

HORIZON

ISSUE NO. 2, MARCH 2012

UNLOCKING CROSS-DISCIPLINARY SOLUTIONS

HSS ROLLS OUT 5
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
CLUSTERS

BRIDGING GAPS WITH THE NEW SILK ROAD

EAST ASIAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

AN NTU-WASEDA-
PEKING-
THAMMASAT-KOREA
INITIATIVE

SELF-TAUGHT FILMMAKER WINS BIG AT ciNE65 COMPETITION

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HORIZON is a publication of the HSS Communications Office.
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Chair's MESSAGE



Dear colleagues, students, alumni and friends,

I am pleased to report to you about the School's exciting developments in education and research over the past few months.

One of the major developments is the formation of the HSS interdisciplinary research clusters. Faculty members and researchers within the School and beyond now have a platform to work together on research projects that fall into these interdisciplinary themes: Humanities, Science and Society (HSS@HSS), Environment & Sustainability, Global Asia, New Frontiers in Neuroscience, and Cultural & Literary Studies. They will be able to tap on each other's strengths and put up competitive joint grant applications, in addition to co-organising international conferences with various global partners. You can find more details about the research clusters in this *Horizon* issue, which is devoted to interdisciplinary research. If you wish to take part in the activities, please feel free to contact our research cluster coordinators.

On the education front, apart from launching a new Philosophy Minor programme, our upcoming History Major programme will break new ground by approaching the subject from a global and interdisciplinary perspective, with a focus on modern Asia, Singapore, and on the interfaces between history and science, technology, medicine, and the environment. We are confident that this fresh approach will enhance students' understanding of the world and nurture critical analytical capacities.

Our graduate students have reasons to smile too. They now have the chance to attend fully-funded winter and summer schools, as well as semester-long exchange programmes, at Waseda University in Japan. HSS, together with the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda, and relevant faculties from Peking, Korea, and Thammasat Universities, was recently awarded US\$5 million by the Japanese government to kick start the East Asian University Institute. As well as graduate exchange, there will be ample opportunities for faculty collaboration on Asian regional integration from an interdisciplinary perspective.

As usual, there are news and features on the School's activities and collaborative tie-ups in education and research. The Communications Office has put in a great deal of effort to bring out the School newsletter, and I trust you will enjoy reading it. If there are any features that you would like to see in *Horizon*, please do drop us an email.

I would like to thank all faculty members, staff, students and alumni for your invaluable contribution to the School's continued growth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liu Hong".

Liu Hong

CHAIR

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Upcoming History Major to **CROSS NEW BOUNDARIES**

With the new academic year comes new developments. At the forefront of these changes at HSS is the unveiling of a new major in History come August.

The new four-year direct honours degree programme will cross conventional boundaries as it adopts a global perspective and an interdisciplinary approach.

History has long been studied from primarily a chronological period and/or nation-state perspective. At NTU, students will adopt in addition a globalist standpoint.

For instance, students will examine the history of Singapore studying not only the local context but also various developments in Asia and elsewhere.

They will understand, for example, how Singapore's early defence policy was influenced by events during the Cold War and by her relationship with China.

Students will also gain a richer understanding of the world by learning

about the interdisciplinary history of science, technology, medicine, business, and the environment.

Such an interdisciplinary tack to studying a humanities subject is a relatively new development.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) – whose history faculty members work closely with colleagues from the science, technology, and society programme – is a pioneer in this area.

Following the MIT model, NTU will leverage on its strengths in engineering and science and offer history students a chance to attend lectures by engineering and science faculty members.

Likewise, engineering, science, medicine and business students at NTU can study electives that explore the history of their disciplines.

Already, the programme has received glowing commendations from distinguished academics.

Prof Janet Browne, Aramont Professor of the History of Science and Chair of the Department of History of Science at Harvard University, expressed her approval.

“The diverse offerings that the initiative proposes, ranging across Eastern and Western history, the history of science, business history, and environmental history, provides an excellent and intellectually robust foundation for the new programme. These courses will provide students with a powerful set of tools for interpreting the modern technological world,” she said.

The history programme will accept 40 students in its first intake. The intake will rise to about 60 a year over the next five years.

Prospective students may visit <http://history.hss.ntu.edu.sg/> for more information.



New Philosophy Minor with an **INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

HSS will offer Philosophy as a minor in the next academic year, and as a major in a few years' time.

Open to all NTU students, the minor will adopt an interdisciplinary approach to the subject. Among other things, it will focus on Asian and comparative philosophy, the philosophy of science, and on ethics.

The Philosophy minor is designed to complement students' majors, encouraging students to critically question the assumptions underlying the foundations of their respective

disciplines, and also to explore fundamental issues such as reality, existence, and morality.

Students can expect to develop broad, critical and innovative thinking skills.

These are competencies highly valued by employers from diverse sectors including the arts, business, computer science, law, medicine, public administration, publishing, writing, and other areas.

More information is available at <http://philosophy.hss.ntu.edu.sg>

HSS and Leading Institutions Launch PATH-BREAKING ASIAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

HSS has joined four top Asian universities to set up the East Asian University Institute (EAUI), which will run graduate programmes aimed at furthering Asian regional integration.

The other participating bodies are: Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies; Peking University's School of International Studies; Korea University's Asiatic Research Institute and College of Political Science and Economics; and Thammasat University's Faculty of Political Science.

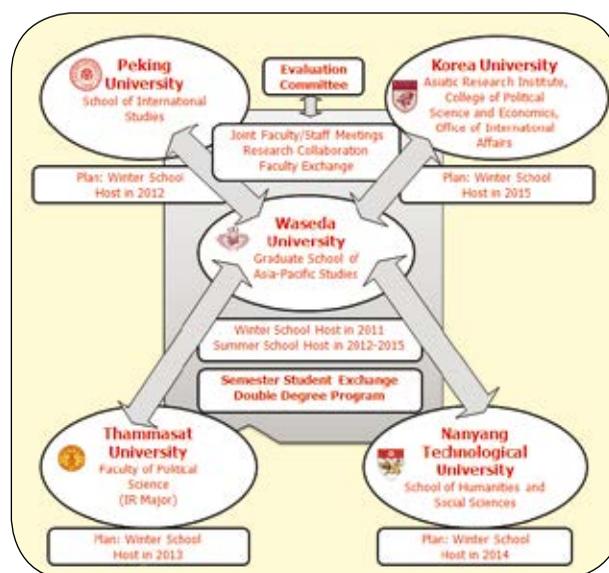
Despite facing stiff competition from over fifty contending bids by top-ranked universities, the Waseda-led consortium recently won the backing of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for the project.

MEXT awarded US\$5 million to the coalition in December last year to run a five-year pre-programme. This is expected to path the way for the launch of EAUI in 2020.

The pre-programme comprises graduate student and faculty exchange programmes, as well as joint research projects and international conferences.

As part of the pre-programme, each university will take turns to host an annual winter school, and additionally Waseda University will run an annual summer school from 2012 to 2015.

Students will receive full funding to take part in these activities. A system of credit transfer is being worked out to allow credit transfer between EAUI universities. This means students can complete part of their coursework at any of the participating campuses.



Get Down to Brass Tacks WITH A CEO

HSS has rolled out a new Master of Science in Applied Economics programme.

The 18-month trimester programme began part-time classes in January, with both full-time and part-time classes expected to commence in May.

With a rigorous coursework component comprising advanced micro – and macroeconomic theory, and quantitative and analytical economics, the programme will benefit executives and professionals from both the public and private sector arenas.

The skills and competencies attained will enable students to conduct in-depth analysis of social policy, and also to undertake investment and portfolio management work.

Through a series of talks termed the Real World Leadership Series, students will also get to rub shoulders with former and current ministers, senior government officials, and chief executive officers from a range of industrial and business sectors.

Imparting the experience of various distinguished speakers, the seminars will cover topics such as the world economy, market dynamics, and public policy analysis.

The first of the series was held on 9 March. Adjunct Professor Lam Chuan Leong, Ambassador-at-large with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussed the use and limitations of economics in public policy matters.

Prospective students without a degree in economics should not refrain from applying as the programme also seeks to enrol science and engineering graduates who want to change their careers.

Interested applicants may visit <http://www.msae.hss.ntu.edu.sg/> for more information.

PSY Faculty Member's Paper Fronts Cover of TOP-RANKED JOURNAL

Men and women may never understand each other. An important piece of research by HSS psychologist Asst Prof Michael Gumert suggests that our gender differences go way back – through the timeline of evolution.

Titled “Sex Differences in the Stone Tool-Use Behavior of a Wild Population of Burmese Long-Tailed Macaques”, the paper is the first study to investigate gender differences in macaques, a genus of old world monkeys.

The finding provides a basis for understanding the evolutionary pressures that shape gender-based roles in the feeding and foraging behaviour traditionally found in human societies.

The research fronts the cover of the December issue of the *American Journal of Primatology* – currently the top-ranked journal in the field of primatology.

