Table of Contents  

2 Selected Recent Books by FASS Faculty  

2 Book Launch and Panel Discussion: The Crisis of Global Modernity  

3 Public Talk on Radicals: Resistance and Protest in Colonial Malaya  

4 Research Cluster Updates  

4 Cities Cluster  

6 Environment Cluster  

8 Migration Cluster  

11 Religion Cluster  

12 Science Technology & Society (STS) Cluster  

14 Health Cluster  

15 Social Science & Policy (SSP) Cluster  

16 Singapore Research Nexus (SRN)  

18 New Faculty Research Centres  

18 Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR)  

21 Social Service Research Centre (SSR)  

23 Next Age Institute (NAI)  

25 Global Production Networks Centre (GPN@NUS)  

26 Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Initiative Update  

28 FASS Professorial Seminar Update  

29 Faculty Research Committee (FRC) Grant Awards
Click the title to learn more about each book, and the author to be taken to their profile page.

**Meta-Analysis: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach** (Wiley, March 2015) by Mike W.-L. Cheung, Associate Professor, Dept of Psychology

**Quest for Political Power: Communist Subversion and Militancy in Singapore** (Marshall Cavendish, Feb 2015) by Bilveer Singh, Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science

**The Semantics of Chinese Music: Analysing selected Chinese musical concepts** (John Benjamins, Jan 2015) by Adrian Tien, Assistant Professor, Dept of Chinese Studies

For a complete list of authored books by FASS faculty members published from Jan-June 2015, click here.

Stay tuned for the next Bookshare in November!

**BOOK LAUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION**

**30 January**: A discussion of Prasenjit Duara’s *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future*, organized by The Singapore Research Nexus (SRN) and The Asia Research Institute (ARI)

Prasenjit Duara (Raffles Professor of Humanities, Dept of History), introduced his new work that compares and contrasts long-term historical processes in the West and Asia. Panelists included Kenneth Dean (Professor and Head, Dept of Chinese Studies), Ted Hopf (Professor, Dept of Political Science), Daniel Goh (Assoc Professor, Dept of Sociology), and John Kelly (Visiting Professor, Yale-NUS Division of Social Sciences). Read more about the speakers here. Click here for coverage by NUS News and here for photos.

[Back to table of contents]
18 September 2015: *Radicals: Resistance and Protest in Colonial Malaya*

Dr Khairudin Aljunied, Associate Professor at the NUS Dept of Malay Studies, will give a public talk on his new book. RSVP your attendance to fasbox42@nus.edu.sg.

**Time & Venue:** 3:30-5pm; AS7 Level 6, Room 42

*Radicals* tells the story of a group of radical Malay men and women from ordinary social backgrounds who chose to oppose foreign rule of their homeland, knowing full well that by embarking on this path of resistance, they would risk imprisonment or death. Their ranks included teachers, journalists, intellectuals, housewives, peasants, preachers, and youths. They formed, led, and contributed to the founding of political parties, grassroots organizations, unions, newspapers, periodicals, and schools that spread their ideas across the country in the aftermath of the Great Depression, when colonialism was at its height and evident in all areas of life in their country. But when their efforts to uproot foreign dominance faltered in the face of the sanctions the state imposed upon them, some of these radicals chose to take up arms, while others engaged in aggressive protests and acts of civil disobedience to uphold their rights. While some died fighting and hundreds were incarcerated, many lived to resist colonialism until their country attained its independence in August 1957, all of these Malay radicals were devoted to becoming free men and women and to claiming their right to be treated as equals in a world riddled with prejudice and contradictions.

This innovative study brings to light the less charted and unanalyzed terrain of the radical experience—becoming and being radical. He argues that the experiences and histories of radicals in colonial Malaya can be elucidated in a more nuanced way by interrogating them alongside evolving local and global circumstances and by analyzing them through the lenses of a set of overarching and interconnected mobilizing concepts—a set of ideas, visions, and notions that the radicals used to reason and justify their advent—that were internalized, lived, and utilized in the course of their activism. These mobilizing concepts were their weapons and armor, employed to organize, strategize, protect, and consolidate themselves when menaced by the tentacles of the colonial state as they embarked upon the agonizing path towards independence.

