



**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY**

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

# HORIZONS

*Sharing ideas, Bridging minds*

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The **History** and  
**Future** of the  
**Humanities**  
and **Social**  
**Sciences** in **NTU**

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# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**D**ear Colleagues, Students, Alumni and Friends,

You may be aware that this April will see the bifurcation of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) into two separate schools—the School of Humanities (SoH) and the School of Social Sciences (SSS). NTU is undertaking this reorganisation to position itself for future growth and to enhance its ability to meet the aspirations of our students. At the same time, this will also augment our efforts to conduct cutting-edge interdisciplinary research directed at confronting national, regional and global challenges.

HSS was established in 2004 to nurture a new generation of leaders and thinkers able to tackle the complex challenges of the 21st century. To this end, the School introduced degree programmes that have provided a holistic and rigorous educational experience to more than 4,800 HSS graduates, as well as providing courses to broaden the education of the general NTU student population. From a humble beginning of 56 students in a single discipline, the School now has more than 3,300 undergraduates spread across nine divisions and programmes, while a total of 425 graduate students have enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts (by research) programmes since the School's establishment.

The School also continues to strive to enhance its position as a leading intellectual centre of research in the humanities and social sciences.

Over the past six years, HSS has recruited more than 100 of the world's brightest and productive scholars, strengthening our leading role in driving global scholarship. In addition to inspiring teaching, HSS faculty members' innovative research continues to contribute to NTU's rise as an internationally respected and truly global university.

Our achievement is in no small part due to the hard work of the pioneers of the HSS, who literally had to build things up from scratch. Through tremendous dedication and sacrifice, including long hours of traversing through numerous forms and procedures, they developed a robust system, a forward-looking curriculum, and recruited the best talent into the School. This gave us a firm foundation that has enabled us to move forward and cultivate excellence. In the present issue of the newsletter, you will find a feature story that highlights some of the challenges encountered by the School's staff and students in the establishment of the HSS. The article also reports on the plans for the future development of the two new schools.

As HSS marks its 13th and final Anniversary as an institution, I feel truly humbled and privileged to have been given the opportunity to lead HSS over the course of the last six years of its development, building on the solid foundation of my predecessors, Professors Eddie Kuo, Lawrence Wong, and Euston Quah. I have been greatly honored to have shared this remarkable journey with so many distinguished colleagues, aspiring students, and supportive alumni.



We are indeed very proud of the 13 years of rapid growth and achievements of our School. The HSS story, in short, is a proud story of collective efforts and amazing dedication on the part of all faculty, staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders. With the School's reorganisation into the School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences, I am confident that the humanities and social sciences will continue to play an important role not only in NTU's growth, but also in the development of Singapore and beyond as we move further into the 21st century.

## **Professor Liu Hong**

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

## CONGRATULATIONS! FACULTY PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Division/Programme	Name
Division of Sociology	Assoc Prof Mohamed Nasir Kamaludeen
Philosophy Programme	Assoc Prof Teru Miyake

## WELCOME TO HSS!

Division/Programme/ Centre	Designation
Division of Chinese	Visiting Professor Bai Hua
Division of Chinese	Visiting Professor Jing Tsu
Division of English	Adjunct Professor Shirley Chew
Division of Psychology	Nanyang Associate Professor Ryo Kitada
Division of Psychology	Assistant Professor Charles Or
Language and Communication Centre	Dr Perono Cacciafoco Francesco
Language and Communication Centre	Ms Ritu Jain
Language and Communication Centre	Ms Audrey Toh

## TRACING SPEECH IN POETRY: DISTINGUISHED LECTURE BY MARJORIE PERLOFF, PROFESSOR EMERITA OF ENGLISH, STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

By Assistant Professor Divya Victor

On 4 November 2016, faculty and students of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) were treated to an interesting and eye-opening lecture by Professor Marjorie Perloff, Professor Emerita of Humanities, Stanford University. One of the most renowned and innovative literary scholars and critics working today, Professor Perloff's work on 20th and 21st century poetry and poetics from an Anglo-American and comparatist perspective has been internationally influential.

Entitled "Talking at the Boundaries: Representing Speech in Contemporary American Poetry", the event was held at The Hive in NTU. It was sponsored by the Centre of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) and the Division of English in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), NTU, and was organised by Assistant Professor Divya Victor.

The lecture traced representations of speech in contemporary American Poetry through three literary periods: New York Poetry, Language Poetry, and Conceptualist Poetry. Perloff discussed the strategies of deletion, re-arrangement, appropriation, and collage in the work of Charles Bernstein, Frank O'Hara, Claudia Rankine, and Kenneth Goldsmith to

consider how historical crisis and individual suffering has been represented in American poetry in the last fifty years.

Professor Perloff's lecture was remarkably well attended, with students pouring into the lecture space carrying chairs with them. For Tan Yi Xin, a third year English major, Perloff's talk helped to clarify and expand on what she had studied in her classes: "It was a learning session where I was able to discover how different uses of speech and language could generate different effects. In her own words, poetry sets before us the 'complexities of language', and the different ways in which she discussed the work of poets helped me better understand the nuances of denotation and connotation that we explored in our poetry seminar."

Professor Perloff's visit coincided with her lectures at the Singapore Writer's Festival, where she spoke on poetics in the digital age, contemporary criticism, and the importance of the book review. Students at NTU engaged in a lively discussion with her after the lecture and introduced her to the projects they were undertaking, including the publication of an anthology of anti-realist fiction *This is How You Walk on the Moon*, edited by HSS students Patricia Karunungan, Samuel Caleb Wee, and Wong Wen Pu.

# FURTHERING RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MISPLACED STATES AND THE POLITICS OF REGIONAL IDENTITIES

By Assistant Professor Kei Koga



**T**oo often, some countries perceive that they do not properly fit in the region they happened to be located in. These states “stand out” not because of their material capabilities, but more importantly because of their espoused identity—manifested in different forms—in marked contrast to the states surrounding them. What causes this misplaced identity among states in different regions of the world?

To answer this question, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU and the University of Bath jointly organised a conference entitled “Misplaced States and the Politics of Regional Identities”, as well as a workshop on 5 and 6 December 2016. This international event invited five country-experts from universities in Brazil, Singapore, South Africa, and the United Kingdom and examined the various forms of “misplaced identities” in Brazil, Chile, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, and South Africa.

The conference saw five keynote presentations, which was interspaced with various discussions. Dr Leslie

Wehner (University of Bath) delivered the first keynote on “The Misplaced Identities of States in Regional Subsystems: Role Theory and the Chilean Case”, while Professor Janis van der Westhuizen (Stellenbosch University) presented the research paper entitled “Recurring Misplacement? South Africa’s Ambivalent African Identity”.

The third keynote on “Brazil’s Anthropologic-Self: Soft Misplacement and the Strategic Use of Identities in Foreign Policy Issues” was made by Professor Feliciano de Sá Guimarães (University of Sao Paulo), which was followed by Dr. Wali Aslam’s (University of Bath) presentation on “Pakistan’s Misplaced Statehood and the Politics of Regional Identity”. The final keynote was made by Assistant Professor Kei Koga (NTU) whose paper was entitled “Dynamics of Japan’s Role Location Process: Striving in the Status of ‘Misplaced State’”.

The conference explored conceptual frameworks about the phenomenon of “misplacement”—how and why it occurs and what are its implications

for a state’s foreign policy. Utilising the concepts provided by Role Theory in sociology, the participants concluded that the concept of misplaced state is essentially relational, and that the mismatch between self-image and others’ expectations creates “misplace-ness”. Participating academics also deliberated the importance of the socially-constructed concept of region; the role of regional institutions; historical and social context; the influence of government type; and societal cohesion.

Discussions also considered the fluidity and dynamism of state identity. Comparing across regions, participants focused on how and why states reconstruct their identities in attempting to emphasise (or de-emphasise) their degree of regional conformity. Using Japan—which had been through three main identity transformations from the Meiji-Showa Period (1868-1945) to the Post-war/Cold War period (1945-1990) to the Post-Cold War period (1990-Current)—as a case study, participants discussed the historical processes and causes of Japan’s misplacement as well as its improved self-image in the contemporary period.

Through intensive debates, the event provided new insights into the concept of misplaced state, and deepened each participant’s understanding of the commonalities and uniqueness of each case. Moving forward, participants will incorporate feedback and revise their papers, with the possibility of organising another workshop later this year and to publish the final product in an academic journal or an edited volume.

# ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN SOCIOLOGY: WORKSHOP BRINGS TOGETHER SCHOLARS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

By Assistant Professor Zhan Shaohua



Bringing together scholars of international migration, the Division of Sociology in NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) held a workshop on 13 and 14 January 2017. It was organised under the aegis of the research project entitled "Immigration, Integration, and Social Transformation in the Pacific Rim," which is funded by an AcRF Tier 2 grant from the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

The workshop was attended by more than 50 local and overseas migration scholars from prestigious international universities, including the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of British Columbia, the University of Sydney, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Professor Liu Hong, Chair, HSS, opened the workshop with his welcome address and introduced the vibrant life and activities of the School's social sciences and humanities community to the distinguished guests and international scholars. Professor Zhou Min of the University of California at Los Angeles introduced the research project to the participants.

On the first day, the workshop had a broad agenda of discussing immigrant issues worldwide. The discussions went beyond the established frameworks of South-

North migration, economic imperatives, and long-term settlement.

