

FASS BOOKSHARE

APRIL 2018

Research Division Seminar Room

AS7 Level 6

Thursday, 5 April

2-3:30 pm

FEATURING
ROBBIE GOH,
ANNE THELL,
JOHN SOLOMON

FASS Research Division



NUS
National University
of Singapore

Faculty of Arts
& Social Sciences

[Introduction]

FASS Bookshare celebrates and showcases books authored by faculty members who have dedicated years of research into their publications.

In previous years **Bookshare** has highlighted single-authored books in a range of disciplines and topics, such as *Asian Mobility, Power, and Representation, Development, Migration, and Protest in Asia*, and *Southeast Asian Cosmopolitanism, Urbanism, and Tourism*. This edition of **Bookshare** focuses on *Religion, Diaspora, and Travel*. Today three faculty members will share their research experiences and motivations, they are:

Professor Robbie Goh

Assistant Professor Anne Thell

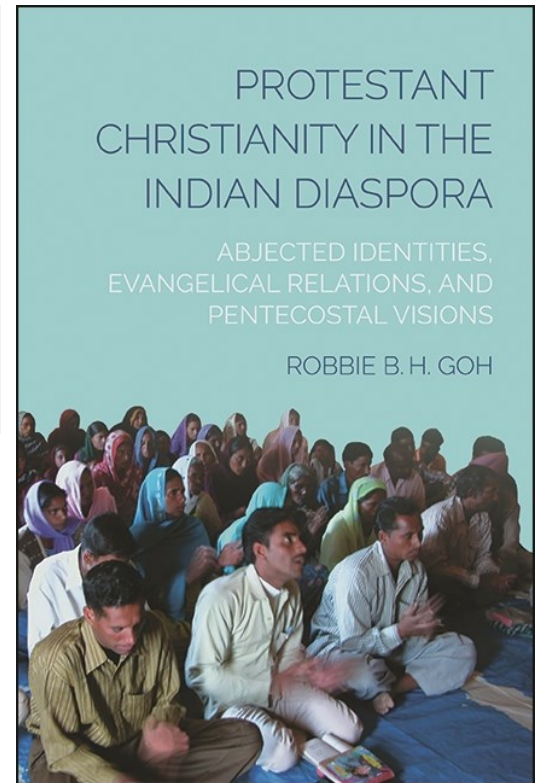
Assistant Professor John Solomon

Please read on for more information about their books.

Pages 5-17 of this brochure cover the list of books published by FASS Faculty from April 2017 to April 2018.

**Protestant Christianity in the Indian Diaspora:
Abjected Identities, Evangelical Relations, and Pentecostal Visions**
SUNY Press

Dr. Robbie B. H. Goh
Professor
**Department of English Language
& Literature**
robbiegoh@nus.edu.sg



This is the first comprehensive study of Protestant Christian religious identities in the Indian diaspora. Using qualitative interview methods, Robbie B. H. Goh captures the experiences of Indian Protestants in ten different countries and regions, describing how Indian communal Christian identities are negotiated and transformed in a variety of diasporic contexts ranging from Canada to Qatar. Goh argues that Christianity in India, developed within discrete and varied “ecologies,” translates in the diaspora into a model of small communal churches that struggle with issues of community maintenance, evangelical growth, and Pentecostal influences. He looks at the significance of Christianity’s “abject” position in India, the interplay and tension between evangelicalism and Pentecostalism, Pentecostalism’s insistence on religious endogamy (particularly among women), intrareligious differences along generational lines, the actions of Hindutva hard-line elements, and other factors, in the construction and transformation of diasporic religious identities and affective attachments to India.

Robbie Goh is a Professor of Literature in the Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore. He is currently serving as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. His teaching and research interests lie in Diaspora Studies, Indian Anglophone Literature, Christianity in Asia, the Bible and Literature/Popular Culture, Late Nineteenth Century English Literature, and Speculative Fiction. Some of his recent publications include *Narrating Race: Asia, (Trans)Nationalism, Social Change* (ed), *The Politics of English in Asia* (co-ed. with Lionel Wee and Lisa Lim), and articles in *Numen*, *Culture and Religion*, *Material Religion*, and *Social Semiotics*. He is currently working on a book on *Affecting the Landscape* (co-authored with Lionel Wee), and another solo-authored book on *Indian Anglophone Literature*.

Minds in Motion: Imagining Empiricism in Eighteenth Century British Travel Literature

