



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

HORIZON

Sharing ideas, Bridging minds

ISSUE NO. 7 NOV/DEC 2013



HSS LEADS THE WAY
WITH STATE OF THE ART
PSYCHOLOGY SPECIALIST
LABS

**HSS ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
LIFTS OFF**

**HSS SIGNS ACCORD
ESTABLISHING
CONSORTIUM FOR
SOUTHEAST ASIAN
STUDIES IN ASIA**

**NTU ESTABLISHES
HAN SU YIN
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

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Chair's MESSAGE

Dear colleagues, students, alumni and friends,

I am pleased to share with you some of the recent exciting developments in education, facility development, research and international collaboration here at HSS.

We started the semester by celebrating the academic achievements of our students in our annual College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences prize-giving ceremony where awards were handed out to Book Prize winners, students who completed their Second Majors, and students placed on the Dean's List for topping their respective Divisions.

Our Economics students were also feted for their academic achievements when we hosted the 6th Annual MTI (Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore) Economic Dialogue. Ms Dang Thi Quynh Trang was awarded the MTI Book Prize for the highest cumulative grade-point-average by Guest-of-Honour Mr S. Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry, while Lin Yu Min, Wu Pei Yu and Yap Chai Teng clinched the MTI Best Thesis Award with their thesis entitled *Beyond GDP: Welfare Across China and Time*.

Our school has also finalised plans to build new, state-of-the-art specialist labs to investigate the neural systems that underpin language and cross-modal perception in infants. The first of its kind in Southeast Asia, these labs will leverage on the expertise of our new faculty member, Nanyang Assistant Professor Suzy Styles, to create a research environment and platform that will allow HSS faculty and students to collaborate with researchers from all over to world on psycholinguistics, language development and cross modal perception.

Committed to innovative collaboration, HSS is also proud to announce the signing of two ground-breaking research collaboration pacts. The first is a charter with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University and eight other leading Asian and Southeast Asian Studies institutions in the region to establish the Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA). A multilateral regional forum meant to promote region-based Southeast Asian studies, the SEASIA will allow the 10 member institutions to share information on each other's activities through seminars, workshops, conferences, and symposia.

The second is the Research Centres Networking Group (RCNG) accord – a partnership agreement with eight Asian and Australian research centres to promote research collaboration and initiate new external grants and research projects by instituting periodic visits and attachments between member institutes. Initiated by HSS, the RCNG accord will see each member hosting and linking up faculty and graduate students with similar research interests.

Lastly, we also celebrated the launch of our very own HSS Alumni Association in August. HSS has enjoyed a particularly fruitful 2013. With the new year almost upon us, I wish all of you the very best in your endeavours and a prolific and successful year ahead.



Professor Liu Hong

TAN KAH KEE ENDOWED PROFESSOR AND CHAIR
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO HSS!

Centre for Modern Languages

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Dr Chen Lian Dong	Lecturer	5 Aug 2013

Chinese

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Zhang Song Jian	Assistant Professor	8 Jul 2013
Asst Prof Fang Xiao Ping	Assistant Professor	25 Jul 2013
Asst Prof Ong Soon Keong	Assistant Professor	25 Nov 2013

English

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Richard Alan Barlow	Assistant Professor	31 Jul 2013
Asst Prof Kevin Andrew Riordan	Assistant Professor	29 Jul 2013
Dr Boey Kim Cheng	Writer-in-Residence	1 Aug 2013
Mr Romesh Gunasekera	Writer-in-Residence	2 Aug 2013

Economics

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Tang Yang	Assistant Professor	5 Aug 2013

History

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Jessica Bridgette Hinchy	Assistant Professor	29 Jul 2013
Asst Prof Els Van Dongen	Assistant Professor	1 Aug 2013
Asst Prof Miles Alexander Powell	Assistant Professor	12 Sep 2013

Language and Communication Centre

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Assoc Prof Becky Kwan	Visiting Associate Professor	6 Sep 2013

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences would like to welcome the following new faculty members, who have been with us since July 2013, to the HSS family.

Linguistics and Multilingual Studies

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Wong Chun Kit Francis	Assistant Professor	30 Jul 2013
Prof John Newman	Visiting Professor	1 Aug 2013
Assoc Prof Hiroko Tanaka	Visiting Associate Professor	2 Oct 2013
Asst Prof Luca Onnis	Assistant Professor	1 Nov 2013

Public Policy and Global Affairs

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Chou Meng Hsuan	Nanyang Assistant Professor	1 Aug 2013
Asst Prof Christopher James Holman	Assistant Professor	2 Aug 2013
Prof Gerald Chan	Visiting Professor	2 Sep 2013
Asst Prof Kei Koga	Assistant Professor	30 Sep 2013

Philosophy

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Liao Shen Yi	Assistant Professor	1 Aug 2013
Asst Prof Preston Huw Richards Greene	Assistant Professor	1 Aug 2013
Professor Liu Xiao Gan	Visiting Professor	5 Aug 2013

Psychology

Name	Appointment	Date Joined
Asst Prof Suzy Styles	Nanyang Assistant Professor	1 Aug 2013
Asst Prof Kenichi Ito	Assistant Professor	5 Aug 2013
Dr Monika Sobczak-Edmans	Research Fellow	24 Oct 2013
Asst Prof Lee Kai Chung, Albert	Assistant Professor	28 Oct 2013
Dr Yick Yee Ying Belle	Postdoctoral Fellow	5 Nov 2013

NTU establishes HAN SUYIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND



NTU officially launched the Han Su Yin Scholarship Fund (in Translation Studies) for students of HSS's Chinese Division on 16 November with a Culture and Translation Forum on famous writer and physician Han Su Yin at the Chinese Heritage Centre.

Mooted by her adopted daughter Ms Chew Hui Im, the Scholarship Fund will aid needy Singapore citizens pursuing an undergraduate degree with a minor in Translation.

"My mother saw many wrongly translated phrases around the world and was very keen to improve the standard," revealed Ms Chew. "She worked closely with Nanyang University as a teacher here. I hope NTU will help students learn more so that they can translate better in future."

Prof Liu Hong, Chair, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NTU, kicked off the forum with his opening address.

"HSS has offered Translation Studies as a Minor to all students in NTU for many years. The interdisciplinary nature of our translation course has enabled our students to widen their areas of specialization and improve their opportunities at work. I want to offer my sincerest gratitude to Ms Chew Hui Im, the main donor of the Han Su Yin Scholarship Fund, for her generosity,

which has enabled us to enroll more students into our programme."

With an endowed amount of \$200,000 and the government matching that bequest on a 1.5 times basis, the distributable income of the Fund will support at least one \$8,000 scholarship per academic year. Any remaining distributable income will be used to fund the publishing of outstanding translation works.

A China-born Eurasian, Han Su Yin is best known for her novel *A Many-Splendored Thing* (1952) which was adapted into the Academy Award-winning film *Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing*. She authored books and autobiographical memoirs covering the span of modern China and novels set in Asia. She served as a literature lecturer for three years at Nanyang University and contributed to its establishment in 1953.



Prof Colin Blakemore: BRAIN SIZE MATTERS

By Henry Nguyen Ngoc Huy

Size does matter. Speaking at the “Neuroscience and Society” public lecture organised by Psychology Division and the School of Biological Sciences at the HSS Auditorium on 2 October, renowned British neurobiologist Prof Colin Blakemore attributed Man’s rapid advancement in knowledge and behaviour to a sudden and remarkable 30% increase in brain size, an event that happened some 200,000 years ago.