In his keynote address, Professor Stephen Castles of the University of Sydney and author of the book entitled *The Age of Migration*, elaborated and provided a succinct analysis of Australia's changing immigration landscape. Professor Howard Duncan of Carleton University, who is also the Executive Head of the Metropolis Project in Canada, explored the issue of immigration in his country, as well as analysing the perspectives of governments and bureaucracy during the second keynote address.

On the second day, the scholars focused on the specifics of the project, and fine-tuned the theoretical framework, methodology and research tools. This provided a clear direction for the project to investigate patterns of immigration and integration in three global cities – Singapore, Los Angeles, and Vancouver – with a focus on two migrant groups, Chinese and Indians.

This research project has three Principal Investigators: Professor Zhou Min and Assistant Professor Zhan Shaohua from the Division of Sociology, HSS, and Professor Richard Ling, Shaw Foundation Professor in Media Technology from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

# FINDING A SINGAPOREAN VOICE: A READING BY YU-MEI BALASINGAMCHOW



Writer-in-Residence Yu-Mei Balasingamchow

In keeping with the traditions of the NTU-NAC Creative Writing Residency, Yu-Mei Balasingamchow, the 2017 Writer-in-Residence gave a reading of her past work. The event was entitled “Finding a Singaporean Voice: A Reading by Yu-Mei Balasingamchow” and was held on 1 February 2017 in the HSS Creative Studio. The NTU-NAC Creative Writing Residencies, a collaboration between NTU and the National Arts Council (NAC), sees outstanding writers spend six months teaching and writing in NTU.

Balasingamchow is a widely-published writer and an honorary fellow in writing at the International Writing Programme at the University of Iowa. Her fictional work was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2014, as well as being selected for The Epigram Books Collection of Best New Singaporean Short Stories (2013 & 2015). She also co-edited the literary collection *In Transit: An Anthology from Singapore on Airports and Air Travel* (2016), which received a four-star review in the *Straits Times*.

In addition to reading excerpts from her past work, namely “Consider the Kopitiam”, “Lighthouse”, “Fits and Starts” and “A Heart the Size of an Armchair”, she also answered questions from the event moderator, Zhang Ruihe, on how she approaches the process of writing.

“Before writing, I actually do a lot of background research,” revealed Balasingamchow with amusement. “It supplements my imagination.”

Sharing some of the challenges she faces as a writer, she said, “Writing today, in the age of Donald Trump, you do have to be conscious about how what you write about a particular group that traditionally, has been represented negatively. Or for those who have been marginalised, are you giving them a voice or making it harder for them to speak out?”

“Another challenge is trying to get the balance right between using English and Singlish, especially when writing for an international audience. If I have to insert too many explanations [for the Singlish] in brackets, it indicates that I have used too much of the latter.”

When asked what constitutes a Singaporean Voice, she shared that defining the Singaporean Voice is “tricky” and that there is no one Singaporean Voice.

“Perhaps what makes a voice Singaporean is that it reflects the concerns or qualities of the lived reality of Singapore: what it means to live in a highly urbanised, dense, modern environment – ‘first world’ in many respects, yet constrained by certain inescapable physical

elements (our humid and tropical climate, our size, so small for a country). That modern sensibility extends also to our social dynamics – how do we respond to living in a multicultural yet often socially segregated society; how do we relate to our family members, neighbours, our loved ones, to strangers on the street or to our government? In many of these little ways, we often unconsciously exhibit a mindset that is shaped by living long-term in Singapore – and that mental disposition also seeps into our writing, whether in prose, poetry or other forms of expression.”

## About the NTU-NAC Creative Writing Residency Programme:

For the last six years, the Creative Writing Residencies have hosted a diverse and international array of award-winning writers of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction such as Man Asian award winners Tan Twan Eng (Malaysia) and Miguel Syjuco (Philippines and Canada), Commonwealth Writer’s Prize winner Geetha Hariharan, and T.S. Eliot Prize Winner George Szirtes. The Residency has also hosted eminent Singaporean writers like Suchen Christine Lim and powerful new voices such as Balli Kaur Jaswal (Australia’s Best Young Novelist of 2014), Pooja Nansi and Marc Nair (National Young Artist Award winners of 2016), and Singapore Literature Prize winners Desmond Kon and Yong Shu Hoong, among many distinguished others. These National writers often go on to teach the English Division’s “Introduction to Creative Writing” course and reach hundreds of young students who are enthusiastic about exploring creative expression.

# NURTURING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS:

## VISIT BY QINGHAI NORMAL UNIVERSITY



To broaden international collaboration and explore opportunities for exchange, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU met a delegation from Qinghai Normal University (QHNU) on 12 December 2017 in the HSS Conference Room. The visiting representatives from Qinghai Normal University comprised:

1. **Professor Liu Tongde, President of QHNU**
2. **Professor Du Changshun, Dean, School of Humanities**
3. **Professor Wang Shiyong, Dean, School of Economics and Management**
4. **Professor Liu Fenggui, Dean, School of Biology and Geography Science**
5. **Professor Chen Yuantao, Dean, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering**
6. **Ms Ma Jinfang, Director, The International Education and Exchange Centre**

At the meeting, Professor Liu Hong, Chair, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NTU, warmly welcomed the guests and shared information about HSS with the guests. Faculty members of HSS and QHNU had the opportunity to network and interact, while exploring possible areas of synergy and collaboration between HSS and QHNU, including exchange between faculty and research students.

Professor Liu Tongde, in addition to having a PhD in Economics, has a MPA degree in 2007 (the programme was run by HSS at the time). He was pleased to return to his alma mater and looked forward to strengthening the connection.

## OVERCOMING BARRIERS, CREATING NETWORKS: IN SEARCH OF MULTICULTURAL COEXISTENCE IN GLOBALISING ASIA

By Assistant Professor Kei Koga

Cross-boundary academic activities—be it interdisciplinary research or networking—are increasingly imperative in advancing our knowledge in the globalised world. To further academic linkages and nurture international collaborations, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU has been organising an annual workshop with the University of Tokyo (UTokyo) since 2015.

This year, the Global Asia Research Cluster in HSS and UTokyo's Integrated Human Sciences Program for Cultural Diversity (HIS-Program) and Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (IASA) co-organised the event's third edition, which was entitled "Overcoming Barriers, Creating Networks: In Search of Multicultural Coexistence in Globalising Asia".

In their opening remarks, Professor Liu Hong, Chair, HSS and Professor Shigeto Sonoda, Department Head, IASA, emphasised the importance of the long-term

commitment to interdisciplinary dialogues and the value of this inter-university exchange at the post-graduate and faculty levels between HSS and UTokyo in the context of an increasingly globalised Asia.

The workshop included a faculty roundtable session entitled "Creating New Asian Studies by Overcoming Traditional Intellectual Boundaries" where the NTU and UTokyo faculties discussed multi-disciplinary approaches for Asian studies; and three graduate student sessions focusing on research in Asia, where NTU, UTokyo, and Waseda graduate students presented their research and received feedback from faculty members.

Individually and institutionally, NTU and UTokyo have nurtured intellectual ties through collaboration in the past three years. Moving forward, the coordinators of the Global Research Cluster, Associate Professor Francis Lim and Assistant Professor Kei Koga will be seeking opportunities to further academic collaboration with UTokyo and other institutions.

# INVESTIGATING SOCIO-CULTURAL PHENOMENON: UNPACKING INEQUALITIES IN PARENTING IN SINGAPORE



As part of its foci to investigate local issues of social change and economic development, the Global Asia Research Cluster of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in NTU organised a public lecture entitled “I Want my Children Better than Me: Challenges of Parenting in Singapore” on 24 January 2017 at the National Library Board. Associate Professor Teo You-Yenn, Head of the Division of Sociology in HSS, was the speaker of the event, which received an overwhelming response from local scholars and the public.

In her presentation, Associate Professor Teo, a scholar on state-society relations, familism, welfare, and gender and class inequalities, highlighted the challenges faced by low-wage workers in caring for their children, and how socio-economic circumstances shape parenting decisions and strategies. She shared her research findings which revealed that work-life harmony is “very much a class privilege, something that low-income persons do not have access to.”

“At the centre of the problem of gaps in caring for children is wage work. The need to maintain employment and care work is the biggest cause of care gaps. We fail to look closely at the quality of employment for low-wage workers and how the ways we talk about ‘work-life balance’ is class-blind in a way their realities are not. These failures, to consider and address what families in different class positions need, have resulted in failures to acknowledge the huge gaps for the low-income.”

As a result of failing to recognise the disparity in wealth and resources across diverse societal groups, Associate Professor Teo argued that the social narratives on parenting in Singapore have become discourses on “bad parenting”, which has political, economic and societal consequences. The narrative of “bad parenting” has taken root and it is essential to recast this ideology into “parenting under bad conditions”.

“One major purpose of my presentation is to disrupt a prejudice widely held in our society—that poor parents are bad parents. This

prejudice is sometimes expressed in ways that are qualified and measured, but more often in ways that are cruel, unfair, and unforgiving. When we look at other people’s parenting, we often do not see complex challenges and needs. It is therefore important to recognise the needs and challenges of parents and children in low-income circumstances because our collective prejudices shape our practices—policy, institutional, and everyday behaviors.”

