



ARI NEWS

A newsletter of the Asia Research Institute,
National University of Singapore

MICA(P) 223/01/2006



New Year, New Chapter

The new year 2008 in ARI began with several "new"s of people, plans, programmes and projects. ARI's new director Professor Lily Kong officially assumed duty on 1 January 2008, while Associate Professor Robbie Goh was appointed ARI's second Deputy Director on 15 Jan 2008. Dr Chee Heng Leng remains as the other Deputy Director.

Professor Kong is no stranger to ARI and NUS. In 2001, she was caretaker of the newly set up Institute until Professor Anthony Reid arrived in 2002 as Director. A graduate of NUS itself and of University College London, she has been faculty member of NUS' Geography Department since 1991, receiving various teaching, research and public awards over the years. She has also held several leadership positions, as Dean in the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), Dean of the University Scholars Programme, Assistant Director in the University's Office of Research, as its Vice Provost (Education) and currently Vice President (University and Global Relations). Her research background is equally solid, with a focus on religion, cultural policy and creative economy, and national identity; and numerous publications to her name.

Associate Professor Robbie Goh is also no stranger to ARI and NUS. He has been an active associate of ARI's Religion and Globalisation Cluster and participated in several ARI conferences and workshops. A graduate of NUS itself and the University of Chicago, A/P Goh has a background of several academic achievements, through awards, scholarships and fellowships as well as numerous edited/co-edited publications. Religion, cultural studies and 19th century English literature are his main research areas. His administrative experience includes that of Sub-Dean (FASS), Deputy Director of the NUS Centre for the Arts, member in various FASS committees, and currently headship of the English Language and Literature Department.

Professor Kong has wasted no time since her appointment. She consulted with all members and levels of ARI staff, and drew up a five-year proposal for 2008/9 – 2012/13 covering all major aspects of ARI for intensive discussions with various ARI committees. It covers research development in terms of clusters, staff, visitors, funding and events; publications; programmes for graduate students; regional and local/community outreach programmes; funding; governance; key performance indicators and even space issues. Decisions have been arrived at quickly in some areas, while discussions and gradual changes will continue to take place in others.

Key plans for research clusters – the mainstay of ARI – focus on

their strengthening and expansion to emphasise comparative study across Asia, and include both socio-cultural and political-economic dimensions, new themes and a sharpened focus. As existing clusters head towards maturity, new clusters will be nurtured over time, focusing on areas of importance in Asia but currently not researched at ARI. Other main plans pertaining to ARI's research clusters are funding and the reshaping of ARI's research staff profile, to include more appointments of (senior) research fellows and joint-appointments with NUS faculties and more collaborative research across faculties. In terms of new ARI projects, one on commercially arranged international marriages in Singapore and Malaysia has just secured funding and will commence later in 2008.

New and revamped programmes for graduate students and for regional outreach aim to further strengthen and develop regional intellectual capital and networks of scholarship and exchange. Those for local/community outreach aim to enhance contributions to society and ARI's public profile through lectures, seminars, roundtables and special events for both experts and interested citizens.

Leaving no stones unturned, governance issues relating to the research clusters, human resources, committees and Boards will be addressed over time. Even ARI "on-line" matters (working papers and newsletter) will be enhanced to augment ARI's research and related activities.

With much teaching, research, administrative and organisational experience accumulated since 1991, Professor Kong comes well qualified to helm ARI. At once local, regional and global in background, Professor Kong's position in ARI is a highly suitable fit between leadership and institution as ARI must also necessarily be local, regional and global in its visions, directions and projects. All who have met her are also struck by her openness, consultative-ness and friendliness. These qualities can only further encourage and enhance the open intellectual atmosphere and warm work culture for which ARI is by now well known.

Under Professor Anthony Reid's directorship (2002-2007), ARI underwent major foundation and building block stages as a new research institution. Professor Kong and her staff continue the building process for the next five years with a stress on strengthening ARI as well as building bridges with other NUS, local, regional and international collaborators.

2008 definitely opens a new chapter in ARI's history and culture and we look forward to an exciting and fruitful period over the next five years.

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Professor Lily Kong



It is with great pleasure that I pen my first message as Director of the Asia Research Institute, NUS. My foremost and most pleasant duty is to place on record grateful thanks to Tony Reid for having given five energetic years to building ARI. Tony came to Singapore and NUS in 2002 with the expressed responsibility of developing a world-leading centre

for research on Asia. Within this time, he has remarkably established ARI as a place to be for researchers from around the world who want to study Asia. The large number of applications for various kinds of fellowships, the requests to spend sabbatical time at ARI, and the general flow of visitors passing through Singapore who make it a point to come to ARI, bear testimony to this. Tony's vision and networks have established a firm place for ARI and NUS in the world of research on Asia.

On more than one occasion, Tony had made it a point to promote the importance of offering to the world voices from Southeast Asia in particular. It is perhaps appropriate therefore that a child of Southeast Asia, located in a uniquely advantageous situation in Singapore, should succeed him in the quest to shape, influence, transform and balance the way the world understands Asia. Particularly, I bring to ARI an "in-between" position – one which sees the possibilities of and need for critical engagements with Anglo-American scholarship, yet insistently advocating the need to stretch beyond that hegemony to develop Asian voices, perspectives and insights from Asia.

To turn this mission and position into actionable agenda requires that ARI's efforts be directed at three "scales" of endeavour, influence and impact, namely, the international, regional and local.

International collaboration and engagement, and with that, the methods of benchmarking which follow, is a double-edged sword. In many ways, with the globalisation of higher education has come a commoditisation of knowledge, accompanied by a reliance on simple, tidy measures of international research "impact". Increasingly, success is measured in terms of publication in Tier 1 journals (reduced to impact factors of English-language journals published overwhelmingly in the US and UK), citation counts and H-indices (derived from the same skewed databases as impact factors), securing of grant monies, and other such metrics. In various ways, the measures, practices and cultures of the hard sciences are also increasingly felt in the world of humanities and social sciences in a scientisation of the research world.

