CLUSTER UPDATE

January 2014

A semi-annual newsletter to fill you in on all the latest developments from the interdisciplinary FASS Research Clusters

Click on the Cluster banners below to jump to content
Event Highlights from S2, 2013

August 5: Professor David Strand (Dickinson College) presented his paper *A Walk in the Park: Singapore’s Green Corridor in Light of Manhattan’s High Line*. The event was co-organized with the Singapore Research Nexus.

September 5-6: Workshop on *Friendship and the Convivial City*, organized in collaboration with The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (represented by Cities Research Cluster visitor Dr. Laavy Kathiravelu) and ARI Asian Urbanisms Cluster.
Event Highlights from S2, 2013 cont.

November 4: Prof D. Parthasarathy (ICCR Visiting Chair in India Studies, FASS South Asian Studies Programme and IIT Bombay) gave a talk entitled *Aspirations for Religion? Translocal Urbanism, Secularization, and the Cacophony of Religious Performance in Mumbai.* This was followed by a launch of *Cleavage, Connection and Conflict in Rural, Urban and Contemporary Asia* (Springer, 2013), which he co-edited with A/P Tim Bunnell and A/P Eric Thompson. The volume was published as part of the ARI-Springer Asia Series.

November 13: Jointly organized with the Dept. of Geography, Professor Tim Cresswell (Northeastern University) gave a seminar on *Assembling Place: The Case of Maxwell Street, Chicago.*

Forthcoming Events Semester 1, 2014

February 19: Dr. Dallas Rogers (University of Western Sydney) will be at Cities Research Cluster during February 2014 working on two projects: 1) a research project – governance, production and consumption of Australia Housing in the Asian Century, and 2) a radio documentary about urban change in China for Australia’s National Broadcaster (ABC). He will give a seminar on *Asian-Australian housing relationships: An international assemblage of economic, technical and cultural practices.*
Event Highlights from S2, 2013

September 13: Fostering FASS & Yale-NUS Research Collaboration: An Afternoon with Professors David Taylor and Brian McAdoo, Professor McAdoo (Yale-NUS College and Vassar College) presented his research on Tsunami Disaster Risk Reduction and Professor Taylor (FASS Geography), on Climate Change, Unhealthy Landscapes and Vulnerability.

October 25: Organized in partnership with the Dept. of Geography, Uncertainty, Biodiversity, Borderlands, the F-word, Food Culture, Vanishing coasts, Bacteria, Children & Ethnicity highlighted the fieldwork experiences of FASS Geography students. Students shared their research findings gleaned from a 41 day journey through northern Thailand by bus, boat, train, plane, and wagon.

Forthcoming Events Semester I, 2014

January 27–28: The upcoming Holocene Climate Reconstruction Workshop will bring together several researchers from the region who use proxy indicators to explore past climates. The goal of the workshop is to improve upon NUS’s ability to use these types of methods to explore the natural history of flooding in the region, as well as gain a better understanding of changes in the Asian Monsoon. The workshop sessions are “climate proxy research in SE Asia” on day 1, and “linkages between historical floods and climate” on day 2. Day 3’s morning wrap-up will consist of a summary session and a discussion on future research and collaboration. Further information on the workshop can be found here.
Event Highlights 2013 S2

Lunchtime seminar series

13 Sep 2013 - *The Evolution of Video Game Affordances and Implications for Parental Mediation*” by Hee Jhee Jiow

Hee Jhee, research scholar in CNM on parental mediation of video gaming is regarded as a pioneer of the cyber wellness movement in Singapore, he helped set up Singapore’s first Cyber Wellness Centre in 2006 and was also involved in developing a body of cyber wellness values, ethics and best practices, to promote cyber wellness in schools. He has also counselled families and individuals with issues relating to problematic video game use. In this talk, he proposed an analytical framework identifying key affordances of video games, elucidating how their evolution has distinct implications for effective parental mediation.