Back to table of contents
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2014-2015

11 March 2015: “Thoroughgoing Urbanization of East and Southeast Asia” & “Urban Theory Without an Outside”: A meeting of regional and planetary perspectives on urbanization

13 March 2015: The Cultural Economy of Property Development: Figuring ‘Asian Urbanism’ in Central Sydney

Professor Donald McNeill explored the post-positivist applications of the urban geography term ‘central business district’. He discussed how it can provide an ontological basis for working through what can be understood by a cultural economy of ‘Asian urbanism’.

7 April 2015: Book Launch of Eating Together: Food, Space, and Identity in Malaysia and Singapore

Authors Dr Jean Duruz (University of South Australia) and Dr Gaik Cheng Khoo analyse cultures of eating together in Singapore and Malaysia, exploring everyday spaces such as street stalls, hawker centres, and coffee shops in their book, published in Dec 2014 by Rowman & Littlefield.

Back to table of contents
8-9 April 2015: Food and the Global Asian City Workshop

Spearheaded by Assistant Professor Kelvin Low (Sociology), this two-day conference was co-organized with TG07 Senses and Society (International Sociological Association), with support from the Office of the Deputy President (Research & Technology), NUS. It reflected on the role food plays in human relations and across different spaces, and served as a platform towards unravelling the enduring everyday culinary habits, rituals, creativity, and practices collectively used to nurture shared senses of cultural identity and economic livelihoods. Check out some snapshots on the Cities Cluster blog.

4 May 2015: Screening of 03-FLATS

03-Flats follows the experiences of three single women in Singapore who are at different stages of their lives. Looking from within each HDB flat, the film moves between the women’s distinctively lived interiors and the ordered public spaces beyond. Principal Investigator & Executive Producer Dr Lilian Chee (Department of Architecture, NUS School of Design and Environment) and discussant Dr Simone Chung (ARI) spoke at this documentary screening.

Co-sponsored by NUS (FASS Environment Cluster and the Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy) and AONBenfield Asia Pte. Ltd.

As flood damage increases in Asia and elsewhere, as a result of increased flood frequency, flood magnitude, and human vulnerability, there is a growing need for better forecasting of floods. This workshop brought together experts in the insurance industry, historians, and scientists, to encourage more collaboration across the disciplines.

To this end, the workshop abstract, programme, and the speakers’ presentations have all been made available on the Environment Cluster website. For research collaboration, please contact Professors Alan Ziegler (Dept of Geography) and Robert James Wasson (ARI).
In response to widespread soil degradation, large tracts of land have been reforested across the (sub)tropics in the expectation that floods and droughts would diminish, and erosion and landsliding be eliminated. This ‘traditional’ view came under severe scrutiny in the 1980s when ‘scientific’ evidence to the contrary emerged and was used by some to influence tropical land-use policies and causing major debate as well as confusion. Ever since, much has been made of the high water use of fast-growing tree plantations causing streams to dry up after foresting grass- or croplands.

However, upon closer inspection this generally accepted contention is based exclusively on controlled experimental studies in which soil degradation was not prevalent. As such, the observed declines in streamflow at all times of the year after reforestation largely reflect the (undisputed) higher water use of the trees compared to that of the shorter vegetation they replaced, while the positive effects of tree planting or vegetation recovery such as improved rainfall infiltration were not manifested. Evidence is on the increase that the enhanced infiltration afforded by a well-developed and well-managed vegetation cover established on highly degraded soils can indeed exceed the new vegetation’s higher water use, implying the distinct possibility of boosting dry season streamflow by tree planting and re-greening.

An as yet unpublished global modelling exercise of the ‘trade-off’ between the changes in rainfall infiltration and vegetation water use after reforesting all degraded tropical land indicates the greatest positive impact on dry season flows is likely to occur in highly degraded areas with high rainfall. These global predictions are confirmed by recently published improvements in streamflow after reforestation in South Korea, southern China and Southwest India, inter alia, although vegetation recovery under semi-arid conditions appears to lead to a gradual decline in both total flows and baseflows despite positive effects on infiltration.

Read more at the Environment Cluster blog & RSVP with the subject “BRUIJNZEEL” to fass.environment@nus.edu.sg.
Event Highlights from Semester 1, AY 2014-2015

28 January 2015: Seminar on “Asian-born Scientists-in-Training: The Question of Where to Train” by Dr Anju Mary Paul, Yale-NUS

Using insights gleaned from 85 in-depth interviews with Asian-born, Western-trained bioscientists in Singapore, Taiwan, China, and India, Dr Anju Mary Paul argued that objective improvements in the bioscience research and education infrastructure in Asia, and Asian scientists’ subjective impressions about the current state and potential of Asian bioscience, have together left the door open for more Asian scientists-in-training to choose to stay in Asia for their doctoral training.

