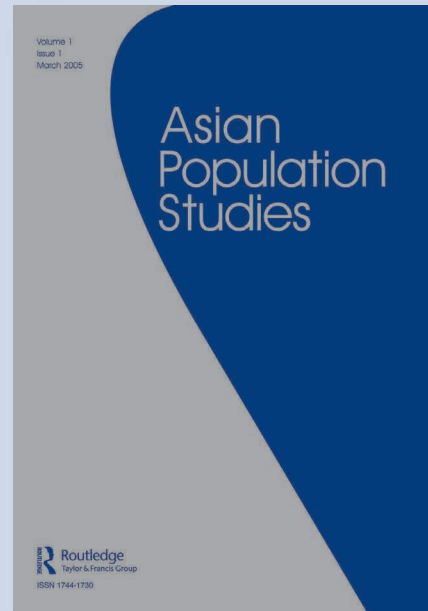


# ARI NEWS



## ARI Launches Asian Population Studies Journal

The Asia Research Institute launched a new peer-reviewed journal entitled "Asian Population Studies" this month as its next step in furthering scholarly publications with an Asian focus. The journal, published by the Taylor and Francis Group under the Routledge imprint, will be the first international population journal to focus exclusively on population issues in Asia. This represents a significant step forward for population studies as it provides a focused platform for what is arguably the most diverse continent in the world. The journal also moves ARI one step closer to its goal towards being the premiere research centre for Asian Studies in the region.

Gavin Jones of the Asia Research Institute is the Editor of the journal, and the editorial committee will consist of Angelique Chan (NUS), Wolfgang Lutz (IIASA), Vipan Prachuabmoh (Chulalongkorn) and Brenda Yeoh (NUS). Advising the editorial committee will be an international committee of twenty renowned Asian population scholars from around the world.

Launched as part of ARI's strategy to spearhead Asian based research, the journal is expected to generate significant synergy with all of ARI's research clusters, and also with ARI lead initiatives such as the Asian Marriage Research Network (currently hosted by the Changing Family in Asia Cluster). Published thrice yearly, it will cover all population studies

topics with perspectives from disciplines ranging across the social sciences and humanities.

The journal aims to attract a wide range of papers, including substantive empirical analyses, theoretical works, applied research, and contributions to methodology. Levels of analysis will be from regional, country or area perspectives. In keeping with the Asia Research Institute's mandate to promote multi-disciplinary research, research drawn from multiple disciplines and scholarly paradigms are strongly encouraged.

The first issue will include articles from noted experts on labour force participation of the elderly, fertility decline, family gender roles, marriage and employment, international migration and the mortality transition. The second issue, edited by Angelique Chan, will be a special issue on the "demographic window" and its impact on Asian countries and is expected to be in print by October 2005.

Asian Population Studies will be launched simultaneously at the XXV International Population Conference organised by the International Union for the Scientific Study in Population (IUSSP) in Tours, France 18-23 July 2005, and also as part of the National University of Singapore Centennial celebrations.

Additional information on Asian Population Studies may be found at : <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/17441730.asp>

## Interview with Prof Gavin Jones, Editor, Asian Population Studies Journal

### What prompted the conception of Asian Population Studies?

The most compelling reason for the conception of the journal was the lack of an academic journal that focused on Asian population. We performed a survey of population journals in 2003, and found that every significant region except Asia had its own dedicated population journal. Furthermore, a count of population related papers published at the time revealed that only 12-15% were on Asia. This was disproportionate to the importance of Asia, which accounts for 59 per cent of the world's population. This was a gap that needed to be filled: we felt that a new journal, produced and edited in Asia, devoted specifically to population studies in the Asian region, would help to provide increased focus on Asia within the academic community.

A second reason for launching this journal is the expectation that Asian Population Studies will provide an accessible outlet for quality papers written by authors from the Asian region. Many of the scientific papers dealing with Asian population issues are written by scholars from outside the region. While on the one hand, this reflects a healthy international interest in the region, on the other hand it also reflects the relatively small number of population specialists from Asian countries who publish in the international literature. Having a journal based in Asia may go some way to encouraging Asian based scholars to publish; this is especially true for scholars who may not be native English speakers. Asian Population Studies will make a special effort to reach such authors.

Lastly, Asia is an interesting continent from a population perspective. We have diversity in almost every dimension; the region has population sizes ranging from China to Timor-Leste, economies that range from first world to third world and populations that are in different phases of their population transition. Civilizations that stretch back thousands of years are juxtaposed against newly formed countries. Add to this the numerous religions and multitude of races, different types of government policies on population and the potential for scientific discovery from Asia is obvious.

### Can you tell us something about the Journal's International Advisory Board?

The International Advisory Board has been carefully selected to provide an appropriate mix of countries and regions of Asia, disciplinary background, and specialization in different fields of population studies. The names will be immediately recognizable to those who are familiar with the population literature. For example, Mercedes Concepcion, a former President of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population is there. So too is Alaka Basu, well known for her insightful analyses of Indian population issues, Stella Quah, who publishes on the family in Asia, and Peng Xizhe, a leading Chinese demographer. Then there are a number of experts on Asia located outside

the region, including Charles Hirschman, currently President of the Population Association of America, Peter McDonald and John Knodel. Some weighting is given in the International Advisory Board to Singapore-based researchers, because the journal seeks to provide a focus for the considerable expertise on population matters that exists in Singapore.



### What's in the first issue?

The first issue of the journal features six articles by prominent authors who have already contributed greatly to our understanding of Asian population transitions. The articles display a range of analytic approaches and some are Asia-wide in scope, while others deal with specific countries. They have been selected to cover a broad spectrum of population related subjects, and include topics as diverse as determinants of Asian fertility trends, household structure, mortality trends in East Asian populations, the gender division of labour in Japan and Vietnam, and the new international migration in Asia, and population carrying capacity and metropolitan development in Shanghai.

### What can we expect in the upcoming issues of the journal?

The second issue will be a special issue with a focus on the "Demographic Window", which is the period when the ratio of dependant young and elderly to the adult population declines with sustained decline in fertility, before later increasing as the population ages. This period gives developing countries a once-off opportunity to implement fundamental policies that can provide the foundation for sustainable development before they face inevitable ageing. We are also planning another special issue as one of our 2006 issues, focusing on international migration and the health of the "left behind" in Asia. But most of our issues will publish papers spontaneously submitted by authors around the world, and a good number of these are already being received. Papers included in both regular and special issues undergo the rigorous peer review process expected of a good journal.

### Where do you see the journal in 3 years' time?

It takes time for a journal to become well known, but I would expect that in 3 years' time, APS will already be well known, and will be attracting submissions from an increasing number of authors from the region and beyond. It takes even longer for a journal to be accorded a place in key citation indexes, and we will still be working on that.

## WORD FROM DIRECTOR



ARI has completed four years since its foundation, and three years since I took up the initial Directorship on 1 July 2002. This is a cause for celebration but also for reflection. The initial budget arranged for ARI rose for three years and then stabilised. This period of growth was covered by a three-year plan that the University asked me to prepare in advance of taking on the job. July 2005 therefore marks the beginning of a new period of stability in which we must plan an appropriate long-term role in the University, in the region, and the world.

### Review

To aid in this important transition, a distinguished External Review Board (ERB) reviewed the first years of the Institute during the week 16-20 May 2005. Five members of ARI's International Advisory Board formed the core of the ERB, that is – its chairman Ambassador Tommy Koh, Cynthia Bautista (University of the Philippines), James Scott (Yale), Takashi Shiraishi (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo), and Pauline Yu (President of the American Council of Learned Societies). Unfortunately the sixth member, Social Science Research Council Chair Craig Calhoun, was prevented at the last minute from attending. Two senior members of NUS were added to make up the ERB, Heng Chye Kiang from SDE and Alan Chan from FASS.

The ERB considered the record of the Institute as set out in its Annual Reports and a survey of alumnae; it also met all members of ARI and a good cross-section of senior members of the four faculties with which we work most closely. It hailed ARI's remarkable achievement in this brief initial period, in having "established the Institute as the outstanding site of interdisciplinary research on Asia in the region." Its report concluded that the ARI mission "is a crucial one, not just for Singapore, but for the academic world at large, and we feel strongly that it should continue to be supported to the fullest extent possible."

