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OF ECONOMICS AND
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SOUTHEAST ASIA

LSE SAW SWEE HOCK
SOUTHEAST ASIA CENTRE

Annual Report

2022 – 2023

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BTS SKYTRAIN
Bangkok, Thailand

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Message from the Director

I am delighted to report on a busy and successful year for the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre (SEAC). This year, 2022/23, is my last year as Centre Director for SEAC after five busy and exciting years, so it is with mixed emotions that I reflect on the achievements of this year and the culmination of my directorship.

This year has focused on engagement with weekly events in term time, including the Southeast Asia Forum, which took place in a hybrid format for the first time over 9-12 May and focused on Southeast Asia Futures from various perspectives and approaches. In the 2022/23 academic year, SEAC has hosted 40 events featuring 124 speakers who contributed from across the world, particularly Southeast Asia, as part of our efforts to provide a platform for region-based scholars and professionals. Alongside the Southeast Asia Blog, SEAC is pleased to have welcomed record numbers of event participants and readers to engage with the Centre's work. SEAC has expanded its partnerships, including one with the Khazanah Research Institute, which culminated in a Malaysian Futures Forum in June.

SEAC Schemes have successfully continued to support students and academics to undertake work focused on Southeast Asia. Dissertation Fieldwork Grants and PhD Fieldwork Grants were popular for students undertaking fieldwork in Southeast Asia, as on-site fieldwork resumed post-Covid-19. SEAC's Research Grant has provided funding to continue our support for two research teams at LSE who are exploring new and cutting-edge topics in the economy

and environment. SEAC has also been delighted to welcome eleven Visiting Fellows this year in person, many of whom postponed their visits to this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Joining us from across Southeast Asia and beyond, including Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines, SEAC has benefitted from their expertise and residence. All of these schemes allow SEAC to be a vibrant hub of Southeast Asia research, bringing together academics and students and supporting their work.

As I reach the end of my five-year SEAC Directorship, I am very appreciative to have had the wonderful opportunity to steward the development and growth of the Centre, from implementing the support schemes mentioned above, organising a regular series of various research events, establishing partnerships, and re-launching the Southeast Asia Blog to bringing multiple research projects to the Centre, launching the Southeast Asia Working Paper Series and engaging with wider scholarly and alumni communities in the region.

I am grateful for my time with SEAC and am pleased to leave behind a stable, well-connected, and engaged Centre that is recognised as one of the most active Southeast Asia centres globally. I also know fully that such achievements have been possible because of all the support and contributions from the members of the Management Committee and Advisory Board, SEAC Associates, Centre staff (particularly Centre Manager Katie Boulton) and collaborators within SEAC's wider network, that is, the friends of SEAC.

So, thank you so much for your kind support and input. It was my greatest pleasure to have met so many wonderful friends of SEAC in London and during my visits to Southeast Asia.

As I move on to the headship of the LSE Department of Geography and Environment, I look forward to continuing my engagement with the friends of SEAC and supporting the Centre under its new Directorship of Professor John Sidel in a different capacity.

As we look ahead to the new academic year of 2023-24, I wish you and your loved ones happiness, health and well-being.



Prof. Hyun Bang Shin

Director,
LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING DIRECTOR



I'm extremely pleased and excited to be assuming the post of Director of the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre. After several years working under Professor Hyun Bang Shin's leadership of the Centre, I've become impressed by what colleagues at the School can bring to the study of the region and what the Centre can contribute to the field, and I hope to continue and build upon the Centre's achievements to date. I look forward to engaging with LSE staff and students and with scholars and broader audiences interested in Southeast Asia over the years ahead.

Professor John Sidel

Incoming Director from August 2023
LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre

People at the Centre

STAFF



Hyun Bang Shin

Centre Director and Professor of Geography and Urban Studies in the Department of Geography and Environment at LSE

Professor Shin's research centres on the critical analysis of the political economy of urbanisation with particular attention to cities in Asian countries such as China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, and South Korea. His research themes include urban political economy; gentrification; real estate speculation; social justice; megaevents as urban spectacles; circulation of urbanism and policy transfer. Professor Shin has published in major international journals such as the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Antipode*, *Urban Studies*, and *CITY*, and has contributed to numerous books on the above themes. His most recent books include: *Covid-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a Post-pandemic World* (LSE Press, 2022); *Exporting Urban Korea? Reconsidering the Korean Urban Development Experience* (Routledge, 2021); *Neoliberal Urbanism, Contested Cities and Housing in Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019); *Planetary Gentrification* (Policy Press, 2016); *Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement* (Policy Press, 2015).

Professor Shin is an editor of the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, a trustee and treasurer of the Urban Studies Foundation, sits on the international advisory board of the journal

Antipode, and serves on the editorial boards of the journals: *China City Planning Review* (in China); *City*; *City, Culture and Society*; *Dialogues in Urban Research*; *Space and Environment* (in Korea); *Transactions in Planning and Urban Research*; *Urban Geography*. He is also a co-organiser of the Urban Salon, an interdisciplinary London forum for architecture, cities and international urbanism, and edits the LSE Southeast Asia Blog and Field Research Methods Lab Blog.



Katie Boulton

Centre Manager

Katie is SEAC's Centre Manager and oversees the Centre's day-to-day operation, including administration of financial, human and physical resources, implementation of events and programmes, and managing communications and outreach strategies, including publications, in addition to supporting the Centre Director with strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and reporting. Katie has worked in Higher Education for the past nine years, particularly supporting postgraduate and extended education study, most recently for the International Inequalities Institute at LSE.



Yohana Parida

Communications and Events Assistant

Yohana is an MSc in Development Studies student at LSE. Coming from Jakarta, Indonesia, her professional background focused on partnership and advisory for NGOs and development consultancy. She is passionate about women empowerment, gender, education, and community development.



Candee Chee

Communications and Events Assistant

Shu Yee is an MSc in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship student at LSE. Coming from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, she is passionate about community revitalisation, youth empowerment, and education.



Danyun Xiong

Communications Assistant

Danyun holds a master's degree in Anthropology and Development Management. Coming from Guangxi, China, she has years of professional experience in both the education sector and NGOs. She is passionate about migration, labour market, education, and rural and community development.



Murray McKenzie

Research Officer

Dr Mckenzie assisted the British Academy-funded research project, The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences, and Alternatives for Urban Futures, and SEAC's project on COVID-19 and Southeast Asia. He holds a PhD in Geography and Urban Studies from UCL and an MA in Community and Regional Planning from the University of British Columbia. His research focuses on the roles of the arts, culture, and their contestation in processes of urban growth and change. His doctoral thesis investigated how collaborative artistic practices have served as platforms for community building in urban villages of outer Beijing. Prior to joining LSE, Dr Mckenzie was a Postgraduate Teaching Assistant at UCL; resided as a Visiting Senior Scholar at Peking University; and performed as a touring musician in Europe, North America, and East and Southeast Asia.

SEAC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee convenes meetings to discuss prioritised agendas and help ensure that the Centre's activities and resources are effectively managed in accordance with the Centre's objectives

and the School's policies and guidelines. The Committee is also expected to provide consultation for the Centre's direction and development and make contributions to the Centre's activities.

Members

- **Professor Hyun Bang Shin**
Chair; Centre Director
- **Katie Boulton**
Centre Manager
- **Professor Steve Gibbons**
ex-officio; Head of the Department of Geography and Environment
- **Dr Hans Steinmüller**
SEAC Associate;
Department of Anthropology
- **Professor John Sidel**
SEAC Associate; Dept of Government & Dept of International Relations
- **Professor Kent Deng**
SEAC Associate;
Department of Economic History
- **Dr Qingfei Yin**
SEAC Associate;
Department of International History

SEAC ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board provides independent and external advice and general guidance to SEAC to help ensure robust programming, research agendas, outreach, and increased support for the Centre.

Members

- **Professor Jonathan Rigg**
Chair; Chair in Human Geography,
University of Bristol
- **Professor Anne Booth**
Emeritus Professor of Economics, SOAS
- **Professor Chua Beng Huat**
Professor, Faculty of Arts
and Social Sciences, NUS
- **Dr Suraya Ismail**
Research Director,
Khazanah Research Institute
- **Professor Hyun Bang Shin**
Centre Director
- **Katie Boulton**
Centre Manager
- **Collin Liu**
Chief Operating Officer,
Rajah & Tann Asia



Anne Booth is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (SOAS). Anne graduated from Victoria University, Wellington, and then did graduate work at the Australian National University. She subsequently taught at the University of Singapore for three years before returning to the ANU as a research fellow. In 1991, she accepted a chair at SOAS, University of London. She was awarded a Lee Kong Chian fellowship in 2015/16. Anne has had a long-standing interest in economic development in Asia, with a particular focus on Indonesia. Her most recent book, *Living Standards in Southeast Asia: Changes over the Long Twentieth Century, 1900-2015*, is published by Amsterdam University Press.



Chua Beng Huat received his PhD from York University, Canada. Chua Beng Huat is concurrently Professor in Urban Studies at Yale-NUS College and Professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. His research interests include urban and housing studies, comparative politics in Southeast Asia and cultural studies in Asia. His most recent book is *Liberalism Disavowed: Communitarianism and State Capitalism in Singapore*. He is a founding co-executive editor of the journal, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Temenggong Artists-in-Residence, a non-profit visual arts institution in Singapore.



Jonathan Rigg is Chair in Human Geography at the University of Bristol and Professor in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore. Prior to that, he was Head of the Geography Department at Durham University in the UK. He was also based at the School of Oriental & African Studies, London University, where he was a Lecturer, a British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and a PhD student. From 2016 to 2019, he held the position of Director of the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore from 2016 to 2019.



Collin Liu FCA is a member of the Regional Management Council of Rajah & Tann Asia, where he serves as Chief Operating Officer (Southeast Asia) and Chief Sustainability Officer (Singapore). Earlier in his career, Collin worked with Baker McKenzie, Allen & Gledhill LLP and PwC in Singapore and London and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales. Collin is chair of The Singapore LSE Trust and read economics at the LSE from 1994 to 1997. He serves on the boards of The Arts House Limited, a not-for-profit institution promoting performing and literary art in Singapore and Citystate Capital Asia Pte. Ltd., a financial holding company.



Suraya Ismail Suraya Ismail is Director of Research at Khazanah Research Institute. Before joining the Institute, she was Program Director at Think City (a city-making initiative of Khazanah Nasional Berhad), where her role involved developing urban regeneration initiatives through a public grants program in Kuala Lumpur. She previously served as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment as well as the Head of the Department of Quantity Surveying at the University of Malaya.

SEAC ASSOCIATES



Catherine Allerton is Professor and Head of Department in the Department of Anthropology, LSE. She is a specialist in the anthropology of island Southeast Asia, with research interests in children and childhoods, migration, kinship, place and landscape.



Katherine Brickell is Professor of Urban Studies at King's College London. She holds 20 years of area-focused expertise in Cambodia, where she works on the changing geographies of home and work, including violence against women, forced eviction, and, most recently, 'modern slavery' in the construction industry.



Fenella Cannell is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and is a specialist in Southeast Asian anthropology. Her research explored the ways in which people came to think about "culture" in postcolonial society and focused on women's lives and arranged marriage, spirit-mediumship, saint's cults and religion, and popular performances, including transvestite beauty contests. She has since carried out historically-based work on the Philippines, especially education, kinship, and gender in the American colonial period.



Chris Chaplin is an Assistant Professorial Research Fellow in the Religion and Global Society Research Unit at the LSE. He has spent over 14 years working on the region in both academic and other professional roles and specialises in the anthropology of maritime Southeast Asia. His research focuses on the convergence between global religious doctrines and local understandings of piety and faith and how these influence contemporary ideas of religious belonging, solidarity, and social activism.



Kent Deng is Professor of Economic History in the LSE Department of Economic History. He leads the LSE postgraduate module “Economic Development of East and Southeast Asia”, and his research interests and writing include the rise of the literati in the economic life of pre-modern China and the maritime economic history of Asia.



Tim Forsyth is Professor of Environment and Development at LSE. He has six years of work and professional experience within Southeast Asia and is fluent in Thai with skills in Indonesian Bahasa and Burmese. His research focuses on the politics of environmental policymaking, with a particular interest in understanding local environmental risks and livelihoods and reflecting this knowledge in global environmental policies and assessments.