6 February 2015: Seminar on “Migrant Care Workers in Italy and Taiwan: A Comparative Study” by Dr Ko Chyong-Fang, Research Fellow & Director of the Institute of European & American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Dr Ko examined elder care policies in Italy and Taiwan and raised questions on whether outsourcing the care of elders is the best solution to meet the care crisis? Should more elder-care units be established to meet the growing need for geriatric care? Should border controls be relaxed to attract more foreign care workers? For elderly men, is marrying much younger women from less developed countries a valid option?

The event was organized by the Centre for Family & Population Research (CFPR) at FASS, with assistance from the Migration Cluster and ARI.

Back to table of contents
16 February 2015: **Film Screening & Dialogue “MY PLACE” with director Emmanuel Moonchil Park**, organized by Migration Cluster Graduate Student Reading Group

Shot over seven years and spanning three generations, *My Place* is a tenderly crafted love letter charting the personal journey of a family rediscovering themselves and their connection to one another. It tells the story of two siblings who were born in Canada, spent their early childhood in Toronto before migrating back to their homeland of South Korea where they were raised in a more traditional society. Director Park shared insights on themes and issues surrounding identity construction, return migration reintegration struggles and inter-generational tensions.

25 February 2015: **Roundtable on “Postcolonial Migration and Urban Encounters”, co-organised with ARI Asian Migration Cluster**

The roundtable explored the intersecting in/outflows of migrants from diverse cultural and national origins, not only how the past shapes contemporary migration experiences in urban spaces, but also how the city constitutes postcolonial difference through migration. A brief report is available [here](#).
25 March 2015: Seminar on “Labor Migration and Global Labor History: The Case of the Javanese” by Professor Vincent J.H. Houben, Humboldt University Berlin, and co-organised with ARI Asian Migration Cluster

Professor Houben argued that with increasing interest in contemporary human mobilities, including in migration, a resurgence of global labor history is underway. The basis for labor mobilization and non-free labor regimes under conditions of globalization was laid during colonialism. The seminar reviewed the migration history of Javanese indentured labor beyond the borders of current Indonesia into Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Vincent Houben is professor of Southeast Asian History and Society at Humboldt University. He has written extensively on different themes in Southeast Asian history, society, economy and culture.

The seminar was chaired by Dr Maria Platt, Research Fellow in the Asian Migration Research Cluster at ARI.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY2014-15

16 March: **Lecture on Islam and the Constitution in Malaysia**

Malaysian Professor of Law, Emeritus Professor Shad Saleem Faruqi (Universiti Teknologi MARA) addressed the place of the Constitution and Islamic law within the Malaysian legal system, and discussed the widening gap between legal theory and practice.

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23 March: **Seminar on Art and the Making of the Artist in the Malay World: Navigating the Sacred and the Profane**

Part of the annual Malay Arts and Islam seminar series, this seminar explored questions on how visual arts are created within the delicate contexts of navigating the sacred with the profane. It featured Syed Muhammad Hafiz, Assistant Curator at the National Gallery Singapore, Izziyana Suhaimi, a Singaporean artist who works primarily with fibre-based mediums, and Dr Gül İnanç, a lecturer in Art History at the School of Art, Design and Media, NTU.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY2014-15

13 February: Lim Chong Yah Professorship Public Lecture “The Turn to Network Individualism”

This lecture by Canadian-American sociologist Barry Wellman (University of Toronto) was organized in conjunction with the Department of Communications and New Media, where Prof Wellman was the visiting Lim Chong Yah Professor from January to February 2015. Prof Wellman argued that social and technological changes have promoted a triple revolution: 1) The turn away from groups to social networks; 2) The personalized, far-flung internet; 3) Always accessible and available mobile connectivity. The lecture explored the implications for families, friendships, and work.

24 June: “Science and the Public: A Discourse Template for Developing Countries”

This seminar examined discourse on encounters of the public with science in the social, cultural and economic context of India. Analysis of existing discourse literature grouped under the rubric of 'Science and the Public' was shown as situated in social, cultural and economic space circumscribed by processes and institutions of industrialization to which research and developments in science and technology are strongly linked.