The most problematic of ARI's accomplishments, the ERB held, related to the aim expressed in ARI's mission to "enhance the research performance of the university more broadly," particularly the four faculties FASS, SDE, Business and Law. Faculty interactions had been overwhelmingly focussed on the Arts Faculty (FASS), though a new city project with Architecture would change that for SDE. The ERB proposed that a theme such as governance be sought, to cover deficiencies in the rule of law, as a means to build programs with Business and Law.

Finally the ERB shared ARI's concern to get the balance right between continuity and innovation; between long-term research projects focussed on a narrow area of comparative advantage, and the stimulus arising from outstanding short-term appointments in a great diversity of fields. It endorsed ARI's conviction that there must be a "productive tension between these two models." The Board proposed, and ARI agreed, that there be a sixth "open" cluster alongside the existing clusters of focussed research, to safeguard ARI's role as "an intellectual pilgrimage site".

All of this helps to clarify the way ahead, and we are extremely grateful to the Review Board for spending the large amount of time they did to get it right.

### Changes and acknowledgements

The Review and the University's endorsement of it mark one aspect of the mid-2005 turning point. I have accepted two further years as Director, but with the first five months of this (July through December) to be spent in Cambridge on a sabbatical. Professor Alan Chan (Philosophy), Vice-Dean (Research) for FASS, has generously agreed to appointment as



Professor Alan Chan

Acting Director during that period. In another change, Vice-Provost Lily Kong moved on to more pressing administrative duties after having guided the ARI Management Board expertly for 18 months (2004-5). She will be replaced as chairman by Professor Chong Chi Tat (Mathematics and Philosophy), who was Provost at the time ARI was formed. This is the time for ARI to express its profound gratitude to Professor Kong for her role in designing and mentoring the Institute from its embryonic beginnings. As FASS Dean she gave substance to President Shih's vision for an ambitious Institute for the Social Sciences and Humanities. She oversaw ARI's first year, hired the crucial foundation staff, including myself, introduced us to the intricacies of NUS, and secured the budget which made it all possible. Both I personally, and ARI as an institution, owe her a great debt.

### Aceh initiative

In the last (February) Newsletter, after reporting the death of our former colleague Isa Sulaiman, I expressed our resolve "to do what we can to help Aceh rebuild". Since then a concerned committee has been meeting to plan a project to assist Aceh in the area of Heritage Recovery and Development. I led a four-man NUS team to Banda Aceh on June 3-6 to study the needs of libraries, museums, archaeological services and other damaged heritage institutions. We also took part in the launch on 4 June, in the Governor's audience hall, of the Aceh Cultural Institute, which we plan to partner in helping rebuild some of these institutions. A proposal to facilitate this process has been submitted to the Tidal Wave Relief Fund.



## NEW ARI MEMBERS

### Research Fellows

**Professor Binod Khadria**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Asian Migration Cluster.

Professor Khadria is from the Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where he has been the Chairperson and Professor of Economics. He would be spending his sabbatical at ARI till May 2006. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1982; been Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex during 1983-85; Senior Fulbright Scholar at the Institute for Economic Development, Boston University in 1995; and Visiting Professor at the School of Economics, Kwasei Gakuin University (Japan) in 2004. He was awarded the prestigious 1992 Times of India Fellowship to complete his book, *The Migration of Knowledge Workers: Second-generation Effects of India's Brain Drain* (Sage, 1999). Apart from international migration, his other research and teaching interests are in economics of education, international trade in services, and multidisciplinary issues in development.



While at ARI, Professor Khadria would be working on the manuscript of a book: *The High-skill Generic Migration: Emergence of Asia in the Global Labour Market*.

**Dr. Yunita T. Winarto**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow

Dr. Yunita T. Winarto is an Associate Professor of the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia. She began my academic career at the Department of Anthropology, University of North Sumatera, Medan in 1980-1982 before moving to the University of Indonesia in Jakarta where she has been teaching up to now (2005). In 2004, she was appointed as a Visiting Professor in Southeast Asian studies, Division of International and Area Studies, Pukyong National University in Busan, Korea. Before taking up that position, she was a visiting research fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University in 2003, the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal *ANTROPOLOGI INDONESIA* (1998-2003), and a member of the academic senate at the faculty and university level of the University of Indonesia. Her teaching activities are in the subjects of anthropology, human ecology, research methodology, and recently, the ethnography of Southeast Asia for undergraduate and graduate programs in anthropology. Her first monograph was published by Yale Southeast Asia Council in 2004 entitled: *"Seeds of Knowledge: The Beginning of Integrated Pest Management in Java"*, monograph. no. 53. She is now preparing her second monograph on the basis of her current research in Cambodia and Thailand.



**Dr Clarence Aasen**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Asian Migration Cluster.

Dr Aasen is Professor of Architecture and Design currently on research leave from Victoria University in Welling, New Zealand. He will be working on a book on the cultural history of the Southeast Asian Chinese, with a focus on their architecture and urbanism and the roles they played in forming, maintaining and transforming Chinese ethnic identity and primary social relations, such as with indigenous peoples and colonial powers. His publications include *Architecture of Siam. A Cultural History Interpretation* (Oxford University Press). Until recently, Dr Aasen served as the founding Head of the School of Design and earlier, as the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Victoria University. From 1970 to 1988 he was a Professor of Architecture at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. He is accompanied in Singapore by his wife, Gail Fromson Aasen, who until recently was a Senior Lecturer and the First Year Program Directory in the School of Design at Victoria University.



**Ms Tan Pin Pin**, Visiting Fellow, Cultural Studies in Asia Cluster.

Tan Pin Pin is a Singaporean filmmaker who finds this island, its surrounds and their histories fascinating. Her works include *Moving House* about compulsory exhumation of gravesites, *Building Dreams*, about Singapore's architectural history and *Afterlife* which focuses on death rites in Asia. Meanwhile, *80kmh* films an attempt to time how long it takes to drive across Singapore at 80km/h (38 minutes) She is currently working on an independent documentary, *A Singapore Musical* which through performances of tunes, announcements and recording of sounds, we discover Singaporeans' complex relationship with Singapore. Her works have won more than 20 awards and nominations, including a Student Academy Award and two Asian Television Awards. She has a BA (Hons) from Oxford University and an MFA from Northwestern University where she was awarded the Eastman Scholarship for Cinematography.



**Dr Sikko Visscher**, Visiting Research Fellow, Asian Migration Cluster.

Having his Doctorate in the Social Sciences from the Free University in Amsterdam, Dr. Sikko Visscher worked as a postdoctoral researcher on the project "Broker of Capital and Knowledge in provincial Asia, 1960-2000", an empirically-based, comparative program on globalization from below. He did research in Penang, Malaysia and organized the closing conference of the program at large. His research and writing interest are in the fields of recent Southeast Asian history, migration, the Ethnic Chinese, state formation and economic development. During his stay at ARI he will rewrite his doctoral dissertation on the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the State in post-war Singapore into a manuscript publishable with Singapore University Press. At the end of his stay he will take part in the ARI conference on "Paths Not Taken" on alternative histories of Singapore.



## NEW ARI MEMBERS

### Research Fellows

**Dr Coeli Barry**, Visiting Research Fellow for the Religion and Globalisation Cluster

Dr Coeli Barry comes to ARI from Thailand where she is jointly affiliated with Thammasat University's Southeast Asian Studies Program and Mahidol University's program in Human Rights and Social Development. After completing a degree in English literature, she worked as a journalist and with a US-based NGO. She subsequently earned a PhD in Government from Cornell University in 1996. Her primary focus at ARI is completion of a manuscript on transnationality, nationalism and Catholicism in the Philippines in which she addresses the varied and often contradictory ways Catholicism has served as an 'alternative modernity' both in the Euro-American world and in the Philippines. She has long-standing interest in the ways in which community-political and religious- have changed in post-colonial SEA in response to development, authoritarianism and globalization. In addition to recently editing a volume of short stories by Muslim-Filipino writers, she is currently writing an essay on the use of the words Asia and Asian in English by Asians in East, South and Southeast Asia.



