

HORIZON

ISSUE NO. 1, NOVEMBER 2011

COVER STORY: **HSS
CONVOCATION 2011**

NEWS: **FIRST AcRF TIER
2 GRANT FOR HSS**

FEATURE: **PUTTING
A SOUL INTO SCIENCE**



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Chair's MESSAGE

Dear colleagues, students, alumni,
and friends,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the inaugural issue of *Horizon*. This will be a channel for us to share the stories of our progress, our aspirations, and the values that bind us together. As a historian, I hope that this newsletter will also serve as a valuable repository of the School's past and on-going trajectories, which will help forge a better understanding of our roots and routes in years to come.

As leadership guru Robin Sharma says, "Great companies have cultures where great stories are told. The story about how the company was founded in a basement or the story about how the organisation fought back to victory from the brink of disaster. Storytelling cements a company's most closely cherished ideals into the hearts of its people."

The HSS story so far is nothing short of remarkable. Taking roots in 2003 at NTU beside its well-established technological disciplines, HSS has made significant progress in a short span of time. In the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject, NTU is ranked top 100 in the world for the majority of HSS disciplines – Economics, English Literature, Linguistics & Multilingual Studies, Modern Languages, and Psychology.

While ranking may fluctuate from time to time, the fact that HSS – a young school with only eight years' history – is now recognised globally is a testament of our growing capability in research and education. I believe that there are great horizons and ample opportunities ahead to write the next chapter of our

success stories. Going forward, we will be embarking on the following key areas of focuses:

Student-centered Learning

Apart from implementing recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Undergraduate Education, we will continue to enhance student-centered learning and strengthen our curriculum. We have put in place efforts in upgrading the Minors in History and in Politics & Public Administration to Major programmes, setting up a Minor programme in Philosophy, and further developing the Minors in Environmental and Urban Studies as well as Science, Technology and Society. These enhancements will offer more educational choices for our students and promote interdisciplinary learning across the NTU campus.

Conducive Environment for Faculty and Staff

The nurturing and mentoring of junior faculty is a top priority in the Chair's Office. We place a strong emphasis on retention and recruitment of promising faculty members who can play a leadership role in the School's and Divisions' strategic areas of research and education. The Chair's Office will work closely with all colleagues to create conducive mechanisms for faculty members' capacity building in preparation for promotion and tenure (P & T) and future academic leadership. In the meantime, our administrative staff have worked diligently to keep the everyday machinery running smoothly, providing essential support to our faculty members and students. We will create a transparent, collegial and fair structure to enhance all administrative staff's professional aspirations.

Liu Hong,
HSS CHAIR



Pursuit of Interdisciplinary Research

The relentless pursuit of interdisciplinary research – not only within the School, but also across colleges, research centers, and universities both locally and globally – is the way to go. As well as strengthening our humanities and social sciences disciplines, we will promote new interdisciplinary research and education programmes that are based upon the School's comparative strengths, leading-edge research trends in the international academe, and centrally aligned with the NTU "Five Peaks of Excellence". Full support will be provided for strategic areas of research with an aim to increase the numbers and success rate of external research grant applications.

Global Map of Higher Education and Research

Built upon our existing achievements, we aspire to place HSS more prominently on the global map of higher education and cutting-edge research by expanding international collaborations. This will be achieved through, among other things, supporting joint international workshops and research projects as well as by establishing institutional links with leading global universities.

I look forward to working with you in this challenging yet exciting trajectory of taking HSS to a new height. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and appreciate your feedback and suggestions for its improvement.

HSS CONVOCATION 2011: FIND COMFORT IN CHANGE!

By Charisse D'Souza



Don't use your status as an educated individual to live too comfortably. Get a little uncomfortable and make a change!

That was the essence of the spirited message by Ashley Yang Yuhong, Valedictorian for HSS Graduating Class of 2011 at the NTU convocation ceremony (29 July).

The joyous occasion saw 595 graduates receive Bachelor of Arts degrees, and 36 graduates receive higher degrees.

In her valedictory address, the Sociology graduate implored her fellow graduates: "With the end of this chapter at NTU, one question remains: What are you going to do with this privileged position?"

With an NTU degree, Ashley reminded her fellow graduates that they could choose to lead "comfortable, insulated lives" or use their knowledge to make a difference for the "silenced and powerless". As future writers, journalists, economists, teachers, psychologists, sociologists and researchers, Ashley highlighted that each and every one has the potential to make a difference.

"As we move on to a new phase of life, I want to urge the graduating class to

continue to do everything with passion and to use your special positions wisely.

"Even when there are no tangible rewards or when we don't feel that we have any obligations to do so, let us make this our burden and desire."

Ashley's message certainly resonates with the HSS mission, which is to make valuable contributions to the advancement of knowledge and human life.

The faculty members at HSS urge all graduates to heed Ashley's call — and make the difference. Congratulations, Class of 2011!

Singular Sensation: LMS' First Graduate

HSS also celebrated the graduation of NTU's first Linguistics and Multilingual Studies (LMS) student, Tan Li Ling.

A student at the School of Computer Engineering in NTU, who transferred to HSS during his second year of studies, Li Ling was the sole LMS graduate, having completed the curriculum a year ahead of his LMS peers.

During his first year at NTU, Li Ling chanced upon a module which had

"As we move on to a new phase of life, I want to urge the graduating class to continue to do everything with passion and to use your special positions wisely."

— Ashley Yang Yuhong,
Valedictorian, Class of 2011

part of his name, "Ling" in it. Curious, he decided to take it up. His curiosity turned into a passion and eventually a new major.

Today, he fondly remembers his special "camping spot" in the computer laboratory at the basement of HSS. This was where he spent a great deal of time doing his Final-Year Project, compiling a multilingual corpus — a database of texts — for the Singapore Tourism Board's website.



HSS first Linguistic & Multilingual Studies graduate Tan Li Ling with Asst Prof Alexander Coupe (left), Assoc Prof Ng Bee Chin (third from left), and Assoc Prof Francesco Cavallaro

"I spent the start to the end of my day in that lab, but it was fun and a good experience," Li Ling reminisced.

Of course, his undergraduate experience was not confined to the computer laboratory.

Li Ling spent a semester doing an overseas internship in Vietnam with a travel agency. He represented the company in Singapore Tourism Board events held in major cities across

Vietnam, attended business meetings in Phuket, and led tour groups to Angkor Wat. He also enjoyed water rafting and cave-crawling in Perak among other pursuits.

"I still can't believe I used up half of my pages in my passport within that 8 months of internship," he said.

Li Ling's love for linguistics has brought him back to HSS again. He is currently pursuing his Master of Arts in Linguistics.

When asked about his future plans and goals, Li Ling said: "My degree is just a piece of paper. NTU gave me knowledge and brought me to where I am right now. How I use that knowledge, is more important than anything else.

"My dream is to use computational linguistics to help computers better decipher human languages. I also hope to write a book on grammar for my own mother tongue, *Singaporean Hokkien*."

Honouring Great Teachers



Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award recipient Goh Lam Chye (centre), with Asst Prof Phua Chiew Pheng (left) and Mdm Tan Lon Eng.

For imbuing in him an enduring passion for the Chinese language, Goh Lam Chye, a graduate from Chinese Division, paid tribute to his two teachers: Mdm Tan Lon Eng from Sek Men JK Chung Ling High School, and Asst Prof Phua Chiew Pheng from Chinese Division.

Lam Chye is one of the four HSS students who received the Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award – which recognises not only top NTU graduates but also the great impact which their teachers have on them.

He said the greatest influence that Mdm Tan has on him is the philosophy and values she held.

"She often told me to be courageous when I have dreams, and make something out of what I am excellent at," he said.

If Mdm Tan is the teacher who inspired him to pursue his dream, then Asst Prof Phua is the one who opened the door for him.

Asst Prof Phua guided Lam Chye in his Undergraduate Research Experience on Campus (URECA) project and Final-Year Project, both in Chinese linguistics. He also brought him along when he was just a second-year student for research discussion with senior students.

"The chances and inspiration he gave me allowed me to spend four fulfilling years in NTU," said Lam Chye.

