

National Heritage Board
List of Awarded Projects – Heritage Research Grant

1	Project	Tombs in a tropical forest, from the Heng San Ting (Eternal Mountain Pavillion: New Sources for the history of Singapore's earliest Hokkien community) (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Kenneth Dean (Principal Investigator, chsdek@nus.edu.sg)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Ong Chang Woei (Co-investigator)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Koh Khee Heong (Co-investigator)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Hue Guan Thye (Co-investigator)	Chinese, Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	<p>This project engages in the documentation and study of a group of recently discovered Hokkien tombs originally based in Heng San Ting that were subsequently relocated to Bukit Brown Cemetery in the late 19th century. These tombstones are among the earliest material objects bearing Singapore's rich cultural heritage. 469 tombstones are arranged in rows in a heavily forested hillside section of the Hokkien Huay Kuan cemetery off Onreat Road. The tombstones date primarily to the Daoguang period (1821-1850), with a minority dating from the Xianfeng (1851-61), Tongzhi (1862-74), Guangxu (1875-1908) and Xuantong (1909-1911) periods.</p> <p>The research team sought the help of the cemetery caretaker to clear the site and provide physical access for the wider community. Repeated site visits were made to transcribe the inscriptions, measure and photograph the tombstones. The tombstone data transcriptions and GPS coordinates have been uploaded into an online database (shgis.edu.sg) for the benefit of those interested in early Singapore's history, culture and heritage. The team will publish the findings in a volume on Singaporean Qing dynasty tombstones, along with interpretive essays on the history of Singapore cemeteries.</p> <p>These materials shed new light on migration and religious figures in early Singapore. For example, 40 Daoguang period tombs can be traced to one lineage group from a single village in Zhangzhou (the Cai lineage from Xiechang village), China. It is hypothesised that all these poor migrants must have come to Singapore as a group. More elaborate tombs of wealthier members of the Cai lineage from Xiechang dating to the same period have been found elsewhere in the Bukit Brown cemetery. From these tombs, we can begin tracing issues on class, labour migration, and merchant leadership relating to the early Singaporean Chinese community.</p>	

2	Project	The Nine Emperor Gods Festival in Singapore: History, Rituals, Institutions and Networks (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Koh Keng We (Principal Investigator, kohkw@ntu.edu.sg)	History, Nanyang Technological University
		Kenneth Dean (Co-investigator)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Choi Chi-Cheung (Co-investigator)	History, Chinese University of Hong Kong
		Hue Guan Thye (Co-investigator)	Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Germany
Aim	This project examines the Nine Emperor Gods Festival, an important Chinese folk religious festival unique to Southeast Asia. The annual celebration of the Nine Emperor Gods Festival is a reminder of Singapore's maritime heritage and the Chinese community's close attachment to the sea. Its persistence raises many questions not just for our understanding of the festival and its history, but for a Singapore that is redefining and renegotiating its place in a globalised world.		
3	Project	Archaeology survey and assessment: Identifying terrestrial sites and developing future framework in Singapore (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Lim Chen Sian (Principal Investigator, lim_chen_sian@iseas.edu.sg)	Archaeology Unit, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
Aim	<p>Since 1984, archaeologists have been quietly investigating early settlements and past societies of Singapore. Despite being a highly urbanized city, archaeological remains from pre-modern and colonial Singapore abound and still lay buried beneath the streets, parks and cityscapes. To date over 30 sites were excavated with an estimated 10 tons of artifacts recovered, evident of the rich and significant archaeological reservoirs found throughout the country.</p> <p>At present, regulatory and legislative framework relating to archaeology in Singapore is still underdeveloped. Archaeological or heritage impact assessments are not yet required as a mandatory undertaking prior to development or construction, resulting in the destruction and loss of many archaeological remains. The laws are also silent on other issues like ownership of artifacts discovered by chance or from archaeological investigations.</p> <p>Hence together with the National Heritage Board, Singaporean archaeologist Lim Chen Sian embarked on a study of archaeological frameworks from ten countries around the world. Surveying legislative requirements and operating protocols by state and non-state archaeological institutions, and developing a roadmap to address crucial and salient</p>		

		questions about the future of Singapore's archaeological assets – when is it necessary for archaeological intervention and mitigation? Who owns the objects unearthed? What happens to artifacts after they are found? What are the resources required for the custody and preservation of the archaeological collection?	
4	Project	Digital database for archaeological remains from Singapore Cricket Club (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		John Norman Miksic (Principal Investigator, seajnm@nus.edu.sg)	Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
		Goh Geok Yian (Co-Investigator)	History, Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	This project aims to create a digital database for the artefacts uncovered on the Singapore Cricket Club's grounds on the Padang. The research and cataloguing efforts on these artefacts will help shed light on early Singapore's history and determine the extent to which 14 th -16 th century Singapore possessed an official authority that allocated space to specific commercial occupations compared to other pre-colonial port sites. The findings from the project and the digital database can be accessed on www.epress.nus.edu.sg/sitereports/scc	
5	Project	Integrating heritage in Singapore's urban development: historic places of worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, and Tanjong Malang (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Vivienne Wee (Principal Investigator, vivienne wee@ethnographica.sg)	Ethnographica Private Limited, commissioned by Singapore Heritage Society
		Geoffrey Benjamin (Co-Investigator)	Ethnographica Private Limited, commissioned by Singapore Heritage Society
	Aim	<p>This project documents the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of historic places of worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar and Tanjong Malang that are earlier than the Second World War. The project delivered a 321-page final report and 633 captioned, publication-quality photographs of the twenty-one places studied, including Chinese temples, Chinese clan associations, mosque, Muslim sites, Hindu temples and a church.</p> <p>The research sites were chosen for the following reasons:</p> <p>First, Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, and Tanjong Malang are the earliest settled areas after the founding of the British trading port. These are hence a living connection with Singapore's almost 200-year history of human settlement.</p>	

		<p>Second, most of these are still active places of worship, thereby constituting living heritage. They represent a continuation of purpose, where structures continue to be used for their original purpose, rather than being modified for different use, sometimes inappropriately. The project includes an example where what is conserved as tangible heritage is a hollow shell that has lost its purpose.</p> <p>Third, these places of worship potentially provide social anchors for historically continuous communities as custodians of intangible cultural heritage, able to transmit collective knowledge and shared memories across generations.</p> <p>Fourth, these places of worship established in the 19th century and in the early years of the 20th century are culturally diverse, ranging from Chinese religion, encompassing Taoism and Buddhism, Hinduism, Malay animism, Islam and Christianity. This shows that cultural diversity in Singapore commenced almost 200 years ago. Conservation must thus include the range of cultural diversity represented by these places of worship, rather than the preservation of isolated entities.</p> <p>Fifth, the research is innovative in adopting a holistic approach that encompasses tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the concerns of stakeholders.</p> <p>The research process showed that notions of “living heritage” and “historically continuous communities” cannot be assumed because there is a crisis of continuity in many of the twenty-one places of worship. To achieve the project’s aim of contributing to a deeper understanding of how heritage may be conserved and sustained, the research found that community engagement is a priority, with stakeholders invested in their collective heritage.</p>										
6	Project	Mortars, renders and plasters composition of historic structures built in 20th century Singapore: Suitability and durability assessment for conservation specifications (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED)										
	Research Team	<table><tr><th>Name</th><th>Faculty/Institution</th></tr><tr><td>Yeo Kang Shua (Principal Investigator, yeokangshua@sutd.edu.sg)</td><td>Architecture & Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design</td></tr><tr><td>Ong Eng Shi (Co-investigator)</td><td>Science, Singapore University of Technology and Design</td></tr><tr><td>Thio Beng Joo, Reginald (Co-investigator)</td><td>Singapore Institute of Technology</td></tr><tr><td>Soh Gim Song (Co-investigator)</td><td>Engineering Product Development, Singapore University of Technology and Design</td></tr></table>	Name	Faculty/Institution	Yeo Kang Shua (Principal Investigator, yeokangshua@sutd.edu.sg)	Architecture & Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design	Ong Eng Shi (Co-investigator)	Science, Singapore University of Technology and Design	Thio Beng Joo, Reginald (Co-investigator)	Singapore Institute of Technology	Soh Gim Song (Co-investigator)	Engineering Product Development, Singapore University of Technology and Design
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	Aim	This project engages in an analytical study of the mortars, renders and plasters used in the construction of key historic structures built in 20 th century Singapore. By doing so, the project seeks to establish a baseline database that will help facilitate future use of appropriate repair materials and assist in the conservation of historic structures in Singapore.	
7	Project	Heritage Values of Chinese Schools as Cultural Spaces (AWARDED 2016 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Qu Jingyi (Principal Investigator, Qu Jingyi (jyqu@ntu.edu.sg))	Chinese, Nanyang Technological University
		Wong Chee Meng (Co-investigator)	Independent Scholar
		Li Jia (Co-investigator)	Arts, Language and Culture, National Institute of Education
	Aim	<p>This project aims to identify, document and analyse the heritage of Singapore Chinese schools. It does so with a view towards examining the social value of Chinese schools as sites of an evolving cultural tradition for the Singaporean Chinese community.</p> <p>By doing so, the project seeks to understand the relationship between schools and the larger social networks of the Chinese community, how certain schools enjoy particular significance as places of learning, and the range of community attitudes towards preserving Chinese school heritage in both tangible and intangible aspects.</p>	
8	Project	Modern Values and Innovation of Chinese Opera in Singapore (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Wang Bing (Principal Investigator, bing.wang@nie.edu.sg)	National Institute of Education
		Chua Soo Pong (Co-investigator)	SIM University
	Aim	This project aims to examine the value of Chinese opera in modern Singapore society. It seeks to form a basis of cultural conservation by addressing the question of how Singapore Chinese opera can realise its progressive innovations and guard against cultural decline.	
9	Project	Collective Biography of the Singapore Chinese Community (1922–1972): The Digitization and Analysis of the Bukit Brown Burial Records in the National Archives (AWARDED 2016 – COMPLETED)	
		Name	Faculty/Institution

