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Foreword from the Director

This is the first report of the Asia Research Institute (ARI), and covers the period from 1 April 2002 to 30 June 2003. Although established as a budgetary and administrative unit on 1 July 2001, it began taking clearer shape during 2002, as Christopher Anthony was appointed as Manager on 7 January 2002 and I arrived as Director after an international search on 1 July 2002. In its first year of existence the Institute had been administered by Lily Kong, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, on behalf of the Steering Committee established by the university administration with Professor Wang Gungwu as Chairman. The other 2 members were Professor Lim Chin from Business and Associate Professor Terry Kaan from Law Faculty. Two professors of the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty, Ng Chin Kiong (History) and Chua Beng Huat (Sociology) had half-time appointments in ARI during that period. I am very grateful for the foundation laid by these colleagues.

The first year of my own Directorship was a very exciting one, in which the Institute grew rapidly into a vibrant intellectual community. Some appointments had been made before my arrival, but in consultation, so that I was able to begin on the same day as Visiting Professors James Warren and Pratipal Bhatia, and the first two of the NUS Assistant Professors selected for a semester of writing in preparation for their tenure review. Two post-doctoral fellows had taken up their positions earlier. Further appointments of visiting staff and post-doctoral fellows followed immediately after my arrival, with the result that we had a total academic staff of twenty by the end of this reporting period (seven on secondment from other parts of NUS), with a similar number appointed to arrive in the following academic year.

Before my arrival I had been asked to set out a three-year plan, which envisaged a substantial majority of short-term appointments, drawn equally from the region (including Singapore) and the world, and a small but growing core of renewable appointees who would define the major directions in which the Institute sought a certain leadership. Three such potential areas were proposed – religion and globalisation; the changing Asian family; and culture and identity. These would be refined, and others identified, through the process of searches and appointments. The first such senior search led to the appointment in 2003 of Professor Gavin Jones, a renowned demographer, to lead the focus on the changing Asian family.

The high point of my first year was the official launch of the Institute in March, timed to coincide with the first meeting of the International Advisory Board, and with a round table of Asian Research Directors considering directions and agendas for the region. In
launching the Institute the Minister of Education noted ARI’s distinctiveness “firstly as a point of convergence of graduate training, fundamental research, social analysis and the discovery of long-term trends. And secondly, by its open invitation to the best minds in social and cultural research to see the world from the vantage point of our dynamic region”.

The International Advisory Board, expertly chaired by Professor Tommy Koh, also helped to define the mission of this new Institute. The Board saw a dual mission, firstly, to “become one of the world’s premier institutional bases for Asian studies,” and secondly, to “play a critical role within NUS, not only by raising its research profile directly but by acting as a catalyst for improvements in other programmes and the development of mutually beneficial interdisciplinary relations.”

The specific activities of ARI increased in tempo during the period reported on. These were of several types, the detail of which can be seen in the report. Firstly there were major international conferences, including the first of the “Asia Trends” public conferences which took place in early July 2003. Then, there were the larger number of academic workshops, often organised by ARI post-doctoral fellows or visitors to explore a timely theme. Regular seminars were held by ARI itself, and by the seven different cross-campus study groups it supported.

By the end of the year two different types of publication outputs had been defined. One was the Working Paper Series published on the web, and representing work in progress and seeking feedback and testing from an international audience. The first of these appeared in June 2003, with roughly two each month thereafter. The other major publication types were the books of ARI members, beginning to be structured into the form of several monograph series reflecting the major research foci being defined.

From inception of ARI, the research staff of two research programmes under the purview of the Office of Research (ORE) resided with us, namely the Urban Studies Research Programme (USRP) and the Family Studies Research Programme (FSRP). The USRP had themes revolving around housing, urban heritage, urban youth and economic competitiveness of cities while the FSRP revolved around family issues in the context of rapid population growth, dual career family-work conflict resolution, and globalisation and family. With effect from 1 April 2003, the FSRP was merged into ARI, which was also developing its changing family focus.
Asian MetaCentre (AMC)

The Asian MetaCentre (AMC) funded by Wellcome Trust preceded the formation of ARI, having been part of the Centre for Advanced Studies under the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences since 2000.

AMC was integrated into ARI at its establishment in July 2001. AMC is the headquarters for a collaborative research programme between the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, the International Institute for Applied systems Analysis and the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University.

The research foci include population development-environment-health interactions at the regional level, rapid urbanisation, urbanism and health in Asia and demographic change, migration and the “Asian Family” and their impacts on social and psychological well-being.

Anthony Reid, 1.10.03
Mission Statement

The mission of the Institute is to provide a world-class focus and resource for research on the Asian region, located at one of its communication hubs. ARI engages the social sciences broadly defined, and especially interdisciplinary frontiers between and beyond disciplines. Through frequent provision of short-term research appointments it seeks to be a place of encounters between the region and the world. Within NUS it works particularly with the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Law and Design, to support research, conferences, lectures, and graduate study at the highest level.

Vision

The Southeast Asian region needs centres of research and graduate training worthy of its place in the world and the diversity of its cultures. Asia more broadly needs institutions able to speak to the power centres of East and South Asia without being absorbed by them. The world of social science needs the balance of stronger voices and subtler demarcations from the part of the world in which reside most of its peoples and written cultures. The Asia Research Institute seeks to address these needs from a uniquely advantageous situation in the heart of Southeast Asia, but equally enmeshed with China and India. It invites international scholars to reconsider their field from this Asian vantage point, and regional scholars to address a broader audience through this portal. The Institute will engage with other parts of the NUS, and with other institutions in Singapore and the region, to support fundamental research of both an individual and multilateral kind.
Organisational Structure

Management Board

The Institute is governed by a Management Board appointed on a two-year term. Members are drawn from NUS, sister organisations and the public sector to provide synergy with the Institute’s mission.

Chairman

Professor Ivan Png
Vice Provost
National University of Singapore

Members

Professor Cheong Hin Fatt
Dean, School of Design and Environment

Mr K Kesavapany
Director, Institute of South East Asian Studies

Professor Lily Kong
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Mr Lim Siam Kim
CEO, National Heritage Board
(retired from the civil service and the board on 30 June 2003)

Professor Anthony Reid
Director, Asia Research Institute

Associate Professor Kulwant Singh
School of Business

Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han
Dean, Law Faculty

Professor Wang Gungwu
Director, East Asian Institute
**International Advisory Board**

An International Advisory Board helps the Institute in providing strategic guidance in the development and operation of the Institute’s research programmes. They are eminent academic members of the international community appointed on a two year term.

**Chairman**

Professor Tommy Koh  
*Director, Institute of Policy Studies  
Ambassador–at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Professor Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista  
*Prof of Sociology and Dean College of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
University of the Philippines  
Diliman, Quezon City  
Philippines*

Professor Yoneo Ishii  
*President, Kanda University of International Studies  
Japan*

Professor Craig Calhoun  
*President, Social Science Research Council  
New York, USA*

Professor Pauline Yu  
*President  
American Council of Learned Societies  
New York, USA*

Professor James Scott  
*Sterling Prof of Political Science and Anthropology  
Director, Agrarian Studies Center  
Yale University, USA*
Personnel

Academic Staff

The research staff were primarily visiting staff on contracts of up to a year and Post Doctoral Fellows on a one year renewable contract. The research staff include (in alphabetical order):

Kumaralingam Amirthalingam, LLB (Hons) (ANU) 1992, PhD (ANU) 2000
Visiting Assistant Professor from 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2003, from NUS, Law
Cross-cultural issues in criminal law

Maitri Aung-Thwin, BA (North Illinois) 1994, PhD (Michigan) 2001
Postdoctoral Fellow from 5 November 2001 to 4 December 2002, from NUS, History
Burmese history

Bhatia Pratipal, BA (Hons) (Pune, India) 1955, MA (Delhi) 1957, PhD (Delh) 1963
Visiting Fellow from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003
Monetary History of Northern India with special reference to Indo-Sasanian coins

Ashley Carruthers, BA (Hons) (Sydney) 1992, PhD (Sydney) 2000
Postdoctoral Fellow from 20 June 2001
Vietnamese Studies

Chua Beng Huat, BSc (Acadia) 1969, MA (York) 1971, PhD (York) 1976
Professor from 1 August 2001 to 31 July 2002, from NUS, Sociology and Southeast Asian Studies Programme
Public policy research in Singapore; politics in Southeast Asia; consumerism across Asia.