The co-authors of the paper are Mr Low Kuan Hoong, a Psychology alumnus from the Class of 2010, and Prof Suchinda Malaivijitnond from Chulalongkorn University.

Through an observation study conducted at Laemson National Park, Thailand, in late 2009, the trio discovered that female macaques used stone tools to crack open shell food more frequently than males.

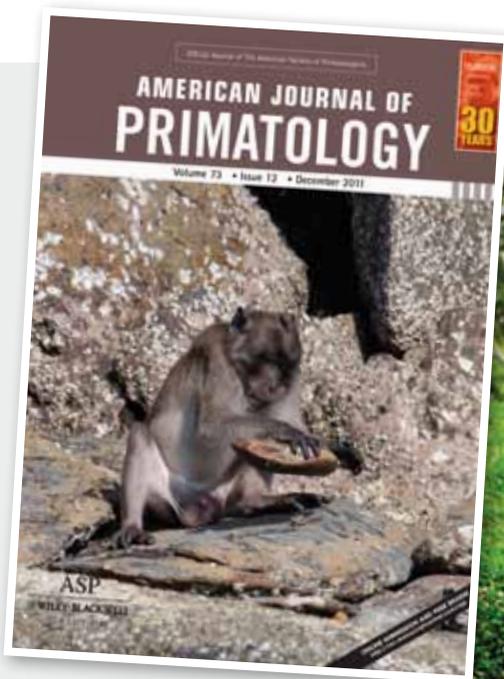
Related studies have shown that patterns of chimpanzee tool-use were similarly gender-biased, suggesting

that human gender differences evolved from there.

Chimpanzees are the closest living relatives to humans and provide a window for looking at the birth of human technology, since they split from the human evolutionary line 5-7 million years ago.

Macaques, on the other hand, diverged from the human evolutionary line 30-40 million years ago, which is where Asst Prof Gumert and his team's findings come in.

Their findings suggest that the foundation for our gender differences occurred much earlier than originally thought, since the macaques exhibited gender biases similar to those shown by chimpanzees.



Asst Prof Michael Gumert's (right) research paper fronts the cover of the top-ranked journal in the field of primatology (above). -- Photo: American Journal of Primatology | Wiley Blackwell



Photo: NTU Corporate Communications Office

LMS Student Wins INAUGURAL MINDEF FILM AWARD

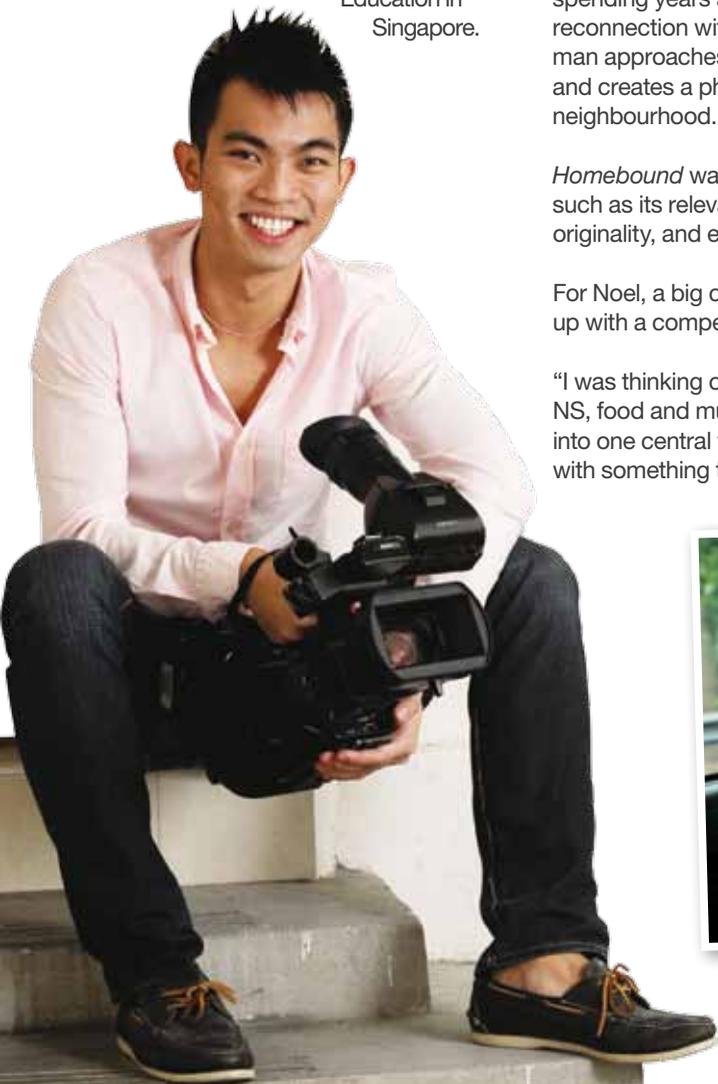
By Lai Junjie

Picture this: a first-time filmmaker with a rented camera operating on a shoestring budget. Perhaps the last person expected to produce a hit at the ciNE65 local short film competition.

Nevertheless, these difficulties failed to hold back second-year Linguistics and Multilingual Studies student Noel Ng.

The end result: his three-minute film *Homebound* scooped not one but three awards at the inaugural short film competition organised by NEXUS in November last year.

Part of the Ministry of Defence, NEXUS is the agency tasked with fostering National Education in Singapore.



Homebound won Overall Best Film and Best Editing in the Student Category. The film's actor Nicholas See also won the Favourite Actor award.

"Winning the award was a huge surprise because I never had any formal film training and learned everything on the spot," said Noel.

"The judges said the film stood out because we managed to capture very Singaporean elements about how we think and feel."

The film explores the experiences of a young man who returns to Singapore to serve his National Service after spending years abroad. Seeking reconnection with his home, the man approaches his neighbours and creates a photo montage of his neighbourhood.

Homebound was judged on aspects such as its relevance to Singaporeans, originality, and emotive impact.

For Noel, a big challenge was coming up with a compelling storyline.

"I was thinking of how to pull ideas like NS, food and multiculturalism together into one central theme, and not end up with something too cliché."

Inspiration struck Noel when he heard PM Lee Hsien Loong's 2011 National Day Rally speech.

"PM's core message to Singaporeans was not to wait for leaders to play a larger role in the community. If you call this your home, you should step forward and make things happen," he said.

"I thought this was an effective message to convey in my film. Youths these days, myself included, complain far too much so this was my chance to do something positive."

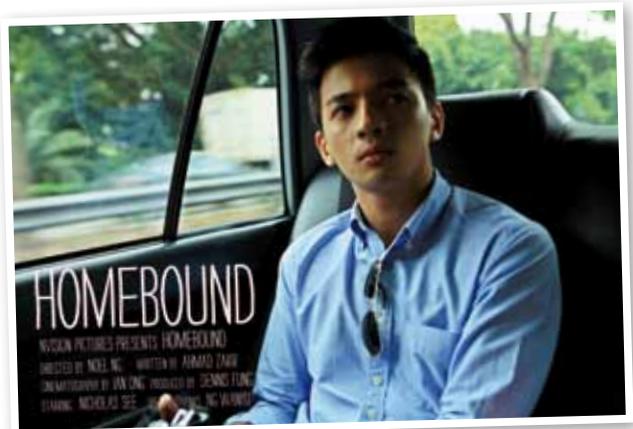
And this positive vibe is not stopping there. Noel and his crew released another film *Hui* in December last year and have other film projects underway.

They have also been commissioned to shoot a film that will be screened at this year's National Day Parade.

"Producing films has been such an intense experience and when we started, we never knew we could make it this far," Noel said.

"Now that we've done it once, I know there will be much more to come."

Readers can catch Noel's award-winning film at <http://cine65.sg/>



Noel Ng's (left) film *Homebound* (above) won three awards at the ciNE65 short film competition.

LCC Hosts INAUGURAL ACADEMIC WRITING ROUNDTABLE

Academic writing is the foundation of every discipline.

At HSS, the Language & Communication Centre (LCC) – which designs and teaches writing and communication courses for all NTU students – constantly reviews its pedagogical approaches and offerings.

To help improve its services, the Centre hosted an inaugural roundtable on Academic Writing in December last year.

The event attracted over 100 academics, researchers and students from diverse disciplines, including Applied Linguistics, English Literature, Communication Studies, and Language Education. Discussions focused on academic writing issues in Singapore and beyond.

Several prominent scholars graced the occasion, including Dr Vijay Bhatia, formerly from the City University of

Hong Kong; Dr Ken Hyland, Chair Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of Hong Kong; and Dr Judy Parr, Associate Dean (Research) of the School of Arts, Language & Literacies at the University of Auckland.

These three keynote speakers shared their research on critical genre analysis, corpus linguistics and language testing and assessment. These are key areas in academic writing across the disciplines.

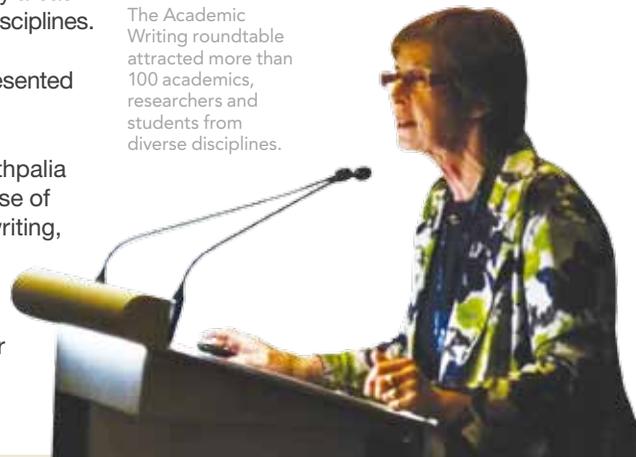
LCC faculty members also presented papers at the roundtable.

For instance, Dr Sujata S. Kathpalia presented her paper on the use of blogs to enhance students' writing, while Mr Kenneth Ong and Dr Carmel Heah discussed the issue of metaphorical competence in the English for Specific Purposes context.

Dr Lai Phooi Ching, Director of LCC, lauded the success of the roundtable which she billed as a milestone in the Centre's development.

"The Roundtable reflects our drive to keep abreast of current trends in academic writing pedagogy to support our vision of constantly refining and updating our language curricula," she said.

The Academic Writing roundtable attracted more than 100 academics, researchers and students from diverse disciplines.



USEFUL LESSONS FROM Singapore's Life Science Development Efforts



Prof Liu Hong (centre), HSS Chair, with Mr Vivek Wadhwa (left), Director of Research, Center for Entrepreneurship and Research Commercialization, Duke University.

China could learn a thing or two from Singapore.

Revamp scientific research grants, improve market infrastructures, and establish institutionalised mechanisms for recruiting global talent.

These were HSS Chair Prof Liu Hong's recommendations for China's goal of building an "innovative" nation, citing findings from his paper titled "Singapore's Global Talent Strategies

and Lessons for China".

He was speaking at the Roundtable Meeting on International Talent Issues, an integral programme of the 10th Conference on International Exchange of Professionals, held last year (4-5 November) in Shenzhen, China.

The conference gathered over 8,000 officials, scholars, and Fortune 500 entrepreneurs to exchange views on human resources development and cooperation.

China's Vice Premier Mr Zhang Dejiang delivered the keynote address, and five Nobel Laureates addressed the participants.

Prof Liu presented in his paper some of the strategies used by Singapore to

develop a world-class life science research hub, including the links set up between the state, the transnational scientific elite, and global capitalism. He also spoke on the policy challenges raised by such linkages.

Prof Liu was one of nine foreign experts invited to share their expertise by Mr Zhang Jianguo, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, and Director-General of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA).

Apart from exchanging views with experts from Harvard University, the World Bank, and top international human resources corporations, Prof Liu also presented HSS' strategic areas of research to top SAFEA officials.

He also discussed plans for future collaboration with SAFEA, including a proposal for NTU to host the next Roundtable Meeting on International Talent Issues.

The Idea of Political Meritocracy: AN NTU INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM

Are meritocracy and the egalitarian ethos of democracy necessarily at loggerheads? How can Confucianism and other philosophical thought-systems help to resolve the tension between the two? What did the founding fathers of Liberalism really feel about representative democracy? Is there such a thing as “East Asian” meritocracy? How does meritocracy as a social ideal work to foster contradictory impulses in Singapore political discourse?

These and other questions were addressed by a group of scholars at an interdisciplinary symposium held at HSS (6-8 January). Organised by the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Philosophy Group, it was the first high-profile international symposium to explore the notion of political meritocracy from an interdisciplinary perspective.

It brought together philosophers, political scientists, historians, sociologists, policy experts and Asian Studies specialists, with the organisers hoping to benefit from potential synergies between diverse knowledge areas and domains.

The symposium attracted prominent scholars from prestigious institutions, including 10 Chair Professors from Princeton University, Harvard University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Saint Andrews, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Deakin University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and NUS.

Other participants were from NTU, the University of California, Peking University, Fudan University, the University of Hong Kong, and City University of Hong Kong. Nicolas Berggruen, chairman of the Nicolas Berggruen Institute, and Nathan Gardels, editor of the influential *New Perspectives Quarterly*, also spoke at the symposium.

Papers delivered at the symposium drew on and explored various Asian intellectual traditions, and also engaged with the thought of seminal thinkers such as J.S. Mill and Alexis de Tocqueville.

Participants canvassed the issues of social justice and mobility, legitimacy gaps in governance, the role of civil

society organisations and the impact of information technology. Speakers enumerated several engaging case studies for deliberation and helped to throw a spotlight on imperial examination arrangements in Ming and Qing China, on federal and constitutional arrangements in present-day US, and also on the recent debate about ministerial remuneration in Singapore.

Overall, the event facilitated a useful cross-fertilisation of ideas and promoted wide-ranging discussion and exchanges. It is hoped that these will yield new perspectives for scholars and policy-makers, and generate new avenues of research. Papers from the conference will be published in a volume edited by Prof Daniel Bell of Shanghai Jiaotong University and Tsinghua University; and Assoc Prof Li Chenyang from the Philosophy Group. The volume is expected to be published by a US-based university press. Speakers and participants have kept in contact, and already the idea of a follow-up conference is being explored. Collaborative research ventures are also in the works.



The symposium attracted prominent scholars from prestigious institutions, including 10 Chair Professors.

Plural Coexistence: East Asian Experiences in COMPARATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES



With East Asia increasingly troubled by environmental and sustainability issues, an interdisciplinary team of scholars from NTU, Kyoto University, Sun Yat-sen University, and Xiamen University met at an international workshop (17-18 December 2011) to examine common problems, and also to uncover potential solutions.

Titled "Plural Coexistence: East Asian Experiences in Comparative and Interdisciplinary Perspectives", the workshop was held at Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS).

NTU was represented by a HSS delegation comprising Asian Studies specialist Prof Liu Hong, environmental economist Prof Euston Quah, behavioral economist Assoc Prof Yohanes Eko Riyanto, and sociologist of religion Asst Prof Francis Lim.

East Asia is a region with rich ethnic, religious, cultural, and biological diversity. It has maintained this diversity while at the same time achieving considerable economic progress.

Nevertheless, it also faces a host of problems including the loss of

biodiversity, deforestation, natural and man-made disasters, pandemics, an aging population, ethnic and religious conflicts, and economic inequality and poverty.

A multi-faceted approach is needed to maintain the coexistence of economic growth and diversity, rather than having one necessarily compromised by the other.

Participants took turns to present their latest findings on the influence of China, on race and ethnicity matters, on gender, cultural, and economic concerns, and also on the myriad challenges faced by the region.

The interdisciplinary meeting of minds represented an unusual opportunity for scholars to discuss joint research projects.

The event marks the first in a series of workshops aimed at building institutional linkages between Kyoto University, NTU, and China's Sun Yat-sen University and Xiamen University.

The workshops also offer participants a platform to engage in the research programmes of some major research universities in East Asia.

These include the CSEAS multi-million dollar project, "Towards Sustainable Humansphere in Southeast Asia".

Another potential platform is the Sino-Singapore Knowledge City in Guangzhou. NTU set up a facility there in 2010, from where it hopes to facilitate collaborative ventures in innovation research, graduate-level education, and executive training.

Research Papers Presented by HSS Faculty Members

Prof Liu Hong	Flexible Ethnicity and Plural Coexistence in the Chinese 'Model of Development'
Prof Euston Quah	How to Balance the Pursuit of Economic Growth and Yet Protect the Environment: Asia Dilemma
Assoc Prof Yohanes Eko Riyanto	Using Economic Experiments to Understand Social Preferences and Some Potential Applications of Economic Experiments for Cross-Cultural Studies
Asst Prof Francis Lim	Eluding Religious Management, Constructing Territoriality: The Case of the Yiguan Dao, a Chinese Syncretic Religion

BRIDGING GAPS WITH THE NEW SILK ROAD

By Jeremy Lim



Functioning as more than just a trade route, the fabled Silk Road also acted as a cultural and scientific bridge between Asia and Europe, allowing societies to share knowledge and to pick up new technological advances.

In that spirit, six HSS faculty members – HSS Chair Prof Liu Hong, Prof Stephen Lansing, Asst Prof Lina Jansson, Asst Prof Hallam Stevens, Asst Prof Lisa Onaga and Asst Prof Shirley Sun – joined fourteen scholars from around the world to explore a slew of issues including modern society's distrust of science.

The concern arose at a roundtable held in the Netherlands in October last year. Titled "A New Silk Road: Science and Society in Asia and Europe", the event was funded by the European Commission.

It was organised as part of the Europe-Asia Policy Forum jointly initiated by the International Institute of Asian Studies in Leiden and NTU's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CoHASS), and brought together scholars from different fields, cultures and background. Prof Alan Chan, Dean, CoHASS, was instrumental in initiating and supporting this collaboration.