	Research Team	Kenneth Dean (Principal Investigator, chsdek@nus.edu.sg)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Ong Chang Woei (Co-investigator)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Koh Khee Heong (Co-investigator)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Hue Guan Thye (Co-investigator)	Chinese, Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	<p>This project offers an in-depth analytical study of the Bukit Brown Burial Records found in the National Archives of Singapore. The Bukit Brown cemetery was open from 1922 until 1972, during which time over 72,000 tombs were established in the cemetery. The Burial Records are written in English, with names transcribed from various Chinese dialects. The tombstones have names in Chinese, places of origin, dates of death (as opposed to dates of burials), names of descendants, and other information (titles, epitaphs, poetry, geomantic verses, sculpture, tiles decorations, paintings).</p> <p>The research team has digitized almost 2/3 of the burial record and have developed a database that will facilitate research on tombstone inscriptions. This database will enable researchers to develop a “collective biography” across two to three generations of Chinese Singaporeans. It will help shed light on the history, demographics and genealogy of the 19th and early 20th century Singapore Chinese community. The project links tangible heritage (cemetery and archival records) with identity (demographics) and will help facilitate the relation of research findings to a more systematic data collection on Chinese Singaporean history.</p>	
10	Project	Singapore's Tangible Heritage in Virtual and Augmented Reality (AWARDED 2017 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Yeo Kang Shua (Principal Investigator, yeokangshua@sutd.edu.sg)	Architecture & Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design
		Shaohui Foong (Co-investigator)	Engineering Product Development, Singapore University of Technology and Design
	Aim	<p>This project seeks to develop an online platform to share Singapore's tangible heritage in 3D mesh format with incorporation for Virtual and Augmented Reality applications. By doing so, the project hopes to promote more accurate documentation, a better study of Singapore's tangible heritage and increased accessibility to researchers and interested members of the public alike.</p>	

11	Project	Theatres of History and Memory: Industrial Heritage of 20 th Century Singapore (AWARDED 2017 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Loh Kah Seng (Principal Investigator, lkshis@gmail.com)	Independent Scholar, supported by Nanyang Technological University's Economic Growth Centre
		Tan Tiong Hee (Co-investigator)	Independent Scholar
		Koh Keng We (Co-investigator)	History, Nanyang Technological University
		James Ang (Co-investigator)	Economic Growth Centre, Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	<p>This project aims to offer insights on Singapore's industrial heritage by collecting stories and memories related to industrial heritage at the local, national and transnational scales.</p> <p>In doing so, the project seeks to help connect different generations of Singaporeans together and give breath to a 'living history' that is meaningful to them and Singapore's history, place and identity.</p>	
12	Project	Study on the Perceptions of Singapore's Built Heritage and Landmarks (AWARDED 2017 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Seah Chia Shih Paveena (Principal Investigator)	Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore - Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
		Natalie Pang (Co-investigator, natalie.pang@nus.edu.sg)	Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore - Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
		Leong Chan-Hoong (Co-investigator)	Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore - Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
	Aim	<p>This research aims to understand how Singaporeans perceived built heritage, what is the appraisal logic involved in evaluating the importance of a heritage site, and how does perceptions of physical heritage influence the sense of national identity, national pride and personal well-being among Singaporeans. This study is conducted in two phases — first, a series of in-depth focus group discussions, followed by a survey.</p>	
13	Project	Designing Cultures: Rising cultural understanding and multicultural appreciation through Singapore's oral traditions and location mapping (AWARDED 2017 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name Jesvin Puay-Hwa Yeo (Principal Investigator, JesvinYeo@ntu.edu.sg)	Faculty/Institution Visual Communication, Nanyang Technological University

		Laavanya Kathiravelu (Co-investigator)	Sociology, Nanyang Technological University
		Sa'eda Bte Buang (Co-investigator)	Asian Languages and Cultures, National Institute of Education
		Liew Jie Ni (Co-investigator)	Ministry of Education
		Ng Boon Yew (Co-investigator)	Brand Union Singapore
	Aim	This project aims to study myths and taboos as an oral tradition amongst the Singaporean Malay, Indian and Chinese communities. It seeks to record and raise awareness for oral traditions as an aspect of Singapore's ICH through geo-spatial mapping and oral recordings in historic ethnic enclaves. The project does so with a view towards forging a deeper understanding of the integral connections between oral traditions, people and landscapes in Singapore.	
14	Project	Evaluating the Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Shopping Centres in Singapore (AWARDED 2017 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Liew Kai Khiun (Principal Investigator, KKLIEW@ntu.edu.sg)	School of Communications and Information, Nanyang Technological University
		Natalie Pang Lee San (Co-investigator)	Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore - Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
		Lai Chee Kien (Co-investigator)	Architecture and Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design
		Crystal Abidin (Co-investigator)	Sociology, National University of Singapore
	Aim	This project aims to engage in an analytical study of the heritage of shopping centres in Singapore. In doing so, the project seeks to conduct the macro-mapping and stocking of past and present shopping centres, paying particular attention to the memory bank of both retailers and shoppers to reconstruct and remap the characteristics of demolished shopping centres in Singapore.	
15	Project	Qing Dynasty Tombs of Singapore: a digital archival project (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Kenneth Dean (Principal Investigator, chsdek@nus.edu.sg)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
		Feng Chen-Chieh (Co-investigator)	Geography, National University of Singapore
		Wang Yi-Chen (Co-investigator)	Geography, National University of Singapore
		Hue Guan Thye (Co-investigator)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
	Aim	This project seeks to enhance previous documentation work on Chinese graves in Heng Shan Ting and Bukit Brown. It seeks to complete the documentation of Qing Dynasty tombstones in Bukit Brown, Lau Sua Cemetery and adjoining	