Continued on the next page.

Back to table of contents
Recognizing that for majority of the public in developing countries like India, the contextual space for encounters with science lies at the periphery of industrialization processes closer to rural agrarian and semi-urban settings, the speaker will present an alternate template for discourse on Science and the Public by analysing the experiences of Indian scientists and ‘academic-activists’ in engaging the rural and semi-urban public.

Dr Ashok Jain retired in 1999 after heading the CSIR’s National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), an interdisciplinary STS research institute, as Director for 13 years. After retirement, he remains in touch with the STS community in India as President of the Society for Promotion of Science & Technology Studies.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2014-2015

25 February: Seminar on Engagement of Older Adults: International Perspectives by Prof Nancy Morrow-Howell and Ms Stephanie Herbers (Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging, Institute for Public Health, Washington University)

The relationship of activity engagement and health has been well established for older adults. Participation in activities such as volunteer work, hobbies, visiting with friends, and exercise is known to produce both positive physical and mental outcomes for older adults. This seminar discussed the engagement of older adults in social and productive activities in the United States, as well as China and Korea. The speakers shared results from three specific pilot projects: one focused on social isolation among older Americans living in senior apartment communities, a second focused on activity disengagement among older Americans in a community-based setting, and a third pilot studying productive activities (i.e., paid work, volunteering, and caregiving) of older adults in the United States, China, and Korea.

5 March 2015: Seminar on Sanitation, Differentiation & Inequality in the Emerging Chinese City by Dr Deljana Iossifova (School of Environment, Education and Development, University of Manchester)

Sanitation is a powerful lens through which to examine how the contemporary city is simultaneously socially and spatially transformed via top-down decision-making and everyday practices on the ground. This seminar built on ethnographic work in Shanghai to illustrate how choice and development of urban sanitation infrastructure, as well as diverging everyday practices of personal hygiene on the ground, impact current interpersonal and group relations, and, importantly, future social structure and long-term prospects for healthy, resilient and sustainable cities in China and elsewhere.

Back to table of contents
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2014-2015

10 March: Singapore at 50: Reflections and Visions

This symposium, jointly organized with the Singapore Research Nexus (SRN) and the FASS Dept of Political Science, created an opportunity for discussion and introspection about the country’s first 50 years, to mark Singapore’s 50th year of independence.

Ms Chia, Nominated Member of Parliament, President of SPD, an organization serving persons with disabilities, and Partner at the law firm Yusarn Audrey, gave a talk titled “Some Thoughts on Singapore’s Disability Sector: Past, Present & Future”. Mr Lim spoke on “Embracing Change: Weatherproofing the Values of People-centricity, Courage and Excellence”. Ms Menon’s discussed “Dying with Dignity: Legal and Ethical Issues”, and Ms Wong spoke last. Her talk, “The Beauty of Worth Knowledge”, is available here.

Read the NUS News report on the symposium here. The event was also covered in Today.
Event Highlights from Semester 2, AY 2014-2015

25 February: Public talk and launch of *Arts, Culture and the Making of Global Cities: Creating New Urban Landscapes in Asia* by Professor Lily Kong, Dept of Geography

In her new book, *Arts, Culture and the Making of Global Cities*, Professor Lily Kong (FASS Geography Department) examines the cultural ambitions and projects in five major cities in Asia: Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Singapore. The book provides a thorough comparison of their urban imaging strategies and attempts to harness arts and culture, as well as more organically evolved arts activities and spaces, and analyses the relative successes and failures. It can be ordered [here](#).

The event was covered in the Straits Times and the NUS News report is available [here](#).

*Back to table of contents*
Event Highlights from S2, AY 2014-2015

20 April, 2015: NUS 110 Word Challenge

To celebrate NUS turning 110 this year, SRN launched The NUS110 Word Challenge. Participants were challenged to write a story of exactly 110 words set in or around NUS. You may read the stories here.

Upcoming Events


The 2nd SRN photography competition runs until 31 August. Picture Singapore is open to NUS faculty, staff, students, and alumni. View the T&Cs and learn how to enter here. 10 prizes worth $50 each will be awarded to the top photos, which will be exhibited at the Central Library in September.

22 September: Research Visibility Workshop with NUS Libraries

The workshop will help FASS Faculty members and graduate students boost their research profile, increasing reach of and interest in their work among the public.

