

# HORIZONS

*Sharing ideas, Bridging minds*

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# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**D**ear colleagues, students, alumni and friends,

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) has played an important role in Nanyang Technology University's (NTU) thrust towards becoming a world-class university. In addition to undertaking cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, HSS was also envisioned to provide a holistic educational and intellectual experience for all NTU students when it was launched in 2004.

Today, in terms of the number of both undergraduates and faculty, HSS is NTU's largest school, with more than 3,200 students taught and mentored by more than 200 faculty. More importantly, as reflected in the university rankings over the past few years, HSS has had a significant impact on the advancement of knowledge through both teaching and research.

In the latest QS World University Rankings, NTU came 22<sup>nd</sup> in Social Sciences and 45<sup>th</sup> in the Arts and Humanities, a leap of 30 and 43 positions respectively over 2012. Of particular note were the subject rankings, with Linguistics (24<sup>th</sup>) and English (48<sup>th</sup>) ranked in the top 50 and four other disciplines in the top 100.

Part of the School's progress is down to its programmes. Over the years, the School has been refining its programmes and offering new double major degrees to provide a robust education for students and meet the needs of an evolving Singapore. You will be able to read more about the programmes and learning experience in HSS in this issue's feature story.

HSS has been at the forefront of actively seeking partnerships with other leading universities and promoting interdisciplinary dialogue. One fruitful collaboration is the Campus Asia-East Asian University Institute (EAUI) programme with schools and institutes from four regional universities—Waseda, Peking, Korea and Thammasat. The programme's annual winter school was held at Waseda in February 2016 and further advanced the collaboration's objectives of grooming leaders and promoting regional integration. Moving forwards, the five member institutions will seek to improve mutual ties and explore ways of including other universities in the future.

On 29 February and 1 March, the Cognition and Neuroscience Research Cluster in HSS organised the inaugural International Symposium on Cognition and Neuroscience (ISCN) at NTU's newest learning hub, The Hive. The event was a resounding success, attracting more than 100 participants interested in the latest developments in language, culture, aging, and the cognition neurosciences.

It has also been a busy few months for HSS's Environment and Sustainability Research Cluster. In addition to the regularly held Sustainability Salons, the Cluster organised the "Sustainable Metropolis: Population Productivity and Parity" workshop and the fourth "Community of Practice for More Effective Implementation of Higher Education for Sustainability in Asia" conference.

Nurturing researchers is a core objective for HSS. To this end, HSS co-organised the "Singapore-Korea Young



Scholars International Conference on Chinese-language Cultures" with Korea University's BK21 Plus Research Team on Chinese and Japanese Language and Culture on 28 January, as well as holding the Nanyang Graduate Student Colloquium on 12 March. The events provided research students from NTU and other universities with the opportunity to present their work and obtain invaluable feedback and advice.

As we come to the end of another fruitful academic year and the graduation of our final-year students, the School will ceaselessly strive to equip graduates and researchers for the challenges of the 21st-century world. It is my belief that the School is on the right path towards fulfilling the ideals of teaching and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences, and will continue to play a meaningful role in both education and research in Singapore and beyond.

## **Professor Liu Hong**

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

# ADVANCING ASIAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: 2016 EAUI WINTER SCHOOL @ WASEDA

BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KEI KOGA



*Graduate student participants of Winter School.*

To foster inter-university collaboration and nurture effective leaders in regional integration, the East Asian University Institute (EAUI) has been organising annual Summer and Winter Schools since 2012 as part of its joint education programme, which was funded with a US\$5 million grant by the Japanese Ministry of Education.

This year's Winter School was held at Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS) from 1 to 5 February 2016, and Professor Kimura Fukunari, Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)/ Dean of Graduate School of Economics, Keio University, was the keynote speaker.

The event explored the theme of "ASEAN Community Building and East Asia" and comprised lectures by faculty from the five member universities, a field trip to the ASEAN-Japan Centre and an international symposium. Over 90 academics and students participated

in the event, with Professor Liu Hong, Chair, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Associate Professor Wan Ching, Assistant Professor Kei Koga and seven graduate students representing HSS.

The EAUI was established in 2011 when five institutions—Waseda's GSAPS, NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Peking University's School of International Studies, Korea University's Asia Research Institute and College of Political Science, and Thammasat University's Faculty of Political Science—came together and committed to creating a permanent centre for graduate education by the year 2020. It is envisioned that the EAUI will focus on Asian regional integration by promoting interdisciplinary studies in fields such as international relations, history, economics, and sociology.

The first phase of the project involved the partner institutions working and strengthening bilateral ties with GSAPS from 2011 to 2015. Beginning

from 2016, the member institutions will seek to promote cooperation with one another through faculty exchanges, as well as joint education and research programmes, with the aim of exploring ways to include other universities in the future.

In addition to the faculty lectures, the 54 participating students from the various universities had the opportunity to network and collaborate with one another (in groups of six to seven) to come up with a presentation based on the questions posed during the lectures. NTU student, George Wong was one of the members of the group who gave the best presentation entitled "Assessment of ASEAN Political and Security Committee within the context of security cooperation in East Asia".

Moving forward, Thammasat University will host the annual Summer School in August 2016, and all five member institutions will be active participants.

# EVALUATING REGIONAL GEOPOLITICS AND EAST ASIAN POWER SHIFTS: SJ50 PUBLIC FORUM AND WORKSHOP

BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KEI KOGA

To mark the 50th Anniversary of Singapore-Japan diplomatic relations (SJ50), the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU organised a workshop entitled “Role of Security Institutions in East Asia Power Shifts: US-led Alliance and ASEAN-led Multilateral Organisation”. In addition, a public forum on “The Evolving Roles of the US-Japan Alliance in East Asian Power Shifts” was organised by HSS’s Global Asia Research Cluster. The events served to deepen understanding of bilateral relations between the island-state and Japan, and the regional security architecture in the context of dynamic East Asian power shifts. They were supported by the Embassy of Japan in Singapore and were officially recognised as part of SJ50.

The workshop was held at Nanyang Executive Centre on 10 and 11 March 2016 and was attended by researchers and academics from East Asian countries, including Singapore, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand,

and the Philippines. The event sparked fruitful discussion with its focus on the changing nature of the US-led alliance mechanism and the ASEAN-led multilateral frameworks. Participants analysed the mixed nature of competition and cooperation in East Asian politics via the increasingly networked US alliance systems and proliferating ASEAN-led frameworks, including the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and East Asia Summit (EAS).

The public forum was held at the Asian Civilisations Museum on 11 March 2016 and was attended by two prominent Japanese professors, Professor Tanaka Akihiko and Professor Noboru Yamaguchi. Professor Tanaka is from the University of Tokyo and former President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, while Professor Yamaguchi is from the International University of Japan and a former special advisor to the Japanese government from March to September 2011, when the country was struck by the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake. The forum was

moderated by Professor He Baogang, Head of the Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme in HSS.

After the welcome remarks made by Professor Alan Chan, Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, NTU, the forum explored the evolution of Japan’s security management in the international arena, ranging from Japan’s defense posture from the post-war period to the nature of Japan’s pacifism. The management of the Japan-US alliance in terms of traditional and non-traditional security issues—which included the subject of geopolitics, Japan’s official development assistance policies, and its contribution to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief—was also examined.

After two intensive days of expert discussions and public engagement, the two SJ50 events came to a successful conclusion, deepening the understanding of East Asia’s security dynamics and increasing the possibility for regional cooperation on security issues.



From left to right:  
Professor He Baogang,  
Professor Akihiko Tanaka and  
Professor Noboru Yamaguchi

# ESTABLISHING NEW FRONTIERS IN ACADEMIC DISCOURSE: SECULARISMS AND THE FORMATIONS OF RELIGION IN ASIA

BY DR CHO KYUHOON



Seeking to push the boundaries of contemporary scholarly discourse on the relationship between religion and the secular, the Global Asia Research Cluster of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU, organised an international conference entitled “Secularisms and the Formations of Religion in Asia: Pluralism, Globalisation and Modernities” on 29 February and 1 March 2016. The event was attended by 30 scholars and thinkers across various disciplines and co-sponsored by the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

Professor Peter van der Veer, Director of Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Germany, graced the event as the keynote speaker and delivered a speech entitled “Religion, Nation, City”. In his presentation, he argued that religious and political practice in the modern world is shaped and framed by nationalism. Through analysis of the different but related pathways of secular framing of religion in Chinese cities and Singapore, he demonstrated the importance of anthropological

understanding of the generality of the nation-form and the specificity of its historical articulation.

