



# ARI NEWS

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

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## It's Great to be an ARI Graduate Student Fellow!

### Asian Graduate Student Fellowship and 3rd Singapore Graduate Forum

It may appear to be a lull period at the National University of Singapore (NUS) when students are on long vacation, but at ARI, one of its flagship programmes - The Asian Graduate Student Fellowship - is actively in place since its commencement on 2 May 2008. Originally the ASEAN Scholars Programme, the renamed Programme now in its sixth year offers fellowships to graduate students from Asian countries researching on specific topics on Southeast Asia in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Providing for its recipients to be based at NUS for a period of three months, the Fellowship's aim is to enable scholars to make full use of the wide range of resources held in the libraries of NUS and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies for their research, and to interact with NUS academics, graduate students and visitors. It is funded by ARI and the Ford Foundation in Jakarta.

This year's batch consists of thirty fellows from Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. Each fellow is assigned a mentor chosen from ARI or from various NUS Departments including Sociology, History, Geography, Chinese Studies, English Language and Literature and Architecture. Fellows also participate in a specially designed weekly workshop titled 'Writing with Editorial Sensibility', on scholarly writing and professional presentation and communication skills conducted by Dr Kay Mohlman. They conclude their fellowship in late July with presentations on their research at the Third Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia.

Since its inception, the Programme has been very successful in nurturing young scholars and building research capacity in the region in the Humanities and Social Sciences. A total of eighty-six graduate students have successfully completed the Programme in the last five years, and the current group brings the total to well over 100. The Programme has also proven to be very popular within the region, as evidenced by the positive word-of-mouth publicity, increasing number of applications every year and the substantial improvement in the quality of applications.

Preparations for the 3rd Singapore Graduate Forum (28-29 Jul) are also in full swing. Response to the call for papers on Southeast Asia to be presented at the Forum was overwhelming, with over a hundred applicants. But with only

fifty places available, many good papers had to be turned away. Participants are primarily from universities in the ASEAN region and include those from ARI's Asian Graduate Students Fellowship Programme as well as graduate students from NUS and Nanyang Technological University. There is also a good representation of graduate students from other parts of the world, in particular Australia, Europe and North America.

The Forum consists of twenty-four panels covering a wide range of topics on Southeast Asia such as early history, politics, economics, international relations, religion (discourses, modernity, Islamic movements, identity and politics) and linguistics, as well as specific aspects such as HIV/AIDs, ethnic issues, food, spaces (urban, connections and constructions), literature, identity and diversity, queer cinema and blogs, household economics, performing arts, conflict resolution, migration (work and citizenship), gender (marginalisation, education), violence and NGOs (response to disasters). In addition, the forum has scheduled three keynote addresses by Dewi Fortuna Anuar (Deputy Chairman of Social Sciences and Humanities, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia) on Contemporary Politics in Southeast Asia; Professor Chua Beng Huat (Asia Research Institute and Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore) on East Asian Pop Cultures; and Professor Robert Hefner (Department of Anthropology, Boston University, USA) on Civil Islam Revisited. The Forum ends with a special session on pedagogy.

All in all, fruitful exchanges of ideas among graduate students and academics working in the area of South East Asian studies can be expected. Here is what some graduate students say about the Fellowship:

*ARI is doing a commendable job in creating a venue for blossoming scholars from all over the region to interact. The program has helped us in creating a network of fellow academics with whom we can collaborate in dealing with issues in the Asian milieu... The chance to do research in NUS, the emergent Asian research hub, is more than a privilege, it is an honour — Michael Armand P. Canilao, Philippines.*

*I had a great experience from the Fellowship in ARI. It gave me an opportunity to develop and improve my intellectual capabilities*

## WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR Professor Lily Kong

### Looking Ahead: New Premises, New Initiatives



NUS is currently engaged in a major building project, and ARI is key part of it! Currently the university is made up of three sites – the 140 ha Kent Ridge site where the bulk of the university is, the 5 ha Bukit Timah site (BTC) where ARI is currently located, and the 1 ha Outram site where the NUS-Duke Graduate Medical School is located. Come

2010, NUS will have a fourth site - an additional 19 ha at the former Warren golf course, near the Kent Ridge site. This will constitute "University Town", envisaged to be a hub of life and activity.

University Town will be made up of five undergraduate residential colleges, two graduate residences, an edu-sport complex, an educational resource centre, sports facilities, and retail functions. Additionally, some 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space will be given to CREATE – the National Research Foundation's Campus for Research Excellence and Technology Enterprise. After some negotiations, it has been agreed that ARI will be housed on the top floor of the two-storey educational resource centre, a building intended to be the iconic centerpiece of the University Town. The entire site will have the distinct honour of being the Games village for the inaugural Youth Olympic Games, scheduled for August 2010.

In the last few months, there have been (almost) weekly meetings with planners and architects to shape ARI's new space. The good news is that there will be more space than is currently available at BTC; everyone will be on the same floor, hopefully enhancing interactions; there will be no windowless rooms and extremely narrow corridors!

ARI will likely move to the University Town site in late 2010 after the Youth Olympic Games are over. This will allow us to be closer to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Design and Environment, School of Business, and

the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, although we will then be further away from the Faculty of Law, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, East Asian Institute and Institute of South Asian Studies. Given ARI's confluence of interests and activities with FASS and SDE, there is overall an upside to the move, even without considering the improved physical environment.