**Dr Paul Hutchcroft**, Visiting Research Fellow

Dr Paul Hutchcroft is Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as an affiliate of the UW-Madison Center for Southeast Asian Studies. He was previously at ARI from January to August 2004, and is returning for a June-August 2005 appointment centered around the 8-9 July workshop on "Political Reform and Charter Change in the Philippines: Perspectives from the Nation and the Region." ARI is co-sponsoring this event with the Philippine Social Science Council; a copy of the programme can be found at <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/conf2005/politicalreform.htm>. The goal of the workshop, as well as the edited volume and public fora that will come in its wake, is to provide comparative, theoretical, and historical insights that can contribute to debates over a process of constitutional revision likely to begin in the Philippines in 2006. Hutchcroft has written extensively on Philippine politics and political economy, as well as on the politics of corruption, and is the author of *Booty Capitalism: The Politics of Banking in the Philippines* (Cornell and Ateneo, 1998). In his current book project, "The Power of Patronage: Capital and Countryside in the Twentieth-Century Philippines," Hutchcroft analyzes state formation and territorial politics in the Philippines from the early American colonial period through the enactment of the Local Government Code in the 1990s.



### Research Assistants & Administration

**Ms Beatriz P. Lorente**, Research Assistant, Asian Migration Cluster.

Beatriz is currently completing her PhD in the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore. Her dissertation examines the relationship between language, identity and power in the lives of Filipino domestic workers in Singapore. Beatriz has an MA in Linguistics from Ohio University which she earned while on a Fulbright scholarship. She also has an MA in English (Literature and Cultural Studies) from the Ateneo de Manila University. At ARI, she is the research assistant for the migration cluster. She is also assisting Prof. Gavin Jones with the journal, *Asian Population Studies*.



**Ms Manjit Kaur**, Research Assistant, Religion & Globalization Cluster.

Manjit joined ARI in March 2005. She graduated from Monash University with an M Ed. Her thesis was entitled *Leadership Succession Planning* and from Melbourne College of Divinity with a Grad Dip in Theology, Social Justice Issues. Her research interest areas are in Leadership, Cultural Diversity, Social Justice, Spirituality and Psychology. She holds a Dip in Ed from NIE and was a teacher for 13 years. While at ARI, she'll be assisting Prof Bryan Turner in the Religion & Globalisation Cluster, as well as working on the ARI Newsletter and Working Paper Series.



**Ms Jiang Na**, Research Assistant, Southeast Asia & China Interactions Cluster.

Jiang Na graduated from Beijing University with a Bachelor's Degree in History and one in Economics. Thereafter, she joined the History Department in NUS to pursue her MA. Her thesis, titled "Negotiating the Image of a New Woman: Women Intellectuals' Group Identity and the Funü Zhoukan (Women's Weekly) in the 1930s China" has been submitted for examination. While at ARI, she will assist Prof Anthony Reid in the Southeast Asia & China interaction cluster, as well as working in the library.



**Ms Alyson Adrienne Rozells**, Management Support Officer.

Alyson has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies & Mass Communications and a Bachelor of Marketing & the Media from Murdoch University. Prior to joining ARI, she was the Customer Care & Product Development Manager for a private education organization concentrating on front end services and the development of programs which would cater to the needs of mature adults. She has also participated and coordinated various educational events for both local and foreign academic Institutions.



## ASEAN RESEARCH STUDENTS

The Asia Research Institute invites selected postgraduate students from ASEAN universities to spend 3 months at NUS in order to make use of the university's library and other resources. This programme benefits ASEAN students by giving them access to research materials not available in their home countries. It also benefits NUS by giving the academic community here the most current information on the research topics, methods, interests, and personalities of the best young researchers in the region

### ASEAN Research Students



- Ms Choivotun **Chisaan** [cultural art and politics of NU (Nahdlatul Ulama)]
- Mr Nikos Lexis **Dacanay** [construction of gay identities and gay spaces in Bangkok]
- Ms **Haslina** Bt Muhamad [Malay culture and Personality]
- Mr Rodney C **Jubilado** [morphological and syntactic studies of the major languages]
- Ms Sirirat **Katanchaleekul** [ethnic identity]
- Ms **Le** Thi-Huyen [Mahathir vision on Malaysian race and religious policies]
- Mr Vu Thanh **Long** [The linkage between homosexuality and migration]
- Ms **Moe** Ma Ma [Myanmar's Economic Response to Globalization with Special Reference to Agricultural Sector]
- Mr **Nasirin** Abdillah [language and culture]
- Ms **Nguyen** Thi Phuong Cham [change of traditional rites, customs, folk songs in the modern life]
- Ms **Nguyen** Thi Thu Thuy [education and development in the ethnic minorities groups]
- Ms Sharon Basada **Singzon** [Changing Asian Rural Families; Sustainable Agricultural and Environmental Resource Management]
- Mr **Sirojuddin** Arif [the development of Indonesian Islamic Studies after World War II in American academic life]
- Ms Phanintra **Teeranon** [sociolinguistic and phonetics; Southeast Asian historical and cultural background]
- Mr Teuku Ferdiansyah **Thajib** [The Transformation of the Concept of Time in Java: A Study on the Rhythm of Everyday Life in Yogyakarta during 1970-1990's]
- Mr Theeravuth **Temsiriwattanakul** [An Approach to the Interpretation of Double Taxation Conventions in the Context of the International Law]
- Mr Amnuayvit **Thitibordin** [Law and Land in Vietnam during the early Le Dynasty, 1428-1527]
- Mr **Ubed** Abdillah Syarif [Religious and Cross Culture Studies]
- Ms Siripen **Ungsitipoonporn** [Linguistics]
- Mr **Yulius** Panon Pratomo [the social practices of gambling in the everyday life of contemporary Indonesian society, the case of togel (illegal lottery)]

(<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/ASEANResearchStudents.htm>)



## ARI WORKING PAPERS SERIES 2006

(<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/pub/wps2005.htm>)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| No. 37 Champa Revised<br><b>Michael Vickery</b>   | No. 41 Changes to Regime and<br>Colonial State formation<br>Malay Archipelago, 1780–1830<br><b>Leonard Blussé</b>                           |
| No. 38 Staying Single in a Married<br>World: The Life of Never<br>Married Women in Yogyakarta<br>and Medan<br><b>Augustina Situmorang</b> | No. 42 Did it really help to be a<br>Japanese Colony?: East Asian<br>Economic Performance in<br>Historical Perspective<br><b>Anne Booth</b> |
| No. 39 Classical Sociology:<br>On cosmopolitanism, critical<br>recognition theory and Islam<br><b>Bryan S. Turner</b>                     | No. 43 A Demographic Perspective<br>on the Muslim World<br><b>Gavin Jones</b>   |
| No. 40 Slang Images: On the<br>'Foreignness' of Contemporary<br>Singaporean Films<br><b>Olivia Khoo</b>                                   |   |

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### New Perspectives On Political Reform And Charter Change In The Philippines

**8–9 July 2005**

**Contact: Ms Lynn Tan**

At some point in 2006, the Philippines is likely to begin a major constitutional reform effort. There is considerable momentum toward constitutional reform, but there have been substantial disagreements over the questions of why it should take place, how it should be done, and what it should accomplish. While there have been important analyses provided by various groups, there seems not to have been a general forum in which contending views can be exchanged in a reflective and well-reasoned

manner. With some exceptions, the level of public discourse (dominated by politicians) has often given little attention to comparative and historical perspectives, as well as to perspectives from outside Manila. There has also been relatively limited attention to lessons that may be garnered from scholarly literatures on such topics as representational structures, electoral systems, and federalism.

The goal of this project is to host an international workshop in the Philippines in July 2005. The workshop would provide an opportunity for extensive analysis of major issues by participants from throughout the Philippines as well as from overseas. One major objective would be to draw on insights from recent reform experiences in a select number of other Asian countries. The volume will be of substantial value in bringing new perspectives to bear in debates over constitutional reform; more importantly, it is hoped that these perspectives would heighten the quality of public discourse over issues of constitutional reform and contribute to the emergence of reforms that are most effective in improving the quality of democracy in the Philippines.

