

ARI



Newsletter of the Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore

Issue No. 01

A Word from the Director



It gives me great pleasure to welcome this first issue of the ARI Newsletter, as an opportunity to share the Institute's exciting developments with a broader constituency.

The Institute formally came into being under the name Institute for Asian Research in July 2001, with a provisional steering committee chaired by Professor Wang Gungwu. It assumed the space, the staff, and some of the study programs of the former Centre for Advanced Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). Unlike the former Centre, however, this was to be a more ambitious University-level Institute, with representation on its Management Board from four faculties - FASS, Law, Business and the School of Design and Environment.

One of the main tasks of the provisional Steering Committee was to find a Director, and their efforts resulted in my taking up that role on 1 July 2002. In the meantime the name was changed to the more euphonious and appropriate Asia Research Institute, a budget was agreed for the first three years of development, and two senior administrative staff were recruited - Christopher Anthony as Manager and Lynn Tan as Events Coordinator.

It is an awesome privilege for me to be thus associated with the foundation of such an important initiative at the heart of the region I have laboured to understand for forty years. Singapore has long been a service hub for this region in many fields, and is now more than ever so in research and education. ARI aspires to strengthen regional, as well as local, research and graduate training, and to provide a space for the widest possible exchange of ideas.

Much of the time since my arrival here has been taken up with appointments, and I am delighted to see the first fruits of that process in this Newsletter. Many workshops and seminars

have also been held or initiated. Among the various initiatives being pursued, I would like to highlight two:

- The first of ARI's flagship annual conferences under the general rubric "ASIA TRENDS" will be held on 4 July. This year's theme is "Language trends in Asia", and in future years we expect to focus on trends in marriage, in migration, and so forth.

- ARI has recently selected its first eight library research fellows, from graduate students at ASEAN universities. These are designed to make Singapore's remarkable assets in library holdings and electronic access to information available to promising researchers in the region, and thereby ease the pressure of travelling to distant centres. This initial group is due to arrive in March.

I hope that you will enjoy reading further about ARI in the pages which follow.

Anthony Reid
Director, ARI

The Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore announces the first in its *Asia Trends* series of annual public conferences:

Babel or Behemoth: Language Trends in Asia
4 July 2003

For further details, see page 12

People at



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Director

1) Professor A.J.S REID (Email: aridir@nus.edu.sg)

Anthony Reid is completing a number of projects on the pre-colonial history of Southeast Asia, notably a broad economic history of the region. His newer interests concern the shaping of identities in modern Indonesia and Malaysia, and the way these have interacted historically with nationalism.



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Visiting Professors

2) Professor James Francis WARREN (Email: arjfw@nus.edu.sg)

James Warren is Professor of Southeast Asian Modern History at Murdoch University in Australia. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the Asia Research Institute. He has been awarded grants by the SSRC and the ARC and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities. His approach to writing Southeast Asian History in an ethnographic grain has been context-sensitive with a strong cultural-ecological orientation. The themes identified in his major books and articles, whether focussing on state formation, slavery, ethnicity, maritime raiding, migration and urbanization, prostitution or suicide, are all trans-historical and trans-cultural. While at ARI he is doing research on the impact of the typhoon on Philippine society and history.

3) Professor Pratipal BHATIA (Email: aripb@nus.edu.sg)

Pratipal Bhatia was educated at the University of Delhi (India), University of Pennsylvania (USA) and School of Oriental and African Studies, London (UK). Her specialization is in the history and numismatics of South Asia and neighbouring countries during the pre-modern period. She has published a book and many research papers, and has prepared a Numismatic Atlas of Ancient India that is awaiting publication. Along with other types of source material she uses numismatics for the reconstruction of economic history.

Currently she is working on the monetary history of northern India with special reference to Indo-Sasanian coins. The ruling families who issued these coins had been trading partners of the Sasanians of Iran in maritime as well as overland East-West trade, and they established trade and cultural contacts with west Asia and Southeast Asia.

Her teaching interests include social and economic history, numismatics, pre-modern Indian Ocean trade and trading communities, Indian art and architecture, historical archaeology especially the step-wells of Rajasthan, and Indian Diaspora studies.



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Visiting Senior Research Fellows

4) Dr Jennifer LINDSAY (Email: arijml@nus.edu.sg)

Jennifer Lindsay studied at Victoria University in New Zealand, Cornell University in the United States, and the University of Sydney, Australia. She has spent almost twenty years in Indonesia, as student, researcher, diplomat and foundation program officer, with a consistent interest in cultural policy, Indonesian performing arts, and language. She has written about Javanese performing arts; cultural policy in Southeast Asia; language policy and use in broadcast media; translation; and interrelationships between language, orality and performance. She taught Javanese gamelan at Cornell University and the University of Sydney. Prior to taking up the Senior Research Fellowship at the Asia Research Institute, she was on the faculty of the Department of Performance Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia. She is also active as a translator, and the second collection of her translations of Goenawan Mohamad's essays, titled *Conversations with Difference*, was published in late 2002.

5) Dr SUN Laichen (Email: arislc@nus.edu.sg)

Sun Laichen was born in a village near the Yellow River in north China and received his BA from Zhengzhou University, MAs from Peking University and Northern Illinois University, and PhD from the University of Michigan. He is an Assistant Professor at California State University, Fullerton and is currently with the Asia Research Institute as Visiting Senior Research Fellow. Sun Laichen specializes in early modern Southeast Asian history, particularly Sino-Southeast Asian overland interactions. In addition, he has a keen interest in early modern Asian and world history from a comparative perspective. His research interests include: Asian and European military technologies; flows of goods (including metals) and people; Ethnohistory in Mainland Southeast Asia; Sino-Burmese relations; and defining a "Greater Southeast Asia"

6) Dr Geoff WADE (Email: arigpw@nus.edu.sg)

Geoff Wade is a historian with interests in China-Southeast Asian historical interactions and comparative historiography. He graduated in Southeast Asian studies from the Australian National University and then undertook Chinese studies in Sydney, Beijing and Nanjing, completing his PhD at the University of Hong Kong in 1994. Following a stint teaching history at Universiti Sains Malaysia, he has been coordinating the China-ASEAN Project at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong for the last six years. During his stay at ARI, he will be engaged in several projects, including preparing for publication a work entitled *Southeast Asia in the Ming Reign Chronicles: 14th-17th centuries*. His other projects are centred on comparative historiography and Asian historical expansions.