School of Humanities & Social Sciences

Five HSS Subjects IN WORLD TOP 100

By Colin Tung Zhi Shing

“For a young school formed only in 2003, the entry into the top 100 in the world is an endorsement of the high impact research and education carried out by our faculty.”

– Prof Liu Hong,
HSS Chair

Five HSS disciplines have broken into the world’s top 100 ranking, a QS World University Ranking report revealed.

In its latest report, the organisation placed NTU’s Economics, English Literature, Linguistics, Modern Languages, and Psychology in the top 51st to 100th band. NTU itself leapt 16 spots – from 74th to 58th place – in the university ranking list.

The report marked the first time that the organisation ranked universities worldwide by subjects.

Citations
per paper,

academic reputation, and employer reputation were the criteria used for the exercise.

HSS Chair Prof Liu Hong said the rankings underscore the impressive growth of HSS as an integral part of NTU’s drive to become a great university with a global reputation and presence.

“For a young school formed only in 2003, the entry into the top 100 in the world is an endorsement of the high impact research and education carried out by our faculty,” he said.

“This rapid growth is the product of remarkable and collective efforts by our faculty and staff members. We will continue to build upon our success and strive for greater heights and to develop HSS into a leading intellectual centre for the humanities and social sciences in Asia and beyond.”

World-Class Teaching And Research

From just a single Economics division in 2003, HSS now has six divisions, alongside two research centres and two teaching centres, offering a full repertoire of academic and research programmes from undergraduate to postgraduate levels.

To the management team of HSS, hiring the “right people” who engage in world-class research and teaching is the key to the rapid growth of HSS.

Said Assoc Prof Neil Murphy, Assoc Dean (Undergraduate Studies), College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: “The twin pillars of what

“We started from the same blueprint — hire the best professors and very good research and teaching will follow.”

– Assoc Prof Neil Murphy, Assoc Dean
(Undergraduate Studies)

we do are education and research. Our research gets filtered into the classroom.

“We started from the same blueprint — hire the best professors and very good research and teaching will follow.”

The Head of the English Division added: “One of the advantages across the school was that we were able to start from scratch.”

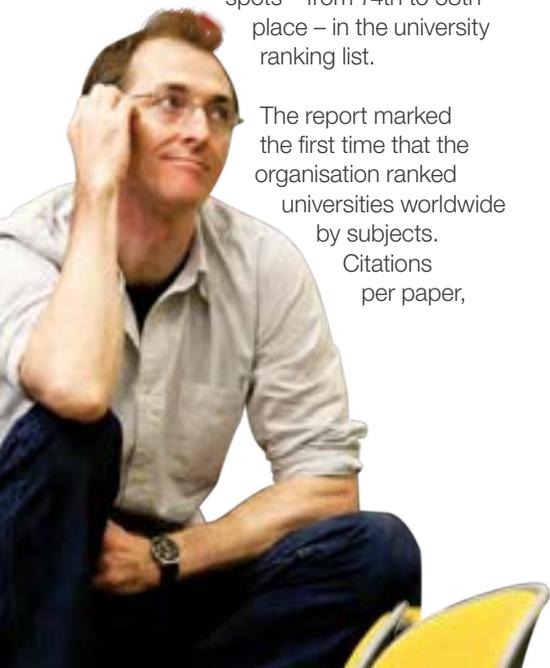
Fresh And Diverse Offerings

Starting from scratch is certainly something HSS is not averse to. It has enabled the School to offer new programmes – with fresh perspectives. For instance, Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, when introduced in 2008, was the only programme of its kind in Singapore and the region.

Come next academic year, the School will launch a new Minor in Philosophy, and a unique History Major programme that explores how science, technology, and medicine have transformed human societies.

Of course, ranking is not the focus here. These new programmes are created with the students in mind – to enhance their learning experience. If HSS is described as the soul of a university, students can be assured that our faculty members have the heart in accompaniment.

As Assoc Prof Murphy said: “When we go to classes, we’re not thinking about rankings.”



HSS Faculty Members Receive NATIONAL DAY AWARDS

By Ronnie Yeo

Three HSS faculty members were conferred the National Day Awards this year for their outstanding service to Singapore.

Champion for Social Service

Assoc Prof Rebecca Ang, HSS Assoc Chair (Research), was awarded the Public Service Medal (Bronze) for her contributions to education, research and social service.

The Psychology faculty member is part of the expert panel for Counseling and Psychological Services at the Family and Juvenile Courts, and a family research advisor at the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

She views research and social service work as being integral to the larger education landscape in Singapore.

“A good education involves far more than just academic excellence. It also includes the development of social-emotional skills and competencies in children and adolescents,” said Assoc Prof Ang.

“I will continue to remain engaged in meaningful research, teaching, clinical and policy work related to children, adolescents and their families.”

Research and Teaching Excellence

For her dedication in research and teaching, Asst Prof Chia Wai Mun, from Economics Division, was awarded the Commendation Medal.

An expert in international macroeconomics and economic integration in East Asia, she has always seen research as her calling.

“Research is more than a nine-to-five job. When you get so much into it, you will never feel tired of working,” she enthused.

Having guided many students from different backgrounds, she enjoys both research and teaching.

“After enough research, you feel like you want to share with people. That’s why I enjoy teaching,” said Asst Prof Chia.

“The biggest challenge is to get non-Economics students to stay interested in the subject I love. I always find it deeply satisfying when I manage to do that.”

Dedicated Service From A Sweet Young Thing

For her 25-year long dedicated service to the University, Dr Lai Phooi Ching was awarded the Long Service Medal.

The Director of the Language and Communication Centre (LCC) started off teaching in NTU at the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) in 1985.

“When I first came here, I was a rather sweet young thing – newly married and a freshly-minted PhD,” recalled Dr Lai.

“I stayed years in EEE until HSS was established, and now I am not-so-sweet,” she laughed.

Dr Lai has spent a large part of her working life in NTU because she finds it a nice, quiet environment that is largely “unhurried.”

“It allows me to do my work and reflect on it,” she said.

Dr Lai wants to make her life meaningful and contribute to public service through teaching.

Her contribution is huge. The LCC, which she is heading, provides communication skills and writing courses to some 14,000 students in NTU each year.



From left to right:
Asst Prof Chia Wai
Mun, Assoc Prof
Rebecca Ang, and
Dr Lai Phooi Ching

Honour for Psychology Students at APA CONVENTION

By Sharifah F. Alshahab

A research collaboration between Psychology postgraduate and undergraduate students won the National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA/NIDA) Early Career Poster Award.

Yang Fang, a second-year PhD student, and alumna Karen Pooh, then final-year undergraduate student received the

award at the 119th Annual Convention (4-7 Aug), hosted by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Their research, *Psychosocial Predictors of Cigarette Smoking among Asian American and Pacific Islander Adolescents*, examines the prevalence of cigarette use among Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. It explores factors such as gender and ethnicity. They were

supervised by Asst Prof Wendy Cheng from Psychology Division.

Their poster was also among the 98 selected to appear at the Social Hour event.

“We were elated because it is not easy for posters to be accepted by APA,” said Karen.

The research by Karen Pooh (left) and Yang Fang examines the prevalence of current cigarette use according to gender and ethnicity – between Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.



Wan Ching Wins INAUGURAL AWARD

By Cherilyn Lim

Her five-year long research on the effects of culture on individual and social psychology has proved to be rewarding today. Assoc Prof Wan Ching, from Psychology Division, was presented the inaugural Michael Harris Bond Award for Early Research Contributions. The award honours researchers who have made significant contributions to Asian social psychology.

Assoc Prof Wan received the award at the 9th Biennial Conference of Asian Association of Social Psychology (28-31 July) held in Kunming, China.

“Through our research, we’ve been trying to tell the field that this is another approach we can use to look at how culture may be related to psychology,” she said. “This award, to me, is the field’s recognition of the value of this approach.”

Conventional research in culture and psychology approaches the study of culture from individuals’ personal characteristics. Her research provides a newer perspective and valuable angle of study by considering the role of collective cultural beliefs in influencing psychological processes.