Hardware aside, ARI is now planning for two new initiatives. The revamped Asia Trends is being planned for 20 May 2009, under the coordination of Lai Ah Eng. This will be a day-long conference that is designed specifically with the interested public and the public sector in mind. There will be five sessions during which key issues and trends on sustainable cities, families, migration, popular culture, and religion in Asia will be presented in accessible ways.

The Inter-Asia Roundtable, designed to bring together some of the key researchers in the study of families in different parts of Asia, will be held in August 2009. Led by Gavin Jones, with active contributions from members of the Changing Family in Asia cluster, the theme for this year will be "Gender Relations in the 21st Century Asian Family". Convergences and divergences across and within regions of Asia will be examined.

Even as we look ahead to these new annual flagship events that will have an annual cycle henceforth, my colleagues involved in bringing out ARI's Working Paper Series (WPS) have been working behind the scenes to make possible backend tracking of the reach of ARI's working papers. Henry Kwan has done an excellent job, together with NUS' Computer Centre, so that we now can have updates about which papers are enjoying the most downloads. Geoff Wade's (2003) paper on "The Pre-Modern East Asian Maritime Realm: An Overview of European-Language Studies" remains the most downloaded, chalking up 1,572 downloads alone in the month of May this year. Efforts are now being made to actively and regularly distribute the links to ARI's working papers on relevant discussion lists, and with Asia-related research institutes and researchers, rather than relying on those who visit ARI's website to discover them. Thanks are due to Geoff Wade for having ably brought the WPS to 100 papers in May 2008, and handing over seamlessly to Stephen Teo.

Other initiatives are in store ... work has progressed on an ARI book series, a website revamp is underway, and new discussions about research initiatives are in the air. I look forward to sharing more about these in the next newsletter.

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*and to interact with other participants and established scholars in ARI. The idea to broaden the program from ASEAN to Asia is a good decision. It will help other young scholars in this region gain fruitful experiences in this great institution and university — Muhammad Febriansyah, Indonesia.*

*I have learnt many things from the Fellowship, such as from the English workshop for academic writing, NUS library resources and attendance at seminars and conferences, as well as on life in Singapore. Moreover, I am very proud to be the first graduate student from Cambodia under this fellowship — Vong Meng, Cambodia.*

*ARI is a place where we can access resources in a very pleasant workplace. It is also a very encouraging environment that promotes regional knowledge-networking. We can share our knowledge about our subjects, culture, tradition, politics and economic*

*performance of individual ASEAN countries — Myo Myo Myint, Burma/Myanmar.*

*The Fellowship provides an excellent opportunity for me and other graduate students to enrich our skills of doing social research. It also provides a supportive learning environment by extending social and academic networks as well as offering access to the NUS and ISEAS libraries. The Writing Workshop helps me gain knowledge about academic writing which is very useful for my career as a researcher — Do Thi Thanh Ha, Vietnam.*

*The ARI fellowship scheme is a great boon for all budding scholars of the ASEAN region. With excellent facilities and materials, world-class experts, and a great atmosphere for scholarly research, it has been an enriching and truly rewarding experience to be at ARI. In addition, the friendship forged throughout this fellowship with the many regional scholars is indeed memorable and priceless to say the least — David C.E. Tneh, Malaysia.*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Workshop on Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts

25 – 26 September 2008

The increasing scale and pace of transnational mobility has brought about new forms of social diversity in societies and communities in many parts of the world. Yet, in contrast to the large body of scholarship in western contexts, there is relatively little attention given to growing diversity in Asia. This workshop, hosted by ARI's Migration Cluster, seeks to address this gap by bringing together scholars from within and beyond the region to discuss the ways that migration and diversity are emerging in Asian contexts.

The increasing diversity being woven into the fabrics of Asian societies and communities is driven by a range of factors including labour migration, cross-national marriages and return migration. In some cases, these issues need to be understood within the contexts of already pluralistic societies, such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Some of these societies have also historically encountered conflicts and tensions between ethnic groups but also experienced accommodation and integration efforts and processes. In other cases, they are occurring in ostensibly homogenous societies such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China, and immigration poses a new challenge to policymakers, the public and to immigrants themselves. In general, for members of host societies, the tremendous speed and scale of immigration and the variety of immigrants' backgrounds pose adjustment problems of perception and acceptance of immigrants and of changes to their existing social orders, cultures and identities.

This research workshop has the following aims:

- to explore the changing landscape of migration and diversity in Asian contexts
- to understand emerging discourses, debates and issues on diversity
- to examine current approaches in scholarship, policy and practice to migration and diversity
- to identify key areas for further research.

Themes to be explored at the workshop include the following: multiculturalism and citizenship; local responses to diversifying contexts; competition and conflict; governing diversity; processes of settlement and cultural change; negotiating diverse identities; diverse cultures; and diverse Singapore.

Contact persons for further details:

Dr Lai Ah Eng: arilae@nus.edu.sg

Dr Francis Leo Collins: ariflc@nus.edu.sg

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### International Conference on Heritage in Asia: Converging Forces and Conflicting Values

8 – 10 January 2009

Rapid economic and social change across Asia today means the region's heritage is at once under threat and undergoing a revival as never before. Expanding infrastructures, increasing incomes, liberalising economies and the lowering of borders, both physical and political, are all converging as powerful forces transforming Asia's social, cultural and physical landscapes. But as the region's societies look forward, there are competing forces that ensure they re-visit the past and the inherited. In recent years the idea of "heritage" – both natural and cultural – has come to the fore across Asia, driven by a language of identity, tradition, revival, and sustainability. For some, heritage has become an effective means for protecting those landscapes, rituals, artifacts or traditional values endangered by rapid socio-economic change. For others, it has emerged as a valuable resource for achieving wider goals such as poverty alleviation, the legitimisation of narratives of place and past, nation building or the cultural profiling of citizens. And yet for others, heritage protection is an obstacle inhibiting progress, national unification, or the shedding of unwanted memories.