Visiting Fellow

7) Associate Professor John MIKSIC (Email: arijnm@nus.edu.sg)

John Miksic has lived and worked in Malaysia (1968-72), Honduras (1975), Sumatra (1976-77, 1979-81), Java (1981-87), and Singapore (1987-present). His principal research is on urbanization in Southeast Asia, 11th to 15th centuries, through archaeological and historical research on Kota Cina, Banten Lama, Banten Girang, Singapore, Riau, and Trowulan. He also makes forays into Southeast Asian history (archetypes of heroes and heroines, ancient trade, the palace of Surakarta Hadiningrat), colonial archaeology (Singapore, Bencoolen), early Buddhism (Borobudur, the bodhisattva Manjusri), precolonial gold jewellery (Java, Philippines), underwater archaeology (Java Sea), and jar burial (Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia). Teaching areas: Southeast Asian archaeology, history, art history, cultural resource management, and museology.

Assistant Professors (on secondment from NUS faculties for six months)

8) Dr Kumaralingam AMIRTHALINGAM (Email: arika@nus.edu.sg)

Kumaralingam Amirthalingam was educated in Australia and taught law at the Australian National University before joining the Law Faculty at the National University of Singapore. His research at ARI is on aspects of criminal law and tort law that are particularly affected by cultural or regional factors. Kumar's work includes studying the liability of traditional medicine practitioners and evaluating legal strategies and responses to domestic violence. He is also working on cross-cultural issues in criminal law, especially conflicts of norms arising out of the intersection of customary law and general law.

9) Dr Michael MONTESANO (Email: arimm@nus.edu.sg)

Michael Montesano is at the ARI for the period January to June 2003, under the Institute's "Writing Semester for Assistant Professors" scheme. A member of NUS's Southeast Asian Studies Programme since 1999, Montesano was educated at Yale, Cornell, and the University of the Philippines at Los Baños. At NUS, he has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses on the social, political, and economic history of modern Southeast Asia. His research focuses on society and commerce in twentieth-century Thailand and on contemporary American interests in Southeast Asia. While at the ARI, he will be working on a biography of a pioneering southern Thai banker and businessman.

Postdoctoral Fellows

10) Dr Jamie DAVIDSON (Email: arijsd@nus.edu.sg)

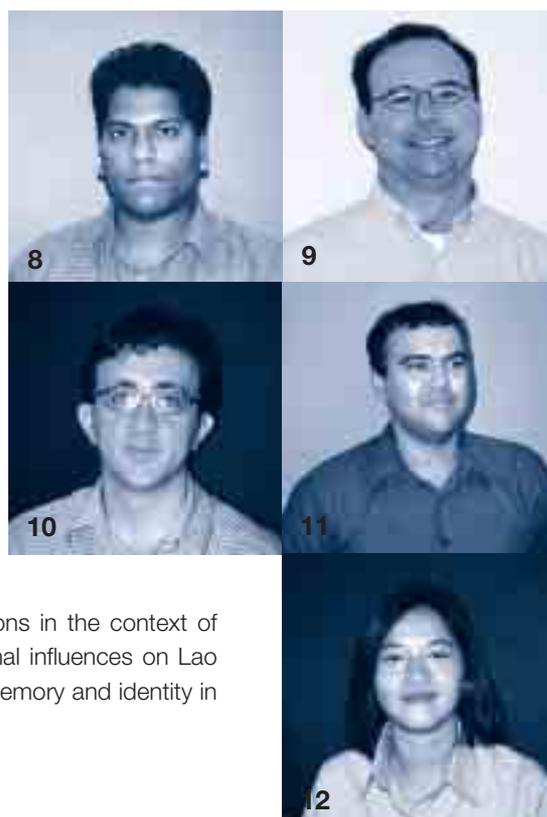
Having graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in the US, Jamie Davidson travelled to Indonesia to teach English in Yogyakarta for one year. He then enrolled in a reading Master's program at the School of Oriental and African Studies (U of London). Upon the completion of the course, Jamie entered the Political Science PhD program at the University of Washington, also in the United States, where he wrote a dissertation on mass violence, politics and state-building in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. He defended his dissertation in October, 2002 and joined ARI in January 2003. At ARI, he will continue his investigations into mass violence.

11) Dr Mark Ravinder FROST (Email: arimrf@nus.edu.sg)

Mark Frost received his doctorate from the University of Cambridge in 2002 and joined ARI in December of that year. His doctoral thesis, entitled 'Globalization and Religious Revival in the Imperial Cities of the Indian Ocean Rim, 1870-1920', was a historical study of the ideological impact of the emergence of a 'global ecumene' during the age of 'New Imperialism' especially on urban-centred religious movements. His research interests are focused on Asia and include: transnational history writing, cultural exchange and diasporic public spheres, and the development of print and pilgrimage. Since joining ARI he has become increasingly interested in regional networks that span and surmount the South Asia/Southeast Asia divide.

12) Dr Vatthana PHOLSENA (Email: aripv@nus.edu.sg)

Vatthana Pholsena obtained her PhD from the University of Hull, UK in 2002. Her thesis, 'Minorities and the Construction of a Nation in Post-Socialist Laos', focused on the politics of national culture and history and its representations and narratives by members of ethnic minorities in Southern Laos. She is currently working on a book on Laos' external relations in the context of regional integration with a special focus on cross border linkages and external influences on Lao culture and society. Her other current research works include: the politics of memory and identity in post-communist Laos, and international relations in former Indochina.