### Paths Not Taken: The False Spring of Political Pluralism in Postwar Singapore 14–15 July 2005

**Contact: Ms Valerie Yeo**

The 'Paths Not Taken: Political Pluralism in Postwar Singapore' Symposium is jointly sponsored by the Centre for Social Change Research at the Queensland University of Technology and the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. It is the culmination of a three year project sponsored by the Australian Research Council, which has brought together researchers from three continents to study political and social movements that have operated in postwar Singapore outside and in rivalry with the ruling party's hegemony.

The conference will address various aspects of these 'alternative' histories, following the themes of 'New Ideas', 'Civil Society', 'Chinese Social and Intellectual Movements' and 'English-educated Movements'. Under these rubrics, participants will discuss 18 papers covering a diverse range of topics: party and activist politics; trade unions; commercial and professional organisations; social, intellectual, ethnic and religious movements, and; the media and service organisations.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### **Centennial Conference 2005: Asian Horizons: Cities, States and Societies**

**1–3 August 2005**

**Contact: Ms Lynn Tan**

In conjunction with the Centennial celebrations of the National University of Singapore starting June 2005 to mark 100 years of tertiary education in Singapore, the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and the Asia Research Institute will jointly be organizing an international conference on "Asian Horizons: Cities, States and Societies".

The conference will focus on the dynamic transformations of Asian cities, states and societies during the past hundred years and look forward to future horizons in these transformations and change. Keynote speakers will also be invited to deliver state-of-the-art lectures on their research interests and their views on the respective aspects of Asia.

### **Conference on Natural Disaster in Asian History, Culture, and Memory**

**26–28 August 2005**

**Contact: Dr Gregory Clancey**

This conference will bring together scholars from a range of humanities and social science disciplines (history, anthropology, sociology, geography, and area studies) around the topic of natural hazard and disaster in East and Southeast Asia. Co-sponsored by the Asia Research Institute (ARI) and the NUS Department of Japanese Studies, the gathering will result in a major edited volume. Natural hazard and disaster are much-discussed in Asia (and in reference to Asia), but normally from the perspective of the natural sciences, disaster management & relief, civil engineering, policy making, and planning. Our symposium will be the first in the world to bring together scholars working on the social, cultural and political aspects of floods, typhoons, earthquakes, droughts and other natural disasters in different Asian societies.

### **Asia Trends 3:**

#### **Asian Migrations: Sojourning, Displacement, Homecoming and Others Travels**

**20 September 2005**

**Contact: Ms Valerie Yeo**

The Asia Research Institute holds an annual Asia Trends Conference to bring together leading speakers on an important theme related to Asia. This one-day Conference is open to the public. In 2005, the theme of the Conference will be "Asian Migrations: Sojourning, Displacement, Homecoming and Other Travels". Migrations and mobilities today, in and out of Asia, are often not just in the form of permanent ruptures, uprooting and settlement, but are also likely to be transient and complex, ridden with disruptions, detours, multi-destinations, and founded on interconnections and multiple chains of movement. Asia Trends 3 will address the nature of Asian migrations of a wide spectrum of peoples – professional and managerial elites, contract workers, 'illegal' migrants, 'forced' migrants, and frequent flyers – and its implications for identities, citizenship and notions of 'home'. This will lead us to begin to rethink the links between mobility and place, and to examine the cultural politics in differentiating the power of mobile and non-mobile subjects. The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Professor Amitav Ghosh, Columbia University and author of many books, including *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *In an Antique Land*, *The Calcutta Chromosome* and *The Glass Palace*.



## ARI RECOGNITION

### ARI Recognition

**A/P Brenda Yeoh** is now **Professor Yeoh**. Congratulations! Her promotion was confirmed in May. Prof. Yeoh will be delivering a keynote address at the Population Association of New Zealand Conference on "People and place: communities, regions, diversity and change", 30 June to 1 July 2005, Auckland, New Zealand.

**Prof Gavin Jones** was invited to give the keynote address at the Scientific Meeting and General Assembly of the Philippines Population Association in Manila on 5 February 2005. His address was on "Urbanization, megacities and urban planning issues: Philippines in an Asian context".

**Dr Nguyen Thanh Liem** presented 2 papers:

1. Workshop on "The impact of Migration on the Left behind in Asia", Hanoi, Vietnam, March 10-11, 2005. The paper was entitled "International Migration and Health of the 'Left-behind' in Asia: A Literature Review and Discussion".

2. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 31 to April 2, 2005. The paper was entitled "Pattern and Determinants of Occupational Mobility of Adult Ghanaian In-migrants in the Central Region", Session 64 on Migration in Developing Countries.

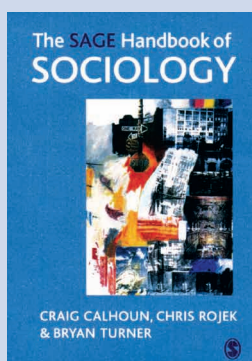
**Prof Lois Verbrugge** was appointed in March to a National Institutes of Health panel on the "Demedicalization of Menopause". The National Institutes of Health is the Medical Research Agency of the United States of America and it convenes panels to provide a consensus statement on important medical topics which lack evidence-based research.

**Prof Chua Beng Huat** presented 2 papers in May 2005. The first was a paper 'Taking Group Rights Seriously: Multiculturalism in Singapore' in Public Lecture Series on Conflict, Security and Political Regimes in Asia. Asia Research Centre and Politics and International Studies Program, Murdoch University, Western Australia, 12 May 2005. The second paper was on 'Political Election as Popular Culture', presented as Special Public Seminar, Centre for Contemporary Asia and Asian Studies, School of Social and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia, 27 May 2005.

**Dr Nicola Piper** was the sole author of the background paper on "Gender and Migration" for the Global Commission on International Migration in Geneva. She was invited to speak at the Expert Meeting on "Gender and Migration" in Geneva in March 2005; and at the UNHCR Roundtable on "Migration and Refugee Issues", in KL, June 13-14.

Postdoctoral fellow, **Dr Khoo Gaik Cheng**, was invited to head the jury for the best full-length feature competition at the Second .MOV Digital International Film Festival, held at Cebu City, 2-8 March, 2005.

## NEW BOOK BY ARI MEMBER



New Book: **Bryan Turner, Craig Calhoun  
& Chris Rojek (eds)**

SAGE Publications, 2005

Chapter contributions by Prof Turner:

The Sociology of Family  
The Sociology of Religion

## RECENT ARI CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

### Workshop: Asian Marriage Research Network 6–8 January 2005

Research on marriage and divorce in the region has generally been ad hoc, arising from works by people in different disciplines who often have little contact with each other. Although there have been some studies in cognate areas, the only recent surveys are the Indonesian Family Life Surveys (1993, 1997, 2002); the Vietnam Family Study (2003), which has a marriage module; the Myanmar Fertility and Reproductive Health Survey (2001) which contained information on marriage; and the Fourth Malaysian Population and Family Survey, which has a specific module on the never married in the 25-49 year age group.



The rapidly increasing number of both men and women in their 30s and 40s who remain single in the region is well known, but its implications for living arrangements, sexuality, patterns of cohabitation and the role of singles in the family have been largely untouched by researchers. Marriage arrangements in the region range from formal registered marriage, through various community-recognized pairings not officially registered, to cohabiting and 'visiting' arrangements. Participants agreed that more research, ideally in the form of a collaborative research

project, is needed to understand the varieties of 'pairings' that exist and their implications. With increasing mobility, international marriage also needs more study, as do divorce trends in the region.

### Workshop: Political Election as Popular Culture 17–18 February



Political elections have been neglected as an area of investigation by Cultural Studies practitioners. Yet the entire process of electioneering - the selection of candidates, designing of posters and media broadcasts, design and distributions of election paraphernalia from flags to watches to toys, the entertainment during public rallies and other modes of mass campaigns - is a constellation of popular cultural festivals, spectacles and other practices. In many locations folk beliefs and other evocations - from spiritual media to violence - are called forth at different occasions to affirm the 'community' of electorates. These behaviours and activities, both organized and individualized, in celebration or in protest, are all specific to the 'culture of elections'.

The workshop brought together participants who documented and analyzed the relatively 'unique' set of public cultural practices associated with elections in their respective locations.