		<p>cemeteries and link the research findings to the NUS Singaporean Biographical Database (SBDB) as a digital research tool for the study of Singaporean family history and heritage.</p> <p>The project focuses on 500 Qing dynasty tombs scattered in different sections of the Bukit Brown and surrounding cemeteries. Some of these tombs were moved as groups into sections of Bukit Brown, Lau Sua and Seh Ong cemeteries in the late Qing period. The tombs also include some tombs of famous Singaporeans preserved in obscure corners of Singapore, like the tombs of Tan Tock Seng and Seah Eu Chin. The family tombs of notable personalities like Cheang Hong Lim were also moved into Bukit Brown after private family cemeteries were closed and exhumed throughout Singapore. Some of these tombstones are notable for their fine calligraphy, stone carvings, decorative tiles, poetry and geomantic writings and tomb architecture.</p> <p>The research data allows researchers to uncover new information on a broad set of Qing dynasty pioneer migrants and their early family members. The data can also be used to study migration patterns, family demographics, early religious figures, social organizations such as lineage halls, Buddhist monasteries, native-place associations, and burial societies. The locations of these historical tombs and cemeteries are available online (shgis.nus.edu.sg) for the benefit of interested parties.</p>												
16	Project	Mapping the Southern Islands' heritage landscapes: Integrating culture and nature in heritage conservation (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)												
	Research Team	<table><tr><th>Name</th><th>Faculty/Institution</th></tr><tr><td>Hamzah Muzaini (Principal Investigator, seahm@nus.edu.sg)</td><td>Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore</td></tr><tr><td>Creighton Connolly (Co-investigator)</td><td>Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</td></tr><tr><td>Sonia Lam (Co-investigator)</td><td>Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</td></tr><tr><td>Rita Padawangi (Co-investigator)</td><td>Common Curriculum, Singapore University of Social Sciences</td></tr><tr><td>Desmond Hok-Man Sham (Co-investigator)</td><td>International Centre for Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University</td></tr></table>	Name	Faculty/Institution	Hamzah Muzaini (Principal Investigator, seahm@nus.edu.sg)	Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore	Creighton Connolly (Co-investigator)	Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore	Sonia Lam (Co-investigator)	Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore	Rita Padawangi (Co-investigator)	Common Curriculum, Singapore University of Social Sciences	Desmond Hok-Man Sham (Co-investigator)	International Centre for Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University
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Rita Padawangi (Co-investigator)	Common Curriculum, Singapore University of Social Sciences													
Desmond Hok-Man Sham (Co-investigator)	International Centre for Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University													
	Aim	This project aims to explore the degree of porosity and inter-relations between the cultural and natural aspects of heritage with regards to Singapore's Southern Islands, with a specific focus on St John's Island and Lazarus Island. It does so with reference not just to the study of the historical background and formal visions for Singapore's Southern												

		Islands landscapes, but also to the grounded experiences of islanders whose lives were closely intertwined with the landscape itself.	
		The project seeks to tap upon its research findings to promote the unique history and heritage of the Southern Islands to Singaporeans and inform future development projects on the islands. This will be eventually accomplished through an exhibition and walking trail on the Southern Islands.	
17	Project	Understanding the Resilience of Cottage Industries in Singapore (AWARDED 2018 - COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		John A. Donaldson (Principal Investigator, jdonaldson@smu.edu.sg)	Political Science, Singapore Management University
		Yogaanathan s/o Theva	Research Fellow, Singapore Management University
	Aim	This project explores the factors that underpin the resilience of cottage industries in Singapore. Cottage industries have traditionally played twin roles of preserving traditional and cultural production practices and helping support often low-income families. However, many scholars argue that global and local economic and social changes reduce the ability of cottage industries to continue to perform these important roles. This research project asks: in what ways do cottage industries continue to play these kinds of cultural and economic roles? How and to what extent are cottage industries able to adapt to such changes?	
18	Project	The Hidden Shrines of Singapore: Mapping and Narrating Multi-Religious Heritages (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Sujatha Arundathi Meegama (Principal Investigator, sujathameegama@ntu.edu.sg)	Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University
		Owen Noel Newton Fernando (Co-investigator)	Computer Engineering, Nanyang Technological University
		Sum Wai Yuan Hedren (Co-investigator)	NTU Libraries, Nanyang Technological University
Aim	This digital humanities research project aims to document and interpret small but important shrines to diverse gods hidden in the urban and jungle environments of Singapore. It does so with a view towards examining potentially significant alternative narratives to those found in Singapore’s larger and more established temples. This collaborative endeavour, between researchers and students at the School of Art, Design and Media and the School of Computer Science and Engineering at NTU, will develop a website that hosts a Google map, which visualizes the GPS locations		

		of each shrine on this island. In addition, a database of photographs will be further enhanced through a crowdsourcing App along with AR. This linked map and database will serve as a research platform for scholars in other disciplines. In light of Singapore's rapidly changing landscapes, this project hopes to provide a more nuanced understanding of the island's sacred geographies and heritages.	
19	Project	Edible Heritage: Foodscapes and Sensory Heritage Making in Chinatown and Little India (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Kelvin E.Y. Low (Principal Investigator, kelvinlow@nus.edu.sg)	Sociology, National University of Singapore
		Hui Yew-Foong (Co-investigator)	Sociology, Hong Kong Shue Yan University/ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
	Aim	This project seeks to document and analyse foodscapes and sensory heritage in Singapore. It does so with particular reference to the case studies of Chinatown and Little India in reflecting how everyday memories and gastronomic experiences serve as avenues through which sensory heritage may be delineated and constructed. Through its research, the project hopes to be able to make pertinent contributions towards the study of intangible cultural heritage, social memory and food studies in Singapore.	
20	Project	A Study of Pre-1971 Military Housing and Ancillary Buildings on Singapore Island (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Yeo Kang Shua (Principal Investigator, yeokangshua@sutd.edu.sg)	Architecture and Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design
		Foong Shaohui (Co-investigator)	Engineering Product Development, Singapore University of Technology and Design
	Aim	This project aims to provide an understanding of the architectural, military planning and social histories of former British military housing and ancillary function buildings on Singapore island. It seeks to identify pre-1971 military housing clusters on Singapore and the extant historical military housing and ancillary buildings within each cluster. The study will attempt to delve into the origins of these buildings, the functions they served, their architectural features and changes over time, as well as the associated regiments, personnel and supporting groups of people. In doing so, the project seeks to contribute to the literature on historical military housing and buildings in Singapore.	

21	Project	Archipelago Communities and Singapore Heritage/Identity: Adaption, Acculturation and Assimilation (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Koh Keng We (Principal Investigator, kohkw@ntu.edu.sg)	History, Nanyang Technological University
		Jan van der Putten (Co-investigator)	Asia Africa Institute, University of Hamburg
		Mohamed Effendy bin Abdul Hamid (Co-investigator)	Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
		Sai Siew Min (Co-investigator)	Independent Scholar
		Humairah Zainal (Co-investigator)	Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University
		Tom Hoogervorst (Co-investigator)	Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies
	Aim	This project engages in an analytical study of the formation, assimilation and evolution of archipelago communities in Singapore. Through the study of the Banjarese, Baweanese and Peranakan communities, the project aims to highlight the regional and archipelagic dimensions of heritage and identity in Singapore.	
22	Project	Reinstating Malay manuscripts as cultural heritage through locating personal manuscripts collections and re-discovering the art of manuscript recital of the Malay community in Singapore (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Sa'eda Bte Buang (Principal Investigator, saeda.buang@nie.edu.sg)	Asian Languages and Cultures, National Institute of Education
		Kartini Anwar (Co-investigator)	Asian Languages and Cultures, National Institute of Education
	Aim	This project seeks to document and analyse the intangible cultural heritage that lies behind Jawi manuscripts and the art of reciting said manuscripts in the Singaporean Malay community. In doing so, the project will explore whether and why Singapore Malays still keep Malay manuscripts in their homes and whether the art of manuscript recital is still practiced today. Through its research, the project hopes to be able to make lasting contributions towards the present pool of resources on Malay culture and traditions in Singapore.	