13) Dr Theresa W. DEVASAHAYAM
(Email: aritwd@nus.edu.sg)

Theresa W. Devasahayam, who holds a PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology and an M.A. in Public Administration from Syracuse University, New York, U.S.A., joined the Family Studies Research Programme in May 2002. A Postdoctoral Fellow, her research focuses on Singapore and Malaysia, specifically examining gender relations and women's status as mediated by globalisation and wage employment, how family dynamics shift when women work, ageing and its social implications for female carers, the everyday lived experiences of mothers, government policies for the family, family-friendly organisational practices, and unskilled female labour migration in Southeast Asia. Theresa's past professional record includes research for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Vietnam and the American Council for United Nations University (AC/UNU) in Washington D.C., U.S.A. To maintain her sanity, Theresa enjoys visiting museum exhibits and playing with her cat!

14) Dr Yong-Sook LEE
(Email: arileeys@nus.edu.sg)

Yong-Sook Lee is a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Urban Studies Research Programme at the National University of Singapore. She obtained her PhD in Urban Planning and Policy Development from Rutgers University. Her research has focused on broad issues of regional economic



Research Assistant

15) Ms TAN Ying Ying (Email: arityy@nus.edu.sg)

Tan Ying Ying joined ARI in December 2002. She did her BA (Hons) and PhD at the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore. She has, in December 2002, submitted her PhD dissertation for examination. Her PhD research is in the area of Phonetics, focussing on prosody, examining the nature of stress in Singapore English. Her dissertation is entitled, Acoustic and Perceptual Properties of Stress in the Ethnic Subvarieties of Singapore English. Her other research interests include tone sandhi phenomenon in Chinese tonal languages, ethnic differentiation in speech patterns of Singapore English speakers and more recently, issues of linguistic insecurity in Singapore.



Visiting Scholars

16) Dr Helen KOPNINA (Email: ariv2@nus.edu.sg)

Helen Kopnina is conducting research entitled "Coping strategies of Singaporean and Malaysian small and medium-scale enterprises" on Singaporean SMEs cooperating with or investing in other SMEs in Malaysia. Her research is commissioned by the Free University in Amsterdam where she works as a post-doctoral researcher. Her research concerns trans-border networks between Singapore and Malaysia and development of small businesses across borders. The theoretical question is related to the global vs. local debate, particularly asking how the "global capitalist" way of doing business contradicts, or integrates with, the local ways of conducting business. Another question is the degree to which Singaporean or Malaysian state policies affect business between the two countries.



17) Ms Ruth TOULSON
(Email: ret21@hermes.cam.ac.uk)

Ruth Toulson is in the second year of her doctoral studies in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. She will be affiliated to ARI for one year while she conducts fieldwork in Singapore. Her research focuses on the magic of capitalism and the enchantment of the everyday.





The ARI Administrative Staff

Front Row

(L to R): Lynn TAN, Connie TEO, Kalaichelvi SITHARTHAN,
Verene KOH, NOORHAYATI Bte Hamsan

Back Row

(L to R): Christopher ANTHONY, Professor Tony REID,
LEONG Wai Kit, Valerie YEO, Janice NG



PhD Candidates

18) Ms Naoko IIOKA (Email: naoko_iioka@hotmail.com)

A graduate from Osaka University in Japan, Naoko Iioaka subsequently studied in Bangkok for three years, and is now registered as a PhD candidate in the Department of History, NUS. Her research interests revolve around the Chinese junk trade and Siamese-Japanese relations in the 17th century. She is also a keen movie-goer and scuba diver. She is hoping to enjoy both the school and the sea while in Singapore.

19) Mr Didi KWARTANADA (Email: kwartanada@yahoo.com)

Didi Kwartanada received his bachelor's degree in history from Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 1997. From 1998 to 2001, he was a Research Associate with the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. His research deals with the Indonesian Chinese in the first half of the twentieth century and with Japanese policy toward foreign minorities, including the Jewish community, in wartime Japan. He has been publishing articles, and the latest is "Competition, Patriotism and Collaboration: The Chinese Businessmen of Yogyakarta Between the 1930s-1945", *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, Vol. 33, no.2 (2002). He is now working on his PhD thesis on Peranakan Chinese Communities in Yogyakarta and Surakarta, c.1890-1930 under the supervision of Professor Anthony Reid.



ASIAN METACENTRE

Principal Investigator

20) Associate Professor Brenda S.A. YEOH (Email: geoyasa@nus.edu.sg)

Brenda Yeoh is Associate Professor, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore and Principal Investigator of the Asian Metacentre at the University's Asia Research Institute. Her research foci include the politics of space in colonial and post-colonial cities; and gender, migration and transnational communities. She has published over 50 scholarly journal papers and several books including *Contesting Space: Power Relations and the Urban Built Environment in Colonial Singapore* (Oxford University Press, 1996; reissued Singapore University Press, 2003); *Singapore: A Developmental City State* (John Wiley, 1997, with Martin Perry and Lily Kong), *Gender and Migration* (Edward Elgar, 2000, with Katie Willis), and *Gender Politics in the Asia-Pacific Region* (Routledge, 2002, with Peggy Teo and Shirlena Huang).

Visiting Senior Research Fellow

21) Professor Gavin Jones (Email: arigwj@nus.edu.sg)

Gavin Jones is a visiting senior research fellow for three months with the Asian Metacentre. He has been with the Demography and Sociology Program at the Australian National University for the past 27 years, conducting research on Southeast Asia. His general interest in population and development issues has focused in recent years especially on inequality of access to education, the dynamics of population and employment change in the mega-urban regions of Southeast Asia, and delayed marriage and non-marriage.

Postdoctoral Fellows

22) Dr Santosh JATRANA (Email: arisj@nus.edu.sg)

Santosh Jatrana joined the Asian MetaCentre as a postdoctoral fellow in September 2002. She is a demographer with particular research interests in child survival, women's health and welfare issues, aging and health, HIV/AIDS, demography of ethnic minority population, gender issues and implementation of population policies and programs.

She obtained her PhD in Demography from the Australian National University, Canberra, M.Phil in Population Studies and M.A. in Geography with specialization in Population Geography from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her work experience in India and Australia covers a wide range of institutional set-ups including academic as well as governmental organisations. Her recent research work includes explaining gender disparity in child health in India and examining health issues among older adults in Singapore.