There is little doubt that over the coming decade the contestations surrounding heritage in Asia will continue to intensify, whereby converging forces and conflicting values are the norm. In response, suitable theoretically informed platforms for understanding and mediating these forces and values are much needed.

This conference examines heritage in relation to the broader social, environmental and economic changes occurring across Asia today. We strongly welcome contributions which consider the validity of current heritage theory for understanding contemporary Asia, and where appropriate, offer new conceptual and analytical directions. We also encourage submissions from researchers who offer insights into the connections between heritage and social development, urban studies, post-conflict reconstruction, migration/diaspora, trans-national capitalism, human rights, or popular culture. Proposed themes include Heritage in Cosmopolitan Urban Spaces, Heritage, Reconstruction and Reconciliation, Economies of Heritage, Heritage and Diversity, and Heritage and Modernity.

Paper proposals including 250-word abstracts and 5-line biography should be submitted on the proposal submission form (available online at <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/showfile.asp?eventfileid=402>) by 1 September 2008 to Ms Valerie Yeo at [valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg](mailto:valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg). Successful applicants will be notified by 15 September and will be required to send in a completed paper by 15 December 2008.

Some funding will be available for those in the Asian region, post-graduate students, and others unable to fund themselves. Selected papers will be put forward for publication in a refereed edited volume.

Contact persons for further details:

Dr Patrick Daly: [aripd@nus.edu.sg](mailto:aripd@nus.edu.sg)

Dr Tim Winter: [tim.winter@usyd.edu.au](mailto:tim.winter@usyd.edu.au)

## RECENT ARI EVENTS

### Workshop on Mass Media & Medicine in Asia

28 – 29 Feb 2008

Organised by Dr Liew Kai Khiun and Professor Chua Beng Huat, this interdisciplinary workshop brought together many scholars to explore the trends and issues in which health and medical discourses are being communicated in the Asian continent. A diverse range of topics were explored, covering the proliferation of popular medical books, newspaper reporting of epidemics, genetics education, communication issues in HIV test reporting, medicine and cinema, regulation of unhealthy food advertisements and the increasing prominence of alternative and vernacular healing cultures in the media. The geographical and historical scopes of these discussions spread from colonial India to contemporary China and Southeast Asia. The workshop had a good mix of participants ranging from prominent medical anthropologists like Professors Steve Ferzacca and Judith Farquhar to outstanding PhD candidates. Also among the speakers were historians, researchers of Gender, Media, Journalism and Cultural Studies as well as Health Communication. In essence, this workshop has been crucial in providing a more prominent and concrete platform for the study of health communication in Asia, particularly in the Southeast Asian region. Plans are now being undertaken for an edited volume, expected to be completed by the end of 2009, based on the papers presented.



### Conference on “The Cold War in Asia: The Cultural Dimension”

24 – 25 March 2008

Although much has been written concerning “the cultural dimensions” of the Cold War and how they influenced politics and diplomacy in the West, little has been presented from the Asian point of view. This workshop was organised as an attempt to balance this seemingly lop-sided study of the Cold War, by Dr Vu Tuong Huu and Dr Wasana Wongsurawat, with the support of Prof Anthony Reid and Dr. Geoffrey Wade. Scholars of the Cold War from across the East and Southeast Asian regions and beyond descended upon the ARI Seminar Room for the 2-day conference in search of the agency of Asian actors in the Cold War arena. Many stimulating papers were presented on how the Korean and Vietnam wars were not only fought by the main combatants, but also by the local

leaders of the various Korean and Vietnamese factions involved. Other contributors demonstrated how decisions and actions taken by East and Southeast Asian leaders significantly shaped the outcome of the Cold War on the global scale. Judging from the substantial quality of the papers presented, the conference organisers are hopeful that the publication of an edited volume will be forthcoming in the near future.



## International Workshop on Buddhism and the Crises of Nation-States in Asia

19 – 20 June 2008

Jointly organised by ARI and Religion Research Cluster, Faculty of Arts & Social Science, NUS, various speakers in this workshop explored the role and position of Buddhism in various Asian countries.



Since the end of the Second World War, Buddhism has served as a spiritual and political backbone to many of the “new Asian states”, and pervaded the politics of nation-building and modernisation processes in Asia’s new Buddhist-dominated nation-states. But it has had major problematic relationships with these modern states and their rulers.

Speakers covered a wide range of issues, such as “Buddhist Perception of Monarchy and Its Relevance in Nepal’s Politics” in which Tina Manandhar explored the events leading to the downfall of the Nepali king who had not acted in accordance with the Buddhist vision of monarchy; “Women and the Thai sangha” in which Monica Falk raised questions about the sangha’s role as a male stronghold in relation to gender and socially engaged Buddhism in Thailand; and “Buddhism in Sri Lanka and its Relationships with the Modern State” in which Mahinda Deegalle examined the relationships that existed in the past prior to the colonial period and some of the relationships that continue to influence both Theravada Buddhism and the modern state in Sri Lanka. Plenary papers were delivered on “Religion, the State and Violence: Is Buddhism Different?” by Prof Anthony Reid and on “Reflections on Violence and the Ethic of Brotherly Love” by Prof Bryan Turner. The outcome of this workshop will be an edited volume based on the papers presented.