Besides the keynote speech, the inter-disciplinary conference saw a total of 17 papers being selected for presentation from more than 90 proposals. The selected papers were drawn from various fields of study such as sociology, anthropology, philosophy, religious studies, international relations, law, history, geography, political science, media studies and cultural studies, and included submissions from leading research universities such as Harvard University, the University of California-Berkeley, McGill University and Leiden University.

The presentations sought to analyse and go beyond previous research of how Asian societies reacted and responded to Western versions of secularism. In particular, the conference aimed to study how the interactions between forms of secularism and religious discourses and traditions in Asian societies contributed to the rise of nation-states, transformed the religious terrains, and reformulated the modern functional systems such as legal, financial and educational institutions.

In a joint statement, the conference conveners, Associate Professor Francis Lim (Division of Sociology) and Dr Cho Kyuhoon (Philosophy Programme), said, “In recent years, growing academic and public interest in the global ‘resurgence’ of religion around the world has stimulated scholarly debates concerning ‘secularism’ and its conceptual imbrication with notions such as modernity, the public sphere, multiculturalism, governance, citizenship and global civil society. Inter-disciplinary studies on ‘the secular’ have contributed to better scholarly understanding of the different transformations of the religious sphere in modern times. However, a dominant thread in existing scholarship tends to focus on how the majority of contemporary societies in Asia have reacted and responded to Western versions of secularism through colonial encounters. This conference seeks to go beyond this action-reaction model, and to examine the ways in which societies in Asia have been active contributors to the global engagement with, and formulation of, different expressions of secularism and the ‘religious’.”

# CULTIVATING INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUE: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COGNITION AND NEUROSCIENCE 2016

BY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALICE CHAN

The inaugural International Symposium on Cognition and Neuroscience (ISCN) was held at NTU's newest learning hub, The Hive, on 29 February and 1 March 2016. This event was organised by the Cognition and Neuroscience Research Cluster of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU. The Cluster is a cross-disciplinary collaboration comprising researchers investigating brain function, cognition, and behaviour, with the primary aim of boosting societal welfare and well-being.

With a stimulating programme, including five keynote addresses, an array of presentations by local scholars, as well as poster presentations by post-doctoral researchers and postgraduate students, the symposium attracted more than 100 participants interested in the latest developments in language, culture, aging, and the cognition neurosciences.

In his opening address, Professor K. K. Luke, Associate Dean (Research), College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, NTU, warmly welcomed and introduced the five distinguished keynote speakers: Professor Denis Burnham from the MARCS Institute of Western Sydney University, Professor Jackson Gandour from Purdue University, Professor Michael Goldberg from Columbia University, Professor Hong Ying-yi from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Professor Viorica Marian from Northwestern University.

Professor Marian gave the first keynote address and shared extensively on how bilinguals are found to have improved abilities at ignoring irrelevant information



*The first keynote address by Professor Viorica Marian.*



*The speakers, session chairs, and the organising committee of ISCN 2016.*

to focus attention on the task at hand—findings especially relevant to Singapore considering the prevalence of bilingualism in the country and the region. Subsequently, Professor Burnham provided an overview of the latest findings on Infant-Directed Speech (IDS), and discussed the similarities and differences between IDS and other forms of communication, such as Pet-Directed Speech and Foreigner-Directed Speech.

Day two commenced with Professor Gandour's in-depth talk about the neurobiology of tone processing. His presentation was well-illustrated with examples of tones from various languages, and the audience had an enjoyable time trying to detect difference between similar-sounding

tones. Following that, Professor Hong set out a compelling case for how cultural influences can shape our visual perception and neural responses. In the final keynote address, Professor Goldberg, who was the former president of the Society for Neuroscience, walked the audience through the cortical mechanisms for attention and arousal, specifically giving examples from primate research.

The symposium ended with a closing speech by Associate Professor Catherine Wan Ching, Associate Chair (Research), HSS, who emphasised the importance of such research conventions which allow for insightful dialogues between scholars from inter-related fields.

# BUILDING ON SUCCESS: CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN ASIA

BY DR MICHELLE MERRILL

**F**unded by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), “A Community of Practice for More Effective Implementation of Higher Education for Sustainability in Asia” was the fourth in a series of annual conferences organised by the Environment and Sustainability Research Cluster in HSS. The conference took place at the Nanyang Executive Centre on 21 and 22 April 2016, and served the dual purpose of showcasing the research and progress on sustainability education in nations from Asia, and further develop all participants as practitioners of higher education for sustainability. Participants engaged in rich discussions of Higher Education for Sustainability (HEfS) implementation in Asia, at the national, institutional, programme and classroom level, particularly the incorporation of successful pedagogies for sustainability into university curricula.

Professor Alan K. L. Chan, Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, NTU, gave opening remarks on the importance of sustainability at NTU and sustainability perspectives from the humanities and social sciences. The keynote speaker for this conference was Dr Chung-Huang Huang, Vice President of the Taiwan Research Institute, and President of the Taiwan Association of Environmental and Resource Economics. Dr Huang provided a broad overview of global efforts toward education for sustainable development, then gave local outcomes of sustainable development policies and context for HEfS based on the experience of Taiwan.



*A pledge to sustainability.*

There were six panels of speakers representing eleven other countries. Topics which the panels highlighted include:

- The distinctive philosophical and historical precedents for sustainability present in Asia (including specific perspectives from Thailand and India);
- The development of communities of practice to support HEfS, with local examples from India and Indonesia, in addition to a discussion of the broader regional community of practice represented by the attendees;
- Environmental and social sustainability issues for schools of education in Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand;
- Student attitudes and learning experiences in Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Vietnam, along with examples of pedagogical “micro-methods” for sustainability instruction;
- Underlying perspectives on natural capital and globalisation, and how they have been addressed in HEfS in Japan and Singapore;

- Larger programme-level and institutional projects in HEfS in Cambodia, India and a comparative perspective from an established programme in Switzerland

In addition to the panel presentations, there was extended time for discussion of each topic to consider issues and ideas raised by the speakers. There were also two interactive workshop sessions that provided opportunities for the participants to explore concerns and strategies for encouraging a more vibrant community of practice. Discussions included the importance of shared stories, goals and commitments, ideas for improving research on student attitudes and outcomes, ways to best share information, and suggestions for future research and collaboration. In the concluding workshop session, each participant chose a specific action in support of HEfS that they pledged to complete in the next two months. These two days of opportunities for sharing knowledge and thoughtful interaction strengthened the bonds within the community and enhanced participants’ capacities to advance HEfS in Asia. Selected papers from this conference will be published in an edited book volume to further spread that knowledge among practitioners and the broader public.

## CREATING A METROPOLITAN SUSTAINABILITY INDEX

BY DR MICHELLE MERRILL

In an increasingly urbanised world, it is important to understand sustainability at the level of the city. To improve this understanding, a metropolis-level index for sustainability would facilitate comparisons between cities, and allow cities to track their progress toward sustainability. A group of 16 scholars representing 12 institutions from six countries met at NTU on 10 and 11 March 2016 to discuss issues in developing an index for metropolitan sustainability at a workshop entitled "Sustainable Metropolis: Population, Productivity and Parity." This workshop was organised by the Environment and Sustainability Research Cluster in NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), and was funded by a seed grant from NTU's Sustainable Earth Office.

The event began with the presentation of a concept paper on population, productivity and parity measures in Singapore. The paper was jointly authored by Assistant Professor Chang Youngho from HSS and Dr Zheng Fang. Following the discussion on the concept paper, the other presentations provided comparative insights into China, Japan and Cambodia, as well as theoretical or general considerations on sustainability and cities.

Workshop participants agreed that the presentations and discussions produced valuable ideas, important concerns, and novel strategies for assessing metropolitan sustainability. They recognised that some crucial considerations for the project included finding a good mix of available metrics that can reflect urban sustainability, acknowledging the importance of



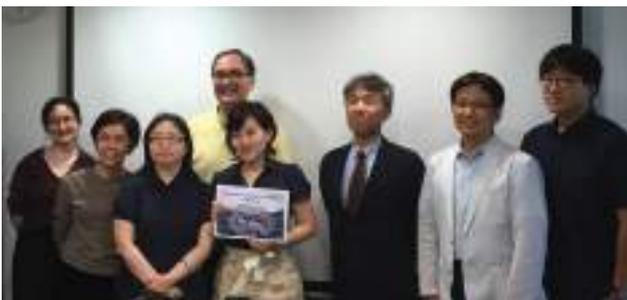
*A selfie of the participants.*

innovation and trade openness in cities, and incorporating variation at the level of districts.