23) Dr Mika TOYOTA (Email: arimt@nus.edu.sg)

Mika Toyota joined the Asian MetaCentre as a postdoctoral fellow in October 2002. She is a social anthropologist with particular interests in the following fields - transnational migration between East and Southeast Asia; ethnic minorities and the state; gender issues in development; and the politics of cultural representation in tourism. She obtained her undergraduate degree in sociology from Sophia University, Tokyo, and her Masters and doctorate in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Hull, UK. Her doctoral thesis, which was on trans-national migration of the ethnic minorities in the Thai, Burma and China borderlands, is now being reworked as a monograph to be published by Curzon-Routledge. Her current research project looks at the transnational flows and networks underpinning labour migration in East and Southeast Asia.

24) Dr XIANG Biao (Email: arixb@nus.edu.sg)

Xiang Biao (BA and MA, Beijing University; PhD, Oxford) has worked on migration and social change in China, India and Australia. His main work includes studies on a migrant community in Beijing (A Village beyond Borders. Chinese by Sanlian Press, 2000; English by Brill, forthcoming), migrant workers in south China ("Peasant Workers" and Urban Development. Beijing University, 1995), and migrant Indian computer professionals in Australia (Global "Body Shopping". 2002, PhD thesis). He has also published a series of journal articles and book chapters. Xiang was a Research Officer of the International Organization for Migration prior to his joining NUS.

Research Assistant

25) Ms Theresa WONG (Email: ariwongt@nus.edu.sg)

Theresa Wong is a Research Assistant at the Asian MetaCentre. She graduated with a BA (Hons) in Geography from NUS in 2001. Besides supporting the editorial activities of the centre, she has been engaged in her own research and publication work, which focuses on the social and policy dimensions of population and migration issues. This work includes a recently-concluded study on the marginalization of single parent families in Singapore, as well as reports and publications on transnational labour migration, gender and policy in the Southeast Asian region. She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Geographic Information Science.

ARI Workshops, Conferences and

ARI conducts a range of its own workshops, conferences and seminars, while also serving as a host for seminars convened by various study groups.

To provide some idea of the scope of the Institute's activities and to keep readers *au fait* with research being pursued under its auspices, this and future Newsletters will include listings of these conferences, workshops and seminars, and their participants.

1. Workshops and Conferences

Globalisation and Forgotten Places (10-11 July 2002)

organised by the Urban Studies Research Programme

Conveners:

Dr Lee Yong Sook

Post-doctoral Fellow, Urban Studies Research Programme, arleeys@nus.edu.sg

Associate Professor Brenda Yeoh

Co-principal Investigator, Asian Meta-Centre, Asia Research Institute, geoysa@nus.edu.sg

Papers presented:

The Work of Forgetting and Remembering Places

Ann Markusen, Director of the Project on Regional and Industrial Economics, University of Minnesota, amarkusen@hhh.umn.edu

Urban Political Economy Beyond the 'Global City': Key Moments in the Development of an 'Ordinary City'

Eugene McCann, Assistant Professor of Geography, Ohio State University, mccann.80@osu.edu

Cosmopolitanism and its Exclusions in Singapore

Brenda Yeoh

The Politics of Producing Forgotten Spaces: Urban Space and the New Middle Class in Mumbai India

Leela Fernandes, Associate Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies, University of Chicago, lfernand@worldnet.att.net

Remapping Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan Area (KLMA): Global infrastructure, and the politics of (for)getting places

Tim Bunnell, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography at National University of Singapore, geotgb@nus.edu.sg

'Glodok' on Our Minds: Representing Forgotten Places of Riots and Chinese Cultures in Post 1998 Jakarta

Abidin Kusno, State University of New York at Binghamton, akusno@binghamton.edu

Malay Kampung in Malaysia's National Economy: A Case of Invisible Integration

Eric Thompson, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore, socect@nus.edu.sg

Forgotten Places and the Seeds of Grassroots Planning: Urban-Rural Linkages in the United States

Ruth Gilmore, Assistant Professor of Geography and African American Studies, U.C. Berkeley, rgilmore@socrates.berkeley.edu

Globalizing Ansan and Unstable Immigrant Workers in South Korea

Bae-Gyoon Park, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography at National University of Singapore, geopbg@nus.edu.sg & Keun-Hwa Jung, Associate Professor of Economics, Hanshin University, South Korea gunna@hanshin.ac.kr

Debt Restructuring and the Politics of Exclusion: A Case Study of Daewoo Motor Plant in Bupyeong, South Korea

Yong-Sook Lee

Poverty and Shelter in the Global Cities: The Case of Metro Manila

Gavin Shatkin, Assistant Professor, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, shatkin@umich.edu

Southeast Asian History: Styles, Directions and Drivers (25 September 2002)

organised by ARI and the Department of History, NUS

Chairs and Speakers:

Dr Maurizio Peleggi
Dept. of History,
National University of Singapore

Dr Mairii Aung-Thwin
Asia Research Institute,
National University of Singapore

Prof Wang Gungwu
Director, East Asian Institute,
National University of Singapore

Assoc Prof Edwin Lee
Dept. of History,
National University of Singapore

Prof Anthony Reid
Director, Asia Research Institute,
National University of Singapore

Dr Charnvit Kasetsiri
Chairperson,
Southeast Asian Studies,
Thammasat University, Thailand

Assoc Prof
Cheah Boon Kheng
Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy
Research, Universiti Sains Malaysia

Prof Anthony Milner
Raffles Visiting Professor,
Dept. of History,
National University of Singapore

Dr Timothy Barnard
Dept. of History,
National University of Singapore

Dr Bruce Lockhart
Dept. of History,
National University of Singapore

Prof James Warren
Visiting Professor,
Asia Research Institute, National
University of Singapore

Prof Taufik Abdullah
Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan
Indonesia (Indonesian Institute of
Sciences)

Assoc Prof
Yong Mun Cheong
Dept. of History,
National University of Singapore

Prof Reynaldo Iletto
Southeast Asian Studies
Programme,
National University of Singapore

July 2002 - March 2003

Seminars

Migrations of Vietnamese Culture: Postcolonial and Transnational Perspectives on Vietnam and the Diaspora (3-4 January 2003)

Convener:

Ashley Carruthers

Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, aricaj@nus.edu.sg

Papers presented:

Obstacles to the Liberation of the Vietnamese Peasant

Kimloan Hill, Lecturer of Language and History, University of California, San Diego. k1hill@ucsd.edu

Politics in Rural Viet Nam: Local Democracy or Local Autocracy?

