FASS RESEARCH DIVISION
Research Highlights Newsletter
June 2017

Table of Contents

LKC NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellowship
Bookshare
SSRC Grants
Research Clusters and Centres

Global Urban Studies
Health
STS
SRN

Royal Geographical Society Murchison
Award
Panel on Grantwriting Strategies

CFPR
GPN
SSR
NAI

LKC NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellowship

5 April: Why Theory and Southeast Asian Cinema Matter to Each Other
by LKC NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellow, Prof Gerald Sim

2 March: Bookshare: by A/P Khairudin Aljunied, A/P Tim Bunnell, & Dr Jamie Gillen
As a small, island city-state, Singapore is economically, environmentally, and politically interconnected, with regional neighbours in Southeast Asia. The resilience and reliability of these interconnections have facilitated economic growth, regional stability, and cordial diplomatic relations. However, development benefits in the region have not come without costs; rising living standards are associated with increasing rates of resource extraction, reduced environmental quality, and impoverishment of biodiversity that have negative ramifications for exposed population groups.

In light of the above challenges, this project seeks to:

• First, identify the drivers and impacts associated with two major transboundary environmental challenges impacting land, water, and atmosphere in Southeast Asia i.e. biomass burning and haze, and hydropower development and water resources;
• Second, to examine these transboundary challenges in the context of governance of transboundary environmental commons, or common pool resources, within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as the identification of relevant best practices worldwide; and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prof Ted Hopf</th>
<th>Political Science/ARI</th>
<th>Making Identity Count in Asia: Identity Relations in Singapore and its Neighbourhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Third, to develop the concept of transboundary environmental commons within ASEAN.
  The project also aims to contribute to environmental sustainability within ASEAN, as well as provide an evidence-based foundation for policy-making and implementation at both national and ASEAN levels that enhances Singapore’s reputation as a responsible neighbour and a leader in sustainability sciences.

The project seeks to establish Singapore’s identity relations with its neighbours in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and selected East Asian territories such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea. It also undertakes an in-depth examination of Singapore’s national identity, including how the concept of national identity differs among different communities, and the implications on national resilience and social integration.

The project has the potential to inform Singapore’s foreign and security policy, through an understanding of our national identity, as well as that of our neighbours in Asia; and the identity relations among them and how Singapore’s national identity relates to them. Our policies could also be informed by insights on national identity relations at home, in particular, how widely and deeply the predominant discourse of Singaporean national identity is...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prof Jean Yeung</th>
<th>CFPR</th>
<th><strong>Building Capacity in Singapore's Population: Testing Innovations in Human Development</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A major challenge for Singapore is how to raise the next generation to be productive and healthy, particularly, how to enhance the development of children from disadvantaged families to avoid cyclical poverty. Hence, this project looks at human development in terms of enlarging people’s potential to gain skills and capacities to enjoy an adequate standard of living, and to lead a healthy life. It also includes the accumulation of formal education, experiences, cognitive skills, health, social skills (such as cooperation and communication skills), as well as psychological resources (such as motivation, resiliency, and emotional stability). As a start, the project will investigate early childhood development. The project will employ innovative methods and draw expertise from different disciplines to understand factors that can promote Singaporean children’s early childhood development. The main research questions touch on how family, childcare and early education institutions, community, and the state interact to shape the development of Singapore’s children, how these investments affect inter-generational mobility and social stratification in Singapore, and the roles which the community...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and government can play in improving child outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A/P Liu Haoming</th>
<th>CFPR</th>
<th>Population ageing, old age labour and financial decisions in Singapore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Singapore’s population is ageing as a result of increased life expectancy and declining fertility. Similar to other developed countries. Singapore’s labour force participation rate of elderly men declined slightly in the 1980s and 1990s. Whether or not Singapore can successfully overcome these challenges would, in part, depend on an understanding of household financial decisions concerning retirement. This project capitalises on the introduction of the Central Provident Fund Lifelong Income for the Elderly (CPF LIFE) plan in 2013 to study the different aspects of household saving decisions – first, the existence of and reasons behind bequest motives and the determinants of bequest; second, the availability of annuities on people’s saving decisions; and third, the availability of annuities on the labour force participation rate of the elderly. The project findings would provide useful insights to facilitate further refinement of existing CPF policies so that the elderly population of the future can enjoy better financial security in the later stages of their lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/P Esther Goh</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Identifying Positive Adaptive Pathways in Low-income families in Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The project is the first academic longitudinal study on how multi-stressed low-income families in Singapore adapt to extreme financial constraints. While studies conducted by economists typically underscore the risks of poverty to the families and the potential danger of social instability if income divide remains unchecked, this study adopts an innovative approach to studying low-income families by looking not merely at the risks of poverty, but the strengths of their adaptive behaviour as well. The study will refine the understanding of such families by distinguishing trajectories of adaptive capacities, so that policies and interventions can be more targeted in their areas of support. The findings of the study also have the potential to inform social policies and programmes, such that they move away from problem-focused interventions to human capacity building by tapping into the strengths and capacities of low-income families.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Royal Geographical Society Murchison Award

Professor Henry Yeung, Co-Director of the GPN Centre and economic geographer from the Department of Geography, has been conferred the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers (IBG)) Murchison Award 2017. Conferred by the Council of the Society in recognition of Prof Yeung’s pioneering publications on globalisation, the award was presented to him by the Society’s President, Mr Nicholas Crane, at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Medals and Awards ceremony 2017 in London on 5 June. The Murchison Award is the most senior accolade in the awards category to be presented at the ceremony; the other category being the medals category. Read the press release here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TBA August: Strategies for Successful Grant Proposal Writing:
A Panel Discussion with Prof Kenneth Dean, A/P Soo Yeon Kim, and A/P Tim Bunnell
RSVP to Rachel at fasrda@nus.edu.sg.