Transits: Literature, Thought, & Culture, 1650-1850

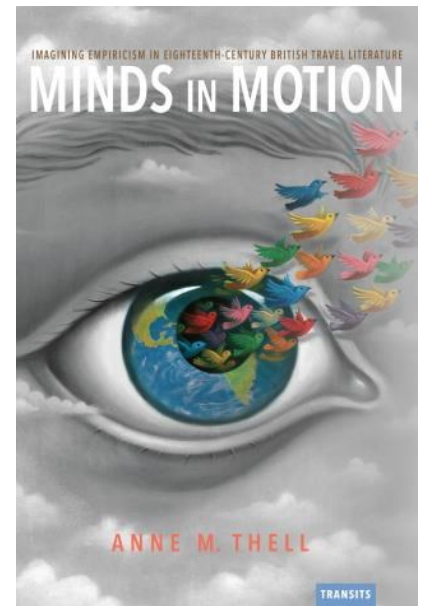
Bucknell University Press

Dr. Anne M. Thell

Assistant Professor

Department of English Language & Literature

elltam@nus.edu.sg



The central claim of *Minds in Motion* is that British travel writing of the long eighteenth century functions as an epistemological playing field where authors test empiricist models of engagement with the world while simultaneously seeking out the role of the self and the imagination in producing knowledge. Whether exploring the relationship between the senses and the mind, the narrative viability of experimental detachment, or the literary dynamics of virtual witnessing, eighteenth-century travel authors persistently confront their positionality and raise difficult questions about the nature and value of first-hand experience. In one way or another, they also complicate empiricist ideals by exploring the limits of individual perception and the role of the imagination in generating and relating knowledge. While the genre is often viewed as either numbingly documentary or non-literary and commercial, travel literature actually operates at the front line of the period's intellectual developments, illustrating both how individual writers grapple with philosophical ideals and how these ideals filter into the lives of ordinary people. Indeed, travel literature directly engages the scientific and philosophical concerns of the period, while it is also widely, avidly read; as such, it offers models for cognitive and rhetorical practices that are evaluated and either embraced or rejected by readers (in a process of identification not unlike that which occurs in early English fiction). Moreover, because eighteenth-century travel literature is so crucial to the development of so many fields—from botany to the novel—it illustrates vividly the divisive energies of discipline and genre formation while also archiving the shared aims and methods of what will become discrete fields of study. Travelogues as diverse as Margaret Cavendish's *Blazing World* (1666) and Samuel Johnson's *Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland* (1775) reveal the epistemological circuitry of the eighteenth century and historicize the absorption of the philosophical tendencies that have come to define modernity.

Anne M. Thell is an Assistant Professor of English literature at National University of Singapore. She received her B.A. in English from the University of California at Berkeley and her M.A. and Ph.D. in English literature from Fordham University (New York, NY). Her first book, *Minds in Motion: Imagining Empiricism in Eighteenth-Century British Travel Literature* (Bucknell UP, 2017), examines the development of the travel genre alongside shifts in eighteenth-century epistemology. Her work has appeared in such journals as *Configurations*, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, and *Studies in the Novel*, and has been supported by the Folger Shakespeare Institute, Chawton House Library, and the Singapore Ministry of Education. She is currently President of the Southeast Asian Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (SASECS).

A Subaltern History of the Indian Diaspora in Singapore: The Gradual Disappearance of Untouchability 1872-1965

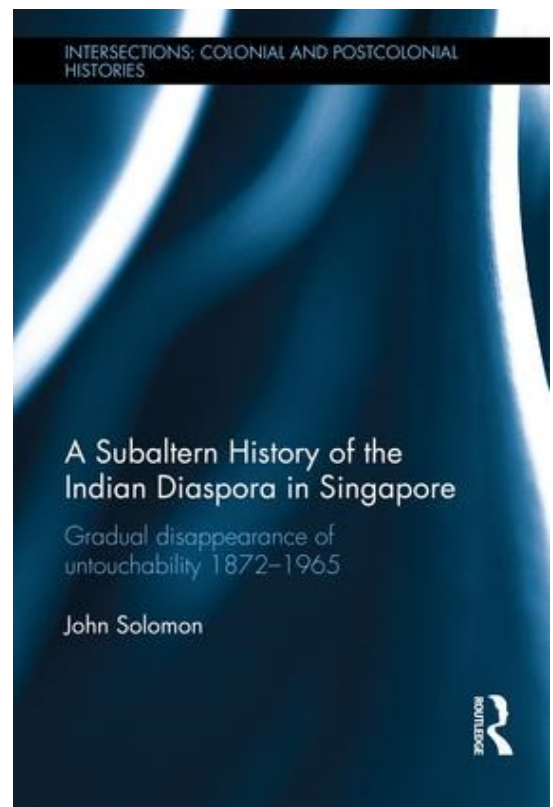
Routledge

Dr. John P. Solomon

Assistant Professor

Department of History

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Untouchable migrants made up a substantial proportion of Indian labour migration into Singapore in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. During this period, they were subject to forms of caste prejudice and discrimination that powerfully reinforced their identities as untouchables overseas. Today, however, untouchability has disappeared from the public sphere and has been replaced by other notions of identity, leaving unanswered questions as to how and when this occurred. The untouchable migrant is also largely absent from popular narratives of the past. This book takes the "disappearance" as a starting point to examine a history of untouchable migration amongst Indians who arrived in Singapore from its modern founding as a British colony in the early nineteenth century through to its independence in 1965. Using oral history records, archival sources, colonial ethnography, newspapers and interviews, this book examines the lives of untouchable migrants through their everyday experience in an overseas multi-ethnic environment. It examines how these migrants who in many ways occupied the bottom rungs of their communities and colonial society, framed transnational issues of identity and social justice in relation to their experiences within the broader Indian diaspora in Singapore. The book traces the manner in which untouchable identities evolved and then receded in response to the dramatic social changes brought about by colonialism, war and post-colonial nationhood.

By focusing on a subaltern group from the past, this study provides an alternative history of Indian migration to Singapore and a different perspective on the cultural conversations that have taken place between India and Singapore for much of the island's modern history.

