



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE



SOUTHEAST ASIA

LSE Saw Swee Hock  
Southeast Asia Centre

# Annual Report

2020 — 2021





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# Message from the Director



It is with great pleasure that I write to report on the activities and developments at the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre (SEAC) in what has been a year of great challenge but also great progress for the Centre.

*This Annual report is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Professor Saw Swee Hock, SEAC's founding donor and long-time friend and supporter.*

While the 2020-2021 year has in many ways been overshadowed and changed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SEAC has remained agile, meeting the challenges faced head-on and finding ways to not just continue our activities and programmes but also to improve them. The Centre's operations have shifted fully online, and our events programme has gone from strength to strength with the move to online programming meaning not only a larger audience, but also a more diverse audience, particularly in terms of participation from the Southeast Asia region. Going forward, SEAC plans to adopt a hybrid model of on- and off-line events to continue to engage with audiences from afar.

Particular highlights of the past year include the relaunch of the LSE Southeast Asia Blog, which has provided an opportunity for SEAC to share



critical debates and analysis of the region with a wider audience. With average daily viewership numbers of 600+ we have been pleased to expand knowledge and engagement around key topics including: the impact of Covid-19 in Southeast Asia; Governance issues; and reflections on researchers' work and practice.

Our inaugural Digital Summer School, hosted in collaboration with the Association for Southeast Asian Studies (UK) was a great success, drawing large audiences and providing key insights and skills building for early career researchers. This event has built on the continued development of SEAC's Early Career Researcher network, which has grown significantly, and continues to be a key focus for the Centre as we aim to develop the next generation of Southeast Asia Scholars.

Support for students has continued this year through several key funding schemes: The UK Postgraduate Dissertation Prize; Dissertation Fieldwork Grants; and the Undergraduate Research Fellowships. Supporting student research in this particularly challenging time has been vital to maintaining SEAC's vibrant student engagement. The positive benefits of these schemes have been shown in the outstanding feedback from scheme participants.

I am especially grateful to SEAC Associates, and particularly our Management Committee who have been a great source of encouragement and inspiration for the Centre over the past year. With everyone facing additional challenges of balancing teaching, research, and home commitments in an uncertain environment, our Associates have continued to support SEAC through reviewing applications to our competitive funding schemes, participating in Centre events, and continuing to champion SEAC both internally and externally. I am also thankful to the Centre staff including centre managers, research officers, and graduate interns whose dedication and commitment made SEAC going forward strongly during the challenging year of the pandemic.

As we look ahead to the new academic year of 2021-22, I wish you and your loved ones happiness, health and well-being.

**Prof. Hyun Bang Shin**  
Director, LSE Saw Swee Hock  
Southeast Asia Centre

# In Memoriam: Professor Saw Swee Hock (1931-2021)

It is with great sadness that the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre notes the passing of Professor Saw Swee Hock, the prominent academic and philanthropist whose generosity founded the Centre, and after whom it is named. As a supporter and firm friend of SEAC, Professor Saw took a great interest in the work of SEAC, bringing his insights and wisdom to the ongoing agenda of the Centre, including most recently at SEAC's 2020 Southeast Asia Week events.

Professor Saw received his BA and MA from the University of Malaya in Singapore in 1956 and 1960 respectively, before coming to LSE to study for his PhD in Statistics, which he completed in 1963. There followed a long and prolific career in academia and public service. Professor Saw's career included positions at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, the University of Hong Kong and the National University of Singapore (NUS), from which he emerged as a recognised and respected expert on population and investment management.

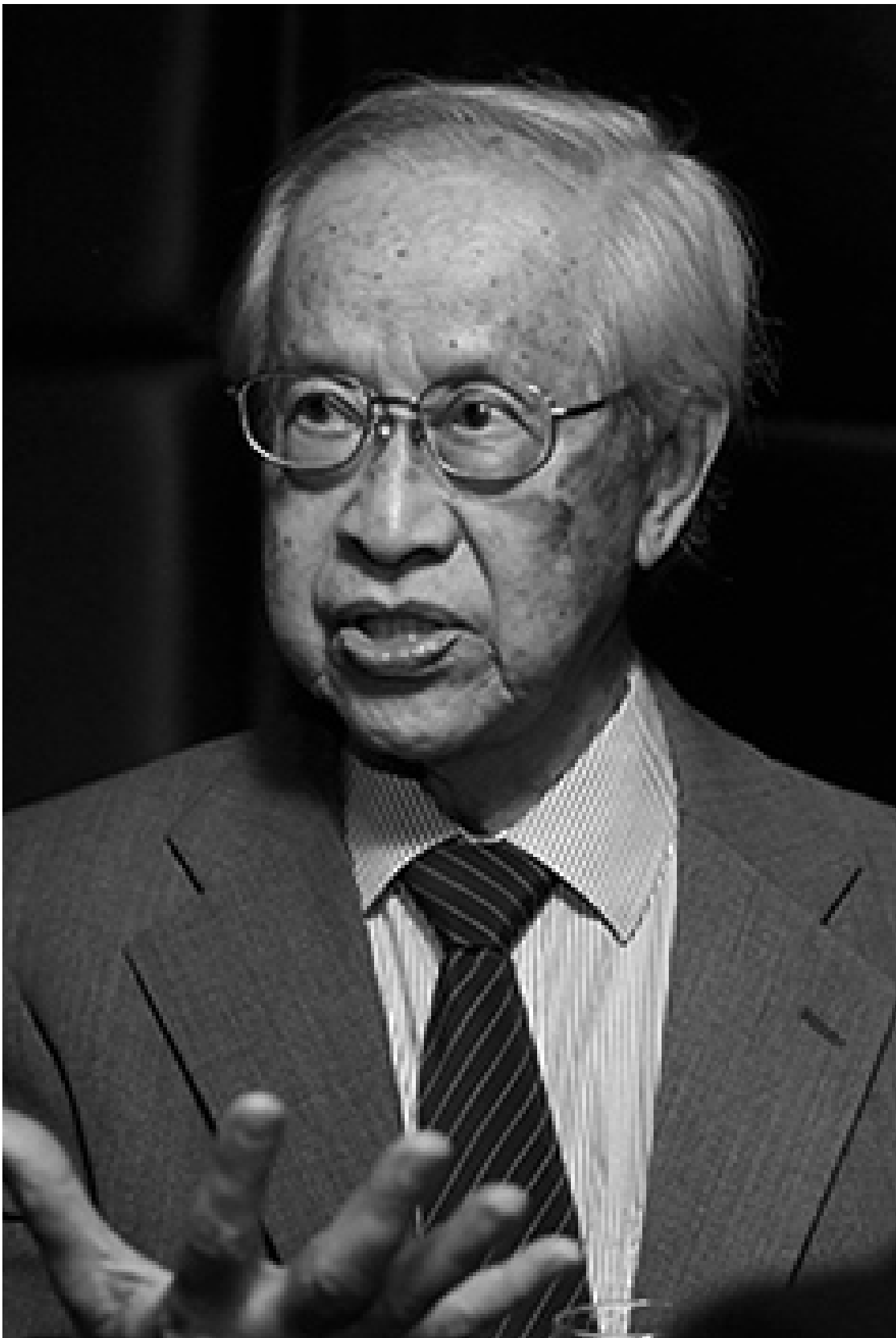
Pioneering the study of statistics in many of the region's most renowned and prestigious universities, Professor Saw demonstrated an

impressive and unstinting devotion to his field that continued throughout his life. He held visiting positions at universities including Princeton, Stanford, Cambridge and was a Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and President's Honorary Professor of Statistics at NUS.

Part of his research work is devoted to the Southeast Asian region, with books on *The Population of Malaysia* (2nd Edition), *The Population of Singapore* (3rd Edition), *Malaysia: Recent Trends and Challenges* (Co-Editor), *Managing Economic Crisis in Southeast Asia* (Editor), and *ASEAN-China Economic Relations* (Editor). His publications centring on statistics, demography and economics include some 49 authored/edited books, 31 book chapters and over 110 articles.

He is also well-known for his philanthropic endeavours, particularly in the area of tertiary education. He donated widely to universities in Singapore, Hong Kong, China and England to advance higher education, research, and social mobility among the less privileged students. In the past decade Professor Saw





“  
There are of course many questions and challenges to be addressed in Southeast Asia, and I cannot think of an institution better placed than LSE to tackle them.”

bestowed extraordinary gifts to LSE. As a result of Professor Saw's donations, The LSE Saw Swee Hock Student Centre opened in 2013 and Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre was founded in 2014. Both are named in recognition of his outstanding generosity. His support of some of the most distinguished scholars from LSE to study at the School is also a significant part of his legacy. These tremendous pillars of support across teaching, research and community will have lasting impact for generations to come.

He received numerous accolades for this philanthropic and academic achievements. He was named Honorary Professor of Statistics at the University of Hong Kong, Honorary Professor at Xiamen University, and President's Honorary Professor of Statistics at NUS. He was made an Honorary University Fellow of

the University of Hong Kong. He was conferred the Outstanding Service Award by NUS, the Singapore President's Award for Philanthropy, and the Public Service Medal (PBM) by the Singapore Government in the 2013 National Day Awards. He was named as one of the '48 Heroes of Philanthropy' in the Asia-Pacific Region by Forbes Asia magazine in 2014. In 2015, he was conferred the Honorary Doctor of Letters by NUS.

*Professor Saw was one of LSE's most eminent alumni, benefactors and Honorary Fellows and Distinguished Alumni Leadership recipient.*

Professor Saw's association with LSE spanned over 60 years, he was highly revered by the LSE alumni community in Singapore and admired by LSE faculty and students alike. It was a great





honour for the School to recognise Professor Saw as an Honorary Fellow in 2006 in recognition of his illustrious academic career and his transformative philanthropy. He also received LSE's inaugural Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award in 2015. Professor Saw's generosity has impacted many generations of students and faculty and will continue to do so for years to come. On founding the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre, Professor Saw noted that:

*"A deeper understanding of the 10 countries with diverse political and economic systems, bonded together by ASEAN, will engender lasting benefits to the School's academic community and graduates viewed in terms of the increasingly inter-dependent world economy and a further rise of Asia in*

*the years ahead... To bring together the research of my alma mater with the region I am from means a lot on a personal level. There are of course many questions and challenges to be addressed in Southeast Asia, and I cannot think of an institution better placed than LSE to tackle them".*

We will be eternally thankful to call Professor Saw an alumnus of LSE and supporter of the Centre. We will remember his extraordinary modesty, warmth, kindness, judicious insight and, of course, the glint in his eye with his wonderful sense of humour and the laughter that always followed. Professor Saw will be deeply missed, and we are grateful that his legacy lives on at LSE through the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre.

# Staff

## People at the Centre



### **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 politics; 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: *Neoliberal Urbanism, Contested Cities and Housing in Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019); *Planetary Gentrification* (Polity Press, 2016); *Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement* (Policy Press, 2015). Other forthcoming books include *The Political Economy of Mega Projects in Asia* (Routledge) and *Exporting Urban Korea? Reconsidering the Korean Urban Development Experience* (Routledge).

Professor Shin is an editor of the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, a trustee of the Urban Studies Foundation, sits on the international advisory board of the journal *Antipode*, and serves on the editorial boards of the journals: *City*; *Urban Geography*; *City, Culture and Society*; *Space and Environment*; *China City Planning Review*. 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 Centres 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 9 years, particularly supporting postgraduate and extended education study, most recently for the International Inequalities Institute at LSE.



**Do Young Oh**  
Research Officer, Interim Centre Manager

As Interim Centre Manager until March 2021, Dr Oh held responsibility for the Centre's day-to-day operations, 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.

Dr Oh is also Research Officer for two Centre projects: Asian Capital and the Rise of Smart Urbanism, and COVID-19 and Southeast Asia. Dr Oh holds a PhD in Regional and Urban Planning from LSE and an MSc in International Planning from UCL. 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. It was short-listed for the biennial ICAS Book Prize in 2019 (Dissertation in the Social Sciences). Prior to joining LSE, Dr Oh worked in the fields of architecture and urban planning in South Korea and the United States.



**Murray McKenzie**  
Research Officer

Dr McKenzie assists the British Academy funded research project, The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences, and Alternatives or Urban Futures, and undertakes 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.

**Malvin Kaur****Graduate Intern: Research Assistant**

Malvin assisted the Centre's "COVID-19 and Southeast Asia" research project. She has an MSc Urban and Regional Planning from LSE, and a BA in Modern History with Economics from the University of Manchester.

**Luisa Pineda****Graduate Intern: Communications and Events**

Luisa supported the Centre's events and communications. Luisa is currently a MSc Media, Communication and Development student at LSE.

**Gray Brakke****Graduate Intern: Research Assistant**

Gray assisted the Centre's "COVID-19 and Southeast Asia" research project. He has a BA in Urban Studies from Brown University and is currently completing an MSc in Urbanisation and Development at LSE.

**Ili Mohammed-Rahan****Graduate Intern: Research Assistant**

Ili assisted the Centre's research projects. She has a diverse range of experiences working and conducting research in Southeast Asia and the overall Asia Pacific region. Ili is in the MSc Environment and Development programme at LSE.

