekyung
(2015). The Comparison of Respiratory Symptoms, Smoking Habits, Knowledge and Attitudes towards smoking between people with and without Mental Illness in Singapore, SATA, PI Marcus Chiu
(2015-). Accountability of Non Profit Organisations (NPOs) in Singapore’s Social Service Sector, CI-MA, PI Corrine Ghoh

"Asset impacts on life satisfaction in an asset-rich country: Focusing on older adults in Singapore" by Song-lee Hong and Chang-Keun Han in Social Indicators Research, 118, no. 1 (2014).

Department of Economics
(2014-). The Myths of the Japanese Failure and the Korean Success - Transition of Catch-up Economies and Challenges to Sustainable Growth, MOE, PI Shin Jang-Sup
(2014-). Do Chinese imports influence American politics?, MOE, PI Lu Yi
(2014-). Truthful equilibria in dynamic Bayesian games, MOE, PI Satoru Takahashi
(2014-). The demand and impact of micro pension amongst low-income clients, MOE, PI Julian Wright
(2015-). Contest Design with Incomplete Information, MOE, PI Lu Jingfeng
(2015). Unified China and Divided Europe: The causes and consequences of political centralization and fragmentation in the premodern world, MOE, PI Sng Tuan Hwee
(2015-). Demographic Transitions in Asia: Impacts on Resource Allocation and Human Capital Investment, GAI, PI Slesh Shrestha
(2015-). On the Evolution of Schooling Decisions and Cultural Attitudes towards Work, GAI, PI Davin Chor
(2015-). Effect of Preschool Subsidies on Preschool Choice and Children's Outcomes, GAI, PI John Ham
Department of Japanese Studies


Department of Southeast Asian Studies

(2014-2017). The 'aftermath of the war' generation amongst the Lao diaspora and citizens in Laos, France and Australia, Start-up Grant, PI Vatthana Pholsena

Department of Sociology

(2015-). Study on Impact of Built Environment on Community Bonding - Phase 2, HDB, PI Ho Kong Chong

Department of Political Science

(2014-). Hierarchies and World Politics: A Research Agenda for A Global Age, MOE, PI Janice Bially Mattern


Department of Philosophy


Department of Geography


(2014-2015). Religion and Migration: Identity, Belonging and the (Un)making of Communities, HSS Funds, PI Lily Kong

(2014-). "What does it mean to be Singaporean?" National Identity and Immigrant Citizenship Relations in Singapore, MOE, PI Shirlena Huang

(2014-). Globalization of Singapore's Urban Planning, MOE, PI Pow Choon Piew

(2014-). Integrated, multi-dimensional measurements of temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide in Singapore, MOE, PI Matthias Roth

(2014). 'Rising Asia' and the (Re)making of Arctic Geopolitics, MOE, PI Woon Chih Yuan


(2015-). Carbon Cycles in Large Asian Rivers, HSS Funds, PI Lu Xi Xi

(2015-). Jurong Island Groundwater Modelling and Risk Assessment Study, SWDA, FOE, PI Vladan Babovic
Department of Psychology


(2015-). Honesty, Humility, and Humanity: How the Epigenome and Mindfulness Shape Moral Decision Making, Templeton World Charity Foundation, PI Richard Ebstein

(2015-). Differences in brain activity for comfort and discomfort induced by thermal stimuli in young (20-29 years old) and old (60-89 years old) healthy participants, Clinical Imaging Research Centre (CIRC)/KAO, PI Stuart Derbyshire

(2015-). Using Brain-State Information to facilitate Conditioned Attitude Formation, USAF, PI Trevor Penney

(2015-) Psychological functioning following mild traumatic brain injury, MOE, PI Simon Lowes Collinson

Department of History

(2012-2014 (TBC)). Empire in Asia: A New Global History MOE, PI Brian Farrell


Department of Chinese Studies


(2015-). Global Chinese Grammar Research, National Social Science Fund (China), PI Lee Cher Leng

