



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

HORIZONS

Sharing ideas, Bridging minds

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*The Humanities and
Social Sciences in*

**SINGAPORE'S
NATION-BUILDING**



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues, students, alumni, and friends,

From this edition onwards, our School's newsletter *Horizon* will be known as *Horizons*. Switching to the plural might seem a small step but it is an important one, for it is aimed at better representing this magazine's commitment to chronicling the numerous boundaries whose limits we here at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences constantly push.

Within these pages, we celebrate not just the achievements and milestones of our faculty and students but also the 50th year of Singapore's independence. Come 9 August, Singapore and Singaporeans will celebrate half a century's development and growth, as well as pay tribute to all the hard work put in by those who came before.

While HSS itself only celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, both the humanities and the social sciences have long histories in shaping this country. In our feature article, *Horizons* will pay tribute to those on our faculty who have contributed to the nation through their academic expertise and projects. We will also introduce the new generation of scholars at the helm of contemporary

research here in HSS, men and women who are addressing some of Singapore's current concerns.

HSS is also proud to have played host to the Third Congress of the Association of Asian World Historians (AAWH) in May, organized by both the AAWH and the History Programme here at NTU. The theme for the Congress was "Migration in Global History: People, Plants, Plagues, and Ports". Many distinguished scholars of history attended this remarkable gathering, among them Professor Haneda Masashi from the University of Tokyo, Professor Wang Gungwu from the National University of Singapore, and Professor Patrick Manning, the incoming President of the American Historical Association.

Horizons will also celebrate the most recent accomplishments of our faculty and students, among them the second prize claimed by first-year students from the Public Policy & Global Affairs Programme at the Singapore Public Policy Challenge 2015, the awarding of HASS International PhD Scholarship (HIPS), as well as playwright Dr Geraldine Song's upcoming play "Semoga Bahagia" (May You Find Happiness) in celebration of SG50.

In this issue, *Horizons* will also showcase the good work being done by the people behind the Communication Cube, a major initiative of LCC and HSS, in raising the communication standards, both written and oral, of students not just from HSS but from NTU as a whole.

Meanwhile, the School continues to climb rapidly up the global rankings,

thus helping to accelerate NTU's progress as a research centre of global repute. Our Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies is now ranked 24th in the latest QS World University Rankings. The Division of Psychology has moved up one spot to 44th globally. Our Philosophy Programme, despite its relative youth, now ranks top in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Other Divisions and Programmes are also growing at an impressive rate and improving on past rankings, despite fierce competition from the best in Asia and the world.

Indeed, there is much to celebrate this year. Even as HSS cherishes its accomplishments and marks its milestones as they come, the march towards excellence continues. The chief imperative of both the humanities and the social sciences has always been to deepen our understanding of human nature. Together, the humanities and the social sciences are foundational to our understanding of society, of culture, and of each other, as human beings. They help us to articulate, even interrogate, our humanity. It is through these two interconnected fields of study that we will better understand our past and aspire to a brighter future, both for ourselves and for our country. As scholars of the humanities and social sciences, doing our best in all our endeavours is perhaps the most meaningful gift that we at HSS can give to Singapore.

Liu Hong

Tan Kah Kee Endowed Professor of History and Asian Studies Chair, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

WELCOME TO HSS!

Division/Centre	Designation	Name	Commencement Date
Division of Chinese	Writer-in-Residence	Wong Koi Tet	2-Jan-2015
Division of Chinese	Visiting Professor	Zhu Chunshen	13-Jan-2015
Division of Chinese	Assistant Professor	Lim Ni Eng	1-Apr-2015
Division of English	Writer-in-Residence	Githa Hariharan	12-Jan-2015
History Programme	Assistant Professor	Scott Michael Anthony	5-Jan-2015
History Programme	Visiting Professor	Michael Arthur Aung-Thwin	15-May-2015
Language and Communication Centre	Assistant Professor	Werner Botha	23-Feb-2015
Division of Psychology	Visiting Professor	Adrian Raine	20-May-2015

HIPS: FORGING THE FUTURE OF HSS

BY HIDHIR RAZAK

Every year, the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) in NTU awards the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences International PhD Scholarship (HIPS) to outstanding students pursuing postgraduate studies. The scholarship aims to encourage Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents to pursue highly rewarding careers in academia at any of the Schools within the College. Recipients of the scholarship will receive funding and support for their PhD studies, after which they will join their respective Divisions/Programmes in tenure-track positions.

This year, HSS is proud to announce that the College has offered HIPS to 6 students highly passionate in their respective areas of study. They are Ms. Cheryl Julia Lee Wei Ling for the Division of English, Mr. Matthias Wong Meng Yan for the History Programme, Ms. Rachel Chen Siew Yoong for the

Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies, Ms. Boey Yong Ai Grace and Mr. Lim Chong Min for the Philosophy Programme, and Mr. Dylan Loh Ming Hui for the Public Policy & Global Affairs Programme.

The selection process is highly rigorous. Interested applicants are usually asked to speak to the respective Heads of Division/Programme to discuss their possible employment in the University. What follows after application are interviews by Division/Programme, College, and University panels. HIPS only accepts applicants who are either Singaporean Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents.

“The scholarship is competitive but I had a lot of support from the people involved in the selection process,” reflected Ms. Lee. “It’s a rigorous process but not a ‘challenge’, I think. The interviews aren’t meant to trip you

up. The school wants to enable you to do the things you want to do. But of course I say this all in retrospect; during the actual thing, I was a nervous wreck.”

After they accept the scholarship offers, the scholars are employed by the Division/Programmes in which they will be working as teaching assistants and will be granted paid leave to pursue their PhD studies. They will also be assigned mentors who will provide guidance during the course of their PhD studies as well as to keep them connected to their divisions back here in HSS. This year, all of the HSS recipients of HIPS will be pursuing their PhDs overseas; Ms. Chen at University of California, Berkeley, Ms. Boey at the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Lim at University College London, Ms. Lee at Durham University, as well as Mr. Loh and Mr. Wong, who will both be studying at the University of Cambridge.

TAN LARK SYE PROFESSORSHIP PUBLIC LECTURE: PROFESSOR JING TSU ON LANGUAGE IN SINOPHONE STUDIES

BY DR. VENUS VIANA

Professor Jing Tsu gave a speech titled “How Sinophone Studies Bent the Mother Tongue” on January 10th 2015 at the SPH News Centre Auditorium. The speech was one of the Tan Lark Sye Professorship in Chinese Language and Culture Public Lecture Series, an activity co-organized by the Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, NTU, the Association of Nanyang University Graduates, and Lianhe Zaobao, SPH. This lecture was chaired by Professor Liu Hong, the Chair of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NTU.

The invited speaker, Professor Jing Tsu, is a professor of Chinese Literature and Comparative Literature as well as the Chair of the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University. She is the author of *Failure, Nationalism, and Literature: The Making of Modern Chinese Identity, 1895-1937* (Stanford University Press, 2005), *Sound and Script in Chinese Diaspora* (Harvard University Press, 2010), *Global Chinese Literature: Critical Essays* (with David Der-wei Wang, Brill 2010) and *Science and Technology in Modern China, 1880s-1940s* (with Benjamin A. Elman, Brill 2014).

Professor Tsu spoke of her conception of Sinophone Studies, which includes Sinitic-language communities and their cultural, political and social expressions inside and outside China. She also traced the development of Sinophone Studies, which first emerged as an idea in the late 1990s. Then, Sinophone was studied together with a number of related disciplines including post-colonialism, post-socialism, and feminism, among others. Later, it was brought into a broader context of expanded studies of literature and culture outside the area of European languages, along the model of the French concept of the Francophone, or the French-speaking world. Since then, Sinophone Studies has enabled a multi-faceted reflection on

and criticism of Han Chinese centrism, US imperialism, Eurocentric concepts of scholarship, of colonialism in general, and of global capitalism. Professor Tsu also provided examples of Sinophone communities: overseas Chinese in Singapore, the Taiwan emigration, and, of course, Mainland China. She used these examples to illustrate the issues and challenges of the complex relationships between language, dialect and geography, as well as political discourse the field of Sinophone Studies is confronted with.

Within this framework, she presented constructive views on the future development of the study of language. In particular, she discussed the difficulties confronting teaching and research in Sinophone Studies in the English speaking world caused by internal Sinophone relational difficulties which are not immediately evident to native English speakers, even of Chinese extraction. This encompasses uniquely Chinese problems of the politics of language, of internal divisions of language within a host or colonial country, or even of China itself,

and how such divisions have affected the status of Chinese people.

