

National Heritage Board
List of Awarded Projects – Heritage Research Grant

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| 1 | Project | Tombs in a tropical forest, from the Heng San Ting (Eternal Mountain Pavilion: New Sources for the history of Singapore's earliest Hokkien community) (AWARDED 2016 - COMPLETED) | |
| | Research Team | Name | Faculty/Institution |
| | | Kenneth Dean (Principal Investigator, chshead@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.</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> | |

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| 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 urbanised 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 artefacts 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 artefacts 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> | | |

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| | | 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 artefacts 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) |
| | 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 assessed 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, viviennewee@ethnographica.sg) |
| | 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 report which includes 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, which, in the view of the research team, could sometimes be inappropriate.</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. The research team opines that conservation should 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 project highlights 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> | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 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 border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="454 1046 1301 1082">Name</th> <th data-bbox="1301 1046 2154 1082">Faculty/Institution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1082 1301 1161">Yeo Kang Shua (Principal Investigator, yeokangshua@sutd.edu.sg)</td> <td data-bbox="1301 1082 2154 1161">Architecture & Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1161 1301 1197">Ong Eng Shi (Co-investigator)</td> <td data-bbox="1301 1161 2154 1197">Science, Singapore University of Technology and Design</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1197 1301 1232">Thio Beng Joo, Reginald (Co-investigator)</td> <td data-bbox="1301 1197 2154 1232">Singapore Institute of Technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1232 1301 1308">Soh Gim Song (Co-investigator)</td> <td data-bbox="1301 1232 2154 1308">Engineering Product Development, Singapore University of Technology and Design</td> </tr> </tbody> </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 | |
| 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 the decline of this cultural heritage. | |
| 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | | Name | Faculty/Institution |

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| | Research Team | Kenneth Dean (Principal Investigator, chshead@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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | Research Team | <p>Name</p> <p>Yeo Kang Shua (Principal Investigator, yeokangshua@sutd.edu.sg)</p> <p>Shaohui Foong (Co-investigator)</p> | <p>Faculty/Institution</p> <p>Architecture & Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design</p> <p>Engineering Product Development, Singapore University of Technology and Design</p> |
| | 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> | |

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| 11 | Project | Theatres of History and Memory: Industrial Heritage of 20th Century Singapore (AWARDED 2017 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | Research Team | Name | Faculty/Institution |
| | | Jesvin Puay-Hwa Yeo (Principal Investigator, JesvinYeo@ntu.edu.sg) | Visual Communication, Nanyang Technological University |

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| | | 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 intangible cultural heritage 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | Research Team | Kenneth Dean (Principal Investigator, chshead@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 |

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| | Aim | <p>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 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 project also includes some tombs of notable individuals located 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | Research Team | 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 |
| | 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 | |

| | | <p>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.</p> <p>The project seeks to tap upon its research findings to promote the unique history and heritage of the Southern Islands to Singaporeans. This will be eventually accomplished through an exhibition and walking trail on the Southern Islands.</p> | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 17 | Project | Understanding the Resilience of Cottage Industries in Singapore (AWARDED 2018 – IN PROGRESS) | | | | | | | | |
| | Research Team | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Faculty/Institution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>John A. Donaldson (Principal Investigator, jdonaldson@smu.edu.sg)</td> <td>Political Science, Singapore Management University</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yogaanathan s/o Theva</td> <td>Research Fellow, Singapore Management University</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | 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 | | |
| | | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | | | | | | | | |
| | Research Team | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Faculty/Institution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sujatha Arundathi Meegama (Principal Investigator, sujathameegama@ntu.edu.sg)</td> <td>Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Owen Noel Newton Fernando (Co-investigator)</td> <td>Computer Engineering, Nanyang Technological University</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sum Wai Yuan Hedren (Co-investigator)</td> <td>NTU Libraries, Nanyang Technological University</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | 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 |
| | | 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 visualises the GPS locations | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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. | | |

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| 21 | Project | Archipelago Communities and Singapore Heritage/Identity: Adaption, Acculturation and Assimilation (AWARDED 2018 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 contribute towards the present pool of resources on Malay culture and traditions in Singapore. | | |

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| 23 | Project | Singapore Chinese Funerary Practices (AWARDED 2018 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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> | |

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| 24 | Project | Culinary Biographies: Charting Singapore's History Through Cooking and Consumption (AWARDED 2018 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | Research Team | Name | Faculty/Institution |
| | | Geoffrey Kevin Pakiam (Principal Investigator, geoffrey_pakiam@iseas.edu.sg) | Regional Economic Studies Programme, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute |
| | | Loh Kah Seng (Co-investigator) | Independent Scholar |
| | | 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 |
| | | Khaizuran bin Ahmad Salleh (Co-investigator) | Research Assistant |

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| | Aim | 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 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 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 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) Singapore (AWARDED 2019 – IN PROGRESS) | |
| | 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 | | |

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| | Aim | <p>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 14th to early 17th century Singapore.</p> <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 analysed 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 artefacts, 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 – IN PROGRESS)</p> | |
| | Research Team | <p>Name</p> | <p>Faculty/Institution</p> |
| | | <p>Eunice Yoo Eun Jung (Principal Investigator, Eunice.Yoo@singaporetech.edu.sg)</p> | <p>Hospitality Business/Design and Specialised Businesses, Singapore Institute of Technology</p> |
| | | <p>Joan Catherine Henderson (Co-investigator)</p> | <p>Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University</p> |
| | 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</p> | |

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| | | <p>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 – IN PROGRESS)</p> | |
| | Research Team | Name | Faculty/Institution |
| | | 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> | |

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| 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 | 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. | |