South Asian Studies Programme

(2015-). Tamil Studies in the 21st Century: Revisiting and Envisioning the Tamil world/s, MOE, PI Sidharthan Maunaguru
EDITORIALS BY FASS FACULTY IN 2014

Balanced growth need of hour Rahul Mukherji (South Asian Studies) in Live Mint, 26 December

Is Uber taking us for a ride? Sumit Agarwal (Economics, Finance and Real Estate), in TODAY, 22 December

The CPF needs a maximum sum Chia Ngee Choon (Economics), in The Straits Times, 20 December

Extreme weather events: Is climate change to blame? —Winston Chow (Geography), in The Straits Times, 12 December


Rethinking start-ups—Shin Jang-sup (Economics) in Korea JoongAng Daily, 26 November

Empowering foreign domestic workers—Slesh Anand Shrestha (Economics), in ASK: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 19 November

1964: The death of a democrat—Gyanesh Kudaisya (South Asian Studies), in Livemint, 14 November

Islam's tolerance of religious minorities—Syed Farid Alatas (Sociology & Malay Studies), in The Straits Times, 11 November

The politics behind natural disasters—Jonathan Rigg (Geography), SEA View in The Straits Times, 10 November

Indonesian, Thai militaries take different tack—Terence Lee (Political Science), SEA View in The Straits Times, 9 October

Expanding access to elite education—Nina Guyon (Economics) Ask: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 9 October

History's many shades of grey—Tan Tai Yong (History) in The Straits Times, 15 September

Puzzling behaviour of S'poreans at 55—Sumit Agarwal (Economics & Finance and Real Estate), Jessica Pan (Economics), and Wenlan Qian (Finance), Ask: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 11 September

When growth outpaces development—Jonathan Rigg (Geography), SEA View in The Straits Times, 11 September
EDITORIALS BY FASS FACULTY IN 2014

The dollars and economic sense of Cupid agencies—Elisabetta Gentile (Economics), Ask: NUS Economists The Straits Times, 30 August

‘Cot bumper approach’ to raising kids won’t work—Lim Sun Sun (Communications and New Media) in The Straits Times, 15 July

Same product, different city, different price—Davin Chor and graduating honours student Gilbert Neo (Economics), Ask: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 3 July

Precarious jobs, precarious living in South-east Asia—Jonathan Rigg (Geography), SEA View in The Straits Times, 12 June

Multilateral approach to tackling haze still apt—Alberto Salvo (Economics), ASK: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 5 June

GDP still relevant in assessing well-being—Suresh De Mel (Economics), ASK: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 8 May

Battle against extremism within Islam—Syed Farid Alatas (Sociology), The Straits Times, 5 April

Traffic congestion affects commuting costs which impact on housing prices—Eric Fesselmeyer & Liu Haoming (Economics), ASK: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 3 April

The four faces of poverty in region—Jonathan Rigg (Geography), SEA View in The Straits Times, 13 March

Uniquely Singapore way to fund needs—Chia Ngee Choon (Economics), The Straits Times, 27 February

Budget 2014: A macro view—Chan Kok Hoe (Economics), The Straits Times, 26 February

Gauging the real value of increase in investments—Basant K. Kapur (Economics), ASK: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 6 February

Mindsets must change to help the poor….but whose?—Irene Ng (Social Work), The Straits Times, 30 January

What’s keeping blue-collar wages low?—Davin Chor (Economics), ASK: NUS Economists in The Straits Times, 2 January
Congratulations to Associate Professor Davin Chor (Department of Economics) for winning the FASS 2014/15 Award for Excellent Researcher! This award is presented to researchers based on the overall impact and strength of their research. The awardee has achieved consistent research excellence and/or produced a piece of research work of great impact, and is recognized by the research community as having achieved significant breakthroughs or outstanding accomplishments. A/P Chor discusses his research in an interview here.