Professor Tsu is a well-known academic, and her reputation was made tangible by the more than 300 people who gathered to hear her speak. Singapore academics attended and were accompanied by a large number of students. This public lecture series also draws an audience outside the academy and, in this case, the public was represented by a group of senior members of the Singaporean Chinese community.

The Tan Lark Sye Professorship in Chinese Language and Culture was established by the Association of Nanyang University Graduates in 1998 to commemorate the late Nantah (Nanyang University) founder, Mr. Tan Lark Sye, who donated both the land and the original cash endowment of Nanyang University. The mission of the Tan Lark Sye Professorship is to promote research in Chinese language and culture, and to present research findings to both the general public and the academic community in an annual public lecture.



SINGAPORE PUBLIC POLICY CHALLENGE 2015: PPGA STUDENTS CLINCH 2ND POSITION



BY R. DAMINISREE

A team of first-year students from the Public Policy & Global Affairs Programme (PPGA) clinched second place at the Singapore Public Policy Challenge 2015. The members of the team, comprising of Ms Ong Liyan, Ms R. Daminisree, Ms Tan Yutong, and Mr Teo Jun Year, were awarded certificates of achievement along with a cash prize of \$3400. These were

presented to them by the guest-of-honour, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean.

Organised by the Public Service Division, the Public Policy Challenge is an annual case study competition set within the context of Singapore and its national policies. This year, 80 teams from various tertiary institutions responded to

a case question on the types of employment opportunities that should be generated for Singaporeans in the future. Beyond just writing and submitting a policy paper, teams were required to present and defend their proposed policies in front of two panels of judges, each comprising of senior government officials, directors, and permanent

secretaries from various ministries. Other participants from rival teams were also allowed to challenge presenters by asking them questions.

In the end, the PPGA team's proposal stood out due to their emphasis on work-life balance, their desire for Singaporeans to follow their passions, and their attention to the need for a level playing field to better benefit Singaporeans from all walks of life.

The team attributed their burgeoning interest in Public Policy to the high-energy debates that form an integral part of their curriculum. "The experiences we gained in class were vital in the competition, where we had to tackle such a complex problem involving many stakeholders," shared Ms Tan. Assistant Professor Yu Wenxuan, their mentor for this competition, also played a key role in their preparations. "His guidance resulted in us proposing creative policies that really gave us an edge over the other teams. We were also taught to think critically, to generate alternatives, and to weigh options," the team shared.

The Public Policy and Global Affairs undergraduate programme in HSS will be welcoming only its third batch of undergraduates this August. Such an achievement at the national level this soon into its history is a testament to the hard work of both the students and the faculty in the division. It reflects positively on the quality of the courses it offers and the training it provides to potential policy makers of tomorrow.



HEAD OF ECONOMICS DIVISION ELECTED INTO THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

BY HIDHIR RAZAK

Professor Euston Quah, Head of the Economics Division in HSS, was elected as a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA) on the 23rd of January earlier this year before being formally inducted into the Academy in an inauguration ceremony on the 17th of March, 2015.

Reflecting on his election, Professor Quah humbly applauded other fellow elects, saying, "I was very surprised but extremely

happy that I was one of four Asians this year admitted to the European Academy of Science and Arts." Other new members from Asia include two Deputy Presidents from universities in China and Vietnam and the Jean Monet Chair Professor at the National Taiwan University.

The current President of both the Economics Society of Singapore and the Asian Law and Economics Association, Professor Quah views the election of four

Asian academics as a potential starting point for new research collaborations and partnership opportunities. "The European Academy is expanding its academic relationship and outreach to Asia and the Pacific, including members from the USA," Professor Quah shared. "As it is an influential body of scholars in Europe, there will be opportunities to link Asian scholars to them and promote Europe-Asia joint research in the near future."

CELEBRATING SG50: "SEMOGA BAHAGIA"

BY HIDHIR RAZAK



of a Malay Singaporean family from the turbulent period prior to Singapore's independence to the present day, before leaping into a future straight from Dr. Song's considerable imagination.

"As a Peranakan Chinese, I see the Malay culture as part of my own. It is a connection that I am proud of. But I'm not as connected to Malay culture as I would like to be. Here in Singapore, it's often taken for granted that Malay is the national language of our country. It is the

language of our national anthem and also the language that connects us to our neighbours in this region. I feel that mainstream Singaporean culture has lost its connection to its Malay roots. Writing this play was my attempt at addressing this," said Dr. Song.

Race and ethnicity remain sensitive topics of discussion among many Singaporeans but both are key themes "Semoga Bahagia" does not shy away from.

Scheduled to run at the Drama Centre Black Box from the 21st to the 23rd of August later this year, the play will follow four generations

"The play is not controversial or politically provocative. If anything, it intends to include all Singaporeans past, present, and future, and to promote togetherness and respect,

especially for the minorities in Singapore," explained Dr. Song. "It is the only way we can all move forward into the future: together."

Directed by Mr. Sirfan S. Sulaimi, the play is being produced by Mr. Desmond Moey and Serendip Productions. HSS students and alumni are also heavily involved both as cast and production crew. Among them are final year students from the Division of English, Ms. Khatijah Begum and Ms. Jasvinder Kaur Pannu. Ms. Begum will be acting while Ms. Pannu will be assistant to both the director and producer. Both were previously members of Epiphany, the English and Drama Society helmed mostly by students from the Division of English. Also involved are Amal Luqman, actor, and Benjamin Lee, the Marketing and Publicity Manager. Both are alumni from the Division of English. Other cast members include Shafiqah Efandi, Zaaki Nasir, Abdullah Zamzuri, Shana Yap, April Kong, Haky Darsuki, and Adiva Elena.

Singaporeans who grew up celebrating Children's Day every October should find the title of her play familiar; written by the very same Encik Zubir Said who wrote and composed Singapore's national anthem "Majulah Singapura", it is the title of a Malay song commonly sung every Children's Day to remind young Singaporeans the values of both tradition and hard work, all towards achieving future happiness for one's self and community.

"The title 'Semoga Bahagia' is also my wish for Singapore," said Dr. Song.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN ASIA: CURRICULA, CASE STUDIES AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING

BY DR MICHELLE Y. MERRILL

The Environment and Sustainability Research Cluster hosted another successful conference focused on education for sustainability at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, 5-6 February 2015. At this conference, the third in a series, Education for Sustainability (EfS) practitioners from Southeast Asia and neighbouring countries presented case studies of specific activities used in college and university courses, and larger programmatic, institutional and national considerations. Some EfS practitioners from outside Asia provided



valuable comparative insights. Participants had opportunities to discuss strategies for improving EfS practices, and plan for collaborative research projects to assess EfS implementation.

This conference was made possible thanks to funding support by NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences interdisciplinary workshop/conference scheme, and by the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF WORLD HISTORIANS 2015

BY HIDHIR RAZAK

From the 29th to the 31st of May earlier this year, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Building was the venue for the Third Congress of the Asian Association of World Historians (AAWH). Co-organized by the History Programme this year, the event saw around 250 scholars, academics, historians, and students from around the globe descend upon Number 14 Nanyang Drive.

For all three days, panels, speeches, and presentations were delivered, all revolving around the central theme, which was "Migration in Global History: People, Plants, Plagues, and Ports". A grand total of 43 panels were held at various locations around the HSS Building, covering a large range of topics touching upon numerous aspects of History, from pedagogy to epistemology, micro-historical narratives to world history, all sparking numerous debates and discussions.

Speaking about the founding of the AAWH during the opening ceremony



of the Congress, Professor Patrick Manning, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History at the University of Pittsburgh and a member of the AAWH Steering Committee, reflected on the growth of AAWH from its beginnings in 2008 to the setting up of the Asian Review of World History, the Association's official journal. Before declaring the start of the Congress, Professor Manning also paid tribute to the journal's first Chief Editor Professor Cho Ji-Hyung, a founding member of the AAWH, who passed away earlier in February due to heart disease.

History and Identity

The first keynote speaker, Professor Haneda Masashi from the University of Tokyo, was the first to touch on the conceptualization of "global" history and its distinction from "world" history. While speaking at the HSS Auditorium on the topic of Japanese perspectives on world history, he helped to elucidate the differences between the two.