11 Oct 2013 - *Fertility Intentions and Behavior in a Lowest-Low Fertility Country: Findings from Korea* by Dr Erin Hye-Won Kim, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

18 Oct 2013- “Reclaiming the Nation”: *The Persistence of Class, Gender and Region-Based Concerns in South Korean Family Planning? 1964- present* by Dr John Paul Dimoia (History Department)
Event Highlights SII 2013 cont.

31 Oct 2013 – A/P Angelique Chan, Duke-NUS Medical School/Sociology
The demographic shift in the Singapore’s age structure has several social and economic implications. Dr Chan in this study focused on the implications population aging has on caregiving by family members or friends. She found that stress is higher among caregivers who are working and face disrupted schedules and health problems, and social support is extremely important in decreasing caregiver depression.

15 Nov 2013 - Education and Preferences: Experimental Evidences from Chinese Adult Twins by Dr Zhong Songfa, Economics Depart.

Seminars jointly organized with other departments/institutes

14 Nov 2013 - Seminar by A/P Hyunjoon Park, ARI Senior Visiting Fellow on Single-Sex Schools and Adolescents’ Education and Health Outcomes: Random Assignment in Seoul High Schools
Highlights 2013 SII

5-6 Dec 2013: Conference on *Living alone: One-person households in Asia*
The conference was organized by Asia Research Institute, and supported by the Family, Children and Youth Cluster, and the Health Cluster.

4 Oct 2013: *Public talk on Integrative medicine in the U.S.: Marginal to mainstream, problematic to promising* by Barbara F. Sharf, Ph.D., FASS Distinguished Visiting Scholar

17 Jan 2014: *Seminar and Public Talk on Betrayal Trauma* by Professor Jennifer Freyd, University of Oregon
Event Highlights 2013 S2

14 August 2013
HAFU - the film. Screening and Panel Discussion
With HAFU Director/Co-Producer Ms Lara Perez Takagi, A/P Thang Leng Leng & Dr Timothy Amos (Japanese Studies), Dr Elaine Ho & Fiona Seiger (Migration Cluster)

30 August 2013
A Search for a Place to Call Home: Negotiation of Home, Identity and Senses of Belonging Among New Zealand’s New Migrants from the People’s Republic of China
by Dr Liangni Sally Liu, Auckland University of Technology
Event Highlights 2013 S2 cont.

4 September 2013
“Small, Small” and “Same, Same”: A Reflection on African Female Traders in Guangzhou’s Markets
by Dr T. Tu Huynh, Jinan University

09 October 2013
Ethnicity and Immigrant Education: Neighborhood-Based Institutions and Embedded Social Relations in Chinatown and Koreatown, Los Angeles by Prof. Zhou Min, Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor of Sociology & Head of Sociology Division, Nanyang Technological University

28 October 2013
Migration Cluster Postgraduate Writers’ Lab.
Evangeline Katiabak (PhD candidate, Geography) and Sabastiano Rwengabo (PhD candidate, Political Science) each presented their papers-in-progress (for planned publication) to receive feedback from the FASS community.
Event Highlights 2013 S2 cont.

12 November 2013
Workshop on “Immigration Policies, Immigrant Rights and Social Inclusion – Western experiences and Asian challenges.” Jointly organized by Berlin Social Science Research Center (WZB)-Nanyang Technological University (NTU) – NUS

20 January 2014 Seminar on “Lives of Exclusion: The Experiences of Contract Workers at Sea” by Prof. Helen Sampson, Director of Seafarers International Research Centre, Cardiff University

24 January 2014
Migration Cluster Graduate Student Reading Group: Author-meet-reader session with guest author Prof. Eric Fong, University of Toronto

Upcoming Events

20-21 February 2014
Asia-Pacific Worlds in Motion 6 – Migrations: Within & Beyond Nations and States
10 October 2013

Malay Arts and Islam Seminar 2013 - Moving Nusantara Sounds: Malay Religious Beliefs in Song and Rhythm