Concluding her speech, she said, “Inequality matters. Inequality is reproduced through our everyday actions and institutional processes. Inequality has been naturalised and accepted as common sense to an extent that is deeply troubling. Inequality is a set of empirical realities, a concept, a frame that once you see is hard to ‘un-see’. And it is a frame that changes our investment in problems. It is a frame in which we must place ourselves. Once we see inequality and not “just” poverty, we should also see that it is our moral obligation and our shared responsibility to imagine equality, and to work our way towards it.”

# IMPACTING SOCIETY THROUGH RESEARCH: SMART BABY SEMINAR SERIES

By Kathleen Ang (Division of Psychology)



Goody bags packed with gifts and useful literature for parents.

The Smart Baby Seminars are parenting workshops organised by infant and child development researchers from the Divisions of Psychology and Linguistics & Multilingual Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), to share with parents and caregivers the latest findings in infant science and practical tips to nurture their children's development.

Funding from the National Research Foundation Science of Learning Planning Grant and Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (COHASS), NTU, enabled the invitation of internationally esteemed infant and child development scientists such as Professor Kang Lee from Toronto University, Dr Marc Bornstein from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and a team of experts led by Professor Barbara Landau from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to share their expertise.

The events were held on 27 February, 24 September and 16 October 2016 at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, NTU Novena Campus.

At the inaugural seminar, Professor Alan Chan, Dean, COHASS, NTU, gave an opening address acknowledging that unlocking the potential of children from an early age is crucial in Singapore, a country heavily reliant on human resources.

Assistant Professor Suzy Styles from the Division of Psychology shared the ways to stimulate the developing senses of infants while Assistant Professor Luca Onnis (Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies) explained that a toddler's language facility at age three is linked to academic achievement at age ten. He also provided specific examples for caregiver-child interaction to boost language development.

Finally, guest speaker Professor Kang Lee, gave an engaging talk on the phenomenon of lying in children, how and why they do it, and whether adults can detect when children are lying.

At the second seminar, which was focused on spatial skills, Professor Amy Shelton pointed out that spatial skills are linked to math achievement and gave practical tips on how to use language, games and gestures to train children in their spatial skills. Keynote speaker Professor Barbara Landau shared on the importance of spatial language, and the challenges children might encounter using it in context. She offered suggestions on ways caregivers could expose children to more spatial language.

The third seminar opened with keynote speaker, Dr Marc Bornstein from National Institute of Health elaborating on positive characteristics and values in children and outlined how parents could help children achieve them and grow into knowledgeable, happy, healthy adults.

A question and answer session at every seminar was open for the audience to pose questions to child development experts sitting on the panel. In addition to the speakers, panel experts included Assistant Professors Setoh Pei Pei and Gianluca Esposito (Division of Psychology), Visiting Professor James Hale and JHU's Professor Michael McCloskey, Dr Kristin Gagnier and Dr Kelly Fisher. The seminars were well attended by 60-90 attendees each time and indicated a strong interest towards evidence-based parenting.

# THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN NTU



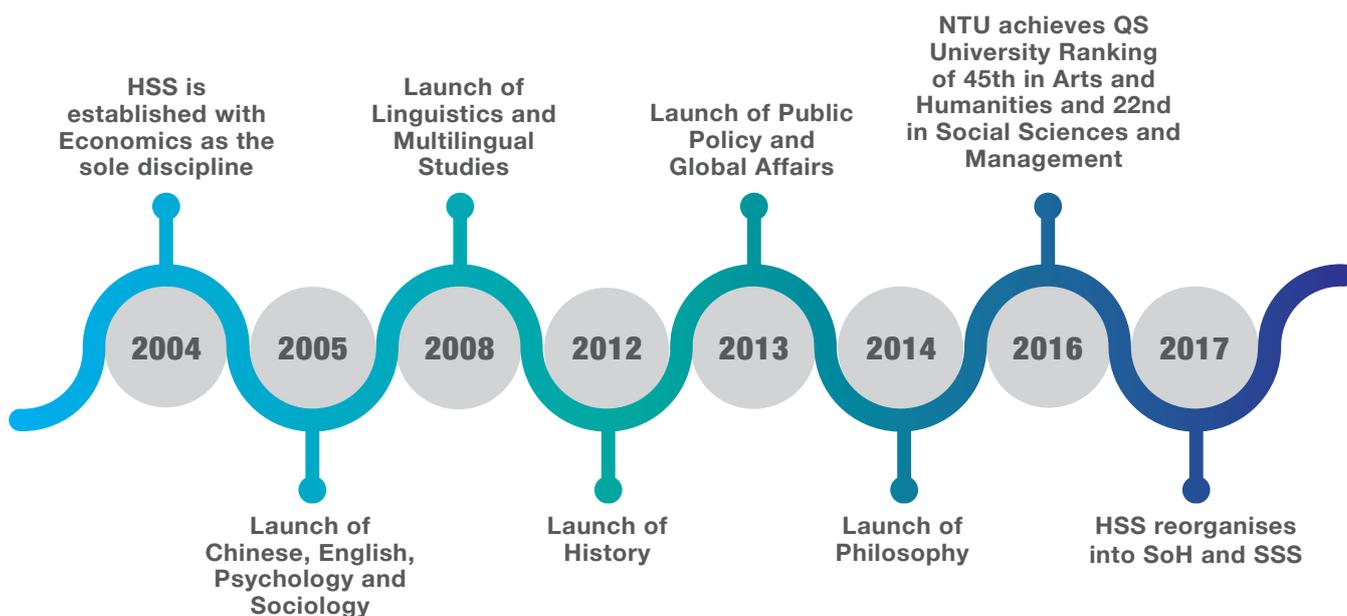
The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in Nanyang Technological University (NTU) was established in 2004 to support NTU's aim of becoming a global institution that nurtures leaders through a holistic education. The School's mission was to provide courses for all of the University's students, and to confer degree programmes, producing graduates who would be ready and competent to tackle the challenges and problems facing Singapore. In addition, HSS also aimed to enhance scholarship and cultivate a vibrant research culture that contributes to the understanding of both local and global issues,

Starting off with less than 60 students in Economics, HSS has rapidly expanded over the years as its reputation for academic excellence grew. Along with rising demand for tertiary education in the humanities and social

sciences, HSS took the opportunity to expand its degree programmes. Consequently, the School enjoyed an increase in student enrolment and faculty numbers, as well as strengthening its research capacities.

Hence, for the past 13 years, HSS has played no small role in the evolution of NTU into a global university, with the School's trajectory mirroring the University's. In order to position NTU for future growth and enable it to continue to meet the aspirations of its students, the University announced last November that HSS will be re-organised into two Schools, the School of Humanities (SoH) and School of Social Sciences (SSS) in April 2017. The next few pages will be dedicated to exploring the coming of age of HSS, as well as exploring the future of the humanities and social sciences in NTU.

# MAJOR MILESTONES OF HSS



## Starting Up: The Pioneering Spirit

The familiar adage that “Rome was not built in a day” certainly holds true for HSS, which had to surmount many challenges as it established itself as a well-respected institution that would contribute to Singapore and Singaporeans.

In 2003, the NTU Council set-up a task force to establish HSS. Among the task force members were Professor Lim Chong Yah of Nanyang Business School; Emeritus Professor Eddie Kuo, Dean of the School of Communication Studies (now renamed the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication or WKWSCl); and Professor Kwok Kian Woon, a sociologist who was then an adjunct faculty member in the same School as Professor Kuo.

Professor Kwok, who is now the Associate Provost (Student Life) at NTU, recollected some of the difficulties that were encountered.



Professor Kwok Kian Woon



The HSS Building in May 2008

He shared, “First and foremost, we had to consider the location of the HSS building. It had to cater to the immediate needs and objectives of the new school, as well as allowing room for future growth. Besides deciding on its location, we also had endless rounds of consultations with architects on a viable and functional design.”

While these tasks seemed straightforward, Professor Kwok shared that there were many minute details which required much time and effort to attend to.

“We took great pains to resolve seemingly innocent issues, for example, the number of rooms with windows that can be built in the limited space available. We had to pay attention to the design of spaces

as they would impact the learning experience.”

In addition to being a member of the Task Force, Professor Kwok was also appointed Vice Dean (Academic) and Head of the Division of Sociology. As HSS was new, he was also heavily involved in the running of the School and faculty recruitment.

“The School also had to build a new academic culture: an atmosphere of collegiality, an emphasis on equity, and a concern for the progress of younger members, make all the difference to advancing our teaching and scholarly mission,” elaborated Professor Kwok in a recent article. “There were many systems and processes to implement and the administrative team had to set up everything from scratch,

formulating policies on a daily basis on matters such as curriculum design and exams.”

Supporting the School’s senior management in running HSS were administrative staff such as Mr Chan Weng Hoo, who is now the School’s Deputy Director (Undergraduate Education). He shared, “There was a lack of manpower in the beginning and we had to develop policies and best practices to ensure that the School functioned efficiently. For instance, as HSS offered courses which all NTU students had to take, processing grades was a challenge given the tight deadlines set. To overcome this issue, we initiated a satellite exam grades unit which successfully enabled us to process grades in less than a day, in contrast to more than two days previously.”

The School’s administrators were not the only ones who had to pioneer initiatives and programmes; students also plunged into the fray and played a role in contributing to the School’s development. Mr Kelvin Chia, who graduated from HSS in 2009, described that HSS had the feel of a “start-up”.

“Everything was new and nothing was set in stone,” said Kelvin, who works in the public sector. “To a certain extent, students had the opportunity to shape our own educational experience.”