SINGAPORE HISTORY 101

at the National Museum

By Koh Hui Fang

Most Singaporeans are familiar with the famous Tiger Balm ointment. But few know how the cure-all ointment – first sold in a small medicinal shop in Burma in the late 1870s – became popular in Singapore and how it eventually gained a foothold in over a hundred countries. Its popularity started soaring in the 1920s-30s due to highly-effective newspaper advertorials put up by its manufacturer Eng Aun Tong, Assoc Prof I Lo-fen revealed.

The faculty member from Chinese Division was speaking at a public lecture on Singapore history, held at the National Museum of Singapore. Her lecture was part of a series titled *Singapore History Course in Mandarin*, jointly organised by the National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Society of Asian Studies. Held from July to September, the event aims to enhance public awareness about Singapore history and culture.

Also taking part in the lecture series were Asst Prof Hee Wai Siam from Chinese Division, and Dr Ng Beoy Kui from Economics Division.

Asst Prof Hee recounted the history of local Chinese-language cinema from post-war Malaya to the post-independence 1960s, and compared the political representativeness of early local films with recent ones. He shared that the pioneers of local Chinese-language cinema had set a benchmark because they did not allow their ethnic identities as Chinese to limit them in representing Singapore's multi-ethnic culture.

Dr Ng spoke on Singapore's economic history — an important topic because of rapid changes in the world and challenges that Singapore is currently facing. These challenges include an ageing society, increasing cost of living, and changing expectations from the younger generations. Adopting a historical perspective, he said, would help one understand why the government implements certain economic policies.



Courtesy of National Museum of Singapore.

HSS' Eureka AT URECA

By Winifred Seto

Three HSS students each clinched the Titanium, Gold and Popular awards respectively at the Discover URECA @ NTU Poster Exhibition and Competition 2011.

URECA, which stands for Undergraduate Research Experience on Campus, is a premier programme for outstanding undergraduates to pursue independent research. They received the awards from Prof Freddy Boey, NTU Deputy President and Provost, at the URECA Orientation and Prize Presentation Ceremony (16 Aug).

Alumna Shen Pinxiu, then a fourth-year Psychology student, won the Titanium Award for her research titled *Putting Yourself in Others' Shoes: Role-play Benefits Preschoolers' Social Understanding*.

Supervised by Asst Prof Qu Li from Psychology Division, Pinxiu conducted experiments on local preschoolers, and found that role-play could improve their capacity to understand what other people know, think or feel.

Pinxiu was earlier awarded \$1,500 by URECA to travel to California, US, for the Jean Piaget Society Annual Conference (2-4 June) where she presented her thesis.

Tan Poh Long, a fourth-year Psychology student, under the guidance of Asst Prof Joyce Pang from Psychology Division, clinched the Gold Award for his project titled *Influence of Parenting on Adolescents' Aggression*. He studied the co-relation



Supervised by Asst Prof Qu Li (left), Shen Pinxiu's research found that role-play can improve preschoolers' capacity to understand what other people know, think or feel.

between different parenting styles and aggression and delinquency problems.

Adding to HSS' accolades was alumna Koh Bee Choo, then a fourth-year Chinese student. Her study on *Code-switching and Code-mixing Patterns of Salespersons in Singapore* was voted most popular. She was supervised by Asst Prof Helena Gao from Chinese Division.

The Contemporary: A Milestone in the History of SINGAPORE'S LITERARY ARTS

By Koh Hui Fang



Talking about the present without the benefit of hindsight is never easy. Just ask the writers, poets, academics and students who spent a weekend trying to define contemporary literature.

This happened at *The Contemporary* – an international conference of contemporary literature and the arts (26-28 June), organised by NTU's English Division and the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The conference, supported by the Embassies of Ireland and the United States of America, saw participants from over 40 countries presenting on a variety of topics, ranging from contemporary drama, the secular and spiritual in contemporary fiction, science, transnationalism and travel.

Said Assoc Prof Neil Murphy, Assoc Dean (Undergraduate Studies), College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and Head of the English Division: "This conference marks a milestone in the history of Singapore's literary arts, as it is one of the biggest literature conferences to be held here in recent years."

Understanding Contemporary Literature

Offering a way to understand contemporary literature was Prof Shirley Chew, Emeritus Professor of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Literatures, University of Leeds, and Visiting Professor of English, NTU. She applied art theorist Terry Smith's definitions of contemporary art to



literature and explored similarities and differences between the concepts of "contemporary" and "postcolonial".

From a medical perspective, Prof Ronald Schleifer, George Lynn Cross Research Professor of English and Adjunct Professor in the College of Medicine at University of Oklahoma, argued that the term "the contemporary" implied a form of practical humanities. He shared how the practical humanities of situated engagement are used to train physicians to be more emotionally sensitive when communicating with their patients.

Literary Work in the Spotlight

Prominent local and international writers also presented their latest work at a special fiction and poetry reading session. Ms Suchen Christine Lim, winner of the inaugural Singapore Literature Prize in 1992, read a dialogue-

Participants having a lively discussion at the conference.

heavy excerpt about familial tensions from her latest collection of short stories, *The Lies that Build a Marriage*, while HSS Asst Chair Assoc Prof Sim Wai Chew read an extract from his new short story, *Great Singapore Sale*, which recounts a hair-raising encounter between a passenger and a reckless taxi driver.

Ms Suchen Christine Lim, winner of the inaugural Singapore Literature Prize in 1992, presenting her latest collection of short stories, *The Lies that Build a Marriage*.



Singapore Economic Review Conference: TOWARDS PRODUCTIVITY AND REAL WAGE GROWTH

By Benjamin Lee

While the US needs to watch its rising debt levels to revive its economy, Singapore's growth depends on productivity and real wage growth, said Prof Edward Lazear of Stanford University. The former chief economic advisor to President George W. Bush was speaking in his key note address at the Singapore Economic Review Conference (4 Aug).

The conference is the biennial flagship event of the Singapore Economic Review — one of the leading economics journals in Asia that is editorially housed at the Division of Economics, NTU.

Prof Lazear told some 300 leading economists and policy-makers present that if Singapore wants higher wage growth to fuel economic growth, then the government's focus on productivity is important and in the right direction.

"In a country like Singapore where there isn't significant unemployment, rather than focusing on the relationship of productivity and jobs, you should be looking at the relationship



between productivity and the typical Singaporean's earnings," he said.

The Singapore government has embarked on a drive to raise productivity by 2 per cent to 3 per cent a year over the next 10 years, with real wages rising by 30 per cent.

Head of the Economics Division, said the conference played a significant role in fostering strong partnerships among the world's top economists and policy-makers.

"It enables us to share many fresh ideas on how to advance economic growth and address emerging challenges like environment and climate-change issues that have an impact on the global economy," he said.

Over 240 papers from theoretical research to practical policy work were presented at the three-day conference.

Guest-of-honour Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister of State for Finance and Transport, noted that this would be a difficult task, but Singapore can make strides in its productivity through "relatively unexploited areas" such as re-organising supply chains and developing new markets.

"Our challenge is having the sense of urgency and enthusiasm for fresh ideas to bring productivity to new highs," said Mrs Teo.

Over in the US, there is a different problem. With unemployment at a high 9.2 percent, Prof Lazear said the biggest threat to its long-term growth is if it mismanages its fiscal growth. He said the debt ceiling deal was a step in the right direction, but added that the US needs to start looking for a credible, long-term strategy to rein in fiscal spending.

Ideas to Accelerate Economic Growth

Over 240 papers ranging from theoretical research to practical policy work were presented at the three-day conference. Other notable speakers include Prof Gregory Chow, from Princeton University, and Prof Danny Quah, from London School of Economics. They spoke on China's role as a leader of the world economy and its impact on Asia's continued rise.

Prof Euston Quah, Editor of the Singapore Economic Review, and

FIRST AcRF TIER 2 Grant for HSS

By Koh Eng Beng

Autism, schizophrenia and dyslexia have been linked to abnormal functioning of our brain. To come up with better treatments for these psychiatric disorders, clinicians have to understand how our brain affects mental processes. In this consideration, Assoc Prof Annabel Chen, from Psychology Division, has been awarded the Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 2 grant worth S\$762,952, for her research proposal on *Cerebellar Contributions to Visual Working Memory*.