Jamie Davidson, BA (Pennsylvania) 1993, MA (London) 1995, PhD (Washington) 2002
Postdoctoral Fellow from 7 January 2003
Mass violence in West Kalimantan, Indonesia

Postdoctoral Fellow from 11 December 2002
Asia’s transnational history writing, cultural exchange and diasporic public spheres
Joan Kee, BA (Yale) 1997, JD (Harvard) 2000
Postdoctoral Fellow from 7 February 2002 to 22 July 2002 (resigned)
Modern and contemporary art, East Asian urban culture and law

Gyanesh Kudaisya, BA (Hons) (Delhi) 1979, MA (Jawaharlal Nehru University) 1981,
MPhil (JNU) 1985, PhD (Cambridge) 1992
Visiting Assistant Professor from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002, from NUS,
South Asian Studies Programme
Socio-cultural change and the emerging state in Uttar Pradesh, 1942-54

Jennifer Lindsay, BA (Victoria University of Wellington) 1971, MA (Cornell) 1980, PhD
(Sydney) 1986
Visiting Senior Research Fellow from 4 February 2003
Cultural policy, Indonesian performing arts and language

John Miksic, BA (Dartmouth) 1968, MA (Ohio) 1974, MA (Cornell) 1976, PhD (Cornell)
1979
Visiting Fellow from 1 August 2002, from NUS, Southeast Asian Studies Programme
Art of premodern Southeast Asia, Archaeology of early historic Southeast Asia.

Michael Montesano, BA (Yale, 1983), DipAg (University of the Philippines at Los
Baños 1987), MS (Cornell, 1992), MA (Cornell, 1992), PhD (Cornell, 1998)
Visiting Assistant Professor from 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2003, from NUS, Southeast
Asian Studies Programme
Commerce and Society in twentieth-century Thailand.

Ng Chin Keong, BA (NTU) 1962, MA (Wisconsin) 1971, PhD (ANU) 1980
Professor from 1 August 2001 to 30 June 2002, from NUS, History
Chinese maritime history

Vatthana Pholsena, MA (Pierre Mendes-France) 1997, PhD (Hull) 2001
Postdoctoral Fellow from 7 October 2002
Politics of national culture and history in Laos

Anthony Reid, BA (Victoria University of Wellington) 1960, MA (VUW) 1961, PhD
(Cambridge), 1965, Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (FAHA), 1987,
Corresponding Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, 1997
Professor/Director from 1 July 2002
Pre-colonial and economic history of Southeast Asia. Shaping of identities in modern
Indonesia and Malaysia
Visiting Senior Research Fellow from 20 January 2003
*Sino-Southeast Asian overland interactions.*

Titima Suthiwan, *BA (Hons) (Chulalongkorn) 1982, PhD (Hawaii) 1997*
Visiting Assistant Professor from 1 July 2002 to 31 December 2002, from NUS, Centre for Language Studies
*Thai and Malay, The Socio-cultural dynamics of linguistic contact*

Geoffrey Wade, *BA (ANU) 1977, PhD (Hong Kong) 1994*
Visiting Senior Research Fellow from 6 January 2003
*China-Southeast Asian historical interactions, Asian historical expansions.*

James Warren, *BA (SUNY) 1964, MA (Ohio) 1971, PhD (ANU) 1975, Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, 1996*
Visiting Professor from 1 July 2002
*Southeast Asian history. Impact of the typhoon on Philippine society and history*

Xiang Biao (see Asian MetaCentre below)

Research Assistant

Tan Ying Ying, *BA (Hons) (NUS) 1999*
Research Assistant from 1 December 2002
*Experimental Phonetics. Speech patterns of Singapore English speakers. Prosody*

**Asian MetaCentre (in alphabetical order)**

**Academic Staff**

Evi Nurvidya Ariffin, *BA (Bogor Agricultural) 1988, MSc (Indonesia) 1995, PhD (Southampton) 2001*
Postdoctoral Fellow from 21 May 2001 to 20 August 2002
*Indonesian population census, demographic and health survey*

Santosh Jatrana, *BA (Hons) (Maharshi Dayanand) 1981, MA (Jawaharlal Nehru) 1983, MPhil (JNU) 1986, PhD (ANU) 1999*
Postdoctoral Fellow from 19 September 2002
*Gender disparity in India, child mortality in Papua New Guinea.*
Gavin Jones, BA (Hons) (New England) 1962, PhD (ANU) 1966
Visiting Senior Research Fellow from 1 March 2003 to 31 May 2003
*Delayed marriage and non-marriage in Southeast Asia, megacities of Asia*

Harold Roy Lentzner, BA (Occidental) 1965, MA (Wisconsin) 1967, MA (Pennsylvania) 1985, PhD (Pennsylvania) 1987
Visiting Senior Research Fellow from 29 April 2002 to 4 July 2002
*Dynamics of health and aging, longitudinal data systems*

Elsie Ruth Pamuk, BA (Hons) (San Jose State) 1970, MSW (Berkeley) 1974, MA (Pennsylvania) 1978, PhD (Pennsylvania) 1989
Visiting Senior Research Fellow from 29 April 2002 to 4 July 2002
*Population health and nutrition*

Mika Toyota, BA (Sophia) 1990, MA (Hull) 1993, PhD (Hull) 1999
Postdoctoral Fellow from 28 October 2003
*Transnational networks underpinning labour migration in East and Southeast Asia*

Xiang Biao, BA (Peking) 1995, MA (Peking) 1998, PhD (Oxford) 2002
Postdoctoral Fellow (joint appointment with ARI) from 5 February 2003
*Migration and social change in China, India and Australia*

Principal Investigator from February 2000
*Politics of space in cities; gender, migration and transnational communities*

Research Assistant

Theresa Wong, BA (Hons) (NUS) 2001
Research Assistant from 4 November 2002
*Geographic information systems and their conceptualisation within geography. Concept of ‘family’ by single parents in Singapore*

Administrative/Support Staff

The Institute’s activities are supported by a small but efficient team of administrative and support staff. The list of administrative and support staff is appended below:-
Mr Christopher Anthony, Institute Manager, MBA (NUS)
Ms Lynn Tan, Senior Administrative Officer, BA (Curtin)
Ms Connie Teo, Secretary to Director, BCom (Curtin)
Ms Shalini Chauhan, *Management Support Officer*
Ms Noorhayati Bte Hamsan, *Management Support Officer*
Ms Kalachelvi Sitharthan, *Management Support Officer*
Ms Valerie Yeo, *Management Support Officer*

**Asian MetaCentre**

Ms Verene Koh, *Senior Administrative Officer, BBS (NTU)*
Mr Leong Wai Kit, *Management Support Officer, BEng (NTU)*

**Visiting Scholars and Affiliates**

The Institute also played host to visiting scholars and affiliates who came on their institute’s/own funding *(in alphabetical order)*:

Romanus Beni, *BSc (Jakarta Institute of Teacher’s Training and Education Science, Jakarta) 1994, MA (Indonesia) 1999*
Visiting Scholar from 21 April 2002
Kampus Universitas Indonesia, Research and Population Information (HRPI) Assistant Head
*Regional Autonomy*

Chang Weining Chu, *BA (National Taiwan) 1967, MA (Houston) 1971, PhD (Houston) 1973*
Affiliate from 22 May 2002 to 21 May 2002 from NUS, Social Work and Psychology
*Factors predictive of subjective well-being and the socio-cognitive mechanism underlying a wide range of positive psychological states; examination of issues pertaining to commitment and loyalty to groups and perceptions different group members have of each other*

Helen Kornina, *BA (Brandeis University) 1995, MA (Amsterdam) 1996, PhD (Cambridge) 2001*
Visiting Affiliate from 19 April 2002 to 18 April 2003
Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, Netherlands, Postdoctoral Researcher
*Processes of identity formation in business networks in Southeast Asian cross-border areas; catering to multinational companies; local business culture and regional interdependencies*

Maxwell Lane, *MA (Sydney)*
Affiliate from 15 September 2002 to 15 October 2002
Lee Cher Leng, BA (Hons) (NUS) 1982, MA (NUS) 1985, MA (Illinois) 1988, PhD (Illinois) 1990
Affiliate from 22 July 2002 to 6 December 2003 from NUS, Chinese Studies
Politeness strategies and code-switching in Singapore Mandarin and Teochew