Back to table of contents
The Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) held a launch event and conference on 28 April 2015. The conference, co-sponsored by the Singapore Research Nexus, ARI, and FASS Dept. of Sociology was titled “Singapore Family and Population Dynamics”. Ms Grace Fu, Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs graced the event. NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan and FASS Dean Professor Brenda Yeoh were also present to welcome the participants and give support to the Centre.

CFPR’s events during the past quarter include:

3 February: Seminar titled “A Tale of Two Chinas: Aging and Family Change in Rural and Urban China”

4-5 February: Conference titled “Educational Resilience among Asian Children in Challenging Family Environment” (jointly organized with ARI)
Past events at CFPR (continued):

27 February: Workshop on Secondary Data Analysis in Asia

12 March: Opportunities and Challenges of Doing Ethnographic Research on Intergenerational Relations

20 March: Family Income and Wealth Dynamics and the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis

Training Program in Social Sciences

CFPR launched its training program with the following courses: Social Research Methods, Analyzing Data with SPSS, Qualitative Research Methods, Computer-assisted Analysis of Qualitative Data, Multilevel Modeling with R, and Longitudinal Data Analysis.

CFPR Opportunities

CFPR research scholarships are awarded to PhD candidates completing a program involving family and population research. August 2015 intake awardees: 1) Zhang Xinjie (ECS), “The Role of Education Attainment, Fertility Rate, Immigration in Taiwan’s Industrialization during the Second Half of the 20th Century” & 2) Chen Xuejiao (SOC), “The Change in the Population Policy of Singapore and its Influence”

CFPR Faculty Development Grant, seed grants aimed at boosting research capacity on family and population issues, are awarded to FASS faculty members who are CFPR associates. The first grant of $10,000 was awarded to Dr Mu Zheng, Postdoctoral Fellow, ARI & CFPR, for her project, “Female Migrants’ Transition to Adulthood in China: Marriage and Job Trajectories”

The CFPR Scholarship for Training in Social Science, a competitive merit scholarship, is awarded to outstanding full-time students enrolling in the CFPR Training Program in Social Sciences.

Recipients: Phua Chao Rong, Charles (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy) ; Lim Jia Hwee (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Koo Ming Yew Matthew (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Ng Phui Yeng, Tabitha (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Gu Xiaorong (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Choo Shiqin, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
Forthcoming Events (CFPR Seminar Series)

21 August, 1200-130pm: Migrants’ transition to adulthood in China: Marriage and job trajectories on the origin-education-gender intersections by Dr Mu Zheng, ARI and CFPR

Venue: FASS Executive Seminar Room, AS7 01-07 (Register here).

4 September, 1200-130pm: Aging in East Asia: Multilevel perspectives on determinants of social relationships and mental health by Dr Ko Pei-Chun

Venue: Ventus Evans Room

18 September, 1200-130pm: Implication of Retirement Age Extension for Human Capital in China, 2015-2050 by Dr Feng Qiushi

Venue: AS7 06-42

2 October, 12-130pm: What will it cost you today? Gendered discourses of parenting in Singapore’s national environment campaign by A/P Michelle Lazar

Venue: AS7 01-07

16 October, 1200-130pm: The competitive earning incentive for sons: Evidence from migration in China by Dr Junjian Yi

Venue: Ventus Evans Room

13 November, 1200-130pm: Social exclusion and cognitive impairment of the elderly in China by Ms Yang Yi

Venue: Ventus Evans Room

Back to table of contents
The **Social Service Research Centre (SSR)** formally launched on 24 April 2015 with a conference titled “Transforming Social Services: Innovation, Evaluation, Impact”. The conference featured international and local academics and practitioners sharing their experiences on overcoming challenges in social service evaluations as well as their views on how social services evaluation will aid in the development and shaping of future social innovations. The event, attended by 200 international and local academics, policy makers, and social service practitioners, featured Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, also Adviser to SSR, and was covered by all major media. Read about the launch on [NUS News](https://nus.edu.sg/news) and [Channel News Asia](https://www.channelnewsasia.com/).

Notable recent activities at SSR include:

**29 January:** Envisioning Social Service: Research Needs and Challenges  
**30 January:** Youth Antisocial Behavior: Pathways, Contexts and Social Work Practice  
**24 March:** Transforming Social Services through Community Analytics: Can this be done in Singapore?  
**23 April:** Professional Development Workshop

[Back to table of contents](#)
SSR is set up to facilitate and support collaborative research between academics and social services. Any colleagues interested to join such endeavours or have existing projects that they would like SSR to support can email ssr@nus.edu.sg.