Prof Blakemore, who was in Singapore as part of the World Cultural Council Awards (WCCA) Ceremony 2013 held at NTU, is Vice President of the World Cultural Council, Professor of Neuroscience and Philosophy in the School of Advanced Study, University of London, and Emeritus Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Oxford.

One of the world’s foremost authorities in vision, early development of the brain, neurodegenerative disease and the plasticity of the cerebral cortex, Prof Blakemore provided plenty of food for thought as he shared his understanding of the human condition with the audience.

“Brain research represents a huge challenge to science due to the complexity of the brain, but it seeks to answer the fundamental question of what it is to be human”, said Prof Blakemore.

Believing that neuroscience can explain how humans react with each other and form societies, Prof Blakemore began the lecture by examining the idea that the human brain got bigger by accident and not through evolution. Although many scientists believe

humans became intelligent through evolution, Prof Blakemore’s examination of why the Homo sapiens brain was so big compared to the brains of our predecessors, the Homo erectus, suggests otherwise.

“There had been a gradual increase in brain size until 200,000 years ago, and then, there was a remarkable increase of 30% or so,” stated Prof Blakemore. “Human behaviour has changed over 200,000 years, and then [there was] a dramatic increase in the exchange of knowledge in a few hundred years.” Correlating the human’s ability to change the world with the brain’s large size, Prof Blakemore pointed out that natural selection cannot explain the sudden dramatic 30% increase in brain size and knowledge, asserting that a spontaneous

mutation in the brain is the only logical explanation for the fact that Homo erectus was transformed into super-intelligent modern man.

Prof Blakemore also stated that the brain is not intelligently designed, but is redesigned or re-engineered by individual experiences, illustrating his point with an example of how rooks (a type of crow) learn to adapt to environmental conditions.

"In 'The Crow and the Pitcher', a clever crow uses stones to raise the water level in a pitcher and quench its thirst", he said, using Aesop's well-known fable to preface a similar scientific work published by Christopher David Bird and Nathan John Emery in 2009. Bird and Emery studied how rooks used stones to raise water level to reach a floating worm, and then recorded their behavioural patterns.

"At the start, the rooks choose an equal number of small and large stones. But after that they only choose large stones. Animals with small brains can do a repertoire of things", he added.

Asserting that "the brain can grow with inputs", he emphasised that "big brains are clever brains but not without knowledge and experience".

Maintaining that "an experience of a person changes as a result of what happens inside the brain, not outside", he also examined the notion of consciousness and what areas of the brain are utilised when exposed to stimuli.

"Some regions [of the brain] are more strongly activated by faces, some are more activated by objects", said Prof Blakemore.

He explained how this assertion could be proven by showing the Rubin vase-face illusion (which displays two different

patterns of faces and objects using the same contours) to a person and using fMRI (Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging) to track which areas of the person's brain was showing activity.

Prof Blakemore also recounted how neuroscience has marched into many aspects of our lives like law, marketing, social neuroscience, and other areas.

"One of the most dynamic areas [in brain research] is social neuroscience. Our interaction is a dialogue of brains, a brain being changed by other people's behaviours," added Prof Blakemore.

Rounding up his lecture, Prof Blakemore left his audience with one last intriguing idea: "If we look at a particular pattern, and we stimulate the pattern, can we then produce an imaginary experience?" he asked.

"In principle it is possible."

Top Students Celebrated at HASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2013



Ms Sak Hui Er receiving the first of three awards from Prof Alan Chan, Dean of HASS.

HSS Auditorium teemed with delight on 10 September as the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) celebrated the achievements of more than 100 students at its annual prize-giving ceremony.

Guest-of-Honour, Professor Alan Chan, Dean of HASS, was on hand to present

certificates to HASS students placed on the Dean's List in Academic Year 2012, Book Prize winners and students who had completed their Second Major. Speaking to Horizon after the ceremony, Psychology major Yim Chia Lek was delighted to have been placed on the Dean's List for the Division.

"Actually I didn't expect myself to get it. But now I feel it's like the fruits of my labour because we worked and studied so hard," said Ms Yim. "I hope to complete my second major – Communications Studies, then it's on to my URECA [Undergraduate Research Experience on Campus] and FYP [Final Year Project]."

Like most of her fellow prize recipients, passion played an integral part in the success of triple award winner, Sak Hui Er. Placed on the Dean's List for Chinese Division, Ms Sak also received the Wan Boo Sow Award for Chinese Major

students and the HSS Book Prize for Chinese. Sharing a meal with her parents after the ceremony, she shared with us the secret to her success.

"I was quite surprised [by the awards]. Actually I studied hard because I'm interested in what I'm studying so I guess that helps in understanding and that's why I was able to do well," said Hui Er.

Driven by her passion for Chinese, she is already making plans for the future.

"I'll continue to do my best and hopefully I can get into what I want in the near future. I would like to delve deeper into the linguistics aspect of Chinese. After that, I think I'll like to further my studies, maybe doing a Masters."

Judging from the hard work and determination shown by our award winners, we're sure all of them will go on to greater success at HSS and in the future.

HSS holds 6TH ANNUAL MTI ECONOMIC DIALOGUE



Mr S. Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry addressing students at NTU.

The Division of Economics, HSS, hosted the 6th Annual MTI (Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore) Economic Dialogue at NTU on 29 August. The occasion was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr S. Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry.

Addressing a 300-strong crowd of junior college students and undergraduates from NUS, NTU and SMU, Mr Iswaran commented on global labour market developments and assessed their potential impact on Singapore.

He highlighted, in particular, three important trends.

"The first relates to rising youth unemployment alongside an ageing workforce in developed economies. Across the European Union, almost a

quarter of all youths under the age of 25 are unemployed," said Mr Iswaran.

Calling this "a problem with a long tail", Mr Iswaran stressed that these youths would be vulnerable to future unemployment having missed out on early job training and experience.

"The second trend pertains to the impact of technological changes on jobs and their skills requirements," he added, citing automation, 3D printers, computer algorithms and online platforms like freelancer.com as innovations which have made certain jobs obsolete.

The third trend was the rising income inequality caused by globalisation, with competition from workers located abroad and technological improvements causing the wages of less-skilled workers to decrease.

Outlining the implications of these trends, Mr Iswaran referenced the solutions Germany had enacted for its aging workforce – for e.g. the use of assistive tools and restructured work processes – as lessons that Singapore needed to learn in order to better tap the expertise and experience of older workers.

To meet these challenges, Mr Iswaran reiterated the need for the government to be nimble in identifying high-growth sectors that can offer good jobs, and to transform the economy to create jobs suitable for an increasingly educated workforce. Local businesses needed to be willing to restructure and to use technology to tap new growth opportunities in order to remain competitive. Workers also needed to continually upgrade their skills in order to respond to changes in the job market.

Mr Iswaran also joined a discussion panel with Mr Richard Payne, CEO Southeast Asia at Aon Hewitt and Professor Ng Yew Kwang, Albert Winsemius Chair Professor from the Division of Economics to answer questions from students.

Mr Iswaran started the forum by handing out the MTI Book Prize awarded to students with the highest cumulative grade-point-average after three years of study to NTU's Ms Dang Thi Quynh Trang.