Sin Yee Koh is Senior Assistant Professor in Asian Migration, Mobility and Diaspora at the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and also Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia. Her work uses the lens of migration and mobility to understand the circulations of people, capital, and aspirations in and through cities. She has published on migration and colonial legacies, diaspora strategies, academic and teacher expatriate mobilities, migration and urban intermediaries, and lifestyle migration-led urban speculation.



Nicholas Long is Associate Professor of Anthropology at LSE. He works on the anthropology of Indonesia and the Malay World (with a particular interest in Indonesia’s Riau Archipelago) and on responses to COVID-19 in the UK and Aotearoa New Zealand. He won the 2019 Stirling Prize for Best Published Work in Psychological Anthropology for his article, ‘Suggestions of Power: Searching for Efficacy in Indonesia’s Hypnosis Boom’, and is currently conducting an ESRC-funded ethnographic study of Indonesia’s hypnosis and hypnotherapy circuit.



Duncan McCargo is Director of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies and Professor of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen. He previously held professorial appointments at the University of Leeds and Columbia University, where he co-founded the New York Southeast Asia Network. He works on the comparative politics of Southeast Asia, especially Thailand. His most recent books are *Fighting for Virtue: Justice and Politics in Thailand* (Cornell 2019) and *Future Forward: The Rise and Fall of a Thai Political Party* (with Anyarat Chattharakul, NIAS, 2020).



Deirdre McKay is Professor of Sustainable Development at Keele University and past Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK (ASEAS UK). Her research draws on both social/cultural geography and social anthropology to explore people's place-based experiences of globalisation and development. She has done fieldwork in areas of the global South and also with migrant communities from developing areas who have moved into the world's major cities. Much of her work has been conducted with people who originate in indigenous villages in the northern Philippines, and she is also working on place-based and place-making projects with diverse communities in the UK.



Catalina Ortiz is Associate Professor at the Development Planning Unit at University College London. Catalina is committed to a negotiated co-production of urban space grounded on ethics of care and engaged scholarship. Using decolonial and critical urban theory through knowledge co-production methodologies, Catalina engages with critical urban pedagogies, planning for equality, and southern urbanisms in Latin America and Southeast Asia.



James Putzel is Professor of Development Studies in the International Development Department, LSE, where he served as Head of the Department from 1999 to 2001 and Director of the Crisis States Research Centre from 2001 to 2011. He now directs the MSc in Development Studies. He is well-known for his research in the Philippines, where he has maintained active research since 1984. His articles and books on Southeast Asia have examined agrarian reform, developmental states, democratic transitions, social capital, development aid, NGOs and civil society, nationalism, armed conflict, communist movements, the role of political Islam and the rise of rightist populist politics. Recent publications on the region include 'The populist right challenge to neoliberalism: social policy between a rock and a hard place', *Development and Change*, February 2020, and 'Bangsamoro Autonomy and the Political Settlement in the Philippines', Chapter 10 in F. Lara Jr. and N. De la Rosa (eds) *Conflict's Long Game: A Decade of Violence in the Bangsamoro*. Quezon City: International Alert Philippines, 2022.



Danny Quah is Li Ka Shing Professor in Economics and Dean at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS. Quah's current research is primarily in two areas: first, inequality and income mobility, and second, the supply and demand of the world order. His earlier work concerned technical research in economic growth and econometrics. He was previously Professor in Economics and International Development at LSE.



Kirsten Schulze is Associate Professor in International History at LSE. She works on communal and separatist conflicts as well as Islamism in Indonesia and the Middle East. Her publications on Indonesia include *Exporting the Global Jihad: 'Critical' Perspectives from the Periphery, Volume Two - Asia and North America* (co-edited with Tom Smith, 2020), 'From Afghanistan to Syria: How the global remains local for Indonesian Islamist Militants' (co-authored with Julie Chernov Hwang, 2020), 'From Ambon to Poso: Comparative and Evolutionary Aspects of Local Jihad in Indonesia' (2019), 'Making Jihadis, Waging Jihad: Transnational and Local Dimensions of the ISIS Phenomenon in Indonesia and Malaysia' (co-authored with Joseph Chinyong Liow, 2019), 'The 'Ethnic' in Indonesia's Communal Conflicts: violence in Poso, Ambon and West Kalimantan' (2017), 'Transforming the Aceh Conflict: From Military Solutions to Political Agreement' (2013), and *The Free Aceh Movement (GAM): Anatomy of a Separatist Organization* (2004). She also has a forthcoming book on Islamist, separatist, and communal violence in Indonesia.



John Sidel is the Sir Patrick Gillam Professor of International and Comparative Politics at LSE. He is the author of *Capital, Coercion, and Crime: Bossism in the Philippines* (1999), *Philippine Politics and Society in the Twentieth Century: Colonial Legacies, Postcolonial Trajectories* (2000), *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad: Religious Violence in Indonesia* (2006), *The Islamist Threat in Southeast Asia: A Reassessment* (2007), *Thinking and Working Politically in Development: Coalitions for Change in the Philippines* (with Jaime Faustino) (2020), and *Republicanism, Communism, Islam: Cosmopolitan Origins of Revolution in Southeast Asia* (2021).



Thomas Smith is Associate Professor at LSE. He teaches a number of environmental courses, focusing on innovative technology-enhanced experiential learning and field-based education in geography. He joined the Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, in 2018, having previously been a Lecturer at King's College London. He holds a PhD in Physical Geography from King's College London and has held Visiting Fellow posts at the National University of Singapore, Monash University Malaysia, University of Wollongong (Australia) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam.



Hans Steinmüller is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, LSE and a specialist in the anthropology of China. He has conducted long-term fieldwork in Hubei Province (central China) and in the Wa hills of the China-Myanmar border. Publications include the monograph *Communities of Complicity* (Berghahn 2013) and, more recently, special issues on *Governing Opacity* (*Ethnos* 2023) and *Crises of Care in China Today* (*China Quarterly* 2023). He is the editor of *Social Analysis* and the convenor of the MSc programme in China in Comparative Perspective.



Qingfei Yin is Assistant Professor of International History (China and the World) at LSE. As a historian of contemporary China and inter-Asian relations, her research focuses on China's relations with its Asian neighbours, Asian borderlands, and the Cold War in Asia. She is particularly interested in how the global Cold War interacted with state-building in marginal societies. She is currently completing her book manuscript entitled *State Building in Cold War Asia: Comrades and Competitors* on the Sino-Vietnamese Border (under contract with Cambridge University Press). Subsequent projects are on how capitalist Southeast Asian countries shaped China during the latter's early reform era in the 1980s and the historical memory of the Sino-Vietnamese Cold War partnership in the two countries. Dr Yin is an alumna of the LSE-Peking University Double MSc in International Affairs Programme. She studied International Politics and History at Peking University for her undergraduate degrees and completed her PhD in History at George Washington University. Before returning to LSE, she was Assistant Professor of History at Virginia Military Institute. She also serves as the Book Review Editor of the *Journal of Military History* and on the Editorial Board of *Cold War History*.



Yimin Zhao is Assistant Professor in Urban Planning and Management at the School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China and was a Co-Investigator for the SEAC Research Project 'The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences, and Alternatives for Urban Futures.' He is an editor of the journal *City: Analysis of Urban Change, Theory, Action* and a corresponding editor of the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

SEAC POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE

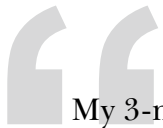


Do Young Oh is a Research Assistant Professor at the School of Graduate Studies, Lingnan University. He was previously a Research Officer, based jointly at the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre and the Middle East Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he finished his PhD in Regional and Urban Planning. His research interests focus on comparative urbanism and postcolonialism in East Asia. His doctoral thesis investigated the evolving university-city relationship through a comparative analysis of East Asian urbanisation processes. His thesis was short-listed for the biennial ICAS Book Prize in 2019 (Dissertation in the Social Sciences). Oh has published in major international journals including the *Journal of Urban History* and *Cities*.

VISITING FELLOWS

SEAC's Visiting Appointment scheme provides an opportunity for visiting researchers to spend normally 6-12 weeks at SEAC and LSE, benefitting from access to LSE facilities and events, along with opportunities for networking and collaboration across the LSE community. Visiting researchers form an integral part of SEAC's research culture and community, each giving a SEAC Seminar, alongside writing for the Southeast Asia blog and SEAC working papers, while

also forming SEAC's growing global community. SEAC offers both a Standard Visiting Appointment scheme for applicants who have secured their own funding and a Stipendiary Visiting Appointment Scheme, which provides funding to enable those without their own funding to apply. All applications go through a rigorous panel assessment, and opportunities are competitive. Applicants are selected based on the strength of their proposal.



My 3-month stay with the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre provided me with a vibrant academic community which enhanced my intellectual capacity and broadened my academic horizons. Working at the SEAC office every day allowed me to interact with people from different places and exposed me to different academic topics and research. On top of that, seminars, talks, and conferences, both on topics directly and indirectly related to my research, pushed me beyond my boundaries. Specifically, seminars on the women's movement, LGBT rights, monarchy, etc., allowed me to look back and criticize my work. Furthermore, the library and online database at LSE are treasures for researchers like me who come from an academic institute with limited resources, particularly in my research field.



— Dr Kanokrat
Lertchoosakul

SEAC was delighted to welcome eleven Visiting Fellows during the 2022/23 year:



Dr Lin Hongxuan is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. He was a Visiting Fellow from January 2022 – January 2023. editor of the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research.



Dr Gerard McCarthy is Assistant Professor of Social Policy and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies (part of Erasmus University of Rotterdam). He joined SEAC as Visiting Fellow from 5 September – 2 September 2022.



Dr Sulfikar Amir is Associate Professor of Science, Technology, and Society (STS) in the Sociology Programme, School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University and joined the Centre as Visiting Senior Fellow from 19 September - 19 December 2022.



Prof Julio Teehankee is Professor of Political Science and International Studies at De La Salle University and joined SEAC as Visiting Senior Fellow from 19 September to 19 December 2022.



Professor Tamaki Endo is Professor at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Saitama University and joined as Visiting Professor from 1st October 2022 to 31st January 2023.



Dr Helena Varkkey is Associate Professor of Environmental Politics at the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya and joined SEAC as Visiting Fellow from 30 January to 12 March 2023.



Dr Andy Scott Chang is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Singapore Management University and joined SEAC as Visiting Senior Fellow from 30 January to 24 April 2023.



Dr Kanokrat Lertchoosakul is Assistant professor at the Department of Government, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and joined SEAC as Visiting Fellow from 1 February to 30 April 2023.



Dr Nicole CuUnjieng Aboitiz is a Research Fellow at Clare Hall, Supervisor in World History, and the Executive Director of the Toynbee Prize Foundation and joined SEAC as Visiting Fellow from 1 February to 31 July 2023.



Dr Ofita Purwani is Associate Professor at the School of Architecture, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia. Dr Purwani joined as Visiting Senior Fellow from 1 April to 30 June 2023.



Dr Benjamin Lawrence is a Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore's Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs). Dr Lawrence joined as Visiting Fellow from 1 May to 31 July 2023.



Dr Helena Varkkey reflects on her time as Visiting Fellow at SEAC:

What did you work on during your time as SEAC Visiting Fellow?

I worked together with two other SEAC members, Dr Thomas Smith from LSE and Dr Felicia Liu from the University of York, on a project exploring “Seasonality in the Anthropocene” in the context of transboundary haze in Southeast Asia. I have collaborated on different projects with both before; however, this was the first time we were able to work together in person for an extended period.

Why was being a Visiting Fellow at SEAC important to you?

Being a Visiting Fellow allowed me to have protected time to work on my research, which can become increasingly difficult as ECRs progress to mid-career scholars with increased administrative roles. Such an on-site position was a welcome break from the largely online-based collaborative projects that had become the norm during the times of COVID-19.

How have you used LSE resources, and how have you contributed to SEAC during this time?

The LSE offices served as the discussion and co-writing space for our project. I also used the research funds allocated to my fellowship to fund fieldwork to peat bogs in Manchester, UK, and other research networking activities at the University of Valencia, Spain and the Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland. During my time here, my collaborators and I developed a blog post based on our project, and I presented our project’s preliminary findings at a SEAC Seminar held on 8 March 2023.

What have you gained from the experience?