The year 2004 was a 'bumper' year for general elections in Asia. Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan all had their respective elections. These elections served as the 'empirical' - media, ethnographic and other modes of behaviours and practices - materials for the analysis and theorization of political elections as popular cultures. Participants presented comprehensive analyses of their respective fields of observations, some with fascinating images. It was an entertaining and thought-provoking learning experience.

### Conference: Asia's Hou Hsiao-hsien: Cinema, History and Culture 29–30 April 2005



Despite the strong international presence of Asian cinema, the academic word of Asian Cultural Studies is lagging behind and the implications of such a global presence remain to be studied. This international conference focused on one of the most important Asian film directors who is still working today: Hou Hsiao-Hsien. Hou's cinema is chosen because, in retrospect, his work had strong connections beyond cinematic practices and would lend itself to wider discussion. The conference placed Hou's work in the intersection of cinema, culture, politics and history. It brought together the best scholars working in the field of Asian film/cultural studies to trace Hou's past work and to locate Hou's contribution to Asian cultures and to world cinema.

Hou Hsiao-Hsien has been recognized globally as the representative figure of Asian Cinema. However, in the academic world there are only scattered accounts of Hou's work. This conference aimed to produce the first authoritative book on Hou in the English-speaking world. The conference was opened by the film director himself and the keynote speech was delivered by Shigehiko Hasumi, film theorist and former President of Tokyo University.

## RECENT ARI CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

### Conference: Political Legitimacy in Islamic Asia 25–26 April

Asia east of Afghanistan, home of half the world's Muslims, has experienced a huge variety of types of authority. Areas of Muslim majority have been ruled over by Muslims, both Sunni and Shia, by Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and communist atheists. Among the most interesting experiments in how to manage pluralism have been those of monarchs who were themselves Muslims and patrons of Islam. Sultan Akbar in India, and Sultan Agung in Java, sought their own creative syntheses to transcend the diversity of their subjects, among whom Indic mystical ideas and local spirit cults were deeply rooted. Only in Islamic Asia were female rulers explicitly preferred, at periods in the history of Aceh, Patani, the Maldives and Bhopal. Nationalism, Marxism, Islamism and liberal internationalism have contended for the support of Muslims, each with their own justifications in the Islamic tradition or logic, in the 50 years since independence.



ARI brought a team of international experts on Islam, including Noraini Othman (IKMAS, Malaysia), Azyumardi Azra (State Islamic University, Indonesia), Michael Gilson (NYU/ARI), Bassam Tibi (Goettingen / ARI), Greg Barton (Deakin/ARI), and Michael Feener

(UC, Riverside), together in Singapore to discuss a whole array of issues related to Islam and politics in Islamic Asia. Issues addressed included: Muslims under non-Islamic rule; the intellectual basis of Islamic communism and of Islamic nationalism; the differences between Islamic pluralism, civil Islam, and universal models of pluralism and civil society; and the pressures of globalisation on pluralist as against normative models of political development.

### SUP-ARI E-Press Launch: Southeast Asia in the Ming Shi-lu 11 May

ARI and NUS Publishing have collaborated in bringing this gratis resource online via the Singapore E-Press, thereby making it available globally. This ARI-NUS Publishing launch was opened by Professor Wang Gungwu and attended by over 100 people.

The Ming shi-lu or 'Veritable Records of the Ming Dynasty' is a collective name for the successive reign annals of the emperors of Ming China (1368-1644). These manuscripts in 40,000 pages of unpunctuated classical Chinese constitute one of the most important primary texts of the Ming dynasty, and contain a wealth of materials unrecorded in other sources. Among the unique materials contained within the Ming shi-lu (MSL) are a wide range of references to polities and societies which today we consider to be parts of 'Southeast Asia'.

This work identifies all of the 3,000-plus references to Southeast Asia contained within the MSL and provides them to readers in English-language translation. In addition to the more obvious Southeast Asian polities of maritime and mainland Southeast Asia, this database also includes references to the many Yunnan Tai polities which have subsequently been incorporated into the Chinese state. This resource is the largest translated corpus of Chinese historical texts available anywhere in the world.





## RECENT ARI CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

### Workshop: Conservation For/By Whom? Social Controversies and Cultural Contestations Regarding National Parks in the "Malay Archipelago" 16–18 May 2005

This workshop focused on the socio-cultural and legal contextualization of national parks and reserves in 'the Malay Archipelago', a traditional natural historical region and a contemporary 'biodiversity hotspot' focus, as an arena of contestation between conservation imperatives and community rights circumscribed by national environmental laws and transnational discourses. It brought together scholars from many disciplines engaged in critical analysis of this site, along with NGO activists, and government officials who represent various discursive positions in ongoing debates on past accomplishments and failures. The conference explored the future form or even suitability of national parks/reserves as a key strategy for protecting natural resources and enhancing human welfare in the region.



While there have been previous collections dealing with the issues of indigenous peoples and protected areas, no seminars or resultant publications have focused on this 'hotspot region', nor has any meeting treated the particular intersection of cultural discourses and social forces

unique to this region. This workshop also provided the opportunity to assess how well schemes of co-management and other initiatives have fared in their attempts to address conservation imperatives through re-conceptualizing and re-institutionalizing local cultures as community-resource management schemes. This workshop was joint-organized with the Faculties of Science, Arts and Social Sciences, and Law, and with the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law.

### Asia Research Institute Third Graduate Students' Workshop: States of Transgression – Strategies of Domination, Accommodation and Resistance across Asia

25–27 May 2005

This was the second of ARI's annual Graduate Students Workshops, which seek to provide a forum for discussion of graduate-level research in progress with a demonstrated interest in aspects of political processes across Asia. This workshop explored emerging understandings of the state in the region, and macro- and micro-levels of responses to it, whether at the community or the individual level. It encouraged dialogue between various disciplinary perspectives and provided access to feedback from a variety of specialists. Professor James C. Scott, Senior Visiting Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, Sterling Professor of Political Science and Anthropology and Director, Programme in Agrarian Studies, Institute for Social and Policy Studies at Yale University, helped initiate the workshop and was a key facilitator, offering his feedback to participants. Papers presented addressed a whole array of topics including ethnic and class conflict, social movements and everyday forms of resistance, cross-border issues, state surveillance and control, politics of identity and minority issues, resource conflicts within state-imposed frameworks, and state planning and informal social order.





## RECENT ARI CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

### Conference: ASIALEX 2005 Singapore – Words in Asian Cultural Contexts

1–3 June

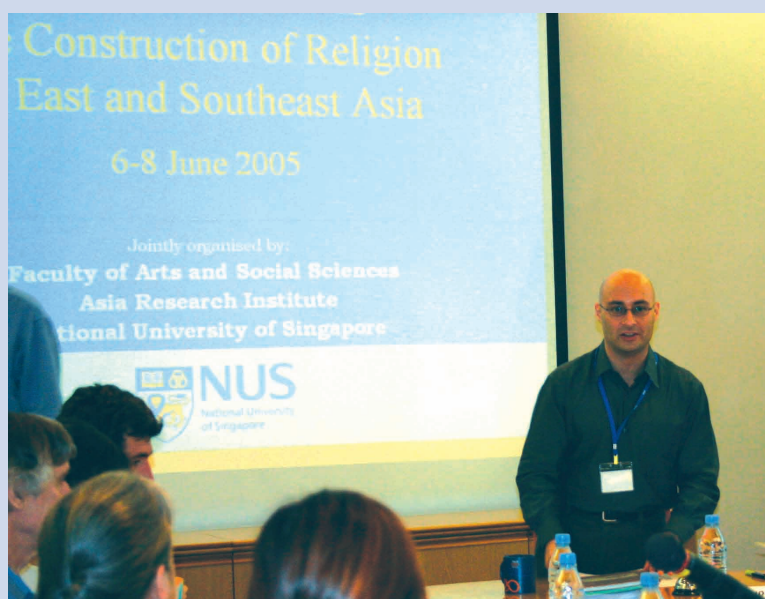
The Asian Association for Lexicography (ASIALEX) was established in March 1997, during the Dictionaries in Asia conference that was held at the Language Centre of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The major objective of ASIALEX is to foster scholarly and professional activities in the field of lexicography in Asia. The first international conference of ASIALEX was held at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou (Canton) in 1999. Subsequent conferences took place at Yonsei University in Seoul in 2001 and at Meikai University in Tokyo in 2003. The Fourth Biennial Conference of ASIALEX was held in Singapore, as one of the



very first events marking the National University of Singapore (NUS)'s Centennial Celebrations in 2005. NUS will be celebrating its Centennial in 2005 and 2006, marking 100 years of tertiary education in Singapore. Its major theme was "Words in Asian Cultural Contexts". The conference aimed to examine the functions and representations of words, and to bring together scholars of language, linguistics and literature in an interdisciplinary forum. It focused on a wider understanding of the word, particularly in Asian contexts in which cultural and textual hybridity is the norm. Papers presented covered: lexicology and lexicography, sociolinguistics and language pedagogy, information and communications technology, literary, cultural and postcolonial studies.

