



Crisis & Connectedness

Flashpoints for Inter-Asia Cultural Studies
9 - 18 August 2022

FULL PROGRAMME

Table of Contents

At A Glance	3
Readings/Preparation	4
Welcome	6
Decolonizing Discourses & Inter-Asia	7
Varieties of Decolonizing Discourses: Malaysia's Contribution	8
Inter-Asia as a Global Research Question	8
Authoritarianism	10
Authoritarianisms, Past and Present	11
Comparative, Transnational and Inter-Asian Methodologies	11
Environment	14
Caring for the Orang Utan: Beyond a Species to Protect	15
Indigenous Map-Making with Shaq Koyok	15
Translation	18
Translation in Asia: Voyage, Infrastructures, and Dissemination of Thoughts	19
Inter-Asia Translation at Work	20
Movement	23
Movement: In, Between, and Beyond Myanmar and Malaysia	24
Building a Scholar-Activist Toolbox	24
Closing Session	27
Acknowledgements	28
Organisers	29

At A Glance

All times listed are in Malaysia time (GMT+8)

Tuesday, 9 August

10:00AM - 10:20AM	Welcome Speeches	
10:20AM - 11:30AM	Varieties of Decolonizing Discourses: Malaysia's Contribution	<i>Public</i>
2:00PM - 3:30PM	Inter-Asia as a Global Research Question	<i>Participants</i>

Wednesday, 10 August

10:00AM - 12:00PM	Authoritarianisms, past and present	<i>Public</i>
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Thursday, 11 August

10:00AM - 12:00PM	Comparative, transnational and inter-Asian methodologies	<i>Participants</i>
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Friday, 12 August

2:00PM - 4:00PM	Caring for the Orang Utan: Beyond a Species to Protect	<i>Public</i>
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Saturday, 13 August

2:00PM - 4:00PM	Indigenous map-making with Shaq Koyok	<i>Participants</i>
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Monday, 15 August

10:00AM - 12:00PM	Translation in Asia: Voyage, Infrastructures, and Dissemination of Thoughts	<i>Public</i>
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Tuesday, 16 August

10:00AM - 12:00PM	Inter-Asia Translation at Work	<i>Participants</i>
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Wednesday, 17 August

12:30PM - 2:00PM	Movement: In, Between, and Beyond Myanmar and Malaysia	<i>Public</i>
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Thursday, 18 August

3:00PM - 5:00PM	Building a Scholar-Activist Toolbox	<i>Participants</i>
5:00PM - 5:15PM	Closing Session	<i>Participants</i>

Readings/Preparation

The following are readings and preparation tasks to be completed in advance of the participants-only sessions. A full description of the sessions is available in the programme. Readings can be found [here](#).

INTRODUCTION: Inter-Asia as a Global Research Question

Tuesday, 9 August, 2:00 - 4:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Required readings:

Chen, Kuan-Hsing, 2010, *Asia as Method: Toward Deimperialization*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, vi, x-xii (Lu Xun's mode of inquiry), 2-3 (Asian studies in Asia), 13 (internationalist reworking; read 5-13 if not familiar with critical history of East Asia), 212-5 (Asia as method), 223 (internationalist localism), 224-7 (inter-Asian comparison), 239-41 (minjian / popular democracy), 250-4 (worlded Asia).

Chen, Kuan-Hsing, Miao Lu, and Jack Linchuan Qiu, 2022, "Back to Bandung for the Future: The Never-Ending Project of De-Imperialization," *Communication Theory* 32: 281-8.

Alatas, Syed Farid, 2021, "Silencing as Method: The Case of Malay Studies," in *Fieldwork and the Self: Changing Research Styles in Southeast Asia*, eds. Jérémy Jammes and Victor T. King, Singapore: Springer, 200-1, 206-8.

Optional readings:

Chen, Kuan-Hsing, 2021, "Small-Medium-Large Countryism: Divesting the Nation-State," *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 22, 2: 261-73.

AUTHORITARIANISM: Comparative, Transnational and Inter-Asian Methodologies

Thursday, 11 August, 10:00AM - 12:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Participants should each bring 150-200 word outlines of a current or future research project to discuss. It's fine for the project to be at an incipient stage and/or if it only focuses on one site; the workshop is designed to help you refine your project.

Recommended reading:

Watson, Jini Kim, 2021. "[Cold War Reckonings: Authoritarianism and the Genres of Decolonization](#)." Fordham University Press.