23	Project	Singapore Chinese Funerary Practices (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Lye Kit Ying (Principal Investigator, kylie@suss.edu.sg)	Centre for University Core, College of Lifelong and Experiential Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences
		Kam Foong Janice (Co-investigator)	Centre for University Core, College of Lifelong and Experiential Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences
		Terence Heng (Co-investigator)	Sociology, University of Liverpool
	Aim	<p>This project explores variations in funeral rites practiced by the Cantonese Buddhists and Taoists in Singapore arising from ethnic differences, modernisation and urbanization, inter-religious and inter-cultural interactions, and indigenisation of funerary practices.</p> <p>Rapid modernisation and urbanisation has brought about modifications of various Chinese rituals in Singapore. While constraints of communal space and religious affiliations often dictate the set-up of the funeral space, Chinese funerals are also differentiated by the family's dialect group or clan, with many variations of dialect-specific funerary rituals and paraphernalia rarely documented. Inter-religious and inter-cultural interactions among the various religious and ethnic communities in Singapore have also allowed for variations in the performance of rituals. With this in mind, this project aims to document and record any rituals that are unique to Singapore, and those that reflect the indigenisation of a funerary practice that first originated from China. As the performance of death rites are necessary for the living to return to normality as members of their community after the disruption of death funerary rituals may thus play a formative role in the continual reinforcement of a Singapore Chinese identity.</p> <p>To this end, this project can offer insights into how the practice of funerary rituals has changed over the years, help Singapore Chinese to understand the deeper meanings to the rituals identified instead of simply ascribing the performance of rituals to tradition and customs, and offer an opportunity to safeguard important aspects of Chinese heritage and demonstrate their relevance to the formation of a Singapore Chinese identity and worldview. This will allow for a more thorough research into the evolution of culture, and ultimately, a Singapore identity vis-à-vis the people's observances of customs and rituals in contemporary Singapore.</p>	

24	Project	Culinary Biographies: Charting Singapore's History Through Cooking and Consumption (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Geoffrey Kevin Pakiam (Principal Investigator, geoffrey_pakiam@iseas.edu.sg)	Regional Economic Studies Programme, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
		Michael Yeo Chai Ming (Co-investigator)	Department of History, University of Oxford/Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	<p><i>Culinary Biographies</i> seeks to examine Singapore's intangible food heritage from a <i>longue durée</i> perspective. Spanning Singapore's documented 700-year history, this study will trace the pathways through which ingredients, techniques, and regional culinary philosophies converged in Singapore. The project will demonstrate how these conjunctures established crucial precedents for some of Singapore's most iconic food offerings, mapping out the everyday historical contexts in which the island's cuisines emerged and evolved. Through food, the study will encourage interest in Singapore's social history among residents of different generations.</p> <p>Our investigation seeks to construct the 'culinary biographies' of seven food items: fish-head curry, ice kachang, laksa, biryani, Milo dinosaur, sweet potato lemak, and betel quid. We combine a focus on cuisine with the novel concept that all food items have socially embedded 'lives' that change over time, revealing the long-term dynamics and historical underpinnings of Singapore's food heritage. Each biography will trace the diversity of locations where each offering and its predecessors were prepared, the knowledge and practices of their creators and consumers, and each food's underlying material realities. In doing so, our framework aims to consolidate understandings of how tangible and intangible notions of heritage can be mutually reinforcing.</p>	
25	Project	Preserving intangible cultures: Documenting and recording the history, culture and memory of Malay martial arts groups in Singapore (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Mohamed Effendy Bin Abdul Hamid (Principal Investigator, seameah@nus.edu.sg)	Southeast Asian Studies, Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
		Mohamad Faisal bin Noordin (Co-investigator)	Research Assistant
	Aim	<p>This project aims to preserve and document the unique historical and cultural legacies of Malay martial arts groups. It will do so by recording the oral histories of the various Perguruans (silat schools) in Singapore, Malay martial rituals and ceremonies, Perguruan cultural artefacts and key silat movements/styles that symbolise the identity of a perguruan. In doing so, the project hopes to be able to make lasting contributions towards the preservation of the</p>	

		history, culture and origins of Malay martial arts groups in Singapore. More importantly, it will serve as an important source of information for future generations of Singaporeans who might be interested in researching further into the history and culture of Malay martial arts groups in Singapore.	
26	Project	Documenting Middleton Hospital, Communicable Diseases Centre and the Medical Heritage of Singapore (AWARDED 2018 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Hsu Li Yang (Principal Investigator, mdchly@nus.edu.sg)	Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore
		Loh Kah Seng (Co-investigator)	Independent Scholar
		Ng Hee Ling Deborah (Co-investigator)	Doctor, National Centre for Infectious Diseases
		Margaret Soon (Co-investigator)	Director of Nursing, National Centre for Infectious Diseases
	Aim	This project aims to address the lack of serious research and documentation of the historic role of Communicable Diseases Centre (CDC) (previously Middleton Hospital) in the prevention and control of infectious diseases in Singapore. It will do so by documenting both the tangible and intangible heritage of CDC-Middleton Hospital along with the centre's role in the treatment, care, teaching and research on infectious diseases as well as the ideas, efforts, memories and reflections of key CDC-Middleton Hospital stakeholders.	
27	Project	Research and Database on Fort Canning Spice Gardens (FTCSG) and St Andrew's Cathedral (STA) (AWARDED 2019 – COMPLETED)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Goh Geok Yian (Principal Investigator, gygoh@ntu.edu.sg)	History, Nanyang Technological University
		John Norman Miksic (Co-investigator)	Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
	Aim	This project aims to make available archaeological information from the Fort Canning Spice Gardens (FTCSG) and St Andrew's Cathedral (STA) excavations by providing analysis of post-excavation research on a publicly-accessible online database. The database will comprise a full record of the FTCSG artefacts and 5,000 representative samples of the 500,000 artefacts unearthed from STA. In presenting this information in the database and accompanying reports, the project seeks to provide a clearer and more thorough reconstruction of 14 th - to early 17 th -century Singapore.	

		<p>This research project will test two interconnected hypotheses: 1) detailed analysis of the composition, distribution, and proportions of wares excavated from the FTCSG and STA sites allow us to determine the functions of these two sites, and 2) the newly analyzed data added to the existing SCC online database will result in a clearer and more thorough reconstruction of 14th-early 17th-century Singapore (Temasek) by examining spatial distribution of sites and activities associated with different locations of what marked the boundary of Temasek as a polity. The analysis undertaken under this project will continue to add to the database and continuing research, which should be expanded in future to include more sites and more collections of artifacts, including those outside Singapore in the region.</p>	
28	Project	<p>The Past, Present and Future of the Hawker Culture in Singapore: The value and implications for sustainable development and revitalisation of national hawker culture as intangible cultural heritage (AWARDED 2019 – COMPLETED)</p>	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Eunice Yoo Eun Jung (Principal Investigator, Eunice.Yoo@singaporetech.edu.sg)	Hospitality Business/Design and Specialised Businesses, Singapore Institute of Technology
		Joan Catherine Henderson (Co-investigator)	Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	<p>Providing foods from its diverse cultural origins of Singapore, hawker centres are more than simply public eating or consumption places; they are also sites where ideas of ethnic identity and culture are produced, communicated and reinforced through cuisine. They play a significant role in conveying socio-cultural meanings of their cultures of origin through foods, services, and ambience, yet little is known about its roles and meanings in society, undermining its potential power in the production, circulation and representation of its cultural image. In the context of Singaporean hawker centres, this project explores socio-cultural and symbolic meanings associated with hawker centres in the light of its growth. In order to provide sustainable strategies for preserving, managing, and revitalising its culture through cultural food heritage, this project aims to understand how people perceive, interpret, and utilise the landscape through cultural food heritage and the associated issue of authenticity by adopting a qualitative ethnographic approach. By so doing, this interdisciplinary project is expected to advance in our understanding of how food-related cultural heritage contributes towards the development of national identity.</p>	
29	Project	<p>A Fine-Grain History of Singapore Town: The Architecture and Socio-Morphology of Four Forgotten Neighbourhoods (AWARDED 2019 – COMPLETED)</p>	
		Name	Faculty/Institution