## International Workshop on Autonomy and Armed Separatism in South and Southeast Asia

26 – 27 June 2008

This workshop was co-hosted by ARI, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and NUS, and was supported by The Asia Foundation and the Centre on Asia and Globalisation.

Scholars and policy-makers have promoted various forms of autonomy as the most democratic way of accommodating separatist insurgents in ethnically, politically, religiously, economically and socially divided states troubled by intensifying armed separatist conflicts. Despite this, very few states have successfully ended their armed separatist conflicts through offers of autonomy or self-governance. 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.

In this workshop, speakers took a multidisciplinary approach towards understanding national identity problems in seven South and Southeast Asian countries: Indonesia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand, India and Indonesia’s former province of East Timor. Speakers explored 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, and how these attempts to achieve conflict resolution through autonomy have met with varying degrees of success, ranging from Indonesia’s successful offer of self-governance to Aceh to the ongoing separatist insurgencies in Indonesia’s Papua, Southern Thailand, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and Burma. The organisers expect the publication of an edited volume based on the papers presented.





### **Birgit Bräuchler**

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

**January 2006 – April 2008**

**Assistant Professor**

**Department of Social Anthropology  
Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University  
Frankfurt am Main, Germany**

In 1996 I came under the spell of an archipelago in Eastern Indonesia, the Moluccas. These islands inspired me to conduct field research under very unusual and difficult circumstances. It also opened up new theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches for my discipline in sociocultural anthropology.

I first travelled to the Moluccas as a student of anthropology and was fascinated by the beauty and cultural richness of the place. Until the end of 1998 the Moluccas, with its half Christian and half Muslim population, was praised for its seemingly harmonious inter-religious relations. However, a minor incident in Ambon town in January 1999 sparked a bloody and enduring multidimensional conflict between Christians and Muslims. Field research in the Moluccas was hardly possible during these times of conflict and I had to move to cyberspace to do research for my PhD. From 1999 until 2003, I followed the ongoings in the Moluccas online. In the beginning, the Internet was mainly a source of information for me. Later, I realised that it was more than that. It was where the construction of diverse realities or perceptions of the conflict, propaganda, recruitment, identity construction, and community building happened. In other words, I encountered an online dissemination of information on a local conflict, and its expansion into cyberspace by local actors who used the Internet as a strategic weapon, thus “globalising” a local conflict. The anthropology of the Internet or cyberanthropology, as I call it, was still in its infancy at that time. Established ethnographic methods such as long-term participant observation and theories about identity, conflict, media and such had to be transferred to this new field. The results of my PhD project were published in a book, “Cyberidentities at War: Der Molukkenkonflikt im Internet”

(The Moluccan Conflict Online, 2005, Bielefeld: transcript), and various articles in English, French and German. My postdoctoral fellowship at ARI enabled me to finalise some of these articles and to start editing a book on “Theorising Media and Practice” (together with John Postill).

At ARI, I also started on a new project. Bookshelves in academia are swamped with literature on conflict and violence in Indonesia, but almost nothing is written on peace and reconciliation efforts there. I felt it was time to develop a more positive outlook of the future and study how Indonesians cope with their past. It was another challenging endeavour. This peace process coincided with the reformation era in Indonesia after the fall of Suharto in 1998. The new decentralisation policies were accompanied by the revitalisation of adat in many parts of Indonesia. In the Moluccas, the revival of adat was not only part of this common trend, but also a strategic move by local people to foster reconciliation between the warring parties. During my stay at ARI, I conducted several fieldtrips to the Moluccas in order to explore 1) the complex interconnection between the revival of adat, decentralisation and post-conflict era, 2) how tradition or the revival of traditional structures are used as a means to build interreligious bridges, to enable reconciliation and to create sustainable peace, and 3) to see what problems and challenges come along with these initiatives. Another fascinating dimension of this new project is that these are phenomena that are on the rise worldwide: the revival of tradition (not as an attempt to bring back a glorified past, but as a strategic move to selectively use traditional elements for future developments) and the consideration of traditional justice mechanisms to solve small and large-scale conflicts, where more standardised mechanisms such as truth commissions or international trials are either not applied or have failed.

As a first attempt to add a comparative perspective to my own findings in the Moluccas and as a step to counter the severely under-researched field of peace studies in Indonesia and newly independent East Timor, I organised an interdisciplinary international conference at ARI, on behalf of the Indonesia Study Group, on “In Search of Reconciliation and Peace in Indonesia and East Timor”. The conference put a special emphasis on the different cultures of reconciliation that emerge on the grassroots level. Selected papers will be published in an edited volume. I am grateful to ARI for supporting this project. Due to the increasing number of religious and ethnic conflicts worldwide and the frequent failure of reconciliation tools, both this volume and the results of my overall research will provide new insights for conflict, peace and reconciliation research.

I thank ARI for providing me an intellectually inspiring place, where I could cross disciplinary boundaries and get to know many new colleagues and their interesting work.



**Mika Toyota**

**Research Fellow**

**October 2004 – July 2008**

**Assistant Professor**

**Department of Sociology**

**National University of Singapore**

**1 August 2008 –**

### **An Emerging ‘Transnational Care Regime’**

Both Japan and Singapore are now facing a similar demographic challenge: ageing societies. In Japan, people aged 65 and over make up 21.5 per cent of the population, and those aged 75 years and above account for nearly 10 per cent, which is the highest percentage in the world. Singapore, for its part, has one of the fastest-ageing population in the world. As the number of people needing health and personal care rapidly increases, a shortage of care labour becomes a critical concern not only for individual households but also for the state. Furthermore, the provision of elderly care is becoming more difficult to sustain within the framework of the nation state.