John Solomon is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History. His research interests include the exploration of how national and ethnic identities are shaped by social and political processes, particularly how identities shape the ways that people interact with other communities, nation-states and the wider world.

His current research trajectories have developed out of initial interests in race and missionary ethnography in colonial South India, and untouchable Indian labour migrants in colonial Singapore. He also has a keen interest in oral histories and the histories of everyday people whose voices have been diminished within traditional archival sources.

Department of Communications and New Media

Political Communication and Mobilisation: The Hindi Media in India

Taberez A. Neyazi

Cambridge University Press

This book provides a fresh perspective on the importance of the Hindi media in India's political, social and economic transformation with evidence from the countryside and the cities. Accessed by more than 40 percent of the public, it continues to play an important role in building political awareness and mobilising public opinion.

Instead of viewing the media as a singular entity, this book highlights its diversity and complexity to understand the changing dynamics of political communication that is shaped by the interactions between the news media, political parties and the public, and how various media forms are being used in a rapidly transforming environment.

The book offers insights into how print, television, and digital media work together with, rather than in isolation from, one another to grasp the complexities of the emerging hybrid media environment and the future of mobilisation.



Department of English Language and Literature

Thai Art: Currencies of the Contemporary

David Teh

MIT Press

Since the 1990s, Thai contemporary art has achieved international recognition, circulating globally by way of biennials, museums, and commercial galleries. Many Thai artists have shed identification with their nation; but “Thainess” remains an interpretive crutch for understanding their work. In this book, the curator and critic David Teh examines the tension between the global and the local in Thai contemporary art. Writing the first serious study of Thai art since 1992 (and noting that art history and criticism have lagged behind the market in recognizing it), he describes the competing claims to contemporaneity, as staked in Thailand and on behalf of Thai art elsewhere. He shows how the values of the global art world are exchanged with local ones, how they do and don’t correspond, and how these discrepancies have been exploited.

How can we make sense of globally circulating art without forgoing the interpretive resources of the local, national, or regional context? Teh examines the work of artists who straddle the local and the global, becoming willing agents of assimilation yet resisting homogenization. He describes the transition from an artistic subjectivity couched in terms of national community to a more qualified, postnational one, against the backdrop of the singular but waning sovereignty of the Thai monarchy and sustained political and economic turmoil. Among the national currencies of Thai art that Teh identifies are an agricultural symbology, a Siamese poetics of distance and itinerancy, and Hindu-Buddhist conceptions of charismatic power. Each of these currencies has been converted to a legal tender in global art—signifying sustainability, utopia, the conceptual, and the relational—but what is lost, and what may be gained, in such exchanges?

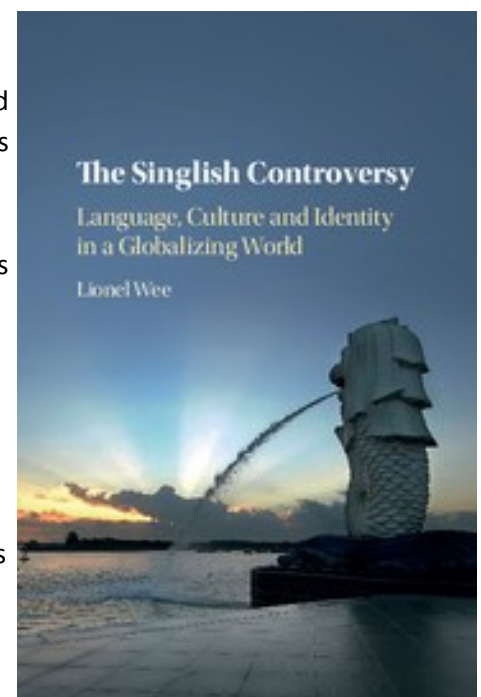


The Singlish Controversy: Language, Culture and Identity in a Globalizing World

Lionel Wee

Cambridge University Press

Singlish is the colloquial variety of English spoken in Singapore. It has sparked much public debate, but so far the complex question of what Singlish really is and what it means to its speakers has remained obscured. This important work explores some of the socio-political controversies surrounding Singlish, such as the political ideologies inherent in Singlish discourse, the implications of being restricted to Singlish for those speakers without access to standard English, the complex relationship between Singlish and migration, and the question of whether Singlish is an asset or a liability to Singaporeans. These questions surrounding Singlish illustrate many current issues in language, culture and identity in an age of rapid change. The book will be of interest to scholars and advanced students of World Englishes and sociolinguistics. Its detailed analysis of the Singlish controversy will illuminate broader questions about language, identity and globalization.