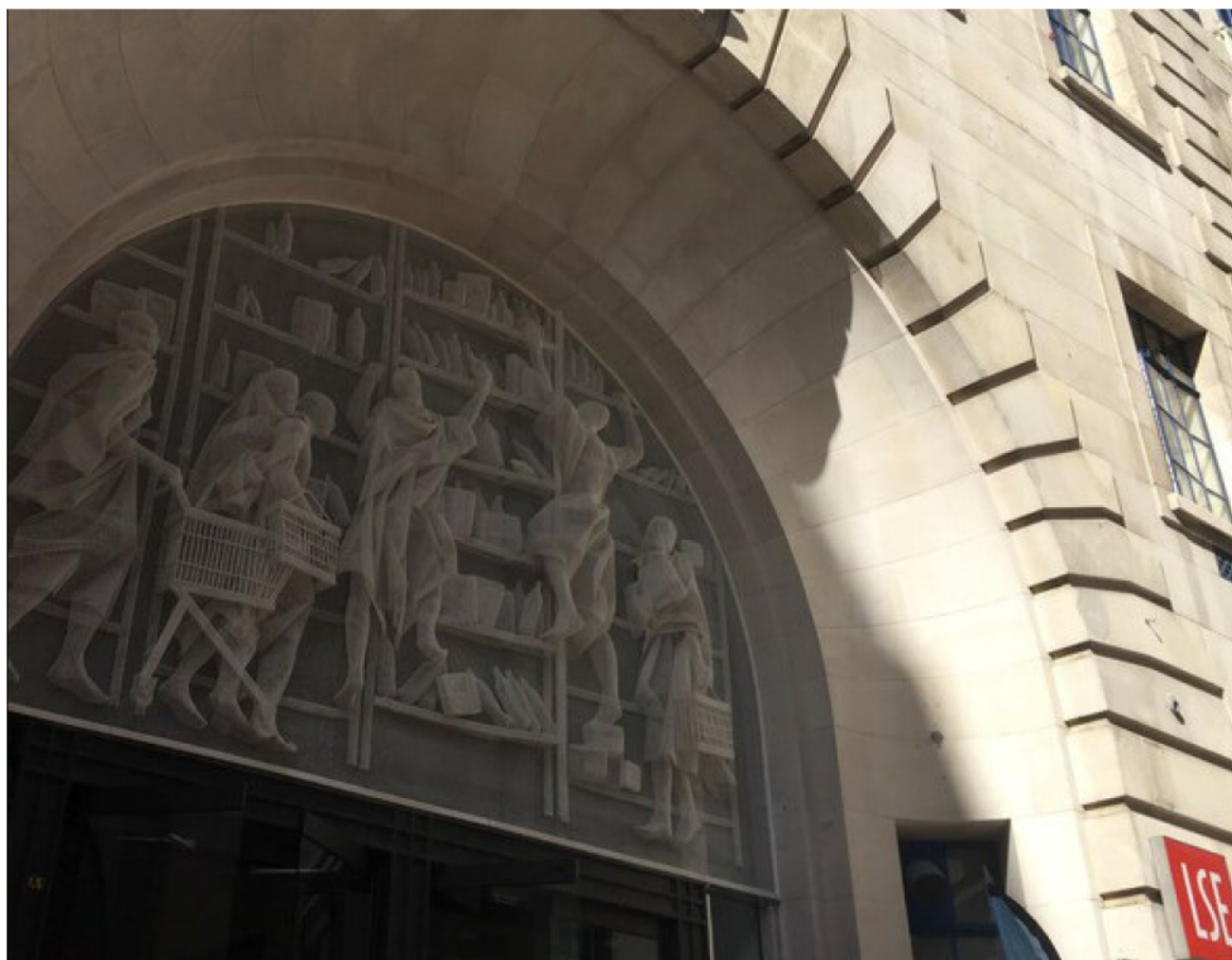
# Staff

## 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 Catherine Allerton**  
(SEAC Associate; Dept of Anthropology)
- **Professor Kent Deng**  
(Department of Economic History)
- **Professor Steve Gibbons**  
(ex-officio; Head of the Department of Geography and Environment)
- **Professor John Sidel**  
(SEAC Associate: Dept of Government & Dept of International Relations)





# Staff

## Centre Associates



**Catherine Allerton** is Professor in the Department of Anthropology, LSE, and 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 Human Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London. She holds 15 years of area-focused expertise in Cambodia where she researches the gendered geographies of domestic and working life, including violence against women, forced eviction, and most recently 'modern slavery' in the construction industry.



**Chua Beng Huat** received his PhD from York University, Canada. Concurrently he is the Provost Chair Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, and Head of the Department of Sociology, at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also the Research Leader of Cultural Studies in Asia Research Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Temenggong Artists-in- Residence, a non-profit visual arts institution in Singapore.



**Kent Deng** is Professor in 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' 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 risk and livelihoods and reflecting this knowledge in global environmental policies and assessments.



**Jürgen Haacke** is Associate Professor in International Relations at LSE. He teaches and researches on the international relations of Southeast Asia, especially the foreign and security policies of Southeast Asian states, the role and policies of major powers in relation to the ASEAN region and regional multilateral cooperation. He has published particularly widely on ASEAN and Myanmar's foreign policy.



**Sin Yee Koh** is Senior Lecturer in Global Studies, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia, and is Co- Investigator for the SEAC Research Project 'The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences and Alternatives for Urban Futures'.



**Nicholas Long** is Associate Professor in Anthropology at LSE. Dr Long is a specialist in the anthropology of Indonesia and the Malay world, with a particular focus on the ways political change influences the experience of self, agency and relations. Dr Long's monograph, *Being Malay in Indonesia*, offers a new framework for the study of political decentralisation: one which foregrounds the effective and experiential dimensions of political change.



**Duncan McCargo** is Director of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies and Professor of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen. He is also Professor of Political Science at the University of Leeds. Since 2015, he has held a shared appointment at Columbia University, where he is a Visiting Professor of Political Science. In 2010, Professor McCargo was awarded an honorary doctorate by Mahasarakham University in Thailand.



**Deirdre McKay** is Professor in Social Geography and Environmental Politics at Keele University and Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK (ASEAS UK). Dr McKay's research draws on both social/cultural geography and social anthropology to explore people's place-based experiences of globalisation and development. Her fieldwork is in areas of the global South and with migrant communities from developing areas who have moved into the world's major cities.



**Catalina Ortiz** is Associate Professor in Building and Urban Design in Development at The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, UCL. Dr Ortiz holds a PhD in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago as Fulbright scholar in addition to an MA in Urban and Regional Studies and a BA in Architecture from the National University of Colombia.



**James Putzel** is Professor of Development Studies at LSE. Professor Putzel is well-known for his research in the Philippines where he has maintained active research since 1984. His book, *A Captive Land: the Politics of Agrarian Reform in the Philippines* (1992), is recognised as a classic on the topic and remains influential in current policy actions and debates in the country. His research also includes work on nationalism, comparative politics of development in Southeast and East Asia, democratic transition, and the role of foreign aid and NGOs in development.



**Danny Quah** is the Dean and Li Ka Shing Professor in Economics at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Professor Quah's research interests include income inequality, economic growth and international economic relations. Professor Quah is Commissioner on the Spence- Stiglitz Commission on Global Economic Transformation; Member of the Executive Committee at the International Economic Association; and Senior Fellow at the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economics Research.



**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 at lecturer at the School of Oriental & African Studies, London University, a British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and PhD student. He was Director of the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore from 2016–2019.





**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: *The 'Ethnic' in Indonesia's Communal Conflicts: violence in Poso, Ambon and West Kalimantan* (2017), *The Islamic State and Southeast Asia* (2016) and *Transforming the Aceh Conflict: From Military Solutions to Political Agreement* (2013).



**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 Assistant Professor in Environmental Geography 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 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 Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at LSE and a specialist in the anthropology of China. He has conducted long-term fieldwork in the Enshi region of Hubei Province in central China, focusing on family, work, ritual and the local state. The main object of his research is the ethics of everyday life in rural China and an anthropological approach to the study of sovereignty, which involves ethnographic works in the Wa State of Myanmar.



**Yimin Zhao** is Assistant Professor in Urban Planning and Management at the School of Public Administration and Policy at Renmin University of China and is 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*.

# Staff

## Visiting Fellows

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SEAC's Visiting Appointment scheme provides an opportunity for visiting researchers to spend a period of 6-12 weeks at SEAC and LSE, benefitting for access to LSE facilities and events, alongside 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 funding of their own to apply. All applications go through a rigorous panel assessment, and opportunities are competitive. Applicants are selected based on the strength of their proposal.

SEAC was delighted to welcome two Visiting Senior Fellows during the 2020/21 year: Professor Tamaki Endo and Dr Joanne Lim.



**Professor Tamaki Endo** was SEAC Visiting Senior Fellow from 1 October 2020 to 25 June 2021. She is Professor at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Saitama University.

“To be part of SEAC's academic network is truly inspiring and helps to expand my thoughts and academic exchanges as well.”

### **Please describe the project you were undertaking during your Visiting Fellowship?**

The project is titled as “Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion in Urban Informality: the Case of Thailand” and funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) from April 2020 to March 2023. The fund is for fostering international collaboration as well as conducting theoretical and empirical research. This project looks at the recent complex dynamics of inclusion and exclusion of ‘informality’ in the city of Bangkok. The rapid and ‘compressed’ development of Bangkok and BMR (Bangkok

Mega Region) created multi-layered stratification in the city. The inequality within Bangkok has been widening since the 2010s and the recent private-led development is drastically changing the city's landscape, producing gentrification. While conducting a field survey on socioeconomic impact of gentrification and rising urban inequality especially on the lower class in Bangkok, I would also like to revise and construct a new approach to bridging the discussion between the spheres of production and social reproduction in the urban context (theoretical part). The project provides basic research for the so-called ‘root research project’ funded by JSPS, ‘Informalizing



Asia: Dynamics and Dilemma of Global Megacities' (April 2019-March 2024, Principal investigator Tamaki Endo, 11 members), which analyses how globalisation, digitalisation, ageing and neoliberalism change urban informality, its new opportunities and constraints.

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

I have always been amazed by the rich resources of the library and its systematic organisation, enabling me to reach what I need easily and efficiently. The strong and rich academic networks of SEAC gave me many opportunities to link with new researchers in related fields as well. Every time I talk (e.g., SEAC seminar) or write (e.g., LSE Southeast Asia blog), I immediately get feedback from all over the world (more than I expected!) and I learned the depth and breadth of SEAC's academic networks from these experiences.

In particular, I was pleased to speak at a SEAC Seminar "Urban informality at crossroad? Dynamics between inclusion and exclusion

in Bangkok" to discuss my work, alongside presenting it on the LSE Southeast Asia Blog. I was also able to attend many other events, and was a discussant at Professor John Sidel's Book Launch: 'Thinking and Working Politically in Development: Coalitions for Change in the Philippines'.

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

SEAC's three core theme - urbanisation, connectivity and governance - are the core key words for my lectures (Asian economy, Urban Development in Asia at Saitama University) and my own research as well. Therefore, to be part of SEAC, where existing theories are challenged and strengthened discussions take place, gives me inspiration and helps me to put new ideas and findings together. Also, it is a great opportunity to work with Professor Shin because of his role leading new urban discussions from perspective of the Global South as well as his works on East Asian cities. Through discussions, commonalities and differences between East Asia and Southeast Asia have become clearer.





**Dr Joanne Lim** was SEAC Visiting Senior Fellow from 4 May to 2 July 2021. She is Associate Professor in Communications, Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Nottingham in Malaysia. She is also Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

“ In so many ways, being a Visiting Fellow at SEAC has been life-changing. It makes such a difference when you are part of a community that is invested in impacting the lives of others.”

### **Please describe the project you are undertaking during your Visiting Fellowship?**

My project attempts to do two things: firstly, to propose a model that serves to bring state and society onto a heterogeneous, open platform powered by an Artificial Intelligence framework named Digital Sociocracy, and secondly, to rebuild and restore trust and attain consensus on policy making through blockchain protocols. My aim was primarily to focus on the Southeast Asian region as the struggles, challenges and issues faced by its societies were unique to those encountered in the “Western” context. Given the accelerated development of digital (albeit disruptive rather than democratic) in these countries, it was necessary to address the need for a new social contract to be considered, one that wasn’t manipulated nor controlled by any single entity. For the duration of my Fellowship, I was able to conduct a series of web scrapes

and text mining, along with an insightful 5-nation survey on what societies thought about the existing system of governance in their respective countries and if they were open to the idea of AI impacting in a more significant way in law/policymaking, based on the input of all relevant stakeholders. As idealistic or utopian as this may sound, it is important to remain hopeful in the ways digital can positively impact our quality of life, and to ensure that our future does not render us powerless and voiceless.

### **How will you continue this work post Fellowship?**

To design and build the AI! This should take place in stages and I envision exciting collaborations with a multidisciplinary team of experts comprising software engineers and computer scientists, along with colleagues in the different departments such as economics, business,





political science, health sciences, agriculture, geography, and social sciences, amongst others. I also foresee a number of meetings with government officials and other stakeholders (business, academia, NGOs etc) to discuss ways of implementation and adoption of my proposed Digital Sociocracy model.