Assistant Professors Jessica Pan (Department of Economics), Woon Chih Yuan (Department of Geography), and Dan Friess (Department of Geography) have each won the FASS 2014/15 Award for Promising Researcher, which is presented to faculty members who have produced research showing potential impact and promise. Learn more about their intriguing research activities in three separate interviews: Jessica Pan; Woon Chih Yuan; Dan Friess.

The four recipients of the Faculty Research Award (FRA) will be honoured at a ceremony on March 2, 2015.

BOOKSHARE

FASS Bookshare was held on 25 November with presentations by Rajesh Rai (South Asian Studies) on Indians in Singapore, 1819-1945: Diaspora in the Colonial Port City, Rahul Mukherji (South Asian Studies) on Political Economy of Reforms in India and Globalization and Deregulation: Ideas, Interests and Institutional Change in India, and Itty Abraham (Southeast Asian Studies) on How India Became Territorial: Foreign Policy, Diaspora, Geopolitics. Click here for a complete catalogue of books and stay tuned for the next edition of Bookshare in 2015.
Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

Book launch and seminar for “Ghosts of the New City: Spirits, Urbanity and the Ruins of Progress in Chiang Mai” by Dr. Andrew Alan Johnson, 20 November

During the event, Dr Johnson (Yale-NUS College) discussed his newly published doctoral dissertation on the religious influence on urbanity the post-1997 Asian financial crisis Chiang Mai. For more on his seminar, visit the Cities Cluster Blog.

Steering Committee Update

Please welcome Dr Eli Elinoff to the Cities Cluster steering committee. Currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Urbanisms Cluster, Dr. Elinoff received his BA (Anthropology) from University of Colorado, Boulder, and MA and PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego in June 2013.

His research includes issues on citizenship, emerging political practices, notions of sustainability, and contestations over urban development in Thailand.

Upcoming Events

Food and the Global Asian City Workshop, 8–9 April 2015, jointly organized with TG07 Sens-es and Society (International Sociological Association), with support from the ODPRT, NUS
Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

Geography Field Studies Seminar 2014: Borderscapes, Liver Flukes, River Health & Food Culture, 9 October 2014

Together with Dr. Carl Grundy-Warr and Prof Alan Ziegler, Geography students shared their experiences from the field, forest ecology, border economies, food cultures, land

Public Perceptions of Rainfall Change in India, 17 October 2014

Dr. Jagadish Thaker examined public perceptions of changes in public rainfall in India, analyzing the relationship between perceptions and the instrumental record.

The Siren of Cirebon: A Tenth-Century Trading Vessel Lost in the Java Sea, 26 November 2014

Dr. Horst Liebner spoke on the methodology, challenges and important discoveries from the archeological excavation and analysis of the Nanhan/Cirebon wreck, a 10th century shipwreck in Indonesia. Assoc Prof John Miksic brought some artefacts from 17th century Sulawesi.

Upcoming Events

Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

4-5 August 2014: Workshop on *Manoeuvering Through Physical and Virtual Spaces: Mobility and New Media in Asian Cities*

Jointly organised by the FASS Migration Research Cluster; Asian Migration Research Cluster, Asia Research Institute; and Department of Communications and New Media

The two-day workshop explored how migrants' lives, practices, communication, networks, movements, and economic ventures are influenced by new media. It examined how migrants actively participate in and shape various virtual spaces, further questioning how their online interactions alter the contours of their everyday activities, societal integration, individual identities, and emotional bonds to the cities they migrate to or pass through.
19 November 2014: Seminar on Urbanization, Multilocality, Remittances and their Effects on Forests and Communities by Dr Christine Padoch, Director of Forests and Livelihoods Research at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Using empirical research from Amazonia, Dr Padoch addressed issues arising from many families in the forested tropics now engaging in circular rather than direct rural-to-urban movement. Additionally with many previously rural households maintaining both urban and rural residences, the widespread remittance of money from emigrant workers to households is now among the most significant of global capital flows. The seminar examined how these movements and flows are invested and the effects of these investments on forest cover and management, as well as how household multilocality changes how landscapes are managed.