ENVIRONMENT: Indigenous Map-Making with Shaq Koyok

Saturday, 13 August, 2:00PM - 4:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

June Mary Rubis, 2020. "The orang utan is not an indigenous name: knowing and naming the maias as a decolonizing epistemology" *Cultural Studies* 34.5: 811–830. DOI:10.1080/09502386.2020.1780281

Territories of Life 2021 Report. Prepared by The ICCA Consortium.
<https://report.territoriesoflife.org/>

TRANSLATION: Translation in Asia: Voyage, Infrastructures, and Dissemination of Thoughts

Monday, 15 August, 10:00AM - 12:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Ruth Barraclough, 2018. "Factory Girl Literature across the World" *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.013.50

Ramon Guillermo, 2014. "Themes of Invention, Help, and Will: Joachim Campe's Robinsono der Jüngere in Tagalog and Bahasa Melayu Translations." *Southeast Asia Studies*, 3: 3-47. DOI: 10.20495/SEAS.3.1_3__8211_47

TRANSLATION: Inter-Asia Translation at Work

Tuesday, 16 August, 10:00AM - 12:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Show Ying Xin, 2021. "Politics of literary translation in plurilingual Malaysia and Singapore". New Mandala.

<https://www.newmandala.org/politics-of-literary-translation-in-plurilingual-malaysia-and-singapore/>

MOVEMENT: Building a Scholar-Activist Toolbox

Thursday, 18 August, 3:00PM - 5:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Tharaphi Than (2021) '[Why does Burma Studies or Area Studies need decolonization?](https://criticalasianstudies.org/commentary/why-does-burma-studies-or-area-studies-need-decolonization/)' <https://criticalasianstudies.org/commentary/>

Neighbourhood Museum, Center for Community Knowledge, Ambedkar University New Delhi, [News Letter](#). June 2020.

What other scholar activists are doing around the world:

<https://www.iias.asia/profile/abdourahmane-seck>

Land Scholar Activism: [Land politics, agrarian movements and scholar-activism | Transnational Institute \(tni.org\)](#)

[Operating Principles for Scholar-Activism in Agroecology](#)

[Scholar-Activist FAQs](#)

Welcome

The 2022 Inter-Asia Cultural Studies (IACS) Summer School will officially open with brief welcome speeches by Universiti Malaya Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean, Professor Danny Wong Tze Ken; the IACS Society Chair, Professor Audrey Yue; and Vice-Chair, Dr Andy Wang.

Decolonizing Discourses & Inter-Asia

[Public session]

Varieties of Decolonizing Discourses: Malaysia's Contribution

Tuesday, 9 August 2022 | 10:20AM - 11:30AM MYT (GMT+8)

It is often forgotten or not realised that anti-colonial discourses, and the concomitant attempt to decolonize knowledge through critique and the actual production of new ideas in theory and methodology, had begun about one hundred and fifty years ago. It is often assumed that such discourses began as late as the 1950s. Furthermore, in the Malay World, we tend to think that such discourses have an external provenance and associate them with colonial critics such as Frantz Fanon and Aimé Césaire or critics of Orientalism such as Edward Said. What is seldom discussed is the fact that Malaysia has produced its own tradition of anti-colonial discourse, the genealogy of which can be traced in time to the nineteenth century and in space to both our region itself as well as the Netherlands. This presentation provides an introduction to this tradition and makes comparisons with later trends such as that associated with the Asia as Method approach.

[Participants-only session]

Inter-Asia as a Global Research Question

Tuesday, 9 August 2022 | 2:00PM - 3:30PM MYT (GMT+8)

This introductory session invites summer school participants to reflect on your intellectual projects through the Inter-Asian framework. It asks you to think about research possibilities emerging from your investigation of Asia in relation to other Asian or third world locations and your engagement with critical Inter-Asian thinkers.

This session argues that the heart of the Inter-Asia project is about producing rigorous and innovative explanations of Asian phenomena, especially of the commoners and subalterns, by interrogating the shared materialist conditions between an Asian particularity and other parts of the third world—all under the totalistic rubric of world history. I interpret this as what Chua Beng-Huat means by “inter-referencing”. Within the hegemonic Westernized epistemic structure, Asian scholars are trained to systemically overlook those shared Inter-Asian materialist conditions and, at times, reproduce this hegemony by discounting theoretical insights from Asian intellectuals (an instance most evident in Alatas's reading). Chen Kuan-Hsing hence always emphasizes that Inter-Asia is about reconnecting imperial divisions in Asia as much as it is a reinvention of a new decolonized self. From 2015 onwards, Bandung has served as one concrete platform of de-imperialization for Inter-Asia to rebuild an intellectual community and decolonize the earth. The required readings cover all grounds necessary to understand the Inter-Asia project both in theory and its contemporary practice.

Speakers



Syed Farid Alatas is Professor of Sociology & Anthropology at the National University of Singapore, and Visiting Professor at the Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Universiti Malaya. He also headed the Department of Malay Studies at NUS from 2007 to 2013. Alatas has authored numerous books and articles, including *Ibn Khaldun* (Oxford University Press, 2013); *Applying Ibn Khaldun: The Recovery of a Lost Tradition in Sociology* (Routledge, 2014); (with Vineeta Sinha) *Sociological Theory Beyond the Canon* (Palgrave, 2017) and "Political Economies of Knowledge Production: On and Around Academic Dependency" (*Journal of Historical Sociology*, 35.1, 2022: 14-23). His areas of interest are the sociology of Islam, social theory, religion and reform, intra- and inter-religious dialogue, and the study of the problems of colonial and Eurocentric knowledge.



Sharmani Patricia Gabriel is Honorary Professor of English at Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. Her areas of research interest include diaspora literatures, critical theory, and postcolonial studies, with a focus on cultural identity formation and issues of representation and power. A recent journal publication is "Racialisation in Malaysia: Multiracialism, Multiculturalism, and the Cultural Politics of the Possible" (*Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 2021). Her other work has appeared in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Postcolonial Studies*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *Ethnicities*, *Mosaic*, and *Critical Asian Studies*. Her latest book publication is the co-edited volume, *Orientalism and Reverse Orientalism in Literature and Film: Beyond East and West* (Routledge, 2021). Sharmani is Editor-in-Chief of *SARE: Southeast Asian Review of English* (<https://sare.um.edu.my/>) and also serves on the advisory and editorial boards of several other journals and book series.



Thiti Jamkajornkeiat is Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada. He received his Ph.D in South and Southeast Asian Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory from the University of California, Berkeley. He works at the intersection of Marxism, post-, anti-, and decolonial theories, and modern Southeast Asia, specifically Indonesia and Thailand. His essays and interviews have appeared in *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*, *Spectre*, *Haymarket Books*, and *Asia Art Tours*. His first book project is a global intellectual history of left internationalism in Indonesia during the postcolonial transition.

Authoritarianism

To many Western observers, the recent resurgence of undemocratic regimes around the world – evidenced most noticeably in Russia’s recent invasion of Ukraine – seems to indicate a puzzling redux of mid-twentieth-century authoritarianism and fascism. But anti-democratic regimes in Asia, from military rule in Myanmar to the governments of Narendra Modi in India and Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines, tell a very different story. Taking Asia as our starting point, how might we understand authoritarianism as a more complex and *global* phenomenon, and one that is centrally entangled with the histories of colonialism, decolonization, and postcolonial national development?

In the sessions for the “Authoritarianism” keyword, we will attempt to do three things: 1) decenter theories of autocracy by considering it through the lens of (post)colonial and global south histories; 2) examine the ways cultural productions can work to both resist repressive regimes and challenge sedimented tropes around authoritarianism; and 3) explore the problem of authoritarianism through a comparative, inter-Asia perspective.

[Public session]

Authoritarianisms, Past and Present

Wednesday, 10 August 2022 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

In this roundtable discussion, four interdisciplinary scholars of contemporary Asia will discuss authoritarianism in the region, paying particular attention to questions of colonial and postcolonial histories, the Cold War, authoritarian imaginaries, state violence, populism, and the role of culture and aesthetics in the production of, and resistance to, authoritarian regimes.

Vicente L. Rafael (University of Washington) and Jini Kim Watson (New York University) will give short presentations on their new books, *The Sovereign Trickster: Death and Laughter in the Age of Duterte* (Duke Press, 2022), and *Cold War Reckonings: Authoritarianism and the Genres of Decolonization* (Fordham UP, 2021), respectively. Nur Dayana Ariffin (Universiti Malaya) and Fiona Lee Hsiao Yen (Universiti Malaya) will then give responses to each, followed by discussion and time for Q&A from the audience.

[Participants-only session]

Comparative, Transnational and Inter-Asian Methodologies

Thursday, 11 August 2022 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

In *Asia as Method* (2010), Chen Kuan-hsing famously suggested that by “using the idea of Asia as an imaginary anchoring point, societies in Asia can become each other’s points of reference, so that the understanding of the self may be transformed and subjectivity rebuilt.” How can an inter-Asia approach shed light on the problem of authoritarianism in the region? In this workshop, we will explore the methods and stakes of comparative, transnational and inter-Asian research, asking such questions as: Why compare authoritarian political cultures, and what does the act of comparison reveal? What objects of study work best for comparative research? How have changing conceptions of nation, area, border, region, and world played into such research? And how does one work across two (or more) cultural/linguistic/regional sites without losing rigor and focus? We will consider approaches that span cultural studies, history, literature, film, critical theory and postcolonial studies in the Asia/Pacific region.

In this workshop, participants will build on the Introductory Session led by Thiti Jamkajornkeiat and work in small groups to collectively produce a 200-250 word research proposal/outline. The proposal will focus on any topic related to authoritarianism: for example, populism, illiberalism, historical formations, authoritarian figures, (post)colonial developmental discourses, forms of protest cultures, dissident activists/writers/film-makers and so on. Our goal is to draw

collectively on the group's diverse research backgrounds and gain experience in forging compelling comparative, transnational, and inter-Asian research projects.

Speakers



Nur Dayana Ariffin is a historian of colonial and Southeast Asian studies at Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the International Islamic University Malaysia, and her Ph.D from the University of Edinburgh, UK. Her doctoral research focuses on the formation of racial classification in the Philippines through science and the politicisation of science. She has published articles on the history of Malaysia and the Philippines, and her first book, *Race Manifest* (University of Malaya Press), will be out in 2022. Outside of academia, Dayana occasionally writes on education, children's rights, and unconventional ideas about history.



Fiona Lee Hsiao Yen is Senior Lecturer at the Department of English, Universiti Malaya. Her research explores histories of 20th-century decolonization and the global cold war through the study of literature and the arts, with a focus on Malaysia and the Asia Pacific. Her essays on Malaysian literature, cinema, art, and culture have been published in the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *Postcolonial Text*, and *Concentric: Literary and Cultural Studies*. She has also held academic appointments at the National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute (2014–2016) and the University of Sydney, Australia (2016–2021).



Jini Kim Watson is Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at New York University. Her teaching and research lie at the intersection of postcolonial literary studies, the urban humanities, and studies of cultural and political modernity during the global cold war. She is the author of *Cold War Reckonings: Authoritarianism and the Genres of Decolonization* (Fordham UP, 2021, honourable mention for the 2022 René Wellek Prize), and *The New Asian City: Three-dimensional Fictions of Space and Urban Form* (Minnesota UP, 2011). She has also co-edited, with Gary Wilder, the collected volume, *The Postcolonial Contemporary: Political Imaginaries for the Global Present* (Fordham UP, 2018).



Vicente L. Rafael is Professor of History and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. Trained in Southeast Asian history, European intellectual history and anthropology, Professor Rafael's research interests include language and power, the politics of translation and literature, Comparative Colonialisms and nationalism, the social history of media and mediation, critical theory and anthropology, empire, race and gender. He is the author of innumerable monographs, collected volumes, and articles. His books include *White Love and Other Events in Filipino History* (2000); *The Promise of the Foreign: Nationalism and the Technics of Translation in the Spanish Philippines* (2005); *Discrepant Histories: Translocal Histories on Filipino Cultures* (editor); *Motherless Tongues: The Insurgency of Language amid Wars of Translation* (2016); and *The Sovereign Trickster* (2022).



Benjamin Yew Hoong Loh is Senior Lecturer at the School of Media and Communication, Taylor's University, Malaysia. He is a media scholar who employs digital ethnography to study emergent cultures and the digital public sphere. He received his PhD in communications and new media from the National University of Singapore, and works on the confluence between technology and society, with a particular focus on minority and marginalised communities. His works include the co-edited books *Sabah from the Ground: The 2020 Elections and the Politics of Survival* (ISEAS/SIRD 2021) with Bridget Welsh and Vilashini Somiah, and *New Media in the Margins: Lived Realities and Experiences from the Malaysian Peripheries* (Palgrave 2023) with James Chin. He has also recently published a research article about pro-Russia narratives in the Ukraine War on Malaysian social media with ISEAS Perspectives (2022).

Environment

As multiple ecological systems interact with climate change and new disease patterns in a complex, interconnected world, dynamic responses are required to address escalating ecological crises. Yet there is a widespread tendency for institutions and powerful actors to commit to particular top-down measures that emphasise control and hegemony. From a conservation standpoint, Indigenous and local communities are often regarded as barriers towards the environment, and therefore as needing to be restricted in practice and place. If Indigenous knowledge (or TEK: traditional ecological knowledge) is acknowledged, it is often from a paradigm that expects Indigenous communities to remain unchanged over time despite shifting environmental and socio-political conditions. Indigenous knowledge has typically been made abstract, extracted as mere “data” from its emplaced context, and either ignored or re-configured to fit contemporary conservation frameworks.

In the sessions for the “Environment” keyword, we will pay attention to the diverse knowledge forms and practices that Indigenous and local communities hold in relation to the environment. Using examples from Southeast Asia, we ask, what multiple strategies do Indigenous communities employ to uphold their rights over their native territorial domains, which includes conservation landscapes? How might a more ethical approach and understanding of Indigenous strategies contribute to better forms of conservation and research? Through respecting contemporary Indigenous ways and relations with the environment, what different understandings of conservation practices may arise? In doing so, this brings vital opportunities to understand contrasting power relations within responses to environmental crises, and connect them to revitalising human-environment relations and social justice.

What multiple strategies do Indigenous communities employ to uphold their rights over their native territorial domains? How might a more ethical approach and understanding of Indigenous strategies contribute to better forms of conservation and research?

[Public session]

Caring for the Orang Utan: Beyond a Species to Protect

Friday, 12 August 2022 | 2:00PM - 4:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

In her talk, June Rubis will explain how we need to decolonize ways of knowing so as to support existing Indigenous governance in conservation. Drawing on a kin study of maias conservation in Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, she will explore the power dynamics and tensions emerging within practices and discourses of conservation. In particular, she will focus on the struggles and negotiations through which conservation actors understand the orang utan, as they are commonly known in an international space that overshadows Iban ways of naming and knowing the orang utan as maias. June will also discuss Iban classifications/names and relations with nature, and how these affect different understandings of conservation. Shaq Koyok and Rusaslina Idrus will serve as respondents; this session will be moderated by Gaik Cheng Khoo.