ARI is neither unique nor exempt from this double hegemony. More and more, its success is being measured by the large grants it can secure, and publication in the (Anglo-American) journals and books of significance. The realities are such that ARI has responded and will continue to respond by

organising itself to achieve "international impact" by winning competitive grants, co-publishing a book series with a renowned "international" publishing house, bringing out "international" journals with established publishers, encouraging and supporting its researchers to sit on editorial boards of "international" journals, participating in significant "international" conferences, seeking collaboration with "international" partners etc.

These can be worthwhile and valuable pursuits. But at ARI, it is also important to remember that grants are inputs; not outcomes. They offer some measure of quality if competitively won. But fundamentally, let us not forget that they consume funding and can, but don't necessarily contribute to greater understanding or betterment of the human condition, unless there is a collective and individual sense of mission about the value of the research that we do, and a recollection of why we do our research that reaches beyond tidy metrics.

Similarly, it is important to seriously and critically engage with Anglo-American scholarship, to develop linkages with key centres of research and study of Asia based in the "west", for collaboration, dialogue and exchange. But at ARI, "international" must also mean engaging with scholars and thought leaders in Asia, writing for Asian audiences, sometimes in the vernacular, and creating platforms for dialogue within Asia. In doing so, we might succeed, through our scholarship and perspectives, in reshaping, transforming and balancing the way the world understands Asia, and thinks about the humanities and social sciences.

What this leads to is that for ARI to be truly international, it cannot neglect regional engagements and collaborations. For example, ARI should continue the erstwhile efforts of its founding director to connect with the region. For the last five years, young scholars in ASEAN have come yearly to ARI on three-month fellowships which allow them to network amongst themselves and other young scholars at NUS, seek mentorship from senior scholars, use the library resources, and learn more about professional academia. Ford Foundation has had the foresight and wisdom to support this programme in part, and NUS funding has made possible the other part. ARI will continue to seek funding from a number of sources to make this possible, and perhaps even include young scholars from South and East Asia. Funding permitting, the fellowship period will culminate in a week-long Summer Institute, comprising keynote and plenary sessions by senior scholars, and research workshop sessions as well as professional development sessions for graduate students. The Summer Institute will also be open to young scholars at NUS, and potentially further afield in due course. The results of such fellowships and the related summer programme are intangible and difficult to measure, and can sit poorly with number-crunching bureaucrats, but the social, cultural and intellectual capital that ARI/NUS gains and generates is immeasurably immense.

Beyond creating a platform for inter-Asia dialogue for young

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

scholars, an ARI Inter-Asia Roundtable will be initiated, which will bring together leading researchers from East, South, and Southeast Asia yearly to focus discussion on selected issues that confront Asia. In this, ARI hopes to strengthen the network of relationships with key centres and leading scholars in Asia itself.

Through these endeavours, ARI will hopefully embody the spirit of in-betweenness. Then, we have a chance at making a real difference internationally.

Let me now share some of my thoughts on the "local", for which I refer to both the national Singapore context and the NUS context. It is perhaps ironical that a recent visitor from Idaho knew a great deal about ARI, but an officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs some 10 km away had not heard of the institute. There is perhaps more of a public role that ARI can play, not just in the periodic public lecture, but in being willing to contribute to research of local significance, in engaging in dialogue with the community at our doorsteps (e.g. with policy makers), and in contributing to public intellectual discourse. ARI is not a think-tank and will not become one, but neither should it be irrelevant to the community and society in which it exists. In this regard, greater effort will be put into publicising seminars and talks at ARI; newsletters and working papers from ARI will harness technology better to reach a wider audience (locally and internationally); a revamped Asia Trends will be introduced in 2009 which will aim to share with locally-based policy, business and public communities on key trends and issues confronting Asia annually; and research of interest and value to the local community will be supported, particularly when the richness of local empirical observations also allow us to significantly reshape the contours of theoretical knowledge.

Within NUS, ARI must join with Faculties to build common strengths. The "critical mass" of the physical and natural sciences – big teams of researchers supported by large grants – need not mean the same thing in the humanities and social sciences. Instead, many individuals from different disciplines and perspectives working in specific areas defined with sufficient width yet focus, sans the binding multi-million dollar grant, can as well make for an effective critical mass. That is not to say large programmatic collaborative endeavours will not be pursued, only that they are not the only ways by which good research can be done, and significant impact achieved.

I look forward to the challenges of further building ARI as a key node in the world for the study of Asia. This challenge I do not undertake alone. The combined strengths of the Faculties/Schools of Arts and Social Sciences, Design and Environment, Law, Public Policy, and Business, and all the expertise at the various research institutes at NUS should mean that research on Asia at NUS is not something that can simply be ignored; it will be instantly recognisable as groundbreaking and outstanding.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Workshop on Buddhism and The Crises of The Nation-states in Asia

19 June – 20 June 2008

This workshop jointly organised by Asia Research Institute and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Religion Research Cluster, National University of Singapore will bring together top scholars working on Buddhism in Asia to examine the "crises of nation-states" in Asia's Buddhist countries. It aims to explore complex situations and issues pertinent to the changing status and role of Buddhism in the far-from-complete processes of nation-state building and modernisation. It also compares the paths, patterns, and processes which Buddhism has undertaken in its role as a traditional source of moral and political authority in various states. Some questions to be explored are 1) to what extent has the Buddhist Sangha in each Asian nation been involved in the politics of nation-building and modernisation? 2) how and why Buddhism negotiates with some of the dynamic forces of secular governance and overall secularisation of modern culture and society.

Scholars of Asian Buddhism have been actively working on issues concerning Buddhism and its multiple roles, including the Buddhist politics of power legitimation and moral authority of the Sangha, since the 1960s. In the current decade, it is appropriate to redirect scholarly attention to some disturbing questions on Buddhism and its struggling relationships with the nation-states in Asia. The problematic relationship between Buddhism and the secular nation-states need to be explored ethnographically and comparatively.

Some themes of the workshop are:

- Buddhist polity revisited
- Buddhist visions and politics of nation building
- Buddhist fundamentalism and nationalism
- Militant and socially-engaged monks and nuns
- The politics of Buddhist piety and fragmentation

Interested participants should send in abstracts of their papers (forms for abstracts are available online at: <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/showfile.asp?eventfileid=371>) by 28 March 2008. The abstract should be within 400 words and include name of author(s) (first name followed by last name, underline the presenter of the paper), affiliation and e-mail addresses. Notification of acceptance of paper will be issued by 1 April 2008. Completed draft papers should be submitted by 2 June 2008. The output from the conference is expected to be an edited volume.