21 January 2015: Workshop on Navigating Research Spaces in Migration Studies

Appointment of new steering committee member:

The Migration Cluster welcomes Dr Sidharthan Maunaguru (South Asian Studies Programme)—newly appointed member of the steering committee. He joins the current chair A/P Eric Thompson (Sociology), and existing members A/P Shirlena Huang (Geography) and A/P Elaine Ho Lynn-Ee (Geography) with effect from 2 Jan 2015.

Upcoming Events

28 January 2015: Seminar on Asian-born Scientists-in-Training: The Question of Where to Train by Dr Anju Mary Paul (Yale-NUS)

06 February 2015: Seminar on Migrant Care Workers in Italy and Taiwan: A Comparative Study by Dr Ko Chyong-fang (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)

16 February 2015: Film-Screening “My Place” and Discussion with Director Park Moon-chil

6 March 2015 Seminar by Dr Joowon Yuk, Postdoctoral Fellow (FASS Migration Research Cluster & ARI Asian Migration Research Cluster)
Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

19 September 2014

Workshop on Religion and Popular Culture: Contemporary Transformations of Classical Traditions

This workshop featured presentations on “Cultural Transformations of Buddhism in Film” by Prof. Dr. Almut-Barbara Renger (Freie Universität Berlin), “New York Times Bestsellers and the Making of Essene Christian Fundamentalism” by Dr. Anne Kreps (Yale-NUS), and “Tibetan Film and the Tantric Audience” by A/P John Whalen-Bridge (ELL).

11 November 2014

Roundtable on Comparative Syariah Interpretation and Practice in Family and Gender Issues: Perspectives from Indonesia and the Region

Chaired by A/P Maznah Mohamad (Malay Studies) and co-organized with the Association of Women for Action and Research, this roundtable examined how Syariah is interpreted and practised in family and gender issues. Speakers Imam Nahe’i Munawar Sulaiman (Institute Ibrahimy Situbondo) and Dr. Nur Rofiah (Institute of Qur’anic Sciences Jakarta) explored how current Syariah practice in Indonesia has addressed new issues facing the family in relation to the state and civil society. The presentations were followed by discussions comparing the Indonesian case with the rest of Muslim Southeast Asia.
15 December 2014

Workshop on The Sacred and the Urban: Confluences and Conflicts of Aspirations

This workshop, co-organised with the Urban Aspirations Research Group, gathers a group of anthropologists and sociologists who have been conducting ethnographic studies of various religious communities in Asian cities. It will explore different ways of understanding the relationship between the sacred and the urban through the lens of “aspirations”—hopes of achievement grounded in cultural imaginations and ideas.

Upcoming Events

18 March 2015

Seminar on Islamic Law in Malaysia

This seminar by Emeritus Professor Shad Saleem Faruqi (Universiti Teknologi MARA) will explore the various problems and challenges regarding Islamic law in Malaysia.

Steering Committee Updates

Dr. Julius Bautista (SEAS) will be leaving NUS and stepping down from the Steering Committee on 31 December 2014.
Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

21-22 July 2014

Workshop on *Spaces of Technoscience*, an international workshop chaired by Itty Abraham (Department of Southeast Asian Studies)

The need to focus on “Spaces of Technoscience” begins from the recognition that much of contemporary technoscience can no longer be contained by analysis at the national scale. From flows of expertise and movements of bodies to the mutations of labour, value, instruments, and artefacts, technoscience is increasingly determined by transnational horizons. The inertial weight of the national scale, however, has not disappeared from our concepts, scholarship, or policy recommendations, and this tension opens up a productive point of departure for this workshop.

“Spaces of Technoscience” thereby offers STS scholars the opportunity to explore technosciences in one location or many, through networks and across different scales of theory, action, and struggle.