I have gained a greater appreciation for equitable collaboration among scholars in the global south and north. In-person collaboration allows us to develop knowledge jointly while consciously avoiding falling into neo-colonial patterns of analysis, argumentation, and writing output. Being based at the SEAC, I also met and spent time with the other SEAC Visiting Fellows, which allowed me to increase my professional networks around the region.



Prof Julio Teehankee reflects on his time as Visiting Senior Fellow at SEAC:

What did you work on during your time as SEAC Visiting Fellow?

I worked on the issue of democratic ambivalence and authoritarian nostalgia in the context of the unprecedented political comeback of the Marcos dynasty in the Philippines. On May 25, 2022, Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr., son and namesake of the late dictator, was proclaimed by Congress as the 17th president of the Republic of the Philippines. His landslide victory in the presidential election was astounding, coming 36 years after his family was ousted from the presidential palace in a military-backed people power uprising. It remains to be seen whether he will follow his father’s path, but his presidency might also highlight democratic resilience in the country – Filipino democracy against the odds.

Why was being a Visiting Fellow at SEAC important to you?

The top-notch intellectual and academic community at the prestigious Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Studies Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science, provided me with a safe haven to do my research, reflection, and writing. I had the pleasure of working with Professor John Sidel, a renowned Southeast Asian and Philippine studies scholar currently the Sir Patrick Gillam Chair in International and Comparative Politics at LSE. I was able to interact and converse with London’s intellectual and academic community, especially the graduate students.

How have you used LSE resources, and how have you contributed to SEAC during this time?

It has been a productive visit. In three months, I delivered the closing seminar to the LSE Southeast Asia Centre Michaelmas series. I attended seven seminars in the series. I’ve written one working paper and a commentary for the Centre. I completed and began editing two book manuscripts to be published in 2023. I finished writing and revising five book chapters and continued working on two articles and two special issues for Scopus-indexed journals. I attended an in-person seminar at the IISS, presented in three webinars in London, Manila, and Brussels and presented for the EU. Also, I interacted with colleagues, early-career academics, graduate students, and former students.

What have you gained from the experience?

Among all my academic fellowships, this London sojourn has been quite memorable for several reasons. First, this came after two years of isolation due to COVID. Second, the top-notch intellectual and academic community at the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science. Third, the fascinating and exhilarating multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism of London. Fourth, the rich culture and heritage: the wonderful theatres, museums, and galleries. Fifth, London is the perfect backdrop for street photography, given its non-stop dynamism.



LSE-Southeast Asia Early Career Researcher (ECR) Network

SEAC's ECR Network has continued to grow in the past year, reaching 276 members as of the end of the 2022/23 academic year who have research interests across the region and actively engage via dedicated events, ECR newsletters, and social media promotion.



I joined the LSE-SEAC ECR Network in Nov 2020, just after I had obtained my PhD from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. I have followed and participated in many of the events organised by LSE-SEAC. Through the Digital Summer School networking event, in particular, I was able to meet other early career researchers from Malaysia and other ASEAN countries. I also met Dr Ng Keng Khoon, who noticed my smart city studies and invited me to become his research assistant on his USCI internal research grant-funded project. During that short-term appointment, we conducted fieldwork and interviewed respondents in Penang, Malaysia. Dr Ng introduced me to another LSE ECR member, Dr Nurul Azreen Azlan. Through that form of snowball networking, Dr Nurul invited me to join her FRGS research grant-funded project exploring the conceptualisation of the community-centric smart city in Malaysia. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to Prof Hyun Bang Shin and LSE-SEAC for developing this ECR initiative, which has expanded my academic network to encompass other brilliant young researchers



— Dr Seng Boon Lim,
ECR Network
Member

ECR NETWORK MEMBERS



29
Malaysia



30
Philippines



72
Indonesia



15
Vietnam



22
Singapore



5
Laos



20
Myanmar



14
Cambodia



55
ASEAN



14
Thailand

Total 276

Below is a screenshot of the SEAC interactive global map of network members (accessible at lse.ac.uk/seac/people/ECR-Network), which permits anybody to

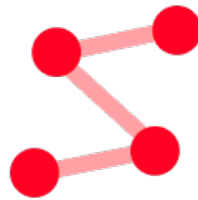
search by country specialism, locate researchers with similar interests, and promote increased collaboration and scholarly work on Southeast Asia.



Southeast Asia Research

SEAC generates and supports interdisciplinary research on Southeast Asia by bringing together researchers and providing a platform for critical debates to analyse the region in global contexts. The Centre encourages wider perspectives, paying

attention not only to intra-regional or local dimensions but also to the ways in which Southeast Asia can enter into conversation with its neighbouring regions and the world. SEAC's focus is on three key, intersecting themes: urbanisation, connectivity and governance:



URBANISATION: to enquire into urbanisation beyond demographic transformations and examine contemporary and historic experiences that encompass the politics and the economics of urbanisation/city-making. Topics of interest, for example, may include, but are not limited to, the promotion of urbanisation as a state project; the politics of land use; critical discourses on the use of Asian cities as reference points for (re-)developing cities in the Global South.

CONNECTIVITY: to examine trans-regional or international connectivity in terms of people, built environments and the nature. The theme may possibly concern, for example, policy networks; infrastructural connections; special economic zones as nodal points for cross-border investments and trades; transnational real estate drives; trade relations; historic and contemporary migration; kinship or religious links; interconnected ecosystems such as the Mekong River basin.

GOVERNANCE: to explore the governance that involves transnational, national and sub-national actors who play their roles directly and/or indirectly in the process of making decisions that may have socio-economic impacts upon people and places. Topics include, for example, state-business relations; transnational or regional cooperations; grassroots politics of democratisation; gender politics; ethnic and cross-border relations; communal conflicts.

Modelling Flood Risk and Community Resilience in Rayong Province, Thailand

One of the top ten countries most severely affected by extreme weather over the last 20 years, Thailand has experienced first-hand global climate emergency with its high propensity to flooding. As such, it needs solutions for itself that have international applicability.

A pioneering and expansive research partnership programme among Chulalongkorn University (a team of geographers led by Dr Pannee Cheewinsiriwat), University of Sussex (Dr John Barlow and Dr Yi Wang), London School of Economics and Political Science (Prof Hyun Bang Shin), and University of Bristol (Prof Jonathan Rigg) is on course to apply innovative methodology and world-leading practice to solve local and global challenges of flooding and climate change impact. Combining expertise in climate science, physical geography, social science, and economics, the partnership team will use high-resolution climate modelling to develop flood risk maps and research how government policies have shaped communities' responses to flooding. The team also aims to examine how community knowledge and resilience can be applied to better flood management policies for Thailand's government and private sector.

In addition to pilot research, postgraduate researchers from Chulalongkorn University will join the project. It will establish a more robust teaching and learning environment and position Chulalongkorn as a world-class centre of geography and climate science research and education. The project empowers knowledge exchange, with UK partners able to learn more about Thailand's hydrological modelling and flood management policy. On course to be completed

in 2023, this project offers sustainable benefits for both countries. It is creating a platform for shared understanding to enable future collaborative joint research, teaching and exchange projects between Thailand, the UK and regional partners in South East Asia, where climate change and its effects, such as flooding, are of paramount concern.

Expected Outputs

- One joint pilot research project with seven trained-Thai researchers
- One research proposal based on the pilot research project ready for research grant application
- Co-publication of the findings from the catalyst grant.

Project dates:

1 Feb 2022 – 31 Jan 2023

Project team:

Dr Pannee Cheewinsiriwat and team (Chulalongkorn University), Dr John Barlow and Dr Yi Wang (University of Sussex), Prof Hyun Bang Shin (SEAC, LSE), and Prof Jonathan Rigg (University of Bristol).

Funding:

Thai-UK World-class University Consortium, British Council



Overlooked Cities: Thinking and doing global urban studies differently

The Overlooked Cities seminar series interrogates “overlooked cities” or “overlookedness” as a collective critique and elaborates on the praxis of counter-overlooking to provide renewed critical impetus to think about, write about, care about and act on urban lives.

Three seminar events will be held in September 2023 in Bandung, Indonesia, October 2023 in Bloemfontein, South Africa, and March 2024 in Durham, UK.

This series will:

- Establish a common understanding and dialogue between the concepts of overlooked and ordinary cities, thereby grounding discussions in historical and contemporary debates;
- Connect academics, practitioners and early career researchers working in and on overlooked cities to build a common agenda for counter-overlooking in global urban studies; and
- Map the urban conditions that are overlooked and question their implications for planning policy and praxis.

Expected outputs:

- A special issue journal
- An ECRs mentoring and training workshop
- An “Overlooked Cities Network.”

Project dates:

2023 – 2024

Project team:

Dr Yimin Zhao (SEAC, LSE), Isolde de Villiers (University of the Free State, South Africa), Hanna A. Ruszczyk (Durham University, United Kingdom), Erwin Nugraha (Resilience Development Initiative, Indonesia), and Julia Wesely (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria)

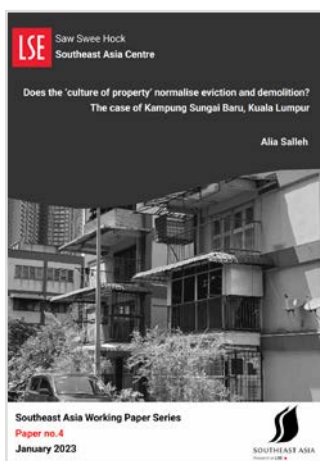
Funding:

Urban Studies Foundation

SOUTHEAST ASIA WORKING PAPER SERIES

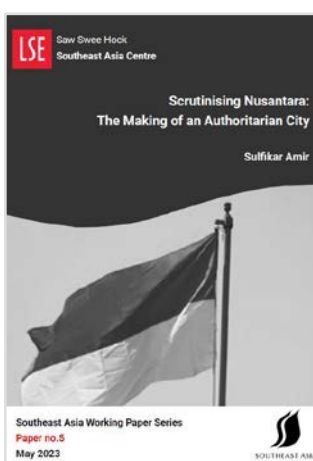
The Southeast Asia Working Paper Series was launched in April 2022, showcasing work-in-progress research by the SEAC community. Working papers published under this Series are treated as 'work-in-progress', pre-publication versions of academic papers, and therefore as 'drafts' that receive feedback

and are subject to future revision. The Series is an open platform for critical and constructive dialogues on region-related affairs and is open to contributions from all disciplines that SEAC engages with. The following Working Papers have been published this year:



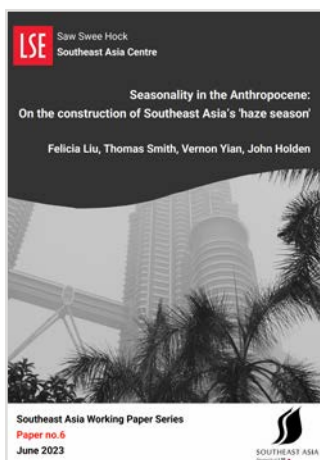
Paper No.4, January 2023
Does the 'Culture of Property' normalise Eviction and Demolition? The Case of Kampung Sungai Baru, Kuala Lumpur

Alia Salleh



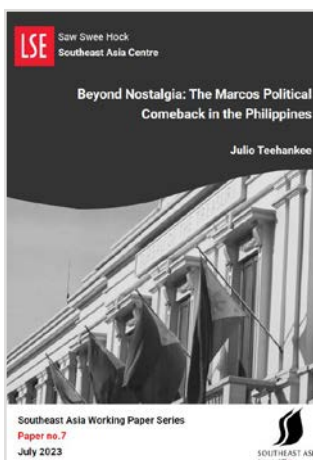
Paper No.5, May 2023
Scrutinising Nusantara: The Making of an Authoritarian City

Sulfikar Amir



Paper No.6, June 2023
Seasonality in the Anthropocene: On the Construction of Southeast Asia's 'Haze Season'

Felicia Liu, Thomas Smith, Vernon Yian, & John Holden



Paper No.7, July 2023
Beyond Nostalgia: The Marcos Political Comeback in the Philippines

Julio Teehankee

Previously published working papers:

Paper No. 1, April 2022
Encountering migrant-driven diversity: Producing difference in Singapore
Junjia Ye

Paper No. 2, May 2022
Private developers and splintered ecological security in north Jakarta
Emma Colven

Paper No. 3, June 2022
Urban Redevelopment, Spatial Restructuring, and Displacement of Communities in Bangkok
Tamaki Endo

RESEARCH FUND

SEAC's Research Fund is available to all LSE academic staff at Assistant Professor/Assistant Professorial Research Fellow level or above, in addition to SEAC Associates outside LSE. The aim is to fill a gap in the support available to LSE academics and researchers and to promote high-quality research on the region. In the 2022/23 academic year, two projects are underway, the details of which are provided below.