Michael Leaf
Affiliate from 2 December 2002 to 7 December 2002
Ethnicity, migration and citizenship in urban Southeast Asia

Dietmar Leithner, MA (Johannes Kepler University Linz) 2000
Visiting Scholar from 21 February 2003 to 31 March 2003
PhD candidate
Malaysia’s and Thailand’s economic miracle: the social, political and economic reasons behind this story of success

Jaime Biron Polo, BA (Ateneo de Manila) 1979, MA (Ateneo de Manila) 1983, PhD Dilman) 1994
Visiting Affiliate from 20 December 2002 to 15 February 2003
Asia Fellows Program, Fellow (2001-2002)
Asia and its repatriations of globalisation: gender, ethnic and class (dis)continuities”, particularly Thailand

Cosima Rughinis, PhD (Bucharest) 1998
Visiting Scholar from 1 June 2002 to 5 July 2002
University of Bucharest, Sociology
Asian literature on development

Lakshmi Subramanian, PhD (Visva Bharati, Santiniketan)
Visiting Affiliate from 9 May 2002 to 9 June 2002
University of Calcutta, History
The Indian Ocean and the study of Indian merchant capital and enterprise in Asia; cultural enterprise in modern India with special reference to performing arts

Ruth Toulson, BA (Hons)(Cambridge) 2000, MPhil (Cambridge) 2001
Visiting Scholar from 19 October 2002 to 18 October 2003
PhD candidate
The magic of capitalism and the enchantment of the everyday
Asian MetaCentre

Avanti Iyer, MA (John Hopkins) 2003
Visiting Scholar from 1 July 2002 to 30 November 2002
John Hopkins Bloomberg, Public Health, USA, Masters Student
*Health effects of migration in the foreign female domestic labourers in Singapore.*

Committees

Several working committees were formed to oversee some of these activities. They include:

**Staff Welfare Committee [Ms Theresa Wong, Ms Verene Koh, Dr A Kumaralingam, Dr Geoff Wade]**

Responsible for organising social activities and maintaining staff morale.

**Web Committee [Dr Jamie Davidson, Dr Xiang Biao, Ms Valerie Yeo, Mr Leong Wai Kit]**

Responsible for enhancing the Institute’s website.

**Working Paper Series Editorial Committee [Prof Anthony Reid, Prof James Warren, Dr Geoff Wade, Dr Jamie Davidson and Ms Tan Ying Ying]**

Responsible for editing the Working Paper Series, which showcases new work in a timely manner to the widest possible interested audience via the electronic medium.
Research Programmes and Activities

The Institute has developed a few initiatives at the university and regional level to establish a world class research centre in Asia for Asia. These include:

1. The establishment of a writing semester for Assistant Professors in the four stakeholder faculties of the Institute: Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Design & Environment, Law and Business, to spend an academic semester to complete their book/research project. Four faculty staff; three from FASS and one from Law have benefited from this initiative to-date.

2. The provision of full and part-time appointments for Associate Professors and Professors in the four faculties to be with the Institute to facilitate their research activities. One such appointment was made in the last fiscal year and we envisage having a few more in the current fiscal year.

3. Coordinating the activities of seven interdisciplinary study groups across the four faculties thereby facilitating interdisciplinary exchanges. These include the study groups on:
   
a. Burma – Thailand
   Conveners: Titima Suthiwan, Michael Montesano

b. Indochina
   Convener: Ashley Carruthers

c. Indonesia
   Conveners: Maribeth Erb, John Miksic, Gary Bell, Hadiz Vedi

d. Asian Business Networks
   Conveners: Liu Hong (Natasha Elvina Hamilton-Hart)

e. Family & Lifecycle Changes
   Convener: Thang Leng Leng

f. Migration & Diasporas
   Convener: Syed Farid Alatas

g. Malaysia
   Conveners: Eric Charles Thompson, Goh Beng Lan
4. Funding graduate fieldwork overseas in the four faculties (Appendix A) to enhance the research and graduate training role of NUS.

5. Providing ASEAN Research Invitations to graduate students from ASEAN countries (Appendix B) to foster closer relations with ASEAN universities.

Research activities range from discipline-specific to multi-disciplinary to collaborative projects with other organisations. (Appendix C)
Official Visits

Official Visits by Director on behalf of ARI

12 September 2002
to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for visit to:
1) Social Science University of Viet Nam University in Ho Chi Minh City
2) Institute of Social Science of Ho Chi Minh City.

10 November 2002
to Bangkok with ARI Manager, Christopher Anthony, for visit to
1) Thammasat University, (Dean and Deputy Deans of Liberal Arts);
2) Princess Sirindhorn Centre for Anthropology (Director and Professor Charnvit Kasetsiri);
3) Chulalongkorn University (Dean of Arts and Director, SE Asian Studies, Institute for Asian Studies).

24 February 2003
to Kuala Lumpur with Christopher Anthony, for visit to:
1) University of Malaya, Asia-Europe Institute: Director Shaharil Talib and senior staff.
2) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia: (i) IKMAS - Director Rogayah and senior staff; (ii) ATMA – Director A.B. Shamsul and staff

26 March 2003
to New York, USA with Lynn Tan, Senior Administrative Officer, for visit to:
1) meet Terry Lautz, Vice-President of Luce Foundation, to make case for ARI and especially for funding a pre-doctoral writing scheme.

31 March 2003
to New York, USA for visit to:
1) Columbia University, East Asia Institute, Director Xiaobu Wu.

1 to 2 April 2003
to Palo Alto, USA for visit to:
1) Stanford University, exchange ideas with Stanford Humanities Center (Deputy Director) and Asia Pacific Research Center (ex-Director and Prof. Don Emmerson).
International Visitors

3 September 2002
Dr Thee Kian Wie (LIPI, Jakarta), Dr Soedradjat (Jakarta and IDSS, Singapore), George Hicks (Singapore).

4 October 2002
Associate Professor Roger Knight (Head, History Department, Adelaide University).

7 October 2002
Delegation from Social Science Institute of Ho Chi Minh City – Director, 3 members and translator.

9 October 2002
Mr Lee Seon-Min, Journalist of Choson Ilbo (Seoul), researching series on Asian Studies Research Institutes

11 October 2002
Ms Atzimba Luna Becerril(Collegio de Mexico and ISEAS).

24 October 2002
Professor Mitsuo Nakamura Chuo (University Graduate School, Chiba University, Japan)

25 October 2002
Professor Rodolphe de Koninck (University of Montreal).

5 November 2002
Professor Cynthia Bautista (University of Philippines) and Professor. Joel Kahn (La Trobe University)

6 November 2002
Dr Maila Stivens (Melbourne University).

14 November 2002
Dr Gert Oostindie (Director, Royal Institute of Linguistics, Geography and Ethnology [KITLV], Leiden) and Dr Roger Tol (representative of KITLV in Jakarta).

14 November 2002
Dr Greg Bankoff (History Department, Auckland University).
12 December 2002
Professor Merle Ricklefs (Director, Melbourne Institute for Asian Language and Studies, Melbourne University) and Professor Cynthia Bautista (Member of ARI IAB, and UP)

13 December 2002
Professor Gavin Jones (Demography, RSSS, ANU).

17 December 2002
Mr Goenawan Mohammad (Editor, Tempo, Jakarta).

6 January 2003
Professor Debin Ma (Economics, University of Tokyo)

9 January 2003
Dr Lily Rahim (Economic History, University of Sydney)

16 January 2003
Professor Kris Olds (Geography, University of Wisconsin)

21 January 2003
Professor Shin Yoon Hwa, Director for Political Science, Institute for East Asian Studies, (Sogang University) and Mr Kwak Hwan (Korea Research Foundation)

21 January 2003
Attorney-General Chan Sek Keong (AG Chambers)

22 January 2003
Ambassador J Ostrom Moller, Adjunct Professor (Royal Danish Embassy)

4 February 2003
Dr K E Kuah (University of Hong Kong)

5 February 2003
Dr Yekti Manuati, Director (New Research Centre of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences)

14 February 2003
Professor Kenneth R MacCrimmon (University of British Columbia)
26 February 2003
Professor John Clark (University of Sydney)