Tran Thi Thu Trang, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, trang@iss.nl

Handling a Painful Past: Warfare Memories and the Crafting of Females and Males In Rural Vietnam

Helle Rydstrom, Institutionen för Tema, Linköpings Universitet, hely@tema.liu.se

Male Homosexuality in Vietnam: From Invisibility to 'Ambisexuality'

Marie-Eve Blanc, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Université de Provence, marie-eve.blanc@up.univ-mrs.fr

The Construction of Vietnamese Womanhood in History and Historiography

Nhung Tuyet Tran, University of California, Los Angeles, nhung6@ucla.edu

Saigonese Art in the Time of War

Huynh Boi Tran, Dong Nai College of Decorative Arts and University of Sydney, bhuy8548@mail.usyd.edu.au

The Globalization of Vietnamese Art

Nora Taylor, Interdisciplinary Humanities Program, Arizona State University, nora.taylor@asu.edu

Being at Home in Transnational Space: Vietnamese Domesticity Between Diaspora and Homeland

Ashley Carruthers

Cultural Traffic and Political Alternatives in Post-socialist Vietnam and the Diaspora

Mandy Thomas, Deputy Director, Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, Australian National University, mandy.thomas@anu.edu.au

Consuming Alterity: Writing Vietnam in French

Srilata Ravi, Assistant Professor Department of English Language & Literature, National University of Singapore, ellsr@nus.edu.sg

(R)evolutions in 20th Century Vietnamese Cultural Politics

Mariam Beevi, Assistant Professor Comparative Literature, University of California, Riverside, mariamb@pop.ucr.edu

Competing Narratives of the Nam Tien

Bruce Lockhart, Assistant Professor, Department of History, National University of Singapore, hisbl@nus.edu.sg

Doing Postcolonial Studies in Southeast Asia

Yao Souchou, Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, souchou.yao@anthropology.usyd.edu.au

Minorities and Western Liberalism: Will Kymlicka's Theory of Minority Rights (14 January 2003)

co-organised by the Asia Research Institute and the East Asian Institute

Convener:

Dr Baogang He, East Asian Institute, NUS, eaihebg@nus.edu.sg

Papers presented:

The Paradox of Recognition: The Case of 'Hill Tribes' in Thailand

Mika Toyota, Post-doctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, NUS, arimt@nus.edu.sg

Rethinking Majority and Minority's Culture and Identity in Laos

Vatthana Pholsena, Post-doctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, NUS, aripv@nus.edu.sg

Minority Rights and Regionalism in Indonesia

Gary Bell, Assoc Prof, Faculty of Law, NUS, lawbellg@nus.edu.sg

Ethnic Political Accommodation in Malaysia

Narayanan Ganesan, Department of Political Science, NUS, polganes@nus.edu.sg

Confucianism versus Liberalism over Minority Rights: A Critical Response to Will Kymlicka

Baogang He, East Asian Institute, NUS

Communism and Nationalism in China

Cui Zhiyuan, Senior Visiting Fellow, Harvard Law School, eaicuizy@nus.edu.sg

At the Margins in Liberal Japan: Okinawans, Ainus, Burakumins and Koreans

Lam Peng Er, East Asian Institute, NUS, eailampe@nus.edu.sg

Who is Minority in Singapore?

Arun Mahizhnan, Deputy Director, Institute of Policy Studies, arun_mahizhnan@ips.org.sg

A Minority among Minorities: Foreign Migrant Workers and an Emerging Rights Agenda

Nicola Piper, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, nicola.piper@anu.edu.au

Workshop on Singaporean Women as Workers, Mothers and Caregivers: Coping with Changes, Challenges and Commitments (18 January 2003)

Organised by the Family Studies Research Programme and the Asian MetaCentre, ARI

Conveners:

Assoc Prof Brenda Yeoh, Principal Investigator, Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, NUS &

Dr Theresa W. Devasahayam, Family Studies Research Programme, NUS; &

Assoc Prof Audrey Chia, Department of Management and Organisation, NUS

Papers presented:

Legal Support of Women's Roles in Marriage

Prof Leong Wai Kum, Faculty of Law, NUS

The Career Mother in a Custody Battle

Assoc Prof Debbie Ong, Faculty of Law, NUS

"Looking for Help" - Organising Child Caring by Employed Women

Dr Suriani Suratman, Department of Malay Studies, NUS

Maids, Ma'ams and the Negotiation of Domestic Work in Singapore

Assoc Prof Shirlena Huang, Department of Geography, NUS; & Assoc Prof Brenda Yeoh, Department of Geography and Asian MetaCentre, NUS

How 'Friendly' are Family-Friendly Management Practices in Singapore Organisations?: The Implications of an Eldercare Leave Scheme for Married and Unmarried Working Caregivers

Dr Theresa W. Devasahayam, Family Studies Research Programme, NUS

Gendered Cultures: Women, Work and Organisations

Dr Chung Yuen Kay, Evelyn, Human Resource Management Unit, NUS

Effects of Business Travel on Job Satisfaction and Family

Assoc Prof Paulin Straughan, Department of Sociology, NUS; & Assoc Prof Audrey Chia, Department of Management and Organisation, NUS

Creating a Work-Life Friendly Singapore

Mrs Gracie Wee-Lee, Work-Life Unit, Ministry of Community Development and Sports

The Awareness and Promotion of Work-Life Strategies in Singapore

Ms Linda Ang, Singapore National Employers Federation

2. ARI Seminars

4 September 2002

Music and Dance in Nias

Mr Thomas Markus Manhart, PhD Candidate, Southeast Asian Studies Programme, NUS

(Jointly organised with the Southeast Asian Studies Programme)

5 September 2002

Architecture of East Mebon and Pre-Rup

Ms Alexandra Haedel, School of Oriental and African Studies, London

(Jointly organised with the Southeast Asian Studies Programme)