	Research Team	Imran bin Tajudeen (Principal Investigator, akiit@nus.edu.sg)	Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore
		Zhang Ye (Co-investigator)	Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore
	Aim	<p>This project aims to explore how 19th and early 20th century Singapore maps, building drawings and town survey records can contribute towards a better understanding of Singapore's urban life and communities during this time period. It will do so with reference to four micro-community neighbourhoods; Campong Bengkulu, Kampung Serani, Campong Malacca and Chulia Campong around Cross Street and elsewhere. By overlaying historical maps, the project will analyse each neighbourhood to discern and retrace past historical developments and architectural patterns.</p> <p>A primary question that drives the research and documentation is the location and distribution of multicultural diversity in a fine grain perspective across the streets and urban neighbourhoods in relation to place and street names both official and vernacular/colloquial as they are recorded in various maps, building drawings, and miscellaneous records. Such records tell us the patterns of ownership and property transactions, the architectural features and nuances of Singapore's urban vernacular building types that have hitherto remained overlooked, and the growth and changes residential and business patterns in Singapore Town.</p>	
30	Project	The evolution of Singapore's Hawker Culture: street food and changing landscapes (AWARDED 2019 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Vivienne Wee (Principal Investigator, viviennewee@ethnographica.sg)	Ethnographica Private Limited, commissioned by Singapore Heritage Society
		Sarah Huang Daiyuan Benjamin (Co-investigator)	Ethnographica Private Limited, commissioned by Singapore Heritage Society

	Aim	<p>This project will examine how Singapore's hawker culture has evolved from past to present in terms of culinary traditions and changing landscapes. It will explore how experiences and memories of street food evokes memories of altered places. It will ask (1) how hawking practices and their culinary traditions have evolved in the last fifty years, (2) how memories of places are evoked by foods associated with particular places, and (3) whether hawkers who maintain the ways of past generations call up memories of culinary traditions and changed landscapes. Food and place, street food and streets will be studied as intertwined social realities, where experiences of one evoke memories of the other. Research methods will include ethnographic field work, oral history, archival analysis, interviews and video documentation. The project will be carried out by Dr Vivienne Wee and Sarah Benjamin of Ethnographica Private Limited under the aegis of the Singapore Heritage Society.</p>	
31	Project	<p>Developing a Decision-Support Tool for the conservation of significant post-independence buildings in Singapore (AWARDED 2019 – COMPLETED)</p>	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Lai Choo Malone-Lee (Principal Investigator, sdemalon@nus.edu.sg)	Centre for Sustainable Asian Cities, National University of Singapore
		Johannes Widodo (Co-investigator)	Architecture, National University of Singapore
		Ho Weng Hin (Co-investigator)	Architecture, National University of Singapore
		Fu Yuming (Co-investigator)	Real Estate, National University of Singapore
	Aim	<p>In recent years, the public discourse on urban conservation in Singapore has shifted to the consideration of post-independence buildings. However, there is no formalised institutional approach as yet to address the multiple challenges related to the potential conservation of these buildings.</p> <p>This research project is conceptualised to address this gap and concern – that there is a need for a robust decision-support framework that systematically and in a transparent manner, address the multi-faceted challenges that have emerged. It is necessary to bring professional, academic and research expertise to thoroughly assess the architectural, social-cultural, and real estate aspects of heritage management of these buildings, with the specific aim to improve administration, enhance heritage governance, gain public trust, build citizen awareness and safeguard against loss and irretrievability.</p> <p>The research will apply a multi-prong approach to develop a decision support system that incorporates:</p>	

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		<p>Indonesian Confrontation and the Vietnam War. While much has been written about the political history in this period, the major developments, connections and themes in the economic history are far less studied and understood.</p> <p>Our project will study how, in subsequent years, the Singapore economy continued to adjust, reform and adapt to changing global and domestic environments from the 1970s to the present day. Beyond merely charting these developments, the project will explore more broadly the roles of the government, businesses (multinationals, government-linked companies and local small and medium enterprises) and the people (both as entrepreneurs and employees) which helped forge Singapore into a nation.</p> <p>By assessing the balance of economic continuity and change in the last 70 years, the project will allow for a richer and more nuanced understanding of the possible future course of the Singapore economy, serving as a mediation of Singapore's economic heritage and not of antiquarian interest only.</p>						
33	Project	Hidden Heritage: A series exploring Singapore's minority South Asian communities (AWARDED 2019 – IN PROGRESS)						
	Research Team	<table><tr><th>Name</th><th>Faculty/Institution</th></tr><tr><td>Rajesh Rai (Principal Investigator, sasrr@nus.edu.sg)</td><td>South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore</td></tr><tr><td>Jayati Bhattacharya (Co-investigator)</td><td>South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore</td></tr></table>	Name	Faculty/Institution	Rajesh Rai (Principal Investigator, sasrr@nus.edu.sg)	South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore	Jayati Bhattacharya (Co-investigator)	South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
Name	Faculty/Institution							
Rajesh Rai (Principal Investigator, sasrr@nus.edu.sg)	South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore							
Jayati Bhattacharya (Co-investigator)	South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore							
	Aim	<p>This project primarily asks: 'Who are the 'Indians' in Singapore?' In so asking, this project seeks to unveil the plurality contained within the 'Indian' ethnic category. In effect, this project seeks to unearth the hidden heritage of lesser-known South Asian communities in Singapore, and make these histories publically known and easily accessible.</p> <p>It is envisioned as the first phase in a longer series of explorations of South Asian micro-communities that make up the 'Indian' in Singapore. Given the multitude, this proposed initial phase will focus on five lesser-known 'Indian' communities in Singapore - the Bengalis, Gujaratis, Hindustanis (Uttar Pradeshis), Telugus and Tamil Catholics. These five micro-communities were selected for their unique histories and heritage that demonstrates that particular 'Indian' identities in Singapore are also made at the intersections of ethno-regional, religious, and linguistic identities.</p> <p>The study of these five communities will be conducted separately but with the common view towards understanding how these micro-communities and their identities were made in the unique socio-historical context of colonial and post-colonial Singapore. Thus questions of unique and shared historical trajectories and heritage practices, cultural</p>						

		<p>productions made in the interaction with other 'Indian' and non 'Indian' communities, and their unique lived experiences of the everyday in Singapore will feature in all five studies.</p> <p>These studies will be conducted via archival and secondary research, complimented with select interviews with community representatives as well as the private archives maintained by organisations of institutions. Given the project's explicit interest in sharing these findings with the mass public, the studies will be published in highly accessible mediums: printed booklets written in accessible language, and videos introducing the communities and featuring interviews with its members.</p>	
34	Project	The Administration of Justice in Singapore: 1819-1942 (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name Dr Kevin Tan Yew Lee (Principal Investigator, drkevintan@gmail.com)	Faculty/Institution Independent Researcher, supported by the Law Society of Singapore
	Aim	<p>This project is designed to offer a holistic picture of the extent to which law permeated the daily and ordinary lives of those who lived in colonial Singapore during the period 1819 to 1942 by closely examining how justice was administered in the Straits Settlements. The focus will be on the development of legal and quasi-legal institutions, and on the institutional aspects of the law (such as criminal law and administrative law) rather than on the law regulating private relations (such as contracts and property law). The period under consideration ranges from 1819, when the British first established a trading post in Singapore, to 1942, when Singapore was occupied by Japan during the Pacific War.</p> <p>This study adopts a broad definition of “the administration of justice” by framing the development of the courts and its personnel in relation to the other parts of the legal system. These include: the role of the Attorney-General; the Attorney-General's Chambers; the formulation and passage of legislation; the role of municipal government; criminal and civil procedure; the penal and prisons system; general applicable public law; the Bench and related institutions such as the Chinese Protectorate and the Straits Settlements Civil Service and later, the Malayan Civil and Legal Services. Together, these other facets of the legal system include the law's key functions: control, facilitation, regulation and enforcement.</p> <p>The project deliverables include an academic monograph, a final report, a series of public talks and newspaper opinion pieces/journal articles.</p>	
35	Project	Social Curating and Archiving: From Personal Possessions to Public Legacy in Whampoa (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	