4 March 2003
Professor Charnvit Kasetsiri Southeast Asia Studies Programme (Thammasat University, Thailand)

12 March 2003
Professor Craig Calhoun (President for Social Science Research Council), Professor Yoneo Ishii (President, Kanda University of International Studies), Professor Cynthia Bautista (Professor of Sociology & Dean, Diliman University), Professor Pauline Yu (Dean of Humanities, UCLA), Professor James Scott (Sterling Professor of Political Science and Anthropology and Director, Agrarian Studies, Yale University) – members of International Advisory Board, ARI

18 March 2003
Professor Zhang Xizhen
Director for East Asian Studies (School of International Studies, Beijing, China)

21 March 2003
Professor Wang Yibing (Guest of President Shih)

17 April 2003
Mr Bernard Luciani (Counsellor for Culture, Science and Education, French Embassy)
Ms Christine Dupuich (Attaché for French Language and Universities Co-operation in Social Sciences, French Embassy)

21 April 2003
Dr Gordon Johnson (Chairman of the Press Syndicate, Cambridge University Press, UK)

23 April 2003
Mr Garrett Kam (Author, Bali)

8 May 2003
Dr Michael Barr (University of Queensland)

12 May 2003
Dr Mary Zurbuchen (Acting Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UCLA, USA)
17 June 2003
Professor Thommy Svensson (Director of Swedish School for Advanced Asia-Pacific Studies)
Conferences and Workshops
(in Singapore unless otherwise indicated)

Conferences

10 to 13 June 2002
2002 IUSSP Regional Population Conference on ‘Southeast Asia’s Population in a Changing Asian Context’
Organised by IUSSP, Asian MetaCentre, UNFPA, The Wellcome Trust, Thai Population Association

14 January 2003
Asian Minorities and Western Liberalism: William Kymlicka’s Theory on Minority Rights
Organised by Asia Research Institute/East Asian Institute

Workshops

10 to 12 April 2002
Fertility Decline, Below Replacement Fertility and the Family in Asia: Prospects, Consequences and Policies
Organised by Asian MetaCentre in association with Family Studies Research Programme

13 to 15 May 2002
Perspectives on Regional Autonomy in Indonesia
Organised by the Study Group on Indonesia, Dept of Sociology and Southeast Asian Studies Programme

17 to 18 May 2002
Religion and Modernity: Asian Experience
Organised by Asia Research Institute jointly with Department of Geography and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

13 to 14 June 2002
Health Consequences of Population Changes in Asia: What are the Issues?
Organised by Asian MetaCentre

11 to 12 July 2002
Globalisation and Forgotten Places
Organised by Urban Studies Research Programme
7 to 18 October 2002
Training Workshop on ‘Projections of Human Capital’
Organised by Asian MetaCentre

3 to 4 January 2003
Migrations of Vietnamese Culture: Postcolonial and Transnational Perspectives on Vietnam and the Vietnamese Diaspora.
Organised by Asia Research Institute, Migration and Diasporas Study Group, National University of Singapore

18 January 2003
Singaporean Women as Workers, Mothers and Caregivers: Coping with Changes, Challenges and Commitments
Organised by Asian MetaCentre in association with Family Studies Research Programme

16 to 19 February 2003
Urbanisation, Transport and Health in Asia
Organised by Asian MetaCentre

13 March 2003
ARI Round table on “Research Priorities for Asia”
Organised by Asia Research Institute

Seminars

Military Technology Transfers from Ming China to Upper Mainland Southeast Asia, c. 1390-1527
Organised by Asia Research Institute

Globalisation & Forgotten Places
Organised by Asia Research Institute and Urban Studies Research Programme

Southeast Asian Life Histories: Problems and Potentials in Research on Personal Narratives
Organised by Asia Research Institute and Department of Sociology

Chinese Fish, Buddhist Fish, Muslim Fish: Inter-Ethnic Relations in Southern Thai Fish Markets
Organised by Asia Research Institute and Department of Sociology
Public Seminar on ‘Future Population and Human Capital in Asia’
*Organised by Asian MetaCentre and Institute of Policy Studies*

Studying Local Politics in Post-Suharto Indonesia: Governance, Democracy, Civil Society and Regime Change in Jepara
*Organised by Study Group on Indonesia*

Making Sense of the Threat of Radical Islamism in Indonesia
*Organised by Study Group on Indonesia*

In The Beginning Seminar Series, Organised by Asia Research Institute

Research on Laos
*Vathana Pholsena*

Oceanic Networks and the Creation of an Asia Pacific Public Sphere, 1870-1920
*Mark Frost*

Accommodating Differences in Legal Norms
*A Kumaralingam*

The Linguistic Landscape of Singapore
*Tan Ying Ying*

Writing the Biography of a Southern Thai Business Pioneer
*Michael Montesano*

Aging and Health in Singapore; Gender Disparity in Health among Children in India
*Santosh Jatarna*

Mass Violence and Politics on Indonesia’s Periphery
*Jamie Davidson*

Breaking the Sound Barrier: Performance and Language in Southeast Asia
*Jennifer Lindsay*

Canberra to Singapore via Beijing: Wandering and Straddling
*Geoffrey Wade*
Fieldwork was Never Meant to be this Way
*Ruth Toulson*

Peranakan Communities of Yogyakarta and Surakarta (Central Java), c. 1890 – 1930
*Didi Kwartanada, PhD Student*

Siamese-Japanese Trade in the 17th century
*Naoko Iioka, PhD student*

Straddling the Sino-Southeast Asian Overland Frontier
*Sun Laichen*

Globalisation, Migration and Social Change in China and India
*Xiang Biao*

Urbanisation and Urban/Rural Differences in Southeast Asia
*Gavin Jones*
Publications

Pratipal Bhatia

Other Journal Articles


Ashley Carruthers

Articles in Refereed Journals


Other Journal Articles

• “Simryn Gill’s Dalam [Inside]”, Petronas Gallery, Malaysia. FOCAS 4 (2002)

Book Reviews


Jamie Davidson

Articles in Refereed Journals


Theresa Devasahayam

Working Papers

Book Reviews


Mark Frost

Articles in Refereed Journals


Santosh Jatrana

Working Papers


Article in books


Lee Yong Sook (USRP)

Articles in Refereed Journals


Book Reviews

- Review of *Planning for a Better Urban Living Environment in Asia*, Anthony Gar-on Yeh and Mee Kam Ng (eds), in *Singapore Journal of Geography* 23(3) (November 2002). pp. 367-369
Jennifer Lindsay

Books Edited


Articles in Books


John Miksic

Books Edited


Articles in Books


**Book Reviews**


**Vatthana Pholsena**

**Articles in Refereed Journals**


**Anthony Reid**

**Books Edited**


**Articles in Refereed Journals**

• ‘Charismatic Queens of Southern Asia’, *History Today* 53, vi (June 2003), pp.30-35.

**Articles in Books**


Working Papers


Sun Laichen

Book Reviews


Tan Ying Ying

Books Edited


Articles in Books

- 'Reading the census: language use in Asia' in Lindsay, Jennifer and Tan Ying Ying (eds). *Babel or Behemoth: Language Trends in Asia*. Singapore: Asia Research Institute (2003). pp. 175-210

Mika Toytota

Articles in Refereed Journals


Articles in Books

  タイの越境労働者の臨時労働者としての労働者の特性, Chapter 20. pp.117-121


Geoff Wade

Articles in books


Working Papers


Book Reviews

• Review of *Pelayaran Zheng He dan Alam Melayu* (The voyages of Zheng He and the Malay World) by Kong Yuanzhi; and *Hubungan Empayar Melaka-Dinasti Ming abad ke-15* (Relations between the Melakan Empire and the Ming Dynasty in the fifteenth century) by Liang Liji, in *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 34:1 (February 2003).
James Warren

Books Authored


Articles in Refereed Journals


Articles in Books


Working Papers

Book Reviews


Theresa Wong

Articles in Refereed Journals


Articles in Books


Working Papers

Xiang Biao

Articles in Refereed Journals


Brenda Yeoh

Books Authored


Books Edited


Articles in Refereed Journals


(co-authored with Pratt, G.) Transnational (counter) topographies, Gender, Place and Culture, 10, no. 2 (2003): 156-166.