The seminar featured guest speakers A/P Geoffrey Benjamin of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the Nanyang Technological University, Professor Margaret Kartomi, an ethnomusicologist from Monash University (Australia), and Mr. Fadhli Ramlee, a freelance Malay musician and founder of musical group Orkes Mutiara. Staff and students of NUS, officers from the National Arts Council and Malay Heritage Centre, as well as other external guests were treated to an evening of both academic presentations and musical performances that addressed the theme of Malay religious beliefs in Malay music.
1 November 2013
Graduate Student Seminar on “Space, Cultural Agency, and Political Power in Chinese Religions”
The inaugural FASS Religion Cluster Graduate Student Seminar highlighted the research of graduate students from the department of Chinese Studies. Chaired by A/P Lo Yuet Keung, the seminar saw PhD candidates Ms He Yanran and Ms Show Ying Ruo, as well as Master’s student Ms Hsu Yu-yin, present their historical and empirical research on the You Zi Ancestral Hall in Chongming, Johor Old Temple in Malaysia, and Master Guangqia, respectively.

Upcoming Events

24 February 2014
Malay Arts and Islam Seminar 2014 – Exhibiting Islam in the Malay World

14-15 March 2014
FASS Research Division Seminar Room
Workshop on Material Religion Popular Media in Asia
Event Highlights S2 2013

24 September 2013
“Building an Inclusive Society: Understanding and Empowering the Poor in Singapore”
Forum on Poverty in Singapore, jointly organized by SSP (Social Science and Policy Research Cluster), SRN (Singapore Research Nexus) and CSDA (Center for Social Development Asia)

29 November 2013
Workshop jointly organised by SSP (Social Science and Policy Research Cluster) and IPS (Institute of Policy Studies)
Upcoming Events SI 2014

14 February 2014
Half-day workshop on “Making Space for Migrant Workers in Multicultural Singapore”

Half-day seminar on “Benchmarking of Public Transport” – Date TBC
Event Highlights S2 2013

6 November 2013
Workshop on ‘Emplacing Climate Change: Reconstructions of Changing Environmental Realities’

By drawing on insights from Science and Technology Studies (STS), anthropology, geography, organization studies, and environmental studies, the workshop explored scientific, sociological, anthropological, geographical, and philosophical dimensions of the new ‘carbonized’ politics of the anthropocene. The presentations reflected on the role of place – geographical, political, and social – of climate relations and our representations of climate change. The workshop consisted of 3 panel sessions with talks by Professor Bob Wasson (Geography), Dr Jerome Whittington (Asia Research Institute), Dr Anup Sam Ninan (Institute for Advanced Studies on STS, Klagenfurt), Dr Ingmar Lippert (Tembusu College), Dr Ingrid Hoofd (Communications and New Media), Prof. Alan Ziegler (Geography), and A/P Axel Gelfert (Philosophy).
Events S1 2014

13 January 2014
Workshop on, “From Model Organisms to Synthetic Biology: STS Perspectives on Experimentation in the Life Sciences”

14 January 2014
Public Talk on “Are You What You Eat? An Exploration of Decisions about 'Ethical' Food Consumption” by Prof Rachel Ankeny (University of Adelaide)

“SECRECY” Film Screening and Roundtable Discussion
23 January 2014

Seminar on “Crafting Ignorance: Secrecy and Suggestion in Science and Technology”
24 January 2014
Event Highlights S2 2013

24 September 2013
“Building an Inclusive Society: Understanding and Empowering the Poor in Singapore”
(jointly organized by the SRN, SSP Cluster and CSDA)

Semester 1 2014

16-17 January 2014
Conference on State Policy and the Cultural Politics of Heritage-Making in East and Southeast Asia:
'Heritage in Singapore: Challenges, Conversations and Consequences'
(jointly organized with ISEAS)

Singapore on Screen 2013 Student Short Film Competition
Date TBA
14th Malaysia-Singapore Forum
9 & 10 December 2013, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
Jointly organized by FASS NUS and FASS University of Malaya
Theme: Globalization and its Effects on Society