

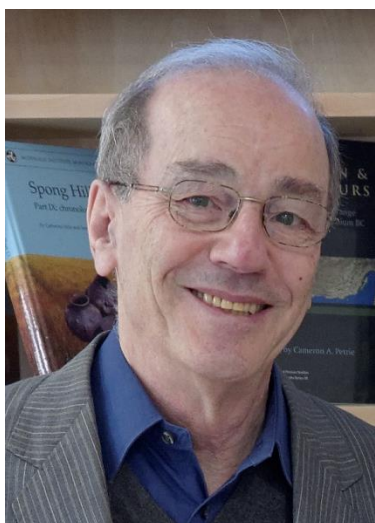
# TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom

**Join us! Friday, 19 October 2018, 3.30pm  
@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)**

## Some distinctive features of hunter-gatherer musics?

In several parts of Southeast Asia, the nomadic hunting and gathering populations display musical performance structures that differ in significant ways from those of their more sedentary neighbours, even in cases where they otherwise share the same melodic motifs. In particular, the nomadic populations favour highly heterophonic and/or starkly non-melismatic singing that contrasts with the more homophonic and decorated styles preferred in the sedentary populations. Cultural and social reasons for these differences will be proposed, with illustrations taken from field recordings made in various parts of the Malay World, both inland and maritime. The question will also be raised whether similar features characterise nomadic hunter-gatherer musics from other parts of the world.

## Speakers



**Geoffrey Benjamin** is Senior Research Fellow in Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at NTU. He was previously Associate Professor in the Division of Sociology, NTU, and has held positions in Sociology at the former University of Singapore and the National University of Singapore, and in Prehistory & Anthropology at the Australian National University. Since completing his PhD thesis in Social Anthropology at Cambridge University in 1967, he has continued to research in the fields of religion, social organisation, language (including Austronesian and Austroasiatic linguistics) and music, with special attention to the Malay World and Southeast Asia. Today's presentation is an expanded version of a paper presented in July this year at the Twelfth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies in Penang.