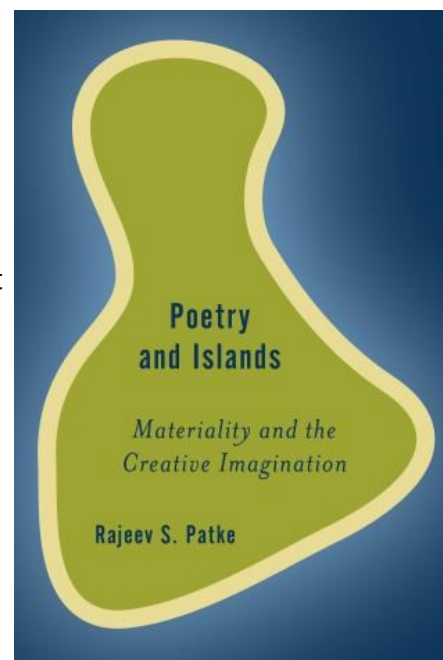
Islands of Poetry: Materiality and the Creative Imagination

Rajeev Patke

Rowman & Littlefield

In all cultures and times, the poetic imagination has fed on the natural attributes of islands. An island is either a destination, or a home, or a place of exile and imprisonment, or simply a place to sojourn. It is an ideal vehicle for journeys treated as allegories, or for acts of finding that turn into acts of losing, or the reverse transformation. An island is not a continent; yet it can be an archipelago. An island is both a place in itself and a pretext for imaginings that need a local habitation and a name. It can give relief, and pleasure; or it can frustrate, isolate, and negate. Above all, it both invites and resists - or contains or constrains - the imagination.

Poetry and Islands explores how islands become repositories of human longings and desires, a locus for some of our deepest fears and fantasies. It balances historical and geographical reference with a selective approach to poems and poets in English, and in translations into English. The study of particular poems in which islands figure in exemplary ways is balanced by a more detailed discussion of the poets who have played a major role in shaping human responses to islands on a global scale.



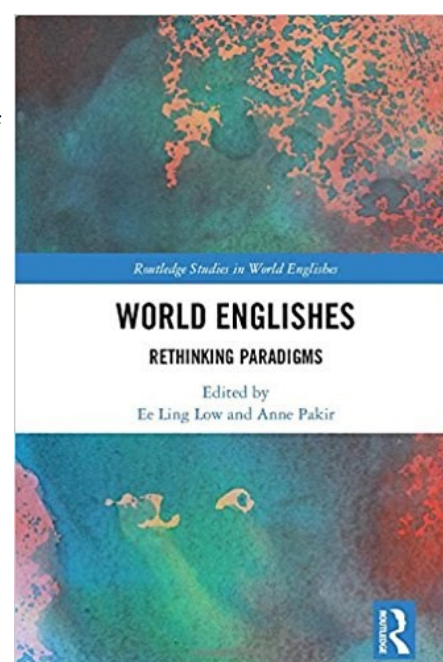
World Englishes: Rethinking Paradigms

Edited by Ee Ling Low and Anne Pakir

Routledge

In this book, leading scholars in the field of World Englishes (WE) offer fresh perspectives in re-thinking issues on the use of English as a global language in an interconnected world. Established as a legitimate field of study, WE offers a conceptual framework which has influenced scholarship in many related disciplines: contact linguistics, postcolonial Englishes, English as a lingua franca, English as an international language, and applied linguistics. This seminal volume will have an excellent balance between theoretical and empirical works focusing on scholarship that has arisen in relation to the Kachruvian Three Concentric Circles model.

This book covers topics such as state-of-the-art review of WE, WE and contact linguistics, post-colonial Englishes, English as a Lingua Franca, English as an International Language, WE and applied linguistics, language measurement and testing in WE, language policy and management, language education and dynamic ecologies, language typology, WE as a new canon, WE and corpus linguistics, WE and multimodalities, and makes predictions