(co-authored with Teo, P., E. Graham, and S. Levy) Values, change and intergenerational ties between two generations of women in Singapore, Ageing and Society 23 (2003): 327-347
Articles in Books


Other Journal Articles


Working Papers


Book Reviews


Awards and Honours

Professor Anthony Reid
Academic Prize of the 13th Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes, Fukuoka City, Awarded in Fukuoka
Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize - September 2002
Awarded for life work, but particularly *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce* (2 vols, Yale University Press, 1988-93)

Associate Professor Brenda Yeoh
Extension/Continuation of Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis
The Wellcome Trust, UK - 4 December 2001 (for February 2002 to January 2005)
A first award for the establishment of the Asian MetaCentre in NUS was given for 2 years beginning February 2000. This new award was given for the continuation of Asian MetaCentre activities for a further 3 years.

Associate Professor John Miksic
Special Recognition Award
MITA - November 2002
Recognition for work in preserving Singapore’s archaeology

Dr Theresa Devasahayam
Population Association of America Travel Award
Population Assn of America – 18 January 2003
Funded by Andrew Mellon and Flora Hewlett Foundations; the award made it possible for the recipient to present the paper “Managing Caregivers in Singapore Organisations: Why and How the State Should Become Involved” at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A., May 1–3.
Editorial Appointments

Professor Anthony Reid

A Modern Economic History of Southeast Asia
Chairman of General Editors

Journal of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore)
International Advisory Board, 1985 - Present

Modern Asian Studies (Cambridge)
Corresponding Member, Jan. 1989 to Present

Journal of International and Area Studies (Seoul)
Editorial Board, 1997 to present

Asian Studies Review (ASAA, Canberra)
Editorial Board, 1998 to Present

Journal of the Malaysian Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Honorary Advisor, 1998 to present

Advisory Board, Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia (web-based), 2002- present

Monographs on Southeast Asian Studies
Corresponding Editor, Yale University 1988 to present

New Cambridge History of Islam, in preparation
Joint Editor, of vol. 3, covering Asia 1200-1800; 2002 to present

Advisory Board, from 1999 to present

**Associate Professor Brenda Yeoh**

*Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*
Member: 1991 to Present
Book Review Editor: 2000 to Present

*Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*
Advisory Board Committee Member
1996 to Present

*Cultural Geographies*
Member: 2000 to Present

*Gender, Place and Culture*
Member: 2001 to Present

**Dr Geoffrey Wade**

Academic Advisory Board of the Chinese Heritage Centre, Han Chiang College, Penang.
Member

*Comité de Lecture, Péninsule*
*Université de Paris-Sorbonne (Paris V)*
Member: 2003 to present

**Assistant Professor Gyanesh Kudaisya**

*South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*
Editorial Advisor: Jan 2002 to present

**Dr Mika Toyota**

*SOAS Bulletin of Burma Research*
International Advisory Board Member
On-going
Other Appointments

Teaching and Supervision

- Professor Anthony Reid is the supervisor (Chair of Advisors) for:
  1) Didi Kwartanada, History
  2) Naoko Iioka, History

  He also taught a graduate course: HY6204: ‘Directed Studies in Selected Areas', in 2nd semester (January-May 2003).

- Dr Ashley Carruthers was seconded to the Southeast Asian Studies Program in 2nd semester, to teach two courses.

- Associate Professor John Miksic, while seconded for a year to ARI, continued to supervise his graduate students

  **PhD students**
  1) D. Kyle Latinis (FASS)
  2) Win Than Tun (FASS)
  3) Thomas Manhart (FASS)
  4) Julianti Parani (FASS)
  5) Widya Nayati (FASS)

  **MA students**
  1) Han Phan (FASS)

  Thesis committee member:
  1) Md. Mizanur Rashid (School of Environment and Design
  2) Shah Alam Mohd. Zaini (Dept of Anthropology, University of Hawaii)
Appendix A

Fieldwork Funding for NUS Graduate Students

1. Mr Fang Xiaoping  
   PhD, History, FASS  
   *The Health Care in Rural China: The Barefoot Doctor Program and the Cooperative Medical Services (1958-1983)*

2. Mr Didi Kwartanada  
   PhD, History, FASS  
   “No Longer Chinese, Not Yet a Dutchman, a Half Baked Javanese”: Multiple Identities of a Peranakan Chinese in the Javanese Principalities, c. 1890-1930

3. Ms Lam Choy Fong, Theodora  
   M Soc Sc, Geography, FASS  
   *Nation Building and Transnational Mobilities: Singapore-Style Education and Educators Abroad*

4. Ms Cheah Wui Ling  
   Master, Law  
   *Timor-Leste – A Study on a New Nation’s Reconstruction and Reconciliation*

5. Mr Nadirsyah Hosen  
   PhD, Law  
   *Syariah and Constitutional Reform in Indonesia (1999-2002)*

6. Mr Henry Lu Haitian  
   PhD, Law  
   *The “Dirty Industry Migration” under Globalisation – China as a major case for Study*

7. Ms Chen Yu  
   PhD, SDE  
   *A Semi-Colonial Urban Model in China: The Urban Development of Gulangyu International Settlement, 1903-1937*
8. Ms Maria Gloria Cano  
PhD, Southeast Asia Studies Program  
*The “Spanish Colonial Past” in the Construction of Modern Philippines History: A Critical Inquiry into the (Mis)use of Spanish Sources*

9. Ms Nilanjan Raghunath  
PhD, Sociology  
*Globalisation of Information Technology and its Influences on New Social Formations through Entrepreneurial Ventures in India*
Appendix B

ASEAN Research Fellows: 31 March 2003 to 30 June 2003

Mr Arief Akhyat is a lecturer in the Department of History, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He is enrolled as a postgraduate student in Religion and Cross-Cultural Studies, a joint programme conducted by Gadjah Mada University and Temple University, Philadelphia, USA. His research topic was entitled Technological Transformation and Socio-Religious Construction: The Urban History of the North Coast of Java 1870-1930’s. This study was an effort to establish empirically a clear view of the revolutionary process of structural change in north coastal Javanese society. The introduction of industrial technology not only increased economic development, but also affected social and political values. “Religious” ideas and symbols were quite effective in their appeal to the people, who were for most part religious in their modes of thinking.

Mr Thibodi Buakamsri, is a MA student in Southeast Asian History from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. He was conducting research for his MA thesis “Ekasar Meahaboros Khmaer (Documents of Great Khmer Figures): A Study of a Modern Cambodian Historical Writing”. His research focussed on traditional genres - such as myth, legends, and chronicles - and modern Cambodian historical writing. In addition, in his research he considered genres of historical writing in other countries in Southeast Asia, especially Thailand and Laos.

Mr Korakit Choomgrant, a graduate student in History from the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. He was working on relations between social groups in the international port of Ayutthaya 1580-1688. He focussed on relations between groups which did not depend on the royal trade monopoly for their formation. This study will explain and consider how many social groups existed in that port, how they came to form, and the characteristics of these social relationships in the context of the international trade controlled by the king of Ayutthaya in the late 16th - 17th century.

Mr Manoch Prompanyo, a M.A. Southeast Asian History student from Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Thailand. He focussed on The Rise of the Konbaung Dynasty, 1752-1776. The study considered the development of ancient Myanmar – Konbaung historical constructions: 1. centralised authority; 2. control over manpower and customs; 3. four methods of Sangha control (war, trade, tribute and religion), not only the personal achievement of the great king. He used contemporary Thai, Myanmar and Western documents.
Ms Kanjana Jaroenkiatboworn, is a PhD student in the linguistics department, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Her areas of specialisation are discourse analysis, semantics and pragmatics. She was conducting research on Thai jokes. Her work involved not only the linguistic study of joke texts, but also the social beliefs which underlie them. Kanjana has come to join the library research programme to further her work on humour study, as humor study is an interdisciplinary field which requires not only linguistic skill, but also knowledge of related social sciences.
Appendix C

Research Activities

Contraceptive Use Dynamics in Indonesia with a Special Focus on Bali: Measurements & Determinants
Evi Nurvidya Arifin (former postdoctoral fellow), May 2001 – August 2002- on-going

The project is an extension of Dr Arifin's Ph.D. dissertation. There have been many studies on contraceptive use prevalence in Indonesia, but little is known on contraceptive use dynamics and its determinants in Indonesia and its provinces. Since 1991 the Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) has used a calendar approach to collect information retrospectively on birth and contraceptive histories for five-six years before the survey. This project utilises the rich data set to better understand contraceptive use dynamics and its determinants in Bali, Indonesia.

Intergenerational Relationships, Fertility and the Family in Singapore
Peggy Teo, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore; Elspeth Graham, School of Geography and Geosciences, University of St. Andrews, UK; Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, and Department of Geography, National University of Singapore - on-going.