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

It is amazing to experience how vibrant and active LSE is even during the summer term! During my time, I have attended numerous seminars online including the SEAC Summer School sessions, which I found to be highly informative and enlightening. As lecture recordings from the various taught modules are also available online, I was able to view these in my own time and benefitted immensely learning from the experts at LSE. Being able to access

the LSE online library has been most helpful in my work, along with networking with both staff and students at LSE. It was an honour to have been given the opportunity to share my thoughts and research findings at the LSE SEAC Seminar Series, and to further engage with PhDs during the Author meets ECR event. I am grateful to have been able to expand my network to find like-minded academics following this seminar. I had also contributed a blog post on the topic of my research.

### **What have you gained from the experience?**

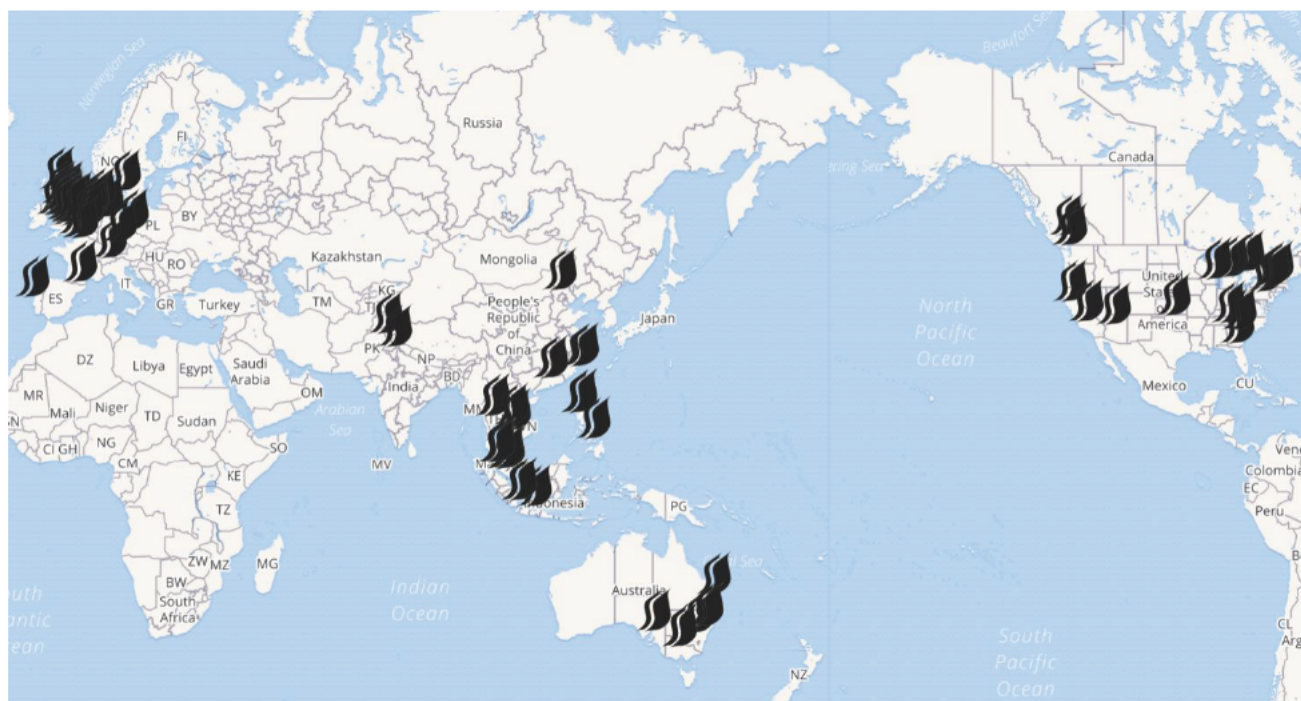
To continue networking with academics at LSE, and to explore opportunities to collaborate in various fronts in the near future. It was inspiring to hear about the work of researchers who not only limit their outcomes to academic publications but also work to make life meaningful and to make a real difference.

# LSE-Southeast Asia Early Career Researcher (ECR) Network

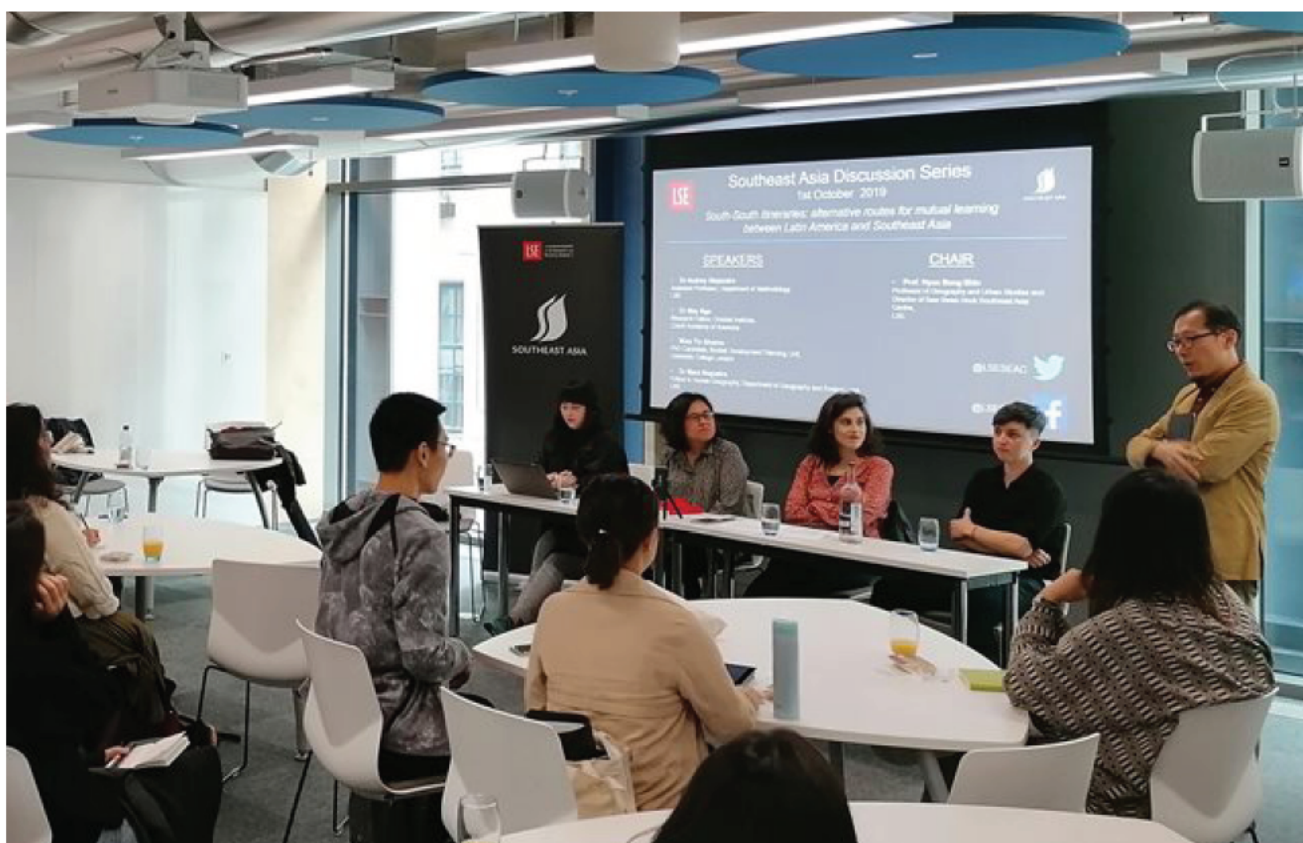
SEAC's ECR Network has seen great successes in the past year, growing in numbers from 90 to over 150 members. Members have research interests across the region: 49 members focus on Indonesia; 28 ASEAN; 24 Philippines; 21 Singapore; 19 Malaysia; 13 Myanmar; 12 Thailand; 10 Vietnam; 9 Cambodia; 4 Laos; and 2 Timor Leste. The network is active and engaged with regular news and opportunities of interest sent to SEAC from its members. SEAC collates these and sends out monthly newsletters, alongside promoting our network members successes via our Social Media Channels.

Below is a screenshot of the SEAC interactive global map of network members (accessible at [lse.ac.uk/seac/people/ECRNetwork](http://lse.ac.uk/seac/people/ECRNetwork)), which permits anybody to search by country specialism and to locate researchers with similar interests and to promote increased collaboration and scholarly work on Southeast Asia. The map shows the membership which is spread across

the globe with particular contingents based in the UK and Southeast Asia: 74 are located in the UK; 47 in Southeast Asia including 17 in Singapore, 11 in Philippines, 10 in Malaysia, 5 in Indonesia, 2 in Thailand, 1 in Cambodia, 1 in Vietnam; 19 in North America; 18 in Europe; 13 in Australia; and the rest spread across East Asia and India.







## Further ECR Events

Alongside the Digital Summer School, SEAC has also held a series of event dedicated to support ECRs. In Michaelmas Term, two Research Masterclasses were held by Dr Rita Padawangi (Senior Lecturer, Singapore University of Social Sciences), and Dr Annette Kim (Associate Professor, University Southern California) respectively to share research expertise with PhD Students and ECRs. In Summer Term, SEAC hosted the first two events of an ongoing “Author meets ECRs” series. These informal, small group discussions are designed for PhD students to benefit from the knowledge of more established researchers.

## Two ECR Network members reflect on their experience

“ I joined SEAC’s ECR Network because I wanted to contribute to any attempt to promote Southeast Asian studies in the UK, which is being increasingly neglected in the current UK academic climate - with some happy exceptions like SEAC at LSE. ECRs face an increasingly competitive academic environment, and there is a lot of pressure to be a generalist - i.e., world politics, global international development - which is of course important, but the advantages of being a specialist (i.e., in Southeast Asia) are undervalued. SEAC restores my confidence in researching the particulars of a specific place, country, region, etc. as an ECR. From the network I’ve gained encouragement, a sense of solidarity, and useful contacts. For example, at the last ECR Digital Summer School, during the ASEASUK/SEAC networking event, I discovered that there is someone else who lives and works in the same city as me which is great.



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*ECR Network member Seb Rumsby has published on the LSE Southeast Asia Blog, alongside speaking about his work at SEAC’s Digital Summer School’s Decolonising Research Practice event.*



“

I joined the SEAC's ECR Network because I wanted to learn more about the research that is being done on Southeast Asia. I especially like the fact that the SEAC's ECR Network is cross-disciplinary. As part of the SEAC's ECR Network, I have been able to establish new connections with other scholars studying Southeast Asia, and draw on their expertise to analyse the region's issues and my own work from a fresh perspective. Being a part of the network has allowed me to network and be acquainted with the broader academic community studying Southeast Asia. ECRs comprise a significant proportion of the academic community, but they are often not integrated well enough in academic activities such as funded research projects, grant applications, and publishing. Formal trainings in these activities are hard to come by. Moreover, not all universities focus or specialise in Southeast Asia or area studies in general, making it difficult for ECRs researching the region to obtain helpful feedback on their work. A community like the SEAC's ECR Network helps to address this gap.

I find my engagement with SEAC very valuable. The targeted correspondence has kept me updated with what's going on and the opportunities that are available. Further, I have also benefited from events that are designed specifically to meet the needs of the ECR community, such as the Southeast Asia Digital Summer School, and from the support and mentorship by Professor Hyun Bang Shin and the rest of the LSE SEAC team. All of these have supported my personal, professional, and career development. Being invited to present at the Digital Summer School and publish in SEAC-hosted blogs have also given me the confidence to share my research experience with my peers and the general public.



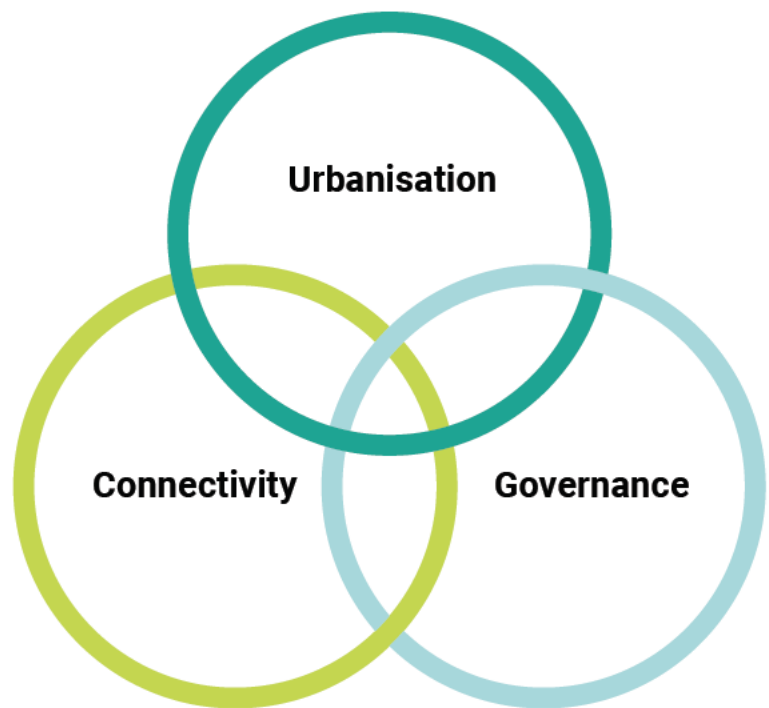
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*ECR Network member Joanna Octavia has published on the LSE Southeast Asia Blog, and the LSE Field Research Methods Lab Blog, alongside speaking about his work at SEAC's Digital Summer School's Research Resilience event.*

# Research on Southeast Asia

## Research Focus

SEAC generates and supports interdisciplinary research on Southeast Asia by bringing together researchers and providing a platform for critical debates for analysis of 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:



transportation policy gridlock topology of power  
 forest monitoring network suggestions of power temporality of citizenship  
**Malaysia** contemporary Southeast Asia  
 brick kiln workers yusof ishak institute  
 disrupted geographic arbitrage **Wa State** texture of livelihood  
 act of compliance **Southeast Asia** concept of hedging  
 rejection of mutuality **Sabah** debt-bonded brick kiln  
 martial law history politics of expertise **Cambodia** divided virtual politics  
 crisis of legitimacy **East Malaysia** **State of Myanmar** temporality of care analysis of traffic  
 economy of militarism children of migrants **Thailand**  
 Cambodian safe shelter **domestic violence** politics of temporality  
 interurban migration industry limit of growth Southeast Asian development  
 Chinese transnational migrant politics of recognition



**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; displacement and dispossession; real estate; gentrification; 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 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. Examples of topics include: state-business relations, transnational or regional co-operation, grassroots politics of democratisation, gender politics, ethnic and cross border relations, communal conflicts.

# Research on Southeast Asia Centre Projects

## The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences and Alternatives for Urban Futures

SEAC Director, Professor Hyun Bang Shin, was awarded a British Academy grant in 2019 as part of its 'Tackling the UK's International Challenges' programme. The project examines four large-scale property development projects of Chinese capital, to question the ways in which the urban has been reconfigured by China's global expansion. The four sites are located in London, Iskandar Malaysia, Beijing and Foshan. This project draws on methods of comparative urbanism and multi-sited ethnography, aiming to uncover the differentiated models of urban production in the Global China era and to generate new insights for inclusive approaches to urban space, nature and modernity. This international collaborative project critically examines the dynamics of urban political economy and contemporary urban living in a rapidly shifting geopolitical setting. By focusing on the local, national and global mechanisms and impacts of Chinese urban spectres, the project aims to deepen our understandings of interrelated urban future issues. The project has been progressing throughout the 2020-21 year with the second phase of the interview programme completed and the third phase planned.

### Outputs

While work on the project continues, the team have produced outputs to capture initial findings, including: a working paper: The micropolitics of speculative green urbanism at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia; a blog post on the Southeast Asia Blog for a more general audience: Green urbanism and speculative urbanisation at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia. The project team (Shin, Koh and Zhao) are also guest editing a special issue for the journal Urban Geography, entitled "Urbanising Dynamics of Global China". The project team is also pursuing a number of publications (including several journal papers) to disseminate full research findings and is preparing for an end of grant symposium in the 2021/22 academic year.

### Project dates:

January 2019 – January 2022  
(completion date postponed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic)

### Project Team:

- Principal Investigator:  
Professor Hyun Bang Shin,  
Director of SEAC, and Professor  
of Geography and Urban Studies  
in the Department of Geography  
and Environment, LSE

### Co-Investigators:

- Dr Sin Yee Koh,  
Senior Lecturer in Global Studies,  
School of Arts and Social Sciences,  
Monash University Malaysia
- Dr Yimin Zhao,  
Assistant Professor in Urban Planning  
and Management, School of Public  
Administration and Policy, Renmin  
University of China

### Research Assistants:

- Dr Yi Jin (April 2019 - January 2020)
- Dr Murray McKenzie (March 2020 - Present)

### Project Advisors:

- Professor Ching Kwan Lee,  
Professor of Sociology at University  
of California Los Angeles
- Dr Choon-Piew Pow,  
Associate Professor in the Department  
of Geography, National University  
of Singapore









## Asian Capital and the Rise of Smart Urbanism

In September 2019, SEAC initiated a new research project that aims to analyse and compare how Asian cities have risen to become reference points for the development of cities in the Global South. The project examines the experience of Asian capital involved in building new cities branded as smart cities in Kuwait and the Philippines. Such investigation of new urban development projects is to serve as an opportunity to promote a more plural and relational understanding of heterogeneous urbanisation processes in non-Western contexts due to the growing influence of Asian urbanism as both ideology and practice. The Kuwait study is funded by the Kuwait programme Research Grant from the LSE Middle East Centre. Due to the pandemic, the project has progressed remotely over the 2020-21 year, with fieldwork taking place in Korea in July 2021.

### Outputs

Project outputs are expected in the next year, including submissions to academic journals, an LSE working paper, and a policy brief.

#### Project dates:

September 2019 – January 2022  
(completion date postponed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic)

#### Project Team:

- Principal Investigator:  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin, Director of SEAC, and Professor of Geography and Urban Studies in the Department of Geography and Environment, LSE
- Research Officer:  
Dr Do Young Oh, LSE SEAC | LSE Middle East Centre

## COVID-19 and Southeast Asia

COVID-19 presents huge challenges to governments, businesses, civil societies and people from all walks of life, but its impact is also very much uneven and variegated. COVID-19 also reveals the existing contradictions and inequalities in our society, and compels us to question what it means to return to the 'normal'. This project initiated as a desk-based archival research to compile the initial published responses to the COVID-19 crises, reflect upon what the crises mean for urbanisation, governance and connectivity in Southeast Asia, and work with researchers and experts in and of the region to contemplate the post-COVID-19 urban futures.

To some extent, this project was put together as SEAC's rapid response to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, as SEAC aligned itself with the emergent scholarly endeavour to use the pandemic as a moment of reflection and learning for a better future. The project was also part of SEAC's effort to quickly act on a sense of responsibility to the multi-disciplinary network of Southeast Asia scholars, many of them early career researchers. The outputs resulting from this project would therefore be regarded as collective achievements during this unprecedented time.

### Outputs

The project has successfully produced a series of outputs to showcase the insights and findings of researchers and experts including events, publications, and archives. Two SEAC COVID-19 Seminars were held on 19 and 21 October on Marginalised and vulnerable groups in Southeast Asia, and Migrant workers, Asylum seekers, and Refugees. Additionally, SEAC hosted a roundtable as part of the Southeast Asia Forum on 26 October on the Politics and Economics of COVID-19 in Southeast Asia, and an LSE Festival event on 1 March 2021 on Life in a Post-COVID World: learning from Southeast Asia. For publications, a total of 39 blog posts have been published on the Southeast Asia blog discussing experiences, insights, and critiques of the pandemic and pandemic responses. A co-edited volume (edited by Hyun Bang Shin, Murray McKenzie and Do Young Oh, and containing 38 contributors) entitled COVID-19 in Southeast Asia; Insights for a Post-Pandemic World is due to be published by LSE Press in November 2021. The team have also created and maintained a multi-disciplinary archive of emerging scholarship on the pandemic in development studies, human geography, planning, and urban studies, reaching 1,100+ texts.



### Project Team:

- Principal Investigator:  
Professor Hyun Bang Shin,  
Director of SEAC, and Professor  
of Geography and Urban Studies  
in the Department of Geography  
and Environment, LSE
- Research Officers:  
Dr Murray McKenzie and Dr Do Young Oh,  
LSE SEAC



# Research on Southeast Asia

## 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 2020/21 academic year, a new project has been awarded, the details of which are provided below, along with the details of the ongoing projects awarded in the previous academic year.



### The Kleptocrat's Accomplice? The Political Economy of Professional Intermediaries and the Plunder of Poor Countries

**Project Summary:** This project examines the role played by lawyers, accountants and other professional service providers in enabling the transfer of illicit money out of resource-rich but people-poor countries and into the financial systems of developed economies in the West and, increasingly, the East. High profile investigations by journalists exposing the 1MDB, Luanda Leaks and Panama Papers scandals, have highlighted the part played by professional intermediaries, sometimes internationally-branded firms operating in major financial centres, in helping globally mobile elites move, launder and protect ill-gotten gains. The project asks what drives the decisions and behaviours of these professionals as they manage the tension between the pressure to bring in new client revenue and the obligation to comply with anti-money laundering requirements. It analyses and compares four jurisdictions: Singapore, Hong Kong, London and Dubai. It examines how the behaviour of professional service providers in each jurisdiction changed in response to the historical evolution in the institutions regulating money-laundering and to major media investigations exposing professional service provider complicity.



#### Principal Investigator:

Dr Omar Shahabudin McDoom,  
Assistant Professor in Comparative  
Politics, LSE Department of Government

#### Proposed project dates:

June 2020 – June 2022  
(Completion date postponed due  
to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic)



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## 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 lead to diplomatic disputes between places that burn and the places downwind that suffer in the smoke. Our project focusses on the emerging social construction of the 'haze season' in Singapore. 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).

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## Strengthening Landscape Governance: comparing institutional designs under rapid change in Papua, Indonesia

**Project Summary:** Rural landscapes throughout Southeast Asia are changing because of agricultural commercialisation, and a growing concern about forest conservation and reforestation. But are these new environmental initiatives inclusive and effective? In some locations such as Papua – the most eastern province of Indonesia on the border with Papua New Guinea – local people and human rights groups are worried that forest policy will actually hurt local agriculture and reduce the opportunities for development experienced by local people. In this new research project beginning in January 2020, two members of LSE will undertake detailed field research to identify lessons for integrating national forest policy with local development in the Indonesia province of Papua. The research will compare two zones where commercialisation and forest policies have been undertaken in different ways. The objectives of this work will be to advise national and international approaches to forest policy and to represent the views of local people.



### Principal Investigator:

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

### Co-Investigator:

Felicia Liu (PhD Student, Dept of  
Geography, Kings College London)

### Proposed project dates:

June 2021-June 2022



### Principal Investigator:

Professor Tim Forsyth,  
SEAC Associate and LSE Department  
of International Development

### Co-Investigator:

Professor Gill Shepherd,  
Visiting Professor, LSE Department  
of Anthropology

### Proposed project dates:

January 2020 – July 2022  
(Completion date postponed due to the  
on-going COVID-19 pandemic)

# Research on Southeast Asia Seminar Series and Networking Grant

The Seminar Series and Networking Grant scheme, is open to LSE academic staff and LSE-based early career researchers (including PhD students). The fund contributes towards seminar series, study groups or networking events focusing on social science issues relevant to Southeast Asia, aligning with one or more of SEAC's core research themes of urbanisation, connectivity and governance. Successful applicants take on responsibility and accountability for organising events and represent SEAC as organisers and Chairs during events, working closely with SEAC for their preparation to coordinate activities and their timing.

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## 2020

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In 2020 Dr Do Young Oh was supported to host a Roundtable on Postcolonial Urbanism and History of Southeast Asia. Bringing together speakers including Dr Kah Seng Log (University of Western Australia) and Dr Su Lin Lewis (University of Bristol) to promote a better understanding of postcolonial urban histories in Southeast Asia while seeking an opportunity to locate them in different disciplines including urban history and urban studies.

## 2021

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Dr Andrea Pia, (Assistant Professor, Dept of Anthropology, LSE) has been awarded SEAC's Seminar and Networking Grant to organise an event in Michaelmas Term 2021 on Justice After Carbon: A collaborative investigation of civil society's perceptions of China-led Hydropower Projects in Southeast Asia

# Support for Students

## LSE Doctoral Students

SEAC provides dedicated support to LSE doctoral students with a focus on Southeast Asia. This support is not limited to any particular department but for doctoral students in any discipline, and includes financial support for fieldwork and conference participation, alongside dedicated events.



### PhD Research Support Fund

SEAC provides limited financial support to LSE doctoral students 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.



### Author meets ECR events

In 2021 SEAC launched a new series of events: Author meets ECRs. These small group discussions are for PhD students to have dedicated time with academics. Following SEAC Seminars, the speaker has been hosted for a follow-up small group session to allow PhDs to continue discussions around research methods, career paths, and to gain valuable opportunities for networking.



### Postdoctoral Associate Scheme

In 2021 SEAC also launched the Postdoctoral Associate Scheme allowing recently graduated LSE PhD Students to retain their affiliation with SEAC and the LSE. Providing continued access to LSE facilities alongside opportunities for engagement with SEAC including via the Southeast Asia Blog and SEAC events, the Postdoctoral Associate status enables both the individual and the Centre to continue to stay connected and build networks.

# Support for Students

## Dissertation Fieldwork Grant

SEAC was delighted to receive so many competitive applications for the 2020/21 grants. The 12 student awardees were selected based on the strength of their applications, and their proposed dissertation fieldwork and research. For this year, with in-person student fieldwork strictly limited, our awardees impressed with innovative research and methods to work around travel restrictions. The scheme is designed in part to support student research on Southeast Asia and in part to promote such research among students as yet unsure of their assessed dissertation topic. The grant provides up to a maximum of £500 per awardee towards research expenses, which can go towards categories like accommodation, subsistence, local services such as translation or transcription.