Seasonality in the Anthropocene: Social Constructions of Singapore's 'Haze Season'

Project Summary: Widespread burning of tropical peatlands is now considered to be an annual event in equatorial Southeast Asia. The fires cause poor air quality ('haze'), affecting the health of millions and leading to diplomatic disputes between places that burn and the places downwind that suffer in the smoke. Our project focuses on the emerging social construction of Singapore's 'haze season'. Seasonality is a conceptual tool for societies to make sense of their surrounding physical environment. The expectation of recurring seasons allows people to organise their livelihoods around these environmental changes. Through analysis of traditional and social media and surveys, we aim to investigate the emergence of the haze season and how it has been defined by society. Our research seeks to evaluate the extent to which a new seasonality may lead to normalisation (e.g., desensitisation) of the phenomena and how this has impacted haze mitigation efforts (e.g., activism) and adaptation behaviours (e.g., wearing masks, staying indoors).

Outputs

- Presentation at Southeast Asia Forum on 25 October
- Presentation to the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in May 2022
- Southeast Asia Working Paper 6: Seasonality in the Anthropocene: On the Construction of Southeast Asia's 'Haze Season'
- Forthcoming journal article

Principal Investigator:

Dr Thomas Smith (Associate Professor, LSE Dept of Geography and Environment)

Co-Investigator:

Dr Felicia Liu (Lecturer, University of York)

Project dates:

June 2021-December 2023



Tech beyond Silicon Valley: Examining the Development of Singapore's High-tech Ecosystem

Project summary: Economic geographers have long sought to explain the development of new, innovation-based industries. To do this, they have drawn particularly on the US technology sector in general and the concentration of digital technology industries around Silicon Valley in particular. This project will be a detailed case study of the development of Singapore's digital technology sector, understood as firms which use digital tech as part of their growth. It will investigate the political economy of the development of Singaporean digital tech, the wider policy lessons of the approach, and the problems it raises.

Principal Investigator:

Prof Neil Lee (Professor of Economic Geography,
LSE Dept of Geography and Environment)

Co-Investigator:

Augustin Boey

Project dates:

May 2022-December 2023



Singapore's tech industry has been the envy of much of the world. We want to understand how it has developed, what role policy has played, and what the consequences have been for the Singaporean people. This is also a great opportunity for me to work with an exciting Singaporean scholar on an issue of wide interest.



– Prof Neil Lee

SEMINAR SERIES AND NETWORKING GRANT

The LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre (SEAC) aims to nurture and support critical enquiries into the Southeast Asian region by academic staff

and early career researchers (ECRs) at the LSE and for their network to expand on a global scale to foster open and critical debates.



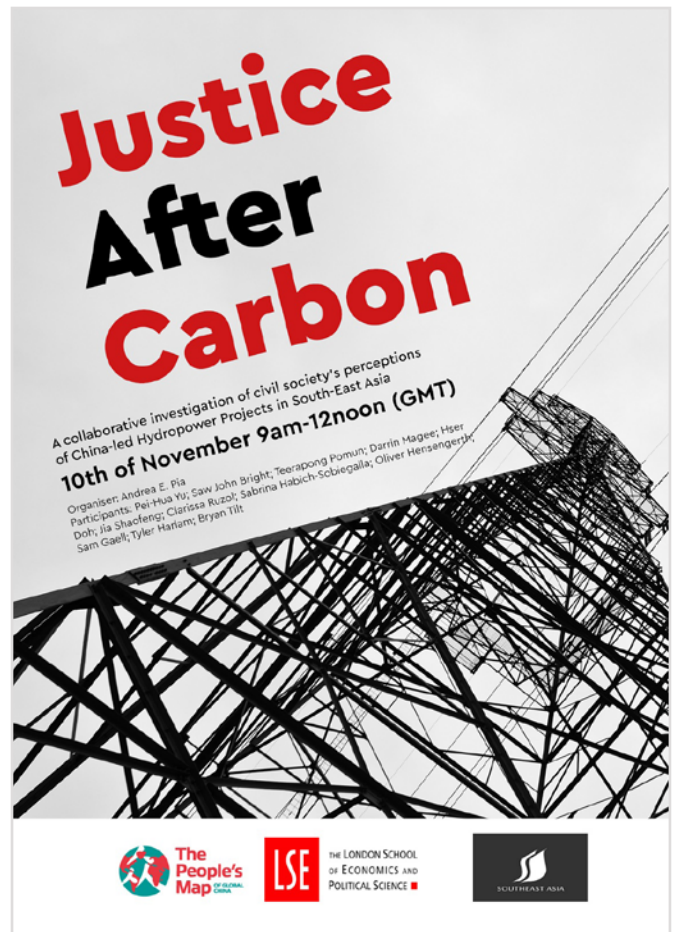
2022 Awardee

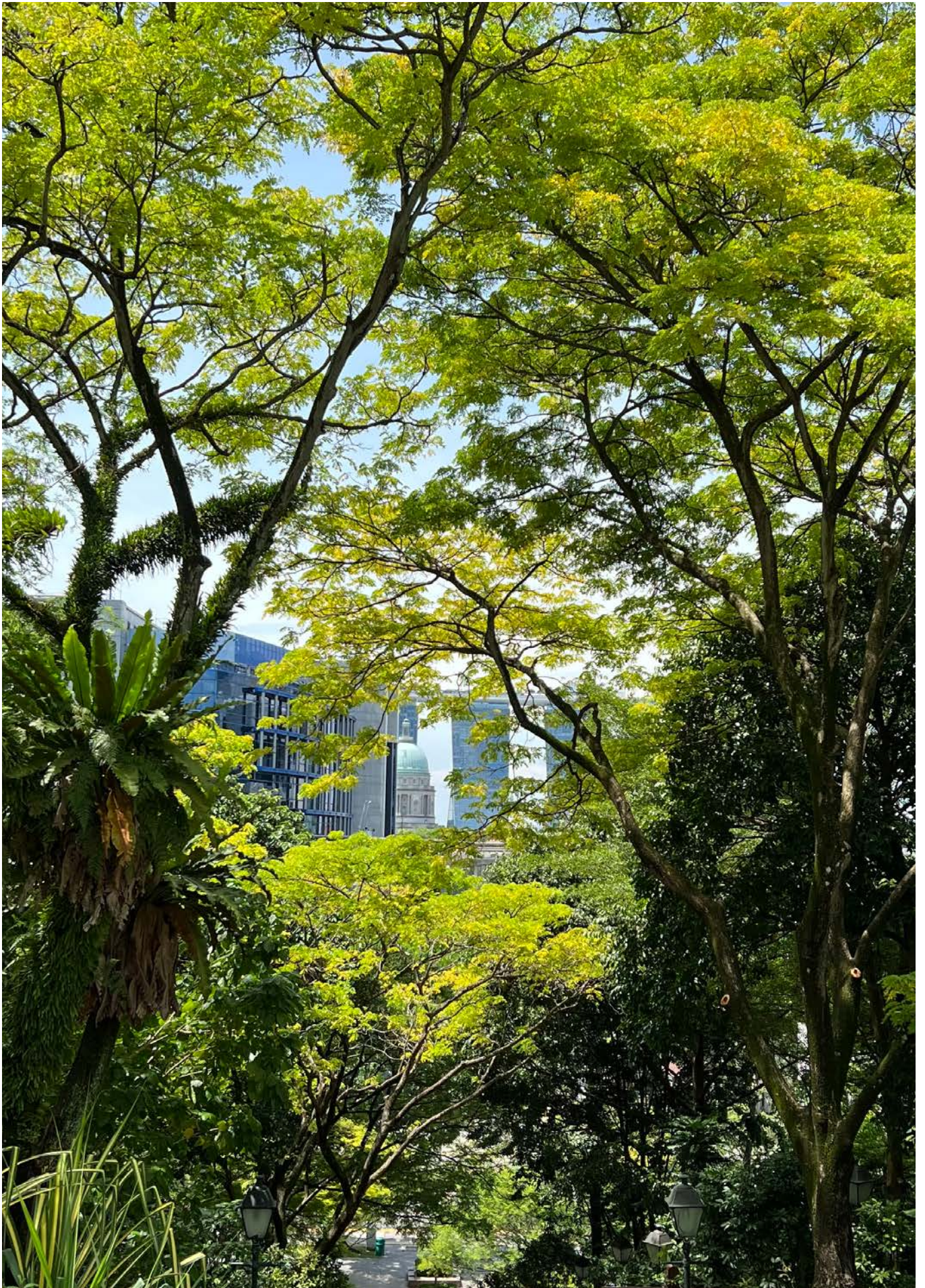
Dr Andrea Pia

Assistant Professor,
Department of Anthropology

On 10 November 2022, Dr Pia put together an international symposium on the hydropower development of the Mekong River and Chinese-led sustainable energy interventions for Southeast Asia. This brought together concerned academics, sustainable energy practitioners, journalists, and indigenous activists to share insights about and debate the promises and perils of Chinese-led sustainable energy interventions for the SEA countries. Speakers included Professor Jia Shaofeng (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Karen activist Saw John Bright, Thai civil society practitioner Teerapong Pomun, founder of the Mekong Community Institute, LSE Anthropology PhD student Cla Ruzol, investigative journalist Yu Pei-Hua, Prof Sabrina Habich (Freie Universität Berlin), and Dr Oliver Hensengerth (Northumbria University).

A recap of the symposium can be found on the Southeast Asia Blog: Justice after carbon: Is there a place for justice in China-led hydropower transition?





Support for Students

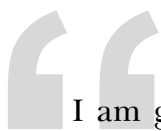
PHD RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND

SEAC provides dedicated financial support to LSE doctoral students focusing on Southeast Asia. This support is not limited to any particular department but for doctoral students in any discipline, and is provided through the Fieldwork Support Fund and the Conference Fund. The Fieldwork Support fund provides up to £2000 for fieldwork based in the Southeast Asia region to cover travel, accommodation, subsistence,

local services (e.g., transcription/ translation) and/or purchase of research materials. The Conference Fund provides up to £500 to enable conference participation (for example, presenting a paper or speaking) and covers conference fees, travel, and accommodation. These two funds are intended to help doctoral students advance their research and networks and to support the next generation of Southeast Asia scholars.

In 2022-23, PhD Support Funds were awarded to:

- Armand Azra Bin Azlira (Department of International History) for fieldwork
- Capucine Riom (Department of Geography and Environment) for fieldwork
- Cla Ruzol (Department of Anthropology) for conference participation
- Dominique Dillabough-Lefebvre (Department of Anthropology) for conference participation
- Yorga Permana (Department of Geography and Environment) for conference participation and fieldwork



I am grateful for the award because it supplemented my conference costs. I was able to make acquaintances and friends with Philippine scholars based all over the world. I want to keep these new connections I made and expand my network on SEA studies. I grew more confident to approach fellow scholars working on the Philippines and in the region. Hopefully, in the near future, I will be able to bring together some of the people I met at this conference through other engagements at SEAC.

– Cla Ruzol



Armand Azra Bin Azlira

(Department of International History)

What is the topic of your PhD?

My provisional title is “Malaysia as the End of Anti-Colonialism: Mass Politics in the Formation of a Neo-Colony, c.1945-1969.”

How are you using the PhD Fieldwork Grant?

I am using the PhD fieldwork to travel around Malaysia for archival and oral history research. While documents in the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, are useful, I have planned to travel to a select few states as well as to Singapore and Thailand to collect documents from local administration, enforcement and surveillance to extrapolate a ‘history-from-below’. This is especially important as my topic covers what Cheah Kheng Boon terms the ‘losers’ of Malaysian nation-building, which in this case were the anti-colonial mass movements of the 1940s to 1960s, including much of the labour and peasant mass movements. For example, I used the SEAC funding to travel to the Johor state archives, where most of its documents had not been catalogued digitally. This made the SEAC funding useful as I was able to stay for a longer period in a nearby hotel in Johor in order to allow me to spend more time manually looking through the extensive catalogue. Moreover, files relating to the Labour Party of Malaya (LPM), an anti-colonial labour movement in the 1960s, were initially mislaid and were about to be classified as ‘missing’ due to its deemed unimportance. The extended stay funded by the fieldwork grant, as well as the persistence and invaluable work of the archivists, allowed me to eventually access these essential files that contained the circumstances of the deregistration of local LPM branches. Local police files, which are often difficult to obtain in the capital, are also available in the Johor

branch, which illuminated the perspective of local law enforcement on this national movement. The SEAC funding has allowed me to do primary research into other state archival branches around Malaysia that will allow me to do similar work in each branch to capture the nature of the anti-colonial mass movements in the 1940s and 1960s. The fieldwork grant has also given me the opportunity to be able to access archives in Singapore to capture the transnational nature of this movement. Because of this grant, I have been able to access archives and libraries that I would not have been able to in Singapore.

Why is supporting Early Career Researchers important?

The support by SEAC to Early Career Researchers has been personally significant to me in that it has allowed me to obtain original materials that will be crucial in my career, and it has allowed me to make important connections to researchers, archivists and historical actors themselves. The materials I have been able to obtain in archival and oral history research have been crucial in my work that seeks to build on the current scholarship of regional anti-colonial mass movements. The materials I have obtained have even led to the acceptance of my application to an international academic workshop titled ‘Decolonization’s Discontent’, which would not have been possible without the SEAC Fieldwork Grant that allowed me to collect documents that were crucial to the paper I submitted. The grant has enabled me to plan collaborative fieldwork research that is important in creating connections as well as to gain different perspectives from my colleagues who are equipped with their own unique specialisations.

DISSERTATION FIELDWORK GRANTS

SEAC was delighted to receive many competitive applications for the 2022/23 Southeast Asia Student Dissertation Fieldwork Grants. The seven student awardees were selected based on the strength of their applications and their proposed dissertation fieldwork and research. The grant provides up to a maximum of £500 per awardee towards research

expenses, which can go towards categories like accommodation, subsistence, and local services such as translation or transcription. The Dissertation Fieldwork Grant scheme is supported by Arvind Khattar, whose generous gift has helped SEAC to further develop its research activities.



Hanson Chong

Degree: MSc Social Research Methods

Proposed fieldwork location: Malaysia

Topic: Interethnic Friendships under Ethnic Segregation: The Case of Malaysia



Jiajun Deng

Degree: MSc Anthropology and Development

Proposed fieldwork location: Malaysia

Topic: Losing or Winning? Development and Dispossession in Malaysia



Wisarut Junsook

Degree: MSc International and Asian History

Proposed fieldwork location: Thailand

Topic: The Bowring Treaty of 1855 and the Transformation of Siamese Foreign Policies toward Britain



Jia Kok

Degree: MSc Media and Communications

Proposed fieldwork location: Malaysia

Topic: An Investigation of Malaysian Chinese's 'Chineseness' and its

Relationship with Chinese Social Media, RED and Popular Culture in the Facilitation and Maintenance of a Chinese identity



Yenuarizki Soedjoko

Degree: MSc Social and Public Communication

Proposed fieldwork location: Indonesia

Topic: Understanding Indonesian Conservatives and Liberals' Moral Values to Viral Social Media Contents in the #SahkanRUUPKS Campaign



Si-Qi Tan

Degree: MSc International Social and Public Policy

Proposed fieldwork location: Singapore

Topic: The Interrelationship between Social Policy, Confucianism and Loneliness Among the Elderly in Singapore



Ruth Luzminda Warren

Degree: MSc Urbanisation and Development

Proposed fieldwork location: Philippines

Topic: Climate-Resilient Urban Planning and Ageing Populations in Asia: Understanding Gendered Experiences of Ageing and Housing in Cagayan de Oro

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The SEAC Undergraduate Research Fellowship scheme seeks to engage LSE undergraduate students with the research by SEAC's Centre Associates. Undergraduate Research Fellows (URFs) are expected to gain important insight into the work of an academic in planning, conducting and disseminating

scholarly research while offering the opportunity for 75 hours of paid work with the project lead. The Southeast Asia Undergraduate Research Fellowship scheme is supported by Arvind Khattar, whose generous gift has helped SEAC to further develop its research activities.

Talking to a Familiar Stranger: Capitalist Southeast Asia's Re-Engagement with China in the 1980s

URF: Meisha Binti Muhammad Lukman

Project Lead: Dr Qingfei Yin, Assistant Professor, Department of International History

Project Summary:

From the mid to late 1970s, several capitalist Southeast Asian countries, such as Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, established diplomatic relations with China. Their respective bilateral relations nevertheless grew slowly until the 1980s, when the Cambodian crisis drove closer the Chinese and ASEAN interests, and the trade community perceived the immense potential profit from an opening Chinese market. At this critical juncture, the Chinese and Southeast Asian societies were "familiar strangers" to each other. The connected social fabric built by migration and trade had been interrupted by the iron curtain, and the political landscape of these societies had all been shaped by the Cold War confrontation. This project investigates the driving force of capitalist Southeast Asia's strategies and policies toward China in the 1980s, a critical period of economic development and social change for both sides. It focuses on the decision-making of key leaders and the agency of the business community, ordinary travellers, the military, and the Chinese diaspora.

This is part of a larger book project that examines how Southeast Asian countries, especially those on



the other side of the Cold War ideological bloc, shaped China during the latter's early reform era. It combines a top-down diplomatic history approach with a bottom-up social history approach to examine the regional dynamics of Southeast Asia's relations with the outside world. While existing literature has mostly examined how Western countries shaped Chinese politics, economy and society in the early reform era, this project emphasises the importance of capitalist Southeast Asian countries' impacts on China during the period.

2022 Project Update: Migration and Childhood in Sabah and Beyond

URF: Kesha Menon Jayadeep, BA Anthropology and Law, Department of Anthropology

Kesha worked with SEAC Associate Professor Catherine Allerton (Department of Anthropology, LSE) for her project entitled "Migration and Childhood in Sabah and Beyond"

Project Summary:

Sabah, an East Malaysian state in the north of the island of Borneo, is home to thousands of children who have been born across borders to migrant parents from eastern Indonesia and the southern Philippines.

Such cross-border births are unauthorised by the Malaysian migration regime, which treats unskilled and semi-skilled foreign workers as a mobile, single and ultimately expendable labour force. The descendants of such workers are, in many respects, Sabah's 'impossible children'. They are denied access to public education and healthcare and spend much of their lives in workers' housing or squatter villages, out of sight of Malaysian citizens. At constant risk of arrest and deportation, many of them begin work at a young age in Sabah's factories and plantations. The lives of these children, therefore, have much to teach us about the reproduction of inequality and exclusion in migrant families, as well as the ways in which children come to feel a sense of (linguistic, cultural, and place-based) belonging.



**URF reflections from
Professor Catherine Allerton**

Why did you want to join the URF scheme?

I am currently completing a book manuscript on children of refugees and migrants in Sabah, East Malaysia. I wanted to update my bibliography of work published in both Malay and Bahasa Indonesia on migration to Sabah, and in particular on experiences of families and children. I knew that there would be some excellent Malay-reading undergraduates at the LSE and thought the URF would help me undertake this bibliographic work at a time when I was busy with other commitments.

How was it working with Kesha? What value did she bring to the work?

Kesha was fantastic: super-efficient, interesting to chat with, and full of good ideas for how to find

materials published in Malaysia. I really enjoyed talking with her about the complex situation with regard to migrants in Malaysia and the status of Sabah, and she quickly grasped what I was looking for. She provided me with a very helpful, annotated bibliography that I am currently using in my research, and I managed to find many references that were new to me.

What could other students benefit from joining the URF scheme?

In joining the URF scheme, students can work closely with an LSE academic and gain insights into how academics pursue questions and issues in their research. They gain independent research skills and have a chance to contribute to future publications. Hopefully, it might also be interesting!



**URF reflections from
Kesha Menon Jayadeep**

Why did you want to join the URF scheme?

When I heard about the URF scheme, I was very intrigued by the opportunity to cultivate my research skills, which would be very helpful for student life and potentially even when I join the workforce. Not to mention, under the 2021/22 scheme, I got to work with Professor Allerton on a topic that was very interesting to me, but I would not have had the time otherwise to do my own research about it. The URF provided me with the opportunity to make this connection, while simultaneously helping me grow my professional skills.

What did you learn from this experience?

It was very important to learn to manage my time well while doing my research, as I had to set my own hours while balancing other commitments and my home life. Additionally, I also was able to “brush up” my research skills – it was very useful to learn how to go through articles and pick up relevant information in a timely manner, which was challenging, especially because a lot of the literature I was looking at was

written in Malay/Bahasa Indonesia. I was lucky to get this opportunity because it taught me valuable transferrable skills that I could use in my university life and hopefully beyond!

Would you recommend the URF scheme to other students? Why?

I would recommend it to other students because it really did help me grow as a person and as a student. It gave me a taste of what academic work could look like, so I would definitely suggest that other students join it, especially if they are interested in pursuing academic careers or even if they want an opportunity to grow their research and planning skills. In my case, Professor Allerton’s research was somewhat aligned with my degree program (BA Anthropology & Law) so that meant that while I was working mostly over the summer break, I was still thinking about similar concepts, so the transition between year 1 and 2 of my undergraduate programme was not very difficult. However, even if it were not aligned with my degree program, it still would have been a very good opportunity for me (and all other students to come).

POSTGRADUATE DISSERTATION PRIZE

The LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre Postgraduate Dissertation Prize on Southeast Asia showcases outstanding social science research on Southeast Asia from LSE postgraduate students. Submissions were received from across LSE departments, all of which were at first-class level.

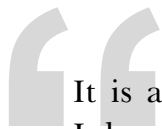


Winner

Alia Salleh

MSc in Urbanisation and Development
Department of Geography and Environment

Dissertation title: Does the 'culture of property' normalise eviction and demolition? The case of Kampung Sungai Baru, Kuala Lumpur



It is a great honour to receive this award and be able to highlight a topic I deeply care about. Thank you, SEAC and the reviewers, for the recognition. I am greatly indebted to the people of Kampung Sungai Baru who have welcomed me and trusted me with their stories.

Alia Salleh is a research associate at PNB Research Institute, Malaysia. She recently completed her MSc in Urbanisation and Development at the London School of Economics under the Chevening Scholarship programme. Her dissertation questions prevailing narratives on redevelopment, reflecting her deep interest in urban development issues in her home city, Kuala Lumpur.



Highly Commended

Itamar Carillo

MSc in Health and International Development
Department of International Development

Dissertation title: Rainfall shocks and cash transfer effects on stunting. A case study of Indonesia

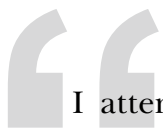
Itamar is a Medical Doctor who has recently graduated from the London School of Economics with an MSc. in Health and International Development. Itamar had recently worked as an external consultant for UNAIDS and as a research assistant at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. Her time living in Singapore and volunteering in clinics in the Philippines and East Timor sparked her interest in the region's social issues, particularly the intertwined connection between health and development.



SEAC CAFE

The SEAC Café was a series of informal small group sessions for open discussion on Southeast Asia topics. Over the course of the year, LSE students were given the opportunity to engage with

LSE SEAC Associates in an array of fields to learn more about their specialism and approach and to understand better pressing regional issues and insights.



I attended the SEAC Café with Prof Shin and found it a useful and rich discussion. We focused on topics of conducting urban research in Southeast Asia. And it allowed me a more relaxed space to discuss and exchange ideas with other students and senior faculty. I recommend SEAC Café to any students interested in Southeast Asia!

— SEAC Café attendee

■ Professor Kent Deng

Area of Expertise: Economic History, pre-modern and early modern China
2 February 2023

■ Dr Qingfei Yin

Area of Expertise: International History
8 February 2023

■ Professor Hyun Bang Shin

Area of Expertise: Urbanisation, Gentrification, Housing, Cities, China, Korea, Southeast Asia
8 March 2023

■ Dr Chris Chaplin

Area of Expertise: Maritime Southeast Asia; Indonesia
8 March 2023

■ Professor John Sidel

Area of Expertise: International Politics, South-East Asia
14 March 2023

■ Dr Kirsten Schulze

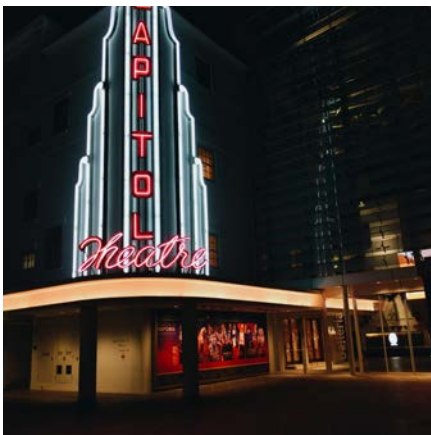
Area of Expertise: Militant Islam, Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency in Southeast Asia
29 March 2023

Academic Engagement

2022-23 EVENTS

Each year, SEAC hosts wide and varied events that build upon a history of engagement between LSE and Southeast Asia. In 2022/23, the Centre hosted events in-person, online, and in a hybrid format and featured a particularly diverse set of speakers as a result,

alongside a broad audience from across the LSE, UK, Southeast Asia, and other countries. Events included roundtables, lectures, and seminars designed to showcase cutting-edge research on Southeast Asian matters and insights.



14 June 2023

Towards an Infrastructural Sublime: Recent Films from a Hub in the Global Supply Chain

Prof Gerald Sim (Florida Atlantic University)

Prof Rosalind Galt (King's College London)

Prof Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



8 June 2023

The Ambiguous Axis; The Royal City in Contemporary Context

Dr Ofita Purwani (Universitas Sebelas Maret)

Prof Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



31 May 2023

In the Shadow of the Constitution: the Micropolitics of Constitutional Contestation in Cambodia

Dr Benjamin Lawrence (National University of Singapore)

Dr Kirsten Schulze (LSE)



22 May 2023

Corruption, Property and Space-time in the Southeast Asian City

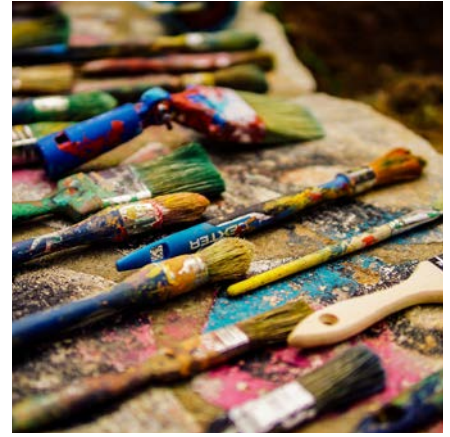
Dr Hun Kim (University of California, Irvine)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



17 May 2023

Indigenizing the Cold War: Nation-Building by the Border Patrol Police in Thailand

Dr Sinae Hyun (Sogang University)
Dr Qingfei Yin (LSE)



3 May 2023

Fernando Amorsolo: Master Painter of Philippine Sunlight and Elite Conceptions of Nature

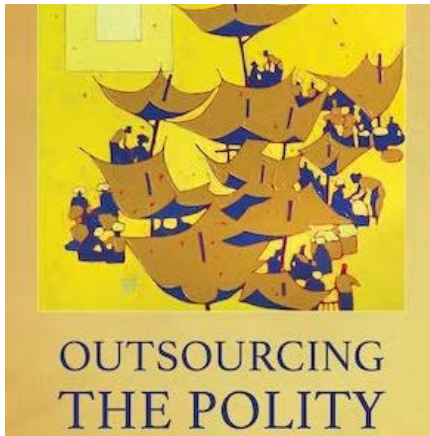
Dr Nicole CuUnjieng Aboitiz (University of Cambridge)
Professor John Sidel (LSE)



4 April 2023

Modalities of Speculative Urbanism: Tales from Jakarta

Professor Helga Leitner (UCLA)
Professor Eric Sheppard (UCLA)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



29 March 2023

Outsourcing the Polity: Non-State Welfare, Inequality, and Resistance in Myanmar

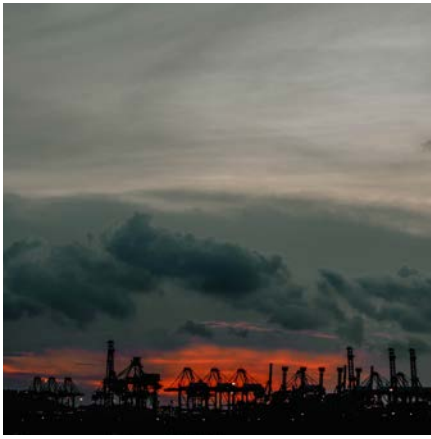
Dr Gerard McCarthy (International Institute of Social Studies)
Dr Htwe Htwe Thein (Curtin University)
Professor John Sidel (LSE)



23 March 2023

The Cutting-Edge Youth Movement in Thailand and Unfinished Democracy

Dr Kanokrat Lertchoosakul (Chulalongkorn University)
Professor John Sidel (LSE)



8 March 2023

Seasonality in the Anthropocene: Understanding Transboundary Haze in Southeast Asia

Dr Helena Varkkey (Universiti Malaya)
Dr Thomas Smith (LSE)



3 March 2023

Urban Political Ecologies on the Edge and the Making of Manila's Resource Frontier

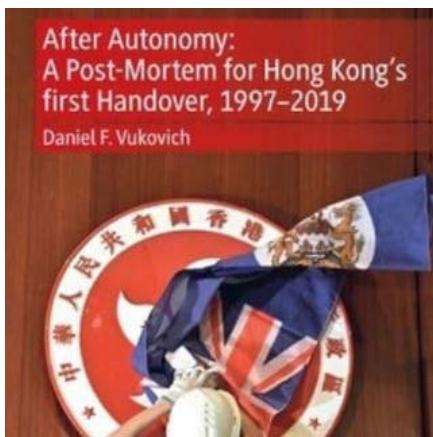
Dr Kristian Karlo Saguin (University of the Philippines Diliman)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



8 February 2023

Storefront Maids and Shopfloor Maids on the Global Labor Assembly Line

Dr Andy Scott Chang (Singapore Management University)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



30 January 2023

Roundtable: After Autonomy: A Post-Mortem for Hong Kong's First Handover, 1997-2019

Dr Dan Vukovich (University of Hong Kong)
Dr Edmund W. Cheng (City University of Hong Kong)
Professor Bingchun Meng (LSE)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



25 January 2023

Gentrification in Thai, Thailand, Thai Land

Dr Napong Tao Rugkhaman (Chulalongkorn University)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



18 January 2023

Urban Risk and Well-Being in Asian Mega Cities: Urban Lower and Middle Classes in Bangkok, Shanghai, and Tokyo

Professor Tamaki Endo (Saitama University)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



23 November 2022

Authoritarian Nostalgia, Democratic Ambivalence, and the Marcos Political Comeback in the Philippines

Professor Julio Cabral Teehankee (De La Salle University)
Professor John Sidel (LSE)



17 November 2022

'Thinking about democracy in Singapore' Student Masterclass with Prof Beng Huat Chua

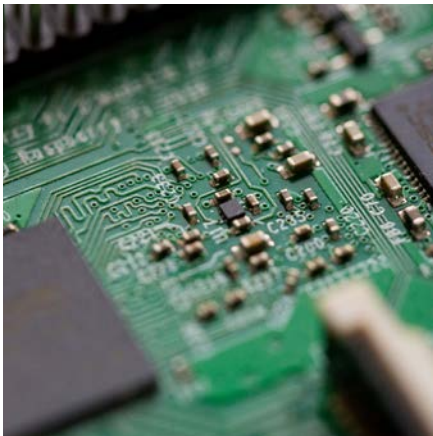
Professor Beng Huat Chua (National University of Singapore)



16 November 2022

Public Subsidy/Private Capital: Political Economic Contradictions in Singapore's Public Housing System

Professor Beng Huat Chua (National University of Singapore)
Dr Suraya Ismail (Khazanah Research Institute)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



9 November 2022

Interconnected Worlds: Electronics Global Production Networks after the Pandemic

Professor Henry Yeung (National University of Singapore)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



9 November 2022

Saving Our Sisters: Exploring the Politics of Anti-trafficking and Sex Work in the Philippines

Dr Sharmila Parmanand (LSE)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



26 October 2022

Does State-Sponsored Violence Lead to Democratic Erosion? Evidence from a List Experiment in the Philippines

Dr Sol Iglesias (University of the Philippines Diliman)
Dr Chao-Yo Cheng (Birkbeck University of London)
Professor John Sidel (LSE)

3 November 2022

**Decentring Critical Urban Scholarship:
Conversations with IJURR**



Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)
Professor Tuna Taşan-Kok (University of Amsterdam)
Professor Claire Mercer (LSE)
Dr María José Álvarez-Rivadulla (Universidad de los Andes)
Dr Liza Weinstein (Northeastern University)
Professor Mona Fawaz (American University of Beirut)
Professor Nausheen Anwar (Institute of Business Administration)
Professor Eduardo Marques (University of São Paulo)
Dr Tom Goodfellow (University of Sheffield)
Professor Michele Lancione (Polytechnic of Turin)



1 November 2022

**Gentrification and Public Policy:
Comparative Perspectives,
an Urban Salon Seminar**

Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)
Dr Matthias Bernt (Humboldt University)
Professor Loretta Lees (Boston University)
Michael Edwards (International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA))

12 October 2022

**Scrutinizing Nusantara:
The Fallacies of Indonesia's
New Capital**

Dr Sulfikar Amir (Nanyang Technological University)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)

5 October 2022

**From Red Revolution to Red
Solution: China and the Cold
War Endgame in Indochina**

Dr Qingfei Yin (LSE)
Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



18 October 2022

**Governing the Gig-Economy in the Global South:
Examining Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective**

Dr Laura Mann (LSE)

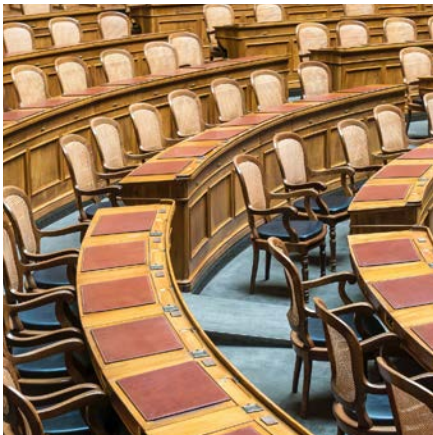
Prof Kate Meagher (LSE)

Dr Godofredo Ramizo (Oxford Internet Institute)

Muhammad Yorga Permana (LSE)

Akkanut Wantanasombut (Chulalongkorn University)

Dr Gerard McCarthy (International Institute of Social Studies)



3 October 2022

**'Making Space for the New
State Capitalism' A SEAC-IBF
Roundtable Discussion**

Dr Callum Ward (University of
Uppsala)

Dr Adam Dixon (Maastricht
University)

Dr Heather Whiteside (The
University of Waterloo)

Dr Ilias Alami (Uppsala University)

Professor Jamie Peck (University
of British Columbia)

Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



28 September 2022

**ECR Event: Opportunities in Asia
for Southeast Asia-focused PhDs**

Dr Lin Hongxuan (National
University of Singapore)

Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)

SOUTHEAST ASIA FORUM

The LSE Southeast Asia Forum is SEAC's annual flagship event, designed to bring together leading Southeast Asia experts to engage with some of the region's most critical and pressing issues, as well as showcase the high-quality research on Southeast Asia conducted at LSE. This year's forum took place in May 2023 and focused on Southeast Asia Futures.

How do past and current trends inform the future of Southeast Asia? What can we learn from political, economic, and urban approaches to how Southeast Asia is changing? In 2023 the Southeast Asia Forum focused on Southeast Asia Futures, considering the questions from various approaches and lenses. The events offered a unique opportunity to learn from cutting-edge research and gain insight from experts working in and on Southeast Asia.