Steering Committee Updates

Associate Professor Lonce Wyse from the Department of Communications and New Media has taken over as the new Chair of the STS Cluster.
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. The seminar was 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 1, AY 2014-2015 (continued)

2 October 2014
Seminar titled *Patterns and Trends in Fertility: Influences, Impact and Implications* by Prof Kaye Wellings, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The seminar was jointly organized with Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

30 October 2014
Seminar titled *How Hospital Managers Respond to Regulations in Japan* by Prof Naoki Ikegami, Keio School of Medicine. The seminar was jointly organized with Economic Society of Singapore and Singapore Centre for Applied and Policy Economics (SCAPE).
Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

28 November 2014: Workshop on Middle Class in Singapore: Security or Anxiety?

Jointly organised by the FASS SSP Research Cluster and Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies

The workshop assessed the situation of the middle class in Singapore—as social policy has traditionally focused on the poor and lower-income groups, the middle class, in contrast, is usually perceived as self-reliant, secure and satisfied. Increasingly, however, the social phenomenon of the middle class “squeeze” has turned attention to the mechanics of means testing, welfarism and taxation. The global recession has raised the spectre of economic restructuring, long-term unemployment and income insecurity, even among the middle classes. Invited speakers A/P Phua Kai Hong (LKYSPP), Ms Ang Yiting (Lianhe Zaobao), A/P Ho Kong Weng (SMU), and Ms Lim Puay Leng (Fei Yue Family Service Center) gave their perspectives on this evolving trend and likely outcomes.

Upcoming Events

10 March 2015: Workshop titled Singapore at 50: Reflections and Visions, jointly organized by SSP Research Cluster and the Singapore Research Nexus (SRN)

July 2015 (TBC): Graduate Student Panel on Social Development, organized as part of The 19th International Symposium of the International Consortium for Social Development
Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

Picture Singapore Competition, 1 July-15 August

The SRN’s inaugural photography competition was held to encourage FASS students, alumni, faculty and staff members to capture Singapore’s culture, environment, heritage, diversity, society, community, everyday life and more. Check out our Facebook photo album for the collection of photographs submitted.

Picture Singapore Award Ceremony, 4 September

The top 24 photographs were awarded vouchers ranging from S$85-S$200. Winning photos were exhibited at the Central Library for the NUS community. Click here to learn more about the Award Ceremony and view the winning photos.

11 November 2014—Dynamic Environments of Singapore Book Launch

This launch was held in collaboration with the Environment Cluster, at Bookhaven, UTown. The book explores Singapore’s geographical heritage and is co-authored by Dr Dan Friess and Dr Grahame Oliver. Click here to learn more about the event.

Upcoming Events

TBA Spring 2015: Singapore on Screen III
Dr Lee Jones is the Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellow on Contemporary Southeast Asia for the Academic Year of 2014/2015. Dr Jones will be serving a one-month appointment at NUS with effect from 7th January 2015, followed by two months at Stanford University.

Dr Jones is Senior Lecturer in International Politics at Queen Mary, University of London and Research Associate at the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Perth, Australia. His research concerns the interaction between social conflict, state transformation and international relations, with a heavy focus on Southeast Asia. He is author of ASEAN, Sovereignty and Intervention in Southeast Asia (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), Societies Under Siege: Exploring How International Economic Sanctions (Do Not) Work (Oxford University Press, 2015) and, with Shahar Hameiri, Governing Borderless Threats: Non-Traditional Security and the Politics of State Transformation (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

During his fellowship with NUS and Stanford, Dr Jones will be working on his research project entitled “Securitisation and the Governance of Non-Traditional Security”, which seeks to explain how new transboundary security threats such as pandemic disease, transboundary pollution, transnational crime and terrorism are managed in the Southeast Asian region.

Dr Jones is located at the Research Division, AS7 06-20, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. He can be contacted by email at l.c.jones@qmul.ac.uk/fasv69@nus.edu.sg or phone at 65167110.

Dr Jones’ seminar, Governing Borderless Threats: Southeast Asia’s ‘Haze’ Crisis as a Non-Traditional Security Problem took place on 22 January 2015. He will be giving a second seminar on China as a ‘Post-Westphalian’ Rising Power on 30 January 2015 at the Research Division Seminar Room. Please register your attendance with fas-tya@nus.edu.sg. Details available here.