**Forthcoming Events**

19 August, 4 to 5.30pm: *Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Navigation Performance Measurement for Social Services* by Dr Robyn Tan
Venue: EVANS room (Level 2), VENTUS, 8 Kent Ridge Drive

The rise of the accountability movement has led to the proliferation of performance measurement among non-profit organisations. Performance measurement has been commonly adopted as a one-size-fits-all approach for measuring the outcomes of human services, but often without an adequate understanding of its conceptual basis or the interventions to which it is appropriate for. Findings from the study showed that performance measurement has largely lent itself well to measuring outcomes of interventions that reflect high “task programmability” (e.g. job placement and support programme). However, performance measurement when misapplied to interventions with low “task programmability” (e.g. casework and counselling) has led to weak programme logic and ill-defined outcomes. Given the complexity of human services, the client heterogeneity and the diversity of their problems and issues, the key challenge lies in understanding how performance measurement would work, for whom, and under what conditions, in order for it to have a reasonable chance of success.

23 September, 4 to 5.30pm: *Behavioral Economics: Evidence for Chronic Disease Prevention* by Prof Eric Andrew Finkelstein,
Venue: EVANS room (Level 2), VENTUS, 8 Kent Ridge Drive

This presentation will provide a brief introduction to rising rates of NCDs worldwide. It will then present an introduction to traditional and behavioral economic theories related to health behaviors and an overview of the role of economics in influencing behaviors related to NCDs. It will then present results of a literature review on the effectiveness of economic incentives (both traditional and behavioral) to influence behaviors related to NCDs, including results those from several of our Singapore studies.
The Next Age Institute (NAI) launched on 23 February 2015. The launch, which featured Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, was followed by a two day conference titled “Older Adults in Community: Capacities and Engagement for Aging-in-place”. The event was covered by NUS News and many media outlets, including The Star.

Over 250 policy makers, academics, students, and healthcare and social service providers from Singapore and around the world attended. Experts and leading gerontologists from Asia and the United States discussed issues related to ageing in place, including family care-giving, social support and social services, care environment, and social engagement of older adults at the conference.
The Institute, a collaboration between NUS and Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), will take a transdisciplinary approach to its research and social innovation projects. By engaging policy makers and professionals of respective fields, it aims to contribute to the discussion and practice in managing complex social challenges facing families and communities in the current context of globalization, aging population, and rising inequality.

NAI and the Centre for Social Development Asia (CSDA) at the NUS Department of Social Work will partner with three restructured hospitals in Singapore to pilot test research on transition of care for older persons from acute to post-acute care services.

In another project, NAI will examine alternative options for financing retirement needs of home-owning elderly in Singapore, and plans to contribute to a plenary session where pensions and retirement will be deliberated at the upcoming Singapore Economic Review Conference, to be held at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel in Singapore from 5-7 August 2015.

Congratulations to Dr Chia Ngee Choon, Associate Professor of Economics and Co-Director of NAI at NUS for her leadership in organizing this plenary session.

Besides spearheading research projects, NAI also organizes and supports outreach events to engage public and private stakeholders. NAI held a seminar on Social Isolation on 16th June 2015. Organized with CSDA and the Social Service Institute, it discussed overseas and local research on social isolation.

Read more about the event here.

NAI and SCAPE’s joint seminar Closing the Small Open Economy Model: A Demographic Approach will be held on 5 August 2015 at the Lim Tay Boh Seminar Room (AS2 03-12). RSVP to ecszhang@nus.edu.sg.

Back to table of contents

The **Global Production Networks Centre at NUS (GPN@NUS)** launched on January 26th 2015 and a workshop followed on the 27th. Read about the event on [NUS News](http://nus.edu.sg) and access the programme, speaker bios, and slides [here](http://www.gpn.nus.edu.sg).

**Selected recent and forthcoming events**


**19-23 August 2015:** Prof Henry Yeung, Prof Neil Coe, Dr Karen Lai, Assoc Prof Godfrey Yeung, and Dr Aiden Wong will each present papers at the [Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography 2015](http://www.geogconf.org) in Oxford, UK.

For more events, visit [GPN’s site](http://www.gpn.nus.edu.sg).
Dr Lee Jones, the 2014/15 Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellow on Contemporary Southeast Asia, began his month-long residency in NUS in January 2015.