Moving forward, the authors of the concept paper will collaborate with Professor Shigeyuki Hamori of Kobe University to synthesise the knowledge and information from the workshop to produce a Sustainable Metropolis index that incorporates appropriate measures of population, productivity and parity. This index will provide Singapore and other global cities with useful information about their sustainability status and progress.

## FORGING A NEW PARTNERSHIP: THE AFFECTS OF BORDER CROSSING IN URBAN ASIA

BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JANE WONG



Faculty and students of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU will soon be able to collaborate with the Institute of Humanities-Yonsei University (IoH) on research projects and joint seminars in the future. Representatives of both institutions agreed to develop cooperative relations, among which is the exchange of faculty members and

organised by the Division of English in HSS with sponsorship from the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). Held on 1 April 2016 in HSS, the workshop promoted interdisciplinary approaches towards discussions of transnationalism, and how forms of border crossing and their effects/affects have been shaped and experienced within the historical contexts of Asia. Keynote speakers included Professor

joint publications, as well as other areas within academia.

The new collaboration was initiated at "The Affects of Border Crossing in Urban Asia", a workshop

Yoon Hye-Joon, Professor of English and Director of the IoH, and his colleague, Professor Yurn Gyu-dong, HK Research Professor of Linguistics.

In addition to the keynote addresses, there was also a presentation by Assistant Professors Lee Sangjoon from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information and Lee Hyunjung from HSS (Division of English) on film and stage representations of historical epochs and Korean diaspora.

The workshop hosted at HSS is the first of many anticipated joint events with the IoH. The collaboration between the two institutions will also be marked by a follow-up workshop, tentatively planned to be held at the IoH in 2017.

# NURTURING TOMORROW'S RESEARCHERS

## SINGAPORE-KOREA YOUNG SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHINESE-LANGUAGE CULTURES

BY YEO MIN HUI

To nurture aspiring scholars and facilitate cross-cultural intellectual exchanges, NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) and Korea University's BK21 Plus Research Team on Chinese and Japanese Language and Culture jointly organised the "Singapore-Korea Young Scholars International Conference on Chinese-language Cultures" on 28th January 2016. Held in HSS, a total of 34 graduate students from both institutions presented their research works to an audience comprising academics and members of the general public.

The conference provided participants with the opportunity to acquire experience in presenting at international



conferences and provided a platform where scholars of different cultural backgrounds could meet and discuss topics on Chinese-language cultures from multiple perspectives. At the conference, both Associate Professor I Lo-fen, Head, Chinese Division, HSS,

and Professor Zang Dongchion, Team Leader of BK21, emphasised that the conference was the beginning of the collaboration between the two institutions, with more events to be held in the future.

## THE NANYANG GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

BY HSS GRADUATE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE



Visiting Professor Evelyn Hu-Dehart.

Held on 12 March 2016 in NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), the Nanyang Graduate Student Colloquium aimed to provide inter-

university networking opportunities for graduate students in Singapore and beyond. A total of 60 academics and research students attended the event, which was well-received.

Associate Professor Francesco Cavallaro, Associate Chair (Graduate Studies), HSS, made the opening address and highlighted that the colloquium had progressed from being an intra-university event in 2015 to an inter-university one this year. Visiting Professor Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Professor of History, American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University, graced the occasion as keynote speaker and shared her experience as an academic, as well as reminding the young

scholars of the importance of passion and interest in pursuing a career in academia.

More than 30 presentations were made at the event, which also served as a platform for students to hone their presentation skills and receive feedback on their projects. The participating students were from NTU, NUS, Thammasat University and Peking University. NTU students, Tania Nagpaul, Lin Chia Tsun and Sun Qingjuan were among the five best presenters who each received a \$200 award (sponsored by HSS and Taylor and Francis). The event was organised by the HSS Graduate Student's Committee.

## KEN YOUNG PRIZE PRIZE AWARDED TO HSS PUBLIC POLICY ANALYST

**A**ssistant Professor Woo Jun Jie from HSS's Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme and his fellow co-authors were awarded the 2016 Ken Young Prize on 4 March 2016 for their paper entitled "From Tools to Toolkits in Policy Design Studies: The New Design Orientation Towards Policy Formulation Research", which was published in 2015 in *Policy and Politics*.

The article was lauded by the journal's co-editor as "a comprehensive analysis of the field of policy-design and implementation" and "an exemplar of a 'Research Provocation'".

The Ken Young Prize is awarded to the best article published in *Policy & Politics* during the previous calendar year selected by a panel of judges.



*Policy & Politics* is a leading international journal in the field of public and social policy. It spans the boundaries between theory and practice and links macro-scale debates with micro-scale issues

and seeks to analyse new trends and advance knowledge by publishing research at the forefront of academic debates.

## HSS SOCIOLOGIST BAGS ALUMNI AWARD FROM ALMA MATER

**S**ociologist Assistant Professor Kamaludeen Bin Mohamed Nasir was awarded the International Alumni of the Year Award on 6 April 2016 by his alma mater, Western Sydney University (WSU). He edged out the two other finalists for the award—a professor and a deputy CEO.

The award winner said, "I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this award. I will like to thank both WSU and NTU for providing the platform and the environment for me to thrive in my work. This prize will further motivate me to work towards reaching greater heights in my academic career."

Assistant Professor Kamaludeen actively participates in sharing sessions



with government bodies and provides expert advice to high-level government officials. Also a nominee for this year's Nanyang Research Excellence Award, at 37, he has authored five books, co-

edited two others, published in some of the most recognised journals in his field and garnered significant citations for his academic work.

# MOULDING THE FUTURE: UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION IN HSS

To develop NTU from a technologically-focused institution into a comprehensive global university that develops tomorrow's leaders, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU was established in 2004 to provide courses for all NTU students from the various Schools and programmes. In addition, HSS was envisioned to confer degree programmes and produce

graduates who would be ready and competent to tackle the challenges and problems facing Singapore.

Starting off with a humble intake of less than 60 students in a single discipline, the School's enrolment has since soared to more than 3,200 undergraduates across nine divisions and programmes, namely Chinese, Economics, English, History, Linguistics and Multilingual Studies (LMS), Philosophy, Public Policy

and Global Affairs (PPGA), Psychology and Sociology. The flourish in student numbers over the past 12 years has been down to a higher demand for tertiary places as literacy levels rose in the island state; and the growing reputation of HSS as a viable choice for students seeking to further their education. The next few pages will be devoted to exploring why HSS has become a school of choice for many.

## ACADEMIC RIGOUR

“I started off having interest in the areas of eating disorders and depression. Subsequently, I did more research and found out that there is a lot more to psychology other than mental disorders and illnesses,” said HSS undergraduate Ms Yee Zhi Wei, a top GCE 'A'-Level student of her cohort. “Because I wanted to find out more about people's affect, behaviour, and cognition, I decided to pursue my studies at HSS as it offered a rigorous academic programme which covers various domains of psychology.”



*USP scholar Yee Zhi Wei.*

Likewise for Nanyang Scholar Ms Jasmine Lee, her choice to pursue her bachelor degree at HSS was influenced by the learning experience offered by HSS. She said, “I preferred the direct honours programme and for being able to specialise in economics from my freshman year.”

Unlike other institutions, HSS offers four-year direct-honours degrees and direct entry into each student's choice of major. As such, the arrangement and structure of HSS programmes provide undergraduates with the opportunity to study their chosen disciplines in depth with the necessary academic rigour.

Additionally, in response to increasing demand for programmes with double majors and meet the needs of an

evolving Singapore, the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a second major in Biological Sciences was launched in 2013 with NTU's School of Biological Sciences. In 2016, a new double major Bachelor of Arts will also be launched. Students in this new programme will read two majors chosen from among the disciplinary strengths of HSS and its sister schools, the Wee Kim Wee School of Communications and Information and the School of Art, Design and Media. Furthermore, HSS students also have the option to broaden their knowledge by declaring for a second major or a minor from among the disciplines in HSS. With these programmes, HSS aims to provide students with an academic journey that stretches their abilities and maximise their potential.