### Conference: Casting Faiths: The Construction of Religion in East and Southeast Asia

6–8 June



Nowhere was the interaction of cultures produced by colonialism more striking than in the realm of religion. Religious fervour motivated intrepid missionaries and dogged resistance; it also produced many of the most spectacular flashpoints of conflict. Less dramatic but equally important were the efforts of missionaries, scholars, and administrators who codified, shaped, and sanitized the understanding of Asian religion, and the influence of such portrayals on the contours of empire. Religious ideas shaped the epistemological structure by which the colonial encounter was understood, administered and remembered. This workshop explored the various ways in which knowledge of religion has been constructed in colonial and post-colonial East and Southeast Asia. Although the language and ideas of post-colonial theory were employed, the conference went beyond the period of European colonization to include any relationship of center and periphery/colony and metropole, and

encompassed periods from the eighteenth century to the present day. Scholars from a variety of disciplines discussed the relationship between knowledge and power, the role of the archive, classroom and courtroom, the codification and textualization of religious cultures, and the influence of colonial ethnography on our understanding of religion in the region.

## RECENT ARI CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

### ASEAN Fellows' Seminar 2005

13–14 June

Each year, ARI invites 20 postgraduate students from ASEAN universities to spend 3 months (in 2005, 1 April – 1 July) at NUS in order to make use of the university's library and other resources. This programme greatly benefits ASEAN students by giving them access to research materials not available in their home countries. Equally importantly, it also gives them access to the academic community at NUS and beyond, including the best young researchers in the Southeast Asian region. As part of their programme at NUS, ASEAN Fellows are given an opportunity to present a synopsis of their research and to describe how their stay at NUS has affected their intellectual development. The presentations are scheduled several weeks before they leave, in order to give the academic community here the chance to provide feedback such as additional sources which they could usefully consult during the

time remaining to them in Singapore. This year the two-day conference-like seminar saw a whole array of fascinating works on diverse topics such as 'Mahathir's vision on Malaysian racial and religious issues', 'Imlek (Chinese New Year) celebration in mosques: Indonesian ethnic Chinese and politics of identity', 'Social practices of gambling in Indonesian society: the case of Togel', and 'Law and land in Vietnam during the early Le Dynasty, 1428-1527'.



## PUBLIC LECTURES

### Islam of the 21st Century: Between Democratic Peace and Global Jihad – 21 April Bassam Tibi



Professor for International Relations,  
University of Goettingen,  
A.D White Professor-at-large, Cornell University,  
and Senior Visiting Research Fellow, ARI

This public lecture was opened by ARI's Director Anthony Reid and chaired by Syed Farid Alatas, Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology at NUS. The 21st century heralds the return of civilization as a framework for identity politics. In Islam the constructed concept of universal umma and the reinvented notion of jihad are brought together and combined to form a new ideology of Islamism based on the politicization of Islam and its core doctrines, as well as the militarization of jihad to become jihadism. Other Muslims, by contrast, represent a civil Islam compatible with democracy, pluralism and human rights. Unlike Huntington, Tibi sees a clash of values and worldviews within Islamic civilization itself: between Jihadi Islamists and those Muslims

committed to joining an international community based on democratic peace and pluralism. The lecture was attended by over 150 people and saw a heated debate during the question and answer session.

RECENT ARI  
CONFERENCES,  
WORKSHOPS,  
SEMINARS AND  
PUBLIC LECTURES

**Escape: Towards a History of Non-State Spaces in  
Mainland Southeast Asia – 27 May**  
**James Scott**

Sterling Professor of Political Science, Professor of Anthropology; Director of Agrarian Studies, Yale University; International Advisory Board Member, Asia Research Institute

This ARI public lecture was opened and chaired by Ananda Rajah, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at NUS. For most of its history the population of Southeast Asia has been lightly governed or not governed at all. How might we understand the creation, maintenance and logic of such non-state spaces? What



would a history of the many 'blank pages' and 'blank spaces' of the usual dynastic histories look like? It may well be possible to understand much of the 'peopling' of the hills as a flight from state-making projects in the valleys. In other words, many hill peoples can be usefully viewed as runaways—over more than a millennium—from wet-rice farming, heavily governed state-cores. Such a view would require us to think about 'mapping' Southeast Asia in terms of 'the friction of distance' rather than the usual Mercator projection. Seen from this angle, the social structures and subsistence activities of hill peoples can fruitfully be seen also as social structures and agricultures of 'escape'. The beginnings of an argument along these lines, and some evidence for its soundness, were suggested in this lecture, which was the highlight of Professor James Scott's visit to ARI (For detail on the lecture, please refer to pg 19).

**The West Mebon: A Conundrum of Ritual and Engineering in Angkor,  
Cambodia – 20 June**  
**Roland Fletcher**

Associate Professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney; Director, Greater Angkor Project; Director, Living with Heritage Project

The West Mebon is the exquisite central shrine of the West Baray, one of the vast reservoirs of Angkor. It was built in the eleventh century and contained the great bronze reclining Vishnu, now located in the National Museum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The statue was in pieces when it was found in one of the central shafts of the mebon. Professor Fletcher discussed the problem of the West Mebon and the conundrum surrounding the destruction of the bronze Vishnu. The bronze Vishnu was set up to represent the creation of the world. In legend, Vishnu went to sleep while floating on the world ocean and had a dream. The dream manifested itself in reality: a lotus grew from his navel, Brahma appeared from the lotus, and went ahead and actually created the world. Thus the statue functioned as a metaphor for the creation of the world. It also functioned as a fountain: that is, water perhaps spouted from its navel. It may also have had a technical function: the spouting of water may have indicated that the reservoir was full, or above a certain minimum level; perhaps the spout automatically shut off when the water was low, a sign that more water was needed. This is one of the theories that need to be examined by further archaeological research. If the water level was being measured and monitored; why? How was the water used? Was it only symbolic, or was there





## ASIAN METACENTRE FOR POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

### Recent Workshops

#### International Workshop on Asian Transnational Families

2–4 February 2005, Singapore

Co-organized by Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis,

Department of Geography, National University of Singapore

In association with Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN), International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Population and Vulnerability

This international workshop focused on the “transnational family” as an increasingly utilised form of living arrangement in which familial relations may be stretched across international borders. From the more “elite” astronaut families to those of overseas contract workers, transnational informal “networks”, remittance “flows” and “circuits” of care and affection – often facilitated by easier mobilities and communications – have emerged to connect geographically dispersed

family members. Such family forms need to be understood in the context of shifting global patterns of immigration and settlement as well as a range of more fluid migrations which may be transnational, circular, or multiple.

The workshop attracted 63 participants who came together over two days to discuss transnational families in the Asian context. The 22 papers were organised into the following panels: transnational Families and the Geographies of Care; transnational Perspectives on Marriage and Migration; transnational Families and Inter-generational Politics; transnational Families and Social Networks; Households, Economies and transnational Strategies; transnational Families, Education and Cultural Capital; Families, Nations and transnationalities.



#### Workshop on The Impacts of Migration on the “Left-Behind” in Asia

10–11 March 2005, Hanoi, Vietnam

Co-organised by Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Asia Research Institute, Singapore, & Institute for Social Development Studies, Vietnam

This workshop explored the health and social impacts of emigration on the left-behind family and community. The workshop was attended by about 50 experts including scholars, development agents, policy makers and NGO workers. The key issues discussed were: migration and the health status of the left-behind; child health, education and experiences in migrant sending areas; the impact of household labour allocation and social inequality; socio-economic implications of migration for the left behind; and social, cultural and economic negotiations among the left-behind family and community in the wake of migration.