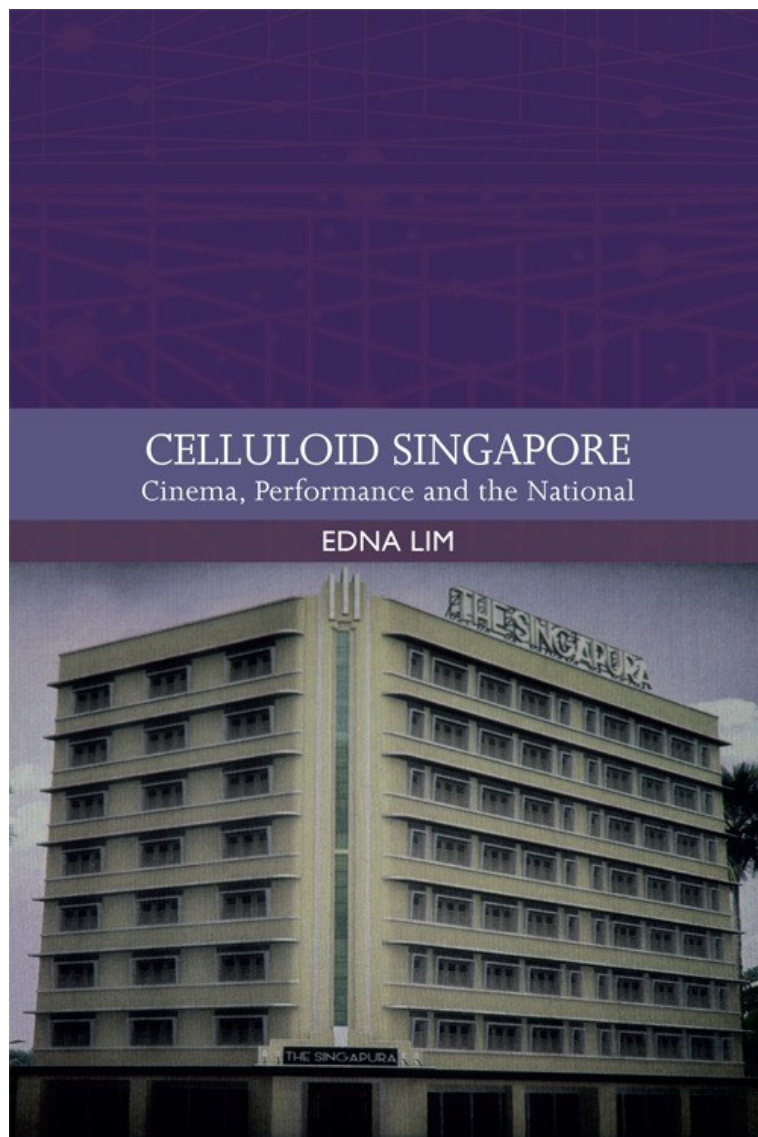


Celluloid Singapore: Cinema, Performance and the National

Edna Lim

Edinburgh University Press

Celluloid Singapore is a ground-breaking study of the three major periods in Singapore's fragmented cinema history, namely the golden age of the 1950s and 60s, the post-studio 1970s, and the revival from the 1990s onwards. Set against the context of Singapore's own trajectory of development, the book poses two central questions: how can the films of each period be considered 'Singapore' films, and how is this cinema specifically national? The book argues that the films of these three periods collectively constitute a national cinema through different performances of Singapore, offering a critical framework for understanding this cinema and its history in relation to the development of the country and the national.



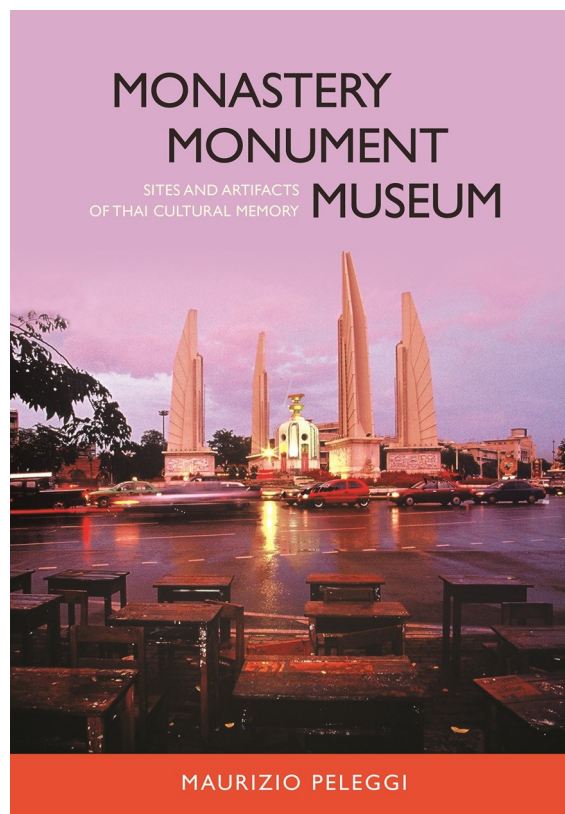
Department of History

Monastery, Monument, Museum: Sites and Artifacts of Thai Cultural Memory

Maurizio Peleggi

University of Hawaii Press

Ranging across the *longue durée* of Thailand's history, *Monastery, Monument, Museum* is an eminently readable and original contribution to the study of the kingdom's art and culture. Eschewing issues of dating, style, and iconography, historian Maurizio Peleggi addresses distinct types of artifacts and artworks as both the products and vehicles of cultural memory. From the temples of Chiangmai to the Emerald Buddha, from the National Museum of Bangkok to the prehistoric culture of Northeast Thailand, and from the civic monuments of the 1930s to the political artworks of the late twentieth century, even well-known artworks and monuments reveal new meanings when approached from this perspective. Part I, "Sacred Topographies," focuses on the premodern era, when religious credence informed the cultural alteration of landscape, and devotional sites and artifacts, including visual representation of the Buddhist cosmology, were created. Part II, "Antiquities and National History," covers the 1830s through the 1970s, when antiquarianism, and eventually archaeology, emerged and developed in the kingdom, partly the result of a shift in the elites' worldview and partly a response to colonial and neocolonial projects of knowledge. Part III, "Discordant Mnemoscapes," deals with civic monuments and artworks that anchor memory of twentieth-century political events and provide stages for both their commemoration and counter-commemoration by evoking the country's embattled political present. *Monastery, Monument, Museum* shows us how cultural memory represents a kind of palimpsest, the result of multiple inscriptions, reworkings, and manipulations over time. The book will be a rewarding read for historians, art historians, anthropologists, and Buddhism scholars working on Thailand and Southeast Asia generally, as well as for academic and general readers with an interest in memory and material culture.