“The students were also pioneers and also contributed to the setting up of student clubs and societies,” said Professor Kwok. “For instance, the Sociological Society would not have been set up if it were not for the efforts of the first cohort of Sociology students. Their legacy lives on till today.”

### Leading the Way in Academic Rigour and Research

Through the combined efforts of the School’s administration, faculty members and students, HSS has managed to overcome the challenges and teething problems that are encountered by any newly established organisation.

With an initial cohort of only 56 Economics students in 2004, HSS has experienced rapid growth over the past 13 years. In 2005, the school launched four undergraduate degree programmes—Chinese, English, Psychology and Sociology, before adding Linguistics and Multilingual Studies in 2008. Three other programmes, namely, History,

Public Policy and Global Affairs, and Philosophy, were introduced from 2012 to 2014, increasing the total number of disciplines offered by HSS to nine.

Additionally, in response to increasing demand for programmes with double majors and to 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. This was followed in 2016 by a new double major Bachelor of Arts programme, in which students read two majors chosen from among the disciplinary

curriculum was rigorous,” shared Feroz, who graduated in 2010. “They ensured that students understood what was read by requiring us to distil the key concepts and arguments from readings. This was useful in my work because whenever I had to read a long report, I was able to extract the key information and ideas more easily, compared to non-humanities and social science graduates who were unaccustomed to reading long texts.”

In addition to enhancing education experiences and producing leaders who can overcome national, regional and global challenges, HSS has also been seeking to become a leading intellectual



*HSS graduates ready to contribute to Singapore.*

strengths of HSS and its sibling schools, the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM), and WKWSCI. Furthermore, HSS students were also provided with the option to read a second major or a minor. Unique minors offered by HSS included Creative Writing, Translation, Global Asia, and Urban and Environmental Studies.

Today, HSS has more than 3,300 undergraduates spread across nine divisions and programmes. However, the growth in student enrolment and programmes is just part of the School’s legacy; another major achievement was the development of outstanding graduates who were ready to contribute to the nation. One of these alumni is Mr Mohamed Feroz Taherbhai, who successfully negotiated several Free Trade Agreements (FTA), including the European Union-Singapore FTA and a global trade facilitation agreement, pivotal deals in ensuring Singapore’s economic longevity.

“The professors were very passionate about what they taught and the

centre of the humanities and social sciences in Asia. To this end, HSS recruited more than 100 academics over the past six years and the school is now home to more than 200 faculty members who are either leaders in their fields, or promising researchers just embarking on their careers. The school has also steadily increased its intake of graduate students which now number more than 200 in its PhD and MA programmes, and over 100 students undertaking coursework. The School has also cultivated a vibrant research culture that contributes to the understanding of both local and global issues, while nurturing scholars that are at the forefront of cutting-edge interdisciplinary research.

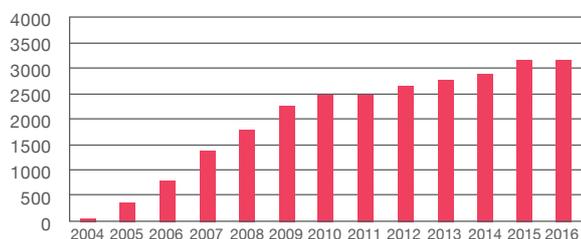
Professor Liu Hong, who was recruited from the University of Manchester in late 2010 and appointed Chair of HSS the next year, reflected: “It has been both a privilege and a gratifying experience in working closely with the senior management in the University and the College as well as HSS faculty and staff. Everyone’s support made the unprecedented pace of development of HSS, in terms of new programme

# KEY HSS STATISTICS AT A GLANCE:

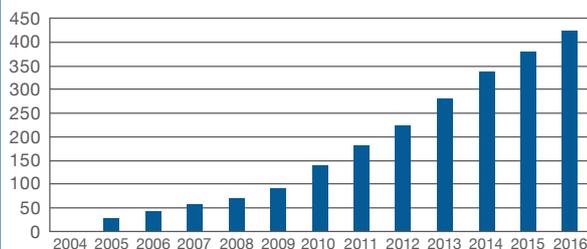
## HSS's Global Ranking (QS World University Rankings)

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

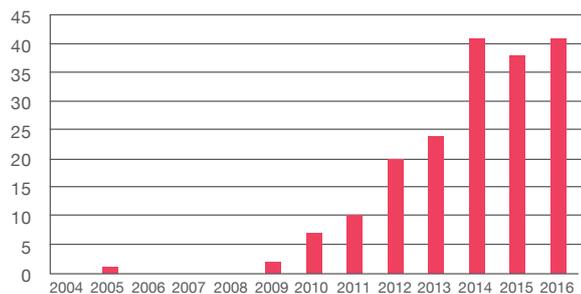
Annual Undergraduate Enrolment



Total Graduate Student (by Research) Enrolment



Annual Research Grants Awarded



set-up, faculty recruitment, and student enrollment possible. It is remarkable that in contrast to many other universities which have been phasing out the humanities and social sciences programmes, NTU and Singapore have given strong support for these disciplines, which in turn contributes to national development and the building of NTU as a dynamic global university.”

As affirmed by the university rankings over the years, HSS faculty have made substantial contributions to the advancement of knowledge through the publication of books and journals, as well as teaching. According to the QS World University Rankings 2016, NTU was placed 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.

In summary, HSS has built up a good reputation for itself while fulfilling its mission of developing future leaders, enhancing the educational experience of all NTU undergraduates and being at the forefront of humanities and social sciences research.

### Building on the Legacy of Excellence

In order to position NTU for future growth and enable it to continue to meet the aspirations of its students, the University announced in November 2016 that HSS will be re-organised into two Schools, the School of Humanities (SoH) and School of Social Sciences (SSS). The two schools will be established in 2017.

Leading the new School of Humanities (SoH) will be Professor Luke Kang Kwong Kapaty. A linguist and an expert in conversation analysis, he has worked closely with global specialists in a variety of fields including psychology, sociology and cognitive science. His experience in university administration includes being the Founding Head of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hong Kong from 1997 to 2006. He joined NTU in 2009 and was appointed Associate Dean (Research) of CoHASS and Director, Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in 2011.

Professor Luke envisions SoH to become a “leading centre of academic excellence in the humanities”. Professor Luke said, “To achieve academic excellence, we must build and sustain an environment that supports and rewards excellence in teaching and research, an environment where staff and students take ownership, and an environment that encourages and values conversation and interaction.”

Professor Luke also said that SoH will be promoting interdisciplinary research and learning. “The arts and the humanities are, quite simply, the heart and soul of a university (as former NTU President, Professor Su Guanng, once said). This is particularly true of a university like NTU which, while being known as a leading engineering university, is nevertheless fast establishing itself as a world-class university in a multiplicity of fields.”

“The best universities all have excellent Faculties and Schools in the humanities: Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard,



Professor Luke Kang Kwong Kapathy

Yale, and, closer to home, Peking University, University of Tokyo and others. An outstanding SoH can make a real difference to the reputation of our university and the quality of life on campus.”

For the new School of Social Sciences (SSS), it will be led by Professor Liu Hong, Tan Kah Kee Endowed Professor of Asian Studies. Prior to joining NTU in 2010, he served as Assistant Dean (Research & Graduate Studies) of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore and the Founding Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies at the University of Manchester. A scholar of contemporary Asia, public governance and global migration, he is also the Director of the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) in NTU.



Professor Liu Hong

Professor Liu shared that he would like the new School to “build upon the achievements of HSS in providing a student-centric education while also promoting cutting edge interdisciplinary research at the forefront of the social sciences”. He elaborated, “SSS will develop a nurturing and conducive environment for faculty to devote their time to teaching and research. It will seek to recruit the best possible young and established scholars and provide support for existing faculty members in terms of promotion and tenure. At the same time, the School will work with its sibling schools and the NCPA within the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences not only in areas such as joint appointments and cross-listed courses, but also in conducting multi-disciplinary research that will have economic, social and technological impact on Singapore and beyond.”

Professor Liu added that in addition to setting up new undergraduate programmes such as Geography and Masters programmes such as Gerontology, SSS also aims to enhance collaborations and linkages with external organisations such as government agencies, the private sector and top global institutions. Some areas of collaboration include consultancy, student exchange, joint degree offerings and institutional collaborations with Columbia University, London School of Economics, Tokyo University, and Tsinghua University.

### The Humanities and Social Sciences: A Key to the Future

As evidenced in Singapore and around the world, change is inevitable. The exponential progress of technological advancement has modified traditional ways of doing and thinking, bringing wholesale changes to society on a global scale. In the face of these new challenges, the importance of the humanities and social sciences has never been greater than now.

Professor Alan Chan, Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CoHASS), said, “I would like to thank Professor Liu Hong for his leadership of HSS

over the past six years. HSS has contributed significantly to the spectacular growth of NTU, which is now internationally recognised as a leading global university. SoH and SSS will become even stronger and better positioned to nurture future ready graduates and leaders of tomorrow, and spearhead cutting-edge multi-disciplinary research.”

“I envisage the two new Schools working with WKWSCI and ADM, as well as the other Schools on campus, in Medicine, Science, Engineering and Business, in tackling the grand challenges of our time, in areas such as identity and resilience, sustainable and inclusive growth, and ageing and population, as no single discipline can resolve these complex issues on their own.”

NTU President, Professor Bertil Andersson said that “having two new schools enables NTU to offer our students a wider breadth of learning and knowledge”.

“Growing the study of the humanities and social sciences at NTU is not just good for students keen on pursuing these disciplines as its benefits are university-wide. Humanities and social sciences play a unique and vital role in the development of vibrant creative societies. NTU’s big push in this area will boost students’ ability to think critically about the tough choices facing society in a rapidly changing world driven by technology, global connectedness and climate change.”

In this increasingly complex world, the humanities and social sciences empower us to navigate uncertainty and find answers to new and complex questions. They will remind us of the primacy of human agency; they will act as an anchor to the past; but most importantly, as Singapore progresses into the 21st century and beyond, the humanities and social sciences will be a key to finding innovative solutions to solve future challenges.

The School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences in NTU are ready for the challenge.

# A FASCINATION WITH WHAT IS INSIDE OUR MINDS



*Nanyang Associate Professor Ryo Kitada*

When Nanyang Associate Professor Ryo Kitada from the Division of Psychology in HSS was younger, the world piqued his curiosity and so he took an interest in physics to search for the answers to his questions. However, he soon realised that his true passion was (and still is) literally the human mind.

“While I was a high-school student, I became interested in how our world works. Thus, I explored particle physics and astrophysics. However, I realised that we need to learn more about ourselves [as humans]. I become fascinated by many questions on the mind and the brain, such as how they work, how they develop and how they become atypical. Hence, I decided to study psychology and neuroscience.”

Associate Professor Kitada hails from Okazaki, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. After completing his undergraduate and graduate studies at the prestigious Kyoto University,

he joined Queen’s University in Canada as a post-doctoral fellow and research associate for three years. In 2008, he returned to Japan and became an assistant professor at the National Institute for Physiological Sciences.

His main foci of research are: (a) to understand the mechanisms underlying multisensory perception and social cognition and; (b) how innate and postnatal experiences are interacted with each other to develop them. He has been employing both psychophysics and neuroimaging techniques (such as functional magnetic resonance imaging or fMRI) to address these questions.

So far in his career in academia, he has authored 31 publications, including articles in prestigious journals on psychology and neuroscience. Some of the most exciting findings of his research pertain to how people can recognise emotions through touch and how certain parts of the brain perform more than one function.

“ I realised that we need to learn more about ourselves [as humans]. I become fascinated by many questions on the mind and the brain, such as how they work, how they develop and how they become atypical. ”

“My research found out that those born blind and those with normal vision can actually recognise facial expressions of emotions, such as happiness and sadness, at a similar level through touch,” he explained. “Another significant finding involves the posterior of the cerebral cortex—it was considered as exclusively devoted to visual processing, but my research actually found that it is also involved in haptic processing as well.”

While devoted to his research, Associate Professor Kitada is also an avid sportsperson. During his spare time, he enjoys swimming, skiing and skating. He has also travelled quite a fair bit as an academic and he fondly remembers his first visit to Singapore.

“I visited Singapore 15 years ago and I was struck by the country’s multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society. The rich diversity which this city-state offered was something I cherished and I enjoyed my stay very much.”

Moving forward to the present, he hopes to be a part of the flourishing scholarly community at NTU and contribute to the university’s growth through his research, as well as inspiring students with his teaching. He also aims to try all of Singapore’s delicious food, saying, “My first target is chilli crab which I did not get to try during my first visit!”

# EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS IN LIFE AND THE HUMAN MIND



**H**e speaks French. He collects stamps. He likes travelling. He is into salsa dancing. An academic in the fields of psychology and neuroscience, he likes to experience different cultures and more importantly, savour food from around the world.

“I joined NTU in last November have tried a few Singaporean favourites,” said Assistant Professor Charles Or from the Division of Psychology in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. “Laksa, Hainanese chicken rice and *char kuey teow* are some of the local delights which I have tasted and enjoyed.”

Hailing from Hong Kong, Assistant Professor Or was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Louvain in Belgium prior to joining NTU. His research focuses on the visual perception of faces, motion, and form, using electrophysiology, psychophysics, and computational modelling as tools. Currently, he is investigating how face detection and face identification can be

accomplished rapidly under various circumstances, such as varying viewing angles and the presence of colour, using a novel and objective paradigm of fast periodic visual stimulation during recording of high-density scalp electroencephalograms (EEG). He is also interested in studying cultural variations in visual perception.

“I was exposed to the Theory of Consciousness when I was a young student and became interested in questions such as transferring the human mind to machines and topics like artificial intelligence,” he elaborated. “Although a lot has been written on the brain, it is still something we know very little about and current research is still not adequate in explaining the brain’s various functions.”

Assistant Professor Or believes that his current research in visual perception is actually a foundation to deeper study of mind and brain. He explained, “As human vision is key to so many of our daily tasks

“I was exposed to the Theory of Consciousness when I was a young student and became interested in questions such as transferring the human mind to machines and topics like artificial intelligence”

and the major input into the brain comprises visual images, studying visual perception will allow us to better understand cognitive phenomenon such as memorising information or learning new languages.”

This semester, he is utilising his expertise to teach Cognitive Psychology where students will learn how the brain processes information and how it forms an understanding of the world and interacts with it.

“Cognitive Psychology is a challenging topic as much of the knowledge is conceptual. I try to present these concepts as philosophical debates to help students better understand these theories, as well as finding opportunities to incorporate experiments into my teaching.”

Speaking of opportunities, Assistant Professor Or said that he joined NTU as there are many opportunities for research to develop in Singapore. He said, “Singapore is fertile ground for conducting research, especially in the social sciences. There are many opportunities for collaboration, as well as sourcing for research funds. Furthermore, there is much room for growth in neuroscience research and I aim to be part of this movement in Singapore and NTU.”

# MOE ACADEMIC RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

## MOE TIER 2 GRANTS PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS



**Title: Transnational Knowledge Transfer and Dynamic Governance in Comparative Perspective**

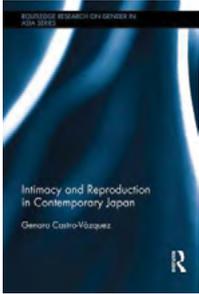
**Principal Investigator: Professor Liu Hong**

Description: Building upon the literatures of transnational learning, policy transfer and diffusion, global knowledge management, and dynamic governance, this project aims to contribute with a theory of transnational knowledge transfer that draws attention to tacit knowledge, or 'software' transfer, as a necessary complement to the 'hardware' transfer of policies, administrative arrangements, institutions, and best practices across countries. Set within the context of the rise of the Global South and the shifting away from one-way learning (from North to South) and drawing upon extensive empirical data from Singapore, China, Southeast Asia, and Africa, this project examines the dynamics, processes, and implications of transnational knowledge transfer in the Global South, for the formation and fostering of 'dynamic governance' in the arenas of public policy-making and implementation.

## MOE TIER 1 GRANTS

Division/Centre	Principal Investigator	Project Title
Chinese	Assistant Professor Cui Feng	Translation and Politics in the People's Republic of China in the 1950s and 1960s: its Significance to Modern Translation Studies
Economics	Professor Euston Quah	Environmental Valuation: The Intangible Costs of Haze Pollution
English	Assistant Professor Graham Matthews	Digital Mapping the Literary Epigraph: Quantitative Analysis of Literary Influence Using Network Theory and Thousands of Epigraphs
History	Assistant Professor Miles Powell	Red Dot, Blue Sea: A Marine Environmental History of Singapore's Coastal Spaces from Precolonial Times through the Present
History	Assistant Professor Park Hyung Wook	Crafting Seoul National University Hospital: Healthcare, Medical Modernity, and Their Techno-Cultural Construction
History	Assistant Professor Lisa Onaga	Uncertainty and "Turtles All the Way Down": The Spatio-temporal Life of a Mytheme and its Appropriation in Anxious Inquiry
Linguistics and Multilingual Studies	Associate Professor Ng Bee Chin	MICE - A Multilingual Corpus of Emotion Expressions of Malay, Indonesian, Chinese and English
Linguistics and Multilingual Studies	Assistant Professor Luca Onnis	Impact of Bilingualism and Socioeconomic Status on Basic Learning Skills in the Early Years
Linguistics and Multilingual Studies	Associate Professor Tan Ying Ying	Benign Management or Planned Negligence?: Malay and Tamil Language Policies in Singapore
Psychology	Nanyang Assistant Professor Gianluca Esposito	The Brain Mechanisms Behind Multiculturalism in Singapore: A Neuroscience Approach To Study in-group and out-group Dynamics
Sociology	Assistant Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu	The Missing Link: Exploring the role of Middle Men Agents and Social Networks In The Migration Practices of Low Wage Indian Labour
Language and Communication Centre	Dr Ahn Hyejeong	The Use of English as a Medium of Instruction in South Korean Universities

# BOOKS & JOURNALS



## Reinventing Regional Security Institutions in Asia and Africa: Power Shifts, Ideas, and Institutional Change

Assistant Professor Kei Koga (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme). (2017).  
Oxon and New York: Routledge

This book explores the mechanisms of institutional change, focusing on regional security institutions led by non-great powers. It constructs a theoretical model for institutional change that provides a new understanding of their changing

roles in regional security, which has yet to be fully explored in the International Relations field. In doing so, the book illuminates why, when, and how each organisation restructures its role, function, and influence. Using case studies of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)/ African Union (AU), it also sheds light on similarities and differences in institutional change between regional security institutions.



