DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
National University of Singapore
presents

Benjamin Batson Memorial Lecture

by

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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.

ALL ARE WELCOME
(Light refreshments will be provided after the lecture)