To be carried out over three years, the research project aims to understand the role of the cerebellum, a structure in the human brain, in higher cognition — how people perceive, remember, think, speak, and solve problems.

This is the first ever AcRF Tier 2 grant awarded to a HSS faculty member. It is a competitive award that funds research projects that have academic significance and a good potential for creating new knowledge, potentially leading to innovations and discoveries.

Exploring the Little Brain

The cerebellum has been traditionally regarded as the “little brain” primarily responsible for ensuring different parts



of our body work together to enable us to move and act. But recent studies have shown that the “little brain” plays a larger role in the human body. It is covertly helping the cerebrum, aptly nicknamed the “big brain”, to seamlessly orchestrate the complex demands of higher cognition.

Assoc Prof Chen’s research project will focus on the role of cerebellum in visual working memory — the ability of the brain to actively hold visual information in the mind needed to do complex tasks such as reasoning, comprehension and learning. She will be employing various neuro-imaging techniques to aid in this investigation.

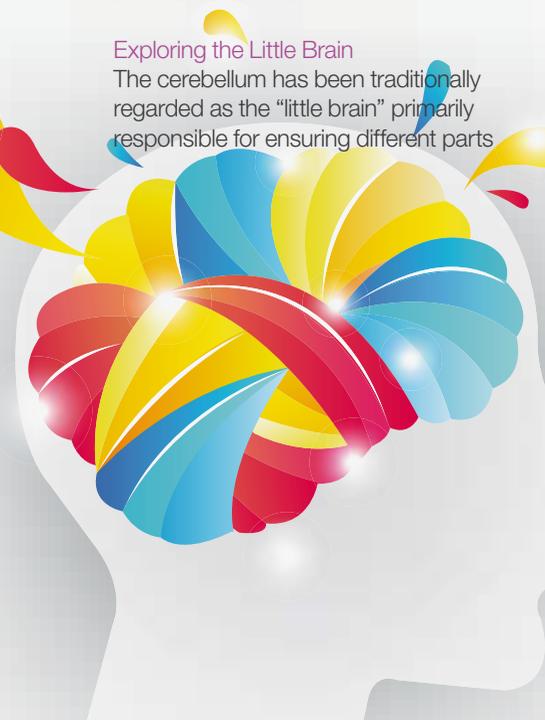
Findings from the research will provide a comprehensive understanding of the neural networks involved in cognitive functioning.

“It will also uncover more focused explanations for complex psychiatric disorders, as well as pave the ways for better interventions,” said Assoc Prof Chen.

Assoc Prof Annabel Chen’s (above) research aims to understand the role of the cerebellum in higher cognition – how people perceive, remember, think, speak, and solve problem.

New Editorial Appointments

- Assoc Prof Annabel Chen has been appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of the new journal *Neuroscience and Neuroeconomics*. The launch of this international, peer-reviewed journal is timely and fills the gap in providing cutting edge research integrating neuroscience and neuroeconomics.
- Prof Liu Hong, from History Group, has been appointed as the Editor of *Journal of Chinese Overseas* (JCO). He is joined by Asst Prof Shirley Sun, from Sociology Division, who will take on the role of Assistant Editor. Published by Brill (Leiden and Boston) since 2005, JCO is the only English-language international journal devoted to interdisciplinary studies on Chinese overseas throughout the world and the communities from which they trace their origins.



Understanding TONE DEAFNESS

By Koh Eng Beng

Perception of speech and music is known to rely, to some extent, on shared brain resources, but the degree to which these resources are shared, and how they are orchestrated is not known.

To expand our understanding of these matters, Asst Prof Alice Chan from the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, and a team of researchers from Northwestern University, have been awarded a National Science Foundation Grant, worth US\$434,472 to research on *Musical and Lexical Tone Deafness*.

The central objective of the research is to explore what tone deafness reveals about speech and music.

"If the brain resources required to perceive tone are shared between speech and music," explained Asst Prof

Chan. "Then speakers who suffer from tone deafness should show difficulty in perceiving and producing tones – in both speech and music."

The three-year project, involving participants of different linguistic backgrounds in Singapore and in the US, will expand our understanding about the organisation of music and speech processing by the human nervous system, via multimodal state-of-the-art brain imaging methods, as well as functional and structural magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Findings from the research can possibly lead to clinical applications for treatment. As tone deafness is not classified as a disorder by any medical group, its impact has yet to be documented, and treatment research has not begun.



"We hope that this research will give us a better understanding of communicative consequences of tone deafness, and ultimately lead to clinical recognition and treatment," said Asst Prof Chan.

Selected External Research Grants

Title	On the Improvement of Executive Function in Preschoolers from Low-Income Families.	Behavior and Neurophysiological Study of Subliminal Priming in The Realm of Advertisement and Beyond	Visual Performance Enhancement	Diasporic Chinese and China's Public Diplomacy: Global Comparisons and Policy Mechanisms
Grant Source	Family Research Fund (FRF) Secretariat, Strategic Planning, Research and Development (SPRD) Division, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.	DSO National Laboratories Grant, Singapore	DSO National Laboratories Grant, Singapore	China State Council Overseas Chinese Affairs Office
Grant Amount	S\$99,993	S\$110,000	S\$160,000	CNY204,800 (S\$41,000)
Principal Investigator(s)/ Co-Principal Investigator(s)	Asst Prof Qu Li, Division of Psychology; Assoc Prof Ho Moon-Ho, Ringo, Division of Psychology; Assoc Prof Lee Kerry, National Institute of Education	Asst Prof Alice Chan, Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies; Asst Prof Justin Dauwels, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Asst Prof Michael D. Patterson, Division of Psychology	Prof Liu Hong, History Group
Duration of Award	2011 – 2014	2011 – 2012	2011 – 2013	2011 – 2012

In Appreciation of PROF EUSTON QUAH

By Caroline Khew

In July this year, Prof Euston Quah handed over the reins of HSS leadership to Prof Liu Hong. *Horizon* recounts his fulfilling journey in leading the School.

Back in 2008, when Prof Quah was appointed as the Acting Chair of HSS, the School was still in its formative years, making his new role challenging and one of a “different creature”. Before this, he was the Head of the Economics Division. Taking up the new position meant that he had to adopt a macro perspective, bearing in mind the needs of not just one, but also many different disciplines.

“We had to find a strong voice representing the humanities and social sciences in a science and technological university,” he recalls. “We wanted to be heard, and we wanted the University to know that we are distinctive through the different aspects of our disciplines.”

He adds: “Research in languages, literature, and history has made possible the creation of museums, heritage sites and performing arts, all of which enrich society. Society also benefits from the design of good public policy made



by sociologists, psychologists and economists.

“The study of humanities and social sciences also enhances the employability of graduates – not just from HSS but all disciplines – by inculcating in them highly-sought after critical thinking, communication, and multi-disciplinary skills.”

With these in mind, Prof Quah felt, at that point of time, there was a need to expand the HSS undergraduate studies programme. More international collaborations were also required in order to improve the School’s standing. Increasing the quality of its student intake and recruiting potentially research-active faculty members were also his top priorities.

Three years on, the School has not fallen short of these expectations.

Under Prof Quah’s leadership, HSS enhanced its international recognition. According to the QS World University Rankings, NTU moved up from the 89th position in 2008 to 60th in 2010 under the Social Sciences and Management category. An even greater leap was made in the Arts and Humanities category as NTU jumped over 60 spots to the 125th position. Just

recently, HSS saw five of its disciplines, namely English Literature, Economics, Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, Modern Languages, and Psychology, rank in the top 100 worldwide under the new QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Prof Quah was also instrumental in leading NTU to become the first university in Southeast Asia to launch the Linguistics and Multilingual Studies programme in 2008. The interdisciplinary double degree programme in Engineering and Economics was also introduced.

Prof Quah credits the achievements to his team in the Chair’s Office, strong support from the Heads of Divisions, as well as all the enthusiastic faculty and capable management staff.

“I see my role as a facilitator, giving much-needed autonomy to our HSS divisions, as well as all faculty and staff members to excel,” he says.

Now heading the Economics Division once more, Prof Quah is excited to assume his new role as he wants to build a strong research-active department that is known for its strength in applied economics.