Although it is the Asian norm that care for the frail and the elderly is provided within the family, new means are also being sought. For example, in Singapore, migrant care labour is now playing a much greater role in the provision of care to the elderly both in private households as well as in institutional homes. In contrast, some Japanese retirees are going abroad to secure their needs.

My on-going research project explores how various actors – the state, care industries, families and individuals – are seeking alternatives in the care sphere beyond national boundaries. I am developing a new conceptual framework of the “transnational care regime” to analyse this phenomenon at different levels in an integrated manner. The “transnational care regime” consists of new patterns of mobility, new modes of regulation, new household compositions, and new life styles. In order to map out this concept I investigate two streams of transnational mobility moving in opposite directions – one is the mobility of Japanese elderly to Southeast Asia (mainly to Malaysia, the Philippines, and

Thailand), the other is the mobility of care workers (nurses and care givers) from China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Philippines to Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and elsewhere. Collectively the two cases delineate how relations between the state (new policies and regulations), care industries (emerging markets of care), changing family relations and the elderly individual are being negotiated and reconfigured within the area of care provision. Seeking care abroad by retirees provides a good example of the “transnational care regime” in practice.

Seeking retirement places somewhere abroad with lower living costs and reasonable medical and other facilities for the elderly is seen as a feasible alternative to staying at home. While the seasonal pendulum mobility is the most popular pattern (avoiding the cold winter in Japan, returning home in the summer), increasing numbers of older elderly are moving to Southeast Asia on a long term basis. A strikingly high proportion of single Japanese males are found in the Philippines and in Thailand. This reflects the changing family in Japan where late marriage has become a significant trend – the percentage of never-married males has reached 14.0% for those aged 50-54 in 2005. Another unexpected pattern of international retirement migration, not found in Europe, is that some Japanese retirees bring their own parents along with them to Southeast Asia to establish multi-generational households at their destination.

An interesting aspect on the receiving side is the active involvement of the state. By issuing special visas for foreign retirees and making them pay a deposit, a new strategy of economic development attracting foreign currency has been found. Malaysia, for example, launched the “Silver Hair Programme” in 1996, which gives special visas for foreigners over 50 years of age. This scheme was revised to “Malaysia My Second Home” programme (MM2H) in 2002, which is open to all age groups. MM2H was primarily designed to boost property investment by foreigners. As tourism is the country’s second largest foreign exchange earner, the Ministry of Tourism is outsourcing the task of reaching out to the target number of 100,000 foreign participants by 2010 to the private sector. In the case of Thailand, the government collaborates with private enterprises, particularly those in the tourism and health care sectors, to position itself as the health tourism capital of Southeast Asia. Japanese have become one of the most important customers of health tourism in Thailand. It is estimated that in the year 2005 alone, a total of 230,625 Japanese visited health care facilities in Thailand. In the case of the Philippines where almost 85% of certified nurses are working abroad, developing retirement industries (including medical tourism) is seen as one potential solution to the alarming rate of nurse out-migration.

In sum, the “transnational care regime” is a constellation of regulations, policies, institutions social norms and individual strategies which goes beyond national sovereignty, and is emergent from the interplay between various actors.



**Hiroko Matsuda and Wasana Wongsurawat**

**ARI Post-Doctoral Fellows**

### **Intersection: Experiences of Postdoctoral Fellows**

**Hiroko:** You commenced the appointment as a postdoctoral fellow at ARI in September 2007, one month after I joined ARI as a postdoctoral fellow. What were you doing before coming to Singapore?

**Wasana:** Before coming to Singapore, I was finishing up my doctoral degree in Chinese history at Oxford. Before that I did my undergraduate work at the University of Chicago, USA. And before that I was living with my parents in Thailand from the age of 0 to 17. My area of research concerns the overseas Chinese community in Thailand. I decided that I would like to come to ARI after attending a lecture in the Southeast Asian Studies series at St. Antony's College, Oxford. The guest lecturer was Professor Anthony Reid and the topic had something to do with the evolution of nationalism in Southeast Asia. Since my doctoral thesis was on the early developments of nationalism in another Southeast Asian country, Thailand, I immediately made up my mind that working with Professor Reid at ARI would be the best next-stop after the completion of my DPhil at Oxford. How about you, Hiroko? Why don't you tell us a bit about your exciting research — another fascinating perspective on transnationalism — and how you managed to land in Singapore just a month before my arrival.

**Hiroko:** I am originally from Japan and completed my doctoral degree in the Australian National University. My dissertation explores the cross-border social history between Okinawa and colonial Taiwan during the time of the Japanese empire. In East Asia during the 19th and the early 20th century, people produced their own social spaces that were not always manipulated by a national government. My research concerns how people's social space contradicts, develops and negotiates with nationalism and imperialism of East Asia. Before coming to Singapore, I lived in Taiwan for one year, being affiliated with the Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica. At that time, I was looking for a postdoctoral researcher's position because I needed extra time to look into materials which I collected in Taiwan and to revise my dissertation in order to publish it into a book. Although I had little knowledge about ARI before coming

to Singapore, I was amazed and glad to know that I had got involved in an exciting and stimulating research institute.

You seemed to have some ideas about ARI before coming to Singapore. How have you been doing so far? What makes you busy in Singapore?