[Participants-only session]

Indigenous Map-Making with Shaq Koyok

Saturday, 13 August 2022 | 2:00PM - 4:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Indigenous Temuan activist and artist, Shaq Koyok will lead students in an interactive walk-through presentation on Indigenous map-making. Students will learn more about the Temuan environment and relations with more-than-humans, and how Temuans assert their rights and conservation practices over their lands through a virtual map-making session.

Speakers



June Rubis is an environmental geographer working on environmental governance, geographies of conservation, and Indigenous studies with a regional focus on Borneo and, more recently, Australia. She has 12 years of practical conservation field experience in Borneo, which informs her current work. Partnerships with Indigenous communities are central to her work, and she is currently the Co-Chair of Documenting Territories of Life with the international consortium of Indigenous and Communities Conserved Areas (ICCA). Her passion for environmental issues began when she witnessed land degradation in Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, in her family's native territories and elsewhere in Borneo, where she experienced the issues first-hand as a Bidayuh Bornean woman. June is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in Indigenous Environmental Studies at the University of Sydney's Environment Institute and Department of Geosciences, and a member of the Institute for Freshwater Fish Futures (IFFF) and several academic collectives seeking to reimagine new futures in academia and beyond.



Shaq Koyok is a contemporary artist and activist of the Indigenous Temuan tribe of Selangor. During his childhood, land developers had encroached the jungle around his village and this experience of trauma is reflected in his many works and has also fuelled his passion to fight for his people's land rights. He loves to explore many mediums of art, from contemporary painting to installation art.



Rusalina Idrus is Senior Lecturer at the Gender Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and an Associate Member of the Centre for Malaysian Indigenous Studies, Universiti Malaya. She received her PhD training in Social Anthropology and has a master's degree in Environmental Science. Rusalina has been conducting research and working with the indigenous communities in Malaysia for many years with a particular focus on the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia. Her most recent research articles include "[Competing for the Indigenous Slot](#)", "[Unpacking Indigeneity in Southeast Asia](#)" (with Liana Chua), and "[Indigenous resilience and the COVID-19 response](#)".



Gaik Cheng Khoo is Associate Professor of Film and Television Studies at the School of Media, Languages and Cultures, University of Nottingham Malaysia where she teaches Southeast Asian cinema, postcolonial theory, and posthumanism. She spent a decade researching independent filmmaking in Malaysia but her interest and research also includes food studies, Korean migrants in Malaysia, and developing a sustainable and ecological model for the Malaysian durian. Recent publications include the co-edited volume *Southeast Asia on Screen: From Independence to Financial Crisis (1945-1998)* (Eds. G.C. Khoo, Thomas Barker and Mary J. Ainslie, Amsterdam University Press, 2020). Forthcoming publications include "A Whiff of Southeast Asia: Tasting Durian and Kopi" with Jean Duruz, in *Olfactory Cultures of Asia* (Eds. Hannah Gould and Gwyn McClelland, Penn State University Press), and "Adjusting to Slow Times and Happiness: South Koreans in Malaysia," in *Korea Journal*.

Translation

Translation is more than a linguistic exercise that transmits equal meaning from one language to the other; it is also a way of knowing, a process of (re)writing, a medium for dissemination, and a site for transformation. The prefix “Inter-,” in Inter-Asia cultural studies, can therefore be read as connoting the practice of translation. The sessions for this keyword will view translation as both a concept and a practice, focusing particularly on the role of translation in the dissemination of radical thought and the formation of autonomous knowledge in Asia. In other words, translation can be a political act for navigating and making visible knowledge and cultural productions that are overshadowed by dominant frameworks, discourses, and powers.

Building on examples from Northeast and Southeast Asia, the sessions for the “Translation” keyword will examine the following questions: In what way does inter-referencing within Asia take place in translation? How might translation tackle the politics of inequality such as issues concerning language hegemony, gender, race, and colonialism in Asia? To what extent is the mediatory power of the English language confronted and challenged in Inter-Asia translation? How do scholar-translators intervene in the formation and dissemination of knowledge in and about Asia?

[Public session]

Translation in Asia: Voyage, Infrastructures, and Dissemination of Thoughts

Monday, 15 August 2022 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Translation involves a journey from one space to another. How did language, culture and thoughts travel in Asia and globally in the 20th and 21st century, and what kinds of mechanisms and infrastructures existed to make translation (im)possible?