Referencing the scholarly exchanges of historical figures such as Carl Linnaeus and Stamford Raffles, keynote speaker Prof Janet Browne emphasised the importance of communication networks for the creation of scientific knowledge.

Prof Browne, who is Aramont Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, said that there is a great need for scientists to regain the public's trust.

"Global climate change, widespread habitat destruction, technological and natural disasters, epidemics, and the loss of biodiversity, are all problems that cannot be solved by scientists alone," she said.

"In democratic societies, science relies on a broad base of public interest, involvement and support," she added.

The roundtable discussion was lively, and even clamorous at times, with speakers expressing varied and sometimes contrasting opinions.

To rebuild the relationship between science and society, participants nonetheless came up with a set of recommendations.

They agreed on the need to study the complex relationships between

HSS faculty members join fourteen scholars from around the world in a dialogue addressing modern society's distrust of science.

science, policy, business, and the media in Asia and Europe.

Another recommendation was that scientists should not be afraid to share their knowledge with the public, with or without the help of the mass media.

There were also topic-specific recommendations to study natural disasters as historical events, to study food culture, to decide on what kinds of nature to protect and to take a more open-minded approach to healthcare.

Participants also agreed to work together on future projects and grant applications. Among other things, they floated the idea of a workshop to be held at NTU later this year, with a possibility of Harvard University hosting the third roundtable.

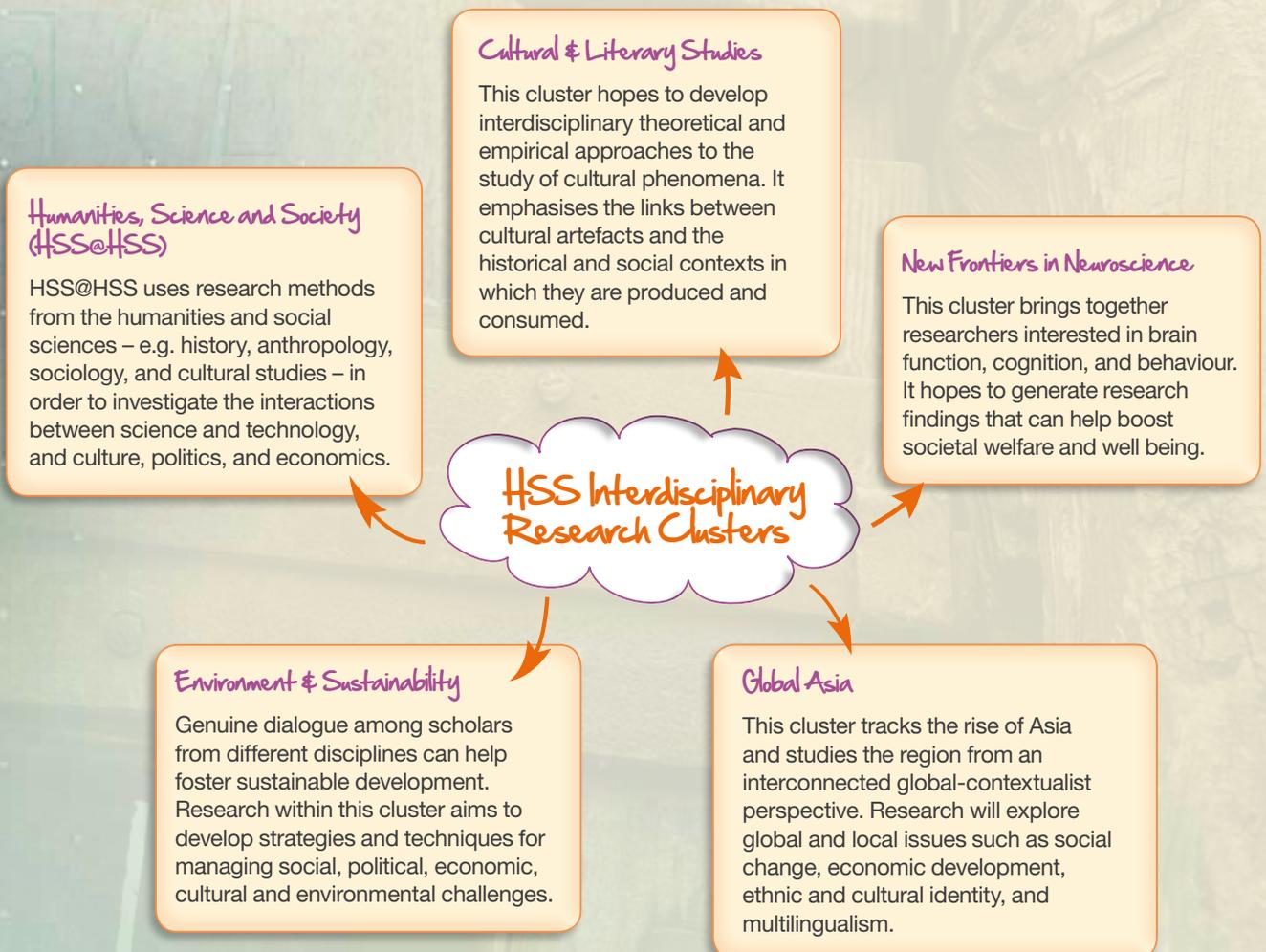
Overall, it would appear, a New Silk Road is needed, one that bridges the widening gap between science and society.

Readers who wish to learn more about the roundtable can go to: <http://www.hss.ntu.edu.sg/News/Documents/NewSilkRoad.pdf>

UNLOCKING CROSS-DISCIPLINARY SOLUTIONS

for the Future

Certain phenomena and societal concerns cannot be solved or understood when grasped through the lens provided by any single disciplinary standpoint. To unlock cross-disciplinary solutions, HSS has formed five strategic interdisciplinary research clusters. Here's a look at these clusters and what they mean for HSS faculty members and researchers:



What is the purpose of these clusters?

The clusters provide a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration not just between HSS faculty members, but also across NTU and beyond. Each cluster is coordinated by two HSS faculty members. They will hold workshops and informal networking sessions for scholars from across the University. This will allow researchers to understand each other's work, brainstorm and share ideas, and hopefully sow the seeds for future collaborative ventures.

How were these clusters formed?

These clusters are meant to leverage on the strengths of HSS. Identified through a series of consultation with faculty late last year, they take into consideration cutting-edge trends adopted by the global academia and are closely aligned with the University's Five Peaks of Excellence research thrusts. They also demonstrate our School's comparative advantage in matters pertaining to interdisciplinarity as well as its unique capacity for undertaking socially and nationally relevant research.

The Environment & Sustainability cluster, for example, will contribute to NTU's thrust in sustainability research. It will tap on existing strengths in environmental and health economics, with economists and sociologists working together to tackle among other

things the issue of food security and demographic change.

Over at the HSS@HSS cluster, researchers can work with colleagues from the colleges of engineering and science to explore the moral hazards and challenges posed by new technology.

As for the Cultural & Literary Studies and Global Asia clusters, their work will probably be closely aligned with NTU's New Silk Road, New Media, and Innovation Asia Peaks. Among other things, they can tap on the University's distinguished Chinese cultural heritage and existing strong ties with China.

Finally, the New Frontiers in Neuroscience cluster aims to uncover new treatment for neuro disorders by bringing together HSS neuropsychologists, clinician-researchers from the new Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, and biologists from the School of Biological Sciences.

How do these clusters benefit faculty members and the school?

The clusters provide a platform for faculty members to tap on each other's strengths in the different disciplines, allowing them to put up competitive bids for external research grants and to publish in top-tier publications. Collectively, the School will benefit

strategically as it gains clearer research focuses, allowing HSS to collaborate more effectively with international counterparts. Apart from facilitating inter-school collaboration, these research clusters also serve as an important platform for international collaborations with top universities, which will in turn further raise the profile of HSS. Well-defined areas of strength in research will also attract funds from donors who have specific interests in those areas.

What has happened so far?

These are obviously still early days, but already the clusters have started to generate some useful activities. The Global Asia cluster recently held an interdisciplinary symposium on political meritocracy, attracting in the process 10 Chair Professors from top institutions including Princeton University, Harvard University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over at the Environment and Sustainability cluster, HSS faculty, in conjunction with Kyoto University and Sun Yat-sen University, have started a project exploring and questioning accepted trade-offs between economic growth and cultural/biological diversity. Meanwhile, HSS@HSS cluster members have led discussions with Leiden University and Harvard University, and are looking at research pertaining to science and society in Asia and Europe.

My research fits one or more of these areas. How can I take part?