**Wasana:** Aside from working on my own project, namely, revising my DPhil dissertation into a book manuscript, I have also managed to get myself involved in quite a few other fascinating projects. I helped organise a conference on "The Cold War in Asia: The Cultural Dimension" in March. I am involved in organising the 3rd Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia in July. Furthermore, I am working on a couple of journal articles, which I hope to finish by the end of my time here in early September. I find the environment at ARI to be quite academically stimulating. Lots of new and interesting ideas seem to be floating around constantly and, at the same time, I also have the luxury of time and concentration to develop a few of these ideas in a way that was not possible back in my graduate school days. In short, academically speaking, I am greatly enjoying my time here in Singapore.

**Hiroko:** It is challenging to present my research to scholars who share similar knowledge and interests. But on the other hand, speaking with people from different backgrounds clarifies my thoughts, and re-identifies my study in a broader context. Unlike you, I don't belong to any particular research group at ARI. But, I feel that I am a postdoctoral fellow of "Multi-clusters" rather than "Open Cluster", since I have joined a number of study groups, seminars and workshops coordinated by several different clusters. While I learn a lot of new things from ARI's research activities — many of them focusing on South East Asia, I also have engaged with research and teaching at the Department of Japanese Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of NUS. I tutored a Japanese Studies course for one semester; it was a fun experience. Oh, you will be teaching in Thailand after leaving Singapore in September, won't you?

**Wasana:** Yes, the end of my year-long contract at ARI in early September will conclude my decade of education and training abroad. I shall return home, that is, Bangkok, and take up my next appointment as lecturer in the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. I would be teaching courses on Chinese and East Asian history (preferably of the modern era) and will try to continue my research on the overseas Chinese community in Thailand. How about you, Hiroko, where are you going from here?

**Hiroko:** From August this year, I will be affiliated with Academia Sinica in Taiwan as a postdoctoral fellow. I have come across a number of scholars during my appointment in ARI, which made me think how I would like to pursue a career, and how I can make a contribution to a broader world beyond academic communities. Yet I don't know in which part of the world I can take a step forward.

**Wasana:** All things considered, I think we could both conclude, happily, that our postdoc year at ARI has been a fruitful, memorable, and gastronomic one. Thank you.

### CHAMPSEA (Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia)

Project Funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK.



Activities organised by Atikha in San Pablo City

After successfully completing the pilot study for CHAMPSEA in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in December 2007, the research team has now embarked on the second stage of the project, which is conducting fieldwork for the collection of quantitative data in all study countries.

The Philippines was the first country to start the ball rolling for fieldwork, beginning with community interviews with key informants, then moving on to the intensive training of interviewers and subsequently going out into the field to conduct the interviews. The in-country research team, led by Dr Maruja M.B. Asis and assisted by Ms Cecilia Marave (both from The Scalabrini Migration Center [SMC]), has chosen the provinces of Bulacan and Laguna as their field sites after much consideration. Among others, both are among the top ten source provinces of international migrants from the Philippines.

Laguna, a province south of Metro Manila, is one of the more developed provinces in the Philippines. It has a total land area of around 175,973 hectares with some 28 municipalities, 2 cities and 674 barangays. Its ethnically Tagalog population numbers around 1,965,872 (in 2000) and its capital is Santa Cruz. This province has abundant natural resources and its wide fields and vast forests are ideal for growing rice, coconuts, vegetables, tropical fruits, orchids, and other ornamental flowers and exotic plants. Laguna is also the home province of the country's national hero, Jose Rizal. SMC cooperated with San Pablo Colleges in carrying out the survey in San Pablo City and Bay.

Moving over to the first province north of Metro Manila, Bulacan is larger in terms of total land area (around 262,500 hectares) but has fewer municipalities and barangays (22 municipalities, 2 component cities and 569 barangays). Its capital is Malolos and the population figures stand at around 2,684,530 in 2007. It is also a Tagalog-speaking province.

Bulacan has a rich historical heritage, being the birthplace of the First Constitutional Democracy in Asia in 1899 (in the historic Barasoain Church in Malolos City) as well as the birthplace of several of the nation's heroes such as Marcelo H. del Pilar, otherwise known as "The Great Propagandist" and General Gregorio del Pilar or "The Hero of Tirad Pass". A considerable portion of Bulacan's agricultural lands had been converted into subdivisions in response to the growing housing needs of its growing population. SMC worked hand in hand with Bulacan State University in conducting the survey in Malolos City and Calumpit.

Members of the research team from Singapore (Prof Brenda Yeoh, Dr Andiara Schwingel and Ms Theodora Lam) and St. Andrews, Scotland (Dr Elspeth Graham) also had the opportunity of joining in the activities in the Philippines during the various stages of their fieldwork. Some of the interesting information they have gathered include learning about the presence of a non-government organisation named Atikha in San Pablo City, Laguna, which deals specifically with issues relating to the families and children left behind by Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). This is rather unique as there are typically few NGOs that cater particularly to left behind families. The organisation conducts activities for left behind children to help them appreciate the hardships experienced by their migrant parents as well as equip them with money-saving tips to help them use their remittances wisely. Over in Bulacan, it was discovered that one of the awards given out annually to outstanding Bulakeños is for the wife of an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) who proves to be capable of managing the remittances sent by her husband. One way of deciding on the winner is by comparing the amount that the husband earns overseas and tallying it against the wife's savings, investments and improvements to the household.

We are deeply grateful to the in-country team from the Philippines, especially Dr Maruja Asis and Ms Cecilia Marave, for their warm hospitality and help during our time in the field.