## CHALLENGING STUDENTS

Top students like Zhi Wei and Jasmine also have the opportunity to join NTU's University Scholars Programme (USP). Tasked to provide an intellectually stimulating environment for the best undergraduate students in NTU, the USP provides opportunities for students to sharpen their critical thinking skills and leadership abilities through interdisciplinary academic and co-curricular programmes, promoting independent learning and immersive intercultural experiences.

Zhi Wei, who is also a USP Scholar, said, “USP offered an intensive curriculum that encouraged me to learn beyond my own major. For example, I have taken interesting philosophy and science modules. Furthermore, class sizes are usually small and students get to benefit from the low teacher-to-student ratio. Through USP, I have also made a lot of new friends from different majors and I am grateful for the friendships forged.”



*Nanyang scholar Jasmine Lee.*

Echoing Zhi Wei, Jasmine said, “The USP complements my degree in HSS by offering a wide range of multidisciplinary modules that provided a more comprehensive undergraduate education.”

## LEADING THE WAY IN KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING

Part of any university's push to become a contemporary leading institution includes the harnessing of technology. From using social media such as Facebook and Youtube, to the flipped classroom initiative, HSS faculty have embraced technology-enabled learning to enhance the learning experience of students. In particular, technology was leveraged to facilitate real time interaction between students from HSS and Brown University, despite

both groups being separated by more than 15,000 kilometres. Implemented by Visiting Professor Evelyn Hu-Dehart for the Global History Seminar course in 2015, the format enabled "students from distinct and diverse institutional, educational and cultural backgrounds to come together to explore and advance knowledge", as well as providing students with a unique and enriching experience throughout the semester. More importantly, as reflected in the university rankings over the years, HSS faculty have made substantial

contributions to the advancement of knowledge through publication of books and journals, as well as teaching. According to the QS World University Rankings 2016, NTU ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in Social Sciences and 45<sup>th</sup> in the Arts and Humanities, a leap of 30 and 43 positions respectively from 2012. Of particular note were the subject rankings, with Linguistics (24<sup>th</sup>) and English (48<sup>th</sup>) ranked in the top 50 and four other disciplines placed in the top 100.

### HSS's Global Ranking (QS World University Rankings)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Arts and Humanities	98	94	117	86	45
Social Sciences and Management	52	56	36	33	22

## MENTORS AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH

With more than 200 faculty members, many of whom are top researchers in their respective fields of study, HSS is well-positioned to offer students a learning experience involving cutting edge research and study and be mentored by passionate professors.

"HSS professors are very approachable and extremely supportive even regarding pursuits outside of the classroom," said second-year student R Daminisree. "For example, in my freshman year, I took part in the Public Policy Challenge 2015 organised by the Public Service Division with three other friends. Our professor critiqued our proposal and made us recognise the deep-seated assumptions we had. He challenged us to approach the problem from different angles and we were able to think of more creative solutions. Eventually, we came in first runner-up out of 80 teams from various tertiary institutions."



R Daminisree (centre) with her HSS professor and teammates.

Among the various options for students to enhance their learning experience and be mentored by professors is through URECA or Undergraduate Research Experience on CAmpus, a university-wide programme to cultivate a research culture among the most able undergraduates. URECA is offered as an undergraduate research general elective to provide outstanding undergraduates an opportunity to immerse themselves in a vibrant research culture and pursue independent research under the supervision of a professor over a 11-month period. Students are supervised by leading professors who will nurture and mentor students in research.

Over the past few years, HSS students have produced outstanding work through URECA. For instance, Ms Sharifah Adibah Binte Syed Zainal's 2016 project entitled "The Right to Speak for Myself", won the top prize in the Humanities and Social Sciences Category for the URECA Poster Exhibition and Competition. The project involved studying the communication needs of Hokkien-speaking elderly

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Sharifah's poster for URECA.

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Singaporeans in healthcare settings and was supervised by Associate Professor Francesco Cavallaro from the LMS Division.

The impact of research by HSS students is not only limited to URECA and the local context, but has extended beyond our shores as well. At the international Undergraduate Awards 2015, a total of nine papers from HSS students were "Highly Commended" and placed among the top 10% of more than 5,100 submissions from students in 255

universities, including those from the Ivy League and other top global universities. In particular, Mr Dayton Leow, who graduated in 2015, was the Overall Winner in the Psychology Category of the Awards. Dayton was supervised by Associate Professor Annabel Chen from the Psychology Division and submitted his paper entitled "Age-Related Changes in Relational Encoding". All nine students from HSS were invited to share their projects at the Undergraduate Awards Global Summit held in November 2015 in Dublin, Ireland.

Other noteworthy research by students include a paper by Zhi Wei, who had the opportunity to present her project entitled "Stealing More Than Just Your Heart: Online Love Scams" at an international conference, "Centre of Excellence for National Security Workshop on Social Media in Communication, Governance and Security: Insights from Lessons Learned". The conference's participants included delegates from local and international government and law enforcement agencies.

## DEVELOPING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, GAINING REAL-LIFE WORK EXPERIENCE

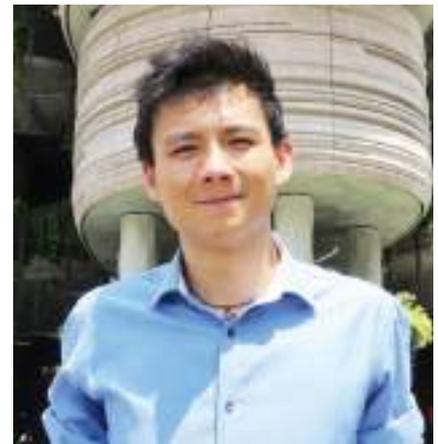
**H**SS is also a strong supporter of its students seizing the available opportunities to go on exchange and broaden their horizons. As the world becomes more and more inter-connected, and businesses and organisations become increasingly global in nature, it is imperative for the next generation to be equipped with global perspectives and cultural sensitivity. To this end, NTU has developed numerous partnerships with overseas universities under programmes such as GEM Explorer where students spend a semester with a partner university while exploring a new country and culture. Partners include prestigious universities such as University of Los Angeles California, Kyoto University, Imperial College London and Australia National University.

"I did my student exchange in Budapest, Hungary. My 6 months in Eastern Europe provided me with fascinating insights into the societal, political, and economic logics that guide these post-socialist states," said Mr Ian Russell Koh, who is graduating from HSS in August 2016. "I also managed to fully immerse myself in the culture of

the local Hungarians and made many friends, whom I hope to be reunited with some day."

Not only does NTU provides opportunities for student exchanges, it also offers overseas work attachment programmes which enhance students' employability and career mobility worldwide upon graduation and prepares them to compete locally and internationally. With industry and/or university partners in Australia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, and United States, students will be able to gain real life overseas working experience under professional guidance as part of their undergraduate education.

Furthermore, professional attachments have become an integral part of undergraduate training at HSS, and hence, the HSS Professional Attachment Programme (HPAP) was launched and offered in 2006 as an unrestricted elective worth six academic units. Working with the Career and Attachment Office in NTU, suitable placements will be sourced for HSS students. Through internships, students also have the opportunity to discover



Ian Russell Koh.

their passions and find out more about the industries/companies they are interested to enter upon graduation.

Students also have the option of sourcing for their own attachments. One such student is Ms Oh Ying Jie who did three internships during her journey at HSS. Describing her internships as valuable opportunities to learn more about the various career options available, she shared one of her experiences.

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Oh Ying Jie.

(cont'd from page 14)

"I had the opportunity to intern at E27, a technology media platform focused on growing Asia's technology startup ecosystem. I was part of the business development team that was tasked to meet regional companies and build relationships with C-level executives and high-level government officials in the industry, as well as organising the Echelon Asia Summit 2015, which was attended by over 2,000 entrepreneurs, investors, government officials and thought leaders."

Knowledgeable, work ready and raring to go, the majority of HSS students found jobs within three months of graduation according to the Graduate Employment Survey in 2015. With inquisitive and critical minds, and strong communications skills, HSS graduates are employed in a diverse range careers in both public and private sectors. Some of the organisations which HSS alumni work for include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Monetary Authority of Singapore, Ogilvy & Mather, Citibank and Procter & Gamble.

## SHAPING MINDS, MOULDING THE FUTURE



Bok Zhong Ming.



Tan Tsiat Siang.