Contact persons for further details:

Dr Pattana Kitiarsa: seapk@nus.edu.sg (enquiries)
Rodney Sebastian: fasrodn@nus.edu.sg (abstracts)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

International Workshop on Autonomy and Armed Separatism in South and Southeast Asia, 26 June – 27 June 2008

Over recent decades, a number of South and Southeast Asian states have been troubled by intensifying armed separatist conflicts. Various forms of autonomy and self governance have been promoted as the most democratic way of accommodating separatist insurgents in ethnically, politically, religiously, economically and socially divided states. Despite this, very few states have successfully ended their armed separatist conflicts. This raises difficult questions about how much freedom nation-states are willing and capable of granting their nationalist minorities without releasing control over their sovereign territories.

This workshop co-hosted by the Asia Research Institute and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and supported by The Asia Foundation and the Centre on Asia and Globalisation, uses a multidisciplinary approach towards understanding national identity problems in Indonesia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand, India and Timor Leste. It explores the political, economic, legal, security and other compromises that have been offered by national governments to negotiate shared-rule outcomes with their separatist movements through the devolution of central state authority and resources.

This workshop does not propose a “one size fits all” model for resolving separatist conflicts. Rather, it aims to explore the specific circumstances and conditions under which different government offers of autonomy have and have not worked. By examining specific case studies, the workshop seeks to identify the conditions under which autonomy has or could potentially serve as an effective mechanism for conflict resolution, and what conditions have impeded its implementation or resulted in its failure.

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Reassessing The Origins of The Cold War in Southeast Asia: A Roundtable on The Sixtieth Anniversary of 1948 10 – 11 July 2008

2008 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the beginning of left-wing insurgencies in Malaya, Indonesia, Burma and the Philippines which continue to leave their imprint on the region today. On this historic occasion, we invite scholars to gather to discuss in what ways 1948 was or perhaps was not “the beginning of the Cold War” in Southeast Asia, and to debate the significance of this year in Southeast Asian history.

In Southeast Asia, it is hard to ignore 1948 as the parting of ways. What is indisputable is that after 1945 the British, French and Dutch all tried to restore their power in Southeast Asia, and all met with resistance from leftist organisations. The years 1947 and 1948 also saw a plethora of Asia-linked leftist gatherings, such as the South East Asia Youth and Student Conference (February 1948) in Calcutta.

How far did all these events feed on common origins? In 1958, Ruth McVey argued that what mattered for the 1948 uprisings was not the Calcutta Conferences, but the gradual dissemination of the change in the international communist line from 1947. Recent debates between Deery and Hack over the origins of the “Malayan Emergency” and claims that it was British pressure which led to the uprising in Malaya have brought these issues of the origins of the “Cold War” in Southeast Asia to the fore again.

This Roundtable will therefore examine questions such as:

- Did 1948 constitute a watershed in Southeast Asian history?
- When and how did a ‘Southeast Asian Cold War’ coalesce?
- What do individual studies of the Cold War in Indonesia, Indochina, Malaya, Myanmar, Singapore and the Philippines suggest of its origins?
- How far did the changes in Southeast Asia overlap with those in Europe and East Asia, or how did they display “autonomous” features?
- What links were there with the Soviet Union, East Asia, Western Europe and Australia?
- Were there common discourses, orders or understandings which drove events?
- After 60 years of division, can the conflicting perceptions of the events of 1948 be bridged by balanced scholarship?

We thus seek new documentary data and new interpretations, which will allow a balanced assessment of 1948 as a moment in the development of Southeast Asian history.

Contact persons for further details:
Prof Anthony Reid: ariar@nus.edu.sg
Dr Geoff Wade: arigpw@nus.edu.sg

CALL FOR PAPERS 3rd Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia 28 – 29 July 2008

The Asia Research Institute invites applications from postgraduate students who are engaged in research on Southeast Asia to submit abstracts based on either work in progress that is at an advanced stage or recently completed. NUS students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with students from ASEAN and other regions whose interests focus on Southeast Asia.

This Forum is the third in an annual forum series for graduate students working on Southeast Asia. It provides a platform

for communication and cooperation among postgraduate students as they mature into the next generation of academic leaders. It will also mark the completion of ARI's ASEAN Research Scholars Programme 2008.

This forum will be organised thematically. Themes will include but are not limited to issues in religion, politics, economy, gender, culture, migration, and population and social change. In addition to student presentations, experts of the region will also be invited to give keynote speeches.

Registration fees and expenses will be covered for those whose abstracts are accepted. Students may also apply for some funding to cover regional travel costs.

Applicants should submit a 400-word abstract available from <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/showfile.asp?eventfileid=372>, by 16 May 2008 to Ms Valerie Yeo at valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg. One confidential letter of recommendation from a supervisor should also be mailed or emailed to Ms Yeo by the same date. Successful applicants, who will be notified by 2 June 2008, will have to submit full-length papers of around 5,000 words, by 11 July 2008. For further details, please visit ARI's webpage (http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=747).

Return Migration in Asia: Experiences, Ideologies and Politics **31 July – 1 August 2008**

Despite the burgeoning literature on a wide range of transnational migratory flows in Asia, research on "return" remains scarce. Return migration is not just a form of reverse flow but both emotional and political because it is regarded as at once an unquestionable right and an uncontestable duty, and is by definition bound to such primordial notions as "home", "roots" and "belonging". This workshop will problematise these conventional understandings and open up the concept of "return" as a strategic moment of redefining economic, social and political relations in contemporary Asia.

First, at the individual level, "return" constitutes a defining moment in a migrant's life cycle and social relations. "Return" provides a powerful lens for analysing how individuals interact with local societies, particularly in terms of social stratification, gender relations, family ideologies and identity within a transnational context.

Second, "return" (re)defines states' relations to mobile citizens and mobile foreigners. The admission of unskilled foreign workers in Asia is typically based on the assumption that the migrants would return. Indeed, deportation programs, often legitimated as a duty of return, have been crucial for the formation of migration policies in several Asian countries in the last decade.