In the meantime, fieldwork has also started in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. Each study country contains a rich source of data that will undoubtedly enrich our understanding on the situation of the left behinds.



Bustling town centre of Calumpit Bulacan

# NOTICE OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

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

Applications are invited for 3-month Visiting (Senior) Fellowships at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore, to commence in April, July and October 2009. The positions are intended 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. "Asia" as a research field is defined loosely in terms of the region in which Singapore is positioned.

The positions will be allocated to one of the ARI clusters (see ARI website for details). Most of these represent the Institute'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 mention which category they are applying in, and which term.

Please note that this position is essentially a writing fellowship and interested applicants should have at least a PhD with a few years of postdoctoral research experience.

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. A monthly housing allowance will be provided.

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

Applications are invited for Visiting (Senior) Fellowships (under ARI Sabbatical Leave Scheme) at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore, to commence in April, July and October 2009. The positions are intended for researchers who would like to devote the sabbatical term from their home institutions to conducting work in ARI.

The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers on Asian topics. The positions will be allocated to one of the ARI clusters, sketched below. Most of these represent the Institute'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 mention which category they are applying in, and the period of the fellowship.

Please note that this position is essentially a writing fellowship and interested applicants should have at least a PhD with a few years of postdoctoral research experience.

As the Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowships (under ARI Sabbatical Leave Scheme) are intended mainly for researchers who are in active employment of their home institution, applicants are expected to be self-financed. A token honorarium of SGD1,200 will be provided to cover part of the cost of renting an apartment. Airfare may be provided where this is necessary.

## Invitation to Apply

Interested applicants are invited to email/mail their applications, consisting of:

- Application form ([http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/docs/HR/fm\\_app\\_Research\\_Appointments.doc](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/docs/HR/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;
- Ensure that a minimum of 3 referees submit directly to us (email is also acceptable) a confidential report on the applicant's academic standing as well as comment on their research project by 1 October 2008.

The closing date for applications is on 1 October 2008. We regret that 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](mailto:joinari@nus.edu.sg)

## 3. PhD Research Scholarships, NUS

The Asia Research Institute is pleased to offer Ph.D. research scholarships from August 2009 in the following interdisciplinary areas:

- The Changing Family in Asia
- Asian Migration
- Religion & Globalisation in Asian Contexts
- Cultural Studies in Asia
- Sumatra Heritage, Archaeology and Reconstruction

The PhD scholarship is to be taken up jointly with the appropriate discipline-based department. This would normally be with a department of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, but where appropriate could also be with the Faculty of Law, School of Business or School of Design & Environment at the National University of Singapore.

Interested applicants are required to submit their application to ARI at the address stated below by 15th November 2008, indicating clearly both which ARI interdisciplinary area they wish to join and which department they would be attached to. Application procedures and forms can be obtained from the NUS website via this URL: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/gd-applnres.html>

Applicants must use the application forms in the respective Faculty websites depending on the Faculty to which they wish to seek admission. They should send their applications to ARI directly, and not send a duplicate to the respective Faculties.

For the interdisciplinary areas offering scholarships, please visit ARI website [www.ari.nus.edu.sg](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg).

Address for applications and references: 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

## NEW ARI MEMBERS

**Dr Cho Younghan** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster with effect from 1 April 2008. He obtained his PhD in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA and his M.A. in Communication from the Seoul National University, South Korea. His first degree is in English Language & Literature from Yonsei University, South Korea.



His research interests include East Asian popular culture, global sports and nationalism and his geographical area of focus is East Asia, with a special focus on South Korea. While at ARI, he will research on "Exploring the Genealogy of Baseball: Baseball and the Doubling of (Post)-Colonial Desire in East Asia".

**Dr Hee Limin** has commenced a one-year joint-appointment with ARI and the Department of Architecture with effect from 1 May 2008. She is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore, and has also taught as a Teaching Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She also leads the Urban Studies Group at the Department of Architecture at the University. She obtained her Doctor of Design degree from Harvard University in 2005, and Masters of Arts in Architecture and Bachelor of Architecture from the National University of Singapore. As a Registered Architect in Singapore, she has built projects on a broad scale, ranging institutional buildings to infrastructural and public space projects. Her research interests include sustainable cities, Asian urbanism, public spaces, and design pedagogy. Her current research on sustainable architecture and urbanism has been a collaborative effort with the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and has been the subject of a travelling exhibition that was shown in major cities in Asia and Europe including Singapore, Hong Kong, Beijing, Seoul, and Madrid.



**Dr Fang Xiaoping** has commenced a 5-month appointment as a Research Assistant with effect from 16 Jun 2008. He has a PhD in Modern and Contemporary Chinese History from the NUS. His research interest is in social history of medicine and barefoot doctors in Chinese villages in China. While at ARI, Dr Fang will be involved in the Cold War project with Prof Reid and Dr Wade.



**Prof Tani Barlow** has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster with effect from 17 Jun 2008.



She is author of *The Question of Women in Chinese Feminism* (2004, Duke University Press) and has published widely on topics in modern Chinese history and the histories of women and social science. She is currently completing the draft of a book called *In the Event of Women* illustrating the link between popular social theories and advertising copy in several Chinese media markets during the 20s and 30s. Prof Barlow is Chao Professor of History at Rice University and the inaugural Director of the Chao Center for Asia Studies. She is also Founding Senior Editor of positions, a journal dedicated to critical Asia cultural studies and a co-founder of the Project for Critical Asian Studies at the University of Washington.