The study investigates a set of relationships among the generations, fertility and the family in Singapore. The changing status and role of woman has dampened the effect of the new national population policy in its first decade. Now in the second policy decade, responses to the most recent pro-natalist measure – the Baby Bonus Scheme launched in April 2001 – cannot be divorced from the wider narrative about ‘Asian’ values and the ways in which the public perception of women’s roles is being redefined in line with the current planning agenda. Private and public spheres interpenetrate when it comes to fertility decision-making. Singapore women face multiple demands and are sometimes seen as the victims of discriminatory policies. This study deliberately focuses on the ‘multiple realities' of women in the reproductive age groups in order to understand how they negotiate the tensions of their multiple identities and the demands placed on them when making decisions about their own fertility.
Reconfiguring the Family In Alternative Spaces: Marginalisation And Agency of Single Parents In Singapore
Theresa Wong and Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Asian MetaCentre - on-going

The study is part of a larger project on ‘Intergenerational relationships, fertility and the family in Singapore’, involving in-depths interviews with 60 Singaporean Chinese men and women on fertility issues, family formation and parenthood. While the larger project focuses on dual-parent families, this study involves 12 additional in-depth interviews to explore the views of single parents in traversing a similar terrain in everyday life. The study examines the strategies pursuit by single parents in recovery notions of ‘family’ in traversing a similar terrain in everyday negotiations.

Explaining Gender Disparity in Child and Health/Status in India: An Inter-State Comparison
Santosh Jatrana, On-going

This research addresses the following questions: Are there gender differences in child health status, disease incidence, prevalence of anaemia and use of preventive and curative health care services throughout India? Whether gender disparity in various fields primarily an outcome of demographic factors like birth order, sex, sequence of previous children and number of surviving sons in the family? Or does it depend on the ownership of land, caste, religion, education, rural/urban residence of the head of the household and status of women? It also investigates regional variations in gender disparity to assess if a regional pattern of gender disparity in health outcomes exists. This project involves making a new data set from the individual states of India of comparable indicators of gender disparity.

The Barwala Hoard of Coins in the Ganga Government Museum
Pratipal Bhatia, Completed

This paper deals with an extremely unique and hitherto unpublished hoard of 19,483 coins which was found in situ in a big copper spherical pot with long neck while digging the foundation of a house at village Barwala, Tehsil Parvatsar, District Nagaur in Rajasthan. The coins along with the copper container were recovered by the local police in two lots and handed over to the Ganga Government Museum, Bikaner on the basis of the evidence provided by the Barwala hoard and supported by literary, epigraphy and other numismatic sources it is concluded that SriSomaladevi who issued the Indo-Sasanian type coins in her own name was the queen of the Chahamana king Sri Ajayadeva who was the founder of the city of Ajmer and ruled in the early part of the 12th century.
Domestic Maids, Family and Mobility

*Mika Toyota, On-going*

This research is being conducted as part of a three-year Japanese Core University Project (2002-4), ‘The Dynamics of Flows and Movements in Southeast Asia’ and supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Project No.5 2002-4). The research examines the mobility of women as domestic maids within a China/Burma/Thai socio-historical context.

Migration and Health in China: An Institutional Analysis

*Xiang Biao, On-going*

The study reveals that the key issue for migrants’ health is not their social characteristics such as low income or the lack of health awareness, as most literature has emphasised, but is a matter of institutional arrangement with respect to health security and service provision. Unlike in other countries, the rural-urban dualism and the unique household registration system in China render internal migrants an institutionally marginalised group that cannot access services in either cities or villages.

Minorities, the State and Human Security Project

*Mika Toyota, On-going*

As part of the Ford-IDSS Project on Non-Traditional Security Issues in Asia, this research is intended to develop the concept of ‘human security’ as an operational tool for policy formulation and implementation in the context of the stateless marginalised minorities in the Thai- Burma Borderlands with particular focus on the issue of ‘illegal migration’.

The Akha: A Transnational Ethnic Minority in the Borderlands of Thailand, Burma and China

*Mika Toyota, On-going*

This book (65,000 words) will be published in the series, *The Modern Anthropology of Southeast Asia: Ethnic Minorities and Social Change in Southeast Asia* by Routledge-Curzon, Series editors being Prof. Victor T. King and W.D. Wilder provide up-date, accessible ethnographic monographs on the region, taking into account response to development, globalisation and change.

The book is a study of the Akha society examining their responses to change and the challenges they face in their transnational situation.
A Typhoon: Climate, History and Society in the Philippines
James Warren, On-going

The aim of the project is to write a 14 chapter interdisciplinary thematic book about the impact of the typhoon on Philippines society and history. Initially, the book, which is divided into three sections, explores origins, zones, frequency and types of typhoons. It then examines Philippine urban-rural ecology and the impact of typhoons on environmental, demographic and economic trends and social, institutional and cultural values in northern Luzon, southern Luzon, Manila, and the eastern Visayas.

The final section of the book compares, contrasts and re-evaluates relief co-ordination, disaster preparedness and typhoon-related technology and politics.

The book should make an important contribution to historical-environmental knowledge globally, given the growing influence of destructive tropical cyclones around the world as well as the growing recognition of the need for comparative studies in social-environmental history.

From Counterinsurgency to Ethnic Riots: The Changing Dynamics of Violence in West Kalimantan, Indonesia
Jamie Davidson, On-going

The large-scale anti-Madurese riots in West Kalimantan, Indonesia of 1997 and 1999 are, to some, considered exemplar cases of “deadly ethnic riots.” Yet, the genesis of these riots is rooted in a ruthless counterinsurgency campaign conducted by the then nascent New Order military elite in an effort to wipe out a local communist rebellion. In 1967, indigenous “warrior” Dayaks were used to ethnically cleanse Chinese from the region’s heartland. Land grabs then sparked the very first serious Dayak-Madurese riot, a dynamic which ebbs and flows to this day.

Viewed in this light, I argue that diachronic rather than synchronic study is best suited for studying the changing dynamics of mass violence. Diachronic study amply captures the fluctuation and variation constitutive of ethnic violence. In contrast, the ethnic violence literature too often favours synchronic approaches and thus fails to account for these processual variations. Instead, I maintain that a historical institutionalist perspective best explains the complexity behind the genesis, protraction and marked fluctuations of ethnic violence in this case.
Negotiating Diasporas: The Straits Chinese of Singapore, 1870-1920
Mark Frost, On-going

Recent years have seen a revival of interest in what is termed ‘Peranakan’, ‘Baba’ or ‘Straits Chinese’ culture and identity. However, definitions as to what these identities comprise continue to be problematic. This study seeks to address and throw new light on this question through an historical investigation of the thinking and activities of leading Straits Chinese literati in Singapore during a period often referred to as the Baba’s ‘golden age’.

An Asian Republic of Letters: urban literati and colonial cultures in Madras, Colombo and Singapore, 1870-1920 (book project)
Mark Frost, On-going

This book argue that the period 1870 to 1920 represents a unique epoch in the history of colonialism in Asia, characterised by the emergence of distinct intellectual milieus. It explores the cultural and then political of three intelligentsias operating in Madras, Colombo and Singapore; activities the significance and scope of which have been overlooked by historians preoccupied with uncovering the intellectual origins of modern Asian nation-states. It shows how the unique cosmopolitan environment in the colonial precursors of today’s ‘global cities’ shaped the concerns of a new generation of Asian intellectuals, forcing them to respond to the increasing proximity of alternative mores, attitudes and beliefs originating not just from the West but from other parts of Asia. It also looks at the way such groups drew on the example of independent, non-European nations such as the Philippines (briefly), Turkey, Egypt and Japan, as confident models of Eastern modernity and alternative reference points for their own modernizing and reform projects.

Population Changes and Land Degradation in Xinjiang, China
Jiang Leiwen, Institute of Population Research, Peking University; Tong Yufen, Xinjiang University; Zhao Zhijie and Li Tianhong, Institute of Environmental Studies, Peking University; Asian MetaCentre, 3 years from February 2002 and On-going.