Third, "return" redefines Asia's relations with the world. Today, in most parts of Asia, "return" is an enterprising project instead of an exercise in nostalgia. "Returning" to China or India from the West, for example, is perceived as

a "return to the future" — to be ahead of global business and technology curves. Returnees are significant because the action of return reinforces allegiance and loyalty, yet the returnees are expected to rejuvenate and even revolutionise the old.

Topics for discussion include the following sub-themes:

- The process and experiences of return migrations that complicate the notion of "return"
- The social and political production of return migrations
- Return and the changing economic order
- Return programs and policies, for both desirable and undesired returnees
- Return as a dream, a topic, a metaphor, and an idea.

Contact person for further details:

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How Fares The Family? International Conference on Resilience and Transformation of Families in Asia **04 – 05 August 2008**

While diverse family forms and systems have long been in existence in various parts of Asia, recent forces of globalisation, urbanisation, increased migration and changes in demographic trends have significantly altered them, bringing about even greater diversity in marriage and family formation patterns and subsequently greater complexity of family life, including new demands, stresses and challenges.

At the policy level, various state measures have been put forth aimed at regulating marriage and fertility and providing various forms of assistance for the poor, elderly and children. These measures uphold and help families, in the belief that the family is the basic economic, social and emotional unit of society and social cohesion.

Amidst various macro-level structural changes and state-level policies, it is important to understand the micro-level processes and patterns of family change that are occurring in response to the better documented and understood larger trends. We know very little of how families and individual members within families are responding to and coping with these changes. Families themselves are continually evolving and constantly re-working their own definition, status and importance in society.

This conference aims to explore the resilience and transformation of families in Asia and to understand how families are holding together, whether successfully or unsuccessfully, in the midst of change and often adversity. Its goal is to bring together current work that is being done, acknowledging the emergence of new family structures, alternate living arrangements, new family support systems and specific strategies that have been implemented by individuals within their families, however constituted or being reconstituted, to cope with societal pressures and with their own expectations.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Themes considered in the panels include the following:

- Changing meanings of family and roles of parenthood
- Singlehood, delayed marriage, and family belonging
- New forms of living long-term familial relationships
- Balancing of work and family life
- Migration and the emergence of new family forms and support systems
- Intergenerational relationships
- Sexuality and familial relations.

Contact person for further details:
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Workshop on New Directions in The Study of Material Religion 14 – 16 August 2008

This workshop, co-hosted by the Religion Cluster of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and ARI's Research Cluster on Religion and Globalisation in Asian Contexts, seeks to trace the different ways in which the divine in many religious traditions is manifested in physical, tangible form, and to determine the ways in which scholars can effectively appreciate the wider political, social and cultural meanings through the study of material forms of religion.

All sorts of religious objects – from statues to objects of offering, architecture, relics – manifest the piousness of the faithful as well as the historical, political or cultural issues of the communities which revere them. The Emerald Buddha in Thailand, the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico and many Hindu icons are just some examples of how the regard for sacred objects is more than just a matter of aesthetics or museological appreciation. This observation can also be made in faiths where there are proscriptions against the representation of religious personages, for which religiosity is manifested in aniconic form. There is a need for a mode of analysis of material religion that goes beyond the mere identification of their style, provenance and production. What discursive, ethnographic or historical frameworks can we utilise so that we can understand their continued relevance, if not their prohibition, in both global and local contexts?

Possible topics of discussion include the study of

- Religious icons and images
- Amulets and talismans
- Offertory objects
- Sacred relics
- Ritual objects and symbols
- Sacred spaces and architecture.

Conference travel and accommodation funding may be available.

Contact person for further details:
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RECENT ARI EVENTS

Workshop on Evaluating Affirmative Action: Malaysia in International Comparative Perspective 22 – 23 October 2007



This workshop, co-hosted by ARI and Oxford University's Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE), was initiated by Dr Maznah Mohamad. It brought together a range of scholars working on issues of affirmative action in different countries using different disciplinary perspectives. Drawing on CRISE's extensive research in Malaysia, the workshop focused on the Malaysian case as a country which has had an unusually long, explicit and comprehensive affirmative action programme. The workshop also considered the experiences of India, South Africa, Brazil, the US, and Northern Ireland.

While affirmative action policies have generated much literature, this body of scholarship suffers from two main shortcomings. First, it mostly lacks a systematic international comparative perspective which would allow broader conclusions to be drawn about what works and what does not, in terms of different types of policy and in different types of society. Second, interdisciplinary perspectives on affirmative action are mostly absent. This workshop was thus aimed at bridging each of these lacunae.

The follow-up to this workshop is an edited book.

Mutating Postcolonial Cultural Modalities in Contemporary Southeast Asia 1 – 2 November 2007

This workshop was organised by Professor Chua Beng Huat and Dr Yasuko Kobayashi.

South East Asia was one of the most colonised regions in the world. Projects of colonisation were undertaken by different imperial powers, at different times across the region, with different styles of governance. The process of decolonisation varies likewise. Despite this, the idea of "postcolonial" is seldom invoked as a frame for analysing contemporary Southeast Asia.

This workshop on approaches to understand postcoloniality in contemporary Southeast Asia brought together scholars with different disciplinary backgrounds who spoke on Indonesia,

Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand. They explored, the emergence and growth of radical Malay-language publications in the early 20th century in Indonesia; four genres of Malay political writings in Malaysia; the encounter between Western medicine and Vietnamese 'traditional' medicine evoked in present-day Vietnamese medical treatments and practices; the possible utility of postcoloniality as a mode of intellectual or social critique in Singapore; and the 'end' of postcoloniality as a force having no end in itself.

This workshop has revealed some interesting characteristics of postcoloniality in Southeast Asia and provided some useful grounds to approach this little studied field. Selected papers put together in a publication should provide a useful starting point of reference.

Forum on the Past in the Present: Histories in the Making

17 Nov 2007

Held in collaboration with the Singapore National Museum, this forum which drew approximately 200 participants took place in the current context where history is poised to capture the popular imagination.

In the forum's keynote address on Singapore history through museums, memory, history and the arts, Professor James Francis Warren of Murdoch University referred mostly to his field notes, correspondences and recollections of his three decades of work on Singapore.