	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Thomas Kong Kwok Hoong (Principal Investigator, akitkkh@nus.edu.sg)	Architecture, National University of Singapore
		Peter Chen Chia Mien (Co-Investigator)	Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University
		Lilian Chee (Co-Investigator)	Architecture, National University of Singapore
	Aim	<p><i>Social Curating and Archiving</i> examines the relationship of legacy building, cultural heritage and aging in Whampoa. It investigates curating and archiving as social practices to support the formation of a public legacy through the sharing, learning, exchange and renewal of an elder's personal archive on a digital platform. Multi-agential in its reach and multidisciplinary in its approaches, the research team will collaborate with Whampoa residents, organisations and institutions in a bid to extend this private collection into a public legacy. To reinforce the entangled role that objects, stories, places and cultural histories play in the aging process, the research team will use ethnographic studies to observe, gather, interpret and understand the processes, challenges and outcomes from the curating and archiving workshops.</p>	
36	Project	<p>Mapping Female Religious Heritage in Singapore: Chinese Female Temples as Sites of Regional Socio-Cultural Linkage (19th Century to the Present) (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)</p>	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Dr Show Ying Ruo (Principal Investigator, arisyr@nus.edu.sg)	Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
		Dr Kenneth Dean (Co-Investigator)	Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
	Aim	<p><i>Mapping Women's Religious Heritage in Singapore</i> locates and documents Chinese temples in Singapore that were established and maintained by women since the late 19th century until today. In adopting a gender lens to study the role of Chinese religious women in Singapore's pre-colonial and postcolonial history and their unconventional socio-religious organizations, this project brings these women and their temples to the fore to fill in a research gap in the study of female history in Singapore. This project will examine the following research questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the cultural significance of Chinese female temples in Singapore, and why should they be preserved? 2. Who are the women behind these temples, and how do their life experiences reveal the agency of women and provide a gender dynamic in the understanding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Singapore? 3. What role did these women play in the cross-regional, transnational religious movement of people and their negotiation of globalized modernity in Asia? 	

		Using ethnographic and archival methods, as well as GIS and digital humanities tools, this project aims to build up a digital archive of documentation and photographs. Pictorial data, information on material cultures, and oral histories will be archived in addition to texts and epigraphy records such as tombstones, ancestral tablets, plaques and couplets.	
37	Project	Polyglot Medical Heritage in Maritime Southeast Asia: Foundational Resources and Digital Tools (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Assistant Professor Michael Stanley-Baker (Principal Investigator, msb@ntu.edu.sg)	History, Nanyang Technological University
		Assistant Professor Faizah binte Zakaria (Co-Investigator)	History, Nanyang Technological University
		Dr Francesco Perono Cacciafoco (Co-Investigator)	Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	<p>Medicines circulate across languages, regions and communities, forming cultural bridges and revealing how materials and knowledge circulate. What can the study of medicine teach us about cultural exchange, identity-formation and the transmission of knowledge?</p> <p>This project will build foundational digital tools to enable the cross-cultural study of the history of medicine in maritime Southeast Asia. These consist of a searchable digital text repository and digital drug term synonymy which will help identify and track medicinal products across different languages. Using these tools, we will compare the use of medical materials across three languages: Malay, Chinese and Abui. We will develop a repository of digitized and searchable Malay medical manuscripts, Chinese late imperial medical works and local Peranakan family manuscripts. We will also bring the past into dialogue with the traditions of the present, by hosting oral interviews about the use of medicinal products among Malay, Chinese and Abui speaking communities. This project will also allow scholars to publish further ethnobotanical data, and incorporate it into a comparative framework.</p> <p>The digital synonymy will enable us to correlate terms across the three languages, and bring historical and contemporary texts into correlation, allowing us to study the degree to which traditional medicines – long considered to be culturally and linguistically enclosed – were built from a history of contact, borrowings and</p>	

		adaptation. We refer to these fluid modalities of healing as “polyglot medicine” and tentatively argue that being polyglot is a hallmark of medical traditions among the diverse communities living in maritime Southeast Asia.	
38	Project	Being and Becoming Female in the Malay World: Interrogating and Curating the Photo-Archives of Early Singapore (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Associate Professor Maznah Mohamad (Principal Investigator, mlsmm@nus.edu.sg)	Malay Studies, National University of Singapore
		Dr Imran Tajudeen (Co-Investigator)	Malay Studies, National University of Singapore
		Dr Suriani Suratman (Co-Investigator)	Malay Studies, National University of Singapore
		Dr Bahar Gürsel (Co-Investigator)	Isaac Manasseh Visiting Fellow, National University of Singapore and Middle East Technical University
	Aim	<p>This research seeks to appraise the value and role of pre-digital photographs as heritage. Through the photographic image, we ask questions on what and how do people remember through a still representation of people, place and society? This research intends to scrutinize and interrogate the depiction of gender and its racialization in Singapore through the ‘single frame narrative’ of photographs and postcards. The period of study will be from about 1867 when the Straits Settlements became a crown colony of Britain to the early post-1945 war period. It is postulated here that photographs, even as they capture still images allow for the reading of numerous and dynamic narratives through their hidden texts.</p> <p>There will be several methodological components in this research.</p> <p>The first component investigates the history of photography in Singapore, the politics and culture of photo-taking among those who possessed the knowledge and technology of photography and of the social significance of photo studios in reifying identity through the various postural composition. Archival and secondary sources for data and analysis will be used for this purpose.</p> <p>The second component involves the close and distance readings of selected photographs. For a close reading, the visual image of the photograph will constitute the textual data. For a distance reading, the contexts of the photograph, particularly the date, period and events of the time will be examined.</p> <p>The third component in methodology is the curation of a virtual exhibition. Photographic images will be selected thematically, accompanied with description and narratives. As well as providing data, through a study of audience</p>	

		reaction, the exhibition makes a pedagogical contribution in the revisitation of dominant portrayals of the female in history.	
39	Project	Writing 'Pakistanis' into Singapore's History: Heritage and Identity of a Community (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Associate Professor Sher Banu AL Khan (Principal Investigator, mlssbalk@nus.edu.sg)	Malay Studies, National University of Singapore
		Mr Abbas Khan (Co-Investigator)	Independent Researcher
	Aim	This research fills a gap in our understanding of Singapore's rich and cosmopolitan ethnic heritage and how each community has contributed to Singapore's development. The term "Pakistani" itself needs to be problematized and deconstructed. The "Pakistanis" are a heterogeneous group consisting of Pathans, Hazaris and Punjabis, each with their own language and customary practices. For example, there are Pathans who speak only Pashto, others speak Pashto and Urdhu and there are Malayized-Pathans who speak only Malay. This research seeks to examine how these different sub-ethnic groups understand and construct their identity at the personal, community and national level. Sections of the "Pakistani" population in Singapore have inter-married with other Muslim ethnic groups, such as the Malays, Javanese and Indian Muslims, giving rise to an interesting hybrid community of "Pakistani-Peranakans" with a culturally rich heritage. These "Pakistani-Peranakans" form a complex mix of ethnicities that defy the traditional 'racial' categories inherited from colonial Britain and recognised in independent Singapore. As such, many "Pakistanis" in Singapore see themselves check-boxed under the ubiquitous 'Others' category. The predominance of inter-marriages between "Pakistanis" and other Muslim groups in Singapore for the past hundred years constitutes an important subject of study to further our understanding about social integration and cohesion. This research intends to interrogate the community's strategies of exclusion and inclusion, the politics of integration and differentiation to discover how they attempt to maintain their own sub-ethnic identity within the "Pakistani" community and within the larger "Pakistani-Peranakans" community in the context of a globalised Singapore.	
40	Project	Fashion Shows and Fashion Media: Identification and Documentation of Singapore Fashion Heritage (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Dr Jinna Tay (Principal Investigator, jinna.tay@nus.edu.sg)	Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore
		Dr Courtney Fu (Co-Investigator)	Independent Researcher