The key discussion points raised at the workshop, as summarized by Prof. Elspeth Graham and Prof. Paul Boyle were that while the population “left behind” is increasing as migration and mobility become commonplace phenomena in Asia, who the “left behind” are is still an unanswered question. It is important to take into account the way migrants, the “left-behind” and migration are socially constructed as this influences how they are perceived. Gendered migration and its implications, especially gender roles, are important in the context of Asian countries as female migration is increasing due to the higher demands for female labour in the receiving countries. Migration is a complicated process that involves not only the migrants but also other members of the household as well as those who are not members. A major outcome of the workshop is the submission of Special Issue proposals to two internationally recognized journals. The papers on the impacts of migration on health, the population and wellbeing of children left behind, will be submitted to the Asian Population Studies, published by Taylor and Francis. The second proposal which includes papers on the socio-economic implications of migration on the population left behind, with a special focus on gender, elderly and social networks, is submitted to the Population, Space and Place, published by Wiley.





## Forthcoming Event

### International Conference on "Female Deficit in Asia: Trends and Perspectives"

5–7 December 2005, Singapore

Co-Organised by CEPED-CICRED-INERD, France

Hosted by Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, ARI, NUS

In a context of rapid social and economic change, characterized most notably by rapid fertility decline and economic growth, several Asian countries are witnessing an exacerbation of discrimination against women from conception to adulthood. As a result, an almost simultaneous female deficit has emerged in regions of Asia over the last three decades, leading to a gradual masculinization of the population.

The conference will be held in Singapore on 5-7 December 2005. Centers and scholars working on population are invited to communicate to the conference secretariat a proposal on this theme. This conference is organized by CEPED, CICRED and INED in order to promote South-South and North-South exchange with support from the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Singapore.

For more information on the conference and scientific programme,

please see website <http://www.populationasia.org/Events.htm>

Conference-related correspondence should be addressed to:

[seminar1205@cicred.org](mailto:seminar1205@cicred.org)

Secretariat:

c/o Cicred

133 Boulevard Davout 75980 Paris cedex 20 France

Phone: 33 1 56 06 20 19

## Recent Publication

### Asia Pacific Viewpoint Special Issue on "Meeting the Challenges of HIV/AIDS in Southeast and East Asia"

Vol. 46, No. 1, 2005

Nicola Piper & Brenda S.A. Yeoh (eds.)

Out of a total of 38 million people living with HIV/AIDS globally today, the Asia-Pacific is home to about 7.4 million – a figure which constitutes a sharp rise to previous years. In absolute numbers, infections in Asia are projected to exceed African figures within a decade. This has largely to do with economic changes towards market-based capitalism, widening socioeconomic disparities and increased levels of mobility (internal and cross-border), as for instance in China and Indonesia. Overall, the epidemic in Asia has been described as more complex than in Africa involving a multiplicity of transmission modes. The case studies presented in the contributions to this special issue discuss the connections between issues of mobility, gender, (trans)nationalism and sexuality in understanding the HIV/AIDS challenge in the region. The various ways in meeting the challenges of HIV/AIDS in Southeast and East Asia are analysed, whereby non-governmental and community-based responses often emerge as more effective than state interventions. The papers in this special issue are drawn from selected papers presented at a special panel on HIV/AIDS in Asia convened at the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) in Singapore in August 2003, and a workshop on migration and health in Asia held in Bintan, Indonesia in September 2003, both organized by the Asian MetaCentre headquartered at NUS.

## Interview with Prof Lois Verbrugge, Visiting Professor, The Changing Family in Asia Cluster.



Prof Lois Verbrugge is a social demographer who studies disability among older adults. She was surprised to be appointed to a consensus panel on menopause by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the main health research agency of the U.S. government. She knew nothing about the topic. Indeed, that's why NIH chose her and the other panelists. Consensus

panels review the evidence on difficult health and medical topics, and panelists must have no vested interest.

The panelists reviewed scientific evidence on menopause symptoms and treatments. They held a conference with expert presentations and audience debate (03/05). The panel then prepared their report (available at <http://consensus.nih.gov>, and forthcoming in *Annals of Internal Medicine*). NIH consensus statements have wide use and impact on research, clinical care, and pharmaceutical development.

### What were the major findings of the panel?

I chaired the subgroup that identified which symptoms of midlife women are menopausal ones, and which are not. We reviewed cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys about the menopause transition, looking at common symptoms and their biological basis. We found that four symptoms are indeed menopausal: hot flashes, night sweats, vaginal dryness, and sleep disturbances. These start/increase when women's menstrual cycles become variable and may continue for years after menopause, and all are linked to menopause hormone changes.

Several of us championed the demedicalization of menopause. We noted that most women move through menopause successfully on their own, with no need for medical care. We won, and the theme is in the report's last paragraph: "There is great need to develop and disseminate information that emphasizes menopause as a normal, healthy phase of women's life and promotes its demedicalization. Medical care and future clinical trials are best focused on women with the most severe and prolonged symptoms."

During my "crash course" on menopause, I studied the Asian literature. Most research parallels the Western orientation, with clinical studies of drugs and occasional surveys. Asia is the home for many botanicals, and my thought was that Asian researchers might take a different path, focusing on botanical remedies and self-care for menopausal symptoms. This would contribute greatly to all women wishing for nonmedical approaches.

### Did you see any common themes between the panel's findings and your own work?

Yes; social science research on aging often has medical biases. We are trained to think that diseases and impairments cause disability, and the main remedies are medical care, home-based treatments, physiotherapy, etc.

Maybe it is better to see disability as a common and natural outcome of aging processes. We are all "temporarily able-bodied and able-minded". Why not view symptoms (pain, fatigue, dizziness, etc.) as the causes of functional problems? That is true in people's own

lives; pain limits what you do, not your physician's diagnosis of arthritis. Most adjustments people make to disability are on their own, such as doing a task less often, meditation, and using an umbrella as a cane (very common in Singapore!). Maybe the next major survey of aging/disability should ask people more about bothersome symptoms and self-care, and less about medical conditions and therapies.

### Moving to your areas of specialisation, what's in the pipeline for you?

I'm now working with architecture, product design, and urban planning professionals on issues of access for older persons. My hope is to contribute new thinking that energizes social scientists to take the environment into account. It also may encourage design disciplines to use survey data in their own projects.

With other NUS faculty, I'm organising a conference on "Activities, Access, and Aging in Southeast Asia" to be held next year. The topic is older persons' away-from-home activities, and access problems they face with transportation, buildings, and walkways. Known or perceived barriers determine how often (and indeed, whether) they leave their home.

All countries in southeast Asia are experiencing population aging and rapid urban/rural change. The specific features vary – population density, traffic regulations, types of vehicles, electrical and built infrastructure, public transportation, speed of people and vehicles, walkway and road surfaces. Yet they all have little public financial support or policies for older and disabled persons.

The conference will showcase scholarship that has implications for policy formation in the region. Presentations will address: What do older people in southeast Asia do daily or regularly? What do they not do because of perceived barriers outside their homes? How can public places, transportation services, and housing structures be designed to help older persons' accomplish their wishes for away-from-home activities?

### Do you have any final comments about research in your field in Singapore?

Singapore is among the fastest-aging countries in the world. Yet there is not much aging research, and no central place for researchers to do it. There is great need to entice students, junior researchers, and senior researchers into health demography, gerontology, and survey research. A university-based center on aging would boost aging research. A noncommercial survey research with sampling, interviewing, data management, and statistical staff is also needed. Possibly an older, or younger, person in Singapore will see these great needs and help establish university-based units.

Professionally and personally, it is such a pleasure to be back! In 1968-69, I worked in Malaysia on a national survey of contraceptive users. My affection for the diversity of food, cultures and (as many current colleagues know) clothing of this area never diminished. To be here again working on survey research in Singapore and Malaysia is a high point of my career.

## JAMES SCOTT PUBLIC LECTURE (27 MAY 2005 LT12 NUS)

This ARI public lecture was opened and chaired by Ananda Rajah, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, NUS. The lecture theatre was packed with graduate students, NUS staff, and members of the public. Professor Rajah talked in his introduction of Professor Scott's well-known but unpublished piece on 'Why civilizations don't climb hills', and of the impact it had made when circulated electronically.

Professor Scott, who spoke without written notes, began by referring to the 9-11 Commission Report. This locates the lairs of terrorism 'in the least governed and most lawless places in the world', including Indonesia and the Philippines as well as the frontiers of Pakistan and the forgotten lands of Africa. Scott calls such places 'non-state spaces'. They are not just remote and rugged; they are also resistant places, inhabited by resistant peoples who are there partly because the state is not. Scott's interest in such places arose from a curiosity as to why states, in Southeast Asia and elsewhere, always seem to have been the enemies of people who move around, devoting great effort to confining and fixing their populations geographically. The answer is that a sedentary population is easier to tax, conscript, count, and control.

The flight of fugitive groups who defy state control, meanwhile, is the beginning of a more interesting story. Scott sees many of Southeast Asia's upland or 'tribal' peoples as originating in such escapes from the state, and many aspects of their ways of life as reflecting their continuing need to avoid attracting state attention. The cultivation of roots and tubers in shifting swidden fields, for instance, can be seen as a form of 'escape agriculture', designed to make food production difficult and unattractive for states to locate and control. In this respect it is the antithesis of irrigated rice cultivation, which states preferred for its geographical fixity and productivity, and because the synchronized seasonal ripening and harvesting of rice crops made them easier to appropriate than the chronologically as well as spatially dispersed yields of root crops.

Southeast Asia, historically speaking, has been sparsely populated, and before the twentieth century the first principle of statecraft in the region was the control of scarce manpower. Rounding up people and concentrating them in central places was a central occupation of governments: no people, no state. Only an area of wet rice cultivation within a reasonable distance of the court could provide the tax base necessary to maintain a state. The hills, with their characteristically extensive form of agriculture and their



"Prof James Scott accepting a token from the grateful graduate students who attended the workshop *Escape: Towards a History of Non-State Spaces in Mainland Southeast Asia*, 25-27 May 2005"

mobile population, were unpromising sites for state formation. The basis of freedom in Southeast Asia is mobility, the capacity to go to the hills. Slavery and bondage made the state, flight and escape could break it. The hills were the asylum of liberty not only in the sense that the state did not reach them, but also in the stronger sense that people went there to get beyond the reach of state projects in the valleys.

Those state projects were cultural - civilizational - as well as political in nature. Paul Wheatley once wrote that in Southeast Asia 'the Sanskrit tongue was chilled to silence at 500 metres'. Until recently Islam and Christianity, as components of the state's self-imposed civilizing mission, have had the same difficulties in conquering the uplands as did Hinduism and Buddhism before them. Nevertheless the state's view of uplanders as barbarians is not predicated only on their refusal to adopt its religion. All of the strategies by which they seek to evade state power, including their nomadic habits and their lack of fixed fields, grain crops, patriarchal families, rulers, or priests, are in themselves regarded as sub-human. The functional definition of barbarism, in fact, is 'not (yet) incorporated into the state'.

Scott calls for a new history and anthropology of the non-state spaces. What would a history of - for instance - the area now called Burma look like if it were written not from a state-centric perspective, but rather with the emphasis on that part of the population which evaded state control? And is such a new historiography practically feasible? The most important reason why most histories are histories of states or state-like polities, Scott acknowledges, is because it is the state that leaves the paper trail. The job of the peasant, in fact, is to stay out of the archives. Once peasants figure in state records, something unpleasant has usually happened to them. They are doing better when they figure only in aggregate numbers of conscripts and taxpayers, and as producers of so many bushels of grain. The non-state peoples, meanwhile, are doing best when they do not figure in state records at all. The challenge facing those who would write a non-state history of Southeast Asia, then, is a tough one in empirical as well as theoretical terms.



## Interview with Dr. Bassam Tibi, Visiting Research Fellow, Religion & Globalisation Cluster

**In your article *Habermas and the Return of the Scared*, there appears to be concern of the rise of right wing religion based government and how this is assessed by Western academia. There is a genuine concern among**

**Western intellectuals to criticize the war on terror. In your article, written in response to Habermas, it seems to be touching the weak point with contemporary intellectuals on religion. They approach the topic with little intuition and sensitivity and appear color-blind to nuances and cultural. Is it fair to say that your concern is with the way intellectuals in the west approach religion and Islam, and their misapplication or their inappropriate use of cultural relativism and productionist understanding of Religion and Islam?**

You address two issues here and these are the right issues. They are different even though interrelated. The one issue is the left, of Western Intellectuals and the second is of the Return of the scared, the revival of religion, which is a phenomenon in itself and it has nothing to do with the Western intellectuals. The inter-relation between those issues is how Western Intellectuals perceive this phenomenon taking place both outside and in Europe (Islam-Diaspora). When it comes to religious fundamentalism, Europe is an empty page. There is a Christian fundamentalism in America but not in Europe. I am related to both phenomena. When it comes to the left of Western Intellectuals, the problem is that this left predates the current revival of religion. It goes back to the early 60s. Around 1965, the student movement started. The seeds were there and the height of the movement was in 1968. At that time, there were many political prophets. The student movements were waiting for the liberators. But the liberators did not come. In his book 'One Dimensional Man', Herbert Marcuse who was one of these prophets says that Western societies call themselves free, but they are not. They develop themselves towards standardization, that's why Marcuse uses the term one dimensional man. Marcuse argued: There is a need for revolution but it is very unlikely it will come from the West. He says that Western proletariat has become lazy. Given that the revolution will not take place in America or in Europe, he asks whether the revolution could come from Africa and Asia. These pre-industrial societies suffer and they are not standardized. This was taken up by left wing academics from Berkeley to Frankfurt where I was based but the revolution did not happen. The revolution from outside did not happen either. Yet, instead of liberators, we had dictators like Pol Pot and Edi Amin. After this disappointment Western intellectuals hailed the Iranian Revolution as a turning point in history, and hailed its equivalent to the French revolution, but that is simply madness.

In the 1970s there was a switch in the student movement from Marxism to Maoism, and then there was a stalemate in the mid 70s. In the 80s, after the Iranian revolution took place, there was a return of third world romanticism related to a misconception of political religion.

My problem with Western intellectuals is this: I was part of them, but if you come from Asia and Africa, they perceive you as exotic, as interesting but not a simple human. They needed leaders from the third-world, and I was a leader for them and then I disassociated myself from them because they were developing in a direction I could not share. I started studying Islam and I realized you cannot interpret Islam using Marxist theories. It is not enough. I needed sociology of religion and there is no Marxist sociology of religion. I turned to America.

American scholarship is not the same as European scholarship. In America, to call a scholar an intellectual is a kind of downgrading. In Europe, an intellectual is a high ranking. Now, the Europeans are not successful in integrating Moslems to Europe. They marginalized them. US-Islamic studies – despite all flaws – are superior to these studies in Europe. In Europe I am marginalized and I would become anti-European and a fundamentalist, if my reason would not prevent me from doing so. One problem in Europe lies in the self-hating sentiment of Western intellectuals in equating anti-capitalism with the negation of Europe. They are very disappointed with the proletariat. The salvation was to look outside. But there was nothing promising coming from outside. Nothing good came out of the third world revolution. From Frantz Fanon to Islamism. At the same time, the secular revolution failed. Then, religion came back in place providing arguments for anti-capitalism. The revolt against the West has two phases. The first phase is anti-colonial secularism. By then, anti-colonialists were not against the West as such but against its colonialism. The second phase is articulated in religious terms and Islam is the best example of this. This is being exported to Southeast Asia. There is no homogenous or monolithic Islam. Different cultures relate to different Islams. Totalitarianism does not exist in Islam, but this is what some want to establish in Islam.

Throughout Asia, you have the reality of growing diversity. There is a danger of totalitarian Islam that some want to impose. My hope for the future is that Southeast Asia will become the mother of a civil Islam as it is emerging in Indonesia.