Three discussion panels explored several themes. The panel on "History and the Museum" examined some museological issues in presenting history. At the second panel "Writing of History: Inventing, Problematising, Contesting the Past", papers presented examined narratives, memories and analyses from Thai, Singapore and Indonesian cases. The third panel on "History and the Novel" took the form of a "mini-writer's festival" at which authors of historical fiction presented their works.

International Conference 'In and Out of Asia': Migrating Talent, Globalising Cities

19 – 21 November 2007



Asia, as the world's fastest growing economic region, has joined in the global competition for talent. The overall major focus is the creation of a conducive working and living environment that will attract and retain global talent, including "return" talent.

While talent migration flows contribute to high economic growth, they pose issues related to economic competition, acculturation and cross-cultural relations, and social integration and community cohesion.

This conference explored the issues of global talent migration in Asia through three themes: "Attraction of Places and Policies"; "Socio-psychological dimensions of Global Talent Management"; and "Cultural Politics of Everyday Encounters".

Countries such as Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan; and cities such as Bangalore, Delhi, London, Shanghai, Singapore and Tokyo were examined. Categories of talent discussed included scientists, business people, professionals, nurses and tertiary students, while expatriate and cosmopolitan communities examined included Americans, Asians, Chinese, Indians, Singaporeans and Taiwanese.

As the topic is relatively under-researched, the Conference held a special discussion panel which explored the first theme through the management approaches and work experiences of four industry players - a headhunter, the CEO of a multinational company, a consultant-cum-trainer and a banking professional.

Twenty-two papers were presented and selected papers are currently being reviewed for publishing in three separate publications corresponding to the three themes.

The conference was jointly organised by Dr Lai Ah Eng and Dr Leong Chan Hoong of ARI; and Professor Brenda Yeoh and Associate Professor Shirlena Huang of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore.

Early Indian Influences in Southeast Asia: Reflections on Cross-Cultural Movements

21 – 23 November 2007

This international conference was organised by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in collaboration with National Library Board, Asia Research Institute and Institute of South Asian Studies. Papers on the following sub-themes were presented: Chola naval expeditions, archaeological and inscriptions evidence, ancient and medieval commercial activities, and regional cultures and localisation. The purpose of the conference was to ascertain the nature of Indian influences in the Southeast Asia region from the 7th to the 11th centuries.

Conference discussions suggest that Indianisation of Southeast Asia is an area that requires much primary research. Existing evidence indicates that Indianisation was something complex, subtle and far-reaching. Indianisation was not something imposed mechanically. Indian culture, religion and social norms were selectively appropriated in accordance with the needs and interests of the region over a long period of time. In turn, Southeast Asia was not a mere recipient; the region also influenced Indian art, temple construction and boat-building. One highlight of the conference was the Chola naval expeditions in the 11th century A.D that took place in the context of commercial and maritime rivalry in the region.

ISEAS, will be publishing two books as outcomes of the conference: one on the Chola naval expeditions and the other on the general themes of the conference.

Xiang Biao

RCUK Academic Fellow,
Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and
ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society,
University of Oxford

Visiting Research Fellow
April 2007 – March 2008

**“Commercial Bureaucrats”: International Labour Recruiters and the States in East Asia**

I have always been interested in tackling large political-economy issues through ethnography. Topically, I am increasingly fascinated by some of the elusive and unstable subjects: flexible labour, venture capital, mobility, and speculation. This interest has brought me to my current project on recruitment agents who facilitate labour migration from China to Japan, Singapore and South Korea.

My basic research question is why the agents exist. The standard economists' answer would be that agents bridge the information gap between demand and supply, and that once the gap narrows, the agents should disappear to minimise transaction costs. Similarly, the mainstream approach in migration studies suggests that agents are eventually replaced by migrant networks. Governments and NGOs often blame agents for abusing migrant rights and causing policy failures, and have tried hard to regulate or eradicate them. More generally, information technology (IT) is expected to lead to a process of “disintermediation”. In reality, however, the intermediary business is as good as ever, and IT has in fact facilitated the proliferation instead of the elimination of intermediaries such as headhunters, law firms and consultants.

My research informants offer useful examples of this reality. Mr Chen, an agent specialising in sending low-skilled workers from northeast China to Japan, told me how tedious his business has become. Immediately after lodging visa applications on his clients' behalf, he takes them to particular factories for a one day visit. Every worker is required to draw a detailed layout of the factory in order to memorise the exact location of each workshop and office, and is asked to pay special attention to the toilets, particularly the number of

seats and urinals. This is followed by rehearsals of interviews, with Chen himself acting as the embassy official. The workers are carefully coached on how to knock on the door, walk in, sit down, have eye contact, and move their fingers.

Chen has to undertake this “training” because the Japanese authorities require so. Despite the acute labour shortage, the Japanese government refuses to admit unskilled foreign workers and instead only accept them as “trainees” who must be employees of registered factories in China. But since a trainee earns only USD 600 a month for the first year and USD 1,100 in the next two, agents can only manage to recruit unemployed youths from the countryside. It is an open secret that agents pay factories to provide false employers' letters to these “workers”. Recently however, due to increasing domestic pressure, Japanese authorities have started making surprise telephone calls to workers questioning them, amongst other things, about the toilets in the factories they are supposedly registered with.

Chen's petty, commercially profitable lies help sustain the government's larger, politically interesting lies. The agents are indeed dogged, but the irregularity is essential for keeping up the appearance that everything is legal and under control. Under the current international migration regime, legal migration means creating “paper migrants”: forms need to be filled, photographs taken, certificates authorised, qualifications demonstrated, and guarantees secured. In other words, legality is not an attribute intrinsic to an action, but is socially manufactured.

“Manufacturing legality” is not the only function that migration agents assume. Agents also actively discipline migrants, thereby helping to further maintain the appearance of legality. Agents in China commonly collect security bonds (about RMB 20,000 for Japan and 30,000 for South Korea in 2006) and housing property certificates from migrants before their departure, which will be confiscated if the migrant violates any rule. It is also compulsory for the migrant to bring one or two civil servants (normally their relatives or family friends) to sign formal agreements with the agent as guarantors; the guarantors would compensate the agent by deducting their salaries for the migrant's any wrongdoings overseas. This method is regarded as particularly effective because migrants are more concerned about the moral pressure from the guarantors than about monetary loss.