9 October 2002

Food, the Female and the Family: Forging Kinship in Urban Malaysia

Dr Theresa W. Devasahayam, Family Studies Research Programme, NUS

16 October 2002 a

Guidebooks, Galons and Genealogies: Legalizing Ethnology in Colonial Burma

Dr Mairii Aung-Thwin, Asia Research Institute, NUS

23 October 2002

Singapore's Avante-Garde Theatre: New Ways of 'Viewing' the History of Japanese Women in Southeast Asia - Broken Birds: An Epic Longing

Prof James F. Warren, Asia Research Institute, NUS

(Jointly organised with Department of History)

30 October 2002

Toward a Spatial History of Emergency: Notes from Singapore

Dr Gregory Clancey, Department of History, NUS

(Jointly organised with Department of History)

5 November 2002

Modernity, Cosmopolitanism and Identity: Observations from Anthropology

Prof Joel S. Kahn, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Australia

6 November 2002

Gender and the 'Asian' Modern

Prof Maila Stevens, Gender Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia

14 November 2002

'Regions of Risk': Western Discourse about the Non-Western World in Historical Perspective

Assoc Prof Greg Bankoff, University of Auckland, New Zealand

20 November 2002

The Cultural Significance of Fish in India: First Steps in Coming to Terms with the Contradictory Positions of Some Key Materials

Prof Peter Reeves, South Asian Studies Programme & Centre for Language Studies, NUS

(Jointly organised with South Asian Studies Programme)

12 December 2002

'Abangan and Putihan': The Emergence of Contending Religious Identities in Java

Prof Merle Ricklefs, Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages & Societies, University of Melbourne

13 December 2002

The Flight from Marriage in South-East and East Asia

Prof Gavin Jones, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University

16 January 2003

Assembling the 'Global Schoolhouse' in Pacific Asia

A/P Kris Old, Department of Geography University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA (Jointly organised with Department of Geography)

22 January 2003

Of Lady White Blood and Queen Suriyothai: Configurations and Re-configurations of Power in Thailand

Dr Jaime Biron Polo, University of the Philippines, Diliman

(Jointly organised with the Southeast Asian Studies Programme)

28 January 2003

The Spectacle of Detention: Theatre, Poetry and Imagery in the Contest over Identity, Security and Responsibility in Contemporary Australia

Dr Prem Kumar Rajaram, Department of Geography, NUS

4 February 2003

Charismatic & Constitutional Queens: Women Rulers in Southern Asia

Prof Anthony Reid, Asia Research Institute, NUS

11 February 2003
Military Technology Transfers From Ming China to Upper Mainland Southeast Asia, c. 1390-1527
Dr Sun Laichen, Asia Research Institute, NUS.

18 February 2003
Melayu Kokos: An Ecolinguistic View
Dr Umberto Ansaldo, Dept of English Language & Literature, NUS

25 February 2003
Narrative, Memory and History: Multiple Interpretations of the Lao Past
Dr Vatthana Pholsena, Asia Research Institute, NUS

4 March 2003
Rethinking the Concept of 'Family': Mobility of Unmarried Women as Domestic Workers
Dr Mika Toyota, Asian MetaCentre

3. ARI Study Group Seminars

Study Group on Indochina

25 July 2002
The Ascent of Ngo Dinh Diem, 1945-1954
Dr Edward Miller, Harvard University

29 August 2002
The Accumulation of National Belonging in Transnational Fields: Ways of Being at Home in Vietnam
Dr Ashley Carruthers, Asia Research Institute, NUS

26 September 2002
Seminar on Women, Family and Empire Building: Régis Wargnier's Indochine
Dr Srilata Ravi, Department of English Language & Literature, NUS

7 November 2002
When Vietnam's Journalists Expose Corruption in High Places: Hacks, Heroes or Something Else?a
Dr Russell Heng Hiang Khng, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Study Group on Indonesia

3 September 2002
50 Years of Economic Policy-making in Indonesia: Insights from Some Policy
Dr Thee Kian Wie, Economic Research Centre, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (P2E-LIPI), Jakarta

3 October 2002
The Recent Political Ideas of Pramoedya Ananta Toer and their Relevance for Contemporary Indonesia Politics
Mr Max Lane, Centre for Study of Asia Pacific Social Transformation (CAPSTRAN), University of Wollongong, Australia

28 November 2002
The Vichy Legacy to the Ngo Dinh Diem Regime Youth Policy, 1954-1963
Dr Anne Raffin, Dept of Sociology, NUS

13 December 2002
Moving Pictures: Radical Politics and Vernacular Literature in Colonial Indonesia
Dr Keith Foulcher, Dept of Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Sydney, Australia

14 February 2003
Making Sense of the Threat of Radical Islamism in Indonesia
Dr Greg Barton, Deakin University, Australia

21 February 2003
Is Peace Breaking Out in Aceh?
Prof Anthony Reid, Asia Research Institute, NUS

27 February 2003
Problems of Substantial Democratisation in Indonesia, the Philippines and India: Approaches and Preliminary Results
Prof Olle Törnquist, University of Oslo, Norway

Study Group on Burma-Thailand

16 August 2002
Social Capital in Contemporary Burma
Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Department of Political Science, NUS

25 September 2002
National Monuments vs Populist Icons in Southeast Asia
Dr Craig Reynolds, Asian History Centre, Australia National University

14 February 2003
Friends, Foes and Factions: The Contested and Imagined Borderscapes of Burma-Thailand
Dr Carl Grundy-Warr, Department of Geography, NUS

Study Group on Migration & Diaspora

18 Sep 2002
Beyond the Cosmopolis: Problems and Challenges Facing International Relations in Postcolonial Asia
Dr Yew Kong Leong, University Scholars Programme, NUS

2 November 2002
Encompassing the Diaspora: The Challenge of an 'Encyclopedia' of 'Indians Overseas'/'Indians Abroad'
Prof Peter Reeves, South Asian Studies Programme; & Centre for Language Studies, NUS

16 November 2002
The Quest for the Golden Deer: A Study of Temporary Bangladeshi Migrants in Singapore
Md. Mizanur Rahman, Department of Sociology, NUS

Study Group on Asian Business Networks

17 October 2002
Cross-Border Business Connections: SME's in Singapore and Malaysia
Dr Helen Kopnina, Asia Research Institute, NUS

4. Asian MetaCentre Workshop and Conferences

17 October 2002
Public Seminar - *Future Population and Human Capital in Asia*
Professor Wolfgang Lutz, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria; Institute of Demography, Vienna; and Asian MetaCentre.
Organised by Asian MetaCentre and the Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore.

7-18 October 2002
Training Workshop - *Projections of Human Capital*
Organised by Asian MetaCentre For Population and Sustainable Development Analysis

16-19 February 2003
Workshop - *Urbanization, Transport and Health in Asia*
Organised by Asian MetaCentre For Population and Sustainable Development Analysis

Upcoming ARI Workshops, Conferences and

1. Upcoming ARI Conference

The Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore presents the first in its Asia Trends series of annual public conferences:

Babel or Behemoth: Language Trends in Asia (4 July 2003)

How are people in Asia negotiating language? With the growing hegemony of English in transnational life, the flourishing of national languages at the expense of vernaculars, the redefining of speech communities through new technologies, how are language communities finding - or losing - expression?

This one-day conference will bring together scholars and practitioners to discuss trends in language across Asia, looking at language issues as they arise in some of the multiple negotiations and translations with which many Asians live on a daily basis.

- Multilingualism - a way of life
- Hegemony of English
- National policies & local practices
- New technologies, new communities
- Language deaths, language births
- Barriers and border-crossing in media and performance

Presenters include: Professor Joseph Lo Bianco (Chief Executive, Language Australia: The National Languages and Literacy Institute of Australia); Associate Professor Anne Pakir (Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore); Dr Rujaya Abakhorn (Deputy Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat); Professor Maria Luisa Doronila (Senior Fellow, Center for Integrative and Development Studies, University of the Philippines); Profesor Chua Beng Huat (Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore); Associate Professor Azirah Hashim (Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya); Dr Jennifer Lindsay (Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, Singapore); Dr Koichi Iwabuchi (International Studies Division, International Christian University, Japan); Mr Goenawan Mohamad (poet, writer, member of the Utan Kayu community in Jakarta); Mr Ong Keng Sen (Director, Theatreworks, Singapore).

For further details about the conference, please see the website: <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/LanguageTrends.htm>

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE OF JAVANESE WAYANG KULIT

On the evening of 4 July there will be a free public Javanese shadow puppet performance by Ki Anom Soeroto with simultaneous translation into English by Prof Hardjo Susilo at Fort Canning Park. This performance is being jointly hosted by the Asia Research Institute and Theatreworks, Singapore, with support from The Ford Foundation.



2. Upcoming Workshops

Workshop on Southeast Asia in the 15th Century: The Ming Factor (1-2 May 2003)

The arbitrary date 1500 was long used as a shorthand for the beginning of the modern age in Asia, primarily because the European arrival in Asian waters was thought to have created a Vasco da Gama epoch. The recent fascination with the Early Modern has sought to dethrone both the date and the importance of the Portuguese as harbingers of change. The question has come to be asked, though not yet systematically addressed, whether modernity did not come to Southeast Asia, in particular, in the 15th Century. Did not the Zheng He voyages and early Ming expansionism more generally have a greater impact than the few ships of the Portuguese a century later? The murky beginnings of Anthony Reid's Age of Commerce in the 15th Century had been much less discussed than its end.

The aim of the symposium is to bring together a range of scholars pioneering new work on:

- the Ming impact on Southeast Asian societies in this period, and its relevance to periodization;
- the causation for the rise of new states in the period, and the nature of these states;
- broader trends occurring throughout Southeast Asia including the borderlands of southern China, eastern India, and Korea and Ryukyu as instructive parallels to Southeast Asia;
- Asian or global systems, technological, demographic, economic and disease regimes, where these have particular relevance to Southeast Asia

Further details of the workshop can be found at: http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/Ming_Factor.htm

Workshop on Migration and Health in Asia (21-23 May 2003)

The workshop, which is being organized by the Asian MetaCentre For Population and Sustainable Development Analysis and supported by the Wellcome Trust, focuses on the relationship between 'migration' and 'health' in the context of Asia. Over the last few decades, the mobility of people across borders in Asia has both increased in volume and diversified into multiple streams, with different gender, class or race structures, and of different degrees of permanence. Not only do migrants crossing borders grapple with a wide range of social, cultural political and economic issues, their presence also has major impacts on receiving societies. The 'health' of migrants - defined not just in terms of physical health but also psychological terms - and their health-seeking behaviour are often

Seminars



affected by their relocation; in turn, the 'health' of receiving populations may also be influenced by the presence of migrant others.

For further details, please see:

<http://www.populationasia.org/Migration%20and%20Health%20in%20Asia.htm>

Workshop on Place, Memory and Identity in "New Asia" (3-4 June 2003)

This workshop marks a new collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Asia Research Institute within the National University of Singapore and the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Hong Kong. It results from an MOU signed between the two faculties which is intended to promote exchange programmes, research collaborations and other co-operative activities.

As indicated by its title, the workshop hopes to draw attention to "place", "memory" and "identity" in the rapidly transforming societies and landscapes in Asia. The workshop will examine cities and urban landscapes as the locus where the intersecting themes of place, memory and identity might provide insights into the "New Asia" or "Asian renaissance" phenomenon. Themes for the workshop include, among others, critical interrogations of the geographical and sociological imaginations of "New Asia"; the politics of memory and the development of urban heritage sites/industries; post-colonial identities and socio-cultural implications; cultural tourism and touristic cultures; urban re-development in an age of globalisation; and global-local contestations in culture, identity and tourism. The empirical

cases comprise cities in Southeast, South and East Asia.

Further details are available at:

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/NewAsia.htm>

Workshop on Performance Translation (4-8 July 2003)

From July 4-8 the Asia Research Institute (ARI) of the National University of Singapore together with Theatreworks, Singapore, will host a workshop on performance translation. The workshop is being convened by Jennifer Lindsay, as part of her year-long research fellowship at the Asia Research Institute, examining the position of language-based performance forms in Asia and experiments at border-crossing through translation, particularly experiments that aim to retain and convey the aesthetics of the original verbal art.

The workshop will take as its focus the simultaneous translation into English by Prof Hardjo Susilo (University of Hawaii) of Javanese wayang kulit to highlight skills in performative translation of language-based performance using an already existing successful model, so that the skills and insights can be analysed and possibly applied to other art forms and other languages. Participants will be both analysts and performers from India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

The workshop commences with a free public performance of Javanese wayang by visiting dalang Ki Anom Soeroto in Fort Canning Park on the night of 4 July.



3. Upcoming ARI Seminars

18 Mar 2003

Chinese Fish, Thai (Buddhist) Fish, Muslim Fish: Inter-ethnic Relations in Southern Thai Fish Markets

Dr Saroja Dorairajoo, Dept of Sociology, NUS

20 Mar 2003

The Role of Yunnanese in Thai Labour Recruitment Networks in Taiwan

Dr Mika Toyota, Postdoctoral Fellow, ARI

25 Mar 2003

Southeast Asian Life Histories: Problems and Potentials in Research on Personal Narratives

A/P Roxana Waterson, Dept of Sociology, NUS

1 Apr 2003

(Re)Naming Peoples, (Re)Living Identity: Power, History and the (Re)Construction of the Orang Asli in Peninsula Malaysia

Ms Nah Han Yuong Alice Maria, Dept of Sociology, NUS

8 Apr 2003

Visual Representations of Ethnic Violence: An Indonesian Portrayal

Dr Jamie Seth Davidson, Asia Research Institute, NUS

15 Apr 2003

Newly Discovered Jar Burial Sites in the Cardamom Mountains, Western Cambodia

A/P John N. Miksic, Asia Research Institute; and Southeast Asian Studies Programme, NUS

22 Apr 2003

A 'New' God in the Diaspora?: Persistence of and Innovations in the Worship of 'Muneeswaran-Muniandy' Deities in Singapore Hinduism

Dr Vineeta Sinha, Dept of Sociology, NUS

29 Apr 2003

Domestic Violence: Legal Perspectives

Dr A. Kumararalingam, Asia Research Institute; and Faculty of Law, NUS

6 May 2003

'Sons of Han' and 'King's Chinese': Straits Chinese Literati and the Tensions of Respectability, 1890-1920

Dr Mark Frost, Asia Research Institute, NUS

13 May 2003

Global "Body Shopping": A New International Labour System in the Information Technology Industry

Dr Xiang Biao

Asia Research Institute; and Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, NUS

20 May 2003

Television, Orality and Performance. Indonesia's 1999 Elections

Dr Jennifer Lindsay, Asia Research Institute, NUS

27 May 2003

Reconciliation and Forgiveness in Post-Suharto Indonesia: The Case of the Tanjung Priok Killings

Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto, Southeast Asian Studies Programme, NUS

Third International Convention of Asia Scholars

ICAS3

(19-22 AUGUST 2003)

The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) is one of the largest regular gatherings of scholars whose research centres on Asia and/or Asians, especially in the humanities and social sciences. Asian studies at the start of the new millennium is increasingly cross-disciplinary and inter-regional in character, a positive development which ICAS both demonstrates and seeks to further.

Convened in Leiden, the Netherlands in 1998, and Berlin, Germany in 2001, the next conference (ICAS3) will take place in Singapore in August 2003, jointly hosted and organised by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore.

Full details of the event can be found at:

<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/icas3/about.htm>

Recent Publications by ARI Members

1. In its new series *Singapore: Studies in Society and History*, Singapore University Press has recently republished three works by ARI members Jim Warren and Brenda Yeoh.



Contesting Space in Colonial Singapore: Power Relations and the Urban Built Environment
By Brenda S. A. Yeoh

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/SUP/9971-69-268-6.html>



Rickshaw Coolie: A People's History of Singapore 1880-1940
By James F. Warren

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/SUP/9971-69-266-X.html>



Ah-Ku and Karayuki-San: Prostitution in Singapore 1870-1940
By James F. Warren

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/SUP/9971-69-267-8.html>

2. Under its academic publishing imprint Eastern Universities Press, Times Media Private Limited has published a new monograph, co-authored by ARI member Brenda Yeoh



Toponymics: A Study of Singapore Street Names
By Victor R. Savage and Brenda S.A. Yeoh

Postdoctoral Fellowships and Visiting Fellowships

Applications are invited for Postdoctoral Fellowships and Visiting Fellowships at the Asia Research Institute. "Asia" as a research field is defined loosely in terms of the region in which Singapore is positioned. The Institute's current areas of principal research focus are 'The Changing Asian Family', 'Urbanisation', 'Religion and Globalisation', and 'Culture and Identity'.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Candidates must have fulfilled all requirements of the PhD within the last 4 years. The fellowships will be for one year, which may be extended to two. The research may be in any field in the humanities or social sciences, extending into legal, commercial and environmental spheres. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged.

Visiting Fellowships

The visiting fellowship programme is intended for active researchers from both the Asian region and the world, to bring to completion an important program of research in the social sciences and humanities. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. The tenure of this visiting fellowship will be for 1 year. Up to three months of a 12-month fellowship could be spent on fieldwork in the Asian region. In exceptional circumstances a second year can be negotiated with the requirement to offer a (graduate) course in an appropriate department.

Further details of the Fellowships and their associated benefits are available on the ARI website: <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/>

Asia Research Institute
National University of Singapore
AS7, The Shaw Foundation Building
Level 4, 5 Arts Link, Singapore 117570

Tel: (65) 6874 3810 Fax: (65) 6779 1428
Email: arisec@nus.edu.sg

The Newsletter masthead incorporates the image of Kala. According to ancient legends popular in India and Southeast Asia, Kala symbolises immortality. This gold armband found on Fort Canning Hill, Singapore, in 1926, is one of the remains of the 14th-century kingdom of Temasik.

Newsletter compiled by Geoff Wade, Valerie Yeo, Tan Ying Ying, Mark Frost, and Theresa Wong