Faculty members and researchers can find more information at <http://www.hss.ntu.edu.sg/Research/Clusters>. They can also approach these cluster coordinators:

HSS@HSS

Asst Prof Shirley Sun (Sociology): hlsun@ntu.edu.sg

Asst Prof Hallam Stevens (History): hstevens@ntu.edu.sg

New Frontiers in Neuroscience

Assoc Prof Douglas Matthews (Psychology): dmatthews@ntu.edu.sg

Asst Prof Alice Chan (Linguistics & Multilingual Studies): alice@ntu.edu.sg

Cultural & Literary Studies

Assoc Prof Quah Sy Ren (Chinese): srquah@ntu.edu.sg

Assoc Prof C.J. Wee Wan-ling (English): cjwlwee@ntu.edu.sg

Environment & Sustainability

Asst Prof Chang Youngho (Economics): isyhchang@ntu.edu.sg

Asst Prof Md Saidul Islam (Sociology): msaidul@ntu.edu.sg

Global Asia

Assoc Prof Li Chenyang (Philosophy): cyl@ntu.edu.sg

Assoc Prof Ng Bee Chin (Linguistics & Multilingual Studies): mbcng@ntu.edu.sg

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CLUSTERS

at HSS

In this issue, *Horizon* features the Humanities, Science and Society (HSS@HSS) cluster, the Environment & Sustainability cluster, and the Global Asia cluster.

HUMANITIES, SCIENCE AND SOCIETY (HSS@HSS) CLUSTER

The humanities and social sciences complement NTU's strength in science and technology.

The cluster provides a vibrant intellectual framework for interdisciplinary research to explore new methodologies, to cross academic boundaries and challenge existing conceptualisations.

It is coordinated by Asst Prof Hallam Stevens, a historian of science, and Asst Prof Shirley Sun, a sociologist.

Research within the cluster are varied, but generally focused on the relationships between science, technology, and society.

Cluster members use research methods from the humanities and social sciences – such as history, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies – to investigate the interactions between science and technology and culture, politics, and economics.

For instance, Asst Prof Sulfikar Amir, from the Division of Sociology, examines the social and political implications of underwater infrastructures.

Over at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information, Assoc Prof Theng Yin Leng, analyses the use of 3D interaction and immersion in medical applications.

In another example, Assoc Prof Michael Walsh, from the School of Art, Design & Media, studies the conservation of art and architecture in Cyprus.

These diverse projects are representative of the wide range of approaches to studying science and technology from the point of view of the social sciences and humanities.

Since NTU is largely a science and engineering university, it makes sense that the University should also become an institution where the social and cultural impacts of science and technology are studied intensively.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is now well known not only for its engineering, but also for its work in history, anthropology, and sociology of science and technology.

The School hopes that the HSS@HSS cluster is a first step towards building a strong community in the field of science and technology studies at NTU.

Existing Strength and Scope for Research:

- Understanding the interface between humans and machines (technology)
- Human-computer interaction
- Multilingual Semantic Processing
- Personality and sociocultural-psychological processes
- Interactive media, multimedia and literature
- History of science
- Science and nature in Europe and Asia – scientific traditions and new technologies

Faculty members and researchers from the following disciplines, schools, and research centres can participate in this research thrust:

- Chinese
- English
- History
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Linguistics & Multilingual Studies
- Economics
- Psychology
- Politics & Public Administration
- Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information
- School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences
- School of Biological Sciences
- Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
- And others

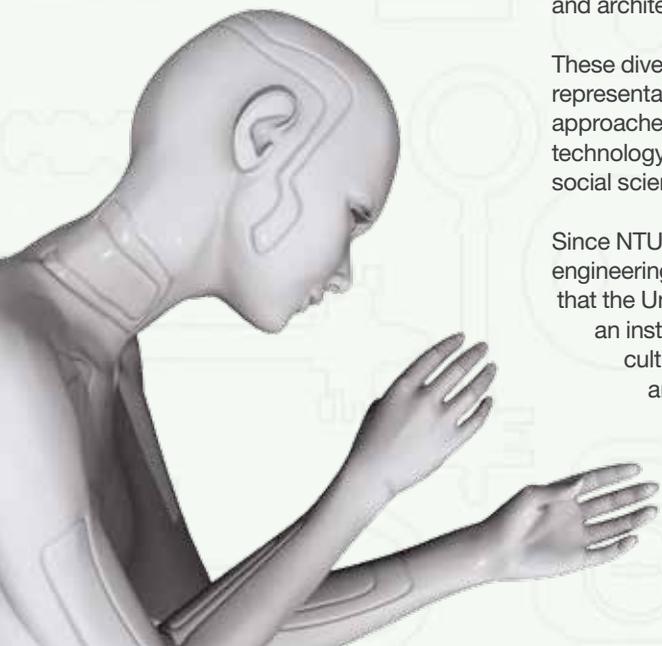




Photo: Giacomo Nodari | Dreamstime.com

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CLUSTER

A fundamental change in how we think about our existence in relation with the environment and sustainability.

This is the strategic goal for the Environment and Sustainability cluster.

With Sustainable Earth being one of the Five Peaks of Excellence at NTU, the cluster seeks to create dialogue among scholars from different disciplines to promote sustainable development not only within but beyond the University.

This could involve developing strategies and techniques for managing social, political, economic, cultural and environmental challenges.

The cluster aims to identify and acknowledge the differences among various disciplines so as to encourage and mobilise interdisciplinary dialogue and research across the University, through informal gatherings and workshops, formal seminars, and preparation of joint external grant proposals.

The cluster is coordinated by economist Asst Prof Chang Youngho and sociologist Asst Prof Md Saidul Islam.

Research activities and international collaborations are in progress:

Connecting Research and Teaching in Sustainability

The cluster is embarking on a study on bridging research and pedagogy

in sustainability. An interdisciplinary undergraduate course, "Introduction to Environmental and Urban Studies", will be used as a platform to examine and develop pedagogical tools for disseminating the principles and the concepts of sustainability.

Sustainability in East Asia

HSS has collaborated with Kyoto University and Sun Yat-sen University to organise a series of workshops on sustainability in East Asia. The themes of the workshops are linked to the research program, "Towards Sustainable Humanosphere in Southeast Asia", currently undertaken at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University.

Water Research

Environmental economists Prof Euston Quah, Asst Prof Chang Youngho, and Mr William Clune, who is also Assistant Director of Environmental Policy at the NTU Sustainable Earth Office, are planning for a collaboration with Michigan State University on water research in the social sciences and economics.

Privatising Environmental Governance

Sociologist Asst Prof Saidul Islam with Assoc Prof Peter Vandergeest, from the Department of Geography at York University; Assoc Prof Derek Hall, from Wilfrid Laurier University; and Asst Prof Beatrice Cid, from Universidad de Concepción (Chile), are working on a global study of the effects and effectiveness of environmental certifications for farmed shrimp and salmon.

Existing Strength and Scope for Research:

- Environmental sustainability
- Environmental and Health Economics
- Coping with natural disasters and pandemics
- Ethnic and religious conflicts and issues
- Poverty
- Food security
- Population studies
- Aging, geriatrics
- Rehabilitation
- Community mental health
- Research in urban economic issues, focusing on housing, service sector multinationals, transportation and their historical/cultural landscapes
- Research in environmental policies and management with special reference to economic and energy-society issues

Faculty members and researchers from the following disciplines, schools, and research centres can participate in this research thrust:

- Economics
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Politics & Public Administration
- Linguistics & Multilingual Studies
- Chinese
- History
- Philosophy
- English
- Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information
- Nanyang Centre for Public Administration
- School of Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute
- Energy Research Institute @ NTU
- And others

GLOBAL ASIA CLUSTER

Globally, Asia has dramatically arisen in importance. Key Asian countries such as China and India are emerging as major economic powerhouses, with a dynamism forecasted to herald the coming of the Asian Century.

To understand critical issues within Asia, there is a need for better innovative interdisciplinary research – drawing on various disciplines’ unique contributions.

The Global Asia cluster’s research is about studying Asia in its global context and its interconnectedness with the rest of the world.

Research within the cluster generally focus on global and local issues such as social changes, economic development, ethnicity, cultural identity, and multilingualism.

The cluster is coordinated by Assoc Prof Li Chenyang, from the Philosophy Group, and Assoc Prof Ng Bee Chin, from the Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies.

Studying global Asia has great significance for scholars in Singapore as the island state is a global city state.

In economics, for example, cluster members examine how the local economy affects – and in turn is affected by – China, as well as the U.S. and the European Union.

Its multilingual and multicultural society also presents opportunities for researchers to study issues on identity and migration, politics and public administration, Chinese culture and philosophy, and others.

Singapore is also ideally placed to play a pre-eminent role in Asia and worldwide in the documentation and preservation of endangered languages.

Already, the Digital Intangible Heritage research hub, led by the Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies, has brought together linguists, historians, interactive media specialists, computer engineers to enhance the conservation and interpretation of cultural knowledge through interactive digital media.

The long term vision of the cluster is to set up a centre for global Asia, bringing together researchers who share an interest in global Asia. The proposed centre will provide leadership for research in the field and publish international journals.