Tuesday 9 May

Southeast Asia Economic Futures: Climbing up global value chains: leveraging FDI for economic development in Asia

Chaired by Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)

- Professor Kenta Goto (Kansai University)
- Professor Pavid Pananond (Thammasat University)
- Professor Riccardo Crescenzi (LSE)

The Future of Sand: the Comparative Geopolitics of Land Reclamation, the Environment, and Social Change

Chaired by Dr Thomas Smith (LSE)

- Dr Monika Arnez (Palacký University)
- Dr Kate Dawson (University College London)
- Dr William Jamieson (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Wednesday 10 May

Southeast Asia Urban Futures

Chaired by Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)

- Dr Helena Varkkey (Universiti Malaya)
- Melinda Martinus (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies – Yusof Ishak Institute (ISEAS))
- Dr Laura Cipriani (TU Delft)
- Clinton Moore (UN-Habitat)

Southeast Asia Research Futures: In-Country Experiences

Chaired by Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)

- Dr Sol Iglesias (University of the Philippines Diliman)
- Professor Julio Teehankee (De La Salle University)
- Dr Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad (Universitas Indonesia)
- Professor Poppy S. Winanti (Universitas Gadjah Mada)



Thursday 11 May

Southeast Asia's Political Futures

Chaired by Professor John Sidel (LSE)

- Professor Duncan McCargo (University of Copenhagen, SEAC Associate)
- Dr Sana Jaffrey (Australian National University)
- Dr Mai Van Tran (University of Copenhagen)

Southeast Asia Research: Challenges and Opportunities

Chaired by Dr Yimin Zhao (Renmin University)

- Dr Laura Antona (LSE)
- Dr Greta Seibel (LSE)
- Jiahui Zeng (Tsinghua University)
- Lingqi Wang (Tsinghua University)

Friday 12 May

How People Compare: Cross Disciplinary Discussions

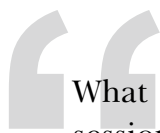
Chaired by Professor Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)

- Dr Hans Steinmüller (LSE)
- Dr Catalina Ortiz (UCL)
- Dr Yimin Zhao (Renmin University)

MALAYSIA FUTURES FORUM

May 31 and June 1, 2023, SEAC partnered with Khazanah Research Institute (KRI) to co-host the SEAC-KRI Forum 2023: Malaysia Futures, which brought together over 300 leading scholars, policymakers, think tanks, thought leaders and young researchers— both in-person and virtually— to engage in riveting discourse on the possible ways in which Malaysia ‘futures’ could be imagined.

The forum comprised special addresses, conversations and five sessions: Economic Futures, Urban Futures, Institutional Futures, Digital Futures, and Socio-Economic Futures. Distinguished panellists from Southeast Asia, including experts from Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Singapore, and South Korea, participated in each session. The event witnessed a strong attendance from government representatives, academia, private industry, civil society, and international organisations.



What came up [from the various sessions] was the importance of framing problems and how to reframe the way these issues are discussed, and I think this is really important. What best way to change the way the framing is being conducted than sitting together in the way we have done in the last two days—where researchers, academics, and other expert professionals actually get a chance to assemble in person and have conversations about these issues together.

— Professor Hyun Bang Shin

Sessions included:

- **Opening Address:**
Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, Chairman, Khazanah Research Institute
- **Special Address:**
Recent World Trends and Threats to Malaysian Prospects, Emeritus Professor Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Senior Advisor, KRI, Malaysia
- **Economic Futures:**
Moderated by KRI Deputy Director of Research, Nithiyananthan Muthusamy, the panellists included Dr Guanie Lim (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan), Professor Dr Pavidan Pananond (Thammasat Business School, SEAC Southeast Asia Forum panellist), Emeritus Professor Dr Tham Siew Yean (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) and Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali (UKM Graduate Business School).

■ **Urban Futures:**

The session was delivered by Dr Sin Yee Koh (Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; SEAC Associate), Yin Shao Loong (KRI Malaysia), Professor Tim Bunnell (National University of Singapore) and Dr Kristian Saguin (University of the Philippines Diliman; former SEAC Speaker), and moderated by Professor Hyun Bang Shin (SEAC Director).

■ **Institutional Futures:**

Moderated by Yin Shao Loong (KRI Malaysia), this session featured Professor Yeah Kim Leng (Jeffrey Cheah Institute Southeast Asia), Dr Kim Dong Soo (Korea Institute for Industrial Economic and Trade), Professor Chua Beng Huat (National University of Singapore; SEAC Advisory Board member), and Dr Sarena Che Omar (KRI Malaysia).

■ **Keynote Address:**

Big Power Politics Behind the “Come-Back” of Industrial Policy, Prof Robert Wade (LSE)

■ **Digital Futures:**

The session was delivered by Adilah Junid (Microsoft), Farlina Said (Institute of Strategic & International Studies; former SEAC contributor), Dr Orlando Woods (Singapore Management University), Dr Jun-E Tan (KRI Malaysia) and moderated by Dr Rachel Gong (KRI Malaysia; former SEAC Contributor).

■ **In Conversation with Professor Danny Quah (National University of Singapore; SEAC Associate): Growth and Welfare:**

Policy-Making in Emerging Economies



Now is a great time to forge new relationships among Southeast Asian Nations and understand the strengths of each country so we can be stronger as a region.

– Dr Suraya Ismail



■ **Socio-Economic Futures:**

Moderated by Dr Suraya Ismail (KRI Malaysia; SEAC Advisory Board member), the panel included Dr Junjia Ye (Nanyang Technological University; former SEAC Visiting Fellow), Bryan Lim (Khazanah Nasional Berhad), Hawati Abdul Hamid (KRI Malaysia), and Datuk Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour (Bank Negara Malaysia).

EDI AT THE CENTRE

SEAC approaches all its work with LSE’s principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in mind. This approach can particularly be seen in our events programme, where we welcome a diverse range of speakers to the Centre to discuss regional topics from a variety of backgrounds, approaches,

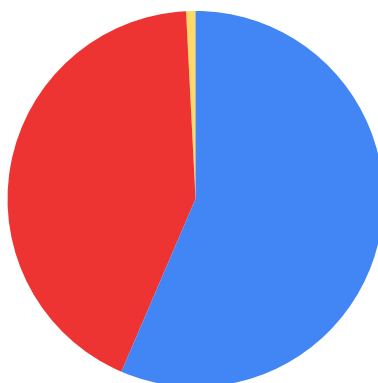
and academic disciplines. Decentring knowledge production and access to knowledge is core to the Centre’s approach. We are pleased to report on our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) at the Centre, and in particular, to share statistics on our speakers:

40

Number of events

124

Number of speakers



Speakers by gender:

Non-binary

1 (0.8%)

Female

53 (42.7%)

Male

70 (56.5%)



Speakers by region:

Southeast Asia

44 (50.6%)

Europe

10 (11.5%)

UK

33 (37.9%)

Rest of the World

37 (29.8%)

Note that these numbers include speakers at the Malaysia Futures Forum, which took place 31 May – 1 June and featured 29 speakers, 10 F and 19 M, 2 UK, 25 Southeast Asia.



Publications

RESEARCH ARTICLES AND NEWS ARTICLES

- **Allerton, C.** (2022) Discordant temporalities of migration and childhood. *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/117406>
- Beck, S., **Forsyth, T.**, & Mahony, M. (2022). Urgent need to move toward solution-orientated environmental assessments. *One Earth*, 5(6), 586-588. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/115562>
- Fengjiang, J., & **Steinmüller, H.** (2023). Leadership programmes: success, self-improvement, and relationship management among new middle-class Chinese. *Ethnos*, 88(1), 109-129. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00141844.2020.1867605>
- **Forsyth, T.** (2023). Political ecology and ontology: Is literal critical realism the answer? A response to Knudsen. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 30(1), 191-197. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/118642>
- **Forsyth, T.**, McDermott, C. L., & Dhakal, R. (2022). What is equitable about equitable resilience? Dynamic risks and subjectivities in Nepal. *World Development*, 159, 106020. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.106020>
- **Forsyth, T.**, & McDermott, C. L. (2022). When climate justice goes wrong: Maladaptation and deep co-production in transformative environmental science and policy. *Political Geography*, 98, 102691. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2022.102691>
- **Forsyth, T.**, & Springate-Baginski, O. (2022). Who benefits from the agrarian transition under violent conflict? Evidence from Myanmar. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 95, 160-172. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/116445>
- **Long, N. J.**, Hunter, A., Appleton, N. S., Davies, S. G., Deckert, A., Sterling, R., ... & Trnka, S. (2022, October). The Research Imagination During COVID-19: Rethinking Norms of Group Size and Authorship in Anthropological and Anthropology-Adjacent Collaborations. In *Anthropological Forum* (Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 351-370). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2169250>
- **Oh, D.Y.** and **Shin, H.B.** (2023) University as real estate developer: comparative perspectives from the global east. *Geoforum*, 144, 103764. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2023.103764>
- **Shin, H.B.**, **Zhao, Y.**, & **Koh, S.Y.** (2022). The urbanising dynamics of global China: speculation, articulation, and translation in global capitalism. *Urban Geography*, 43(10), 1457-1468. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2022.2141491>
- **Sidel, J.T.** (2022) Crisis as Catalyst: Introducing Urban Transport Reforms in the Philippines Amidst the Global Pandemic. The Asia Foundation. asiafoundation.org/publication/crisis-as-catalyst-introducing-urban-transport-reforms-in-the-philippines-amidst-the-global-pandemic/

- Si, E.L.Y., Chadwick, M.A., **Smith, T.E.**, Sukri, R.S., & Adamczyk, B. (2022). Evaluating ex situ rates of carbon dioxide flux from northern Borneo peat swamp soils. *Experimental Results*, 3, e4. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/116871>
- **Steinmüller, H.** (2022). Introduction: crises of care in China today. *China Quarterly*, 254(June), 301-309. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/118183>
- **Steinmüller, H.** (2022). Sovereignty as Care: Acquaintances, Mutuality, and Scale in the Wa State of Myanmar. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 64(4), 910-933. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0010417522000299>

BLOG POSTS

- **Deng, K.** (2023). Can China's economic growth recover in 2023? *China Dialogues*. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/cff/2023/01/11/can-chinas-economic-growth-recover-in-2023/>
- Varkkey, H., Liu, F., & **Smith, T. E. L.** (2023). Seasonality in the Anthropocene: Politicisation of the "haze" season" in Southeast Asia. *LSE Southeast Asia Blog*. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/seac/2023/03/02/seasonality-in-the-anthropocene-politicisation-of-the-haze-season-in-southeast-asia/>

WORKING PAPERS

- **Deng, K.**, Shen, J.H., & Guo, J. (2022). Performance and mechanisms of the Maoist economy: a holistic approach, 1950-1980. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/116401>
- Liu, F., **Smith, T.E.L.**, Yian, V. and Holden, J. (2023) Seasonality in the Anthropocene: On the Construction of Southeast Asia's 'Haze Season'. Southeast Asia Working Paper Series No 6, Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/119413/>
- Oh, D. and **Shin, H.B.** (2023) Locating the Housing Crisis in Kuwait State, Land, and Society. Middle East Centre Kuwait Programme Paper Series No 17, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science. <https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/118282/>

Blogs

LSE SOUTHEAST ASIA BLOG

The Southeast Asia blog is a multi-disciplinary blog that analyses and debates the Southeast Asia region's most critical and pressing issues. You can read reflections and insights into governance, urbanisation, human rights, and lived realities, amongst other key topics. For the 2022-23 year, the Southeast Asia Blog has continued its partnership with the LSE Review of Books Blog to ensure that important Southeast Asia books are highlighted and discussed.

Popular posts in the 2022-23 year include:



Photo by Fasyah Halim on Unsplash

Trapped in the gig economy: What is the exit strategy? Lessons learned from Jakarta

The gig-economy phenomenon in the Global South is quite different from that in the Global North. With limited employment opportunities, alongside the slow recovery after the pandemic, the majority of drivers in Jakarta are full-time workers who may be stuck on a long-term basis in the gig economy, writes Muhammad Yorga Permana.



Photo by Wunna Aung on Unsplash

Ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia's Borderland: Assessing Chinese Nationalism in Upper Shan State

The future of Myanmar's borderlands cannot be easily predicted, and it will remain highly contested among factions with intersected interests, writes Abellia Anggi Wardani and Danny Widiatmo.



Photo by Malachi Brooks on Unsplash

Achieving a haze-free future in Southeast Asia: The case of third-sector organisations in Malaysia

For initiatives that can guide us towards a haze-free future to be meaningfully long-term and sustainable, they cannot merely depend on the goodwill of volunteers. Still, they must have a proper economic engine to support it, writes Quek Xiao Tong.



Photo by AWG97 on Wikimedia

Not Fading Away: Retired Military Officers in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia

Why do Indonesian retired officers remain politically active after the end of authoritarian rule? Drawing from the INDOMAG (Indonesian Military Academy Graduates) dataset, we find that politicised retired officers clustered around military academy classes of the 1970s. These retirees were more professionally skilled officers than their predecessors and also left the armed forces at a time when their post-retirement careers were in disarray as the New Order ended. These push-pull factors were permissive conditions that allowed these retirees to transfer their “professional” skills into the newly democratic political sphere, write Evan A. Laksmana and Terence Lee.