Samuel Wee.

Undergraduate education in HSS is a multi-faceted experience that involves numerous opportunities for students to stretch their abilities and fulfill their potential. Besides acquiring knowledge through rigorous academic programmes, students may cut their teeth in research and innovation while being mentored by dedicated and knowledgeable professors.

Coupled with robust extra-curricular programmes, immersive student exchange experiences and professional work attachments, HSS students are able to broaden their horizons, pursue their interests, challenge their limits and experience personal growth. Students graduate from HSS as leaders and problem solvers, equipped with the expertise and skills to overcome tomorrow's challenges.

However, the greatest testament to the quality of undergraduate education at HSS comes from the students themselves. Describing his four years in HSS, Mr Bok Zhong Ming said, "My learning experience was certainly enriching. My student exchange experience brought me out of my comfort zone, propelling my personal development. I acquired critical thinking skills and life-long experience which would be of great help in my future job prospects."

When asked how HSS has helped him fulfill his ambitions, Mr Tan Tsiat Siang (Class of 2010) who is now pursuing a PhD at HSS, replied, "Undergraduate studies in HSS has well-equipped me with the necessary knowledge and tools, but most importantly, it nurtured my interests. It was an enriching

learning experience that inspired me to never stop learning."

For Mr Samuel Wee, he summed up his HSS journey as thus, "The professors here vary greatly in their approaches to education, but all of them are committed to consciousness instead of conformity; to provoking a mindset of critical inquisition. My university experience has been utterly transformative. I feel grateful for all that I have been exposed to here, but also very much humbled by how much yet there is to learn. At their best, the humanities and social sciences offer nothing short of an intense engagement with the immense breadth of the human experience. They also demand nothing less."

# THE QUEST FOR HOME

BY ABIGAIL CHUA

**B**orn and raised in Singapore, Associate Professor Boey Kim Cheng is highly recognised in Singapore's literary scene as one of the pioneer local poets to have emerged in the 1990s. Unable to come to terms with the rapid pace of change in Singapore, he sought Australian citizenship and left Singapore, returning in 2013 as a writer-in-residence at NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). Although he now possesses an Australian passport, he still holds vivid memories of his past childhood spent in Singapore close to his heart, recounting places of significance to him, places which he says are much changed or have disappeared.

"I remember vividly living in Block 34, Tanglin Halt for a few years, when I was aged two to four. It was quite an intimate world, with almost 10 people—my extended family—squeezed into a two-room apartment. The flat will always be a central place in my life because of those few years spent there. The area and a few other places are all gone now, including Change Alley, which I have written so much about. My father used to bring me there, and we would walk back and forth along the alley."

Describing himself as a "poet of experience", writing about places such as Change Alley that no longer exists today is a part of his homecoming journey, involving a restoration of his past and inevitably also a reconstruction of the Singapore that he knew. This nostalgia to him is not necessarily negative, but on the contrary, he finds it vital to have a living relationship with the past in order to move forward. When asked on what specific themes his work addresses, his reply is a cogent one.

"I do not think any writer sets up with the intention of addressing this theme



or another...But if there is any recurrent or dominant theme, maybe it is that of a journey, the quest of maybe a sense of home; a sense of coherence and meaning."

Initially starting out his career in the public sector, Associate Professor Boey decided to enter academia because he sought a vocation that would allow him sufficient time to read and write. To him, teaching at NTU has been a refreshing change, highlighting how some of his students' writing has been brilliant.

The poet's work and publications have been very well received. His first collection of poetry, *Somewhere-Bound* was published when he was just 24, and won the National Book Development Council's Book Award for Poetry. Boey is also the recipient of the National Arts Council's Young Artist Award in 1996. Subsequent works *Another Place* and *Days Of No Name* have also won awards. *Another Place* was an "A" Level text for 10 years, and this year his most recent collection, *Clear Brightness* has taken its place. "Recently I visited Victoria Junior College," he said. "The reception I had from the students who came up to me to talk about the book (*Clear Brightness*) was amazing. It makes you feel like it has been worth it, to have had these wonderful readers."

“*Do not be in too much of a hurry. Listen to the voice inside you. If anyone tries to give you advice about writing, just listen politely and walk away.*”

"In terms of my later work, I think I poured a lot of myself into my book of personal essays *Between Stations*. I think it was about things I needed to express or explore. It is about travel, migration and this idea of home—trying to figure out where or what home is, and I think that is the book that I spent most time on.

In his spare time, Associate Professor Boey's passion for music had led him to frequent record stores, browsing and hunting down old records at his leisure. He also loves to go on walks, especially around Raffles Place and the Singapore River, and enjoys the route that takes one from Chinatown to Arab Street and to Little India and back to the central business district. Lastly, Boey shares some candid but valuable advice for budding poets in Singapore.

# A CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

BY ABIGAIL CHUA



**B**orn in Southern China, Assistant Professor Ting Chun Chun arrived in Hong Kong when she was 12 years old, and sees her teenage and formative years shaped by the cultural texts she was exposed to in the former British colony. When she was still schooling, teachers told her that she would either go on to write novels or study literature, being a student that was always the “literary kid”. However, she shied away from studying classical literature as she felt it was too removed from everyday life, and credits her undergraduate years pursuing a degree in journalism at The Chinese University of Hong Kong as sparking her interest in cultural studies.

“It is at the school of Journalism that I started to explore cultural studies, which presented me with a more direct path to investigate the workings of literature and culture in society. I am interested not only in literature but also in how to employ literary strategies to read various kinds of cultural texts such as popular music, theatre, performance art, television drama and cinema. For me, my own identity has been formed by the cultural texts that have once inspired

me. And I think it is quite true for most young people—you are what you read and what you consume culturally. One’s beliefs and sensibilities are very much shaped by the cultural products he/she consumes.”

Previously serving as a lecturer at the University of Chicago, her appointment at NTU is the first full time job she has undertaken. She shared that starting out her academic career in Singapore was ideal for her.

“I am attracted to Singapore because it is in Asia and is much closer to Hong Kong, the site of my study. I am also intrigued by the position of Chinese culture in this melting pot of ethnicities and languages that we call Singapore. If the predominantly Chinese population in the city presumes the dominance of Chinese culture, the multicultural self-positioning of the Singaporean state and the daily necessity to negotiate with other races and cultures also underscore its marginality. It is therefore quite a unique and interesting environment to think about and study Chinese culture here.”

Assistant Professor Ting provided further definition of her work and cites her paper written on a social movement that tried to preserve two piers in Hong Kong. While the piers were rather unremarkable architecturally, their problematic association with colonial memory and their public character were evoked during the movement to rethink Hong Kong’s history and its unfinished decolonisation project. As such, the cultural politics of heritage preservation is less about preserving the past than reimagining the city’s future. Focusing on the socio-context of post-handover Hong Kong, she is currently working on the intersection between social movements and art-making to investigate how the city’s future is being contested and reimagined.

Since moving to Singapore at the beginning of the year, Assistant Professor Ting sometimes finds keeping track of the months and seasons hard, as Singapore’s weather is sunny all year round. Even so, she enjoys living in Singapore because of its safety and density. She enjoys going to the movies, reading, and swimming whenever she can find time.

# A GROUND-UP APPROACH TO POLICY MAKING

BY LINDSAY CHONG



Having spent just four months at NTU, newly appointed Assistant Professor Kim Soojin is looking forward to the bountiful research opportunities both for herself and her future students.

Originally from South Korea, Assistant Professor Kim graduated last May with a PhD in Public Affairs and Administration from Rutgers University. Her initial field of study, however, was law. “My father wanted me to be a lawyer,” she explained. “But I wanted to study more practical issues related to policy decision-making at the graduate school.” After acquiring an internship at the Korean Congress, she was inspired to go abroad and eventually transition into the field of public policy.

She joined the Public Policy and Global Affairs (PPGA) Programme at NTU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in January 2016. It was the chance to work in

a research-oriented and supportive environment that convinced her to move to Singapore. “NTU’s focused teaching and research programme really appealed to me—not to mention its outstanding faculty members and cutting-edge resources,” she said. “Singapore’s diverse culture was also a major pull factor, along with PPGA’s two main streams of Political Science and Public Administration. I saw a good chance for me to conduct interdisciplinary study and network with other scholars to collaborate with them for my research.”