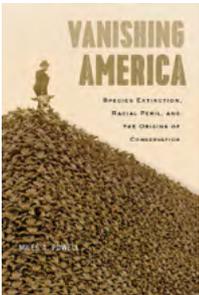
## The Construction and Practice of Confucianism in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia 《东南亚与东北亚儒学的建构与实践》

Assistant Professor Ngoi Guat Peng & Dr Park So Jeong (Chinese Division). (2016). Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, Nanyang Technology University.

This book attempts to connect the missing links in studies of Confucianism. How has Confucianism sustained in Asian countries from the past to the present? You will find the vivid answers in this book. The book is the fruit of many years of exchanges

between experts on Confucianism in Korea and Singapore. The authors discuss the variation and transformation of Confucianism in less explored regions of East Asia, including Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. Also, they discuss the future of Confucianism by sounding its potential

as the main bearer of publicness. One could see Confucianism as a common ground for the required values of today by understanding it through the dialogues developed in various countries instead of seeing it as a fixed value.



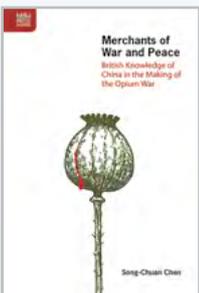
## Vanishing America: Species Extinction, Racial Peril, and the Origins of Conservation

Assistant Professor Miles Alexander Powell (History Programme). (2016). Harvard University Press.

Putting a provocative new slant on the history of U.S. conservation, *Vanishing America* reveals how wilderness preservation efforts became entangled with racial anxieties—specifically the fear that forces of modern civilisation, unless checked, would sap white America's vigour and stamina. Nineteenth-century citizens of European descent widely believed that Native Americans would eventually vanish from the continent.

Indian society was thought to be tied to the wilderness, and the manifest destiny of U.S. westward expansion, coupled with industry's ever-growing hunger for natural resources, presaged the disappearance of Indian peoples. Yet, as the frontier drew to a close, some naturalists chronicling the loss of animal and plant populations began to worry that white Americans might soon share the Indians' presumed fate. Miles Powell explores how early conservationists such as George Perkins Marsh, William

Temple Hornaday, and Aldo Leopold became convinced that the continued vitality of America's "Nordic" and "Anglo-Saxon" races depended on preserving the wilderness. Fears over the destiny of white Americans drove some conservationists to embrace scientific racism, eugenics, and restrictive immigration laws. Although these activists laid the groundwork for the modern environmental movement and its many successes, the consequences of their racial anxieties persist.



## Merchants of War and Peace: British Knowledge of China in the Making of the Opium War

Assistant Professor Chen Song Chuan (History Programme). (2017). Hong Kong University Press.

This book challenges conventional arguments that the major driving forces of the First Opium War were the infamous opium smuggling trade, the defence of British national honour, and cultural conflicts between "progressive" Britain and "backward" China. Instead, it argues that the war was triggered by a group of British merchants in the Chinese port of Canton

in the 1830s, known as the 'Warlike Party'. Living in a period when British knowledge of China was growing rapidly, the Warlike Party came to understand China's weakness and its members returned to London to lobby for intervention until war broke out in 1839. However, the Warlike Party did not get its way entirely. Another group of British merchants, known in Canton as the 'Pacific Party' opposed the war. In

Britain, the anti-war movement gave the conflict its infamous name, the 'Opium War', which has stuck ever since. Using materials housed in the National Archives, UK, the First Historical Archives of China, the National Palace Museum, the British Library, SOAS Library, and Cambridge University Library, this meticulously researched and lucid volume is a new history of the cause of the First Opium War.



### Chronological History of Tang and Five Dynasties Prose: High Tang 《唐五代文编年史·盛唐卷》

Assistant Professor Qu Jing-yi (Chinese Division) & Lin Yi-Chin. (2017).  
Hefei: Huangshan Publishing House, China.

The book series, including early Tang, High Tang, Middle Tang, Late Tang and Five Dynasties, is an unprecedented work in chronicling

all kinds of prose in the Tang and Five dynasties. Its inter-disciplinary approach includes literature, history, politics, law, military, intellectual thought, ethnics

group, especially the literary and historical methods.



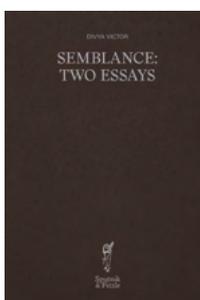
### The Archipelago Observed: Knowledge and Transformation in Indonesia.

Associate Professor Sulfikar Amir (Sociology Division). (2017). *EASTS 11(1)*.

This special issue stems from the 2014 Global STS Conference at Nanyang Technological University, an international event organized to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the university's School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This special issue seeks to respond to the challenge of how to understand transformations in contemporary Indonesia from an STS perspective, by which we mean an exploration into the role of knowledge and expertise in the way in which transformations

have been carried out, have been constructed, and have taken place. It aims to provide interesting and useful vignettes of how complex the issues of technology and knowledge production are in a multicultural, democratic society.



### Semblance: Two Essays

Assistant Professor Divya Victor (English Division). (2017). New York/Butte.

Semblance is a chapbook featuring two essays by Divya Victor. The first, "Cicadas in the Mouth", is an elaboration on a lecture commissioned for the Annual Leslie Scalapino Lecture, and the second, "An Unknown length of Rope: or, How to Survive in Water if you're Made of Paint," is an interdisciplinary lyric essay on visual art history, critical race theory, and poetics. Together, they encapsulate

Victor's ongoing research into the affects and politics of race and nationhood in the contemporary American context. "Cicadas in the Mouth" explores the cultural effects of accent modification in the South-Asian diaspora and argues that its strategic re-appropriation through ventriloquial forms—collage, textual appropriation, erasure—by bilingual and transnational poets, describes the emerging politics of witnessing acts of identitarian and socio-economic injustice

through contemporary poetry. "An Unknown Length" explores the material history of two paintings by the American painter, John Singleton Copley (1738–1815): *Watson and the Shark* and *Head of a Negro [Boy]* to explore how the materiality of pigmentation may have aesthetic and representational implications for narratives of racial uplift, national identity, and racial progress in the United States.

## BOOK CHAPTERS & JOURNAL ARTICLES

### Gulf Migration Beyond the Economic: Configuring the Neoliberal Self

Assistant Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu (Sociology Division). (2016). In I.S. Rajan (Ed.), *Indian Migration in the Gulf*. Delhi: Routledge.

This book analyses the everyday lives of labour migrants in a rapidly developing city-state. Using the emirate of Dubai as a

case study, Migrant Dubai shows that even within highly restrictive mobility regimes, marginalised migrants find ways to cope with

structural inequalities and quotidian modes of discrimination.

### Is Securitizing Migration a Mandatory Choice? Lessons from the EU and China.

Assistant Professor Chou Meng-Hsuan (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme), Assistant Professor Els van Dongen (History Programme) & Harlan Koff. (2016). In Emil Kirchner, Thomas Christiansen, & Han Dorussen (Eds.), *Security Relations between the EU and China: From Convergence to Cooperation?* pp. 209-228. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Internal migration regulation in China has been viewed through the security lens because it is a question of social stability relating to urban-rural relations and reduction of economic disparity. By contrast, China's external migration control has been approached from the development angle as part of its shifting economic priorities. Unlike the EU, China does not rely on external

partners for migration regulation and this has significant implications for future EU-China security cooperation in migration. In this chapter, EU and Chinese policies concerning migration, security and development are compared and contrasted to reveal their divergent approaches. EU migration strategies are shown to derive largely from a framework of

border security while Chinese migration policies are developed out of economic necessities. By outlining these differences, the question is raised: is it misplaced to focus on security when considering potential migration policy cooperation between the EU and China?

## Lee Kuan Yew's Thoughts on Talent and Singapore's Development Strategy

**Professor Liu Hong (History Programme) and Zhang Huimei. (2017). In Yang Chen-Ling, Yu Ying-Shih, Wang Gungwu, et al., *Lee Kuan Yew in the Eyes of Chinese Scholars*, pp. 97-115. Singapore and London: World Scientific.**

Singapore became a self-governing state in 1959, merged with Malaysia in 1963 and withdrew from the Malayan Federation to become an independent nation in 1965. With its lack of natural resources, the first leaders had to grapple with the question of how Singapore was to survive and develop. In June 1959, Lee Kuan Yew became the first prime

minister of Singapore and over the next 50 years, his ideas and vision were decisive in the formulation and implementation of Singapore's policies. Since independence, Lee Kuan Yew's focus has been on economic development and political stability, both of which require a supply of talented individuals. As a result, Lee Kuan Yew's talent development strategy has stressed

the importance of identifying and attracting talent. This article will specifically analyse Lee Kuan Yew's thoughts on talent development and his development policies and strategies over the past years, and assess their impact and effectiveness.

## Muslim Girl Culture and Social Control in Southeast Asia: Exploring the Hijabista and Hijabster Phenomena

**Associate Professor Patrick Williams and Associate Professor Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir (Sociology Division). (2017). *Crime, Media, Culture*. doi: 10.1177/1741659016687346**

While research on youth cultures in Southeast Asia has traditionally focused on crime, class, and delinquency among adolescent and young-adult males, the 21st century has seen an increase in research on the intersections among youth, religion, popular culture, media, identity, and consumption. As part of this trend, we report on an exploration of the terms

hijabista and hijabster, which refer to female Muslim cultural identities centered on the non-traditional use of the hijab or Muslim headscarf. After situating the phenomena within the larger context of conservative regional politics and religion, we consider their cultural meanings in terms of mass and social media, suggesting that hijabista and hijabster cultures

and identities are simultaneously hybrid and negotiated as young Muslim women, culture industries, and political and religious agents all employ a variety of strategies to shape emerging definitions. Finally, we reflexively discuss the implications of our own theoretical interests on interpretations of what it means to be a hijabista or hijabster.

## The Polysemy of Chinese Action Verb “Dǎ” and its Implications in Child Language Acquisition

**Dr. Helena Gao Hong (Chinese Division) & Sak, H. E. (2016). In Minghui Dong, Jingxia Lin, and Xuri Tang (Eds.), *Chinese Lexical Semantics*, pp. 524-533. Springer. ISBN 978-3-319-49507-1.**

The Chinese verb “dǎ” is a polysemous and frequently used verb. Studies have shown that it is one of the earliest verbs acquired by monolingual children; by the age of five, they can utilise most of the commonly used senses in their daily life. But whether it is an easy task for bilingual children to acquire and use the verb in different contexts is unknown.

Our study investigated the usage pattern of “dǎ” by 30 Chinese-English bilingual preschool children in Singapore. Visual stimuli depicting “dǎ” actions were used to elicit descriptions from the participants. The results reveal that the meaning representations of “dǎ” in the semantic domains such as “social interaction” and “physical punishment” are most commonly

used by the children while the meaning representations of “dǎ” in the semantic domains such as “fastening” and “possession” are the least used by the children. This paper will discuss the factors that affect the children's use of the polysemous verb.

## The Delineation of Throw Verbs in Chinese: A Behavioural and Perceptive Approach.

**Dr. Helena Gao Hong (Chinese Division), Wang, H. S., & Nicoladis, E. (2016). *Journal of Cognitive Science*, 17(1), pp. 95-131.**

Within a semantic domain, terms that can be used in a similar way to describe a similar event are members of the same class of words, or near-synonyms. They are common in a language but difficult to distinguish from one and another. Physical action verbs such as ‘throw’ verbs are a typical example of this. In this study we attempted to distinguish six Chinese ‘throw’ verbs (rēng, diū, pāo,

tóu, shuāi, shuǎi) from each other within the framework of cognitive semantics. Two experiments were conducted with two groups of native Chinese speakers (60 participants in total) to examine their behavioural and perceptual responses to the throwing actions that can be typically described by each of the six verbs. The results revealed that the verbs the participants enacted had differences in

terms of dimensional features. Furthermore, visual input about the verb that was enacted successfully elicited the participants' responses corresponding to the semantics of each individual verb. Typical actions and differences between five dimensions were used as discriminative features of the verbs. The validity of action performance as a paradigm for verb meaning specification was verified.

## Cross-Linguistic Categorization of Throwing Events: A Behavioral Approach.

**Dr. Helena Gao Hong (Chinese Division) & Wang, H. (2016). *Cognitive Linguistic Studies*, 3(2), pp. 259-276.**

Research on cross-linguistic categorisation reveals that there were universal principles constraining the categorisation of motion events across languages, and variations only distributed in a limited range. However, this finding has not been widely verified across languages and semantic domains. In this paper, we will address whether the universal constraints exist in the cross-linguistic

categorisation of throwing events, with the data collected with a behavioral approach. We asked 79 adult native speakers of English (12 male, 17 female), Chinese (15 male, 15 female), and German (18 male, 12 female) to perform actions denoted by near-synonymous ‘throw’ verbs in their native languages. Then we coded the features of their actions and compared them across individuals and

languages. The results support the findings of previous studies that event categorisation is constrained across languages. In addition, the top-down approach we adopted in this study allowed us to capture the focal and extensional semantic range of each verb involved, which advanced our knowledge of event categories and different semantic representations of a class of near-synonyms.

### The Rise of China and Japan's Balancing Strategy: Critical Junctures and Policy Shifts in the 2010s

Assistant Professor Kei Koga (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme). (2016). *Journal of Contemporary China*, 25(101), pp. 777-791.

This article argues that as opposed to the conventional wisdom of Japan's hedging policy, Japan has been constantly taking balancing behavior vis-à-vis China since the end of the Cold War; however, the incremental shift to explicit balancing began after the

2010 Senkaku Boat Collision Incident. The shift was accelerated by the 2012 Japanese Government Purchase of the Senkaku Islands. Since then, Japan has attempted to engage in both internal and external balancing by taking more security burden-sharing with the

United States through the relaxation of Japan's constitutional and political constraints on its military capabilities and the enhancement of security linkages with other regional states, such as Australia and India.

### An Eternal Parting: Staging Internal Diaspora, Performing South Korean Nationalism

Assistant Professor Lee Hyunjung (English Division). (2016). *Theatre Research International*, 41(3), pp. 231-244. Cambridge University Press.

The myth of Korean-ness is reconstructed via the figures of minorities in a documentary/performance, *An Eternal Parting*, performed by the South Korean performance group Movement Dang-Dang in 2011 and 2013. It showcases the phenomena of Korean

diaspora, starting with the deportations of Korean exiles from Siberia under Stalin during the 1930s, and hinges on the presence of the descendants of exiled Korean ethnic populations in contemporary South Korea, including how they are both accepted and

excluded by their countrymen. However, although *An Eternal Parting* tries to redefine the myth of Korean-ness from a marginal viewpoint, its fundamental ambivalence does not escape hegemonic Korean ideologies of nationalism, bloodline, family and home.

### Education as a Confucian Human Right

Professor Li Chenyang (Philosophy Programme). (2017). "Education as a Confucian Human Right," *Philosophy East and West*, 67(1), pp. 37-46.

Joseph Chan has shown persuasively that, in a Confucian society, rights should exist as a "fallback apparatus." I argue that in his philosophical framework, education must be a

human right. Education is vital to the Confucian conception of the good life. Its significance far exceeds the instrumental value for political purposes. Any contemporary Confucian

society must take education as a human right. Accepting such a fundamental right strengthens Chan's Confucian perfectionism.

### Comparative Philosophy and Cultural Patterns

Professor Li Chenyang (Philosophy Programme). (2016). *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, 15(4), pp. 533-546.

As a genus of philosophy, comparative philosophy serves various important purposes. It helps people understand various philosophies and it helps philosophers develop new ideas

and solve problems. In this essay, I first clarify the meaning of "comparative philosophy" and its main purposes, arguing that an important purpose of comparative philosophy is to help

us understand cultural patterns. This function makes comparative philosophy even more significant in today's globalised world.

### Confucian Harmony in Dialogue with African Harmony

Professor Li Chenyang (Philosophy Programme). *African and Asian Studies*, 1(2), pp. 1-10.

Engaging in dialogue with African philosophy, I respond to questions raised by Thaddeus Metz on characteristics of Confucian philosophy in comparison with African philosophy. First, in both Confucian philosophy and African philosophy, harmony/harmonisation and self-realisation coincide in the process of person-making. Second, Confucians accept

that sometimes it is inevitable to sacrifice individual components in order to achieve or maintain harmony at large scales; the point is how to minimise such costs. Third, Confucians give family love a central place in the good life before extending love to the rest of the world. Fourth, the Confucian philosophy of gender equality is based on appropriate division of

labour consistent with its *yin-yang* philosophy, rather than equal split of power in the family. Fifth, in the Confucian view, hierarchy and harmony do not necessarily contradict each other, though hierarchy is not essential to all forms of harmony. The two can co-exist.

### Chinese Historical Fiction in the Wake of Postmodernism: Two Versions of Yan Geling's *The Flowers of War*

Assistant Professor Graham Matthews (English Division). (2016). *Modern Fiction Studies*, 62(4).

The English translation of Yan Geling's *Jinling Shisan Chai* includes several new additions that are suggestive of key differences between Chinese and Western conceptions of narrative and history. Whereas the Chinese original

challenges monolithic interpretations of history with a self-consciously mythologised reading of the past, the international version seeks to counter revisionist histories and the cynicism of the assumed Western reader with additions

that emphasize the materiality of the historical event. I argue that the additions highlight the impossibility of reconstituting material history through narrative and calls for a reassessment of the ethics of historical fiction.

## On Categorization: Stick to the Facts of the Languages

**Professor Randy J. LaPolla (Linguistics & Multilingual Studies Division). (2016). *Linguistic Typology*, 20(2). pp.365-375.**

This paper argues that in doing both description and comparison, we should work inductively, staying true to the facts of the languages as manifested in natural data,

and not resort to abstractions that lead to classifying languages or constructions in a way that ignores the actual facts of the languages. A non-Structuralist alternative

view of communication and typological description is also presented.

## Target Displacements during Eye Blinks Trigger Automatic Recalibration of Gaze Direction

**Assistant Professor Gerrit Maus (Psychology Division), Duyck M, Lisi M, Collins T, Whitney D & Cavanagh P. (2017). *Current Biology*, doi:10.1016/j.cub.2016.12.029**

Eye blinks cause disruptions to visual input and are accompanied by rotations of the eyeball. Like every motor action, these eye movements are subject to noise and introduce instabilities in gaze direction across blinks. Accumulating errors across repeated blinks would be debilitating for visual performance. Here, we show that the oculomotor system constantly recalibrates gaze direction during blinks to counteract gaze instability. Observers were instructed to fixate a visual target while gaze direction was recorded and blinks were detected in real time. With

every spontaneous blink—while eyelids were closed—the target was displaced laterally by 0.5° (or 1.0°). Most observers reported being unaware of displacements during blinks. After adapting for ~35 blinks, gaze positions after blinks showed significant biases toward the new target position. Automatic eye movements accompanied each blink, and an aftereffect persisted for a few blinks after target displacements were eliminated. No adaptive gaze shift occurred when blinks were simulated with shutter glasses at random time points or actively triggered by observers, or

when target displacements were masked by a distracting stimulus. Visual signals during blinks are suppressed by inhibitory mechanisms, so that small changes across blinks are generally not noticed. Additionally, target displacements during blinks can trigger automatic gaze recalibration, similar to the well-known saccadic adaptation effect. This novel mechanism might be specific to the maintenance of gaze direction across blinks or might depend on a more general oculomotor recalibration mechanism adapting gaze position during intrinsically generated disruptions to visual input.

## Exploring Pedagogy Suited to Local Students: Two Teaching Cases of Classical Chinese Literature in Singapore Higher Education

**Assistant Professor Qu Jing-yi (Chinese Division). (2016). *International Journal of Education and Human Developments*, 2(16), pp. 54-62.**

The enrolment at Singapore universities' Chinese Studies courses are generally made up of students from three regions: Singapore, Malaysia and China, with Singapore students forming the majority. These students from diverse cultural backgrounds have different mastery of Chinese knowledge structure and Chinese language, creating unique difficulties and challenges to university Chinese education. Teachers need to explore pedagogy suited to local students. Classroom teaching has shown that the modern transformation of

classical literature through experiencing reality is an effective pedagogy in this environment. This paper endeavours to elaborate on this observation by looking into two cases—one for prose and the other for poetry. First, through the discussion of Li Si's Jianzhuke Shu, students share their views on the hot topic of migration in Singapore. No doubt, migrants bring considerable social pressure, but the introduction of foreign talent creates practical value and hence the government's policy has been to strike a balance between the two and

achieving a win-win situation. The application of classics in real life situations can effectively stimulate student's interest in learning. Secondly, through the comparison and discussion of poetry translations, Singapore students are able to utilise their bilingual advantage in the analysis of English translations of Chinese poems, deepening their understanding of classical literature by looking at the explicitation of semantics, grammar and cultural connotations of translated Chinese poetry.

## A Psychoanalytical Interpretation of Ying-ying's Contradiction Singapore Higher Education

**Assistant Professor Qu Jing-yi (Chinese Division) & Tay Qin Xuan. (2016). *International Journal of Comparative Literature & Translation Studies*, Australia, (4(2)), pp. 45-50.**

This study investigates Yuan Zhen's "The Story of Ying-ying" ("Yingying Zhuan") by means of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis. From a psychoanalytic perspective, Ying ying faces internal struggles between the ego and the id caused by her superego—this leads to her

inconsistent behaviours. This contradiction encapsulates how any reasonable person would have felt, thus having an epoch-marking significance. Poems composed based on their love affair also reveal the social role of scholars under the reality principle, the underlying basis

for the desertion of Ying-ying. Interpretation of the story using a combination of tale and poetry expands the Tang literati discourse on Ying-ying's contradictory behaviours.

## Behind the Ties that Bind: Diaspora-making and Nation-building in China and India in Historical Perspective, 1850s-2010s

**Assistant Professor Els van Dongen (History Programme). *Asian Studies Review*, 41(1).**

Whereas the rare existing comparative studies of Chinese and Indian diaspora policies have focused on recent periods following economic restructuring in both countries, This article, using uses a historical perspective, looks at to analyse diaspora policies in both countries from the angle of conceptions of the nation. Comparing three specific periods – the early

twentieth century, the period between the 1950s and the 1970s, and the period since the 1970s – the article argues that there was a similarity between China and India in terms of how conceptions of the nation expanded and contracted together with both domestic and international changes during these periods, in spite of differences in nationality laws. As such,

it demonstrates that countries with nationality laws based on jus sanguinis are not necessarily always more inclusive towards diaspora populations than those with nationality laws based on jus soli. In both cases, there is a tension at work between a state-led paradigm that is territorial in nature and ethnic and cultural notions of nationhood.

## Financial Sector Reform and Policy Design in An Age of Instability

Assistant Professor Woo Jun Jie (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme) & C. Bakir. (2016). *Policy and Society*, 35(3), pp. 193-204.

The Global Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2008 has revealed weaknesses in financial regulatory policies and institutions in many countries. These weaknesses extend to the regional and international domains of financial policy as well. This article calls for the need for better

designed financial regulations and policies by taking a policy design perspective. It provides a multi-level approach to understanding financial reform as design that examines the various components of policy design – policy means, goals and change – at the three levels

of policymaking – international, regional and national. In doing so, we aim to provide a first step towards a more design-centric approach to financial sector reform.

## Dynamics of Global Financial Governance: Constraints, Opportunities, and Capacities in Asia

Assistant Professor Woo Jun Jie (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme), M Ramesh, Michael Howlett & Mehmet Kerem Coban. (2016) “Dynamics of global financial governance: Constraints, opportunities, and capacities in Asia”, *Policy and Society*, 35(3), pp. 269-282.

Policy design, or the deliberate governmental effort to attain desired policy objectives, is an integral part of micro and macro-level fiscal and financial regulation. This paper seeks to address the role of regime coherence and

policy capacity in contributing to effective financial policy design. Drawing on the cases of the Global Financial Crisis and Asian Financial Crisis and focusing on Asian states, we assess regime capacity at both international

and domestic levels. We argue that it is the integration of analytical, operational and political capacities that have contributed to the overall ability of a government regime to address and respond to crises.

## Resilience and Robustness in Policy Design: A Critical Appraisal

Assistant Professor Woo Jun Jie (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme) & G. Capano. (2017). *Policy Sciences*.

Resilience and robustness are exciting concepts for policy researchers. Their broad use in other disciplines has motivated social scientists and policy researchers to adopt them in analyses. In the present paper, we review definitions of these concepts and the primary

theoretical and empirical challenges presented by resilience and robustness as lenses for improving the understanding of policy process and policy design. The results reveal that the two concepts differ in their potential value for public policy analysis. Despite its diffusion

and ‘charme’, resilience does not appear to be useful and may be misleading, whereas robustness exhibits great potential with respect to both analysis and design.

## The Rise of Asia, Power Shifts, and Strategic Rivalries

Assistant Professor Kei Koga (Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme). (2016). *Moving Worlds*, 16(2), pp. 59-71.

Asia faces a dual trend. While the region now enjoys rapid economic growth and rising political cooperation, Asia faces a number of future challenges, such as the rise of China's military and economic capabilities with its assertive attitude, territorial disputes, and domestic politics. On this “Asian Paradox,”

how could we account for the current strategic landscape in East Asia? To what extent do security tensions between them contribute to conflict escalation? How can the Asian states reduce the possibility of conflicts? This article will focus on the emerging power shift in Asia primarily caused by a rise of China

and examine the cases of the East China Sea and South China Sea, where China has been involved in territorial issues with Japan and several Southeast Asian states, and analyse their implications in the changing strategic context in Asia.

## Celebrity Death, Media Events and Civil Religiosity: An Interpretive Media Sociology of the Suicide of Choi Jin-sil

Assistant Professor Sam Han (Sociology Division). (2017). *Asian Communication Research* 13(2), pp. 9-26. doi: 10.20879/acr.2016.13.2.9

This article presents a theoretical media-sociology of celebrity death as a “media event.” Using Dayan and Katz's famed concept as a point of entry, it examines a particular media event, the suicide of South Korean actress Choi Jin-sil (1968-2008), once dubbed “the nation's actress,” through the lens of not only of “media events” but also celebrity studies

and the sociology of religion. It does so with emphasis placed on the particular significance of suicide as well as the characteristics of celebrity and fandom in South Korean culture. It also discusses the place of death in the current technologically mediated culture, where death is no longer “sequestered” but more present than ever. Treating celebrity

death as a primary example of “mediated death,” it explicates key conceptual insights from celebrity studies that bear on the analysis of Choi's suicide, in particular the concept of “para-sociality.” The article concludes by interpreting Choi's suicide as a media event that “heroizes” Choi as a symbol of the nation, reinforcing a “civil religiosity.”

## Frontal-Subcortical Circuitry in Social Attachment and Relationships: A Cross-Sectional fMRI ALE Meta-Analysis

Lee, S.-H., Walker, Z.M., Hale, J.B. & Associate Professor Chen Shen-Hsing Annabel (Psychology Division). (2017). *Behavioural Brain Research*. doi: 10.1016/j.bbr.2017.02.032

Researchers have explored the concept of attachment in multiple ways, from animal studies examining imprinting to abnormal attachment in psychopathology. However, until recently, few have considered how neural circuitry develops the effective social bonds that are subsequently replicated in relationships across the lifespan. This current cross-sectional study undertook a fMRI Activation Likelihood

Estimation (ALE) meta-analyses to examine the neurocircuitry that governs emotional and behavioural functions critical for building effective social relationships in children and adults. Results suggest that dissociable dorsal cognitive (“cool”) and ventral – affective (“hot”) frontal-subcortical circuits (FSC) work together to govern social relationships, with repeated social consequences leading to potentially

adaptive – or maladaptive – relationships that can become routinized in the cerebellum. Implications for forming stable, functional, social bonds are considered, followed by recommendations for those who struggle with cool and hot FSC functioning that can hinder the development of adaptive prosocial relationships.