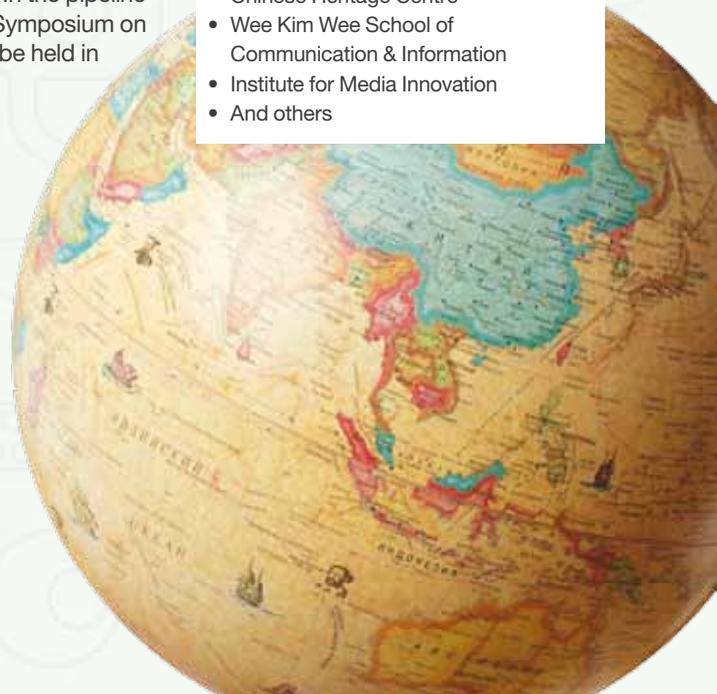
The cluster has begun holding a series of workshops and symposiums for faculty members to explore joint research opportunities. In the pipeline is the 9th International Symposium on Bilingualism, which will be held in June 2013 at NTU.

Existing Strength and Scope for Research:

- Language, Chinese culture and philosophy
- Ethnic Chinese studies
- Documentation and archiving of Asian languages and cultures
- Linguistic and sociological issues relevant to Singapore and other multilingual communities in Asia
- Identity and migration issues
- Politics and public administration
- Study in multilingualism and pluralism
- Machine translation involving different languages such as English, Chinese, Japanese, etc.
- Cultural psychology

Faculty members and researchers from the following disciplines, schools, and research centres can participate in this research thrust:

- Linguistics & Multilingual Studies
- Chinese
- Sociology
- Psychology
- English
- History
- Philosophy
- Language & Communication Centre
- Centre for Modern Languages
- Centre for Chinese Language and Culture
- Chinese Heritage Centre
- Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information
- Institute for Media Innovation
- And others



Scoring a Hit in DIFFERENT WAYS

Asst Prof Wang Jue is an engineer, a business management expert, and a public policy specialist all rolled into one.

Research breakthroughs in the past used to be confined to specific disciplines.

But this is no longer the case.

Just ask Asst Prof Wang Jue, who joined the HSS Politics & Public Administration Group in February.

She has a paper published in *Nature* – the most highly-cited interdisciplinary scientific journal in the world.

The paper, co-authored with Prof Philip Shapira from Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Public Policy, is the first large-scale study tracking the impact of the recent nanotechnology funding boom.

Having a paper published in *Nature* is no mean feat.

It has an impact factor – a measure of how many citations a journal generates – of 36.101, among the highest for a science journal.

How does a public policy researcher get into such a publication?

The answer lies in her cross-disciplinary background – one that merges science, business management, and public policy.

Interdisciplinary Background

Asst Prof Wang has a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Shanghai Jiaotong University, a Master's degree in Management from the Chinese Academy of Sciences,

and a PhD in Public Policy from Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Public Policy.

Her research examines nation-state innovation systems and the non-state actors – e.g. academia and industry – involved in these systems.

Her cross-disciplinary background has proven to be a boon as it gives her a broad view of how innovation gets entrenched in a society, even as she enjoys the benefits of a micro-level perspective.

“Through my research, I am able to combine my technical knowledge with my business management background and of course public policy,” she said.

In the paper published in *Nature*, Asst Prof Wang Jue and her co-author studied funding acknowledgements stated in more than 91,000 nanotechnology papers published around the world.

They found that nanotechnology research has become an increasingly global-collaborative affair. They recommend that governments relax their research funds application criteria so that more institutions can compete for these funds.

Increased competition from more researchers will lead to better research proposals and hence higher quality output, the study suggests.

In a nutshell, Asst Prof Wang's study provides a diagnostic report and a set of prescriptions.

Putting Singapore's Innovation System under the X-ray

In this concern, Asst Prof Wang also plans to study the effectiveness of Singapore government innovation funding policies.

“I understand that A*STAR is extremely active in providing research funding,” she said.

“It will be interesting to find out the return of their investment, and whether or not their output benefits the nation.”

To her, NTU is a perfect “eco-system” for her work because of its strengths in science and technology.

She thus looks forward to working with colleagues from across the University.

“NTU and HSS are putting a lot of emphasis on interdisciplinary research. This is something really good for researchers like me who research on areas that transcend disciplinary boundaries,” she said.

Asst Prof Wang Jue has a paper published in *Nature*, one of the most prestigious journals in the world



Where the West EMBRACES THE EAST

By Koh Hui Fang

Chinese classics will soon take their place alongside their Western counterparts, Visiting Prof Michael Puett predicts.

You wouldn't expect that someone from the West might be a recognised world authority on Chinese history and philosophy.

But that is exactly the situation with Prof Michael Puett.

Prof Puett, who is the Walter C. Klein Professor of Chinese History in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University, lived for a time in Beijing doing his dissertation research, and speaks Mandarin well.

He first came to NTU in early 2010 to present his paper on "The Significance of Lun" at "The Art of Discourse (*Lun*)" conference, and was immediately entranced by the vision that HASS Dean Prof Alan Chan had set out for the college and school.

"There is a sense of NTU, especially HSS, building a new set of visions for how to organise knowledge," he said.

Naturally, when Prof Chan asked if he would like to return as a visiting professor, he readily agreed.

Two years later, Prof Puett returned to take up a position in the Division of Chinese.

Since then, his expertise on the religion and philosophy of early China has become a valued resource for the division, whose students and staff regularly engage Prof Puett in provocative discussions.

He is currently studying excavated texts from early China, which are essentially manuscripts written on bamboo and preserved in tubes during the 3rd-4th century BC, as well as commentaries made on these works in the 2nd-4th century BC.

Prof Michael Puett, a Visiting Professor at the Division of Chinese, is an expert in the religion and philosophy of early China.

Passion for Chinese History

Prof Puett's interest in the area began from a young age, when he devoured book after book on Chinese history.

But this was not enough for the then-fledgling scholar.

"I realised that I needed to learn Chinese itself so I could read the original texts," he said. "Before I knew it, this grew into a complete love of Chinese history."

He is eager to share his passion for what he calls an "incredibly rich" philosophical and literary tradition.

"Often now when we think of the great classics, we all too often think of Western writers like Plato, Shakespeare and so on, all of whom are of course incredible," he said.

But he thinks that this will change in the coming years. The world will become more cosmopolitan. Chinese classics like the *Dream of the Red Chamber*, and the works of thinkers such as Confucius, Sima Qian, and Zhuangzi will be accepted as part of the world's intellectual patrimony.

He also points to another noteworthy aspect of the Chinese socio-historical arrangement, namely that its institutions have proven to be incredibly influential in world history, and are likely to become more so over the coming decades.

"The more one studies Chinese history, the more one realises how foundational it is for the world," he said, citing as an example early China's attempt to develop bureaucracies based on merit.

Even today, Prof Puett is continually learning about how Chinese history speaks to the modern world and modern concerns.

His discoveries in this area keeps his passion alive.

UNsung HERO

Sustains HSS Dreams

A fifteen-year NTU veteran, Ms Sandy Ong performs vital functions for the HSS Research Office.

Every year, faculty members write proposals to apply for funds from organisations such as the Ministry of Education, A*STAR, and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

This is where Ms Ong comes in.

Working behind-the-scenes, she plays an instrumental role in helping to firm up a variety of grant applications.

She scrutinises every detail of every proposal, ensuring that guidelines are adhered to, and that all information is accurate and up-to-date.

With their heavy teaching and research commitments, faculty members appreciate her attention to detail, which ensures that their applications are thorough and well-prepared.

Her tips and insights help everybody to save time.

Assoc Prof Rebecca Ang, Associate Chair (Research), is especially impressed by Ms Ong's contributions.

"I could not have asked for better help," said Assoc Prof Ang.

"I find her extremely reliable and trustworthy. And I am sure faculty members will attest to that."

She adds that Ms Ong constantly anticipates problems, and just as frequently comes up with the right solutions. This makes her an invaluable source for help during the proposal submission process.

While her job is primarily administration-focused, Ms Ong is also adept at handling projects which stretch her abilities.

Last year, she was heavily involved in the editorial work for the HSS research annual report. This is no mean feat as she is an electrical engineer by training and has no prior training in publishing.

Ms Ong first joined NTU in 1997, working as an IT executive for the then School of Communication Studies.

Eight years later, she joined the NTU Graduate Office; in 2007 she moved to join the HSS Postgraduate Office.