Xinjiang in western China is a typical arid region with a vulnerable ecosystem in which environmental deterioration is often irreversible. In the past five decades, its population increased by more than four times, a phenomenon in which migration played a very important role. Population growth and reckless land reclamation, resource exploitation, and water use have induced serious problems of land degradation, and seriously affect human wellbeing.
The study will involve remote sensing and GIS techniques to map the evolution of land degradation and human settlement over time. Taking the advantage of the existence of high quality data, this research will study the historical pattern of population and land interactions in the region. This research will improve our understandings of dynamic processes population and land interactions in general, and in arid regions in particular, and will provide insights for informing policy-makers in order to avoid environment disasters and deterioration of human wellbeing.

**Health Status Differentials among Migrants and Non-migrants in Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand**  
*Evi Nurvidya Arifin & Sureeporn Pumpuang (Institute for Population & Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand), From August 2002 and On-going*

This project aims to contribute a better understanding on the complex relationship between migration and health in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, as a part of the much more dynamic interaction between population and health. This project is the first part of a longer-run research agenda on migration and health. The theoretical framework behind the proposed research on migration and health is being pursued alongside more empirical research in order to show some possible patterns of relationship between the two variables.

**Vietnam: Borderless Histories, ed. Tran and Reid**  
*Anthony Reid, Completed*

The editing of this volume, in collaboration with Nhung Tuyen Tran of UCLA, was completed during the reporting period. The book, which arose from a conference at UCLA, is awaiting publication with the University of Wisconsin Press.

**The formation of Ethnic Identities in Southeast Asia**  
*Anthony Reid, On-going*

This research project continued, with some fieldwork during the period in North Sumatra, Aceh, Kedah, Trengganu and central Vietnam. Prof. Reid gave several lectures, presentations and media interviews during the period on the historical background of the Aceh independence issue.
Aging and Health in Singapore

Angelique Chan, Department of Sociology; NUS and Santosh Jatrana, Asian MetaCentre, NUS, On-going

This collaborative work addresses issues related to aging and health. In our joint work, we have been using longitudinal survey data from Singapore; specifically the 1995 National Survey of Senior Citizens and 1999 survey of Transitions in Health, Wealth, and Welfare of Elderly Singaporeans to examine the issues of health and aging as they affect Singaporeans.

This research project is a collaborative effort between researchers at the National University of Singapore, the Ministry of Community Development and Sports (Singapore), and the Population Studies Center of the University of Michigan (USA). The National University of Singapore provided funding for the project.

Ming China and Southeast Asia

Anthony Reid, Sun Laichen and Geoffrey Wade

Research which transcends two fields of “area studies” is rare but increasingly necessary. The growing contemporary links between Southeast Asia and China also demands that some understanding of historical interactions between these regions is gained. This project has a number of strands each contributing to these goals. The first of these strands was the convening of a conference in July 2003 to examine the history of Southeast Asia in the 15th century and the effects of the new Ming dynasty on the region. This produced a range of stimulating theses which will be presented in a collection of the papers. A further strand involves the publication of Geoff Wade’s thesis which examines the references to Southeast Asia contained within the Ming Shi-lu, the primary Chinese-language source on this topic. This will be one of the first volumes in the final (and an ongoing) strand of the project which involves initiating, in collaboration with Singapore University Press, a new series entitled “Southeast Asia - China Interactions”, which will be a focus for publications in this important new area of research.

Cambodian Jar Burial Sites

Osteoarchaeology Research Group at NUS, including Kyle Latinis, Eric Tan of NUS, and Rethy Chhem, formerly of NUS and now of the University of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, John Miksic, On-going

In February 2003 John Miksic and a team of Cambodian and French archaeologists and bone specialists investigated rock shelters in the Cardamom Mountains of Cambodia. These rock shelters were found to contain burials incorporating Chinese and Thai
stoneware jars of the 14th to 16th centuries, wooden coffins, and other burial offerings such as copper rings and glass beads. Four sites on the upper slopes of the mountains were investigated thanks to support from the National Geographic Society. The Cardamom Mountains, chain is one of the most isolated regions of mainland Southeast Asia. They are today populated by a mixture of linguistic groups. The custom of secondary burial in imported stoneware jars was previously known only from Borneo, the Philippines, and Sulawesi. The discovery of similar practices in another part of the region raises numerous interesting questions regarding communication and ethnicity in 15th-century Cambodia. More sites are reputed to exist; perhaps another expedition can be mounted to explore them if more funds are obtained.

**Singapore Archaeological Research**

*National Heritage Board, mainly the Singapore History Museum, and the Public Works Department, John Miksic*

Over 20,000 records of Singapore’s archaeological heritage including several hundred digital photos and approximately 50 drawings, have been put into a digital database. Several thousand new artifacts have been discovered in excavations. Excavations and surface finds have been recovered and preserved in the archaeological laboratory at Fort Canning Park.

**The Flows of Female Domestic Labour between the China, Burma and Thai Borderlands**

*Mika Toyota, On-going*

Being a part of team of the three year project (2002-4), ‘The Dynamics of Flows and Movements in southeast Asia’ my own research will particularly focus on the mobility of the unmarried women as a domestic maid. ‘Maid trade’ along the China, Burma and Thai borderlands has been statistically invisible in migration data due to the fact that ‘work’ in the private domestic sphere has not been recognised as a formal occupation and remains largely unrecorded in census returns. Most of these maids are live-in and tend to work for one family for lengthy periods of time. Hardly any of them have their own house, neither do they commute to work, nor do they work for more than one household. They are normally out of reach of labour unions, religious organisations, government and non-governmental organisations. While the bulk of migrant workers go through informal and unrecorded channels, this does not mean the process is not ‘formalised’. On the contrary the supply of Chinese/Burmese female domestics for the Thai marketplace is highly organised and facilitated by sophisticated transnational recruitment agencies and networks.
Recent rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and increasing number of working females are said to encourage the growth of the domestic work force by substituting for the domestic work of career woman employers, however, it is not necessarily the case that the wives of households who employ domestic maids work. Use of domestic maids has a long history in China and Thailand. Young girls from impoverished families were sent to serve well-off families who could provide them food and shelter (known as the Mui Tsai system in China). Having a house servant has been seen as an important middle-class status symbol in Thailand, and employers do not necessarily regard a maid simply as a worker, but more as a piece of property or even a form of charity. Such perceptions reflect on the way the employers treat their domestic servants. Consequently, the whole question of domestic servants has to be examined within a particular China/Thai socio-historical context. The study will seek to do that and to examine the current female migration phenomena within the broader social history of the region.

**Cherishing Children: Household Prestige, Women’s Status and Fertility Trends among Middle-Class Malays in Urban Malaysia**

*Theresa Devasahayam, On-going*

When women are empowered through access to education, involvement in the wage economy, and more frequent interaction in the public sphere, they tend to have fewer children and, as such, fertility rates decline. While this trend is found among the Chinese and Indian ethnic groups in Malaysia (as in many other parts of the world), the Malay figures provide a contrast as fertility rates among them have not dropped to the same extent.

This study explores the reasons for this lack of dramatic decline in fertility rates among middle-class urban Malays. Interviews with thirty Malay women residing in the Klang Valley show that in spite of these women working, they have chosen to have more than the usual number of children because of the cultural value accorded to having a large family. Thus, this study argues for the role of culture in shaping Malay fertility choices, which also shows in adoption practices.

**Exile and Return**

*Ashley Carruthers, On-going*

My thesis is an analysis of relations between Vietnam and overseas Vietnamese communities in the West in the post-Cold War era. It argues that the politics of exile that succeeded the Vietnam War is giving way to one of transnational engagement between Vietnam and diasporic communities. This approach is novel because most studies focus either on Vietnam or the overseas Vietnamese exclusively, and do not consider the
complex field of relations that links them to each other. This is the first major study to do stet. Three chapters of it have already been published in scholarly journals and books.

**Labour Mobility and Job Changes**

*Evi Nurvidya Arifin, Asian MetaCentre and Aris Ananta, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, On-going*

Labour migration has been seen as a mechanism to improve the welfare of the individual and/or the family through changing jobs. This study examines whether job changes among migrants is a survival strategy or an upward mobility tactic.

The study uses a small, rich data set collected by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Indonesia in August 1998, the worst time of the Indonesian crisis. A multilevel statistical analysis is used in order to take into account the important impact of clustering in migratory behaviour. It is a case study and hence the results may not necessarily reflect the condition of Indonesia as a whole.

**Female Rulers in Southern Asia**

*Anthony Reid, Completed*

Arising from a long-standing interest and some new fieldwork in Bangladesh, Prof. Reid compiled a lecture and paper, quickly published in *History Today*.