He also gave the MTI Best Thesis Award (given to economics students) to HSS students Lin Yu Min, Wu Pei Yun and Yap Chai Teng for their thesis titled *Beyond GDP: Welfare Across China and Time*.

HSS Signs accord establishing the **CONSORTIUM FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES IN ASIA (SEASIA)**



HSS has signed a groundbreaking charter with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University and eight other leading Asian and Southeast Asian Studies institutions in the region to establish a Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA) on 11 October 2013.

The consortium Charter was signed by the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies, Academia Sinica; the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University; the Indonesian Institute of Sciences; the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies; the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University; the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore; the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University; the Taiwan Association of Southeast Asian Studies; the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; the Asian Center, University of the Philippines.

A multilateral regional forum meant to promote region-based Southeast Asian

studies, the SEASIA will enable the 10 members of the consortium to share information about each other's activities through annual meetings, seminars, smaller joint workshops, conferences and symposia. It will also provide opportunities for collaboration, education and training for young, up-and-coming scholars from Southeast Asia- and other East Asia-based Southeast Asianists. One of its main activities will be to organize a biennial conference, the first of which is expected to take place in Kyoto in 2015.

Professor Sunait Chutintaranond of Chulalongkorn University is Chairperson of the Governing Board, which is made up of the following members:

- Ikrar Nusa Bhakti (Indonesian Institute of Sciences)
- Eduardo Tadem (University of the Philippines)
- Michael Feener (National University of Singapore)
- Liu Hong (Nanyang Technological University)

- Tong Chee Kiong (Universiti Brunei Darussalam)
- Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao (Academia Sinica)
- Park Jang Sik (Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies)
- Shimizu Hiromu (Kyoto University): Secretary

The Secretariat is based in the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University.

With the setting up of SEASIA, institutions specializing in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities will be able to connect and share their knowledge. Scholars from these institutions who have an interest in and who work on or in Southeast Asia will be able to collaborate on earthquake science and disaster management, medical research, urban studies, ecology, energy, resource management, industry specialists, creative industries even if they do not necessarily consider themselves area studies specialists.

HSS Signs RESEARCH NETWORKING ACCORD WITH ADB AND TOP ASIAN UNIVERSITIES



From left: Prof Euston Quah, Prof Park Dae Keun, Prof Liu Hong, Prof Peter Warr, Prof Kazuyuki Tohji, Prof Oh Jeung Hun, Emeritus Prof Lim Chong Yah and Prof Lim Hua Sing

The Division of Economics started an exciting new chapter in research collaboration on 12 September 2013 as representatives from four Asian-Australian research centres descended on NTU to ink the Research Centres Networking Group (RCNG) accord – a partnership agreement set up to promote research synergies between NTU and eight other research centres.

Initiated by Prof Euston Quah, Director of the Economic Growth Centre, HSS, the RCNG sets out to promote research collaboration among members and initiate new external grants and research projects by instituting periodic visits and attachments. The tie-up will see researchers visiting member institutes, hosted by local scholars with similar interests and paired with graduate students from the same field. Designed to promote recurring joint-workshops hosted in turn by the centres, the host institution will provide accommodation during these visits, which will last at least one to three weeks.

The eight centres representing their respective member universities/entities are: Asian Development Bank Institute

(Asian Development Bank), Arndt Corden Department of Economics (Australian National University), Hanyang Economic Research Institute (Hanyang University), Graduate Institute of Economic Research (Keio University), Graduate School of International Studies (Korea University), Graduate School of Environmental Studies (Tohoku University), Waseda Institute of Chinese Economics (Waseda University) and the College of Economics (Zhejiang University).

Due to their busy schedules, delegates from NTU, Asian Development Bank Institute, Keio University, Waseda University and Zhejiang University penned the agreement at an earlier signing ceremony held on 6 August 2013. Prof Peter Warr from the Australian National University, Prof Park Dae Keun from Hanyang University, Prof Oh Jeung Hun from Korea University and Prof Kazuyuki Tohji from Tohoku University completed the signing formalities at HSS Auditorium on 12 September with HSS Chair Prof Liu Hong, Emeritus Prof Lim Chong Yah of HSS, NTU, and Prof Lim Hua Sing of Waseda University serving as official witnesses.

Speaking after the ceremony, Prof Park had glowing things to say about the initiative:

“I’m honoured to be part of this programme. I think it’s a very good idea. In Asia, we have a lot of talented and well qualified researchers in the social sciences. This networking provides a very good environment for these talents to get together and make better progress in research.”

Although a little cautious about the fiscal implications of the agreement, Prof Warr was also bullish about it.

“We are a little uncertain about the funding for the visitors but the important thing is that we use this as an instrument for increasing the contact among our universities, try to get some benefit from interaction among us,” said Prof Warr.

“I think in the longer term we may be able to expand it to other institutions. It’s only eight institutions here so it’s just a very small proportion of the institutions in our various countries,” he added.



HSSAA: REAFFIRMING A DEEP BOND

HSS launches alumni association for graduates to stay connected to NTU and fellow school mates

From a modest 53-strong cohort in 2004, HSS has grown exponentially to become one of the top 20 humanities and social sciences programmes in Asia. On 1 August, HSS achieved yet another milestone as more than 170 graduates and guests gathered to celebrate the launch of the HSS Alumni Association (HSSAA) at the Shuffle Bistro Bar in Clarke Quay.

With six cohorts of graduates, many now established in key roles across a number of industries, the formation of the HSSAA promises to further strengthen ties among HSS alumni even as it improves their networking opportunities.

Creating the Foundation for all HSS Alumni

First mooted by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office, the HSSAA gathered momentum in October last year as active alumni gathered to form an executive committee to hammer together the constitution of the HSSAA, and also to nominate and vote in a suitable candidate to lead the organisation. As a former president of the HSS Club during her university days, Ms Wong Yi Wei was swiftly elected president in a landslide vote.

Under Wong's capable leadership, the executive committee moved quickly to firm up the programme details and structure of the launch event, with

NTU's Alumni Affairs Office giving a helping hand.

Speaking at the launch, Ms Wong thanked everyone for their support in making it a success. Recalling the HSSAA's first committee meeting in October last year, she chuckled at how they had started with only four members but were nevertheless exuberant with all sorts of exciting ideas. Congratulating new HSS graduates in the audience, she invited them to offer suggestions on what future events they would like to attend.



Alumni an Integral Part of NTU Success

Professor Alan Chan, Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, was the Guest-of-Honour on the night and he was delighted to see many alumni reuniting again to support the University.

“We are in a very young school, but the achievements the School has made over the last few years are nothing short of spectacular. Today, NTU is no longer an unfamiliar name,” said Prof Chan. Prof Chan also thanked the alumni, exhorting them to be proud of NTU’s achievements, which might not have been possible without all their good work.

“This is only a beginning. I will see the HSS Alumni Association grow from strength to strength,” he added.

A Reunion of Friends

With live music, food and drinks available throughout the evening, alumni enjoyed themselves as they reconnected with old friends and HSS faculty, exchanging stories about their busy lives after graduation.

“I am here with six of my former classmates. It was a good opportunity to catch up with good friends I had lost touch with,” shared Ms Christabelle Soh (English/2010) about her evening at the event.