For Ms Ong, NTU is like a second home. She participates actively in various university activities, and is a regular in the kickboxing and pilates classes held at the Sports & Recreation Centre.

Despite the stress of her work, Ms Ong is grateful to colleagues who have made a difference in her life.

"(Assoc Prof Ang) even made it a point to bring me out for lunch on Secretary's Day," said Ms Ong.

"The fact that she makes it a point to remember makes me glad to be here."



Ms Sandy Ong (centre) with Assoc Prof Rebecca Ang (left) and Mr William Cheong, Principal Manager.

AN INSPIRATION

On-and-Off the Court

By Soh Gail

Nantah old boy Prof Chew Soon Beng contributes to NTU – not just through research and teaching, but also through his flashy manoeuvres on the basketball court.

The next time you find yourself near an NTU basketball court, keep an eye out for a player who executes perfect lay-ups, and who easily outplays opponents half his age.

You may get a chance to trade passes with Prof Chew Soon Beng, who has been active in the sport since primary six.

The economics faculty member participates regularly in the basketball games organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office. For him, the games provide not only a good workout, but also a chance to interact and network with NTU alumni.

“I can combine work and basketball this way,” said Prof Chew, who won the Nanyang Alumni Service Award in October 2011. Alongside him that day were other prominent awardees including local singer Stefanie Sun and politicians Low Thia Kiang and Teo Ser Luck.

After graduating from Nanyang University with a commerce degree in 1972, Prof Chew went on to complete

his Master’s at the University of Singapore before receiving his PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 1979.

It was certainly a homecoming for Prof Chew when he joined the Business School in 1991. In essence, he had returned to his roots.

Since then, he has made innumerable contributions to NTU.

In the early 1990s, Prof Chew founded the NTU Executive Training Programme in Business and Public Policy. He is also the founding director of the Master of Science in Managerial Economics, otherwise known as the Mayors’ Class, a course that helps to put NTU on the map in China.

Just as impressively, he also helps to connect alumni with their alma mater.

At the 17th Distinguished Alumni Forum held in February last year, Prof Chew

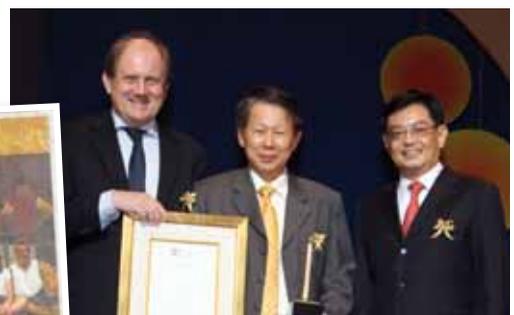
joined a panel which showcased his expertise in economics and industrial relations matters.

Staff and students (former and current) turned up in droves to catch his views on the 2011 Budget.

Aware that the budget would impact the lives of everyday Singaporeans, Prof Chew spoke on a slew of topics including Singapore’s rising income gap, escalating inflation, education cost, property ownership, tax breaks, and foreign workers’ levy and productivity.

The presentation was well-received, as Prof Chew distilled complex ideas into smaller, easier-to-understand, bite-size parts.

“Knowledge is not useful unless we disseminate it, and professors can also inspire alumni and students by participating in their non-classroom activities,” said Prof Chew.

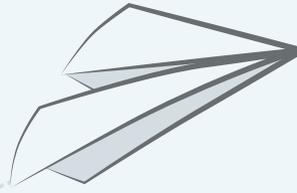


Prof Chew Soon Beng, receiving the Nanyang Alumni Service Award from NTU President, Prof Bertil Andersson (left), and Education Minister, Mr Heng Swee Keat (right).

Prof Chew Soon Beng’s love for basketball was featured on Shin Min Daily News.

Flying High as an ASEAN YOUTH LEADER

By Evelyn Lee



HSS alumna Ms Christabelle Soh connects with youth leaders from China and Asean countries at the ASEAN Young Leaders Training Programme.

She may be young and fresh-faced, but HSS alumna Christabelle Soh is no slouch when it comes to pulling her weight.

While studying at NTU, the Economics alumna from the class of 2010 consistently appeared on the Dean's list. She also won the Ministry of Trade and Industry Economist Service Prize in 2009.

But this was only beginning for Ms Soh, who currently teaches economics at Raffles Institution.

Last year, she represented Singapore at the ASEAN Young Leaders Training Programme held in Guangxi, China (5 November – 3 December).

After an initial endorsement by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office, she was selected for the programme by the National Youth Council.

The month-long programme attracted over 50 delegates from six ASEAN countries: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Organised by the China Guangxi International Youth Exchange Institute, the programme aims to promote understanding as well as better ties between China and various Asean countries.

Delegates attended lectures on China's economy, culture, foreign policy and other matters, and also visited notable sites in Guilin, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen.

Beyond the illuminating classroom experience, the programme also proved to be a cultural eye-opener for Ms Soh.

Prior to the trip, she had expected that some of her counterparts would be conservative teetotalers.

Imagine her surprise when they easily drank her under the table!

On her part, Ms Soh was happy to dispel similar misconceptions about Singaporeans.

"One of the delegates said she initially had the impression that Singaporeans were arrogant, unfriendly and

efficiency-driven. After getting to know us however she found Singaporeans to be fun and nice people," she said.

"Of course, this stereotype is not completely unfounded, and we Singaporeans have to work harder to improve this image."

Despite initial misunderstandings and differences, she was struck by the strong relationships formed with the other delegates during the programme.

"The last day was the most memorable, when we were parting," she said. "When you find everyone crying, you realise how strong the bonds have grown within a short span of time."

The group still keeps in regular contact on Facebook and meets up when they visit one another's countries.



Christabelle Soh (centre), a HSS alumna, represented Singapore at the ASEAN Young Leaders Training Programme held in Guangxi, China.





BOOKS



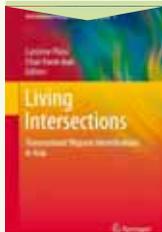
鲁迅：中国“温和”的尼采 Lu Xun: Zhongguo “wenhe” de Nicaizai

By Assoc Prof Cheung Chiu-ye, Division of Chinese

北京大学出版社, 2011

作为代表中国新文化方向的鲁迅，与被当成是纳粹思想先驱的尼采，两者在观点和风格上有着许多相似的地方，自从上世纪二十年代以来，一直是研究者热心探讨的问题。本书总结鲁迅与尼采的比较研究成果，通过重新解读鲁迅与尼采的著作，追溯尼采从德国到日本再到鲁迅的影响来源，分析他们思想、文学风格上的契合，展现出鲁迅作为激进作家的另一面，即所谓“尼采左派”，或“温和尼采”。

Lu Xun was praised in his time for spearheading China's new culture movement, whereas Nietzsche was once denounced as an intellectual precursor of Nazism. The intellectual and stylistic similarities between the two has been a hot research topic since the 1920s. This study presents a different dimension of Lu Xun, aligning his radicalism with a “Nietzschean left” or “gentle Nietzschean” interpretive framework.



Living Intersections: Transnational Migrant Identifications in Asia

Edited by Asst Prof Caroline Pluss, Division of Sociology (with Chan Kwok-bun, University of Macau)

Springer, 2012

This book presents ground-breaking theoretical, and empirical knowledge to produce a fine-grained and encompassing understanding of the costs and benefits that different groups of Asian migrants, moving between different countries in Asia and in the West, experience. The contributors — all specialist scholars in anthropology, geography, history, political science, social psychology, and sociology — present new approaches to intersectionality analysis, focusing on the migrants' performance of their identities as the core indicator to unravel the mutual constitutivity of cultural, social, political, and economic characteristics rooted in different places, which characterises transnational lifestyles. The book answers one key question: What happens to people, communities, and societies under globalisation, which is, among others, characterised by increasing cultural disidentification?

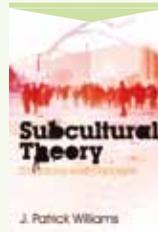


Cost-Benefit Analysis: Cases and Materials

By Prof Euston Quah, Division of Economics (with Raymond Toh, Singapore Land Transport Authority)

Routledge, 2011

This book highlights the main concepts and principles of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) used in real life cases and actual applications. It contains rich cases, materials and examples of real life CBA applications with emphasis both on physical and non-physical projects and infrastructure developments in Asia and beyond. The book also discusses techniques frequently used in applied CBA. The scope of the case studies is more than just physical infrastructures but also include public sector policies and programmes covering a host of social policies as in health, education, social welfare programmes, and the environment. For each case, there are illustrations of the key concepts and principles of CBA used. Undertakings analysed include: the Three Gorges Dam in China; the 2008 Beijing Olympics; the Costs of Global Warming; and the Jamuna Bridge in Bangladesh.