	Aim	<p>This research is part of a longitudinal project that aims to produce conceptual relations between fashion, the city, national cultures and sites of transformation by looking at four key areas of investigation namely: fashion shows, fashion media, departmental stores/retail, dressmaking and beauty schools. The research team will focus on two sites – fashion shows and fashion media from 1950 to 1990s in Singapore – as preliminary studies. We aim to identify and document these two sites of investigation as new domains of Singapore history, having important implications for tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as bearing informative value to future policy making with regard to nurturing Singapore into a fashion/creative hub of the region.</p> <p>Research findings in the form of empirical database on Singapore fashion history that comprises textual, visual, video footage, as well as oral history, will significantly expand and enhance the current National Archive collection. An interactive Fashion History Website that presents new knowledge created in a visually compelling manner engages prospective researchers and members of the public. Seminars will also be conducted with student researchers, fashion specialists and general public. Academically, research findings disseminated in the forms of journal articles and seminar fill a critical gap in the historiography of Singapore, supplementing current literature on socio-cultural histories, especially with regards to de-westernizing fashion history, women and industrial developments as well as recuperating local fashion identities. By identifying and documenting physical sites, cultural rituals, and social practices relating to fashion as new domains of study, this research has important implications for both tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Singapore.</p>	
41	Project	Pandemics and Major Epidemics in Singapore, 1819-2021 (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Associate Professor Hsu Li Yang (Principal Investigator, mdchly@nus.edu.sg)	Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore
		Dr Loh Kah Seng (Co-investigator)	Independent Scholar
	Aim	<p>The history of infectious disease epidemics and pandemics constitutes Singapore's medical heritage. However, how these outbreaks have (or have not) changed society, laws and policies is little researched. As epidemics spread quickly and widely, causing much disruption and mandating robust control measures, the outbreaks provide a lens to understanding wider developments and changes in society. Conversely, it is also critical to examine when and why certain outbreaks failed to precipitate policy and social change, as well as whether these changes have persisted over time.</p>	

		<p>This project aims to demonstrate that epidemics and pandemics in Singapore were not only short-term public health threats, but also major historical events that profoundly shaped policy and society long after they had passed into history. In social terms, a study of outbreaks will deepen our understanding of Singapore’s transition from a plural society of immigrants and sojourners during the colonial period to the present-day multicultural society. Historical narratives of disease and response will help us contemplate the likely impact of the COVID-19 crisis and future major epidemics.</p> <p>The project will thus undertake documentary research into a range of historical sources. These include archival sources (e.g. Colonial Office, Ministry of Health and other government material on infectious diseases, outbreaks, quarantine, vaccination), official government publications and studies, newspaper archives and between 25 to 30 oral history interviews.</p>	
42	Project	The development of the microelectronics industry in Singapore, 1968-1990 (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Associate Professor Hallam Stevens (Principal Investigator, hstevens@ntu.edu.sg)	History, Nanyang Technological University
		Assistant Professor Koh Keng We (Co-Investigator)	History, Nanyang Technological University
	Aim	<p>With much encouragement from the Singapore government, the American company National Semiconductor opened operations in Singapore in 1968. Fairchild Semiconductor, the first firm to design and manufacture integrated circuits, set up a manufacturing plant in Toa Payoh in 1969. These were followed by Texas Instruments and Hewlett-Packard operations in 1970. Seven thousand jobs were created in just three years. By the early 1980s, Singapore had become a major hub for microelectronics and semiconductor manufacturing. These plants led the way in the globalization of microelectronics and ultimately transformed that industry.</p> <p>This project seeks to better understand the effects of the microelectronics industry on Singapore’s subsequent development and the role that these Singaporean operations played in the globalization of the microelectronics industry. According to a 2019 <i>Straits Times</i> report, semiconductor and silicon industries comprise about 7 per cent of Singapore’s economy. More than sixty semiconductor companies have a base of operations in Singapore and the country boasts 11 per cent of global market share. The size and importance of the microelectronics industry in Singapore now and in the past calls for a more thorough documentation and appreciation of its impact on the nation and its citizens. Microelectronics integrated Singapore’s economy more deeply into global flows of technology, capital, and goods and the development of the industry has impacted Singapore’s education and training sectors as well as the shape and size of its infrastructure. Microelectronics serves as a critical part of Singapore’s image as a “high tech”</p>	

		nation, and is closely associated with a national mythology of spectacular economic growth, rapid modernization, and technological transformation.	
43	Project	Singapore, The Angelbeek Report and the 'Donation' of Empire, 1812-1825 (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Professor Kwa Chong Guan (Principal Investigator, iscg@kwa@ntu.edu.sg)	Singapore Heritage Society
		Associate Professor Peter Borschberg (Co-Investigator)	History, National University of Singapore
		Mr Benjamin Khoo Jun Qi (Co-Investigator)	Independent Researcher
	Aim	<p>In 1825, Christiaan van Angelbeek, the Malay translator of the Dutch colonial government, was dispatched to the Straits region with an important mission. He first called on Dr John Crawfurd in Singapore to discuss the implementation of the 1824 Treaty and joint measures to combat piracy. He then went to the court at Riau to inform them that the 1824 Treaty will divide the Johor-Riau Sultanate, assigning Singapore, Johor and Pahang to the British and the Dutch retaining the Riaux. Angelbeek had the delicate task of convincing Sultan Abdul Rahman to formally “donate” Singapore and his territories on the Malay Peninsula to his half-brother Tengku Long or Sultan Hussein Shah.</p> <p>This project aims to research into and bring to light the materials that were related to this mission which has thus far escaped historical attention. By looking into Angelbeek’s executive report to his superiors, his detailed diary which recorded his encounters with the various personages of the kingdom, alongside other archival documents, character sketches, genealogical reports and confidential missives of the Dutch East Indies Government, this research pulls back the veil of two centuries to look into the forgotten half of Singapore’s colonial founding via indigenous and Dutch perspectives. The conduct of this research will bring new insights into the decade-long struggle for power between two half-brothers, develop the historical discourse surrounding the founding of Singapore, and complete the story of colonial ambitions and regional transformation in the nineteenth century.</p>	
44	Project	Town Malays in Colonial Singapore: Urban Histories and Civic Lives Through A Survey of Neighbourhoods, Associations and Public Figures (AWARDED 2020 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Imran Tajudeen (Principal Investigator, imran.tajudeen@nus.edu.sg)	Malay Studies, National University of Singapore
		Suriani Suratman (Co-investigator)	Malay Studies, National University of Singapore
		Muhammad Hadi bin Osman	National University of Singapore

		Syed Muhammad Hafiz bin Syed Nasir	National University of Singapore
		Ahmad bin Osman	National University of Singapore
	Aim	<p>This project has two main foci in documenting Malay urban civic life in colonial Singapore. First, the proposed research aims to systematically document the areas in Singapore Town with a historically significant Malay presence, beyond the bounds of the Kampung Gelam conservation district as demarcated today. The three main areas are outlined in the project details attachment, identified based on the preliminary observations from the study of maps conducted in the applicant's previous NHB HRG project (9.20) as well as the applicant's own scattered finds. Briefly they are: (1) an expanded area around Kampung Gelam from Bras Basah Road to the area around Kallang Bay; (2) the peri-urban zone encompassing Kampong Kapor to Geylang Road up to Geylang Serai; and finally, the more elusive and dispersed nature of Malay presence in Tanjong Pagar-Bukit Pasoh-Kampung Sambau / 'Malay Town' area through to the better-known Telok Blangah settlements.</p> <p>Second, the study will document the Malay clubs and associations that are known to have existed in colonial-era Singapore, as well as ad-hoc committees that were formed for a myriad of special occasions or one-off events, as comprehensively as the records will allow. The first aspect of the study sets the contexts for this second aim, by situating these organisations and groupings within their urban social and place milieus. This documentation will pay close attention to the venues and sites of their meetings and activities, the events they organized, the collaborations these occasioned, and the names of all known office bearers in cross-comparison with other aspects known about them from events and ad-hoc committees and activities in the colony (such as Our Day Fund committees, Jubilee celebrations and other similar special occasions). This aspect of the study is intended to provide a much-needed expansion to the list of Malays known to have played certain roles in the public life of colonial Singapore.</p>	
45	Project	Asians Becoming 'Architects' in Colonial Singapore: Interrogating the Building Plans of Pre-1926 Singapore (AWARDED 2021 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Samson Lim (Principal Investigator, samson_lim@sutd.edu.sg)	Humanities and Social Sciences Cluster, Singapore University of Technology and Design
		Yeo Kang Shua (Co-investigator)	Architecture and Sustainable Design Cluster, Singapore University of Technology and Design
		Yap Jo Lin	National Archives of Singapore
	Aim	<p>This research seeks to appraise the role of Asians as "architects" of our built heritage in colonial Singapore. Architects here are defined broadly to include civil engineers, surveyors, and even technical assistants – draughtsmen and</p>	

	<p>overseers – who submitted building plans to the Municipal Engineer for approval before the passing of the Architects' Ordinance in 1926.</p> <p>This history is not widely known, nor is it even acknowledged. There is no known in-depth study of non-European architects in colonial Singapore. The main purpose of this research is to investigate how architectural representations, particularly through building plans, functioned as a site of transformation and as an interlocutor for the development of our built environment. In other words, we are asking, through the analysis of building plans, several pertinent questions: Who were these Asians? When were they professionally active? Why and how they became architects? What and where did they build? How have their works reflected the growth of Singapore and its changing identities over the 19th and 20th centuries? How can line drawings on paper serve as a 'visual window' to provide insights into layers of histories and meanings? Along such line of interrogation, this research intends to examine and reconstruct the largely unknown Asian architects and their works in Singapore through their architectural representations on paper. The research takes, as its point of departure, the year 1884 when building plans were submitted and archived, to 1926, when the Architects' Ordinance (Ordinance No.12 of 1926) was passed. It is postulated that building plans as two-dimensional images allow not only for a three-dimensional image of their proposed designs but also allow for numerous narrative readings of the designers' intents.</p> <p>By investigating this relatively unknown aspect of Singapore's architectural history, this research aims to understand the conceptual relationships between architectural representations, the built environment, and their sites of transformation.</p> <p>There will be several methodological components in this research. The first component requires the research question to investigate the history of architecture representation in Singapore, the politics and culture among those who possessed the knowledge of creating architectural representation, and of the social significance of photographic images in reifying architecture identity. In doing so, the study will use archival and secondary sources. Data and information on building plans will be studied in the construction of life and identity during Singapore's early modern history (for the period under study) will be sourced as well as through various primary sources as archival papers and documents, magazines and newspapers, and secondary sources in the form of published articles.</p> <p>The primary component of the research work will involve the selection of building plans produced by Asians in the National Archives of Singapore for analysis. Extensive archival research is the first step toward building an empirical database upon which subsequent analysis will be based. We propose to use the methodology of close and distant</p>
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		readings of the “text” (representation as text). For close reading, the visual representation of the architectural design of the building plan will constitute the “textual” data. Specifications (if any) written on the building plan are also form part of this data. In the case of distance reading, we will examine the contexts of the building plan, particularly the date, period, and events of the time, in addition to who made the building plan, for who it was made, and where it will be constructed. The problematisation of identity will be related to notions of social class, among others.	
46	Project	Asians Becoming ‘Architects’ in Colonial Singapore: Interrogating the Building Plans of Pre-1926 Singapore (AWARDED 2021 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Loh Kah Seng (Principal Investigator, lkshis@gmail.com)	Independent Researcher
		Raghavan Mohanadas (Co-investigator)	Chairman, Sree Narayana Mission Heritage Committee
		S N Chelva Rajah (Co-investigator)	Humanities and Social Studies Education, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University
		Shalini Damodaran (Co-investigator)	Sree Narayana Mission
		Darinee Alagirisamy (Co-investigator)	South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
	Aim	<p>This research seeks to undertake an investigation of the history of Sree Narayana Mission (SNM), a leading charitable organisation in Singapore established in 1948. It does so with the broader objective of obtaining further insights on a little-studied part of the Singapore Story: the social services provided by community and voluntary associations after the Second World War and especially after independence in 1965, which are foundational periods in Singapore history.</p> <p>The evolution of SNM over the last 70 odd years constitutes an important part of Singapore’s national heritage in providing assistance and welfare to the needy and underprivileged. It highlights the crucial work of community associations in providing social assistance for vulnerable groups of people in post-war and post-independence Singapore, such as the aged, low-income families and people suffering from mental illness. Originally a cultural association for Malayalee immigrants (a minority group in Singapore), SNM’s work has also broadened to include other ethnic groups and communities, becoming multiracial and multicultural in character.</p> <p>We hypothesise that the study of SNM will highlight how voluntary associations charted a path in the post-war history of Singapore to become important voluntary welfare organisations. This offers insights into the transition and development of voluntary associations in an important period of Singapore history, when they fostered new, important relationships with both the state and the community.</p>	

47	Project	Post-Processing of Data from the Bukit Brown Documentation Project within a Geographic Information System Framework (AWARDED 2021 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Hui Yew-Foong (Principal Investigator, hui_yew_foong@iseas.edu.sg)	Regional Social and Cultural Studies Programme, ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute
		Feng Chen-Chieh (Co-investigator)	Geography, National University of Singapore
	Aim	<p>The proposed project will undertake the post-processing of data collected under the auspices of the Bukit Brown Documentation Project (BBDP) within a Geographic Information System (GIS) framework. The data that will be post-processed are: (i) inscriptions, and the structural and material cultural features of graves; (ii) underground items, such as burial artifacts; and (iii) oral history interviews.</p> <p>For (i) and (ii), post-processing would imply further coding of the data for meaningful analysis. Coding and analysis would follow two major lines of inquiry, namely, the investigation of patterns among graves based on socio-economic status and Chinese sub-ethnic cultural categories. Where socio-economic status is concerned, inscriptions, grave features and underground items can be further coded to determine socio-economic status, and this can be correlated with other attributes of the graves. In terms of Chinese sub-ethnic cultural categories, as most graves would have data related to the sub-ethnic origins of the deceased (i.e. Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, Hakka, Hainanese and others), further coding and analysis would allow us to study related cultural patterns. Furthermore, spatial analysis using GIS will help us determine the relationship between socio-economic status/cultural origins and the distribution of graves in the cemetery complex.</p> <p>For the oral history interviews, the recordings (in Hokkien, Mandarin, English and Malay) with cemetery caretakers, former residents of <i>kampongs</i> (villages) and visitors would be transcribed and translated for further coding and content analysis. They would help us unravel the sense of space related to living and working in the vicinity of the cemetery complex, and GIS can help us visualize how these spaces are connected to each other.</p> <p>The significance of this project owes, in large part, to the uniqueness and value of the BBDP dataset. First, it is difficult to find, in any cemetery study, a dataset that comprises of comprehensive documentation of both above-ground grave inscriptions and features and corresponding underground items. Secondly, the design of the documentation process has incorporated the collection of accurate GPS coordinates, including not just latitude and longitude but also elevation, a culturally significant factor in the positioning of Chinese graves, which facilitates the approach in this project of conducting geospatial analysis of the data. Thirdly, the post-processing proposed in this project propels the</p>	

		study beyond epigraphic analysis to provide sociological and cultural analyses of a deathscape, thus furnishing us with a more holistic understanding of the heritage value of the Bukit Brown cemetery complex.	
48	Project	Sree Narayana Mission, the Community and the Underprivileged in the Singapore Story, 1948-Present (AWARDED 2021 – IN PROGRESS)	
	Research Team	Name	Faculty/Institution
		Loh Kah Seng (Principal Investigator, lkshis@gmail.com)	Independent Researcher
		Raghavan Mohanadas (Co-investigator)	Chairman, SNM Heritage Committee
		Shalini Damodaran	Assistant Secretary, Sree Narayana Mission
		Dr. Darinee Alagirisamy	Lecturer, South Asian Studies Programme, NUS
		Dr. John Solomon	Assistant Professor, History/FASS, NUS
	Aim	<p>This research seeks to undertake an investigation of the history of Sree Narayana Mission (SNM), a leading charitable organisation in Singapore established in 1948. It does so with the broader objective of obtaining further insights on a little-studied part of the Singapore Story: the social services provided by community and voluntary associations after the Second World War and especially after independence in 1965, which are foundational periods in Singapore history.</p> <p>The evolution of SNM over the last 70 odd years constitutes an important part of Singapore’s national heritage in providing assistance and welfare to the needy and underprivileged. It highlights the crucial work of community associations in providing social assistance for vulnerable groups of people in post-war and post-independence Singapore, such as the aged, low-income families and people suffering from mental illness. Originally a cultural association for Malayalee immigrants (a minority group in Singapore), SNM’s work has also broadened to include other ethnic groups and communities, becoming multiracial and multicultural in character.</p> <p>We hypothesise that the study of SNM will highlight how voluntary associations charted a path in the post-war history of Singapore to become important voluntary welfare organisations. This offers insights into the transition and development of voluntary associations in an important period of Singapore history, when they fostered new, important relationships with both the state and the community.</p>	