

# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

National University of Singapore  
presents

## Benjamin Batson Memorial Lecture

by

### Dr Hong Lysa

Senior Visiting Fellow  
Department of History, National University of Singapore

## HISTORY POPULARISED: DREAMING OF THAI WARRIOR QUEENS/AWAKENING TO CHINA-MEN SINGAPORE HEROES

#### DATE/ TIME

Wednesday, 22 March 2006 – 6.15 to 7.30 pm

#### VENUE

Lecture Theatre 12, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences  
National University of Singapore

#### ABSTRACT

History in Thailand and Singapore at first glance would appear to be linked only by contrast. Thai history can claim to go back almost a thousand years; the society remains symbolically centred on a traditional institution, and sees itself as a homogenous people, one that has never been colonised.

Singapore on the other hand is a new, immigrant post-colonial society which for the most part did not have time for history.

Yet the two countries share a feature which has surfaced in the last decades of the millennium: the relentless production of history popularised by the establishment-- one which has little tolerance for unsanctioned narratives of the past.

This talk will address the question of how this popularised history-- in the form of the blockbuster movie, television serial, and the popular novel in Thailand, and the memorial hall and public theme garden in Singapore-- has attempted to define what history should be.

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Hong Lysa is a Senior Visiting Fellow in the History Department, National University of Singapore. From 1984-2000, she was a member of the History Department, and concurrently from 1992, the Southeast Asian Studies Programme. She has published on Thai history and historiography, as well as on Singapore.

**A L L A R E W E L C O M E**

**(Light refreshments will be provided after the lecture)**