Subcultural Theory: Traditions and Concepts

By Asst Prof Patrick Williams, Division of Sociology

Polity, 2011

Subcultural phenomena continue to draw attention from many areas of contemporary society, including the news media, the marketing and fashion industries, concerned parents, religious, and other citizen groups, as well as academia. Research into these phenomena has spanned the humanities and social sciences, and the subcultural theories that underlie this work are similarly interdisciplinary. This book brings these issues together in a single text, offering readers a concise discussion of the major concepts and debates that have developed over more than eighty years of subcultural research, including style, stratification, resistance, identity, media and “post subcultures”. The text emphasises methods, concepts, and analysis rather than mere descriptions of individual subcultures, all the while ensuring readers will gain insight into past and present youthful subcultures, including mod, punk, hardcore, straightedge, among others.



Antara China and Tanah Tempatan Ini: Satu Kajian Pemikiran Dwipusat Penulis China 1919-1957
Between China and This Local Land: A Study of Dual-Centred Mentality of Chinese Writers in Malaya, 1919-1957

By Asst Prof Yow Cheun Hoe, Division of Chinese
 Universiti Sains Malaysia Press, 2011

Deploying the concept of “dual centres”, this book reconstructs the positions of China and the local land as areas of focus in the mentality of Chinese writers from 1919 to 1957. China dominated until 1925, when the local land emerged with the name of Nanyang in literary works and criticism. The 1929 Great Depression engendered the local reality to be a centre of consciousness, but the Sino-Japanese War from 1937 to 1945 led to a situation where China peaked as a nation calling for full attention. Despite the coinage of the terms Malaiya (Malaya) and Mahua, writers still faithfully upheld the mission that the Malaiya literature should serve China. After WW2, the 1947-48 Controversy over “Individuality of Malaiya Literature” set the local orientation apart from the China orientation. In the 1950s, Malaiya was envisioned as a new centre of loyalty. The 1956 Patriotic Literature Movement reflected exactly the shift in mentality to the Federation of Malaya.



JOURNALS



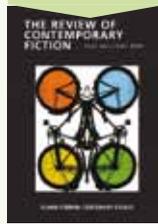
Studies in Transitivity: Insights from Language Documentation

Studies in Language, Vol 35, Issue 3

Edited by Asst Prof František Kratochvíl and Asst Prof Alexander Coupe, Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies, (with Randy LaPolla, La Trobe University)

John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2011

This journal contains nine papers selected from a series of seminars held over 2008-2009 at the Research Centre for Typology at La Trobe University, Melbourne. The articles describe and discuss phenomena relating to the concept of transitivity in individual languages and are informed by a cross-linguistic perspective. Although transitivity is traditionally assumed to be universal and basic to the grammar of all languages, this collection of papers highlights the hitherto under-appreciated extent of intra – and inter-language diversity that is found when its manifestations are explored in naturally-spoken data.



Flann O'Brien: Centenary Essays

The Review of Contemporary Fiction, Vol XXXI, Issue 3

Edited by Assoc Prof Neil Murphy, Division of English (with Keith Hopper, University of Oxford)

Dalkey Archive Press, 2011

Celebrating one hundred years of Flann O'Brien, this issue of *The Review of Contemporary Fiction* gathers literary appreciations and critical investigations by Aidan Higgins, Thierry Robin, Carlos Villar Flor, Joseph Brooker, and others.



JOURNAL ARTICLES

Writing Affects the Brain Network of Reading in Chinese: An fMRI Study

By Asst Prof Cao Fan, Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies

Human Brain Mapping, forthcoming 2012

We examined the hypothesis that learning to write Chinese characters influences the brain's reading network for characters. Students from a college Chinese class learned 30 characters in a character writing condition and 30 characters in a pinyin-writing condition. After learning, functional magnetic resonance imaging collected during passive viewing showed different networks for reading Chinese characters and English words, suggesting accommodation to the demands of the new writing system through short term learning. We also found specific effects of character writing in greater activation (relative to pinyin writing) in bilateral superior parietal lobules and bilateral lingual gyri in both a lexical decision and an implicit writing task. These findings suggest that character writing establishes a higher quality representation of the visual-spatial structure of the character and its orthography. We found a greater involvement of bilateral sensori-motor cortex (SMC) for character-writing trained characters than pinyin-writing trained characters in the lexical decision task, suggesting that learning by doing invokes greater interaction with sensori-motor information during character recognition. Furthermore, we found a correlation of recognition accuracy with activation in right superior parietal lobule, right lingual gyrus, and left SMC, suggesting that these areas support the facilitative effect character writing has on reading. Finally, consistent with previous behavioral studies, we found character-writing training facilitates connections with semantics by producing greater activation in bilateral middle temporal gyri, whereas pinyin-writing training facilitates connections with phonology by producing greater activation in right inferior frontal gyrus.



JOURNAL ARTICLES

Overcounting Numeral Systems and their Relevance to Sub-grouping in the Tibeto-Burman Languages of Nagaland

By Asst Prof Alexander Coupe, Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies

Language and Linguistics, 2012, Vol 31, Issue 1, Pages 193-220

This paper presents an appraisal of the most influential genetic classifications that have been proposed for the Tibeto-Burman languages of Nagaland, north-east India, and weighs up the evidence for the validity of a 'Naga' branch within Tibeto-Burman. The survey concludes that while phonological and lexical correspondences might be generally useful for establishing the affiliation of these languages to the Tibeto-Burman family, such criteria shed limited light on the problem of establishing lower level sub-groupings. Apart from the Konyak languages, which have been convincingly grouped with Jinghpaw and the Bodo-Garo languages on the basis of lexical innovations, sub-grouping within the languages of Nagaland remains inconclusive for want of robust diagnostic criteria. The paper presents new evidence for an intermediate grouping of languages of the central and southern regions of Nagaland (i.e. the Ao and Angami-Pochury clusters), the historical-comparative basis for this being typologically rare overcounting numeral systems documented in the languages of these two regions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The complexity of overcounting numeral systems lessens the likelihood of their being borrowed, and such patterns have never been reported in contiguous Konyak, Karbi, Zeme, Kuki or Tangkhul languages. The paper concludes that the erstwhile presence of overcounting patterns in Tibeto-Burman languages of central and southern Nagaland must therefore represent an inherited innovation indicative of a close genetic relationship.

'Broadway' as the Superior 'Other': Situating South Korean Transnational Theatre in the Era of Globalization

By Asst Prof Lee Hyunjung, Division of English

The Journal of Popular Culture, forthcoming 2012

In contemporary South Korean theatre, the idea of Broadway evokes visions of magnificent glamour, global success, and the superior "Other". These visions remind Korean audiences of their nation's lack of global presence as well as its deeply held desire to create a global identity. Two mid-1990s South Korean productions and their subsequent travels to New York demonstrate how the notion of "Broadway" in South Korea has transcended its definition as a mere physical location (i.e. a major theatre district in New York City) to become a trope in the conversations around the making of these plays. In this context, as the ultimate, superior "Other", Broadway represents the power to evaluate and criticise and also to praise. For its part, local theatre willingly trusts and relies upon whatever comment this superior "Other" makes about what it has achieved.

Beyond a Revisionist Turn: Network, State, and the Changing Dynamics of Diasporic Chinese Entrepreneurship

By Prof Liu Hong, Division of History

China: An International Journal, forthcoming 2012

This article has two main purposes. The first is to identify and critically assess the revisionist literature on diasporic Chinese business and entrepreneurship that has emerged over the past decade. Apart from analysing key themes in this literature (including the deconstruction and de-mystification of a romance of ethnic Chinese business, construction of the internal structures of Chinese businesses, integration of broader theoretical conceptualisations and micro-level empirical analyses, and more systematic incorporation of China into diasporic Chinese entrepreneurship studies), it pinpoints some of pitfalls associated with revisionist approaches. The second purpose is to consider the possibilities of going beyond the revisionist arguments by using some small empirical cases from Singapore and Japan to underscore the multi-layered interplay between transnational Chinese network and the state. I argue that this interaction has been significantly shaped by the dynamic rise of China and the rapid economic regionalisation in the Asia-Pacific, which facilitates the emergence of a new breed of transnational Chinese entrepreneurship.

Dr. Sanger, meet Mr. Moore: Next-generation Sequencing is Driving New Questions and New Modes of Research

By Asst Prof Hallam Stevens, Division of History

Bioessays, 2012, Vol 34, Issue 2, Pages 103-105

Since 2005, so-called next-generation sequencing machines have given biologists the ability to sequence ever-faster and ever-cheaper. In the medium term, as these machines are sold to hospitals and companies selling personalised genomic tests, this phenomenon is likely to have a profound effect on medical care. However, these machines are finding wide use in fundamental biology too. Here too, they are likely to have effects on the production of biological knowledge. This is an attempt to begin a discussion about what these effects might be. Next-generation machines have depended on advances in laser optics, solid-state electronics, and chip-engineering that have drawn biology into a race for more nucleotides per dollar. If – as is often claimed – this is a 'Moore's Law for biology', we might be able to understand more about the effects of next-generation by understanding some of the origins and history of Moore's Law. The massive drops in cost and increases in computing power since the mid-1960s have had profound consequences for what a computer is and what we can do with one. Similar changes may be in store for biology.