Assoc Prof Sim Wai Chew, Assistant Chair, HSS, who attended the event alongside a clutch of HSS faculty including Professor Chew Soon Beng, Director of the Master of Science in Applied Economics programme and Asst Prof Michael Patterson, Psychology Division, was also gratified to see some of his former students.

“I’m happy to see that they’ve all done well, carving a niche for themselves in their respective industries. Hopefully, the establishment of the HSSAA will enable them to tap into a wider network and propel their careers to the next level of success.”

Besides food, music and good company, the alumni were also treated to a lucky draw sponsored by HSS. For Committee member Ms Ng Hwei Yun, the large alumni turnout at the launch was especially gratifying.

“The response from our alumni is better than what we expected. I am happy to have the opportunity to participate in NTU activities and I hope that the alumni association can help us strengthen our bonds with our school,” she said.

LEADING THE WAY

with State of the Art Specialist Labs

HSS's Psychology Division has revealed exciting plans for new state-of-the-art specialist labs investigating the neural systems that underpin language and cross-modal perception in infants.

The division, which was recently placed 38th in a ranking of the world's top universities by higher-education information provider Quacquarelli Symonds (four spots higher than last year's 42nd) will leverage on the expertise of Asst Prof Suzy Styles in its expansion efforts. These labs are the first of their kind to be built in Southeast Asia.

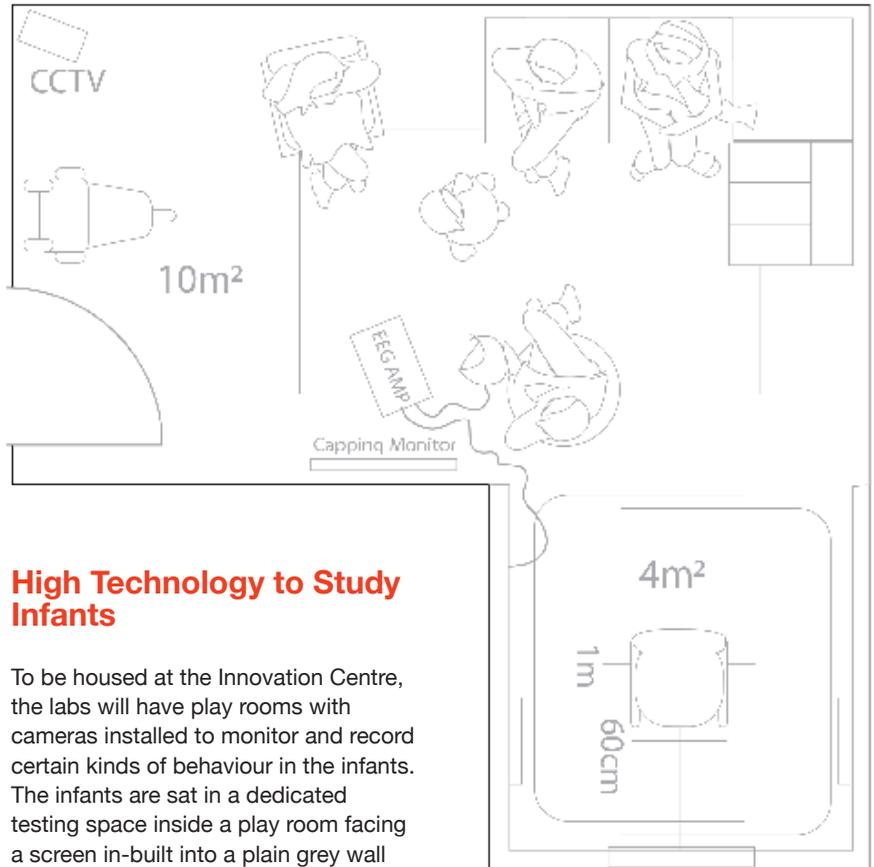
A Platform for Research Collaboration

"One of the goals with these labs is to create a research environment and an appropriate platform so that researchers interested in similar questions can collaborate on projects of mutual interest," explained Asst Prof Styles, an expert in psycholinguistics, language development, and cross-modal perception.

Having spent close to a decade in the baby lab developed at Oxford University, Asst Prof Styles has extensive experience developing lab spaces for language development research.

"What we try to do, is to make it [the labs] child friendly but also highly technically sophisticated in ways that are not obvious to our families who are visiting," said Asst Prof Styles.

"What we want is a room that looks like a fun, comfortable play room to be in where we have hidden technology in all the walls," said the professor, who is engaged in active collaboration with colleagues from Oxford University, the University of Belgrade, and the Australian National University.



High Technology to Study Infants

To be housed at the Innovation Centre, the labs will have play rooms with cameras installed to monitor and record certain kinds of behaviour in the infants. The infants are sat in a dedicated testing space inside a play room facing a screen in-built into a plain grey wall with no external distractions. Using a photographic image of the child's eye, remote eye trackers attached to that screen are then used to figure out exactly where on the screen the infants' eyes are directed to every couple of milliseconds.

"This allows us to play our children little video clips that seem like fun play-along games but are designed to observe their eye movements, to investigate moment by moment changes in language comprehension by tracking how they respond to spoken language while looking at pictures," Asst Prof Styles explained.

"It might sound very simple, but it's an incredibly sensitive way of assessing constancy in what individual words mean at different ages and it's especially good

for children who are so young they're not even talking or pointing yet," Asst Prof Styles added.

The remote eye tracker is also used to measure the infants' pupil dilation. By studying the dark pupil areas of the child's eye, researchers are able to measure the child's autonomic nervous responses, which can "index things like how surprised they are by certain things going on in their visual environment".

"One of the aims is to work with both eye movement and pupil dilation to unpack how language comprehension is going for children in their very early years," explained Asst Prof Styles.

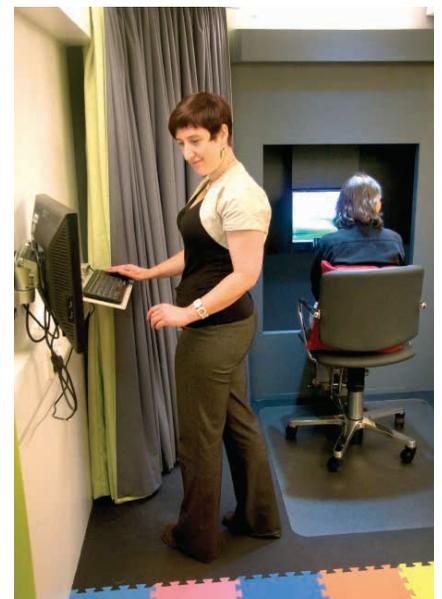


A child wearing an eye tracker and an EEG cap while looking at a picture.

The laboratories will also include an electrically shielded room for the method of electroencephalography (EEG) where a special cap made up of a series of sensors is placed on child's head. Capable of monitoring very minute fluctuations in the electrical potential naturally occurring in the babies' skin on their heads, these cap sensors provide insight into the electrical changes in the infants' brains when they're responding to sounds or pictures in their visual environment. This fluctuation in electrical conductivity on the skin that is locked to particular events is called the Event Related Potential (ERP). In one of the infant methods to be used in the lab, the child is shown a picture of an object like a fish on the screen, while either the correct label "Fish" or a similar sounding word "Fesh" played.