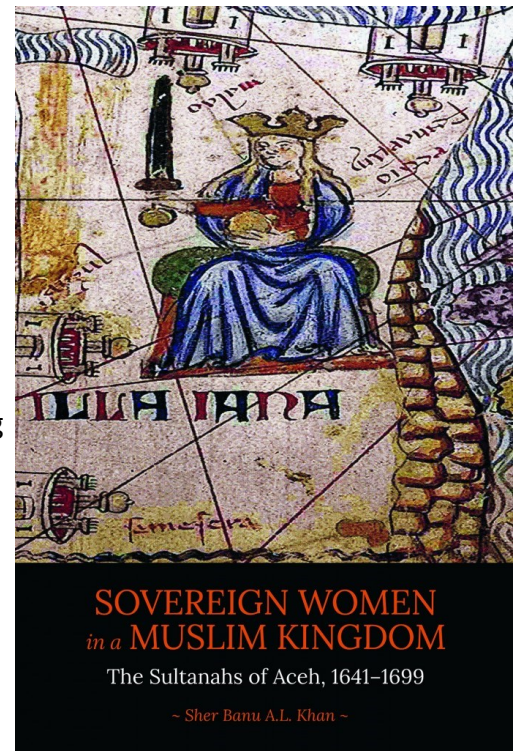
Department of Malay Studies

Sovereign Women in a Muslim Kingdom: The Sultanahs of Aceh, 1641–1699

Sher Banu A. L. Khan

Cornell University Press

The Islamic kingdom of Aceh was ruled by queens for half of the 17th century. Was female rule an aberration? Unnatural? A violation of nature, comparable to hens instead of roosters crowing at dawn? Indigenous texts and European sources offer different evaluations. Drawing on both sets of sources, this book shows that female rule was legitimised both by Islam and adat (indigenous customary laws), and provides original insights on the Sultanah's leadership, their relations with male elites, and their encounters with European envoys who visited their court. The book challenges received views on kingship in the Malay world and the response of indigenous polities to east-west encounters in Southeast Asia's Age of Commerce.



Department of Philosophy

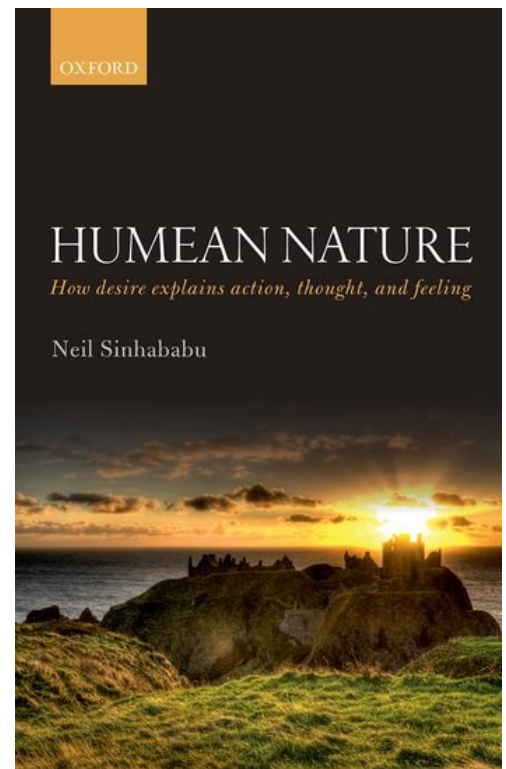
Humean Nature:

How Desire Explains Action, Thought, and Feeling

Neil Sinhababu

Oxford University Press

Neil Sinhababu defends the Humean Theory of Motivation, according to which desire drives all human action and practical reasoning. Desire motivates us to pursue its object, makes thoughts of its object pleasant or unpleasant, focuses attention on its object, and is amplified by vivid representations of its object. These aspects of desire explain a vast range of psychological phenomena - why motivation often accompanies moral belief, how intentions shape our planning, how we exercise willpower, what it is to be a human self, how we express our emotions in action, why we procrastinate, and what we daydream about. Some philosophers regard such phenomena as troublesome for the Humean Theory, but the properties of desire help Humeans provide simpler and better explanations of these phenomena than their opponents can. The success of the Humean Theory in explaining a wide range of folk-psychological and experimental data, including those that its opponents cite in counterexamples, suggest that it is true. And the Humean Theory has revolutionary consequences for ethics, suggesting that moral judgments are beliefs about what feelings like guilt, admiration, and hope accurately represent in objective reality.