Assistant Professor Kim’s current research interest is entitled “Exploring the Determinants of Better Financial Performance in the Public Sector: In Pursuit of New Evidence”. For her, there is no clear-cut definition for “better”. However, it does involve appropriate distribution of public goods and services without compromising citizens’ heightened demands and needs.

“The public plays a vital role in policy formation and governments could learn a thing or two from the everyday man. Citizens have alternative viewpoints that would be helpful in making the government accountable for their work. Policies ought to be formulated based

on recommendations from citizens and their experiences in order for these policies to remain aligned with their interests. This could help better facilitate efficient use of resources in response to the public’s needs.”

Her research has led her to ask two main questions: how public financial resources can be made available in response to fiscal challenges, and how such resources can be managed effectively. She is committed to finding empirical evidence with diverse theoretical and methodological approaches, focusing on contemporary issues faced by local and metropolitan government.

As a lecturer and mentor, she has found joy in engaging with her students. She shared, “I have heard that Singaporean students are very hardworking and polite.”

Though not teaching any classes at the moment, Professor Kim will be teaching two new courses next academic year: Statistical Foundations for Public Administration and Public Budgeting and Management.

“The public plays a vital role in policy formation and governments could learn a thing or two from the everyday man. Citizens have alternative viewpoints that would be helpful in making the government accountable for their work. Policies ought to be formulated based on recommendations from citizens and their experiences in order for these policies to remain aligned with their interests. This could help better facilitate efficient use of resources in response to the public’s needs.”

# RESEARCH GRANTS

## MOE ACADEMIC RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

The Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 2 and Tier 1 Funds research projects on a competitive basis across Singapore-based universities. The

AcRF provides funding for research that has academic significance and will drive future research, potentially leading to innovations and discoveries. One research proposal from HSS was

awarded MOE AcRF Tier 2 research grants with seven others clinching MOE AcRF Tier 1 research grants. Congratulations to all our researchers!

### MOE Tier 2 Grants

## SOCIOLOGY



**Title:** Immigration, Integration, and Social Transformation in the Pacific Rim  
**Principal Investigator:** Professor Zhou Min

### Description:

This study aims to examine the emerging patterns of immigration, explain the divergent outcomes of immigrant integration, and assess the significant impacts that immigration has brought to bear upon host societies. In doing so, the study adopts a comparative approach along multiple parameters (e.g., individuals, national-origin groups, and receiving contexts). It

uses mixed methodologies and focuses on two of the largest contemporary immigrant groups—Chinese and Indians—who reside in five different immigrant gateway cities or city-states (Hong Kong, Sydney, Vancouver, Los Angeles, and Singapore) in the Pacific Rim.

### MOE Tier 1 Grants

Division	Principal Investigator	Project Title
Chinese	Assistant Professor Fang Xiaoping	Pandemics in Mao's China: Disease and Mobility between the Great Famine and the Cultural Revolution
Chinese	Assistant Professor Lin Jingxia	Grammatical Variations of World Chinese: Comparative Empirical Studies Based on Student Writings
Economics	Assistant Professor Leong Kaiwen	Relational Contracting in the Singapore Back Alley Banking Market
Economics	Associate Professor Yohanes Eko Riyanto	Understanding the Impact of Incentive Compensation, Consumption Smoothing, and Corporate Control on Asset Prices and Traders' Behaviors: A Laboratory Experimental Economics Approach
Economics	Assistant Professor Margaret Maggie Triyana	School-Based Smoking Prevention Program: a Field Experiment
History	Assistant Professor Chen Song-Chuan	The Deities Created by Chinese Migrant Communities, 1750 - 1950
LMS	Professor Kang Kwong Kapathy	Towards a New Definition of Turn Constructional Units in Conversational Interaction

### Other Research Grants

Division	Principal Investigator	Project Title	Award
History	Assistant Professor Koh Keng We	The Nine Emperor Gods Festival in Singapore: History, Rituals, Institutions and Networks	NHB Heritage Research Grant
Psychology	Assistant Professor Andy Hau Yan Ho	The Arts for Ageing Well: A Landscape Study on art participation and holistic wellbeing among current and future generations of Singapore	National Arts Council (NCA) Singapore—Research and Development Fund

# BOOKS

## THE TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Nanyang Assistant Professor Chou Meng-Hsuan (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme), Isaac Kamola and Tamson Pietsch. 2016. Routledge.



This edited volume introduces readers to the relationship between higher education and transnational politics. It shows how higher education is a significant arena for regional and international transformation as well as domestic political struggle replete with unequal power

relations. Drawing on case studies from across the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, the contributors develop diverse perspectives explaining the impact of transnational politics on higher education—and higher education on transnational politics—across

time and locality. This book is among the first multi-disciplinary effort to wrestle with the question of how we can understand the political role of higher education, and the political force universities exert in the realm of international relations.

## GORGEOUS NANYANG: ARTS, ADVERTISEMENTS, CROSSOVER SINGAPORE.

<<南洋風華：藝文、廣告、跨界新加坡>>

Associate Professor I Lo-fen (Chinese Division). 2016. Global Publishing.



This book includes 17 academic papers on Singapore's literature, history, paintings, calligraphy and consumption. The research stretched across the end of the 19th century to the 21st century, and explored the cultural traits of Singapore

from the "crossover" point of view. As an island nation, its regional, geographical and ethnic conditions formed a "crossover" phenomenon. The various forms of "crossover" are depicted by physical movement, art and cultural production.

The book illustrates the significance of Singapore's art and culture, and readers will gain an understanding and appreciation of the "crossover" cultural traits of Singapore. This book was funded by the Singapore National Arts Council.

## WILL SELF AND CONTEMPORARY BRITISH SOCIETY

Assistant Professor Graham John Matthews (English Division). 2016. Palgrave Macmillan.



*Will Self and Contemporary British Society* is a study of one of the most popular and controversial literary authors of our time and his engagement with a series of diverse yet interlinked themes. Self is renowned for juxtaposing the fantastic with the quotidian in creative and surprising ways, which has earned

him plaudits as one of the most singular and insightful voices in Britain today. In this critical study, the author reveals Self to be a serious thinker whose novels, short stories, and journalism treat issues that are essential for understanding contemporary Britain: psychiatry and medical discourse; gender and

sexuality; urbanism and the illusions of consumer society; satire and the role of literature in society. The book captures the continuity as well as the evolution of Self's style to demonstrate that his incisive analyses of the present make him one of the indispensable voices of our time.

## DYNAMIC MUSICAL THINKING: EXPLORATION ON MUSIC THEORIES IN PRE-QIN PERIOD

<<流動的音樂思維：先秦諸子音樂論新探>>

Dr Park So Jeong (Chinese Division). 2016. China Renmin University Press.



This book explores the dynamic range of musical thinking in early China. The unprecedented diversity and originality resulted from mutual criticism and debate between different thinkers over a long period of time. In this book, a meticulous

reading reveals what were really the points at issue and a detailed reconstruction unveils how such a serious concern on music was conceived in Chinese philosophy. Indebted to Mohist criticism, Confucian thinkers could develop substantial theories of music.

The most powerful challenge from Daoist thinkers eventually shaped the characteristics of the Chinese philosophy as musical thinking. This study allows scholars and other readers to access a significant yet unexplored field.

**MEMORANDUM: A READER OF SINGAPORE CHINESE SHORT STORIES. <<备忘录：新加坡华文小说读本>>**

Associate Professor Quah Sy-ren (Chinese Division) and Assistant Professor Hee Wai-siam (Chinese Division). 2016. Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, NTU and Global Publishing.



A collection of 22 representative short stories written between 1948–2011, this book introduces 22 Singapore writers across different generations. Whether in the form of confrontation, healing, satire, reconciliation, or through absurd, alternative and joyful literary expressions, these writers initiate a dialogue

between the individual and the collectivity, demonstrating how Singaporeans tango in a tug-of-war between remembrance and loss. As a memorandum, Sinophone literature exhibits uniqueness and importance in Singapore's multi-cultural landscape. This book opens with an introduction by the two editors that analyses each

short story within its historical context, and each short story is also accompanied by a commentary written by Singapore Sinophone literature researchers, unveiling the brilliance of Singapore Sinophone literature spanning more than half a century for both readers and researchers alike.

**BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN ASIA'S KEY FINANCIAL CENTRES: HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AND SHANGHAI**

Assistant Professor Woo Jun Jie (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme). 2016. Springer.