Accomplished Economic Leader

An expert in Environmental Economics and Cost-Benefit Analysis, Prof Quah is a prolific researcher who has published in many well-known international journals and books. Twice elected as the President of the Economic Society of Singapore, he is currently the Editor of the Singapore Economic Review.

Prior to joining HSS, Prof Quah was Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National

University of Singapore (NUS); Deputy Director of the Public Policy Programme (now Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy); Founding Director of the Singapore Centre for Applied and Policy Economics (SCAPE); and headed the Economics Department at NUS.

Prof Quah advises various government ministries, international organisations, and the private sector. They include the PricewaterhouseCoopers, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Gentings International.

A Mission to Help Youths STAY SOBER

By Jemimah Wei

“First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, and then the drink takes you.”

These words of literary genius F Scott Fitzgerald would resonate with Assoc Prof Douglas Matthews, a biological psychologist.

After all, two of his uncles died from alcoholism and his own brush with the issue became too close for comfort. Heavy drinking from Thursdays to Sundays in his four years of college had him describing himself as someone on the “verge of alcoholism.”

“So that was the development of the problem of drinking,” he recalls. “Alcoholism runs rampant in my family. There is a side of that which is very personal in my family.”

Fortunately, he has curbed his drinking problem, but his love for alcohol continues – in a good way, of course. He has made it his life mission to help youths

stay sober through his research on how alcohol affects the functioning of the human brain.

Pioneering Discovery

In 2010, Assoc Prof Matthews led a team of neuropsychologists at Baylor University (where he also holds an appointment as a research scientist) to a world first: the identification of a molecular mechanism that may explain why young people are less sensitive to alcohol than adults.

They found the firing rate of cerebellar Purkinje neuron – a brain cell responsible for coordination, memory and impulse control – insensitive to large alcohol doses in adolescent animal model. The study provides insights into why youths might consequently, consume alcohol to dangerous levels.

By knowing exactly which brain region and brain proteins the alcohol targets, his research helps pave the way for pharmaceutical companies to develop better treatment strategies or drugs to treat alcoholism.

“Ultimately, what we are interested in is being able to help society,” says Assoc Prof Matthews. “I think that’s one of the primary roles of a researcher. We use our research strengths to help society.”



A BIG HEART

By Siti Maziah Masramli

For Psychology students, Ms Lydia Seah is a familiar name and the go-to person. She not only plays the role of the Psychology programme manager, but also the role of a counsellor.

When Conan Choong, a second-year Psychology student, faced financial difficulties, Ms Seah worked tirelessly with Assoc Prof Ringo Ho to help him secure financial aid so that he could continue his studies. The amazing thing was not her administrative efficiency, but her big heart.

“She has gone beyond her duties as a staff to take care of students on a personal level,” says Conan. “When I was going through a really bad patch and needed all the support I could get, especially from School staff, she was there for me.”

Ms Seah, who joined HSS in January 2008, handles the administration of Psychology academic and research programmes.

Her para-counselling work extends beyond the ad-hoc emergency cases. During course registration or Final Year Project selection, she often puts her counselling skills, which she picked up in her previous job as a secondary school teacher, to good use.

“I do have a lot of experience counselling students, and enjoy interacting with them,” says Ms Seah. “Sometimes I have to do a little bit of counselling. A student doing FYP wanted to change her topic and was wondering how to bring it up to the supervisor, so I had to talk to her.”

Promoted to Senior Assistant Manager in 2010, she received praise from staff

and faculty members for her outstanding administrative work. In a congratulatory email, Dr Lee Sau-Lai, a former faculty member, described Ms Seah as a “person the department cannot run without”.

Perhaps Karen Goh, a final-year student and Vice-Chair of NTU Psychology Society, sums it up best: “We have never encountered a situation where we’ve asked her for help and she said no.”



Bioprospecting refers to the search for plants with potential economic value in extreme environments such as rainforests and deserts.

Photo by Benjamin Miller

Putting a Soul into SCIENCE

By Koh Eng Beng

Asst Prof Hallam Stevens, a historian of science, shares with *Horizon* his research interest that cuts across the “exquisite” humanities and the “hard” sciences.

Applying nail polish is considered as a common feminine habit, one hardly sees men doing this. However, Asst Prof Hallam Stevens who recently joined HSS, is one of the rare few. He paints his nails with pastel green and sometimes blue, purple, pink and orange polish “out of fun”. His liking for fashion across both gender practices is perhaps a reflection of his research interest in the history of science, which brings together two fields at opposite ends of the academic spectrum – the “exquisite” humanities and the “hard” sciences.

As a historian of science, Asst Prof Stevens explores the evolution of scientific inquiry. He is fascinated with how people from different eras think about nature differently.

For instance, he says, biologists back in the 1980s were researching on one gene at a time using test tubes. However, there are more computers than test

tubes in a laboratory today. Biologists can now download the entire human genome online and analyse them using algorithms and statistical tools.

The methods of scientific enquiry have evolved, but more importantly, Asst Prof Stevens says, the scale of the questions asked by scientists has changed.

“When you have to deal with something like test tubes, it is often the case that you will look at one cell or one gene. And in fact, biologists have spent decades or even their whole careers just investigating one gene, coming to understand in a lot of detail.”

“Not that there is anything wrong with that. But now you can ask questions like, ‘What percentage of all the genes is alternatively spliced?’ These are very general and broad questions which you can now begin to answer – with computers and tools of statistics.”

Impressive Young Historian

Asst Prof Hallam Stevens, who holds a Master degree from Cambridge University and a Bachelor degree from Harvard College, obtained his PhD from Harvard University’s Department of History of Science in 2010. The revised version of his PhD dissertation, *Life out of sequence: bioinformatics from the ARPANET to post-genomics*, will be published by the University of Chicago

Press. This is a remarkable achievement for a new academic.

Equally impressive is the fact that he has published papers in top journals – in both social sciences and natural sciences. These include *Biosocieties*; *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*; *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* which has an impact factor of 9.432; and *Langmuir*, which is ranked second in citations out of the 121 journals that are under the category of Physical Chemistry.





Bioprospecting History

The young academic, who obtained his PhD from Harvard University in 2010, had been a lecturer at his alma mater prior to joining NTU. But he left Boston for Singapore with his wife because he saw the “centre of knowledge of production”, along with “economic power”, shifting from the West to Asia.

With that, Singapore, pouring billions of dollars into its biomedical research drive, presents to him a unique opportunity to research the history of bioprospecting in the country and the region.

Bioprospecting, he explains, refers to the search for plants with potential economic value in extreme environments such as rainforests and deserts. A familiar example is the rubber tree, which was introduced to Malaya (now Malaysia) from South America. Malaysia eventually became the world’s largest rubber producer.

Not much research has been done to put the development of science and technology in the region into historical, social and cultural contexts. Asst Prof Stevens plans to research the history of bioprospecting in Singapore from its colonial era, and trace how it eventually turned the country into a modern biomedical research hub of today.

“I think of Singapore as a network that is more and more connected to big pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, flow of money, and bio-material from all over the world,” says the specialist in the history of contemporary biology.

“I want to make sense of what is going on here. This is not just about a piece of technology, but a symbol of globalisation and what is happening around in Asia.”

Started off as a Physics Undergraduate

Asst Prof Stevens looks forward to teaching NTU students, especially those from the Engineering and Science Schools. After all, he used to be one of them. He was a Physics major during his undergraduate days in Harvard University.

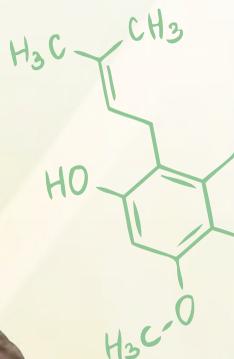
He feels that it is important for Engineering and Science students to have a full perspective of their disciplines, especially in Singapore where development of science and technology is accelerating.

“Students need to think about science from a different perspective,” says Asst Prof Stevens.