Awardees have also been encouraged to pay close attention to LSE and governmental news and health and safety updates, in and in liaison with their dissertation supervisors, in order that appropriate duty of care, for both themselves and any research participants, is ensured.



**Gabbie Santos**

**Degree:** MSc Political Sociology

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Philippines (remotely)

**Topic:** How does the embourgeoisement of a rising Filipino middle class reshape labour politics and mass mobilisation in the Philippines, and what are the political implications?

“

I am very grateful to SEAC for this funding opportunity for my dissertation. My Dissertation Fieldwork Grant will go towards the acquisition of print reference materials that will serve as primary and secondary sources for my research, and conducting online interviews with activists and members of different national democratic mass organisations (NDMOs) of the Philippine Left. My study comes at a time of significant and even violent political challenges to the Philippine Left. As a Filipino, I want my research to contribute to political discourse and discussions in the Philippines, especially in light of current contexts shaped by the Duterte regime and the upcoming 2022 elections. I hope to glimpse what it might mean to conduct ‘scholar-activist scholarship’ (Romero, 2020) that can potentially lead to more meaningful political engagements with the social world.



**Gray Brakke**

**Degree:** MSc Urbanisation and Development

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Vietnam (remotely)

**Topic:** Strategic Differentiation: The Dialectic of Urban Citizenship and State Authority in Hanoi and Its Periurban Fringe

**Marcus Chee**

**Degree:** MSc International Affairs

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Singapore and Malaysia (remotely)

**Topic:** British Colonial gaze in the Malaya Command 1939-1942

**Ili Kaiyisah Mohammad Rahan**

**Degree:** MSc Environment and Development

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Singapore (remotely)

**Topic:** Food for thought: Analyzing Singapore's food resilience strategies



I intend to use the Dissertation Fieldwork Grant funds for access to and reproduction of archival records of Singapore's historical land use changes in its food production history from its independence to the present day. These grant funds are important because they provide me with the financial safety net to access research resources that would otherwise have been inaccessible to me. Secondly, these grant funds give me the assurance that LSE SEAC and its benefactors believe in the potential of my research aims and subject matter, I'm grateful for the support the funds provide me and I am confident they will spur me to produce an excellent piece of research.

**Soon Yung Low**

**Degree:** MSc Applied Social Data Science

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Malaysia (remotely)

**Topic:** Ethnic Stereotypes in Malaysia: A quantitative measure based on word embedding

**Jeremiah Magpile**

**Degree:** MSc Local Economic Development

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Philippines (remotely)

**Topic:** Is Pasig City ready for Industry 4.0? The role of institutions in enhancing workforce technology readiness

**Amanda Munoz Gamage**

**Degree:** MSc Human Rights

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Across Southeast Asia (remotely)

**Topic:** Exploring the production of knowledge in Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) – A case study of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APFWLD)

**Luisa Pineda**

**Degree:** MSc Media, Communication and Development

**Proposed fieldwork location:** Philippines (remotely)

**Topic:** A Filipina feminist press: Feminist media activism in the time of the Duterte administration

**Joshua Tham****Degree:** BA History**Proposed fieldwork location:**

Singapore (remotely)

**Topic:** Counter-Communist Efforts by the Catholic Church in Post-War Singapore, 1948-70

The increasing availability of online archival databases and platforms like Zoom has made it possible to conduct oral interviews and access foreign archives remotely. Remote fieldwork is not without its pitfalls but it surely has the potential to shape our approach to research even beyond this pandemic. This grant has undoubtedly allowed me to significantly expand the scope of my research without stretching myself too thin. Southeast Asia also has a lot to offer to academics, regardless of their background. It is a region with a rich history and cultural diversity (linguistic, religious, ethnic, etc.) that deserves more attention than it currently receives.

**Dominic Rose****Degree:** MSc Applied Social Data Science**Proposed fieldwork location:**

Thailand, Cambodia (remotely)

**Topic:** Using Deep Learning and Google Street View to Identify Poverty in Southeast Asia**Safira Prabawidya Pusparani****Degree:** MSc Public Policy and Administration**Proposed fieldwork location:**

Indonesia (remotely)

**Topic:** Do women run the world (of policymaking)? Uncovering the dichotomy of descriptive and substantive gender representation in Indonesia's legislation processes post-2014 and 2019 elections**Nicholas Williamson****Degree:** MSc Health and International Development**Proposed fieldwork location:**

Thailand (remotely)

**Topic:** A Qualitative Study on the Politics of Abortion Legalisation in Thailand



# Support for Students

## Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) scheme has run for a second year in 2020-21, following its successful pilot year in 2019-20. The scheme seeks to engage undergraduate students with the research of SEAC Associates, and URFs are expected to gain important insight into the work of an academic in planning, conducting and disseminating scholarly research. The URF scheme is supported by Arvind Khattar whose generous gift has helped SEAC to further develop its research activities. Two URFs were selected in 2021 to work with SEAC Associates.



### **ReFashion Study: Social Protection and the Gendered Impacts of COVID-19 in the Cambodian Garment Industry**

**URF:** Angbeen Abbas  
BSc Sociology, Dept of Sociology

SEAC Associate Professor Katherine Brickell is leading the ReFashion Project, undertaking original longitudinal research to track and amplify the experiences of over 200 women garment workers in Cambodia through the pandemic. Documenting and learning from their efforts to navigate the financial repercussions of COVID-19 on their home lives and livelihoods across different phases of the pandemic, from the immediate crisis to its aftermath. The interdisciplinary team from human geography, political economy, and organisation studies is generating new knowledge on how formal and informal social protection can better empower women in the garment sector to survive and thrive, both during and after the current emergency.



### **Lifestyle Im/mobilities in/to Malaysia in the COVID-19 Era**

**URF:** Jimin Oh, BSc International, Social, and Public Policy,  
Department of Social Policy

SEAC Associate, Dr Sin Yee Koh leads this study exploring the impacts of Covid-19 related travel and other restrictions from two perspectives. On the one hand, it explores the im/mobility experiences and future mobility plans of two 'migrant' groups: (1) lifestyle migrants who are already living in Malaysia; and (2) aspiring lifestyle migrants to Malaysia. On the other hand, it explores how public and private agents in the lifestyle migration industry are responding to Covid-19 related restrictions and uncertainties in the short and medium term. In doing so, it seeks to understand how transnational lifestyle im/mobility trends in/to Malaysia have been shaped and influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. Its findings could enrich extant migration industry literature and identify policy implications.



### URF Reflections from 2019-20 Academic: Professor Duncan McCargo

“ The URF proved absolutely invaluable to us with our book project. Unable to travel to Thailand as planned, we had to conduct all our research digitally and drew on a wide range of social media sources to look at recent political trends and developments. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As a result, we were able to complete the entire manuscript in just over three months, and our book was then published in September –breaking all records for NIAS Press. We could not have done it without the support provided by the LSE URF, and without [REDACTED] amazing enthusiasm for the whole endeavour.



# Support for Students

## UK Postgraduate Dissertation Prize

In early 2021 the UK Postgraduate Dissertation Prize was announced. This prize showcases outstanding student social science research in the UK on Southeast Asia, with a £200 prize awarded to the winner. Submissions for consideration of the prize were received from numerous UK university departments, representing a range of disciplines, and all of which were of excellent quality.



### Winner

#### **Madhumitha Ardhanari**

MSc in Inequalities and Social Science,  
London School of Economics and Political Science

#### **Dissertation Title:**

Sand extractivism and its inequalities: Elite scripts  
in the Singaporean demand for sand

Madhumitha Ardhanari is a sustainability strategist and researcher at Forum for the Future, with six years of experience coaching businesses and organisations to adapt to long-term sustainability challenges in areas such as radical decarbonisation and sustainable value chains. She is also an Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity, having completed her Masters in Inequalities at the LSE.



It's been a great honour to receive this award and bring recognition to a topic that is often overlooked. I started this journey trying to understand what it might take to scale down extractivism in Southeast Asia to achieve climate justice. The sensitivities and secrecy around the topic meant that it was truly a labour of love and a way to build community. Thank you SEAC for your recognition and kind feedback!"



## Highly Commended

### Leonard Yip

MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literature,  
University of Cambridge

#### Dissertation title:

Edgeland Visible: Reading Singapore's Terrains  
of the Anthropocene

Leonard Yip is a writer of landscape, people, nature and faith, and the places where these intersect. He recently graduated with an MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literature from the University of Cambridge, where he wrote his dissertation on multimedia representations of the 'edgelands' of Singapore – the landscape between city and country, with unique features and ecologies of its own. His writing has appeared in Moxy Magazine, Elsewhere: A Journal of Place, and Nature Watch, the quarterly publication of the Nature Society (Singapore). He lives and works in Singapore, where he is currently furthering his work on the edgelands and other terrains of the Anthropocene.



## Highly Commended

### Al Lim

MSc in Urbanisation and Development,  
London School of Economics and Political Science

#### Dissertation title:

Smart Cities, Surveillance, and Discursive Redirection: A comparative urban study of Singapore and Phuket's Smart Surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic

Al Lim is a PhD student in the joint Anthropology and Environmental Studies program at Yale, and his current research explores the intersection of smart cities and water infrastructure in Laos. This builds on his training from the MSc in Urbanisation and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the B.A. (Hons) in Urban Studies at Yale-NUS. His academic works have been featured in publications such as New Mandala, Singapore Policy Journal, and Eating Chilli Crab in the Anthropocene, and his creative works have also been published in over 20 outlets, such as OF ZOOS, Call and Response 2, and Twin Cities.

# Academic Engagement 2020-21 Events

SEAC serves as a globally recognised hub for public debate and engagement on Southeast Asia in London. In 2020/21, the Centre continued to host various forms of events including research seminars (SEAC Seminars), Early Career Researcher events, Public Lectures and of course the Southeast Asia Forum. All events were hosted online in the 2020/21 year and as a result attracted a larger and more diverse audience than in previous years when events were held in person only. In particular, SEAC is pleased that around 30% of our event registrants and attendees were from the Southeast Asia region.



20 January 2021

## Book Launch: 'Home SOS: Gender, Violence and Survival in Crisis Ordinary Cambodia'

Prof. Katherine Brickell  
Dr W. Nathan Green  
Dr Jordana Ramalho  
Dr Charlie Rumsby  
Dr Sokphea Young  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



10 February 2021

## Book Launch: 'Thinking and Working Politically in Development: Coalitions for Change in the Philippines'

Prof. John Sidel  
Jaime Faustino  
Prof. James Putzel  
Dr Tamaki Endo  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



27 January 2021

## SEAC Seminar Series: Flooding and the Politics of Property Rights in Jakarta

Prof. Gavin Shatkin  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



25 February 2021

## Urban Salon: Theorising urban studies on/from China/Asia

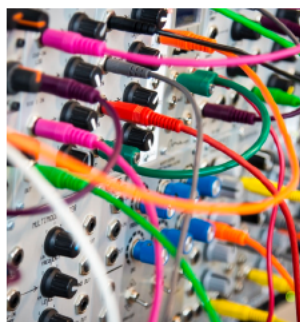
Dr Julie Ren  
Dr Yimin Zhao  
Prof. Jenn fer Robinson  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin  
Prof. Matthew Gandy



16 June 2021

## SEAC Seminar Series: Digital Interventions on Urban Societal Challenges in Southeast Asian Communities

Dr Joanne Lim  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



16 June 2021

## Digital Interventions: Author Meets ECRs



“

The whole SEAC Team has been incredibly professional and helpful throughout the process which translated into a great virtual environment on the day of the presentation. I commend the Centre for its dedication and effort in putting a spotlight on Southeast Asia and the scholars and experts who are from and/or are based in the region.”

— SEAC 2021 Event Attendee



13 May 2021

**SEAC Seminar Series:  
Land, Ladies, and the  
Law: A Case Study  
on Women's Land  
Rights and Welfare in  
Southeast Asia in the  
Nineteenth Century**

Dr Thanyaporn Chankrajang  
Prof. Kent Deng



13 May 2021

**Land, Ladies,  
and the Law:  
Author Meets ECRs**



31 March 2021

**SEAC Seminar Series:  
Urban informality at  
crossroad? Dynamics  
between inclusion and  
exclusion in Bangkok**

Dr Tamaki Endo  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



24 March 2021

**SEAC Seminar  
Series: Solidarity  
and Polarisation:  
Centripetal and  
Centrifugal Forces  
in Southeast Asia**

Dr Hongxuan Lin  
Dr Michael Magcamit  
Prof. John Sidel



1 March 2021

**Life in a Post-COVID  
World: learning from  
Southeast Asia**

Dr Nicole Curato  
Dr Sin Yee Koh  
Prof. John Sidel  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin  
Dr Catherine Allerton



9 December 2020

**SEAC Seminar Series:  
Foreign, 'Fresh'  
and 173cm:  
The Commodification  
of Domestic Workers  
in Singapore**

Dr Laura Antona  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin





## Spatial Politics and Transient Migrant Workers in Global-City Singapore

Prof. Brenda Yeoh  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin

On 9 March 2021 Prof. Brenda S.A. Yeoh (Raffles Professor of Social Sciences, National University of Singapore) gave a lecture at SEAC, speaking on migrant spatial concentrations, and how the presence of transient migrants on time-structured work contracts has paradoxically become a permanent feature of globalizing cities in Asia, and a compelling force in driving urban diversity, as well as the fear of diversity. Chaired by Prof Shin, the event had over 170 attendees, and featured an insightful and robust discussion.

“Despite the pall of the pandemic, I felt that the session over zoom was dynamic and enjoyable, with the two-way exchange during Q&A kindling a wide range of interesting angles, particularly from early-career scholars and researchers. I was heartened to have the opportunity to share my interest in spatial politics in globalizing cities, as well as speak about the myriad issues transient migrant workers face on the ground. The webinar provided a forum to discuss current research with an eye on post-pandemic futures.

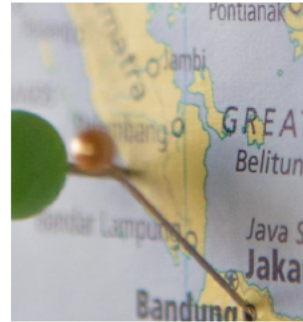
— Prof. Brenda Yeoh  
Raffles Professor of Social Sciences  
National University of Singapore (NUS)





25 November 2020  
**SEAC Seminar Series: Roundtable on Postcolonial Urbanism and History of Southeast Asia**

Dr Kah Seng Loh  
 Dr Su Lin Lewis  
 Dr Do Young Oh  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



30 September 2020  
**SEAC Seminar Series: Decolonising Higher Education Roundtable Discussion**

Dr Leon Moosavi  
 Tamara Soukotta  
 Dr Lisa Tilley  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



17 November 2020  
**SEAC Seminar Series: Nalehmu Urbanism: The informal, intimate and relational economies of Yangon Street Vending**

Dr Jayde Lin Roberts  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



21 October 2020  
**SEAC COVID-19 Seminar: Migrant workers, Asylum seekers, and Refugees**

Gretchen Abuso  
 Thomas Daniel  
 Puteri Nor Ariane Yasmin  
 William Jamieson  
 Francesca Humi



19 October 2020  
**SEAC COVID-19 Seminar: Marginalised and vulnerable groups in Southeast Asia**

Cornelius Hanung  
 Justin Muyot  
 Nastassja Qu jano  
 Gabriela Laras Dewi Swastika  
 Tan Theng Theng  
 Jarud Romadan



7 October 2020  
**SEAC Seminar Series: Mapping Transdisciplinary Data for Spatial Justice: Migration and Urbanization in Vietnam and Beyond**

Dr Annette Kim  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



16 October 2020  
**Masterclass: Mapping Transdisciplinary Data for Spatial Justice**

Dr Annette Kim  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



14 October 2020  
**SEAC Seminar Series: The Production of Jakarta's Water Crisis: A Political Ecology of Speculative Urbanism**

Dr Emma Colven  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



11 November 2020  
**SEAC Seminar Series: Theorising the City in and from Southeast Asia**

Dr Rita Padawangi  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



13 November 2020  
**Masterclass: Research as Empowerment: Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Understanding Cities of Southeast Asia**

Dr R ta Padawangi  
 Prof. Hyun Bang Shin





## Getting Developing Asia Back on Track

Masatsugu Asakawa  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin

On 18 March 2021 SEAC were delighted to welcome Masatsugu Asakawa, the President of the Asian Development Bank and the Chairperson of ADB's Board of Directors. His talk focused on ADB's success and current efforts to help its developing members toward the path of resilient and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Chaired by Prof Shin, the event was the highest attended of the 2020-21 year with over 400 attendees.

“Excellent organization, insightful topics and engaging content. The presenters/speakers were also highly knowledgeable in their field of expertise.

— 2020-21 Event Attendee



## Events with ASEASUK



20 May 2021

### **Southeast Asia Digital Summer School: Decolonising Research Practice**

Dr R ta Padawangi  
Dakila Kim P. Yee  
Dr Seb Rumsby  
Dylan Gaffney  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



20 May 2021

### **Southeast Asia Digital Summer School: LSE SEAC and ASEAS (UK) Networking Event**



24 May 2021

### **Southeast Asia Digital Summer School: How to Succeed in Publishing**

Dr Mulaika H jjas  
Dr Loretta Lou  
Dr Nicole Cuunjieng Abo tiz  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



26 May 2021

### **Southeast Asia Digital Summer School: Post-Academic and Alt-Academic Career Paths**

Dr Suraya Ismail  
Dr Diane Archer  
Dr Murray Mckenzie  
Dr Narae Choi  
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin



24 May 2021

### **Southeast Asia Digital Summer School: Impact, Digital Impact, and Methods**

Dr Charlie Rumsby  
Dr Laurie Parsons  
Dr Jason Cabanes  
Prof. Deirdre McKay



26 May 2021

### **Southeast Asia Digital Summer School: Research Resilience**

Prof. Catherine Allerton  
Dr Adam Tyson  
Joanna Octavia  
Prof. Deirdre McKay



# Academic Engagement

## LSE Southeast Asia Forum 2020

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 showcases the high-quality research on Southeast Asia conducted at LSE. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SEAF was retitled LSE Southeast Asia Week and took place over a week from the 26-30 October 2020, with one-two sessions each day, timed to be accessible for both UK and Southeast Asia based audiences.

“

It's the perspectives of authors/presenters on old and persisting issues but given new meanings as the global ecosystem continues to display changing dimensions that was so important.”

— SEAF 2020 attendee

### Monday 26 October

#### Politics and Economics of COVID-19 in Southeast Asia

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin (LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Natalie Black CBE (Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Asia Pacific, UK Government)
- Prof John Sidel (Sir Patrick Gillam Chair in International and Comparative Politics, LSE Department of Government)
- Prof Lutfey Siddiqi (Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE IDEAS)
- Dr Adrian Paul Rabe (Managing Director, Global Health Focus)

### Tuesday 27 October

#### Migration and Mobility in the COVID-19 Era

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin (LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Dr Sin Yee Koh (Senior Lecturer in Global Studies, Monash University Malaysia; LSE SEAC)
- Dr Yasmin Ortiga (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Singapore Management University)
- Prof Johanna Waters (Professor of Human Geography and Migration Studies, UCL)

#### ASEAS UK-SEAC Panels on ECR and Southeast Asia Research

Co-Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin (LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment) and Dr Deirdre McKay (ASEAS UK; Keele University)

- Thanapat Chatinakrob (PhD candidate at the Manchester International Law Centre, University of Manchester)
- Dr Benjamin Ho (Assistant Professor at the China Programme, RSIS, Nanyang Technological University)
- Jessica Rahardjo (DPhil student at the Faculty of History, University of Oxford)
- Dr Charlie Rumsby (Research fellow at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University)



### Wednesday 28 October

#### **Whither Southeast Asia Research?: Roundtable with Centre Directors (in collaboration with ASEAS UK)**

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin (LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Prof Tim Bunnell (Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore)
- Prof Michele Ford (Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney)
- Prof Duncan McCargo (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen)
- Prof Marina Svensson (Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University)
- Prof Mark Thompson (Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong)

### Thursday 29 October

#### **Politics of City-Making in Southeast Asia**

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin (LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Dr Wanjing Kelly Chen (Research Assistant Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
- Dr Ofita Purwani (Associate Professor at the School of Architecture, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia)
- Dr Kristian Saguin (Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, University of the Philippines Diliman)
- Dr Yimin Zhao (Assistant Professor in Urban Planning and Management, Remin University of China)

### Friday 30 October

#### **Environmental Resilience and Southeast Asia**

Chaired by Dr Thomas Smith (LSE Geography & Environment; LSE SEAC)

- Dr Winston Chow (Associate Professor of Science, Technology and Society, School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University)
- Dr Helena Varkkey (Senior Lecturer, Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya)
- Dr Rory Padfield (Lecturer in Sustainability and Business, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds)
- Dr Michelle Miller (Senior Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore)

**Videos for all events are available publicly on the SEAF website: [lse.ac.uk/seac/seaf](https://lse.ac.uk/seac/seaf)**

# Academic Engagement

## Southeast Asia Digital Summer School

In collaboration with the Association for Southeast Asian Studies in the UK (ASEAS (UK)), SEAC hosted the inaugural Digital Summer School in May 2021. This week-long series of events was especially designed to support Early Career Researchers with insights, networking, and support as they begin their academic careers. It took place over three days (Thursday 20, Monday 24, and Wednesday 26 May) from 12-3.15pm BST each day, and featured 6 sessions covering a wide range of topics including: Decolonising Research Practice; How to Succeed in Publishing; Impact, Digital Impact, and Methods; Post-Academic and Alt-Academic Career Paths; and Research Resilience; alongside a networking event for ASEAS (UK) and SEAC's ECR Network members.

The event was a success with a total of 750 registrations across the week from 334 unique registrants. Of these registrants, we were particularly pleased that 151 were from the Southeast Asia region, with: 13 from Cambodia; 17 from Singapore; 28 from Malaysia; 35 from

Indonesia; 42 from The Philippines; and the remainder from Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Attendance numbered 482 people across the week, enjoying the sessions both via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook.

“

Really enjoyed the candid sharing on very practical issues ECRs might not get as much insight into, e.g., different considerations when publishing books/ offering some tangible steps we can take when exploring a non-academic career that still utilises an academic skillset. The discussions were also very focused and addressed to the audience which was good because the advice was more targeted and relevant.”

— Digital Summer School Attendee

# 482

attendees on Zoom  
and Facebook



**13** from Cambodia



**17** from Singapore



**28** from Malaysia



**35** from Indonesia



**42** from The Philippines



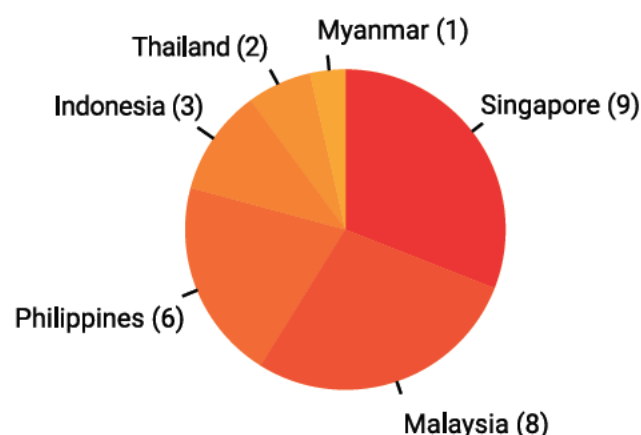


# Academic Engagement EDI at the Centre

SEAC has continued its public engagement agenda through the 2020-21 event schedule. Ranging from SEAC Seminars, roundtable discussions, to public lectures these events provide space for insights and debates into regional issues from across disciplines and approaches.

The table below provides an overview of past events at SEAC and demonstrates the work that SEAC has done to attend to the LSE's principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Decentring knowledge production is a core tenet of the centres plans and forms an integral part of decision-making processes across all its activities. Putting this principle into practice in research, events, and engagement with students and the wider public, SEAC has actively increased the number of female speakers, and speakers from Southeast Asia. In 2019/20 and 2020/21, female speakers made up more than 50% of all speakers (60.6% and 53.4% respectively). Additionally, in the 2020/21 year 33% of speakers were from the Southeast Asian region:

## Speakers from Southeast Asia



Academic Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Number of Events</b>	27	17	17	38
<b>Number of Speakers</b>	42	73	33	88
<b>By Gender</b>				
Male	30	38	13	41
%	71.4%	52.1%	39.4%	46.6%
Female	12	35	20	47
%	28.6%	47.9%	60.6%	53.4%
<b>By Region of home institution</b>				
UK	18	43	16	40
%	42.9%	58.9%	48.5%	45.5%
EU	5	5	7	4
%	11.9%	6.8%	21.2%	4.5%
OS	19	25	15	44
%	45.2%	34.2%	45.5%	50%
<b>Southeast Asia</b>				29
%				33.0%







# Publications

SEAC continues to promote the work of our academics and associates, including podcasts of events, and showcasing recent publications – books, chapters, and articles. Publications of particular note from the 2020/21 year include:

## Books and Edited Volumes

- **Brickell, K.** 2020. Home SOS: Gender, Violence, and Survival in Crisis Ordinary Cambodia. London: Wiley.
- Park, S.H., **Shin, H.B.** and Kang, H.S. (eds.) 2020. Exporting Urban Korea? Reconsidering the Korean Urban Development Experience. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.
- **Rigg, J.** 2020. Rural Development in Southeast Asia: Accumulation, Dispossession and Persistence. Cambridge University Press.
- **Sidel, J.** and Faustino, J. 2020. Thinking and Working Politically in Development: Coalitions for Change in the Philippines. Pasig City: The Asia Foundation.
- **Sidel, J.** 2021. Republicanism, Communism, Islam: Cosmopolitan Origins of Revolution in Southeast Asia. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Smith, T. & **Schulze, K.** (eds) 2020. Exporting the Global Jihad: 'Critical' Perspectives from the Periphery, Volume Two - Asia and North America. London: IB Tauris.

## Book Chapters

- **Brickell, K.**, Natarajan, N. & Parsons, L. 'Choosing to be unfree? Aspirations and constraints among debt-bonded brick workers in Cambodia.' In Monteith, W. Vicol, D.O. and Williams, P. (eds.) 2021, Beyond the Wage: Ordinary Work in Diverse Economies. Bristol University Press.
- Jamieson, W., **Brickell, K.**, Natarajan, N. and Parsons, L. 'Constructing the South-East Asian ascent: Global vertical urbanisms of brick and sand' in Lancione, M. and McFarlane, C. (eds) 2021, Global Urbanism: Knowledge, Power and the City. London: Routledge.
- **Mckay, D.**, Perez, P. and Xiaoyu, L. 'Plastics Talk/ Talking Plastics: The Communicative Power of Plasticity' in Farrelly, T., Taffel, S. and Shaw, I. (eds) 2021, Plastic Legacies: Pollution, Persistence, and Politics. Athabasca University Press.
- **Schulze, K.** and Hwang, J.C. 'From Afghanistan to Syria: How the global remains local for Indonesian Islamist Militants' in Smith, T. and Schulze, K. (eds) 2020, Exporting the Global Jihad: 'Critical' Perspectives from the Periphery, Volume Two – Asia and North America. London: IB Tauris.
- **Shin, H.B.** 'Theorising from where? Reflections on De-centring Global (Southern) Urbanism' in Lancione, M. and McFarlane, C. (eds) 2021, Global Urbanism: Knowledge, Power and the City. London: Routledge.

## Research Articles

- Akhtar, H., Lupascu, M., Sukri, R.S., **Smith, T.E.L.**, Cobb, A.R. and Swarup, S. 'Significant sedge-mediated methane emissions from degraded tropical peatlands', *Environmental Research letters*, 16, 1, 014002.
- **Allerton, C.** (2020) 'Invisible children? Nonrecognition, humanitarian blindness and other forms of ignorance in Sabah, Malaysia', *Critique of Anthropology*, 40(4), pp. 455–470. doi: 10.1177/0308275X20959435.
- **Allerton, C.** (2020) 'Stuck in the short term: immobility and temporalities of care among Florenese migrants in Sabah, Malaysia', *Ethnos*, 85 (2), 208 – 223. doi: 10.1080/00141844.2018.1543338
- **Brickell, K.**, Bylander, M., Natarajan, N., Parsons, L. and Yeoh, B. (2021) 'Debt, (Un) Freedom, and Development: Lessons from contemporary Asia', *Geoforum*. doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.02.003
- **Brickell, K.** and Parsons, L. (2021) 'The spirit in the machine: Towards a spiritual geography of debt bondage and labour (im)mobility in Cambodian brick kilns', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 46, 1, pp. 44–58. doi.org/10.1111/tran.12393
- **Brickell, K.** (2020) 'Event(ful) spaces of organised legal encounter: Reflections from a client consultation competition on domestic violence law in Cambodia', *Area*, pp. 1 – 9. doi.org/10.1111/area.12660
- **Brickell, K.**, Natarajan, N. and Parsons, L. (2020) 'Diffuse Drivers of Modern Slavery: From Microfinance to Unfree Labour in Cambodia', *Development and Change*, 52, 2, pp. 241 – 264. doi.org/10.1111/dech.12623
- **Chua, B.H.** and Wong, M. (2020) 'Desiring political opposition beyond COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore', *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, 21, 4, pp. 495 – 505. doi.org/10.1080/14649373.2020.1832298
- **Forsyth, T.** and Springate-Baginski, O. (2021) 'Are landscape approaches possible under authoritarianism? Multi-stakeholder governance and social transformation in Myanmar', *Environmental Science and Policy*, 124, 359 – 369. doi: 10.1016/j.envsci.2021.07.010
- **Koh, S. Y.** (2021) 'The interurban migration industry: 'Migration products' and the materialisation of urban speculation at Iskandar Malaysia', *Urban Studies*. doi: 10.1177/0042098021992219.
- **Koh, S. Y.** (2021) 'Disrupted Geographic Arbitrage and Differential Capacities of Coping in Later-Life: Anglo-Western Teacher Expatriates in Brunei', *International Migration Review*, 55(2), pp. 322–346. doi: 10.1177/0197918320926910.
- **Koh, S. Y.**, Harris, A (2020) 'Multicultural reflexivity: university students negotiating 'pockets' and 'strings' of multiculturalism in Malaysia', *Children's Geographies*, 18(6), pp. 712–725. doi: 10.1080/14733285.2020.1713300
- **Koh, S. Y.**, **Zhao, Y.** and **Shin, H.B.** (2021) 'The micropolitics of speculative green urbanism at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia', *Geography and Environment Discussion Paper Series* (21). Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, London, UK.
- Kolovou Kouri, M., Sakuma, S., **Ortiz, C.**, Astolfo, G. and Rhoads, E. (2021) 'Trajectories of spatial violence in Southeast Asian cities', *DPU Working Paper* 207, UCL Bartlett, London, UK.



- Liu, Felicia H. M., Ganesan, Vignaa and **Smith, T. E. L.** (2020) 'Contrasting communications of sustainability science in the media coverage of palm oil agriculture on tropical peatlands in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore', *Environmental Science and Policy*, 114, 162 - 169. doi: 10.1016/j.envsci.2020.07.004
- Martin-Anatias, N., **Long, N.J.**, Davies, S., Aikman, P.J., Appleton, N.S., Deckert, A., Fehoko, E., Holroyd, E., Jivraj, N., Laws, M., Roguski, M., Simpson, N., Sterling, R., Trnka, S. and Tunufa'i, L. (2021) 'Lockdown Ibuism: experiences of Indonesian migrant mothers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Aotearoa New Zealand', *Intersections*, 45.
- **McCargo, D.** (2021) 'Disruptors' dilemma? Thailand's 2020 Gen Z protests', *Critical Asian Studies*, 53 (2), pp. 175 -191. doi.org/10.1080/14672715.2021.1876522
- **McCargo, D.** and Naruemon, T. (2021) 'Plural Partisans: Thailand's People's Democratic Reform Committee Protesters', *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 43 (1), pp. 125 – 150. doi: 10.1355/cs43-1n
- **McKay, D.** (2021) 'Towards framing the global in global development: Prospects for development geography', *Area*. doi.org/10.1111/area.12718
- **McKay, D.** (2020) 'Decorated Duterte: Digital Objects and the Crisis of Martial Law History in the Philippines', *Modern Languages Open*, (1), p.27. doi: 10.3828/mlo.v0i0.316
- **McKay, D.**, Stanes, E., Githua, N., Lei, X. and Dixon, S. (2020) 'On Global Plasticity: Framing the Global Through Affective Materiality', *New Global Studies*, 14, 3, pp. 307 – 326. doi.org/10.1515/ngs-2020-0039
- Ong, A. and **Steinmüller, H.** (2021) 'Communities of care: Public donations, development assistance, and independent philanthropy in the Wa State of Myanmar', *Critique of Anthropology*, 41(1), pp. 65–87. doi: 10.1177/0308275X20974099.
- **Shin, H. B., Zhao, Y., & Koh, S. Y.**, (2020) 'Whither progressive urban futures? Critical reflections on the politics of temporality in Asia', *City*, 24 (1-2), pp. 244- 254. doi: 10.1080/13604813.2020.1739925





- **Sidel, J.** (2020) 'Averting "Carmageddon" through reform? An eco-systemic analysis of traffic congestion and transportation policy gridlock in Metro Manila', *Critical Asian Studies*, 52 (3), pp. 378-402. doi: 10.1080/14672715.2020.1793681
- **Steinmüller, H.** (2021) 'Pioneers of the plantation economy: militarism, dispossession and the limits of growth in the Wa State of Myanmar', *Social Anthropology*, pp. 1-15. doi: 10.1111/1469-8676.13009
- **Steinmüller, H.** (2021) 'Para-nationalism: sovereignty and authenticity in the Wa State of Myanmar', *Nations and Nationalism*, 27 (3), 880 – 894. doi: 10.1111/nana.12709
- **Steinmüller, H.** (2020) 'The moral economy of militarism: peasant economy, military state, and Chinese capitalism in the Wa State of Myanmar', *Social Anthropology*, 28 (1), pp. 121-135. doi: 10.1111/1469-8676.12755
- **Steinmüller, H.** (2020) 'The Golden Triangle is in the papers', *Critical Asian Studies*, 52 (3), pp. 464-471. doi: 10.1080/14672715.2020.1792320
- Suhardiman, D. and **Rigg, J.** (2021) 'Aspirations undone: hydropower and the (re) shaping of livelihood pathways in Northern Laos', *Agric Hum Values*. doi.org/10.1007/s10460-021-10203-3
- Suhardiman, D., DiCarlo, J., Keovilignavong, O., **Rigg, J.** and Nicol, A. (2021) '(Re)constructing state power and livelihoods through the Laos-China Railway project', *Geoforum*, Volume 124, pp. 79 – 88. doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.06.003
- Suhardiman, D., **Rigg, J.**, Bandur, M., Marschke, M., Miller, M.A., Pheuangsavanh, N., Sayatham, M. and Taylor, D. (2021) 'On the Coattails of globalization: migration, migrants and COVID-19 in Asia', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47 (1), pp. 88 - 109. doi: 10.1080/1369183X.2020.1844561
- Wilcox, P., **Rigg, J.** and Nguyen, M. T. (2021) 'Rural Life in Late Socialism', *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, 20 (1), pp. 7 - 25. doi.org/10.1163/15700615-20211009
- **Zhao, Y.** (2020) 'Jiehebu or suburb? Towards a translational turn in urban studies', *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 13 (3), pp. 527-542. doi: 10.1093/cjres/rsaa032

# Blogs

## LSE Southeast Asia Blog

Relaunched in 2020 as an in-house LSE blog, the Southeast Asia Blog has become a key outreach tool for SEAC Academics, ECR Network Members, and others to share their research outputs and reflections about timely topical issues with a general audience. The blog continues to gain pace, with an average of 600-700 views each day. Popular posts for the 2020-21 academic year include:

58

### The impact of COVID-19 on SME digitalisation in Malaysia

“Despite being the backbone of Malaysia’s business environment, SMEs perform relatively poorly in digitalization. There exists a digital divide among businesses in Malaysia”, write Amos Tong, an economics undergraduate at UCLA, and Rachel Gong, a researcher at the Khazanah Research Institute in Kuala Lumpur.



### A Hero's Welcome? Repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers and COVID-19

“The situation faced by repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) is alarming especially when compared to the less-than-robust government solutions on the table. The number of OFWs seeking government assistance has reached more than 600,000 individuals but only close to half of the requests have been approved.” writes Ica Fernandez, Justin Muyot, Abbey Pangilinan, and Nastassja Quijano, urban planning and development professionals.





## Singapore's economic response to COVID-19: An outsider's view from inside

"What sometimes confuses outsiders is whether Singapore is right-wing or left-wing, laissez-faire capitalist or interventionist-socialist in its approach", writes Professor Lutfey Siddiqi, a Visiting Professor in Practice at LSE IDEAS.

# LSE Field Research Methods Lab Blog

The Field Research Methods Lab Blog is an effective tool to engage with a broader audience, including students, academics, around field research-related methodological questions such as gaining access, researcher's positionality, local epistemology etc. It features insights and reflections on researchers' chosen research methods, and shares experiences of PhD Students, Early Career Researchers, and tenured Academics. Popular posts for the 2020-21 year include:



## Conducting research in the midst of a military coup in Myanmar

Conducting field research always comes with security and ethical considerations. Yet they are exacerbated in constraining political environments, where navigating the line between one's own security, the safety of informants and ethical considerations on how to use and interpret data to analyse a rapidly unfolding political situation such as the current military coup in Myanmar, can be a struggle for field researchers. This piece is dedicated to my research assistant, unjustly arrested and currently in jail in Myanmar, writes Morgane Dussud