Cold War Culture and the Voyage of Translation

Ruth Barraclough

This talk is about a classic factory girl novel, *The Human Predicament* (1934), written in Manchuria by the Korean writer Kang Kyŏng-ae, and its remarkable voyage of translation. The novel made its author famous in colonial Korea in the mid-1930s. In the late 1940s it was republished in Pyongyang as part of North Korea's attempt to create a national communist culture. During the Cold War it was translated and published in the Soviet Union, East Germany, and China, with different titles and explanatory notes for each national and temporal context. In the 2000s it was published in English, and most recently in Arabic, while in South Korea it has become a modern classic. This talk is about a Cold War journey of canonisation, systems of translation, and one book's capacity to find a century of readers.

Tracing Textual Mobilities: Sketching the Outlines of Global Translational Infrastructures in Southeast Asia from the End of the Cold War to the First Decades of Globalization

Ramon Guillermo

Translation makes possible the flow of texts between different nations and language communities. However, what is usually neglected is the fact that all translational practices are historically embedded in what might be called more or less elaborate translational infrastructures. Translational infrastructures are the social and cultural institutions which may function to facilitate and accelerate translational processes in a particular nation or community. Using data from UNESCO's Index Translationum, this paper will attempt to trace the outlines of the most significant international translational infrastructures from the final decade of the Cold War to the decades of globalization which immediately succeeded it. Special emphasis will be given to East and Southeast Asia. The Index Translationum is an online database containing bibliographical information on translated and published books between 1979 and 2009 with more than 2 million entries in all disciplines. It is by no means complete or accurate in all respects, especially in Southeast Asia, but it serves

as the closest approximation yet to the world's most comprehensive database of translations.

[Participants-only session]

Inter-Asia Translation at Work

Tuesday, 16 August 2022 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

This session includes a dialogue between Malaysian scholar-translators Show Ying Xin and Hazman Baharom. Participants will be introduced to hands-on practices, challenges, and experiences involved in the translation process. There will be activities for participants to discuss and work together on identifying (un)translatability of ideas and thoughts in Asia.

Speakers



Ruth Barraclough teaches at the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University. She researches contemporary Korean history, gender studies and literature, and is a translator of Korean literary fiction. Ruth's second book *Factory Girl Literature* was translated into Korean in 2017 and spent 20 weeks on the history bestseller list. The book is about the working-class women and girls who generated Korea's industrial revolution while at the same time cherishing ambitions to be writers, novelists and poets. Her new project is a book, co-authored with Jiseung Roh, on Korea's glamorous early communist women.



Ramon Guillermo is the director of the Center for International Studies (CIS) at the University of the Philippines Diliman. His current research projects are on the transmission, dissemination, reception, and translation of radical texts and ideas in Southeast Asia using techniques and approaches from translation studies and the digital humanities. He is the author of several books, including *Translation and Revolution: A Study of Jose Rizal's Guillermo Tell* (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2009), *Pook at Paninindigan: Kritika ng Pantayong Pananaw* (*Site and Standpoint: A Critique of Pantayong Pananaw*) (UP Press, 2009), and the novel *Ang Makina ni Mang Turing* (*Mister Turing's Machine*) (UP Press, 2013). He was Faculty Regent of the University of the Philippines from 2019 to 2020.



Thiti Jamkajornkeiat is Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Victoria (Canada). He received his Ph.D in South and Southeast Asian Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory from the University of California, Berkeley. He works at the intersections of Marxism, post-, anti-, and decolonial theories, and modern Southeast Asia, specifically Indonesia and Thailand. His essays and interviews have appeared in *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*, *Spectre*, *Haymarket Books*, and *Asia Art Tours*. His first book project is a global intellectual history of left internationalism in Indonesia during the postcolonial transition.



Show Ying Xin is Lecturer at the School of Culture, History and Language, and Deputy Director of the Malaysia Institute at the College of Asia and the Pacific, the Australian National University. Her work explores the history and culture of migration, decolonisation, and the impact of the Cold War on Asian societies through the prism of literature and the arts. Her current project examines the cultural history of Chinese literature in Malaya from 1945 to 1969. She co-edited (with Ngoi Guat Peng) *Revisiting Malaya: Uncovering Historical and Political Thoughts in Nusantara* (2020) and authored the Chinese translation of Alfian Sa'at's flash fiction *Malay Sketches* (Malai sumiao 馬來素描).



Gaik Cheng Khoo is Associate Prof. of Film and Television Studies at the School of Media, Languages and Cultures, University of Nottingham Malaysia where she teaches Southeast Asian cinema, postcolonial theory and posthumanism. She spent a decade researching independent filmmaking in Malaysia but her interests and research also include food studies, Korean migrants in Malaysia, and developing a sustainable and ecological model for the Malaysian durian. Recent publications include the co-edited volume *Southeast Asia on Screen: From Independence to Financial Crisis (1945-1998)* (Eds. G.C. Khoo, Thomas Barker and Mary J. Ainslie, Amsterdam University Press, 2020). Forthcoming publications include “A Whiff of Southeast Asia: Tasting Durian and Kopi” with Jean Duruz, in *Olfactory Cultures of Asia* (Eds. Hannah Gould and Gwyn McClelland, Penn State University Press), and “Adjusting to Slow Times and Happiness: South Koreans in Malaysia,” in *Korea Journal*.