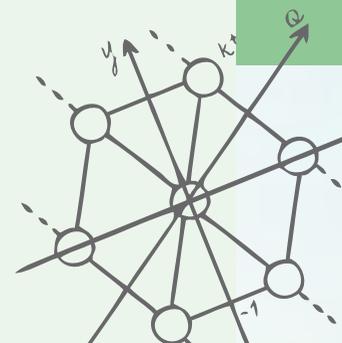
“Not just from a straight-forward scientific or mathematical perspective, but from perspectives that take into account how it links to politics, how it links to culture, how it links to the imagination.”

For a start, students, especially those who are into social network media, can look forward to attending his class on Cybersociety. Students will get to explore the social, cultural, and political influences of Facebook, Second Life and Twitter on our everyday lives.

Thanks to the historian of science, it is probably apt to say that science in NTU now has a soul.



Asst Prof Hallam Stevens was a Physics undergraduate in Harvard University.



The Literature of PHOTOGRAPHY

By Zhang Youying

“When we define the Photograph as a motionless image, this does not mean only that the figures it represents do not move; it means that they do not emerge, do not leave: they are anesthetised and fastened down, like butterflies.”

– Camera Lucida:
Reflections on Photography

Literary theorist Roland Barthes' quote eloquently expresses a widely held sentiment that Asst Prof Jessica Morgan-Owens has endeavored to challenge and displace.

To explicate her fascination with photographic subjects, she explains: “How the subjects choose to represent themselves is really an important moment in the act of photographing that I don't think is talked about a lot.”



Having been engaged in professional photography as well as photographic interpretation in academia, Asst Prof Morgan-Owens is no stranger to the world of photography. After completing her bachelor's degree at Loyola University, where she did a double major in English and Photojournalism, Asst Prof Morgan-Owens supported herself through her graduate school programme by doing travel photography.

She earned her PhD in American Literature at New York University, and applied her interdisciplinary knowledge and passion in her dissertation, *Black and White: Photographic Writing in the Literature of Abolition*, where she explores the significance of the photographic portrayal in anti-slavery campaigns in the United States.

Interpreting Photographic Texts

Throughout her academic career, Asst Prof Morgan-Owens has cherished a keen interest in applying literary interpretation in examining and deciphering “photographic texts” with a particular focus on non-fiction.

These texts include many different forms of textual works such as narratives about photographs and photographers, critical essays expounding on developments in the field, or even textual records written by professional photographers themselves about their work.

An example is the celebrated Scottish photographer John Thomson's

As a photographer and literary scholar, Asst Prof Morgan-Owens aspires to create a long-term alternative reading on photography involving subjects as the focus.

Asst Prof Morgan-Owens spotlights Thomson's subjects by examining his records of the King of Siam's (right) interactions with him.

notebooks, which Asst Prof Morgan-Owens pays special attention to in her research project, *Emerging Subjects: Travel Photography in the Asian Context*.

Thomson, who chronicled Asia in the 1860s and 70s, managed an impressively dignified portrayal of his Chinese subjects. His work set him apart from other photographers who held on to colonialist attitudes about Asia, rehashing archetypal images of Asian people.

Asst Prof Morgan-Owens spotlights Thomson's subjects by examining his records of the King of Siam's interactions with him as well as by investigating how the Chinese media responds to his works. In doing this, she aims to demonstrate that subjects are essentially immutable, interacting with rather than submitting to their photographers. She also hopes to persuade fellow audiences of travel photography to acknowledge subjects as important contributors to the historical composition of photographs instead of becoming just a “part of the architecture.”

Asst Prof Morgan-Owens aspires to create a long-term alternative reading of photography involving subjects as the focus, and also hopes to expand it into an exhibition for travel photography. She also photographs professionally with her partner, James Owens. For those who are interested in viewing their work, you can visit MorganOwens.com.



Photo by John Thomson

Southeast Asia's NUCLEAR FUTURE

By Jeremy Lim

Forget Fukushima, nuclear power may soon be growing in our very backyard.

Despite global unease over the reactor meltdown on Japan's eastern coast, going nuclear may be the inevitable solution for an energy-starved world.

What has prevented Indonesia from developing a working nuclear model so far?

Much of the problem lies in the different perceptions of risk and the failure of the Indonesian government to inform the public about the kind of risk they have to deal with if they decide to put up a nuclear power plant. They tend to develop the benefits of nuclear power and downplay the risks and danger that could emerge in the event of a meltdown.

Which other countries in Southeast Asia are pursuing nuclear power?

Another country that is also planning nuclear power plants is Vietnam — probably the fastest running country in terms of nuclear. There is not much resistance because it is a communist state and there is no challenge to resist the government in terms of policy. This is unlike Indonesia and Thailand, where the democratic process allows people to challenge the government.

Of course in 2010, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong made an announcement that it is very likely that Singapore will rely on nuclear power for energy.

Even here in Southeast Asia, the prospect of a nuclear-powered grid no longer seems a distant dream, or nightmare, depending on your point of view.

Sociologist Asst Prof Sulfikar Amir, an expert in Science and Technology Studies, has spent the past two years researching nuclear politics in Indonesia, which has one of Southeast Asia's oldest

nuclear programmes. The Indonesian government started pursuing nuclear power more than 30 years ago, but has yet to overcome public resistance to build its first operational plant.

In an interview with *Horizon*, Asst Prof Amir shares his research and explorations into the possibility of building nuclear power plants in Southeast Asia.

How has the Fukushima incident affected the future of nuclear power?

After Fukushima, many things changed. The pressures against nuclear power are getting stronger. People see what happened in Fukushima on television. However, I interviewed a group of people in Tokai, Japan, near another nuclear plant. I asked them whether they prefer the Japanese government to stop nuclear power plants. They said: 'No, we need nuclear'. They don't have many resources, and nuclear seems to be inevitable for countries like Japan, so they have to know exactly what kind of risks they have to deal with. I am sure after this accident in Fukushima, nuclear power will remain an important source of energy in Japan.

What are the possibilities for Singapore to take up a joint nuclear project with another country?

If the nuclear plant were built by the Singapore government, which has a strong institutional capacity, I wouldn't worry so much. It is a good thing for Singapore to engage in a joint nuclear power project overseas. Singapore can contribute a lot, not only in funding and financing, but also in the capability to strengthen security and safety.

Asst Prof Sulfikar Amir (centre) with fellow researchers from University of Tokyo when visiting the Fukushima power plant in February 2009.



WORLD OF TEMASEK BREATHES LIFE INTO FORGOTTEN ERA

in Singapore's History

By Nur Asyiqin

An online role-playing game *World of Temasek* co-created by historian Asst Prof Goh Geok Yan opens up a whole new world of knowledge for students – and shatters a few misconceptions about the city's quiet past.

Jointly produced by the National Heritage Board, the Media Authority of Singapore and Magma Studios, *World of Temasek* is a locally-produced effort to shed light on 14th-century Singapore.

Asst Prof Goh, together with Assoc Prof John Miksic of National University of Singapore, are the academic consultants for the production. Drawing on their knowledge, *World of Temasek* recreates 14th century Singapore's colourful historical fabric with meticulous details. The non-fiction multiplayer 3D game makes learning local history an immersive experience.

Instead of receiving information passively, players take an active role in the game – slipping into the skins of spice traders or monks, and roaming the port city of Temasek to hunt for historical artifacts and answers about Singapore's past.

Uncovering 14th Century Singapore
World of Temasek represents a culmination of many years of research for Asst Prof Goh and Assoc Prof Miksic.

Little used to be known about Temasek. It had long been brushed off as a mere fishing village, populated by the humblest of villagers and sustained by small-scale agriculture and the sea.

However, archaeological digs by the two historians over the last two decades have unearthed a surprisingly gilded past. Temasek – which means “Sea Town” in Javanese – might have been more cosmopolitan than its name suggests.

Remnants of ceramics, jewellery and coins from other parts of Asia found during the digs revealed Temasek's past as a regional trade center, and the presence of an elite class living atop Fort Canning.