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

RECENT EVENTS

9 March: Urban Resistance and the Radical Imagination: Anti-gentrification movements in New York City ‘post-Occupy’ by Dr Laura Naegler, Lecturer, University of Liverpool, SG
6 April: A ‘Model State’ For Malaysia?: Competing Visions of (Re)development in a UNESCO World Heritage City by Dr Creighton Connolly, Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute

19 April: The Infrastructure of Infrastructure in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam by Dr Hun Kee Kim, Postdoctoral Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

RECENT EVENTS
3 March: Workshop on Intergenerational Contact Zones in Asian Context: A Focus on Education and Integrated Service Spaces, co-organized by National Council for Social Services (NCSS), featuring A/P Shih-Tsen Liu, Nike, University of Taipei, Environmental Education and Resources; Masataka Kuraoka, Research Associate, Research Team for Social Participation and Community Health, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, Japan; Elaine Tan and Stephanie Wee, Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA); Jenny Tiew and Pravina Narayanan Council for Third Age (C3A); and Caymania Low, NTUC Health.
RECENT EVENTS

Jointly organized with Tembusu College

Book Publication: A Year in the Life of Singapore
SRN has published its second book, A Year in the Life of Singapore. The 112 page volume features 50 pieces of research by FASS faculty members from 15 departments, all answering different questions about Singapore. Each research write-up is linked to a date of local, regional, or international cultural, social, or historical significance. If you are interested to obtain a hard copy of A Year in the Life of Singapore, please email Clare (fascyps) or Rachel (fasrda). The ebook has now been published and is available here! You can also read SRN’s first book, Regarding Singapore, which focuses on creative work by the FASS community, online here.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Details and registration TBA.

22 August: Panel Discussion: Singapore-Relevant Research or International Impact: A False Dilemma?” Register [here](#).

RESEARCH CENTRES

CENTRE FOR FAMILY & POPULATION RESEARCH

RECENT EVENTS

CFPR Seminar Series

10 March: **Effects of Bilingualism and Language Development in Singaporean Children**
by A/P Leher Singh, Associate Professor, NUS Department of Psychology

17 March: **Problems (and Possible Solutions) for the Recent Crisis in Psychological Research**
by A/P Mike Cheung, Associate Professor, NUS Department of Psychology

24 March: **Hurdles and Hopes: An Ecological Analysis of Migrant Children in China**
by Ms Gu Xiaorong, PhD Candidate, NUS Department of Sociology

30 March: **Living Arrangements and Old-Age Psychological Health: Evidence from Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand**
by A/P Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan, School of Social Sciences, SMU
31 March: Exploring the Relation Between Immigrants and Native Workers: New Evidence Using Firms, Occupations and Employment Flows
by Dr Ken Ueda, Postdoctoral Fellow, CFPR and NUS Department of Economics

21 April: From Young Pioneers to Little Red Soldiers: Internationalism and the Making of Mao’s Children
by A/P Xu Lanjun, Associate Professor, NUS Department of Chinese Studies

UPCOMING EVENTS

17-19 May 2018: Joint Conference for ISA RC06 (Family Research) & RC41 (Sociology of Population) Theme: Changing Demography, Changing Families; Venue: NUS

Media Series with Lianhe Zaobao
In the 8th article, published on 5 March 2017, A/P Tan Ern Ser explains that love rather than filial piety is a more reliable basis for intergenerational support.
In the 9th article, published on 2 April 2017, Dr Mu Zheng discusses the link between Singapore’s low birth rates and the role of women in the family and at the workplace.
In the 10th article, published on 7 May 2017, Dr Leher Singh sheds light on the influence of bilingualism on childhood development.
RECENT EVENTS

3 April: Growth, Trade, and Inequality by Professor Gene Grossman, Department of Economics, Princeton University. Jointly organized with the NUS Department of Economics.

25 April: Global Income, Trade, and Industrialization: The Geography of Growth Take-Offs by Professor Richard Baldwin, the Graduate Institute, Geneva. Jointly organized with the NUS Department of Economics.

2 May: Cross-border E-commerce in South China from a Perspective of Global Consumption Networks by A/P James Jixian Wang, Department of Geography, The University of Hong Kong. Jointly organized with the NUS Department of Geography.
UPCOMING EVENTS

21 June: Roundtable Discussion on Transition of Care for Older Persons: Meaning, Motivation and Movement, invitation only, jointly organized with CSDA, NUS Department of Social Work

22 June: Healthcare of the Future: Realising the Full Potential of Innovation in Care Integration, jointly organized with CSDA, NUS Department of Social Work

RECENT EVENTS

1 March: Engaging Residents at the Neighbourhood Level by Associate Professor Ho Kong Chong, NUS Department of Sociology

13 March: SSR-SSP Roundtable titled “Rethinking Social Housing in Singapore” Jointly organized with the Social Science & Policy (SSP) Research Cluster
26 April: **One Size Fits All? Housing History, Experiences, and Expectations of Public Rental Tenants**
by Dr Ng Kok Hoe, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

4 May: **Research Mentoring Programme Graduation**

17 May: **Choice and Control: Lessons from the Implementation of Personal Budgets in the UK**
by Mr Zhuang Kuansong, Independent Researcher

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

27 July: **Conference on Innovative Approaches in Community and Institutional Rehabilitation of Offenders**, jointly organized with NAI