"World history," he explained, "adopts the world as its ultimate space unit along a time span that comprehends all stages of human existence. Global history [in



contrast], adopts the interconnected world created by the process of globalization as its unit of analysis, which then provides the ultimate context for the analysis of any historical entity, phenomenon or process."

He then went on to the problems Japanese historians confront when attempting to both study and teach history in Japan, particularly the two kinds of histories he defined.

"It has been a habit from the 1960s in Japan in the area of History to study each civilization or region by stressing on their independence and particularity," he said. "This promoted a sense of Japanese national identity and history, one that is singular, juxtaposing ourselves against the gikoku (foreign countries). There is thus a tall and strong wall between Japan and the world."

Professor Haneda then suggested that this wall be broken down, but through a reconciliatory approach.

"Identity influences one's perception of history. Of course, we still need to have an identity. However, our sense of history and identity must be multi-layered."

“**WE NEED TO SHAPE MULTI-LAYERED IDENTITIES IN THE FACE OF THE GLOBALISED WORLD.**”

world and global history.

"We need to shape multi-layered identities in the face of the globalised world," Professor Masashi stressed.

The Globalised World: The Continental and the Maritime

The second keynote address was delivered by University Professor and Chairman of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Professor Wang Gungwu. Professor Wang spoke about the disproportionate attention given to recorded (written) history, which he believed is largely focused on continental events and therefore incomplete as it is largely incognizant of maritime movements that has shaped the world as we know it today. He supported his claim by thoroughly examining the continental and maritime histories of three civilizations that have played a gargantuan role in shaping the global power dynamics of today: the Mediterranean civilisation (Southern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa), the Indic civilisation (Southern Asia), and the Sinic civilisation (East Asia).

"If we look at the world now," said Professor Wang, "it is not a coincidence that the United States of America, the world's only remaining superpower, is, firstly, located on a very safe and secure continent free of wars and threats of land invasions, and,

secondly, commands the world's largest and most powerful navy."

Professor Wang Gungwu then brought the audience's attention to the present and future importance of reexamining history with an eye towards the maritime.

"Ninety percent of goods in international trade are still transported by sea," he said. "India and China are now aware of the need for navies. Due to China's economic growth, it has been able to channel resources and invest in one, resulting in the current tensions we now see in the South China Sea. This is partly because the status quo of the United States navy, seen as a stabilising force in this part of Asia, is now being challenged."

Before ending his keynote address, Professor Wang impressed upon the audience the need to confront the imbalance between the study of continental and maritime history.

"The global has become maritime," he said. "We need to review our view of global history."

The Third Congress of the Asian Association of World Historians was an important milestone for the young but rapidly growing History Programme here in HSS.



FLYING THE HSS FLAG AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BY JESSICA TAN LI WEN

What is the role of translation in producing a modern Chinese consciousness? How have translators situated China at the intersecting axes of the classical and the modern, the Sino and the Euro-centric? How did such processes change or develop during the nineteenth century? How did translators cope with the exigencies of knowledge transmission and the pressures exerted by linguistic power disparities?

Addressing these issues and riding on translation studies' increasing influence in China Studies matters, NTU and Harvard University recently co-organized an international workshop titled "China in Translation: Practice, History, and Theory." The workshop was held at Harvard University from 21st to 22nd November 2014.

The event aimed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue by bringing scholars together to examine the ways in which translation affects the ontological and epistemological formation of modern China. Organized into four thematic panels—Practice, Theory, History, and Transculturation—the papers delivered at the event addressed a range of issues in disciplines such as literature, history, science, philosophy, and cognitive neuroscience.

Overall, the workshop generated stimulating debate over the linguistic, historical and philosophical paradigms affecting the discursive production of Chinese modernity through translation since the late Qing period. The critical perspectives shared at the workshop allowed scholars to develop new insights into the dynamics of translation and transculturalism in a heteroglossic



China setting and within the greater Sinosphere arena.

The event was graced by the presence of leading scholars from prestigious institutions such as Harvard University, University College London, China Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai Fudan University, and National Taiwan University.

Eminent scholars who participated in the workshop included Professor Theo Hermans, Professor of Dutch and Comparative Literature at University College London; Professor Douglas Robinson, Dean of Arts at Hong Kong Baptist University; Professor David Wang Der-wei, Edward C. Henderson Professor of Chinese Literature at Harvard University; and Professor Mark C. Elliott, Mark Schwartz Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History at Harvard University.

The international event points to the growing connections between HSS and Harvard University. The Harvard organizers of the workshop, Professor Wang and Professor Elliot, are no strangers to HSS as both have visited

NTU as Tan Lark Sye Professors in Chinese Language and Culture in, respectively, 2012 and 2013; while the HSS organizer of the workshop, Associate Professor Uganda Kwan (Division of Chinese), is currently a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies.

Professor Alan Chan, Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, was present to deliver opening remarks with Professor Elliot on the first day. Other HSS faculty members who presented their research included Associate Professor Francis Bond (Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies), Assistant Professor Alice Chan (Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies), Assistant Professor Lisa Onaga (Division of History), Associate Professor Sim Wai Chew (Division of English), and Associate Professor Kwan.

The workshop was sponsored by the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences of NTU, the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies of Harvard University, and the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation.



The Division of Chinese in NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences celebrated its 10th anniversary last September with much fanfare. As one of the Division's pioneering batch of students, I take pride in being a member of a growing community of like-minded and passionate alumni, all of whom are contributing to the field of Chinese literature and language in Singapore through a variety of meaningful ways.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Chinese and a Minor in Translation from NTU in 2009. Despite the Division's short history, it was not a difficult decision for me to choose to enroll in their programme back in 2005. Other than fulfilling my wish of following in my parents' Nantah footsteps, I found the course offerings extremely diverse, engaging, and relevant to Singapore's historical and social context, particularly the courses on Southeast Asian Chinese studies, which provide students with the necessary grounding to engage with the socio-complexities and multi-faceted histories of the Chinese communities in the region.

Additionally, the Division has been very generous in providing students with opportunities for internships and international exchange programmes, as well as scholarships to recognize students' academic performance. Besides participating in an exchange programme to Shanghai Fudan University in 2006, I also received the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation Chinese Studies Scholarship and the Annie Tan (Mrs Wan Boo Sow) Award in 2008 and 2009 respectively. I

Chinese major students at NTU.

The Division is a close-knit community and the faculty is highly dedicated and supportive of students' endeavors. With encouragement from my NTU professors, I pursued a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Degree in Humanities (Literature) at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2011. Bridging my interest between Hong Kong and Malayan Sinophone literature, my thesis, which was titled "Renegotiating Diasporic Identities: The Sinophone Articulations of Liu Yichang", examined the literary representations of the cultures and changing identities of the Malayan Chinese community in Hong Kong author Liu Yichang's works written during the 1950s. The rigorous academic training at NTU prepared me for the demands of postgraduate studies and, more importantly, allowed me to find my niche in contributing a distinctively Singaporean angle to the study of Hong Kong literature.

Earlier last year, I was extremely fortunate to be offered a place in Harvard University's East Asian Languages and Civilizations Ph.D. programme under the supervision of Professor David Der-Wei Wang to work on modern Chinese literature. While studying and working with internationally renowned scholars have presented a whole new set of challenges, the experience thus far has been tremendously rewarding and intellectually stimulating. Over the course of my doctoral study, I hope to contribute to the diversification of East Asian literary studies in the United

HSS TO HARVARD: REFLECTIONS

BY JESSICA TAN LI WEN

am most thankful for the abundance of opportunities available to

States by providing a Southeast Asian perspective to my work. Expanding on the scope of my Master's thesis, I plan to examine the changing identities of Southeast Asian Sinophone communities through the study of their literature and cultures produced and circulated during the 20th century, especially during the independence movements of the 1950s and 1960s. Beyond just shedding light on this significant phase in Southeast Asian history, I believe that this project also stands to highlight critical questions regarding the articulation of national identity in multi-cultural societies—questions that are still highly relevant to contemporary Sinophone communities confronted by new waves of migration.

Having spent the last few years studying abroad, the old saying, that one is sometimes required to travel foreign routes in order to further understand one's own roots, resonates deeply with me—it is poignantly evocative of the similarly multi-locale experiences of many Sinophone writers. While interacting with other students from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Taiwan, I have also become more acutely aware of my identity as a Singaporean Chinese; despite sharing a common language, I find the intricate differences between us puzzling at times but always intriguing.