"By computing the ERP when they hear these different kinds of speech, we can see how the infant brain is coordinating the picture they're looking at with the sound that they're hearing and at what point in time do they start to detect whether it's a word that goes with that picture. We've had success in this domain with children as young as one year and two months," said Asst Prof Styles.

When completed, these speciality labs will enable HSS students interested in psycholinguistics, language development and cross-modal perception to take part in the research either as direct test subjects testing out the validity of the games designed for the infants or as active researchers in the labs through their final year projects.



Asst Prof Styles working the eye tracker test console in the baby lab in Oxford

ILLUMINATING MULTILINGUAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

In a different world, Nanyang Assistant Professor Suzy Styles might have become a nuclear physicist and not a psycholinguist with HSS's Psychology Division. Deeply interested in physics and chemistry in high school, she was set on a career in nuclear physics until she spent a month working at a particle accelerator at the Australian National University (ANU).

"Working on angles, incidence of spin of electrons in radioactive isotopes, it suddenly seemed very remote from my reality, so I ran screaming back to the humanities," she said with a laugh.

Training her keen analytical mind on the social sciences, Asst Prof Styles took dual degrees at ANU, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and a Bachelor of Asian Studies in Japanese and Asian literature in 2003. Spending a year on exchange in Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan – where she became fluent in Japanese – gave her newfound linguistic prowess that led her to the field of psycholinguistics.

"The first months following my return to Australia, when I was speaking English, I would reach out for the word that came next and realise that it was a word in Japanese. That had such a dramatic impact on my daily language functioning that I wanted to understand those processes in the individual," said Asst Prof Styles.

Eager to explore "psycholinguistics as an approach to understanding language function in the individual", she enrolled in Oxford University, attaining a PhD in Experimental Psychology in 2009, focussing on Psycholinguistics and Cognitive approaches to Language Acquisition. Working with Professor Kim Plunkett, renowned for his research on the infant brain and the methods and approach to the original development of language, she continued her post-

doctoral research at the Oxford University Babylab in the Oxford Centre of Developmental Science.

Still, something continued to bother her.

"With my background in Asian Studies, I was very aware that we only worked with children who spoke one language. And that's not representative of children who grow up in diverse linguistic environments across the planet," she explained.

Seeking to improve her research, she jumped at the chance to join HSS this year.

"Singapore has languages which are so different from each other and whole families who grow up multilingual together. That's a really exciting scenario for researching how minds handle learning and how learning processes differ when you have more diversity in linguistic input."

Continuing her research on lexical access and its neural and behavioural correlation in early language development, Asst Prof Styles is setting up baby labs for HSS's Psychology Division – the first in Southeast Asia – which will facilitate collaboration on linguistic stimuli and inter-sensory processing experiments using remote eyetracking and electro-encephalography techniques.

"Singapore has languages which are so different from each other and whole families who grow up multilingual together. That's a really exciting scenario..."



DISTILLING THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

History buffs often say that “to know where we are going, we must first know where we come from”. For Asst Prof Harry Wu Yi Jui, his pursuit of history stemmed from an attempt to reconcile the theories of important figures such as Sigmund Freud and Carl Gustav Jung to see if their work could be applied to an Asian context.

Jointly appointed by HSS’s History Programme and the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), Asst Prof Wu specialises in medical humanities and always dreamt of being a psychologist while growing up in Taiwan. While working as a resident doctor in the department of psychiatry in MacKay Memorial Hospital in Taiwan following his graduation from Chung Shan Medical University, he decided to pursue postgraduate studies in psychoanalysis at Essex University in England.

“I was studying the works of Freud and Jung and found it somewhat difficult to put those theories in practise in Asian culture. I wanted to know why, so I decided to study the context of that kind of knowledge. That’s why I developed my aspiration in pursuing a degree in history,” said Asst Prof Wu.

After receiving a Masters of Science (History of Science, Medicine and Technology) at Oxford University where he researched psychiatric medicine practice in non-western contexts, he continued on to a PhD in History where he gained a deeper appreciation of the practice of psychiatry. “Psychiatry is such a young discipline in Asia. It has changed so fast and dramatically over the past 100 years. It’s very dynamic and should be adaptable to the context that we’re situated in. Medical humanities help us see some psychiatric subjects in a more holistic way. It emphasises more on the social suffering of patients, allowing us to see the interaction between patients, society and culture, how symptoms emerge and how they can be treated,” he added.

With less than 10 positions available annually in medical humanities globally, Asst Prof Wu was immediately attracted to the tie-up between LKCMedicine and Imperial College of London while working as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Hong Kong.

“Medical humanities have been taught for more than 20 years at Imperial College but it’s very new in Singapore. I felt that it is a very interesting experiment so I thought I’d give it a try.”

Splitting his time between HSS and LKCMedicine, Asst Prof Wu lectures on the history of science and technology at HSS and organises medical humanities workshops and film screenings to widen the horizons of LKCMedicine students.

He is working on his first monograph on how the World Health Organisation (WHO) established a common international classification for psychiatric diagnoses in the 1960s. He is also investigating the issues of “being mentally-illed” in post-socialist China where people have been wrongfully institutionalised in psychiatric institutions.

“*Medical humanities is very new in Singapore. I felt that it is a very interesting experiment so I thought I’d give it a try.*”



EMBRACING THE NEW

Uprooting yourself for a new life on another continent is probably one of the biggest decisions a person can make. For Nanyang Assistant Professor Chou Meng Hsuan, migrating with her parents from Taiwan to Los Angeles not only provided her with an important life lesson, it also set in motion her interest in issues relating to international relations, migration and regional integration.

“My parents have been my source of inspiration growing up and they continue to be. They inspired me to go beyond what is familiar – in my thinking as well as what I find comfortable. This has been very important for me because I’ve been on the move since I was 8 years old,” revealed Asst Prof Chou.

“While most people think it’s very exciting to be living in new cities and countries (and it is!), there’s also a strong tendency to turn to what is ‘old’ and comforting. This also applies to research. At those moments I think about my parents and remind myself that the ‘new’ can also become the familiar.”

Politics is the study of how people influence other people on a civic or individual level. For Asst Prof Chou, her passion for Political Science grew from her natural creativity and her fascination with her environment.

“I wanted to be a creative person, but I believe that I can be creative in more than one profession. I’m fascinated by how people collectively make decisions and the effects of these decisions over time. Political science is a discipline with many analytical tools that allows me to continuously investigate.”

After getting her degree in Political Science at University of California (Berkeley) in 2000, Asst Pro Chou’s fascination with public policy, regional integration, and the European Union led her to a Masters in European Public Administration from Leiden University in the Netherlands in 2002, and then

a Masters in Philosophy in European Politics and Society two years later at Oxford University. She received her PhD in International Studies at Cambridge University in 2009.

Trained as a specialist in EU migration, asylum and research policies over the past decade, Asst Prof Chou has “noticed a stronger push for regional cooperation around the world”. Curious about Asia’s take on global issues, she joined HSS’s PPGA to expand the geographical scope of her research and to be “fully ‘marinated’ in Asia and the developments in this region”.

Asst Prof Chou is currently working on “COMPETE” – a project on “how governments strategise in the global competition for talent and the role of regional platforms in this process”. She is also coordinating a collaborative research network based at Robinson College, Cambridge, one that studies higher education and related research policies.

“My parents have been my source of inspiration growing up and they continue to be. They inspired me to go beyond what is familiar – in my thinking as well as what I find comfortable.”



AN IMPASSIONED LOVE FOR HISTORY

As a nine year old child growing up in China, nothing captivated Asst Prof Fang Xiao Ping more than the seven o'clock news broadcasted nightly on television. Watching intently as newscasters reported the latest current affairs happenings around the world, he became fascinated with history and politics – a passion that grew stronger when he studied history in school.

“I had a very good history teacher in junior middle school and he was very good at telling history stories. Although they were quite simple, I was fascinated by them,” recalled Asst Prof Fang.

Now a faculty member of HSS's Chinese Division, Asst Prof Fang's love for history saw him take up history and politics as majors at Shaoxing College of Arts and Sciences, from where he graduated in 1996.

“In China in the 1990s, history and political education was influenced by political ideologies to some extent. Although there was a lot of political education content in the textbooks, our professors still inspired us to think and analyse historical figures and events independently.

“I still remember one literature professor. He was the son of a famous writer during the May 4th Movement [The anti-imperialist student protest against the Qing government in 1919]. In his first class, he showed us a famous Japanese movie called *Rashomon* [by Akira Kurosawa]. I still remember this movie very clearly because the professor asked us to analyse history from the perspectives of the different participants. Each participant had a different description [of the same event] through their points of view and they were completely different descriptions,” added Asst Prof Fang.

Tapping into this multi-perspective view of history, Asst Prof Fang opted to research

the barefoot doctors – rural farmers sent to bring health care to rural areas of China during the Cultural Revolution – for his PhD at the National University of Singapore after finishing his Masters in History at Nanjing University in 2002. He received his PhD in History from NUS in 2008, majoring in modern China and the history of science, technology and medicine in East Asia. During this time, he also studied and worked at the Needham Research Institute of the University of Cambridge from 2005 to 2006 and the Asia Research Institute of NUS in 2008. He was with the China Research Centre at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia, from 2009 to 2012, before joining HSS this year.

Asst Prof Fang's book *Barefoot Doctors and Western Medicine in China* was published by the University of Rochester Press in 2012. He is currently working on a new project titled *Global Cholera Pandemic, Population Mobility, and Transnational Politics in China during the 1960s*.

“Singapore has played a very important role in my academic and personal life. My daughter and son both have the character 欣 (xin) in their names which sounds the same phonetically as 新, the first character in the Chinese name of Singapore”





Science Publishes NTU POLICY PAPER ON SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE

Global Food Supply: Certify Sustainable Aquaculture? – a policy forum paper co-authored by Asst Prof Md Saidul Islam, Division of Sociology, has been published in the 6 September issue of *Science*, one of the world's leading journals.

The academic journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, *Science* is one of the world's most influential publications. One of only two scientific journals to cover the full range of scientific disciplines, its articles are routinely cited, garnering it an impact factor of 31.027 in 2012.

Explaining the paper's content and background, Asst Prof Saidul said that, "Nowadays most people in richer countries consume food from all over the globe. Because of the globalization of the agro-food system, agriculture systems in developing countries are increasingly linked to global commodity chains, generating complex tensions between the local and the global."

According to Asst Prof Saidul, the intense stress exerted on the aquaculture systems of third world nations has resulted in a wide range of environmental and social problems including water pollution, deforestation of mangrove forests, displacements of local residents and the loss of biodiversity and ecology.

"These pressing factors along with the goal of sustainable aquaculture motivated us to embark on this study," said Asst Prof Saidul.

Written in collaboration with some of the world's leading experts on the globalization of food and aquaculture – Simon R Bush, Benjamin Belton, Derek Hall, Peter Vandergeest, Francis J. Murray, Stefano Ponte, Peter Oosterveer, Arthur P.J. Mol, Maki Hatanaka, Froukje Kruijssen, David C. Little, and Rini Kusumawati – the idea for the paper stemmed from a project that Asst Prof Saidul participated in a few years ago.

"I was a principal researcher in a global project titled *Privatizing Environmental Governance: A Global Study of the Effects and Effectiveness of Environmental Certification for Farmed Shrimp and Salmon*. Peter Vandergeest was the principal investigator while Derek Hall was the Co-PI. This project actually led to us embarking on the current collaboration," said Asst Prof Saidul.

With global awareness now focused on aquaculture as a result of their paper, Asst Prof Saidul is keen to put this newfound attention to good use.

"The publication in *Science* will hopefully provide a ground-breaking foundation for all stakeholders involved in the industry to rethink current practices and move towards a more sustainable aquaculture. Our next target is to publish a larger paper in *Global Environmental Change* journal, and to work with industries for a truly sustainable global aquaculture."

Assoc Prof Murphy wins rave reviews with SHORT FICTION OF FLANN O'BRIEN

Associate Prof Neil Murphy's new scholarly edition of Flann O'Brien's short fiction, *The Short Fiction of Flann O'Brien*, has won rave reviews in leading publications like *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker* magazine, *The Irish Times* and numerous other outlets, including *The Parish Review: The Journal of the International Flann O'Brien Society*, and influential online sites such as *Publishweekly.com* since its publication on 15 August 2013 by the Dalkey Archive Press (Illinois).

It was a "book of the week" in *The Guardian* in September and was listed as one of the "Books to Watch out for" by *The New Yorker* magazine in August 2013. More recently, the novelist Julian Gough, reviewing the book in the *New York Times* (October 18th, 2013), claimed that the editors, Neil Murphy and Keith Hopper, "have done the study of Irish literature a great service," and that the collection of stories "has the great virtue of hauling O'Brien out from under the shadow of Joyce and Beckett." Hal Jensen, in the *Times Literary Supplement* (November 8th, 2013) also wrote of the

"enduring appeal of Flann O'Brien's short and exuberant fiction."

Assoc Prof Murphy, Associate Dean, HASS, and Head of the Division of English, HSS, collaborated with Dr Keith Hopper (who teaches at Kellogg College, Oxford, and is a research fellow with St Mary's University College, London) on *The Short Fiction of Flann O'Brien*. The book was officially launched in Rome during the annual International Flann O'Brien Society Conference (19-21 June 2013) in the house of the Irish ambassador, who sponsored the launch.

Flann O'Brien is the most well-known pseudonym of the postmodern Irish novelist, playwright and satirist Brian O'Nolan. A major figure of twentieth century Irish literature, O'Nolan was noted for his novels' bizarre humour and postmodernist metafiction.

According to Assoc Prof Murphy, the primary reason for publishing the collection of stories was to create a scholarly resource for researchers working on Irish writing, Postmodern fiction, and/or Flann O'Brien.

The book contains three stories – *When I Met William of Orange*, *I'm Telling You No Lie* and *After Hours* – that have been reprinted in this collection for the first time, an early previously uncollected draft version of *The Martyr's Crown* in the appendix of the book and all of O'Brien's most important stories like *John Duffy's Brother*, *Scenes in a Novel*, and *Donabate*.

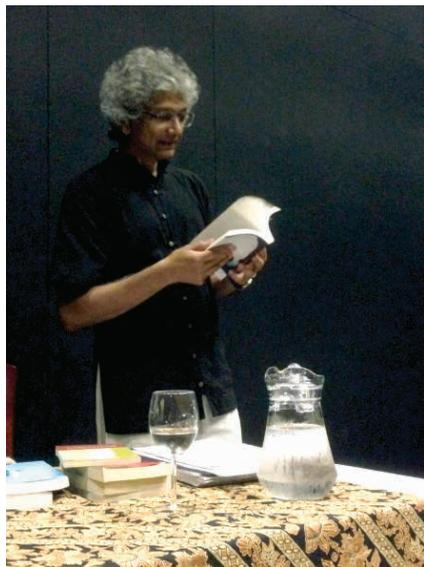
Five Irish language stories written by O'Brien have also been newly translated by Dr. Jack Fennell (University of Limerick) and included in the book in an attempt to make some of O'Brien's Irish language materials available in English. "We wanted to include the five Irish short stories because they offer an important insight into O'Brien's major works in English, which he was writing at the same time," said Prof Murphy.



ISLANDS OF IMAGINATION

A talk by Romesh Gunesequera

By Radhika Vyas



Aptly titled “Islands of Imagination,” NTU-NAC Writer-in-Residence and Professor of Creative Writing Romesh Gunesequera gave an insightful talk at the HSS Creative studio on 17 October, sharing with his audience the inspiration behind his works.

The audience was treated to a reading of the opening of Gunesequera’s latest novel, *The Prisoner of Paradise*. His lush descriptions of its setting – Mauritius – brought a bustling and exciting island scene to life.

Published earlier this year, Gunesequera set the novel in Mauritius because it reminded him of the time and people he met there in 1998. The book also deals with an issue that intrigues him – the British “transportation” of prisoners from India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) to Mauritius when they gained control over it.

Set in the 1850’s, the book is about Lucy Gladwell, an orphan who goes with her aunt from England to start a new life in Mauritius. Most of Gunesequera’s books are set on islands; hence the title of the talk.

Asked how closely bound he felt to history, Gunesequera replied, “I do want to get the facts right, but it’s important to create an effective visualization of things. The power of fiction relies on itself and it allows the release of imagination for authors. I wanted to be completely free [yet] refraining from being illogical or completely basing the visuals on imagination.”

He also divulged why servants seem to recur in his stories. “I’m really interested in relationships, particularly of power – for instance, Employer-employee, Master-servant, Father-son – and I guess the voices got into my head.”

He then provided some tips for budding writers who find it difficult to begin writing.

“Initially, I could never get a story to run beyond five pages, 1000 words would be the maximum before I would run out of steam,” he confessed. “I thought it was easier to begin as a poet, then write short stories and finally venture out into writing a novel.”

Things changed one day, however, when he began writing a story that was set in

Sri Lanka and it took off immediately. He realised that “music and images could also be incorporated” in his short stories just like in a poem. That story became his first novel, *Reef*. Shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1994, it is a coming-of-age story about a young servant boy, Triton, who lives to please his master’s palate using his talented cooking skills.

“For years I wanted to write and suddenly, I discovered that I had been writing all along. It’s all about just getting on with it. Slowly, you begin to get a sense of what a good sentence is. For me, in a good novel, like a poem, every word matters. Even a simple ‘and’ or ‘but’ if it ceased to exist, would create a hole in the story,” he added.

After an inspirational question and answer session, Gunesequera proceeded to read an excerpt from *Reef*. For those in attendance, Gunesequera’s reading and explanations were insightful and provocative, allowing everyone to learn from his passion for his craft, to carve out their own “success” stories.



PICKING BONES AND MEMORIES

By Radhika Vyas

NTU-NAC Writer-in-Residence Yong Shu Hoong shared insights from his forthcoming new book, *The Viewing Party*, at the HSS Creative Studio on Wednesday, 25 September, with the audience treated to some interesting revelations about the inspiration behind some of the pieces.

The book, which will be officially launched at the Singapore Writers Festival this November, features a short story at its core and includes prose poems and micro fiction. Yong, a computer scientist by training and also a former winner of the Singapore Literature Prize, revealed that the inspiration behind *The Viewing Party* came from the term, “listening party”, where fans of a band gather to hear tracks from a new album. He decided on the title of the book before writing most of the pieces in it.

Published by Ethos Books, *The Viewing Party* examines among other things death and cinema. *Dragonflies*, for instance, recounts Yong’s memories

of his late grandfather and provides glimpses into his childhood. Yong said that his first book *Isaac* (1997) was inspired by his stay in the US where he was studying and included a section about his grandmother. Following the publication of *Isaac Revisited* (2001), *dowhile* (2002), the Singapore-Literature-Prize-winning *Frottage* (2005), and *From Within the Marrow* (2010), he decided that *The Viewing Party* would feature a nine-part poem about his grandfather, with each part in tribute to one decade in the latter’s life.

Yong also read some of his 100-word flash fiction works such as *The Mercy Seeds* and *12 Minutes After the Water Boils* – the latter a humorous description of the art of egg-boiling.

He also revealed the inspiration behind his previous book, *From Within the Marrow*, which was published by Firstfruits Publications in November 2010.

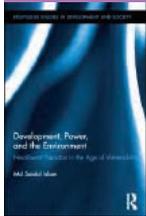
“This book has a reversal-in-time narrative style and was inspired from movies with a similar theme such as *Irreversible* and *Memento*,” said Yong. The book starts in the present day and rewinds up to the time of birth of the author in 1966.

Yong also spoke about his experiences travelling through Scandinavia which inspired the writing of particular poems. He added that memories of his school days at St. Gabriel’s Primary School and Raffles Institution stirred him to write on topics such as religion, faith and even physics. Speaking fondly of a former Physics teacher, he said, “We were a bunch of really notorious students and looking back, I can imagine what he must’ve gone through!”

Through his sharing session, Yong had given everyone a glimpse into the creative writing and self-making process – a rare treat amid the helter skelter that dominates our everyday lives.

BOOKS

Development, Power and the Environment: Neoliberal Paradox in the Age of Vulnerability



By Asst Prof Md Saidul Islam
(Division of Sociology)

Routledge, 2013

Unmasking the neoliberal paradox, this book provides a robust conceptual and theoretical synthesis of development, power and the environment. With seven case studies on global challenges such as under-development, food regime, climate change, dam building, identity politics, and security vulnerability, this book offers a new framework of a “double-risk” society for the Global South. The growth and dominance of transnational corporations, global financial and political institutions, and their monopolisation of the mass media are key factors shaping our global society today. Understanding the interplay of power in the discourse of development is a crucial matter at a time when our planet is in peril — both environmentally and socially. This book addresses this current crucial need.

云影天光：潇湘山水之画意与诗情 *Of Cloud Shadows and Celestial Light: Poems and Paintings of the Landscape of Xiao Xiang*



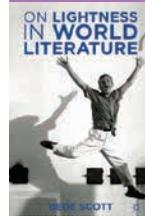
By Assoc Prof I Lo Fen
(Division of Chinese)

Li Ren Publishing, 2013

This book analyzes the poems and paintings of the landscape of “Xiao Xiang” through the literary and art works from 11th to 17th century. “Xiao Xiang” refers to the combination of “Xiao River” and “Xiang River”, as well as the Hu Nan province of China. Poems and paintings of the landscape of “Xiao Xiang” have been disseminated to Korea, Japan and Vietnam, and became a common spiritual landscape in East Asia.

「潇湘」意谓「清深的湘水」，又是「潇水」和「湘水」的合称，泛指中国湖南。「潇湘」山水诗画传布韩国、日本和越南，成为东亚共同的心灵风景。北宋「潇湘八景」画题，催生了「西湖十景」等各种地方景观，是东亚各国「八景文化」的源头。本书结合文学与美术作品，探讨「潇湘」山水诗画，期使读者游观云影天光，宛在潇湘画里行。

On Lightness in World Literature



By Asst Prof Bede Tregear Scott
(Division of English)

Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

Despite the ubiquity and cultural prestige of light literature, very little has been written on the exact definition of lightness in literature, the significance and key strategies by which lightness is achieved within literary discourse. This book explores the aesthetic quality of lightness in a diverse range of narratives, in each case focussing on a specific “type” of lightness — the refined triviality of Sei Shonagon’s *Pillow Book*, the ludic tendencies of Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis’s *Posthumous Memoirs of Brás Cubas*, or the “exhilarating and primitive vitality” of Voltaire’s *Candide*. By bringing together such disparate sources, it makes a strong case for the universality of lightness while also subjecting to close critical scrutiny its underlying structural features.

The Future of Singapore: Population, Society and the Nature of the State

By Asst Prof Md Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir
(Division of Sociology)

Routledge, 2014

Singapore, like many other advanced economies, has a low and declining birth-rate, with migrants becoming an increasing proportion of the overall population. This book examines this crucial development and assesses its likely impact on Singapore society, politics and the state. It shows how migration and the changing ethnic mix are causing increasing strains on housing, education and social welfare. It discusses the growing opposition to migration, and explores how the factors which have underpinned Singapore’s success over recent are at risk of being undermined by the population changes and their effects. It also compares Singapore’s position with East Asian countries like Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, which are also experiencing population changes with potentially far-reaching consequences.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Assessing Chinese Managerial Competencies from Different Perspectives

By Asst Prof Yu Wen Xuan (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme), Shang Hui Ping

Social Behaviour and Personality: an international journal, 2013
Vol 41, Issue 9, Pages 1469-1485

In this study, we investigated assessments of managerial competency in the context of Chinese local government public officials. Based on data collected from a 2008 survey conducted in China's Jiangsu Province and drawing on the competing values framework developed by Quinn and Rohrbaugh (1981, 1983), we examined discrepancies in the assessment of managerial competencies through the supervisors' self-assessments of their own competencies, subordinates' self-assessments of their own competencies, supervisors assessments of their subordinates' competencies, and subordinates' assessments of their supervisors' competencies. We offer both general and specific policy suggestions for improving the measurement of managerial competencies in China.

Labor Union Bargaining and Firm Organizational Structure

By Assoc Prof Yohanes Eko Riyanto (Division of Economics), with Aekapol Chongvilaivan and Jung Hur

Labour Economics, 2013
Vol 24, Issue 5, Pages 116-124

Bargaining sequences, though vital to the real-world business strategies, are often treated as exogenously given. This paper examines bargaining sequences in the setting where a downstream firm makes a merger decision with an upstream partner and faces a negotiation with a union. When the downstream firm's power in wage bargaining is weak, separation results and the input price bargaining proceeds prior to the wage bargaining. When the downstream firm's power in both negotiations is relatively equal, firms opt for separation and both negotiations keep on simultaneously. When the downstream firm's power in the wage negotiation is strong, the firms merge.

Tense, but in the mood: diachronic perspectives on the representation of time in Ao

By Asst Prof Alexander Robertson Coupe (Division of LMS)

Language and Linguistics, 2013
Vol 14, Issue 6, Pages 1105 – 1138

Ao demonstrates some typologically intriguing characteristics that shed light on the diachronic development of its tense marking morphology. This paper proposes that the language originally had a binary mood system contrasting a zero-marked realis with an overtly marked irrealis mood. It then extended the functions of two of its nominalizers to encoding temporal distinctions, and the old zero-marked realis mood became integrated into the newly grammaticalized system of temporal deixis as the zero-marked past tense category. The irrealis marker occurs in paradigmatic opposition with these newly grammaticalized tense markers, but continues to encode an independent category of mood that is not constrained to any particular temporal deictic setting. The paper draws on evidence from other languages to demonstrate that nominalizing morphology is a commonly exploited source for the grammaticalization of tense markers.

Understanding Public and Nonprofit Managers' Motivation through the Lens of Self-Determination Theory.

By Asst Prof Chen Chung An (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme) & Barry Bozeman

Public Management Review, 2013
Vol 15, Issue 4, Pages 584-607.

Contemporary public and nonprofit management research has disproportionately emphasized the importance of intrinsic motivation but failed to deliberately examine non-intrinsic motivation. According to self-determination theory (SDT), non-intrinsic motivation moves from identified motivation, introjected motivation, external motivation, to amotivation, depending on their disparate levels of self-determination. The authors empirically tested whether public managers differ from nonprofit managers on these intrinsic and non-intrinsic motivational styles. The findings show that public managers exhibit stronger service motivation, identified motivation, external motivation, and amotivation when compared to their nonprofit peers. Public managers' strong external motivation and amotivation also compromise their overall level of self-determination and lead to them being less motivated to work hard than their nonprofit counterparts.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

The associations of sociocultural attitudes towards appearance with body dissatisfaction and eating behaviors in Hong Kong adolescents

By Asst Prof Joyce Pang Shu Min
(Division of Psychology), Lai Ching Man,
Mak Kwok Kei, Shirley Fong Siu Ming,
Roger Ho Chun Man and Georgia S Guldán

Eating Behaviours, 2013
Vol 14, Issue 3, Pages 320 - 324

Western culture has great influences on body dissatisfaction and related eating behaviors in adolescents. This paper aims to assess the sociocultural influences on eating attitudes and motivations among Hong Kong Chinese adolescents. In 2007, 909 adolescents (mean age = 14.7 years, 55.3% boys) completed a survey with Stunkard's Figure Rating Scale (FRS), Motivation for Eating Scale (MFES), Eating Attitudes Test (EAT), Revised Restraint Scale (RRS), and Sociocultural Attitudes Towards Appearance Scale (SATAQ). In addition, their body mass index (BMI) was objectively measured. Our results indicated that Hong Kong adolescents, particularly girls exhibited a remarked level of body dissatisfaction, external, emotional, restrained and disordered eating behaviors. Hierarchical regression analyses indicated that age, sex and BMI were the most common contributing factors to individual eating styles.

SATAQ significantly accounted for an additional variance of body dissatisfaction(2%), physical eating(2%), external eating (1%), emotional eating (3%), restrained eating (5%), and disordered eating (5%).

The Vietnam Reforms, Change in Wage Inequality and the Role of the Minimum Wage

By Assoc Prof Christos Sakellariou
(Division of Economics) and Zheng Fang

The Economics of Transition, forthcoming, 2014

The Vietnam "renovation" reforms were implemented during the 1990s, but their full effect was only felt several years later. This paper presents evidence on the developments in real wage growth and inequality in Vietnam from 1998 to 2008. Using a variety of approaches (traditional measures of inequality, comparison of density functions, decomposition of the change in real wage by sector and a detailed decomposition of the change in the Gini), we present a consistent picture: contrary to what one might have expected, inequality declined sharply in the private sector (but not in the state sector). The paper links these developments to the policy of aggressively increasing the minimum wage over the past several years, differences in implementation by sector and variation in the over-time changes in minimum wage.