**Dr Riwanto Tirtosudarmo** has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Asian Migration Cluster with effect from 1 July 2008. Dr Riwanto has been focusing his research and writings in the last five years on the social and political aspects of population movements in Indonesia and slowly to places beyond Indonesia.



He has studied population movement, both internally and internationally, in relation to the state and nation building. Lately, he has been working on ethno-demographic issues in relation to the broader changing political landscape in Indonesia brought about by post-Soeharto decentralisation policies.

At ARI, Dr Riwanto will revise 12 selected papers previously published in various forms (edited book chapters, journal articles and seminar papers) into a coherent book's draft.

**Dr Lim Sun Sun** has commenced a 6-month appointment as an Assistant Professor under the FASS Writing Semester Scheme with effect from 1 July 2008. She has been an Assistant Professor at the Communications and New Media Programme, National University of Singapore, since March 2003. Her research interests are the social impact of new media and ICTs, focusing on new media literacies, technology domestication by families and young people in Asia and public perceptions of ICTs. She has researched and published on technology domestication by middle-class families in China, Singapore and South Korea and online privacy perceptions of consumers in various cities in the Asia-Pacific. At ARI she will be working on several projects relating to trends in Asian parents' supervision of children's media use, the coping strategies of media-have-less youths, and exploring linkages between technology domestication and media literacy.



## ARI RECOGNITION AND NEW BOOKS

**Professor Anthony Reid** delivered a keynote speech "Violence at Sea: Unpacking 'Piracy' in the Claims of States over Asian Seas" at the Symposium on Piracy and Maritime Security in the South China Sea, National Institute for South China Sea Studies, Sanya, Hainan, PRC, 16 March 2008.

**Professor Brenda Yeoh** delivered a plenary speech on "Asian Migration Studies in Transition: Emerging Concepts and Issues – The View from Singapore" at the Pacific Worlds in Motion: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Asian Migrations, Green College/St. John's College, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 13-15 March 2008. She also gave the following keynote speeches: "Questioning the 'Field in Motion': Emerging Concepts, Research Practices and the Geographical Imagination in Asian Migration Studies" at the conference on Questioning the Field: Research Practices and Methods in Contemporary Geography, Centre de formation du Léman à Jongny, Switzerland, 28-30 May 2008; "Asian Migrations, Globalizing Households, Transnationalising Families" at the conference on Pathways, Circuits and Crossroads: New Research on Population, Migration and Community Dynamics, National Library, Wellington, New Zealand, 9-11 June 2008.

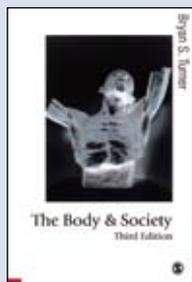
**Professor Bryan Turner** gave 3 lectures: "Vulnerability and Human Rights" at Emory Law School Atlanta, 16 April 2008; "Religion and Modern Sociology" at Yale Center for Cultural Sociology, 25 April 2008; "The Failure of Multiculturalism" at Harvard University in a joint session of the Sociology Department and the European Studies Group, 28 April 2008. He also gave a seminar on "Can we live forever?" at the Newhouse Research Center, Wellesley College, Boston, 23 April 2008.

**Professor Gavin Jones** was appointed chair of the Nominations Committee to select nominees for the election of the first Council of the newly-formed Asian Population Association. In this capacity, he attended a meeting of the Establishment Committee of the Association in Bangkok on 1-2 June 2008.

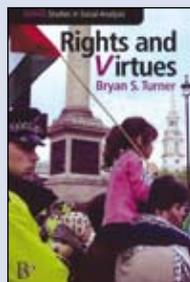
He also participated in the Second External Evaluation Committee meeting for the "Academic Frontier" project conducted by the Nihon University Population Research Institute, Tokyo, 9-10 June 2008.

He also gave the keynote address at the launch of the book he co-wrote "The Impact of Ageing: A Common Challenge for Europe and Asia", Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, 25 June 2008.

### New Books



*The Body and Society*  
(revised third edition)  
**Bryan Turner**, Sage, London,  
2008



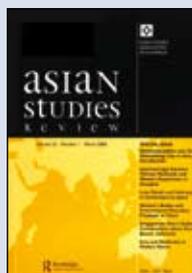
*Rights and Virtues*  
**Bryan Turner**, Bardwell,  
Oxford, 2008



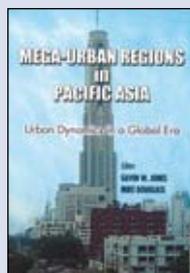
*Citizenship between Past and Future*  
**Bryan Turner, Engin F. Isin and Peter Nyers** (editors)  
Taylor and Francis, London, 2008



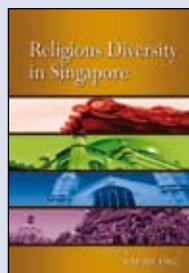
*Gender and Fisheries*  
(Development 51.2) 2008  
**Barbara Nowak, Choo Poh Sze, Kyoko Kusakabe and Meryl Williams** (guest editors)



*Special Issue on Heterosexualities and the Global(ising) City in Asia, Asian Studies Review, 32.1, March 2008*  
**Brenda Yeoh and S. Huang** (editors)



*Mega-Urban Regions in Pacific Asia: Urban Dynamics in a Global Era*  
**Gavin Jones and Mike Douglass** (editors)  
NUS Press, Singapore, 2008



*Religious Diversity in Singapore*  
**Lai Ah Eng** (editor)  
Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore.