This event features a short documentary film screening to be followed by a panel discussion. *Diminishing Memories I* charts a filmmaker's personal journey to unlock memories of her childhood home in the village of Lim Chu Kang and its community, which was displaced in the 1980s as part of state-planned urban development. The film's subject matter elucidates one of the underlying complications in fostering community ties since already established ones have been dismantled in service of state progress. Yet this process is one of the aspirations encapsulated by the theme of “Hope, Heart, Home” from the Prime Minister’s 2012 National Day Rally speech, which came decades after the documented displacement. While the film is the means for the filmmaker to come to terms with inevitable changes, it also encourages us to think about how we can manage the past as we strive to move forward in our lives. The screening offers a moment for reflection to stimulate and provoke discussion as the panel and audience ruminate on the future of Singapore on the eve of the nation’s landmark anniversary and address, or redress, a range of polemical issues.

**date** 14 July 2015, Tuesday  
**time** 4:30pm - 6:30pm  
**venue** The Substation Theatre  
45 Armenian Street, Singapore 179936

**film screening**  
*Diminishing Memories I* (2005, dir. Eng Yee Peng)

**panel discussion**  
Braema Mathi (MARUAH)  
Ho Kong Chong (NUS)  
Imran bin Tajudeen (NUS)

**moderator** Rita Padawangi (ARI)
This event features a short documentary film screening to be followed by a panel discussion. *Diminishing Memories I* (2005, 27 minutes) by Eng Yee Peng, charts the filmmaker’s personal journey as she attempts to unlock memories of her childhood home in the village of Lim Chu Kang and its community, which was displaced in the 1980s as part of state-planned urban development. The subject matter of the film elucidates one of the underlying complications in fostering community ties since already established ones have been dismantled in service of state progress. Yet this process is one of the key aspirations encapsulated by the theme of “Hope, Heart, Home” from the Prime Minister’s 2012 National Day Rally speech, which came decades after the documented displacement. While the film is the means for the filmmaker to come to terms with inevitable changes, it also encourages us to think about how we can manage the past as we strive to move forward in our lives.

The film screening offers a moment for reflection to stimulate and provoke discussion as the panel and audience ruminate on the future of Singapore on the eve of the nation’s landmark anniversary: address, or redress, a wide range of polemical issues concerning urban development; conservation of heritage, social values and traditional practices; ongoing transformations to Singapore’s demography as a result of migration policies and evolving lifestyle patterns, as well as the welfare of all segments of civil society, including ethnic minorities, the marginalized and the transient population.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

**Ms Eng Yee Peng** holds a First Class Honours Degree in Digital Media Production and started her career as a television news Assistant Producer and Studio Director with Media Corporation of Singapore (MediaCorp). *Diminishing Memories* was her first independent documentary completed in 2005. The film was broadcast on South Korea’s national educational channel (EBS) and Australia’s international television channel (Australia Network). It won the Best Tertiary Documentary at the Queensland New Filmmakers Award competition in Australia, and awarded the Special Jury Commendation Award at the Asian Festival of First Films. *Diminishing Memories II* was launched with the part one film in September 2008 and all screenings were sold-out. Her films travelled to international film festivals in United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Germany, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore. In 2009, Yee Peng was nominated for the Great Women of Our Time Awards, the Singapore Women’s Weekly. The films’ synopsis can be found at [https://diminishingmemories.wordpress.com/about-the-films/](https://diminishingmemories.wordpress.com/about-the-films/)
ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Assoc Prof Ho Kong Chong is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. Trained as an urban sociologist at the University of Chicago, his research interests are in the political economy of cities, migration, higher education, and youth. Dr Ho is an editorial board member of Pacific Affairs and the International Journal of Comparative Sociology. Recent urban studies publications include “Theories of Place and a Place for Theories” in Cities and Economic Change: Restructuring and Dislocation in the Global Metropolis, Ronan Paddison and Tom Hutton (eds.) Sage (2014) and Daniels, P., K.C. Ho. and Hutton, T. (eds) New Economic Spaces in Asian Cities, Routledge (2012). He is presently the survey research consultant for phase 2 of a HDB project on community bonding.

Ms Braema Mathi is President of MARUAH, a human rights NGO in Singapore which is also its focal point for the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism. She was named ‘Advocate of the Year’ in the Singapore Advocacy Awards 2014. She was also a Nominated Member of Parliament, a journalist, a researcher and active in the community through AWARE and Transient Workers Count Too. She led the Southeast Asian Councils of Social Welfare for five years as the Regional President of the International Council of Social Welfare. She currently is also part of Project 50/100 which is an alternative effort to commemorate Singapore’s 50th anniversary, looking back in time as well as forward to the centennial.

Dr Imran bin Tajudeen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore (NUS). His research interests include place histories and the processes, underlying motivations and assumptions through which notions of heritage have been constituted, and how they are narrated in contemporary reconstructions and representations. He has been engaged in a number of urban history and heritage documentation projects, among which the most recent is as Main Consultant for the recovery and documentation of the historic graves at Jalan Kubor, Kampung Gelam with Nusantara Consultancy. His doctoral dissertation (NUS, 2009) on the architecture and urban histories of Southeast Asian cities won the ICAS Book Prize for Best PhD (Social Sciences) in April 2011. He was a postdoctoral fellow at MIT’s Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture and the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Dr Rita Padawangi is a Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). She was a researcher at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS and a Research Fellow at the Global Asia Institute, NUS; Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University Chicago; and Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia. She received her PhD in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago where she was also a Fulbright Scholar for her MA studies. With research interests spanning the sociology of architecture and participatory urban development, Dr Padawangi has conducted various research projects in Southeast Asian cities, including in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore. She is also actively conducting research on social movements and public spaces in Indonesia. Her commitment to social activism in the built environment keeps her connected with community groups and practitioners in many cities in the region.

ARI ASIA TRENDS 2015 SERIES

ASIA TRENDS is an ARI flagship public outreach event. This annual series of public lectures showcase the work of ARI's research clusters, highlights the relevance of ARI's research to Singapore, and relates Singapore to the rest of Asia from the perspective of significant trends in the region. It is an opportunity for ARI to connect with the larger Singapore community through sharing and interacting with various public sectors (citizenry, government), civil society organizations, businesses, universities and colleges, by presenting cutting edge research on major trends in Asia. Some trends examined in the past include "Migration and Construction Work in Asia," "Love and Money: Parenting after Divorce," "China’s Leap from the Work’s Work Bench: Tech, Entertainment and the Quest for Soft Power," "Creating Centralities" and “What is Sinophone World Literature?: China, Southeast Asia, and the Global 60s”. Each ARI research cluster hosts an evening talk, during which usually an overseas speaker, who is a prominent researcher or scholar, is invited to examine an emergent trend in that research field; a Singapore-based researcher then provides comments on local development with regard to the trend in question. Past seminars have witnessed interesting interaction between speakers and commentators and lively audience participation in the discussions.