22 January: Governing Borderless Threats: Southeast Asia's 'Haze' Crisis as a Non-Traditional Security Problem

This seminar explored how Southeast Asia’s transboundary ‘haze’ problem has been understood and managed as a non-traditional security threat that defies traditional, interstate and military approaches, summarising the findings of a four-year research project and forthcoming book, Governing Borderless Threats: Non-Traditional Security and the Politics of State Transformation (2015), which argues that the predominant approach has involved efforts to transform the specific state apparatuses dealing with specific NTS issues in particular territories.

30 January: Seminar on China as a 'Post-Westphalian' Rising Power

Dr Jones explored how the rise of China is being conditioned by the transformation of contemporary statehood, in terms of internal policy formation and execution, and in terms of how its policies spur transformations of statehood beyond its borders.
RSVP to nusstanfordsea@nus.edu.sg to attend the upcoming seminars by Dr Pavin Chachavalpongpun, the 2015/16 Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellow on Contemporary Southeast Asia.

12 August: Coup, King, Crisis: Anxiety over the Royal Succession

The Thai military staged a coup on 22 May 2014, overthrowing the elected government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Outwardly, the military justified its political intervention with the classic claim that corruption was the rot of Thai politics and the coup was needed to purify the political domain. At a deeper level however, the military intervened at a time when a critical transition in Thai politics is on the horizon: the imminent royal succession. For decades, the traditional elites, of which the military is a part, have long dominated Thai politics. This changed with the arrival of the Shinawatras who set huge socio-economic changes in motion. They then took advantage to empower themselves politically, and in doing so, shook the old political structure. In today’s Thailand, the power struggle between elective and non-elective institutions is now reaching its peak because the era of King Bhumibol is closing. Haunted by anxiety over a future without the charismatic King, the traditional elites are vying to manage the royal succession and maintain their power position. Read more here.

3 September: Diplomacy Under Siege: The 2014 Coup and Thailand's Foreign Relations

Thailand’s coup of May 2014 has not only generated significant impacts on domestic politics, but also on the country’s foreign policy. Facing international sanctions, mostly imposed by Western governments, the military government of Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-ocha, has attempted to diversify Thai foreign policy options in order to quench the intensity of outside pressure. For Thailand, in the post-coup period, there has been a strengthening of relations with neighbouring countries, ranging from Myanmar and Cambodia to China and Japan. And meanwhile, Thailand’s ties with Western nations, in particular the United States, which called for the Thai junta to return power to the Thai people, have continued to chill. Read more here.

Back to table of contents
The past three decades or so had seen what arguably amounted to the greatest and most dramatic transformation in human history. During this phase, various critical thresholds had been surpassed as a result of which the hallmarks of modern development for the first time reached genuinely global proportions, shaping the lives of most people around the world and turning what until then had been a minority phenomenon into a lived reality for the majority of the human population.

To make sense of this development, Prof Schmidt proposed to use the concept of global modernity. This concept bundled and systematized changes that had been observed separately in the pertinent social science disciplines and literature, including much of the work on globalization, all of which had advanced our understanding of the contemporary social world considerably but most of which lacked an integrative perspective. The concept of global modernity aimed to provide precisely such a perspective, treating change as a multi-dimensional, yet interrelated process that left no sphere of (human) life unaffected.

The next Professorial Seminar will be held on September 11 2015 at 3pm. Professor John Miksic (Southeast Asian Studies) will discuss the relevance of Singapore archaeology to the knowledge of the ancient world, and to modern Singaporean identity.
The Faculty Research Committee (FRC) has awarded grants to the following seven projects with PIs from four departments and one centre.

In-country Language Immersion and Development of Intercultural Competence
Assoc Prof Chan Wai Meng (Centre for Language Studies)

Reference point and expectation
Dr Song Changcheng (Economics)

New Probabilistic Methods in Mathematical Economics
Prof Sun Yeneng (Economics)

Parenting and Economic Decision Making: A Neurobiological Approach
Dr Zhong Songfa (Economics)

Asian Flagship Universities and the Doctoral Student Training
Assoc Prof Ho Kong Chong (Sociology)

Minds in ‘Perpetual Motion’: Histories of Knowledge and Eighteenth-Century British Literature
Dr Anne Thell (English Language & Literature)