I am elated to have found a scholarly direction that reconciles my identity as a Singaporean Chinese with my calling as a researcher of modern Chinese literature. This academic path may be long and arduous, but I believe that the strong academic foundations that HSS has laid for its students and the continued support of my NTU professors and peers will continue to make this course that I have chosen a worthwhile journey.

SG
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SPECIAL: THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SINGAPORE'S NATION-BUILDING

BY HIDHIR RAZAK



Questions faced then about Singapore's economy, social cohesion, governance, along with similarly pressing concerns about identity, language, and nationhood, all had at its centre the society, the people, residing in the newly independent

nation. And it is in the field of the humanities and the social sciences that the study of people and their social products—language, culture, ideas, politics—takes place.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) was officially opened in the year 2004, thirteen years after Nanyang Technological University (NTU) was first inaugurated in 1991 as a teaching university to meet Singapore's need for skilled graduates. At the time of its birth, much of NTU's research and teaching revolved around the fields of engineering and science to support nascent technology-driven industries and sectors. With the setting up of HSS, the University has been able to broaden its sphere of research and education, consequently increasing its contribution to the development of Singapore.

Beyond just industrial growth, however, HSS has contributed to nation building through other ways. Many of the challenges and problems Singapore faced when it became independent were fundamentally linked to the humanities and the social sciences.



Many of these challenges still persist. In the face of the globalised world, many of them have evolved in complexity. But the solutions to such challenges are what HSS is invested in addressing and it has been doing so through three primary ways: education, research, and, by relying on the results of its research efforts, informing policy decisions.

Education: Meeting the Needs of Singapore's Future

HSS is charged with the education of more than 2800 undergraduates at any one time, each one of them enrolled in a direct honours programme in one of the nine disciplines offered by the School, namely: Chinese, Economics, English, History, Linguistics & Multilingual Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Public Policy & Global Affairs, and Sociology. These



fields are all, in one way or another, engaged with the study of people, culture, society, and how all three are intertwined. Though these programmes provide students with both in depth knowledge as well as exposure to a variety of fields within each subject, HSS contextualizes their education within Singapore and a rapidly rising Asia. While educating future graduates with a global outlook, HSS ensures that they remain rooted, enabling them to become both relevant to Singapore and key to keeping Singapore relevant in the future.

"I learnt to cover all the aspects with the relevant references to a topic," said Ms. Deborah Jeanne Wong, who graduated in 2014 with a BA (Honours) in English and a Minor in Creative Writing, and who is currently a journalist with Singapore Press Holdings. "I learnt to address issues with a measured, objective perspective."

In line with meeting the needs of tomorrow's working world, there are also those within HSS who are given the option of pursuing a Double Degree in Engineering and Economics. The double degree programme marries the art of translating science into technology for daily use with the study of resource scarcity and the contemporary globalized economy. Students can also opt to take on a second major from any of the

programmes within the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, meaning that it is possible for HSS students to graduate with another major from either the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information or the School of Art, Design, and Media. For students in the Division of Psychology, a second major in Biological Sciences is also available and the students in the Division of Economics have an option to take a second major in Business. The School also offers four minors for students who are interested in the fields of Creative Writing, Environmental and Urban Studies, Global Asia, and Translation. All these options serve to provide students with better preparation for their future career paths.

"My time with the Division of Chinese and HSS has definitely helped me get to where I am today," said Mr. Han Kian Yan, who graduated from the Division of Chinese last year with a BA (Honours) in Chinese and a Minor in Translation. "Originally, I was very worried about my job prospects. But companies nowadays are more interested in graduates with multi-faceted soft skills, who are good communicators, and who are able to think flexibly."

Beyond just educating undergraduates enrolled in its BA (Honours) programmes, HSS also offers a large variety of general electives to the NTU student body. HSS offers around 6000 places to General Education

Requirement (GER) courses each year in the form of courses such as "Mind Over Stress" offered by the Division of Psychology and "Logic and Critical Thinking" offered by the Philosophy Programme in HSS. These courses are designed to enrich and complement the skills and knowledge students are already obtaining from their respective programmes in NTU.

Research: Understanding What Was, What Is, and What Will Be

With almost 200 faculty members and 300 graduate students in HSS, research is one of the key pillars driving the School's growth. HSS is one of the fastest growing university faculties in the region and research output has exploded since its founding. Interdisciplinary Research Clusters have also been developed to promote interdisciplinarity by building on the School's comparative strengths. The five research themes that have emerged are Humanities, Science, and Society (HSS@HSS), Environment and Sustainability, Global Asia, Cognition and Neuroscience, as well as Literary and Cultural Studies. These encompass just some of the many research projects HSS faculty members have embarked on. Such research benefit not only the school and students but also Singapore and Singaporean society, both being the primary focus of many of the research projects helmed by HSS faculty.

One such project by the Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies (LMS) and the Language and Communication Centre (LCC) here in HSS culminated in the publishing of a special edition of the journal *World Englishes* titled "English in Multilingual Singapore". Edited by both Professor Kingsley Bolton, Head of the LCC, and Associate Professor Ng Bee Chin from LMS, the special issue of the journal published just last year in September fleshes out Singapore's rich and diverse linguistic heritage.



Assistant Professor Tan Ying Ying

One notable article particularly relevant to students, educators, and policy makers in Singapore is “English as a Mother Tongue in Singapore”, written by Assistant Professor Tan Ying Ying from the Division of Linguistics & Multilingual Studies. The article reports on a particular study pointing to the need for a reconceptualisation of English as a new mother tongue in Singapore, which then sets the need for a review of what the term “mother tongue” means. This research, local and specific in scope, is relevant to Singapore, its society, and its development. Moreover, it is also global in outlook, helping to refigure Singapore’s place in the region and the world, as well as enriching our understanding of the development of the English language itself.

Singapore society is also at the centre of work being done by Associate Professor Teo You Yenn from the



Associate Professor Teo You Yenn

Division of Sociology. Her recent work touches on Singapore family policy, social welfare, and local issues of fertility and childbearing, all topics pertinent to the ever-changing face of Singapore. She also contributes to the national discourse on social issues by contributing articles to media publications such as the Today Paper and The Straits Times.

They are just a few of the many scholars in HSS engaged with research that has Singapore situated at the centre. Drawing on Singapore’s position as a major point of intersection between cultures and ideas, many other researchers and scholars in HSS are leading the charge into areas that are not only interdisciplinary but also transcultural and transnational, meaning that their research products carry ramifications not just for Singapore but also its evolving position and role in the globalised world. Among the scholars foraging into new uncharted territory include Assistant Professor Kamaludeen Bin Mohamed Nasir from the Division of Sociology, Assistant Professor Samara Cahill from the Division of English, and Associate Professor Uganda Kwan from the Division of Chinese.

Policy: The Work of Generations

The results of research projects are most tangible when they affect policy decisions and society and many of the work done by HSS faculty have gone on to influence key aspects of Singapore. While HSS itself is only ten years old, the service provided to Singapore by its faculty extends far beyond just a decade’s worth.

One such faculty member who has dedicated his civil and academic career to Singapore is Emeritus Professor Lim Chong Yah, who has been called the face of Singapore economics. Only the third person to ever receive the title “Emeritus Professor” from NTU, Emeritus Professor Lim Chong Yah has had a long and illustrious career in both



Emeritus Professor Lim Chong Yah

the academic world and in the civil service sector. As the first Chair of the National Wages Council, he was instrumental in the setting up of the organization that continues to review income levels of Singaporeans every year. Under his watch, Singapore has survived a hyper-inflation crisis in the 70s as well as two economic recessions. His knowledge and expertise was also key in Singapore’s economic restructuring from a labour intensive, low-value added economy to a capital intensive, high-value added one.

Also belonging to Professor Lim Chong Yah’s generation is Visiting Professor Shirley Chew, who is attached with the Division of English at HSS. A graduate of the old University of Singapore, she was conferred the title of “Emeritus Professor” by Leeds University, where she was the Chair of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Literatures from 1993 to 2003. Still heavily engaged in research, she is founder and editor of *Moving Worlds: a Journal of Transcultural Writings*, co-published by Leeds University and NTU. Her research in colonial and postcolonial literature often intersects with the relationship between the local and the global, between tradition and modernity, and how increasingly porous borders are affecting notions of citizenship and belonging—all issues policy decision makers are heavily invested in.