Behind these disciplining actions is a long, transnational chain of liability. Governments of migrant-receiving countries commonly hold employers and recruitment agents responsible for preventing migrants going underground. Employers in turn outsource the tasks of policing and disciplining migrants to their agents. Under these pressures, agents in destination countries in turn oblige their counterparts in China to ensure migrants' absolute compliance. Thus, agents, although often denounced as an enemy of benevolent states, are in fact indispensable for states' control of transnational labour migrations in East Asia. They are “commercial bureaucrats” who play a key role in generating new modes of governance in globalising Asia.

I have focused on the complex interplay between migrants, private agents and states that generate a transnational system governing mobility over three years. I plan to finish the manuscript on this project by mid 2009, to be published by Princeton University Press.

CHAMPSEA (Children's Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia) Project Funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK. Training Meeting 1

31 October – 03 November 2007

The research team for the CHAMPSEA project completed a very successful four-day training meeting at ARI for representatives from the four study countries in November 2007. The training session was conducted by Principal Investigators Professor Brenda Yeoh (ARI) and Dr Elspeth Graham (University of St Andrews, UK), Co-investigators Dr Chee Heng Leng (ARI) and Associate Professor Wong Mee Lian (NUS) as well as both Postdoctoral Fellows working on this project, Dr Lucy Jordan (University of St Andrews) and Dr Andiara Schwingel (AMC, ARI). Three representatives who are involved in the pilot study from each of the four study countries attended this meeting. They are Dr Anna Marie Wattie, Ms Wini Tamtari and Mr Agus Joko Pitoyo (The Centre for Population and Policy Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia); Ms Cecilia Marave, Ms Cecilia Guerrero and Mr John Paul Asis (The Scalabrini Migration Center, The Philippines); Dr Aree Jampaklay, Dr Patama Vapattanawong and Ms Punyanuch Wongmahachern (The Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand) as well as Dr Nguyen Duc Vinh, Dr Le Kim Sa and Ms Nghiem Thi Thuy (Vietnam's Asia-Pacific Centre of Hanoi, Vietnam).

Participants spent their time during the sessions familiarising themselves with the various study instruments, learning about the ethical issues involved in conducting the pilot study as well as testing out the anthropometry equipment and MSAccess database. They also had the opportunity to conduct mock interviews in their own native language with the help of four research staff at ARI. We would like to thank Dr Tran Thi Que Ha (for Vietnam), Dr Michelle Ann Miller (for Indonesia), Dr Wasana Wongsurawat (for Thailand) and Ms Windel Anne Barizo Lacson (for the Philippines) for their time and help in agreeing to be "interviewed" by the respective country representatives. Finally, we are grateful to the Asia Research Institute for hosting us during this meeting.

Recent Publications

Douglass, Mike (guest ed.) (2007) "Global Householding and Migration in Pacific Asia", *Philippine Studies*, 55 (2) (A special issue containing papers presented at the "International Conference on Population and Development in Asia: Critical Issues for a Sustainable Future" held in March 2006).



Attane, Isabelle and Christophe Z. Guilmoto (eds.) (2007) "Watering the Neighbour's Garden", Paris: Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED) (from the "International Conference on Female Deficit in Asia: Trends and Perspectives" held in December 2005).



Malay Ethnic Identity: Unravelling the Historical from the Discursive
Professor Leonard Y. Andaya

15 November 2007



The subject of Malay ethnic identity has elicited much debate, but it has often been focused on the Malays in Malaysia and projected to other Malay populations in the region. Professor Andaya's main point was that the "Malay" in Malaysia should not be regarded as the equivalent of the "Malay" in Thailand or the "Malay" in Indonesia, as each of the Malay communities in these respective countries emphasised different features because of specific reasons. In other words, what a "Malay" is today in Malaysia would not have been the same as a "Malay" in the past. By adopting a historical perspective the speaker examined the changes in the political and natural landscape of the Malay world, to illustrate the dynamics of ethnic choice.

The lecture presented examples of the fluidity of multiple ethnic identities in the premodern era. One involved the Bataks of interior northern Sumatra who assumed a Malay identity when they went to the coast to trade, and then declared themselves Batak again when it was necessary to assume this ethnic identity for rituals regarding land ownership. Another example was of interior *orang asli* in Jambi in southeast Sumatra who became Malay when going to the coast to trade simply by changing their dress to that of the Malay and also by speaking Malay. In both the premodern and modern periods, it was the perceived advantage of the actors (whether the individual or the government) that was the primary motivation for ethnic definition and determination.

Nevertheless, there was a difference between the premodern period (before the late nineteenth century) and the modern period. In the former, Malay ethnic identity was determined not by governments or rulers but by individuals and groups. The reason for this difference had to do with the nature of the premodern political and natural landscape of the Malay world. All of Southeast Asia, including the Malay world, was heavily forested and very lightly populated. The aim of

Continued on page 10

BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

rulers then was to increase the numbers of their subjects since people were wealth. In wars, it was customary for the victorious armies to force large numbers of the vanquished population, particularly those with valued skills, to leave their own homes and resettle in lands close to the conquering lord. In this way the latter was able to undermine a rival monarch and strengthen his own position in the region.

The sparse populations and the keen contest for people among rulers produced a situation that was described by O.W. Wolters as a mandala-type polity of premodern Southeast Asia. The boundaries of a mandala polity were not demarcated by contiguous territories or seas, but by the location of the subjects. For example, the sea people (*orang laut*) and interior forest people (*orang asli*), led a mobile lifestyle hence making the ruler's domain also moveable and flexible. It was difficult for the ruler and his court to regulate or control movements of people, and so various means from sacred oaths to inducements were offered to attract people to the kingdom.

The lecture elaborated on the porosity of borders, the value of people, the great agency or initiative enjoyed by individuals and groups, and the ease with which one could switch ethnic attributes through adoption of language, dress, food, and customs making it possible for individuals and groups to take the major role in the formation of ethnic identities.

In contrast to the above, Professor Andaya asserted that in the modern period (late nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries), colonial and modern independent Malay(sian) government's role and political purposes were key in constructing the new Malay identity. For the colonial enterprise, the aim was to assemble, classify, and interpret knowledge of the colonised community for purposes of control. Categories of "races" or ethnic communities in Malay(sia) were therefore an invention of the colonial and then the Malay(sian) governments through legislation and practice. A common discursive start in tracing the "roots" of the identity problem in Malaysia was the Malay Reservations Enactment of 1913 (subsequently adopted by all the Malay states), which became the basis for the Federal Constitution of Malaysia's definition of a Malay as one who speaks the Malay language, habitually adheres to Malay customs, and is a follower of Islam.

Reaffirming notions used by the anthropologist A.B. Shamsul, Professor Andaya concluded that in the modern period the strength of central governments, diminishing resources, and precise legal international boundaries had severely limited ethnic choice and loyalties, and hence encouraged the process described as "authority-defined" social reality. In the past, a completely different situation made ethnic identity a flexible weapon which could be used by and for the benefit of the individual and the group, thus demonstrating the process of an "everyday-defined" social reality.

NOTICE OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

1. 3-Month Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowship Appointments

Applications are invited for 3-month Visiting (Senior) Fellowships, to commence from 1 October 2008. These positions are for outstanding active researchers on Asian topics, with a balance anticipated between senior and junior, the Asian region and the world. At least one published outcome is expected, and applicants who do not normally publish in English will be encouraged and assisted to do so. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. This position is essentially a writing fellowship.

The positions will be allocated to one of the ARI research clusters (see ARI website for details). Most of these clusters represent ARI's current areas of research focus, while the "open cluster" ensures openness to any innovative and promising project in the social sciences and humanities. Applicants should have a PhD and state the clusters and the 3-month term they are applying for.

This 3-month fellowship comes with a competitive remuneration and benefits package, depending on seniority, in the range Sing\$3,000 - \$12,000 a month. Some assistance will be provided with accommodation.

2. Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowship Appointments (Under ARI Sabbatical Leave Scheme)

Applications are invited for Visiting (Senior) Fellowships (under ARI Sabbatical Leave Scheme), to commence in October 2008. The positions are intended for researchers who would like to devote their sabbatical term from their home institutions to conducting work in ARI. Please note that this position is essentially a writing fellowship.

The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers on Asian topics. The positions will be allocated to one of the ARI research clusters (see ARI website for details). Most of these clusters represent ARI's current areas of research focus, while the "open cluster" ensures openness to any innovative and promising project in the social sciences and humanities. Applicants should have a PhD and state the clusters and period they are applying for.

As these positions are intended mainly for researchers who are in active employment of their home institution, applicants are expected to be self-financed. A token honourarium of SGD1200 will be provided to cover part of the cost of renting an apartment. Airfare may be provided.

Invitation to Apply

Applicants for both categories of fellowships above are invited to email/mail their applications, consisting of:

- Application form (http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/docs/forms/fm_app_Research_Appointments.doc);
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Synopsis of the proposed research project (no restriction on the number of pages);
- At least one sample of their published work;
- 2-3 referees' confidential reports on the applicant's academic standing as well as comment on their research project, to be submitted directly to ARI by 1 April 2008.

The closing date for applications is 1 April 2008. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Candidates who do not hear from the University within 8 weeks after closing date of the advertisement may assume the post has been filled. Address for applications and references: Human Resources, c/o: Ms Chong Mei Peen, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 469A Tower Block, Bukit Timah Road, #10-01, Singapore 259770, Fax: (65) 6779 1428, Email: joinari@nus.edu.sg

Continued on page 11

NEW ARI MEMBERS

Irving Chan Johnson has commenced a 6-month appointment as an Assistant Professor under the FASS Writing Semester Scheme from 3 Jan 2008.



Dr Johnson obtained his PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Southeast Asian Studies Programme. His research interests include marginality, history, mobility and circulation, personhood, ethnicity, religion, performing arts, borderlands. His geographical area of research focus is Kelantan, Malaysia.

At ARI, he will be working concurrently on three manuscripts: mobility and identity production in the Thai villages of Kelantan; a co-edited volume with Prof. Alexander Hortsman on the ethnography of Thailand's border regions; and a joint collaboration with the Kelantan Thai Association (Persatuan Masyarakat Thai Kelantan) on documenting the local history of Kelantan's Thai temples.

Prof Zhou Yongming has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Open Category from 4 Jan 2008.



Prof Zhou obtained his PhD in Anthropology from Duke University and his M.A. and B.A. in Chinese from the Nanjing University.

He is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His area of research interests are globalisation, development, political ecology, nationalism, ethnicity, drugs and online politics. His geographical area of focus is China (esp. Southwest China and Tibetan areas).

At ARI, he will work on a book project tentatively titled "Frontiers Incorporated: History of Road Construction in China East Himalayas, an Eco-Cultural Perspective".

Continued from page 10

3. PhD Research Scholarships

ARI is pleased to offer Ph.D. research scholarships, to commence in January 2009, in the following five interdisciplinary areas: Asian Migration, Religion & Globalisation in Asian Contexts, Cultural Studies in Asia, The Cold War In Asia, and Sumatra Heritage, Archaeology and Reconstruction (see ARI website for details).

The PhD scholarship is to be taken up jointly with an appropriate discipline-based department of NUS. This would normally be with a department of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, but where appropriate may also be with the university's Faculty of Law, School of Business or School of Design & Environment.

Applications should be submitted by 15 May 2008, indicating clearly which ARI interdisciplinary area applicants wish to join and which departments/faculty/school they wish to be attached to. Application procedures and forms can be obtained from the NUS website via URL: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/gd-applnresfeeform.html>. Applicants must use the application form from the website of the Faculty/School which they wish to seek admission into. However, applications should be sent direct to ARI c/o Ms Kristy Won, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 469A Tower Block, Bukit Timah Road, #10-01, Singapore 259770, Fax: (65) 6779 1428.

Prof Robert Harrison Barnes has commenced a 4-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Open Category from 4 Jan 2008.



Prof Barnes obtained his Ph.D and B.Litt. in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford. He is currently a Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford. His research interest is social anthropology and his geographical area of focus is Indonesia.

At ARI, he will research and write about the local and regional history of eastern Indonesia with a focus on the islands between Flores and Timor.

Dr Ronit Ricci has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Religion and Globalisation Cluster from 9 Jan 2008.



Dr Ricci earned a B.A and M.A in Indian languages and literatures and psychology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan, which was a study of translation, literary transmission and conversion to Islam based on Javanese, Malay and Tamil sources.

At ARI, she plans to revise her dissertation for publication, as well as begin research on the transition from manuscript culture to print in 19th century Java.

Dr Eva Tsai has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Research Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster from 17 Jan 2008.



Dr Tsai obtained her PhD in Mass Communication from University of Iowa and her M.A. in Journalism from University of Southern California. She is currently an Associate Professor at the National Taiwan Normal University. Her research interests include television and cultural production, youth cultural practices, transnational stardom. Her geographical areas of research focus are East Asia, Japan and Taiwan.

At ARI, she plans to work on a book manuscript tentatively titled "Production of love: Japanese scriptwriters, television dramas and East Asia".

Dr Felicia Hughes-Freeland has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster with effect from 1 Feb 2008. She obtained her Ph.D in Anthropology from the University of London S.O.A.S and her M.A. and B.A. in English from the University of Cambridge.



She is currently a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at the Swansea University. Her research interests include dance performance, gender, ritual and media, cultural politics, visual anthropology and visual ethnography, aesthetic and epistemology anthropological theory, embodiment and society. Her geographical areas of focus are Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

At ARI, she will be researching on gender and performance, writing up field data for one journal article on media representations of women singer-dancers in Javanese villages, and another on transnational performance.

ARI RECOGNITION AND NEW BOOKS

Professor Brenda Yeoh delivered a plenary speech on "Transnational Migration and Women on the Move in Southeast Asia" at the session on The Asia-Pacific Region, 12th International Metropolis Conference: Migration, Economic Growth and Social Cohesion, Melbourne, Australia, 8-12 October 2007. She was also appointed the Managing Editor of "Gender, Place and Culture" from January 2008.

Professor Chua Beng Huat delivered a keynote address titled "Culture against Nation: Malaysia and Singapore Cultural Continuities" at the 11th Malaysia-Singapore Forum, "Heritage, Identity and Nation Building", National University of Singapore on 23-25 October 2007.

Dr Stephen Teo delivered a keynote lecture titled "Towards a Theory of Asian Cinema as a Critical Inquiry into an Alternative Cinematic Paradigm" at the Graduate Research Conference at RMIT University on 26 October 2007.

Dr Johannes Widodo was appointed as International Scientific Committee member, Regional Architecture & Identity in the Age of Globalization, The Center for the Study of Architecture in the Arab Region, Tunis (Tunisia) in November 2007.

Professor Gavin Jones gave a presentation titled "Education, Gender and Socio-demographic Change in Pacific Asia: Some Emerging Issues", at the Beijing Forum in Peking University, 2-4 November 2007.

Professor Pierre-Yves Manguin gave a plenary session lecture titled "Was Southeast Asia Indianised before 'Indianisation'?" at the Conference on Early Indian Influences in Southeast Asia: Reflections on Cross-Cultural Movements at ARI, NUS, on 22 November 2007.

Professor Anthony Reid presented the lead paper titled "Revolutionary State Formation and the Unitary National State" at the Conference on Multinational States: East and West, sponsored by Multi-campus Ethnicity and Democratic Governance Project at the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, on 21 September 2007.

He gave the opening presentation, "Sources of the Aceh Conflict and its Resolution", at the seminar "The Story of Aceh: Insights" sponsored by Muslim Aid and UMCOR, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 11 December 2007.

He also delivered 2 keynote lectures, the first titled "'Glocalisation' in Asia's Past and Present" at the 12th Shizuoka Asia-Pacific Forum, Shizuoka, Japan, on 8 December 2007; and the second titled "The Challenge of Understanding Disease Regimes in Southeast Asia", at the 2nd International Conference on the History of Medicine in Southeast Asia, sponsored by Universiti Sains Malaysia and the Wellcome Trust, in Penang on 9 January 2008.

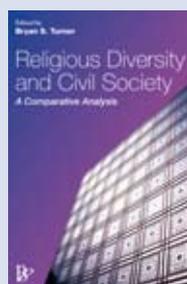
Professor Bryan Turner gave a plenary lecture on "The Struggle between Religion and Politics in the Civil Sphere" at the Conference on Religion and the Formation of New Politics at the Philippine Association for the Sociology of Religion in University of Santo Thomas, Manila, Philippines on 23-25 January 2008.

His book, *The Body and Society: Explorations in Social Theory*, Second Edition, Sage, London, 1996, has hit 5,000 in sales and has been classified by Sage as one of its best sellers.

New Books



Islamic Legitimacy in a Plural Asia
Anthony Reid and Michael Gilsean (editors)
Routledge, Abingdon
2007



Religious Diversity and Civil Society. A Comparative Analysis
Bryan Turner (editor)
Bardwell Press, Oxford
2007



Performance in Bali
I Nyoman Sedana and Leon Rubin
Routledge, New York
2007



Islamic Law in Contemporary Indonesia: Ideas and Institutions
Michael Feener and Mark Cammack (editors)
Harvard University Press, Harvard
2007



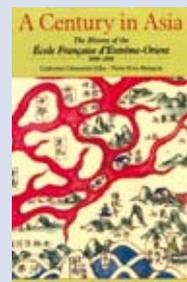
Over Singapore 50 Years Ago: An Aerial View in the 1950s
Brenda Yeoh and Theresa Wong (editors)
Editions Didier Millet and National Archives of Singapore, Singapore
2007



The Impact of Ageing: A Common Challenge for Europe and Asia
Gavin Jones, Gabriele Sinigoj, Katsuiku Hirokawa, and Sepp Linhart (editors)
LIT Verlag, Berlin
2007



Singapore's Hawker Centres
Lily Kong
Singapore National Printers, Singapore
2007



A Century in Asia. The History of the École française d'Extrême-Orient 1898-2006
Pierre-Yves Manguin and Catherine Clémentin-Ojha
Éditions Didier Millet/École française d'Extrême-Orient, Singapore, Paris
2007