Grooming Young Historians and Archaeologists

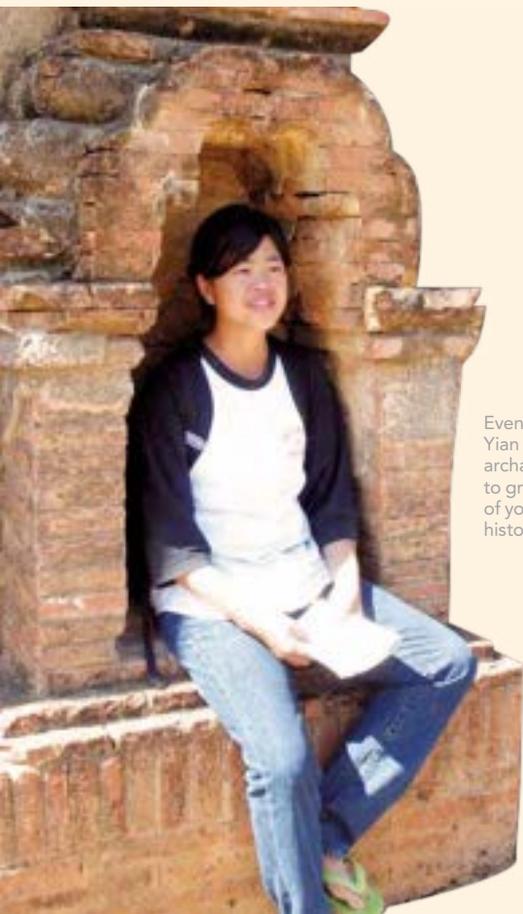
Since 1991, Asst Prof Goh has been part of several archaeological digs at Fort Canning, Parliament House Complex and Empress Place, and has also analysed artifacts unearthed at these sites.

Even as she lives out her passion for archaeology, Asst Prof Goh continues to groom a future generation of young archaeologists and historians for Singapore. In November last year, she inducted her students into her way of life: more than 30 of her students from her Special Topics in History course in NTU participated in an excavation near the National Art Gallery of Singapore.

She hopes that her contributions in *World of Temasek* will spark off more interest and understanding of Singapore's forgotten past.

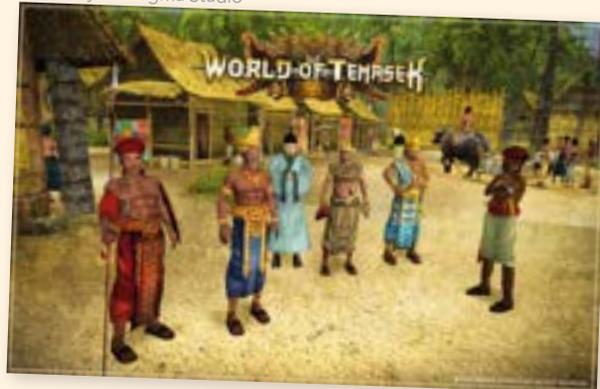
Members of the public can play the game for free at <http://www.worldoftemasek.com>.

A scholastic version which covers the lower secondary history syllabus is also available for schools.



Even as Asst Prof Goh Geok Yan lives out her passion for archaeology, she continues to groom a future generation of young archaeologists and historians for Singapore.

Courtesy of Magma Studio



World of Temasek recreates 14th century Singapore's colourful historical fabric with meticulous details.

WILL THE STORKS Return to Singapore?

By Mavis Ang

Despite the Singapore government's attempts at increasing the country's birth rate through policies, Singapore's total fertility rate has dipped to a historic low of 1.16 in 2010. Far from the replacement level of 2.1, the government faces increasing pressure to boost the country's birth rate.

Although many Asian countries face worrisome fertility rates, Singapore is the first to reverse population policies in order to encourage more births. So with a pool of comprehensive low fertility policy measures, Singapore is the ideal case study.

"In other words, if any Asian country has a real chance to address the issue of low fertility, it would be Singapore," says Asst Prof Shirley Sun from Sociology Division.

Singapore's Policies and Fertility Rates

Her research project, *Multi-level Analysis of the Impact of State Population Policies on Birth Rates in Singapore since 1987*, provides an insightful view into how population policies affect the country's fertility rates.

Through qualitative data gathered from 165 personal interviews with women of childbearing age, the average age being 27 years old, and 39 focus group discussions, the study reveals that population policies are affected mainly by the decision maker's perceived costs of raising children, exposure to the policies, and labour laws.

As many interviewees see raising children as a risk, they feel that the state should provide long-term financial subsidies for the child's education and healthcare.

According to them, the Baby Bonus is not effective in lightening the burden of educating a child as it only lasts for six



Photo by Christine Szeto

years. Those from middle and lower income households find it discouraging that the government does not provide free education, as is the case in Australia and Canada.

As for healthcare, many interviewees feel it is "a little too expensive here." They think it would be ideal if neighbourhood polyclinics were made free for citizens to ease the burden of child health expenses on the parents.

Publicity is also crucial for public policies.

"About 20% of my respondents did not know of the policy," says Asst Prof Shirley. "There has to be a close examination of the policy dissemination process. If they don't even know that there are benefits of having children, how can they be encouraged?"

The disruption of a woman's career due to childbearing is also a worry.

"Maternity leave right now only works for family-oriented women because it's without the protection of job loss. So if you take leave and the company lets you go, there's no legal protection," Asst Prof Shirley explains.

And in this modern age, a growing number of men also prefer to play a more active role in parenting. The study shows

that a small group of young men would like to take up paternity leave in order to support their wives, through the critical years of bringing up the child.

So far, her research project has resulted in four international peer-reviewed journal articles, and a book titled *Population Policy and Reproduction in Singapore: Making Future Citizens*, which will be released early next year by Routledge.



Asst Prof Shirley Sun feels that if any Asian country has a real chance of boosting fertility rate, it would be Singapore.

PUBLICATIONS SPOTLIGHT



JOURNAL ARTICLES

Guanxi-Building in the Workplace: A Dynamic Process Model of Working and Backdoor Guanxi

Asst Prof Olwen Bedford, Division of Psychology

Journal of Business Ethics, Nov 2011, Vol 104 Issue 1, Pages 149-158

Previous studies have focused on implication of *guanxi* for business outcomes; few have examined *guanxi* development. Two theoretical modes of dynamic *guanxi* processes in the workplace are proposed: *working guanxi* and *backdoor guanxi*. The two modes differ in frequency of interaction, frequency of exchange of favors, and how clear the parties are on what each stands to gain from a particular interaction. Although face is expected to play a role in the development of each, the type of face that is most important differs. The psychological and social processes underlying development of these two modes of *guanxi* are explored and a basic model proposed as a basis for future research on *guanxi*, face, and ethics.

An Emerging China and Diasporic Chinese: Historicity, State, and International Relations

Prof Liu Hong, History Group

Journal of Contemporary China, Nov 2011, Vol 20 Issue 72, Pages 813-832

This essay examines the diaspora's role (or the lack of it) in China's diplomacy since 1949 and attempts to conceptualise the Chinese experience in an historical and comparative perspective. Liu Hong argues that historicity and state have played a significant part in shaping the interactions between the diaspora and diplomacy. The Chinese state's resilient capacity in domesticating (potential) diplomatic problems with respect to the diaspora and transforming them into new policy initiatives through facilitating diasporic participation in China's socio-economic and political processes has opened up new venues for the Chinese overseas to be involved in China's diplomacy. The essay concludes by considering three different routes in engaging the diaspora with diplomacy at a time of China rising and by calling for strategic integration of diaspora into the emerging discourses on 'International relations theories with Chinese characteristics'.

Two is better than one, but mine is better than ours: Preschoolers' executive function during co-play

Asst Prof Qu Li, Division of Psychology

Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, Mar 2011, Vol 108, Issue 3, Pages 549-566

If you want to have the tray with six treats, you'd better point to the tray with two treats. This is the game of less-is-more. Although simple, the game can be challenging for preschoolers. Facing treats, preschoolers can become impulsive – they point to the tray with six treats and end up with two treats in hand. The current study shows a way to help an impulsive preschooler – by teaming up the preschooler with another player who shares a common interest with him.



JOURNAL



华人研究国际学报 (第三卷第一期) The International Journal of Diasporic Chinese Studies, Volume 3, Issue 1

Assoc Prof Lee Guan Kin, Centre for Chinese Language and Culture; Prof Liu Hong, History Group; Prof Zeng Shaocong, Centre for Overseas Chinese Research, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, NTU; Centre for Overseas Chinese Research, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; and Global Publishing, World Scientific Publishing Co.