Research with Singapore at the centre has also been carried out by the next generation of scholars, such as Professor Euston Quah from the Division of Economics and Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon. Professor Euston Quah, who chairs multiple academic associations and societies in Singapore and Asia, is one of Singapore’s most cited economists, and whose work on environmental cost-benefit analysis has been instrumental in Singapore’s approach to environmental issues, such as Southeast Asia’s haze problem and climate change.

On the other hand, Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon from the Division of Sociology is actively engaged in research projects pertaining to the state of mental health in Singapore. With the Institute of Mental Health, Associate Professor Kwok is engaged with a study titled “Mind Matters: A Study of Mental Health Literacy”, a project that aims to inform policy and laws aiming to address and improve the ways mental health is viewed and treated in Singapore.



Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon

So much of research done by HSS faculty has gone on to impact public policy and many continue to engage with civil discourse regarding pertinent issues of today. Those listed are just a few among many being carried out in cooperation with the private sector and public institutions. Younger faculty members, such as Assistant Professor Tan Ying Ying and Assistant Professor Kamaludeen Bin Mohamed Nasir, are following close behind, treading the footsteps of their predecessors. Moreover, young budding academics from across all the disciplines are being nurtured through an extensive and

generous array of research scholarships and assistantships, among them the NTU Research Scholarship and the Nanyang President’s Graduate Scholarship.

The Humanities and the Social Sciences: Into Tomorrow

The humanities and the social sciences have had long and illustrious histories in Singapore. As Singapore marks its 50th anniversary this year, it also reflects on its stability, growth, and social cohesion, none of which would have been possible without both the humanities and the social sciences as keystones of its foundations. HSS inherits this proud tradition and honours it by serving the nation wherever and whenever it can. It will continue to do so, leading the way into paths yet uncharted, into territories yet to be explored. The world is continuously changing and Singapore has done well to continuously evolve with it. To survive, it must continue to do so. Having helped Singapore achieve what it has now, HSS remains committed, ready to bridge the Singapore of today with the Singapore of tomorrow.



BACK TO BASICS: THE COMMUNICATION CUBE

BY HIDHIR RAZAK



First mooted by Professor Alan Chan, Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences in NTU, HSS's Communication Cube has been helping NTU undergraduates with their oral and written communication skills since it was first set up in September 2012. Under the watch of the Head of the Language and Communication Centre (LCC) Professor Kingsley Bolton and LCC lecturer Mr. Roger Winder, the Communication Cube has since expanded its operations.

Among the new initiatives already rolled out, the Communication Cube now offers coaching services to postgraduate students from the second semester of the 2014/2015 academic year. Previously, coaching services were primarily aimed at helping undergraduate students.

"Postgraduate students tend to have more at stake," shared Ms. Candice Balete, a postgraduate student at the Division of English who has been a Communication Coach since her

final year as an undergraduate at HSS. "I've seen postgraduate students bring in their CVs and personal statements [for evaluation] that they will use to apply for actual grants or scholarships."

From August 2015 onwards, with the opening of the new Learning Hub at the South Spine, the Communication Cube will have at its disposal twenty-two consultation cubicles, one meeting space equipped with a projector, as well as five discussion spaces, three of which will be equipped with their own projectors. This contrasts sharply with the three discussion rooms it has been using from 2012.

The upgrade in the facilities allocated to the Communication Cube is a reflection of number of students seeking help

from the Communication Cube. Between 2012 and 2013, the Cube saw around 500 bookings made in each semester. That number has since gone up to almost 900. The students who sought sessions with the coaches required help with a range of school related work. 34.5% of those who booked sessions required help with their written reports while others wanted feedback on their essays, presentations, even Final Year Projects.



"Grammar, word choice, paragraphing, and sentence structure are areas that can be improved," said Ms. Kuah Ting Ting, another Communication Coach, when speaking about the issues NTU students commonly have with their written work. "The best pieces of work are those that offer deep insight in clear, simple language."

By emphasising on the basics such as the ones Ms. Kuah identified, the Communication Cube helps NTU students to become better communicators who will be better equipped to face future challenges.

A PASSION FOR BILINGUALISM

BY SARAH ALMODIEL

Pursuing an academic career in the Division of Chinese was something that seemed natural to Assistant Professor Lim Ni Eng. He spent his younger years studying in schools boasting histories deeply rooted in Chinese language and culture, namely Catholic High School (Primary) and Hwa Chong Institution. He then enrolled in the Chinese Studies Department at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where he earned his bachelor and master degrees. Among the variety of courses offered by his department then, ranging from courses on Chinese Philosophy to Chinese History, Assistant Professor Lim found himself excelling in the field of linguistics, describing his mind as more analytical and logic driven, lending itself better to the study of linguistics. This led him to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he received his PhD in Applied Linguistics.

Before leaving for UCLA, Assistant Professor Lim taught Mandarin at several secondary schools in Singapore and continued to teach while he was in the United States. When asked if bringing the language to more people is a passion of his—and it is—he explained that he is more passionate about bilingualism, something that he is intimate with, having grown up speaking English to his mother and Mandarin to his father.

"Being bilingual trains your mind to be flexible," he shared. "You speak one language, you think one way. You speak two languages, you think two different ways. And I think that's very important."

While he is now at the Division of Chinese here in HSS, at his core, Assistant Professor Lim considers himself a linguist, having been part of the Division of Linguistics & Multilingual



Studies for a time. He explained further that his study of linguistics does not limit him to any one specific language. It is his love for the Chinese language that brought him into his current Division. His research interests follow this pattern; rooted in linguistics, but spurred on by his interest in Chinese language and culture. These include Conversation Analysis and Interactional Linguistics, which looks at how people actually talk, rather than the language itself.

"We like to think of language as a self-enclosed kind of entity on its own where you either have language or you don't. But to really understand language, you need to have that other person in front of you, to look at how you use language in your interactions, because it's always recipient designed," he explained. "It's not just about your words, but about what you are trying to deliver through your words."

“
...TO REALLY UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE, YOU NEED TO HAVE THAT OTHER PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU, TO LOOK AT HOW YOU USE LANGUAGE IN YOUR INTERACTIONS...”

Assistant Professor Lim also has interests outside of academia. Having played the board game Go, also known as Weiqi, competitively when he was younger, he hopes to return to that one day, perhaps when he is not busy spending most of his free time with his 5-year-old daughter.

OF MICE AND MEN

BY SARAH ALMODIEL

Rats piqued his interest in the field of psychology. Or rather, a neuro-scientific study of rats did. While Assistant Professor Bobby Cheon has always had a lay interest in the subject, he credited the rats specifically for igniting his passion in psychology.

As an undergraduate at the University of Virginia, one of the experiments he did involved comparing spatial and orienting behaviors of rats before and after surgically disrupting a section of their brain tissue.

“It was a profoundly powerful demonstration of the brain-behavior link that had only been described to me in textbooks previously,” he said, “and I was hungry for more hands-on experience examining the relationship between the brain and behavior.”

Pursuing psychology as his main field of research then sprouted a deep-seated connection to the area of Cultural Influence that he attributed

to his bicultural experience as a Korean growing up in the United States, describing culture’s influence on people’s values, beliefs and social behaviors as being very salient and engaging to him. Boosted by his love for travelling and for gaining exposure to new cultures, he wanted to compare social behaviors between people of different cultural backgrounds. This led to him specialize in Social/Cultural Psychology and Cultural Neuroscience during his doctoral studies at Northwestern University.

It was this interest in cross-cultural social psychology that brought him to Singapore, where he did his postdoctoral research fellowship at Nanyang Business School’s Culture Science Institute before joining NTU’s Division of Psychology. He was involved in multiple studies investigating how culture influences the way people think about and treat members of their own groups compared to members of a different group.

“One set of studies focused on how people react to the mixing of cultures, as opposed to the mere co-existence of different cultures without mixing. Research during my post-doctorate at NBS found that compared to simply viewing images representing two cultures together, people are more likely to perceive examples of cultural mixing as a form of contamination, especially if they strongly identify with one of the cultures being mixed. Follow-up research I’ll be working on seeks to



... THIS RESEARCH IS TO ALSO PROVIDE INSIGHTS FOR PREDICTING HOW CULTURES MAY CHANGE IN THE FUTURE AS THEY FACE THREATS OR ACHIEVE SECURITY. ”

examine whether the brain responds to examples of cultural mixing in a manner similar to examples of physical contamination, and also identify situations in which people may have more favorable attitudes towards the mixing of cultures.”

Continuing his interest in Cultural Influence, his current research involves studying threats from the environment as an origin for how cultural diversity in social values and behaviors arise. He explained that the environment poses many threats for individuals and as human beings, cooperative group-living is a way in which we protect ourselves from such challenges.