**Transnational Labour Migration and the Family in Southeast Asia**

*Shirlena Huang, Department of Geography, NUS*

*Lai Ah Eng, Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore; Paulin Straughan, Department of Sociology, NUS; Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Department of Geography, NUS, Completed*

The study is broadly conceived as an investigation of how the Singapore family has been affected by and has responded to the intersecting forces of labour market restructuring, the accompanying social changes, and state ideologies and policies which influence familial relations in direct and indirect ways. It also examines how families of overseas domestic helpers in the Philippines (re)define and (re)negotiate familial roles in the domestic arena – a sphere generally associated with women rather than men – in the prolonged absence of wives and mothers.

The project also aims to investigate the *conceptual* implications of how specific roles in the family, such as fatherhood/motherhood/childhood, are being redefined and renegotiated in different family structures in both labour sending and receiving countries to enable cross-cultural comparisons.
In terms of policy implications, it analyses state policies of labour sending and receiving countries to draw out their direct and indirect impacts on the family.

**Socio-Cultural Change and the Emerging State in Uttar Pradesh, India, 1930-1954**  
*Gyanesh Kudaisya, Completed*

This research project examined the changing cultural identities of Uttar Pradesh (U. P.), a substantial regional society within India. The province occupies a large part of the fertile Indo-Gangetic plain and has a population of 162 million.

This research critically examined the salience of U. P.’s provincial identity in linguistic, social, political and cultural terms. It studied how this provincial identity has evolved and the ways in which it has shaped developments in the region in the colonial and post-colonial periods. The study traces the manner in which U.P. came to be created as an administrative entity in an era of colonial conquest and consolidation during the late eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century. A process of conquest and annexation brought together different areas of north India, many with their distinct cultural and linguistic characterises, to constitute a ‘province’.

This research argues that the indigenous elites who were empowered as a result of the coming of mass nationalism did not challenge the colonial construction of U.P. as a region. They found it advantageous to operate in a province-wide arena and simply disregarded the constituent cultural zones with their inherent diversity.

**Complimenting and Response to Compliments in Singapore Mandarin: What do They Tell about the Multilingual Society?**  
*Lee Cher Leng, Completed*

This paper examines the behaviour of complimenting and response to compliments among Chinese (mainly Mandarin) speakers in Singapore. Singapore is a multilingual society in which Chinese makes up 70% of the population. The main working language, however, is English. Compliments are said to be mirrors of the culture of the society. Do Chinese speakers in Singapore adopt the western ways of compliments and response to compliments or do they adhere to the Chinese ways such as the Modesty Maxim proposed by Gu (1993)?
Globalisation and the Politics of Urban Economic Development: Contrasted Urban Responses to Industrial Restructuring in South Korea

*Bae-Gyoon Park, Geography, NUS, Completed*

This project examined restructuring in the South Korean auto industry following the financial crisis in the late 1990s and its impact on the two cities where the bankrupt auto plants are located – Inchon and Pusan. More specifically, this research attempted to develop a theoretical understanding of the impact of globalisation on cities and suggest alternative urban and regional development strategies based on empirical realities in South Korea. It drew on qualitative data from personal interviews with personnel in firms, other industrial and urban and regional actors, supplemented by quantitative data, on urban development and industrial restructuring.

**Ming-Southeast Asian Overland Interactions, c.1368-1662**

*Sun Laichen, Completed*

Over the last fifty years, national history has generally confined historical discourse to the modern political boundaries. As a result, “Southeast Asia,” “China,” and “India” have been defined as such. Thus, for example, discussions of the impact of Ming (and Qing) China have stayed within the modern Chinese boundary, leading to the limited and incomplete understanding of their impact beyond China. In terms of “Southeast Asia,” when scholars look for external factors affecting the region’s history, their eyes have been primarily cast on the maritime routes (the ships of Zheng He and the Portuguese) while the overland dynamics (the nameless caravans) have been quite neglected, or at least understudied. Another issue that the beginning and process of “early modernity” in Asia, especially in the context of pre-1500 mainland Southeast Asia, have yet to be sufficiently researched.

This book redresses these problems by defining a zone termed “Northern Mainland Southeast Asia” (NMSEA) encompassing southern Yunnan, northeast India, and northern parts of modern mainland Southeast Asia and by focusing on Ming-Southeast Asian overland interactions. Utilising a large number of primary sources in Chinese, Vietnamese, Tai, and Burmese, as well as numerous European accounts, especially travelogues, and setting the discussion in a much broader supra-regional and global context, this book examines closely the various aspects of the interactions between Ming China and NMSEA.
Empowering or Enslaving?: What Adat and Agama Mean for Gender Relations and Domestic Food Production in Malay Households in Urban Malaysia

Theresa Devasahayam, Completed

The corpus of literature on gender work and domestic food production has generally stressed women’s oppression. The basic argument put forth is that in the arenas of housework and cooking, women are ‘producers,’ while men are ‘consumers’ of women’s services. Focusing on the Malay example, this study seeks to understand whether women see the mother and wife roles as laid down in the Quran to be liberating, and perceive their adat-endorsed food provider role to be oppressive. The interviews suggest that the respondents see cooking and presenting food to the family as a role that completes women in their capacity as wives and mothers, and ‘feeding’ is viewed as a significant cultural tool for building kinship bonds. Hence, women carry out the food provider role not solely in keeping with Islam, although they may reinforce Islamic requirements of them, but rather in accordance with adat, since it is in adat that Malay women find strength and meaning in everyday life.

How ‘Friendly’ are Family-Friendly Management Practices in Singapore Organisations?: The Implications of an Eldercare Leave Scheme for Married and Unmarried Working Caregivers

Theresa Devasahayam, Completed

Based on data from Singapore’s 1995 National Survey of Senior Citizens and ethnographic interviews with 25 working female and male caregivers and human resource managers of ten private- and public-sector organisations, this study is a critique of how the term ‘family’ has come to be defined in management practice. It argues that the current definition is limited and misleading as it assumes employees to be caretakers of children while disregarding those providing care to elderly parents. Increasingly many Singaporean employees are finding themselves in the position of elder caregivers since the cultural value of filial piety continues to be strong and extended families are not uncommon. In this context, it makes organisational sense to extend family-friendly policy practices to working elder caregivers for two reasons. First, it recognises that the elder caregiver task has effects in workplace performance and attitude; as such, implementing benefits for working caregivers reinforces management support toward this group of employees. Second, the provision of family-friendly policy practices serves to engender greater equity in employee compensation as it equally favours both married and unmarried employees. This study concludes that personnel policies in organisations can only be effective when informed by current social needs and demographic trends.
Thai and Malay: The Socio-Cultural Dynamics of Linguistic Contact  
*Titima Suthiwann, Completed*

The book which is to emerge from this story explores the relationship between the Thai-speaking and the Malay-speaking peoples between the 16th and 20th centuries which has long received little attention despite strong evidence for it in Thai language and Thai literature. The book is a multidisciplinary study of linguistics, literature and history.

Asian Perspectives on Law and Justice  
*Kumaralingam Amirthalingam, Law, NUS, On-going*

The research project covered several areas of law and justice where a unique "Asian perspective" was clearly evident. The areas that were covered included cultural rights, women's rights, domestic violence, rule of law, traditional medicine and medical negligence. The common theme was the extent to which an Asian approach differed from a Western approach and whether such differences were justifiable given the cultural different contexts. It was argued in all the cases that while many differences were indeed necessary to ensure justice, there were some underlying fundamental values that resonated across cultures in terms of respect for human rights and cultural norms. It was also argued that in some cases the differences were more apparent than real, and there was a risk that differences were manipulated to maintain the domino-centric status quo.

Information and Enterprise in Southeast Asian Business:  
The Career of a Southern Thai Banking Pioneer, 1920s-1990s  
*Michael J. Montesano, Southeast Asia Studies, On-going*

This study uses the life and times of a leading Southern Thai business figure to address a series of issues in the social history of provincial Thailand during the twentieth century and in the field of Southeast Asian business history. It stresses the role of information flows and information communities in the emergence of entrepreneurship and in the operation of firms and networks in modern Southeast Asia. It treats the rise of commercial banking in provincial Thailand in the years after the Pacific War. It considers the place of information in Thailand’s recent “boom and bust”. It also offers several methodological propositions for the study of the region’s business history.