Hazman Baharom is a researcher at the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University, Japan. He has written two books, namely *Renungan Kemasyarakatan (Reflections on Society)*, MLC, 2016) and *Perihal Keadilan (On Justice)*, SIRD, 2019). He has also translated four books from English and Chinese into Malay. They are *Islam, Secularism and Liberal Democracy* by Nader Hashemi (*Islam, Sekularisme, dan Demokrasi Liberal*, IRF, 2016), *The First Muslims* by Asma Afsaruddin (*Golongan Muslim Pertama*, IRF, 2018), *Constituting Religion: Islam, Liberal Rights and the Malaysian State* by Tamir Moustafa (*Mengkanunkan Agama: Islam, Hak-hak Liberal, dan Kenegaraan Malaysia*, SIRD, 2020) and *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu (Biblio Press, 2021). He has also translated short stories by Kawabata Yasunari from the Japanese into Malay.

Movement

The sessions for the keyword, “Movement,” will explore how people move, voluntarily, or through force, from one place to another, from one time to another, and from one ideology to another. We conceptualise these physical and political movements through the interconnected themes of dispossession, diaspora, and dissent. By focusing on displacement and its consequences, dispersion and mobility, and political mobilisation, we tie the keyword of movement to current events in Myanmar and Malaysia and to larger trends across the region. We will investigate what inter-Asian and global events underpin people’s movements and how people in Myanmar negotiate, navigate, resist, and interact with these movements. We will also share our experiences as activist scholars so that participants will not only read these events but also contribute to movement-building at a grassroots level.

For our first, public session, we will explore movement in Malaysia and Myanmar, bringing together scholars working in distinct contexts to discuss mobilities and resonances within, across and beyond these borders. Our second, closed session will focus on building a scholar-activist toolbox. Drawing on our ongoing work together as scholar-activists in the Myanmar Spring Revolution, we will discuss key challenges and provide principles and practices for engaged, emancipatory scholarly practice in an interactive workshop.

What inter-Asian and global events underpin people’s movements, whether voluntarily or through force, from one place to another, from one time to another, and from one ideology to another? How do people negotiate, navigate, resist, and interact with these movements? How can activist scholars not only read these events but also contribute to movement-building at a grassroots level?

[Public session]

Movement: In, Between, and Beyond Myanmar and Malaysia

Wednesday, 17 August 2022 | 12:30PM - 2:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Movement—of bodies, of ideas, and of things —shapes space, society and political possibility in Southeast Asia. This roundtable brings together four scholars—Shae Frydenlund, Aslam Abd Jalil, Vilashini Somiah, and Tharaphi Than (moderated by Hilary Faxon)—working in Myanmar and Malaysia to think about the theme of movement in, across, and beyond these contexts. In short presentations and subsequent discussions, we ask our speakers to reflect on several key questions:

- What does ‘movement’ look like in the contexts in which you work? How do you locate yourself in this work?
- How do you see movements connecting Myanmar and Malaysia or resonating across these contexts?
- How do these analyses help us to move beyond traditional boundaries of thinking and working in Southeast Asian Studies?

[Participants-only session]

Building a Scholar-Activist Toolbox

Thursday 18 Aug 2022 | 3:00PM - 5:00PM MYT (GMT+8)

Through discussion, reflection, and hands-on activities, this session aims to introduce the practice of scholar-activism and help students to build a scholar-activist toolbox. Drawing on feminist and decolonial theory and their work together in the context of the Myanmar Spring Revolution, Tharaphi Than and Hilary Faxon will provide a framework for engaged scholarship and explore questions about who we read, who we speak to, and how we engage the places we work. This session includes two parts: the first part will involve activities for participants to reflect on their roles as scholars and activists and mapping activities, opportunities, and challenges for two roles. The second half will centre around discussions and case studies about local knowledge, participatory research action, solidarity building, and meaningful engagement with communities as scholar activists.

Speakers



Shae Frydenlund is a human geographer concerned with the political economy of forced displacement. Funded by the National Science Foundation and the SSRC, her research shows how Burmese refugee labour contributes to development in global North cities. This year she is Postdoctoral Fellow and Assistant Director of the Center for Refugee Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, USA. Her current project examines the paradox of “essential” refugee labour in the United States’ meatpacking industry. Shae is the author of articles published in *Political Geography*, *Cultural Geography*, *Geoforum*, and *Journal of the Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies*. She earned her Ph.D and M.A. in Geography from the University of Colorado Boulder, and a B.A. from Colgate University.