“One hypothesis that emerges is that environments with more intense threats may produce groups that are more closely-knit, cooperative, and more biased in prioritizing the welfare of fellow group members relative to outsiders. I’m experimentally testing these ideas by simulating collective threats in the lab,” he said. “My goal for this research is to also provide insights for predicting how cultures may change in the future as they face threats or achieve security.”

When not working, Assistant Professor Cheon devotes most of his time to his family, including his one year-old daughter. He also enjoys running, hiking, reading and playing board-games, and is always on the lookout for new games to play.



REBEL WITH A CAUSE: NTU-NAC WRITER IN RESIDENCE GITHA HARIHARAN SPEAKS OUT FOR THE MARGINALISED AND OPPRESSED

BY STEPHANIE YE



BUT NOT ALL REBELLIONS HAVE TO TAKE PLACE ON A BIG STAGE. ”

“It’s not Incredible India, as the tourist brochures would have it, but Troublesome India,” said writer Githa Hariharan at one point during her lunchtime reading at HSS Seminar Room 9.

The crowd of students, staff, and visitors laughed appreciatively as she raised an eyebrow. Such cheeky, anti-establishment humour is typical of Ms. Hariharan, the NTU-NAC Writer-in-Residence (International) for the Division of English at HSS from January to July this year.

The 60-year-old writer has never been one to meekly accept the status quo. Born in Coimbatore and educated in Mumbai, Manila, and Fairfield, Connecticut, she worked in the fields of journalism in New York and publishing in India before writing her debut novel *The Thousand Faces Of Night*. It addresses issues faced by women in modern-day India and won the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for best first book in 1993.

The New Delhi-based author has since written four other novels, two collections of short stories, and edited several anthologies, all of which

examine power politics in one form or another. For example, her latest work, *Almost Home*, is a collection of essays inspired by the various cities she has visited, particularly those with a history of colonialism and inequality.

As Nobel Literature Prize laureate J.M. Coetzee writes in the blurb he supplied for the collection, Ms. Hariharan “gives a voice to urban people from all over the world—Kashmir, Palestine, Delhi—trying to live with basic human dignity under circumstances of dire repression or crushing poverty.”

Her fight against injustice extends beyond fiction into the real world. In 1995, the mother of two filed a writ petition in the Indian Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act (1956), which states that the father is the guardian of a minor child in a Hindu family.

Ms. Hariharan, who is separated, ran into this law when she tried to buy Reserve Bank of India bonds for her then 11-year-old son, and was refused as she was not considered his guardian. She challenged the law as discriminatory against women and,

in 1999, the court ruled in her favour. Although the law itself has not been changed, her case set a precedent which has since been referenced in other cases involving parental rights.

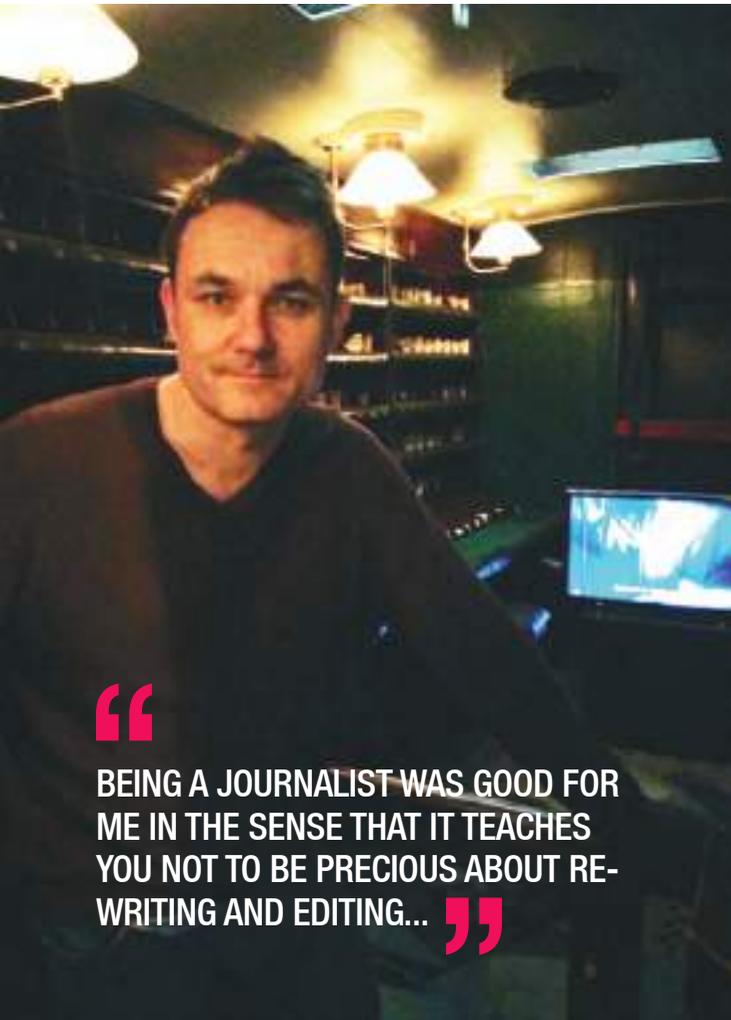
But not all rebellions have to take place on a big stage. During her reading on March 17, Ms Hariharan shared *The Remains of the Feast*, a short story from her 1993 collection *The Art of Dying*.

“I know there’s nothing more annoying than a writer who gives an introduction to their story but I want to be generous to those who have lived a life of happiness and innocence and don’t know what caste is,” she said in a preamble to her funny, moving story centred on a Brahmin widow who has lived an ascetic life in accordance with cultural tradition. However, as she is dying of cancer, the widow starts to demand simple pleasures long taboo to her, from egg pastries baked by non-Hindus to Coca-Cola to brandy-soaked fruitcake.

Likewise, bit by bit, story by story, Ms. Hariharan is breaking down societal prejudices and challenging restrictions, all while making sure to have some fun along the way.

A CURIOSITY FOR THE WORLD

BY SARAH ALMODIEL



“BEING A JOURNALIST WAS GOOD FOR ME IN THE SENSE THAT IT TEACHES YOU NOT TO BE PRECIOUS ABOUT RE-WRITING AND EDITING...”

Through his lessons in school in the United Kingdom, Assistant Professor Scott Michael Anthony used to think history was “a little bit of a trudge”. This impression changed when he came across the work of British historian Patrick Wright, who left a big impression on him. “He produces these incredibly learned sort of micro-histories that pull all kinds of imaginative strangeness and depth out of apparently unpromising topics.”

Intrigued about the idea of being paid to be curious about the world and inspired by his grandmother who worked at a newspaper, Assistant Professor

Anthony then worked for a time as a journalist. He worked at Future Publishing—a start-up that focused on videogames and new technologies—before moving on to The Guardian and The Times. “Being a journalist was good for me in the sense that it teaches you not to be precious about re-writing and editing, and because there is no time to prevaricate,” he added.

Hoping to encourage a similar curiosity for the world in others, he developed various events, exhibitions, and media campaigns for organizations such as the Science Museum, the British Film Institute and British Airways. “The ambition has always been (and remains) to bring the work of enthusiasts, researchers and practitioners together and apply it in creative, productive and unpredictable ways.”

After entering academia, Asst Prof Anthony worked at the universities of Manchester, Warwick, and Cambridge. He played an integral role in setting up the Public History Division at the latter, describing it as “a vehicle for introducing students to other ways of thinking about history—that could be forms, subjects or methods.” At HSS, the Public History course is still in the midst of being set up but his vision for the course is one that concentrates on applied history that goes beyond outreach or employability.

While reading academic literature produced on the development of Public Relations in the UK, Assistant Professor Anthony was unconvinced by many of the theories and assumptions he came across, particularly that of the founding myth of Public Relations that was traced back to Edward Bernays. This dissatisfaction led to his first book, which told another story of the development of Public Relations.

“It is related to the wider trend of liberal intervention that you get across the political and economic sphere in the West in the 1930s, and its ethos was about researching non-textual modes of communication, and about finding ways to circumnavigate the distortions of Fascism and the Western Press Barons.”

Continuing his interest in the history of visual interpersonal communication, Assistant Professor Anthony is now working a book focused on the ways knowledge has been visualized since the turn of the twentieth century.

