RESEARCH THEMES FOR
02FY2022 HERITAGE RESEARCH GRANT (HRG) GRANT CALL

Topic	Description
Singapore Pre-History and History	This topic invites proposals for research on Singapore History. Interested researchers should propose specific case studies that could include: • Pre-historic Singapore (e.g. pre-historic archaeological materials in Singapore from the 14th century, research on early civilisations and settlements) • Pre-colonial Singapore (e.g. impact of trade flows from the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, religious networks and influence, Western expansion in Southeast Asia, historical and geopolitical context behind Stamford Raffles' 1819 arrival in Singapore) • Colonial Singapore (e.g. ethnic segregation along labour division, cultural and political relations between colonial administration and local population, Inter-ethnic interactions in commercial activities, shipping lines in Singapore, picture postcard producers, Empire Day and other colony-wide celebrations, river settlements in Singapore) • World War II (e.g. larger narratives of World War II in Singapore, the manufacture and dissemination of war propaganda materials significance of the Malay Regiment, accounts by wartime survivors and prisoners of war) • Road to Independence (1948-1965) (e.g. The Malayan Emergency (1948-1955), the post-war strategies and activities of the Malayan Communist Party, labour unrest during pre-independence Singapore, communal tensions, politics, insights and deliberations leading to merger and separation). • Post-independence Singapore (e.g. public housing, economic development, industrialisation (including productivity movements and training efforts by the government and multinationals), labour relations, visual culture, defence, diplomacy, socio-economic microhistories, public health, urban renewal, nature and the environment, arts, culture and heritage, sports, foreign relations, science and technology, healthcare, education, law, public histories, roles of social and/or collective memory in the development of Singapore's nation-building narratives , case studies of values-based leadership) • Singapore Identity and Culture (e.g. foodways, languages, HDB living, cultural diversity, tourism connections, urban studies, social value of museums, national icons/symbols, national/founding values, founding leaders) • General museological studies (e.g. history of museums in Singapore, history of private Singapore art collections, development of the Raffles Library and Museum collections, development of the colonial museum network in Southeast Asia) Please note that the above list is not exhaustive. Projects may utilise historical, archival and other relevant methodologies to explore the topic of Singapore Pre-History and History. Research on post-independence Singapore history using non-English sources is encouraged. Priority will be given to proposals which are able to demonstrate Singapore's networks or

	linkages to the region and/or engage in robust historical research to address current heritage concerns.
Intangible Cultural Heritage	This topic invites proposals for research related to the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of Singapore. Interested researchers should refer to the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Singapore (https://roots.sg/learn/resources/ich), that could include: • Oral Traditions and Expressions • Performing Arts • Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events • Knowledge and Practice concerning nature and the universe • Traditional Craftsmanship • Food Heritage • Significance of ICH to nation-building and national identity • Anthropology (in particular, the evolution of communities that practise ICH) • How ICH contributes to Sustainable Development Goals Researchers may propose research to demonstrate the value of intangible cultural heritage in Singapore's context, or explore case studies that could deepen the understanding of specific ICH practices in Singapore.
Tangible Heritage	This topic invites proposals for research on historic and heritage buildings, structures and sites. The proposal's focus should be primarily on Singapore, although research on overseas tangible heritage could be considered if the research is able to link the research outcomes to Singapore. Some potential case studies include: • Cities/Urban studies (e.g. architectural history of Singapore, modern architectural heritage of Singapore) • Recreation and entertainment heritage (e.g. history of amusement parks, sporting sites, cinemas and theatres in Singapore) • Archaeological sites (e.g. archaeology methodology, archaeology ethics, archaeology mapping, pre-colonial archaeology, colonial archaeology, peoples' archaeology, archiving and database management etc.) Researchers are encouraged to take a cross-disciplinary approach for their proposed research. For example, researchers could explore the use of technology (e.g. digital data management, GIS Technology, aerial photography, etc) that supports the research objectives and enhances the quality of the research.
Ethnic Heritage	This topic invites research proposals that documents and examines the tangible and/or intangible cultural heritage of specific communities/sub-communities in Singapore. Interested researchers should propose specific case studies that could include: • Mixed Communities (e.g. early development of mixed heritage communities in Southeast Asia like the Straits Chinese, Arab/Jawi/Chitty Peranakan communities, influence of intermarriage and the formation of trade alliances, history and development of related ethnic associations and societies)

	• Historical attachment of ethnic communities to certain geographical locations and sense of community • Cultural production and practices of ethnic communities (i.e. food, traditional arts and crafts, significance of key communal events) Please note that the above list is not exhaustive. Projects may utilise historical, archival and other relevant methodologies to explore the topic of Ethnic Heritage, or explore other case studies that could deepen understanding of ethnic heritage in Singapore.
Comparative Studies of Singapore and Southeast Asia	This topic invites proposals that explores Singapore history and heritage within the broader Southeast Asian context. Some examples include: • Singapore's pre-modern role as an Asian port city of the maritime trade routes and the thalassocracies of Srivijaya and Majapahit • The colonial built heritage of Singapore and Malaysia • Singapore's intangible cultural heritage connections to post-1945 Southeast Asia • Singapore's founding values (exemplified by the wider populace, or by a specific group, e.g. leaders): articulation and development within the regional context Please note that the above list is intended as an illustration. Projects may utilise historical, archival and other relevant methodologies to explore the topic of Comparative Studies of Singapore and Southeast Asia.

The HRG aims to encourage high quality, rigorous research including applied research to solve practical problems in heritage conservation, policy making, or museum management.