LSE FIELD RESEARCH METHODS LAB BLOG

The Field Research Methods Lab blog is a platform for researchers to share their insights and experiences of field research. Reflecting on methods, challenges, and successes, you can read

about decolonising practice, working with local communities and research design. Popular posts in the 2022-23 year include:



Photo by and copyright of the Author.

Navigating the Uncertainty of In-Person Fieldwork during a Pandemic

This blog focuses on the lessons learned from conducting in-person fieldwork for a year during the pandemic in mainland Southeast Asia. While digital fieldwork was gaining traction, my field research experience re-enforced the immense advantage of being present in the local environment for understanding non-Western contexts. Navigating fieldwork amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic required creativity and interdisciplinarity in data collection strategies and brought networking and informal conversations to the foreground, writes Kathrin Reed.

Outreach and Engagement

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

LSE's student body comprises around seven per cent of students from Southeast Asia, with 11 per cent of undergraduate students from Southeast Asia, reflecting the region's diversity, culture, and peoples. As Southeast Asia's hub at LSE, SEAC continues to actively engage with Southeast Asian students, particularly with LSE Students' Union societies related to Southeast Asia:

- ASEAN Society
- Filipino Society
- Malaysia Club
- Singapore Society
- Indonesian Society
- Thai Society
- Vietnamese Society



SEAC hosts meetings with LSE Student Societies to discuss ideas for collaboration and enhancing the profile of the Southeast Asian student community. SEAC promotes active, continual dialogue throughout

the year and has set mutually beneficial expectations of information sharing, logistical and promotional support and attendance or contributions at each other's events.

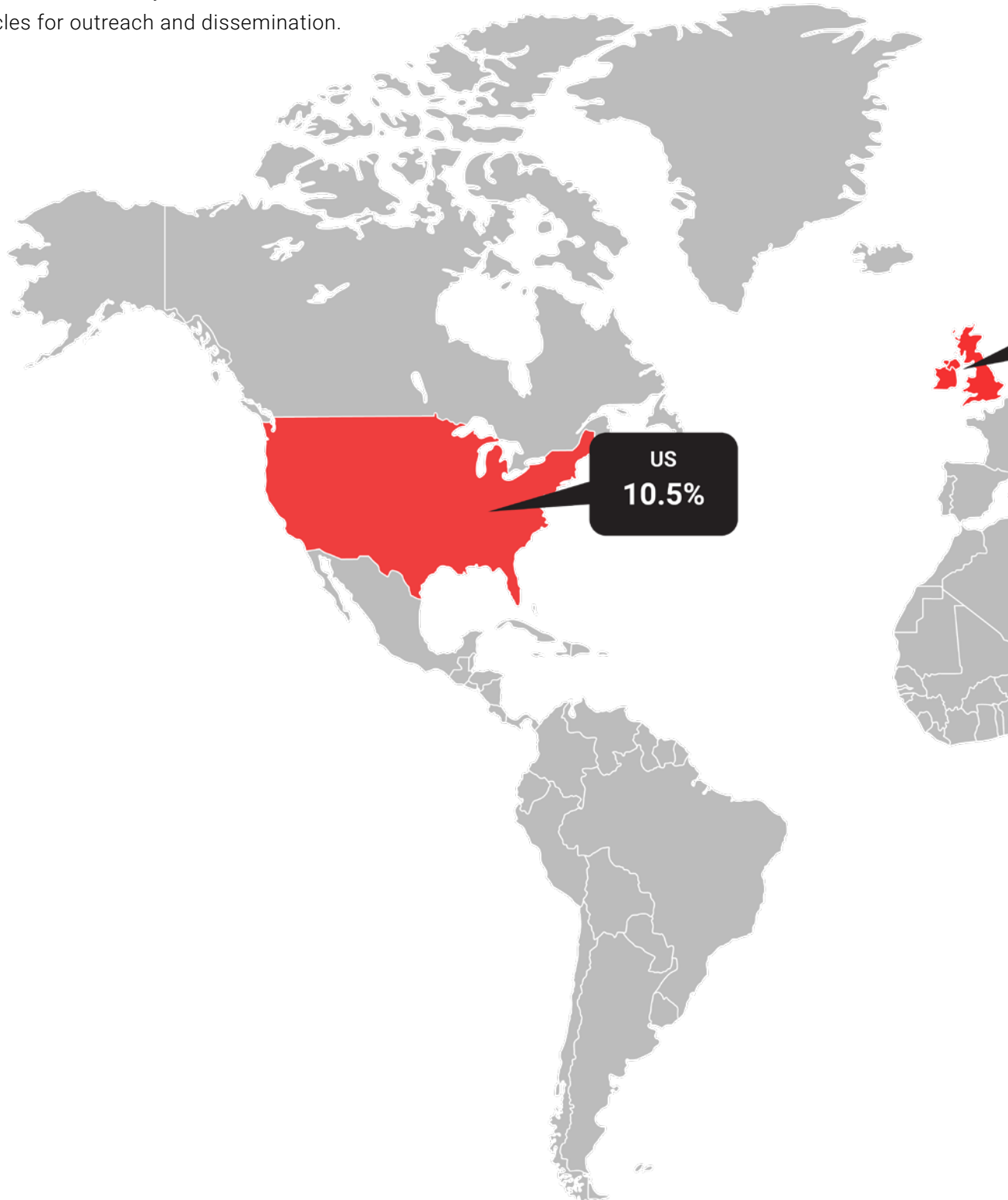
Student numbers from Southeast Asia:

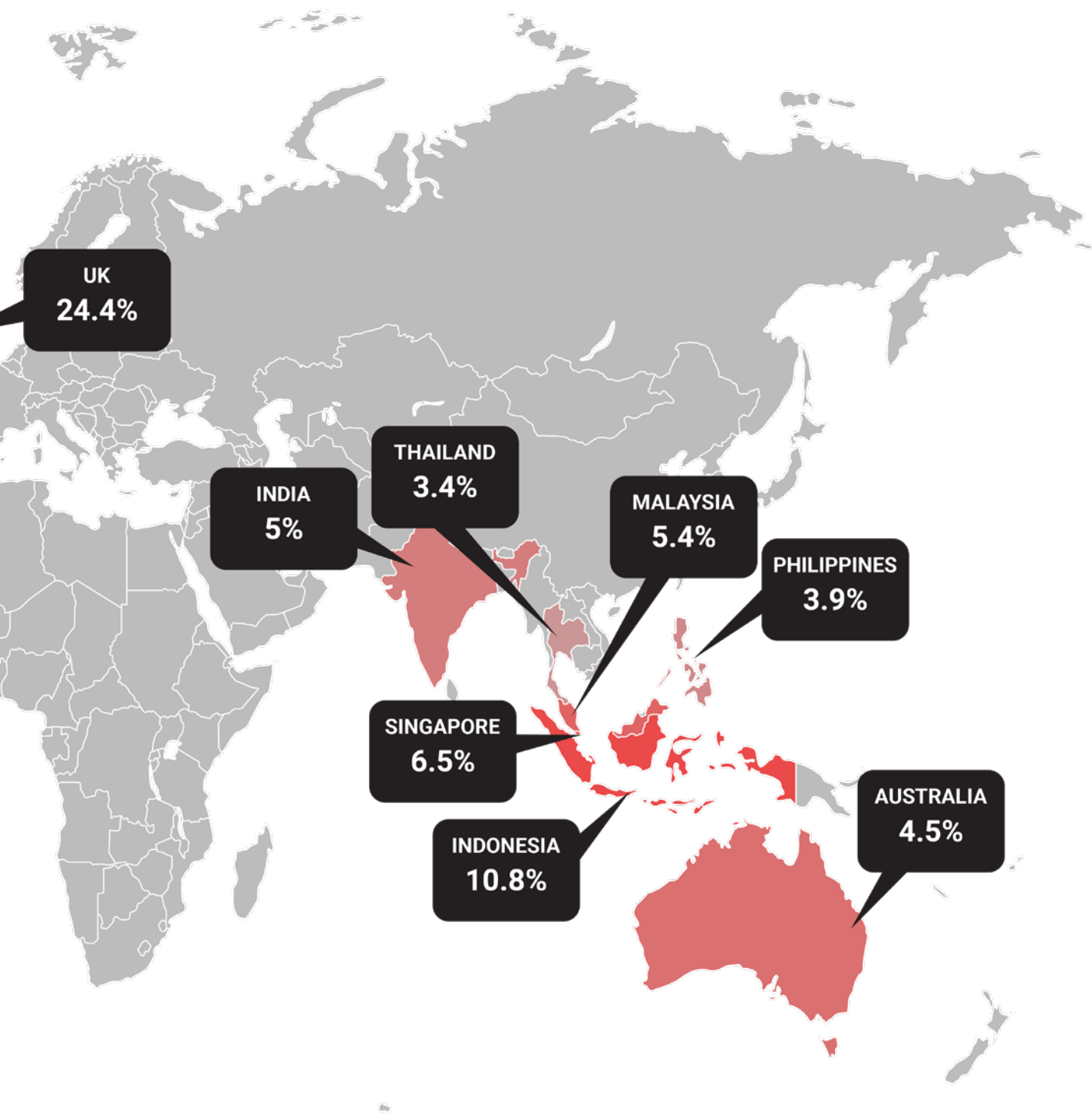
	2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG
Myanmar	1	3	1	2	2	3	4	2	5	8	4	4
Thailand	31	65	41	48	43	40	49	28	47	46	50	39
Laos	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	24	11	25	8	20	5	20	9	20	6	22	10
Cambodia	1	1	4	1	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	5
Malaysia	325	31	314	32	307	46	286	37	269	44	248	43
Singapore	308	98	309	90	287	101	292	76	240	87	243	76
Brunei	3	3	3	0	3	1	2	1	2	0	2	0
Indonesia	17	26	21	34	22	47	23	39	18	44	17	64
Philippines	6	17	3	16	4	9	2	16	2	10	3	17
Timor Leste	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	716	255	722	232	691	256	683	212	606	247	592	260

**Postgraduate numbers include PhD Students*

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Over the 2022-23 academic year, SEAC has continued to develop its social media channels, with a total of 5,016 Twitter followers and 3,733 Facebook followers by the end of July 2023. These channels are key vehicles for outreach and dissemination.





About LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

LSE is a global community of people and ideas in the heart of central London. We're a specialist social sciences university, ranking fifth in the world in the QS subject rankings 2023 and as the top university in London in the Complete University Guide 2023 and Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023. LSE's motto, "rerum cognoscere causas", means "to know the causes of things". It was chosen to support the School's founding purpose, "for the betterment of society". Our ambition today is to be the leading social science university with the greatest global impact. Led by our President and Vice-Chancellor, our strategy, LSE 2030, lays out the guiding principles that will help us achieve our goals and shape the world's future.

International Outlook

We are committed to building a vibrant, equitable and truly inclusive environment for staff and students from all over the world. We have partnerships with globally renowned universities spanning Europe, Africa, America and Asia, including CIVICA - The European University of Social Sciences. In the UK, we are part of the Russell Group, the Aspect social science research commercialisation network, and the launch of SHAPE – Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy.

An LSE Education

We help students prepare for bright futures in world-changing roles. A rigorous social science education is designed to stretch students intellectually through specialist undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, executive education, distance learning and summer schools. LSE students are members of one of the largest economic and social science libraries in the world. Initiatives such as LSE LIFE, the PhD Academy, Student Futures, Careers, Volunteering and Generate provide academic, personal and professional support for students too. The student-led Houghton Street Press is one of many ways LSE students engage with the world.

Research and society

LSE academics conduct social science research that makes a lasting impact on society. This means students are taught by academics that regularly advise international bodies and governments and who are also vocal in the media on current news. The 2021 Research Excellence Framework, a national evaluation exercise, ranked LSE as a top university for research quality and impact. We're continuously expanding our research horizon to reflect and aid the changing society around us. Our current Understanding the UK Economy initiative brings together LSE research to shed light on the topic.





THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



SOUTHEAST ASIA

**LSE Saw Swee Hock
Southeast Asia Centre (SEAC)**

Houghton Street, London
WC2A 2AE

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