Aslam Abd Jalil is a Ph.D candidate at The University of Queensland and a Fellow of the International Institute of Public Policy and Management (INPUMA), Universiti Malaya. He has a background in anthropology, public policy and business studies and is currently researching the right to work for refugees in Malaysia.



Vilashini Somiah is an anthropologist and Senior Lecturer at the Gender Studies Programme at Universiti Malaya. She received her Ph.D from the National University of Singapore, her MA from Ohio University, and her MRes and BA from Universiti Malaya. She maintains a keen interest in underrepresented narratives of women, migrants, and Borneans living in the interiors. She is the co-editor of *Sabah From the Ground: The 2020 Elections and the Politics of Survival* (SIRD/ISEAS, 2021), and is the author of *Irregular Migrants and the Sea at the Borders of Sabah, Malaysia: Pelagic Alliance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). Outside of academia, she writes ethnographic articles on the local socio-political landscape.



Tharaphi Than is Associate Professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Northern Illinois University, USA. Her research focuses on women, print media, dissent, and decolonization.



Hilary Faxon is a Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley. She conducts participatory research to advance environmental justice in Myanmar and Southeast Asia.

Closing Session

[Participants-only session]

Closing Session

Thursday, 18 August 2022 | 5:00PM - 5:15PM MYT (GMT+8)

In the closing session, we will hear about future opportunities for engaging with scholars working in the field of Inter-Asia Cultural Studies. The session will focus on the [2023 Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Conference](#) to be held in Ahmedabad, India.



Tejaswini Niranjana is Director of the Centre for Inter-Asian Research and Dean of Online Programmes at Ahmedabad University, India. Before joining Ahmedabad University, she was Professor and Head, Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, and Director, Centre for Cultural Research and Development. She is co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, a key consortium member of the IACS network. She was two-term Chair of the IACS Society from 2016 to 2019. She is the author of *Siting Translation: History, Post-structuralism and the Colonial Context* (University of California Press, 1992), *Mobilizing India: Women, Music and Migration between India and Trinidad* (Duke UP, 2006), and *Musicophilia in Mumbai: Performing Subjects and the Metropolitan Unconscious* (Duke UP, 2020). Her most recent edited volumes include *Genealogies of the Asian Present: Situating Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* (Orient Blackswan, 2015) with Wang Xiaoming; and *Music, Modernity and Publicness in India* (Oxford University Press, 2020). She is the curator of the Saath-Saath Project, a musical collaboration between Indian and Chinese performers: <http://saathsaathmusic.com>, and the producer of three documentary films based on her music research (directed by Surabhi Sharma).

Facilitators

The following Facilitators will be working with accepted participants to engage with knowledge shared during the Summer School outside of scheduled sessions and to foster cohort-building.

[AUTHORITARIANISM]

Khoo Ying Hooi is the Head and Senior Lecturer at the Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya. She completed her PhD in Politics and Government examining social movements and democratization with a focus on Malaysia's electoral reform movement. Her research interests include NGOs, social movements, national human rights institutions, human rights and democratization with a regional focus on Southeast Asia/ ASEAN, especially Malaysia and Timor-Leste. Ying Hooi is the author of "Repression, Dissent and Opportunities: The Bersih Movement and Democratisation in Malaysia" (forthcoming), and "Seeds of Dissent" (2015).

[ENVIRONMENT]

Kamal Solhaimi Fadzil is a lecturer at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Universiti Malaya. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Australian National University. His research interests include the Orang Asli and Development (indigenous rights, customary land and protected area) and undocumented children and child rights (access to education, alternative schooling).

[TRANSLATION]

Tan Zi Hao has recently completed his Ph.D. in Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, undertaking fieldwork research on animal imagery in the Islamic art of Cirebon, West Java. He also holds an MA degree in International Relations and a BA degree in International Communications Studies from the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. He is currently teaching research and theory at the Faculty of Cinematic Arts, Multimedia University.

[MOVEMENT]

Florence Kuek is a Senior Lecturer at the Chinese Studies Department, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya. Her research foci include contemporary Chinese literature, literary criticism, L2 language teaching and learning, and education. Her latest research projects include Han Suyin studies; ethical literary criticism; Malay and Chinese literature; EFL teaching and learning in China. Florence is also involved in several bilingual or trilingual translation works in Malay, English, and Chinese languages.

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Ms Holly Leung
Ms Ezrena Marwan

Facilitators

Dr Tan Zi Hao, Multimedia University
Dr Florence Kuek, Universiti Malaya
Dr Khoo Ying Hooi, Universiti Malaya
Dr Kamal Solhaimi Fadzil, Universiti Malaya

Organisers

Dr Fiona Lee, Senior Lecturer, Universiti Malaya
Dr Nur Dayana binti Mohamed Ariffin, Senior Lecturer, Universiti Malaya
Dr Vilashini Somiah, Senior Lecturer, Universiti Malaya
Associate Professor Khoo Gaik Cheng, University of Nottingham Malaysia
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