BOOKS



Chinese Metaphysics and its Problems

By Associate Professor Li Chenyang (Philosophy Programme) and Professor Franklin

Thomas Perkins Jr (DePaul University, Chicago)
Cambridge University Press, April 2015

Chinese Metaphysics and its Problems (Cambridge University Press, 2015), edited by Chenyang Li and Franklin Perkins of the Philosophy Group, grew out of an NTU conference in 2013, “Conceptions of Reality: Metaphysics and Its Alternatives in Chinese Thought.” The conference was supported by the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and was co-organized with Alan K.L. Chan, Dean of HASS. With contributions from leading scholars in the field, this volume is the first English-language anthology devoted to Chinese metaphysics. The essays explore the key themes of Chinese philosophy, from pre-Qin to modern times, starting with important concepts such as yin-yang and qi and taking the reader through the major periods in Chinese thought - from the Classical period, through Chinese Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism, into the twentieth-century. It provides a valuable reference point for the study of Chinese philosophy while also promoting an expansive conception of metaphysics that is able to address and incorporate metaphysical questions and insights developed by cultures around the world.



Postgenomics: Perspectives on Biology after the Genome

By Assistant Professor Hallam Stevens (History Programme) and Associate Professor Sarah S. Richardson

(Harvard University)
Duke University Press, 2015

Ten years after the Human Genome Project's completion the life sciences stand in a moment of uncertainty, transition, and contestation. The postgenomic era has seen rapid shifts in research methodology, funding, scientific labor, and disciplinary structures. Postgenomics is transforming our understanding of disease and health, our environment, and the categories of race, class, and gender. At the same time, the gene retains its centrality and power in biological and popular discourse. The contributors to *Postgenomics* analyze these ruptures and continuities and place them in historical, social, and political context. Postgenomics, they argue, forces a rethinking of the genome itself, and opens new territory for conversations between the social sciences, humanities, and life sciences.



《海外华侨华人与中国的公共外交: 政策机制、实证分析、全球比较》 Diasporic Chinese and China's Public Diplomacy: Policy Mechanisms, Case Analyses, Global Comparisons.

By Professor Liu Hong (History Programme). Guangzhou: Jinan University Press, 2015.

As the first book-length study pertaining to the complex relationship between diasporic Chinese and China's public diplomacy, this book intends to contribute to theoretical and policy debates about a rising China and its global presence by focusing on the roles of diasporic Chinese, who are numbered more than 50 million at the turn of the 21st century. Based upon a wide range of data in the Chinese, English, Korean, and Indonesian language materials and multi-sited fieldworks, the author and his research team examine three interconnected themes: policy mechanisms behind China's changing policies toward the

diaspora since 1978; case analyses on diverse patterns of responses of ethnic Chinese communities in Southeast Asia, Australia and elsewhere towards China's public diplomacy initiatives; and a comparative exploration of Korea's and Russia's public diplomacy toward diasporas and China. The book also includes a chapter looking at the roles of local government (Guangdong province) in China's diaspora public diplomacy engagement strategies.



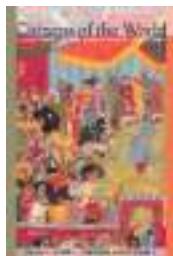
Performing the Nation in Global Korea: Transnational Theatre

By Assistant Professor Lee Hyunjung (Division of English)
Palgrave Macmillan, 2015

By illuminating the complex interconnections between the performing body and individual and collective identities, this book reveals contemporary South Korean performance as social and political practice through the workings of theatre-making within a wide range of historical, national, and transnational contexts. The selected theatre productions—*The Last Empress the Musical*, *Nanta*, *Seoul Line 1*, Korean Shakespeare plays, and The Korean National Ballet Company's *Prince Hodong*—illustrate how various performances of Korean-ness conspire with, contradict, and negotiate Korean cultural nationalism as well as disparate entities of Western cultural hegemony. Hyunjung Lee extrapolates how the debates on the cultural status of South Korea, along with the incessant task of representing the nation, are and have always been embedded within the questions of what the country's national identity should be and, thus, what it should look like.

Citizens of the World: Adapting in the Eighteenth Century

By Professor Kevin L. Cope (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge) and Assistant Professor Samara Anne Cahill (Division of English)



Bucknell University Press (as part of the Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850 series), 2015

Encounters, whether first or subsequent

or whether cultural, economic, or ideological, mark the beginning of an acquaintance and measure both similarities and differences. What happens after the first encounter is the topic of *Citizens of the World: Adapting in the Eighteenth Century*. Embarking from an awareness of the mutuality of foreignness, this volume considers adaptation in the Enlightenment and the process of reciprocal adjustment that created this enthusiastically outgoing era internationally. The eight essays examine four varieties of adaptation: the interdisciplinary, in which expanding realms of knowledge collide but cooperate; the transnational, in which longstanding traditions merge and hybridize; the gendered, in which personal identity and public pursuits negotiate; and the general, in which the adapting mentality energizes unprecedented efforts at ingenious recombination. Whether in pottery or aboard imagined airships, the authors demonstrate that adaptation all but defines a century in which the “all but” implies perpetual adjustment to everything else.

BOOK CHAPTER

Transnational Entrepreneurship and Immigrant Integration: New Chinese Immigrants in Singapore and the United States

2015

By Professor Zhou Min (Division of Sociology) and Professor Liu Hong (History Programme)

Jody Agius Vallejo (ed.) *Immigration and Work* (Research in the Sociology of Work, Volume 27) Emerald Group Publishing Limited, pp.169 – 201

The article aims to examine the causes of the divergent patterns

of contemporary transnational engagement with China among new Chinese immigrants and the effect of transnational entrepreneurship on migrants' integration into their host societies. It is based on a multi-sited ethnographic study conducted between 2008 and 2013 in Singapore, the United States, and China. The study finds that transnational entrepreneurship has promoted deeper localization rather than deterritorialization and contributed to strengthening the economic base of the existing ethnic enclave, which in turn offers an effective alternative path for migrants' integration in their host societies. The author suggest that, when transnational entrepreneurship is linked to the existing ethnic social structure in which a particular identity is formed, the effect on the group becomes highly significant.

JOURNALS



Nature and Culture

Volume 10, Number 1
Spring 2015

By Professor Liu Hong (History Programme) and Assistant Professor Els van Dongen (History Programme)

Special Issue on Reconsidering Sustainability: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Asia. The main themes in the articles of this special issue revolve around the three pillars of sustainability (economic, social, and ecological) and include urbanization, disaster vulnerability, resource consumption, and land use. The themes are approached from different levels of agency and structure, including intellectual debates, government responses, social and political structures, economic models, and community practices. The approach is highly interdisciplinary: contributors are from the fields of architecture and urban planning, environmental studies, history, economics, sociology, area studies, and development studies. The articles engage with the relation between nature and society in the form of how both

specific Asian nation-states and cities deal with sustainability challenges, but also in the form of how the question of sustainability relates to Asia as a region, thereby including both developing and developed countries. The articles include the following:

- *Introduction: Sustainability and Asia* by Els van Dongen and Hong Liu
- *Territorial Prospective Visions for Japan's High Growth: The Role of Local Urban Development* by Andrea Flores Urushima
- *Controlling Nature, Disciplining Human Nature: Floods in Singapore and Metro Manila, 1945–1980s* by Kah Seng Loh and Michael D. Pante
- *When “Nature” Strikes: A Sociology of Climate Change and Disaster Vulnerabilities in Asia* by Md Saidul Islam and Si Hui Lim
- *Sustainability in Asian Countries: Perspectives from Economics* by Youngho Chang, Jiasheng Tan, and Letian Chen
- *Legal Pluralism, Forest Conservation, and Indigenous Capitalists: The Case of the Kalanguya in Tinoc, the Philippines* by Adrian Albano, Els van Dongen, and Shinya Takeda



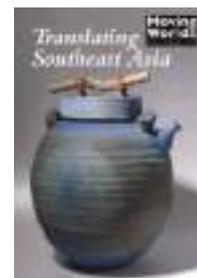
World Englishes (Special Issue: English In Multilingual Singapore)

Volume 33, Issue 3,
Pages 307–422
September 2014

By Professor Kingsley Bolton (Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies) and Associate Professor Ng Bee Chin (Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies)

Faculty from the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies published a special issue of the journal *World Englishes* (Wiley-Blackwell) on the theme of ‘English in multilingual Singapore’ in September 2014. The issue comprises a number of research articles on Singapore’s linguistic heritage and contemporary languages by faculty from HSS and affiliated researchers. These articles include the following:

- *The dynamics of multilingualism in contemporary Singapore* by Kingsley Bolton and Bee Chin Ng
- *English as a ‘mother tongue’ in Singapore* by Ying-Ying Tan
- *Studying the linguistic ecology of Singapore: A comparison of college and university students* by Peter Siemund, Monika Edith Schulz and Martin Schweinberger
- *Young people, Malay and English in multilingual Singapore* by Euvin Loong Jin Chong and Mark F. Seilhamer
- *Singapore Colloquial English: Issues of prestige and identity* by Francesco Cavallaro, Bee Chin Ng and Mark Fifer Seilhamer
- *Singlish can and speech accommodation in Singapore* by Bee Chin Ng, Francesco Cavallaro and Daphne Shu Ping Koh



New from Moving Worlds: A Journal of Transcultural Writings

Volume 15,
Issue 1
2015

By Visiting

Professor Shirley Chew (Division of English)

With *Moving Worlds* acquiring a second home in Singapore in 2011, ‘region’ which had meant Yorkshire when the journal was based solely in Leeds, now includes Southeast Asia, an untidy outcrop of islands and peninsulas that are at once places of historical and cultural antiquity and modern nation-states astir with the often aggressive business of progress and development. Against the turmoil of public events, this issue explores some invigorating examples of crosscultural creativity in the region. Taking ‘translation’ to denote, in the broad sense of the word, ‘carrying across’, as well as linguistic conversion, it foregrounds a selection of works that are telling representatives of our time,

being innovative and experimental, questioning in nature, and wide-ranging in its inquiries. It is especially proud to include among its contents an interview with award-winning Master Potter Iskandar Jalil, and creative work by five students from the Division of English’s Creative Writing Programme.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Translation in Communist China: Using ‘the First National Conference of Translation’ as an Example”

2014

By Dr Cui Feng (Division of Chinese)

Man vs. Machine? The Future of Translators, Interpreters and Terminologists: Proceedings of the XXth FIT World Congress, Berlin (volume 2), edited by Wolfram Baur, Brigitte Eichner, Sylvia Kalina, Norma Keßler, Felix Mayer, Jeannette Ørsted. Berlin: BDÜ Fachverlag, 2014, 730–737

China was in the firm grip of the communist ideology from the founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on October 1, 1949 to the eve of the Cultural Revolution in 1966. With the communist ideology looming large in the background, literary translation during this period was greatly influenced by political factors such as China’s alliance with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union), its friendship with communist countries in Eastern European, its antagonism against the Western capitalist camp, and its literary policy stipulating that literature should shape and reflect the revolutionary spirit. How did the unique translation phenomenon in China occur? Why did the Communist Party of China (CPC) hurry to systematize translation activities and set a unified translation standard as soon as the PRC was founded? The paper seeks to answer these questions through analysing the 1951 First National Conference of Translation, an influential event in the modern history of translation in China in the 1950s and 1960s.

Homeland-Seeking and Cultural Identity: Exploring Chia Joo Ming’s Writings on Diaspora 家園尋根與文化認同：新华作家谢裕民的离散书写

2014

By Assistant Professor Zhang Songjian (Division of Chinese)

Tsing Hua Journal of Chinese Literature, December, Number 12, 425-467.

Chia Joo Ming, one of leading Chinese Singaporean writers, depicts diaspora as a common cultural phenomenon in human society. This article explores how Chia represents diaspora in his (non-) fictional writings of the past several decades, focusing on his critical presentation of homeland-seeking and cultural identity. In addition, the article also highlights Chia’s personal views on the issues of diaspora and cultural identity, as well as how such views conform to those expressed by Western thinkers such as Stuart Hal and James Clifford. In the conclusion, the author asserts that in the brilliant meta-fictional work, *Ambon Holiday*, Chia unexpectedly pushes his position on identity politics to the deconstructionist extreme.

Emotional Disclosure on Social Networking Sites: The Role of Network Structure and Psychological Needs

2014

By Assistant Professor Qiu Lin (Division of Psychology)

Computers in Human Behavior, 41, 342-350

We conducted three studies to understand how online emotional disclosure is influenced by social network structure on Facebook. Results showed that emotional disclosure was associated with both the density and size of users’ personal networks. Facebook users with denser networks disclosed more positive and negative emotions, and the relation between network density and emotional disclosure was mediated by stronger need for emotional expression. Facebook users with larger networks on Facebook disclosed more positive emotions, and

the relation between network size and emotional disclosure was mediated by a stronger need for impression management. Our study extends past research by revealing the psychological mechanisms through which personal social network structure influences emotional disclosure. It suggests that social network size and density are associated with different psychological needs, which in turn lead to different patterns of emotional disclosure.

Stability of the Positive Mood Effect on Creativity When Task Switching, Practice Effect, and Test Item Differences are Taken Into Consideration.

2014

By Assistant Professor Qu Li (Division of Psychology)
The Journal of Creative Behavior, 49(2), 94-110

Experimentally induced positive moods can last for 20 minutes and is conducive to creative performance. But is the facilitation effect stable? Two studies were conducted, controlling for impacts of task switching, practice effect, and test item differences. In Study 1, participants (N = 42), randomly assigned to positive, negative, and neutral mood conditions, answered four items of the Alternate Uses Test (AUT), each question lasting five minutes. Creative performance during each 5 minute period was scored in terms of fluency and flexibility. Separate analyses of variances on these scores showed that positive mood consistently enhanced performance beyond 20 minutes. Study 2 eliminated the effects of test item differences and test order. Participants (N = 131) underwent identical procedures, except that these items were presented in four different sequences according to Latin square design. It showed a positive mood lasting for 20 minutes following minimized interference from task switching, practice effect, and test item differences. This finding adds to

the debate regarding the stability of experimentally induced positive mood effect and contributes to existing empirical evidence that future studies may use.

“Bieyang zhanfang de ‘E Zhi Hua’: ‘Shuangbai’ shiqi Yi Wen de xiandaipai wenxue yijie” 别样绽放的“恶之花”：“双百”时期《译文》的现代派文学译介“*The Translation of Occidental Modernist Literature in Yi Wen during Double Hundred Campaign: The Case of Les Fleurs du mal*”

2015

By Dr Cui Feng (Division of Chinese)
Dongfang Fanyi 东方翻译 East Journal of Translation, Vol.2, 46-54

As the one and only official journal publishing translated foreign literature in mainland China in the 1950s and 1960s, *Yi Wen* serves as one of the main channels through which mainlanders get in touch with foreign literature and literary trends. An in-depth understanding of how political and social factors affect the translation and introduction of foreign literature could be achieved through close examination of the translated *Les Fleurs du mal*, the only Occidental modernist work in *Yi Wen* during Double Hundred Campaign.

Differentiated Deservedness: Governance through Familialist Social Policies in Singapore.

2015

By Associate Professor Teo Youyenn (Division of Sociology)
TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia 3(1): 73-93

The familialist orientations of the Singapore state on issues of social welfare ought not be taken for granted as static reflections of ‘culture.’ Instead, it is a dynamic realm, and a useful site for analysing how and what sorts of state-society relations are forged. We can, moreover, deepen our understanding of governance in Singapore by looking beyond

repression and discrimination and paying more attention to the processes of production and differentiation. In this article, I draw on examples from housing, healthcare, and childcare support, to understand how specific social identities and practices are marked as deserving public support. I argue that the logic and practices embedded in policies—what I call ‘differentiated deservedness’—can be read as a productive and profound form of governance in which specific performances of the familial are generated, and through which norms about state-society relations and citizenship are forged.

Interrogating the Limits of Welfare Reforms in Singapore.

2015

By Associate Professor Teo Youyenn (Division of Sociology)
Development and Change 46(1): 95-120

The Singapore state has in recent years stepped up its efforts to deal with issues of healthcare, education, support for care, retirement and even unemployment. This article evaluates the possibilities and limits of recent reforms. It looks at some promising aspects of reform, such as increases in spending in certain areas, before examining the limitations of the reforms. These include the fact that most resources have been directed toward supporting businesses, while increases in direct spending on citizens have been limited and conditional rather than universal; furthermore, little or no attention has been paid to the issue of women’s underemployment. These features suggest constraints within the logic and principles of welfare, which continue to define citizens as having limited rights and entitlements, and citizenship as entailing regular employment and heavy obligations toward the family. The analysis of reforms sheds light on how the appearance of expansion can mask continuing limitations.