Drawing on extensive interviews with senior policy-makers and financial sector professionals, the book describes how state-industry relations drive financial policy-making in three major financial hubs—Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai. Insights and policy recommendations

drawn from these interviews will be particularly useful for policy-makers and financial sector professionals hoping to draw lessons from the successful development of the three leading Asian financial centres. The book draws on public policy theoretical frameworks for its analytical

basis. The three chapters focusing on the historical development of Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai, also provide a consolidated narrative with regard to the development of these three cities as leading financial centres, while also serving as independent case studies.

**CONTEMPORARY ASIA AMERICA (THIRD EDITION)**

Professor Zhou Min (Sociology Division) and Anthony C. Ocampo (Eds.). 2016. New York University Press.



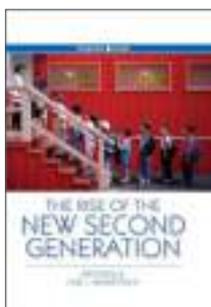
The third edition of *Contemporary Asian America* provides an entrée into the contemporary trends, issues, and debates of an increasingly diverse Asian American community. This anthology is a collection of the most premiere scholars in the field, who draw from their research to address a wide array of issues facing the Asian American

community. These include the impact of September 11 on the Asian American identity and citizenship; the continued influence of globalisation on past and present waves of immigration; and the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, and class on the experiences of Asian immigrants and their children. The anthology also

provides study questions, supplementary readings, and documentary films to better illuminate the topics included in each chapter. The underlying goal of the publication is to inspire readers to become even more committed to addressing the issues that have historically affected and continue to affect contemporary Asian America.

**THE RISE OF THE NEW SECOND GENERATION**

Professor Zhou Min (Sociology Division) and Carl L. Bankston III. 2016. Polity Press.



This book is about the “new second generation”—foreign-born and native-born children of immigrants who have come of age at the turn of the twenty-first century—in the United States. Recognising that immigration is an intergenerational phenomenon—and one that is always evolving—Zhou and

Bankston begin by asking “Do members of the new second generation follow the same pathways taken by the ‘old’ second generation?” The authors consider the relevance of assimilation approaches to understanding the lived experiences of the new second generation, and show that the demographic

characteristics of today's immigrant groups and changing social, economic, and cultural contexts require new thinking and paradigms. Ultimately, the book offers a view of how American society is shaping the life chances of members of this new second generation and how this generation is, in turn, shaping a new America.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

### STRANGLER BY THE CHINESE AND KEPT 'ALIVE' BY THE BRITISH: TWO INFAMOUS EXECUTIONS AND THE DISCOURSE OF CHINESE LEGAL DESPOTISM

Assistant Professor Chen Song-Chuan (History Programme); Richard Ward (Ed.). 2015. *A Global History of Execution and the Criminal Corpse*, pp. 199-219. Palgrave Macmillan.

The executions of a sailor of the Lady Hughes in 1784, and the Italian sailor Francis Terranova working on an American ship in 1821 are the most infamous deaths of foreigners in the history of China-Western interactions before the First Opium War. The two cases feature

prominently in the history of China-US and China-Europe relations, and in the legal history of Canton in particular. Their deaths become the centrepiece of a narrative of Chinese legal despotism. There were in total twenty-one cases in this period that fell into the same category—that is, foreign

sailors killed by the Chinese. Because of the focus on these two, very little has been said about others. This chapter analyses the articulation of discourse on Chinese legal despotism and demonstrates how the idea of Chinese legal despotism was formed in historiographical selective memory.

### THE FAUST MYTH: FERNANDO PESSOA'S FAUSTO AND C. G. JUNG'S THE RED BOOK

Associate Professor Terence Richard Dawson (English Division); Ben Pestell, Pietra Palazzolo and Leon Burnett (Eds.). 2016. *Translating Myth*, pp. 154-170. *Legenda: Studies in Comparative Literature* 37. MHRA-Maney.

The legend of Faust begins in Frankfurt in 1587, but it was Goethe's Faust (1808-1832) that transformed it into a modern myth. In spite of the admiration it aroused, nineteenth-century adaptations are disappointing. Fernando Pessoa's

version of the story represents the first great adaptation of the twentieth century. Fausto (1908-1909) is a "static drama"; there is no action. In some scenes, Fausto is confronted by figures including Lucifer, Christ, Buddha and Shakespeare and

he reflects on what they have to say. In others, he dialogues with them. This essay explores the importance of this work in the light of some of Jung's ideas, especially *The Red Book* (1913-14), which is also shown to be an adaptation of the Faust myth.

### PROTECTING DIGNITY AT THE END OF LIFE: AN AGENDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN AN AGEING WORLD

Assistant Professor Andy H.Y. Ho (Psychology Division) and Geraldine X.L. Tan; Darcy Harris and Tashel Bordere (Eds.). 2016. *Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief: Exploring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*, pp. 100-108. Routledge.

Population ageing is a powerful demographical transformation that is rapidly challenging the healthcare infrastructure of the world. This phenomenon has steadily intensified during the turn of the twenty-first century, and we are only beginning to fully comprehend its impacts at national

and global levels. The extensive debate of whether we live longer and healthier lives or suffer from poor health and inappropriate treatments continues to thrive, as we witness the growing service disparities between medical and social care systems that fail to establish high quality palliative care for all. This chapter

examines the end-of-life challenges faced by older people suffering from chronic life-limiting illnesses, and argues that the only way to protect their dignity at life's final and most vulnerable moments is to ensure that palliative care becomes a basic human right.

### UNDOING DIFFERENTIATED DESERVEDNESS

Associate Professor Teo You Yenn (Sociology Division); H. Koon Wee and Jeremy Chia (Eds.). 2016. *Singapore Dreaming: Managing Utopia*, pp. 258-64. Asian Urban Lab.

This book chapter discusses how in Singapore, access to public goods is contingent on one's ability to perform "the familial" in narrow and specific ways.

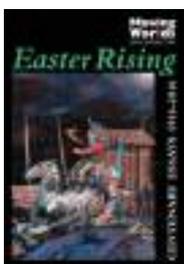
It examines how this leads to differential outcomes along class lines, and results in citizenship built not on equality but on differentiated deservedness. It ends

with some brief reflections on the difficult questions we must ask in order to undo differentiated deservedness.

## JOURNALS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

### MOVING WORLDS: A JOURNAL OF TRANSCULTURAL WRITINGS (VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1)

Guest Editor: Associate Professor Cornelius Anthony Murphy (English Division). 2016.



On the occasion of the centenary of the Easter 1916 Rising, its retrospective significance for a twenty-first-century modern European democratic state is a fascinating subject in itself. Whether the Rising is viewed as an overdue inevitability or as a premature and

impatient mistake, one point is historically secure: it was a catalyst for a sequence of events that led directly to the violent birth of an independent Irish state, events that were linked to both the evolving Irish Nationalism and the decision to execute the leaders of the rebellion. This latest issue

of *Moving Worlds* explores with fresh insight and new vitality the reimaginings and reorientations in perspective that have taken place among historians, journalists, political commentators, literary critics and creative artists since that "terrible beauty is born" (from W.B. Yeats, 'Easter 1916').

**ADAPTIVE VERSUS EDUCATIVE LEARNING: THEORY AND EVIDENCE**

Assistant Professor Bao Te (Economics Division) and John Duffy. 2016. *European Economic Review*, 83, pp. 64-89.

Adaptive learning and educative learning are two widely used ways of modeling learning behavior in macroeconomics. Both approaches yield restrictions on model parameters under which agents are able to learn a rational expectation equilibrium (REE) but these restrictions

do not always overlap with one another. In this paper we report on an experiment where we exploit such differences in stability conditions under adaptive and educative learning to investigate which learning approach provides a better description of the learning behavior of

human subjects. Our results suggest that adaptive learning is a better predictor of whether a system converges to REE, while the path by which the system converges appears to be a mixture of both adaptive and educative learning model predictions.

**MAPPING THE TERRAINS OF THE EUROPE OF KNOWLEDGE: AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK OF IDEAS, INSTITUTIONS, INSTRUMENTS, AND INTERESTS**

Nanyang Assistant Professor Chou Meng-Hsuan (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme). 2016. *European Journal of Higher Education*.