《华人研究国际学报》的宗旨在于致力提倡华人研究的原创性、多元性、前沿性。该期的“学术专论”收录了陈煜、Alejandro Portes、周敏、石沧金的文章。“研究述论”则有王华和李爱慧的文章。“活动报告”详尽介绍了在中国和新加坡两地举办的华人研究研讨会和公开演讲。“书评”部分则评析了近期在新加坡、马来西亚、菲律宾和美国出版的有关华人研究的著作。

The International Journal of Diasporic Chinese Studies is published bi-annually with its objectives set on fostering originality, multiplicity, and novelty in the studies of Chinese diaspora. In this issue, the “Academic Articles” section showcases articles written by Prof Alejandro Portes, Prof Zhou Min, Asst Prof Chen Yu and Prof Chi Cangjin. The “Research Notes” section comprises two articles contributed by Prof Wang Hua and Prof Li Aihui. The “Academic Activities” section highlights seminars and public lectures on Chinese Studies held in China and Singapore. And lastly, the “Book Review” section reviews four recent academic publications from Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and America.



BOOKS



Safe for Decolonization: The Eisenhower Administration, Britain, and Singapore

Asst Prof Long Shi Ruey Joey, History Group

The Kent State University Press, 2011

After World War II, Singapore underwent radical political and socioeconomic changes with the progressive retreat of Great Britain from its Southeast Asian colonial empire. The United States, under the Eisenhower administration, sought to fill the vacuum left by the British retreat and launched into a campaign to shape the emerging Singapore nation-state in accordance with its Cold War policies. Based on a wide array of Chinese- and English-language archival sources from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Singapore, and the United States, the book examines in depth the initiatives — both covert and public — undertaken by the United States in late-colonial Singapore. As the first multi-archival work on the U.S. intervention in Singapore, it makes an important contribution to the literature on Southeast Asia–U.S. relations.

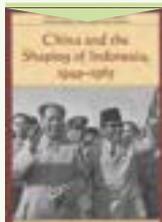


Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society

Asst Prof Teo You Yenn, Division of Sociology

Routledge, 2011

Using the case study of Singapore, this book examines the production of a set of institutionalised relationships and ethical meanings that link citizens to each other and the state. It looks at how questions of culture and morality are resolved, and how state-society relations are established that render paradoxes and inequalities acceptable, and form the basis of a national political culture. The Singapore government has put in place a number of policies to encourage marriage and boost fertility that has attracted much attention, and are often taken as evidence that the Singapore state is a social engineer. The book argues that these policies have largely failed to reverse demographic trends, and reveals that the effects of the policies are far more interesting and significant. Based on extensive field work, the book is a useful contribution to studies on Asian Culture and Society, Globalisation, as well as Development Studies.



China and the Shaping of Indonesia, 1949-1965

Prof Liu Hong, History Group

National University of Singapore Press and Kyoto University Press, 2011

This book provides an account of versatile interplay between knowledge, power, ethnicity, and diplomacy in the context of Sino-Indonesian interactions between 1949 and 1965. Prof Liu Hong presents a compelling argument that many influential politicians and intellectuals, among them Sukarno, Hatta, and Pramoedya, utilised China as an alternative model of modernity in conceiving and developing projects of social engineering, cultural regeneration and political restructuring that helped shape the trajectory of modern Indonesia. The multiplicity of China thus constituted a site of political contestations and intellectual imaginations. The study is a major contribution both to the intellectual and political history of Indonesia and to the reconceptualisation of Asian studies.



欧洲华侨华人与当地社会关系——社会融合 • 经济发展 • 政治参与 Chinese in Europe and Their Relationships with Local Societies: Social Integration, Economic Development and Political Participation

Prof Liu Hong, History Group; and Wang Xiaoping, Director of Policy and Legislation, China State Council Overseas Chinese Affairs.

Sun Yat-sen University Press, Guangzhou, 2011

This book is one of the first studies on social integration of Chinese communities in contemporary Europe, a major destination of Chinese international migration over the past three decades. There are 12 thematically-connected chapters by scholars from Europe, China and North America on various aspects of social, economic and political developments of Chinese communities in Europe and their complex interactions with the host societies. The book also showcases four essays by Chinese community leaders from Britain, France, Spain and the Netherlands on the social and policy implications of Chinese integration/disintegration in Europe. Prof Liu Hong co-authors the introduction chapter, and contributes a chapter on the relationship between social fragmentation and political participation of British Chinese from 1997 to 2010.



Moving Worlds: A Journal of Transcultural Writings comes to NTU

The NTU's Division of English has partnered with the School of English at University of Leeds to co-publish *Moving Worlds*.

Founded in 2001, the journal is a forum for creative works that has established itself in the 10 years of its existence as a publication of literary, cultural, and critical significance. Featuring among its contributors are distinguished names

such as Wole Soyinka, Randolph Stow, Etienne Balibar, Mahasweta Devi, as well as emergent writers and artists.

The new publication partnership will be an opportunity for NTU, with its proximity to countries in South Asia, South East Asia, and the Pacific region, to help to enlarge the scope and relevance of *Moving Worlds* in the years ahead.



BOOKS



China's Exchange Rate System Reform: Lessons for Macroeconomic Policy Management

Assoc Prof Paul Yip Sau Leung, Division of Economics

World Scientific, 2011

The author of this book is the original proponent of China's exchange rate system reform announced in 2005. This book will discuss

- The transitional, medium-term and long-term designs of the reform;
- China's achievements and mistakes on the reform;
- China's banking reform and its lessons to other emerging economies;
- Maintaining a certain trade surplus as a dynamically optimal choice for China;
- China's stock market bubble and the gradual bubble squeezing strategy;
- China's property inflation and its solution;
- China's fiscal and monetary policies during and after the global financial tsunami;
- Risk of global asset inflation, CPI inflation and cycle of exchange rate after the financial tsunami; and
- Likelihood of an asset bubble and then a crisis in economies outside the US during the overheated phase of the recovery.

Through these discussions, Assoc Prof Yip hopes to share his knowledge on macroeconomic policy management accumulated over the past thirty five years. In particular, he would like to share his insights on macroeconomic policy management before, during and after the asset inflation era or the crisis period. He would also like to warn policy makers and financial investors on the likelihood of an asset bubble and then a crisis in economies outside the US. Assoc Prof Yip hopes this book could eventually stimulate the emergence of "macroeconomic policy management" as a new and important discipline in economics.



人生记忆 Memoirs of Chew Cheng Hai, a Prominent Chinese Language Educationist of Singapore

Dr Chew Cheng Hai, Adjunct Prof, Division of Chinese

Global Publishing, Singapore, 2011

本书是周清海教授的回忆录，回顾了他的一生：从一个逃学的学生到大学教授。前新加坡内阁资政李光耀为本书作序，序中说：“在我眼中，周清海老师是一个绝对诚实、正直，值得尊敬和信赖的人。他的自传反映了他的品德——实话实说，从不自我炫耀。周老师受教于旧南洋大学，并到香港深造，精通中华文化。若以古典文学的文字来形容他，他堪称一位君子。我谨此向大家推荐这本自传。”本书回忆了他和南洋理工大学中华语言文化中心、孔子学院的渊源；他作为《全球华语词典》学术顾问对这部重量级词典所起的作用；也客观叙述了南洋理工大学改名 / 复名风波。周教授也在书中谈及他的学生种种令他失望的表现；同时，周教授也以平常心，真实地记下他所看到的李光耀资政。

This memoir of Dr Chew Cheng Hai, Chinese tutor of Mr Lee Kuan Yew for the past 36 years, consists of short stories about Mr Lee Kuan Yew as a loving husband, a caring leader and an insightful statesman. It also contains untold stories concerning the Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, the Chinese Division of the National Institute of Education, the Confucius Institute, as well as the attempts to rename NTU as Nantah. A number of lecturers at the National Institute of Education are also portrayed. Through the book, the reader will be able to better understand the character and morality of the author, whom Mr Lee Kuan Yew called a "junzi," a gentleman in Confucian parlance.