## Walking with Bangkok's waste pickers

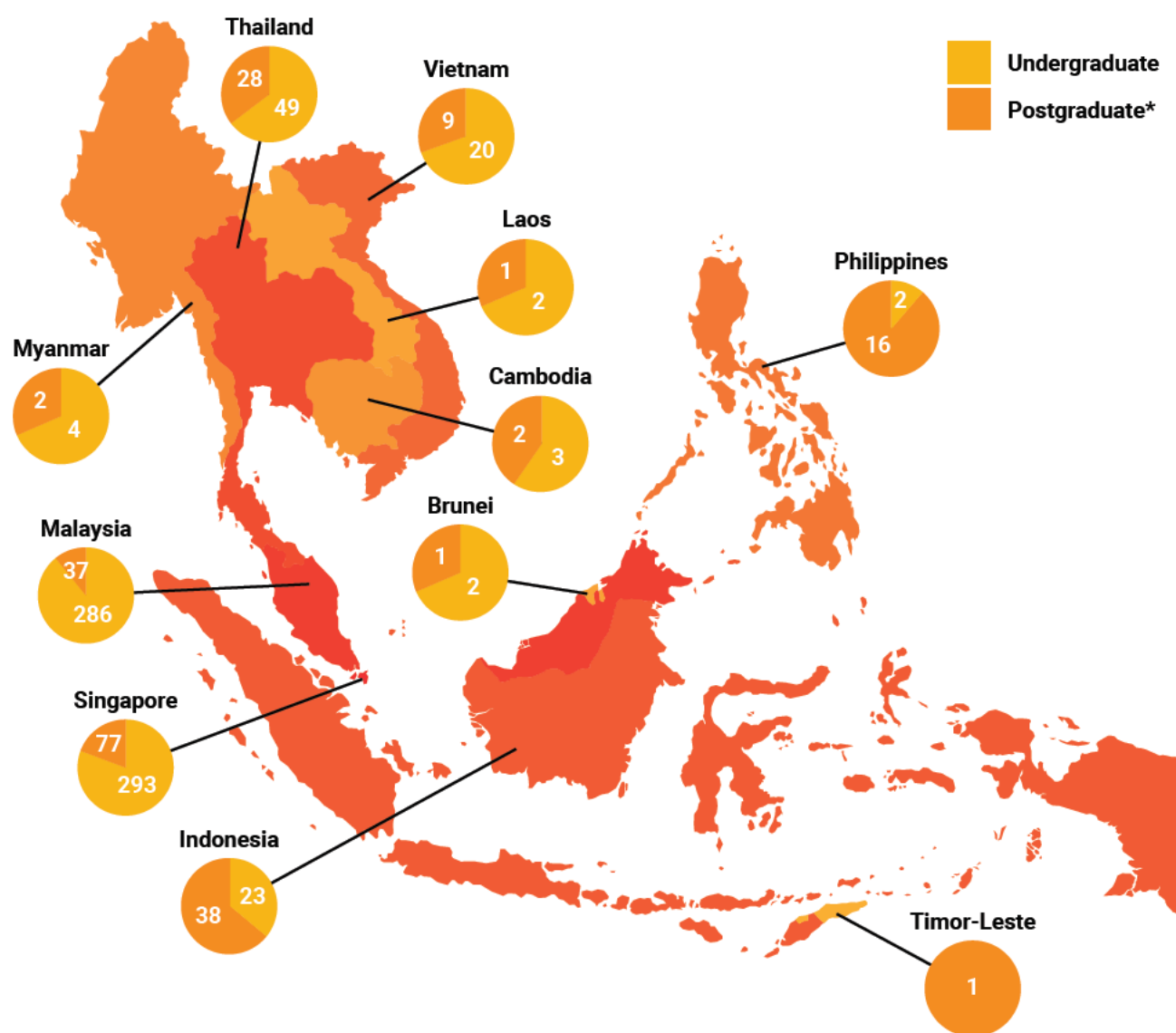
As opposed to a sit-down environment used in traditional interviewing, the walk along led to recollection of memories, experiences, associations, and rich qualitative data based on spatial prompts, write Charlotte Adelina, Diane Archer, and Nattakorn Noyvanich



# Student Engagement

LSE's Student body is made up of around 8% of students from Southeast Asia, with 13% of Undergraduate Students from Southeast Asia, reflecting the diversity, culture, and peoples of the region. 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



\*Postgraduate numbers include PhD Students

SEAC hosts termly meetings 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. Most recently, SEAC Director, Professor Hyun Bang Shin acted as event Chair for and Indonesian Society and ASEAN Society event "In Conversation with: Gita Wirjawan", welcoming the former Indonesian Minister of Trade to speak at LSE.

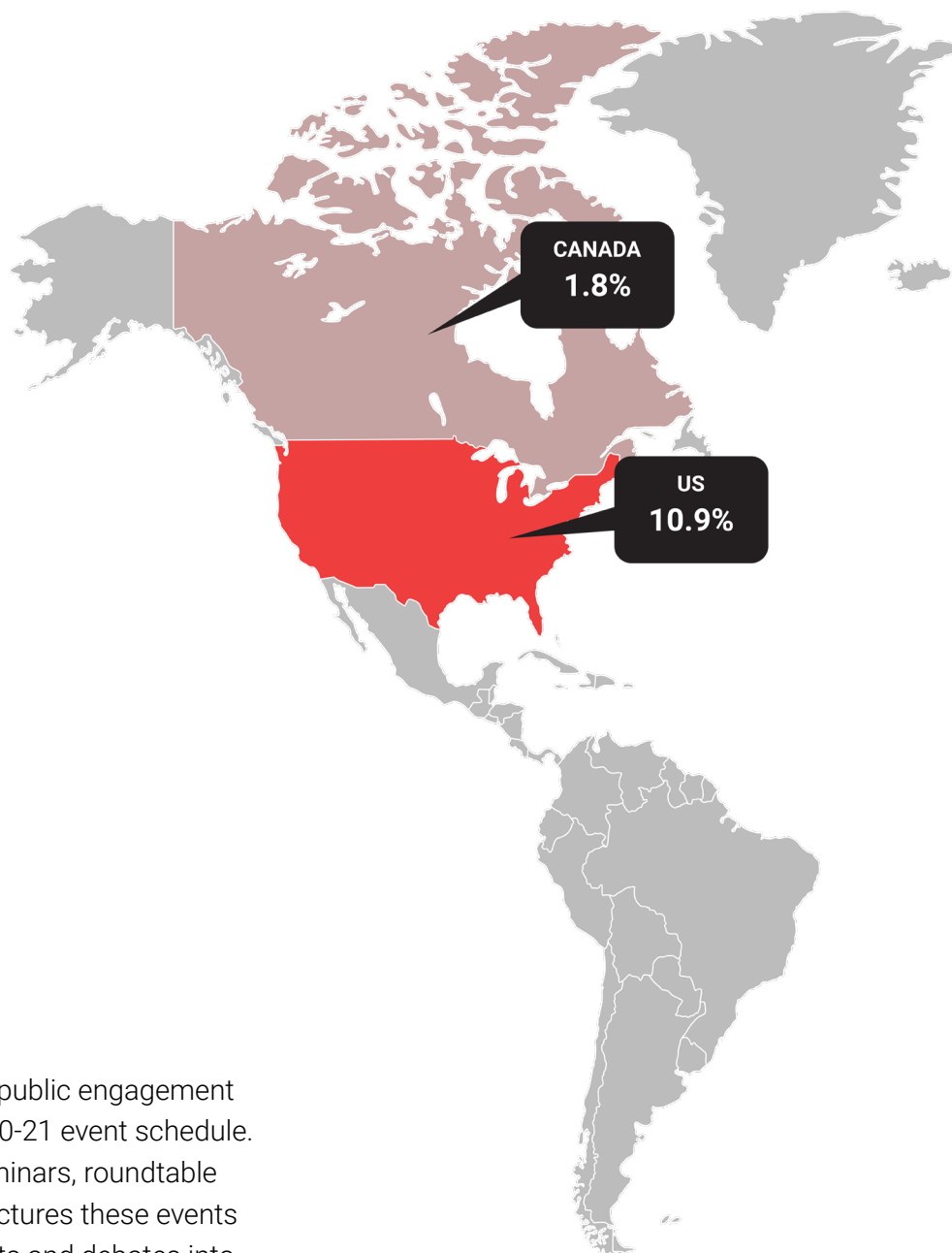


## Yearly changes in student numbers

	2020-2021		2019-2020		2018-2019		2017-2018		2016-2017	
	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG
Myanmar	4	2	2	3	1	2	1	3	2	3
Thailand	49	28	43	40	41	48	31	65	35	63
Laos	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	20	9	20	5	25	8	24	11	32	18
Cambodia	3	2	3	3	4	1	1	1	2	1
Malaysia	286	37	307	46	314	32	325	31	314	29
Singapore	293	77	287	100	309	90	308	98	326	94
Brunei	2	1	3	1	3	0	3	3	7	3
Indonesia	23	38	22	47	21	34	17	26	14	25
Philippines	2	16	4	8	3	16	6	17	3	10
Timor Leste	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>246</b>

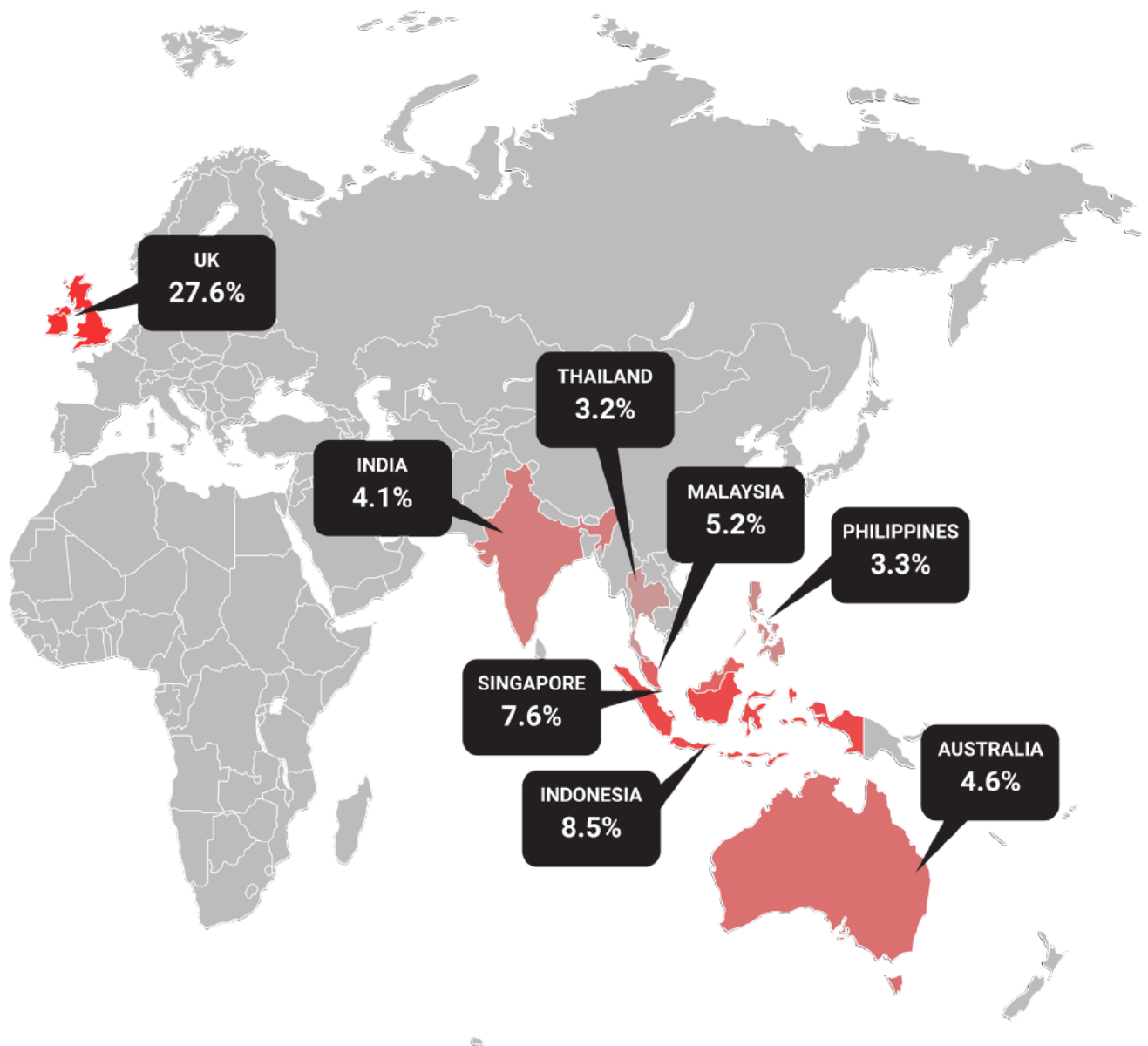
# Social Media Outreach

Over the 2020-21 year SEAC has continued to develop its social media channels, with a total of 3,500 Twitter, and 3,000 Facebook followers by the end of June 2021. These channels are key vehicles for outreach and dissemination.



SEAC has continued its public engagement agenda through the 2020-21 event schedule. Ranging from SEAC Seminars, roundtable discussions, to public lectures these events provide space for insights and debates into regional issues from across disciplines and approaches.





# The London School of Economics and Political Science

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a world leading university, specialising in social sciences, with a global community of people and ideas that transform the world.



Founded in 1895, LSE's mission is to transform people and societies by understanding the causes of things. The School's research and teaching focuses on major global issues, including the economic threat of climate change, social and economic inequality across the world, economic growth and development, risk in financial markets and structures, global health, and the future of our cities. LSE has been consistently recognised highly for its academic strength: In 2021, LSE has been ranked top in Europe – and second in the world – in social sciences and management subjects for the ninth consecutive year in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021.

In addition to the cosmopolitan faculty and students who make it an international community rooted in London, LSE has developed global, multi-faceted partnerships with a number of prestigious universities. These peer institutions are located in key cities/locations around the world, and include the National University of Singapore, Columbia University, Peking University, University of Cape Town, Fudan University, UC Berkeley and Sciences Po. The LSE partners with these institutions in a variety of ways, including offering dual degrees, student exchanges, faculty exchange, and joint lecture series.







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