This editorial introduces how we may begin to analytically study the shifting terrains of the Europe of Knowledge. Knowledge policies—higher education, research, and innovation—are integral to many sectors, and changes in the ways in which knowledge is governed will inevitably alter the shape and contents

of other policy domains. This issue reveals some of these shifting patterns by analysing the relationship between central features of multi-level, multi-actor, and multi-issue policy-making in the knowledge domain: the ideas that inspire reform, the institutions tasked to implement changes, the instruments

adopted for translating ideas into practice, and the diverse interests of actors with a stake in how knowledge is governed. By invoking the image of terrains, this issue describes and explains what happens to the Europe of Knowledge landscapes when the 'old' meets and interacts with the 'new'.

**OVERACCOMMODATION IN A SINGAPORE ELDERCARE FACILITY**

Associate Professor Francesco Cavallaro (Linguistics and Multilingual Studies Division), Mark Fifer Seilhamer, Felicia Chee Yi Tian and Associate Professor Ng Bee Chin (Linguistics and Multilingual Studies Division). 2016. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*.

Studies have shown that speech accommodation in interactions with the elderly can aid communication. Overaccommodators, however, employing features such as high pitch, exaggerated prosody, and child-like forms of address, often demean, infantilise, and patronise elderly interlocutors rather than facilitate comprehension. According to the Communicative Predicament of Aging

model, communication practices are determined by stereotypes of aging that are triggered in the minds of those interacting with the elderly. These stereotypes vary between cultures, and in Singapore, negative stereotypes of aging exist alongside traditional Confucian-influenced positive stereotypes. This investigation is the first of this type of study carried out in Singapore and

involved participant observation in a Singapore eldercare facility. Overaccommodation was indeed found to be employed by carers and varied qualitatively depending on the physical and cognitive abilities of the elderly. These results provide some initial insights into an issue that is extremely relevant to Singaporean society, given the city state's rapidly aging population.

**PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF A CHINESE VERSION OF THE STIGMA SCALE: ASSESSING THE COMPLEX EXPERIENCES OF STIGMA AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF-ESTEEM AND DEPRESSION AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

Assistant Professor Andy H.Y. Ho (Psychology Division), Jordan S. Potash, Ted C. T. Fung, Vania F. L. Ho, Eric Y. H. Chen, R.H. Lau, F.S. AuYeung, and Rainbow T.H. Ho. 2015. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, 56, pp. 198-205.

Stigma of mental illness is a global public health concern, but there lacks a standardised and cross-culturally validated instrument for assessing the complex experience of stigma among people living with mental illness (PLMI) in the Chinese context. This paper translated

the 28-item Stigma Scale into a Chinese version, examines its psychometric properties among a community scale of 114 Chinese PLMI, and explores the relationships between stigma, self-esteem and depression. The results of the study confirm that the Chinese Self-Stigma of

Mental Illness Scale is a short and user-friendly self-administrated questionnaire that can be easily adopted for large scale empirical research to advance our understanding on mental health stigma among PLMI of different Asian Chinese communities.

**VALIDATING A CANTONESE SHORT VERSION OF THE ZARIT BURDEN INTERVIEW (CZBI-SHORT) FOR DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS**

By Jennifer Y.M. Tam, Assistant Professor Andy H.Y. Ho (Psychology Division), Luo Hau, Gloria H.Y. Wong, Mandy B.H. Lau, Terry Y. Lum, and Karen S.L. Cheng. 2015. *Aging and Mental Health*.

The present study developed and validated a Cantonese short version of the Zarit Burden Interview (CZBI-Short) for Chinese dementia caregivers. Five hundred Chinese dementia caregivers showing signs of stress reported their burden using the translated ZBI and rated their depressive symptoms, overall

health, and care recipients' physical functioning and behavioral problems. The factor structure of the translated scale was identified using principal component analysis and confirmatory factor analysis; internal consistency and item-total correlations were assessed; and concurrent validity was tested by

correlating the ZBI with depressive symptoms, self-rated health, and care recipients' physical functioning and behavioral problems. The results of the study confirms that CZBI-Short is a concise, reliable, and valid instrument to assess burden in Chinese dementia caregivers in clinical and social care settings.

**THE ACCENTED STYLE OF SINOPHONE MALAYSIAN FILM: A CASE STUDY ON NAMEWEE'S NASI LEMAK 2.0****<<马华电影的土腔风格：以黄明志 <辣死你妈！ 2.0>为例>>**Assistant Professor Hee Wai-siam. 《东方文化》 *Journal of Oriental Studies*, Vol 48(1). pp. 75-95. 2016.

This paper uses Sinophone theory and accented cinema theory to explore how the accented style of Nasi Lemak 2.0 uses sound and image to perform Sinophone identity in the films' journey of de-territorialization and re-territorialization. This paper analyses the re-presentation

of Sino-Malay relations in Sinophone Malaysian film and discovers that it refuses to rest on the standard ethnic framework. Rather, the accented style of these films gives play to the multi-mediated, multidirectional critical agency of Sinophone theory: the Sinification

discourse of "authenticity" is criticised, while at the same time a performance of national identities is used to resist the presence of racism and expose the essentialised Malay mythologisation of indigeneity.

**ESTIMATION OF HETEROGENEOUS PANELS WITH STRUCTURAL BREAKS**Assistant Professor Feng Qu (Economics Division), with B. Baltagi and C. Kao. 2016. *Journal of Econometrics*, Vol. 191, pp. 176-195.

This paper extends Pesaran's (2006) work on common correlated effects (CCE) estimators for large heterogeneous panels with a general multifactor error structure by allowing for unknown common structural breaks. Structural breaks due to new policy implementation

or major technological shocks, are more likely to occur over a longer time span. Consequently, ignoring structural breaks may lead to inconsistent estimation and invalid inference. We propose a general framework that includes heterogeneous panel data models and structural break

models as special cases. The least squares method proposed by Bai (1997a, 2010) is applied to estimate the common change points, and the consistency of the estimated change points is established.

**DIGITAL HISTORIES OF DISASTERS: HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**Assistant Professor Lisa Onaga and Hana Rose Shell. 2016. *Technology and Culture*, Volume 57(1), pp. 225-230.

On 11 March 2011, a giant earthquake and tsunami off the coast of Japan triggered the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. Failure of the plant's heating and cooling system and an inability to properly stabilise the reactors post-meltdown led to the displacement of over 150,000 people. In its wake, three

historians and sociologists of science and technology with ties to Asia came together to attempt to use social media as a way to create a community in response to the disaster and its aftermath. Together Honghong Tinn and Tyson Vaughan, along with Lisa Onaga, set out to make an online

collective bibliography and repository for information and historical context for events surrounding the disaster. The goal was to provide a forum for educators to draw on a range of what might otherwise be overlooked sources.

**NOT EVERYONE HAS 'MAIDS': CLASS DIFFERENTIALS IN THE ELUSIVE QUEST FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE**Associate Professor Teo You Yenn (Sociology Division). 2016. *Gender, Place & Culture*.

Work-life balance has come to the fore in Singapore as in other countries. Debates have focused on uneven gendered burdens. Less attention has been paid to the ways in which class matters in shaping outcomes for women. In this article, the author argues that the work-care regime in Singapore is one that generates uneven

consequences for women along class lines. The historical legacy of eugenics-influenced pronatalism, the pursuit of a corporation-centric development, the persistent reticence toward universal provisions and corresponding preference for "private" solutions to care create a context in which women in low-income households

have an especially hard time balancing wage work and familial responsibilities. The individualisation and marketisation of household needs, in Singapore and elsewhere, obscure the circumstances, needs, and well-being of women in lower class circumstances, and undermine the value of housework and care labour.

**HOMELAND ENGAGEMENT AND HOST-SOCIETY INTEGRATION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NEW CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND SINGAPORE**Professor Zhou Min (Sociology Division) and Professor Liu Hong (History Programme). 2016. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, Vol 57(1). pp. 1-23.

Through this comparative study of new Chinese immigrants in the United States and Singapore, we develop an institutional approach to analyse how the state is involved in the transnational field and how diasporic organisations serve as a bridge between individual migrants and state actors in transnational practices and integration

processes. We argue that new Chinese immigrants maintain emotional and tangible ties with China even as they are oriented towards resettlement in the hostland and that their transnational practices are similar in form but vary in magnitude, depending not only on diasporic positionality in the host society but also on bi-national relations. We

find that homeland engagement generally benefits integration into host societies. These findings suggest that social forces at the macro level—the nation state—and at the meso level—diasporic communities—are intertwined to affect processes and outcomes of immigrant transnationalism.