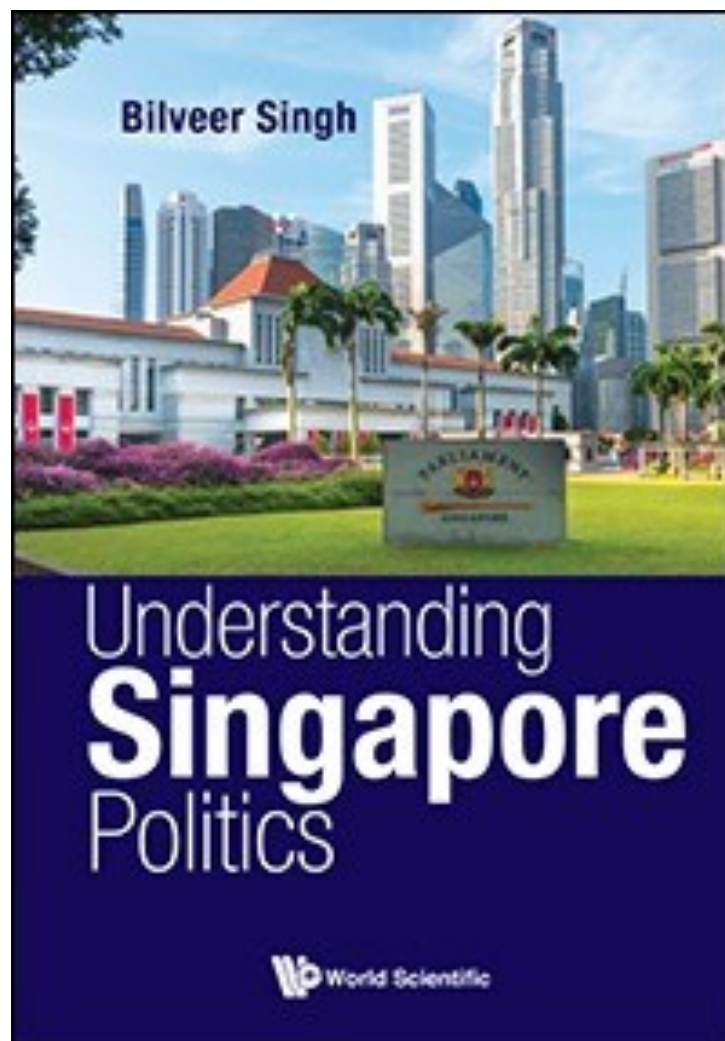


Understanding Singapore Politics

Bilveer Singh

World Scientific

Understanding Singapore Politics is written to address the dearth of a succinct overview on Singapore politics. This introductory text looks at the factors that shape the island-republic's domestic politics, the key institutions and issues in the city-state, electoral power as well as the political direction Singapore is likely to take in a post-Lee Kuan Yew era. The specific institutions covered for discussion include the mass media, trade unions, civil service and grassroots organisations. The role of civil and civic society, including pressures for democratisation, is also examined. In addition, various new political issues — the importance of race, income equality and migration — and their implications are discussed. Finally, the linkage between Singapore's domestic and foreign policy is analysed. This foundational guide to Singapore politics is recommended for anyone who has an interest or a stake in the island republic.



Department of Sociology

Liberalism Disavowed:

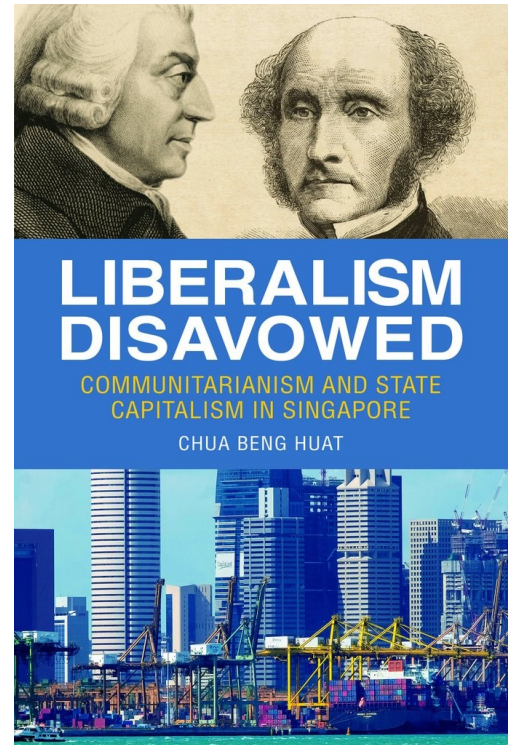
Communitarianism and State Capitalism in Singapore

Chua Beng Huat

Cornell University Press

In *Liberalism Disavowed*, Beng Huat Chua examines the rejection of Western-style liberalism in Singapore since the nation's expulsion from Malaysia and formal independence as a republic in 1965. The People's Action Party, which has ruled Singapore since 1959, has forged an independent non-Western ideology that is evident in various government policies that Chua analyzes, among them multiracialism, public housing, and widespread social distributions to the citizenry.

Singapore is prosperous and peaceful, it's highly advanced on various metrics of economic development, it has a great deal of regional influence, it is home to sophisticated industries and a large financial service sector, and it features what are by Western standards unusually low levels of social inequality. Paradoxically, however, it is no beacon of political liberalism. Chua sets forth ample evidence that the dominance of the People's Action Party is based on a combination of economic success and media control, limits on public protests, libel suits against political opponents, and severely curtailed civil liberties.



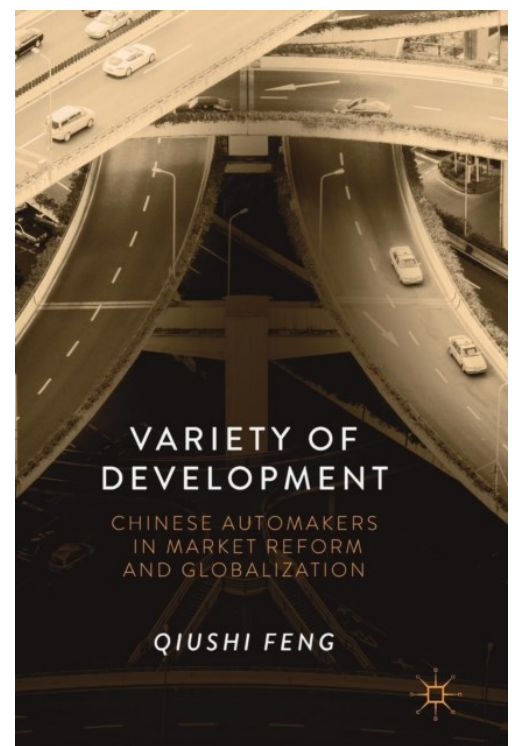
Variety of Development:

Chinese Automakers in Market Reform and Globalization

Qiushi Feng

Palgrave MacMillan

This book examines China, the world's largest auto market since 2008 and the story of how Chinese auto-makers developed is the story of the Chinese economy in microcosm. It focuses on China's systemically important automobile sector, this book reveals how local institutions have moderated structural changes at national and global levels, and consequently generated significant organizational diversity in the production sphere. This book begins with the intriguing observation that individual Chinese car makers have been evolving in different directions despite a shared context; what factors led to these diverse choices and positioning? It is the central aim of this book to explain the variety of institutional forms used by Chinese car manufacturers in navigating the market transition and answering the challenges posed by globalization.

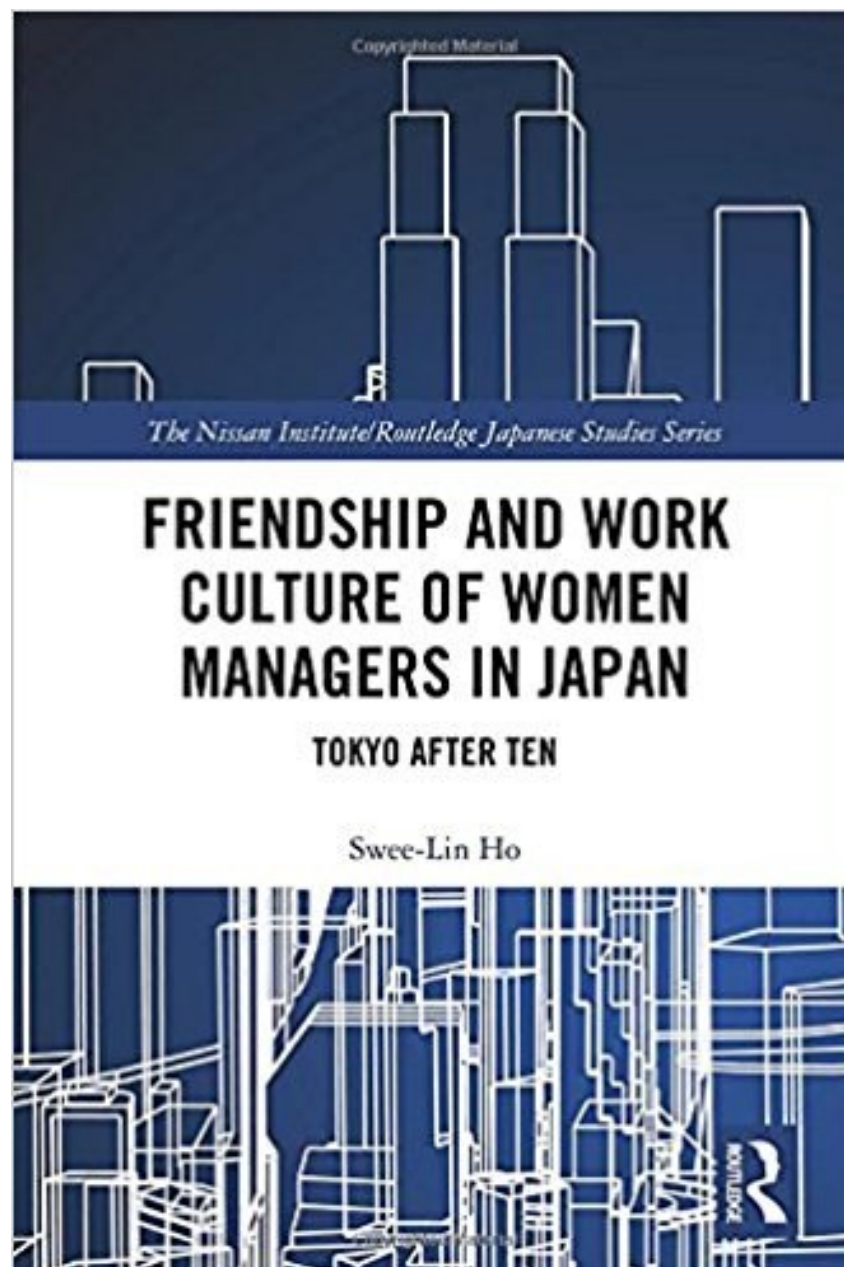


Friendship and Work Culture of Women Managers in Japan: Tokyo After Ten:

Ho Swee Lin

Routledge

Drawing on ethnographic data gathered from fieldwork spanning a 15-year period, this book offers new insights into understanding the lives and experiences of women managers in Japan. Based on empirical case studies, it explores the ways in which professional women in Tokyo creatively mobilize their friendships as a strategic site for mitigating the disappointments in their working lives, and conceptualizing new understandings of independence and equality. It analyses their use of language, time, space and money to negotiate new identities in an increasingly flexible work environment. In examining the challenges and opportunities faced by these corporate workers, this book also extends anthropological debates about the changing meaning and importance of work for women, as well as their relationship with money and separation from the realm of domesticity.

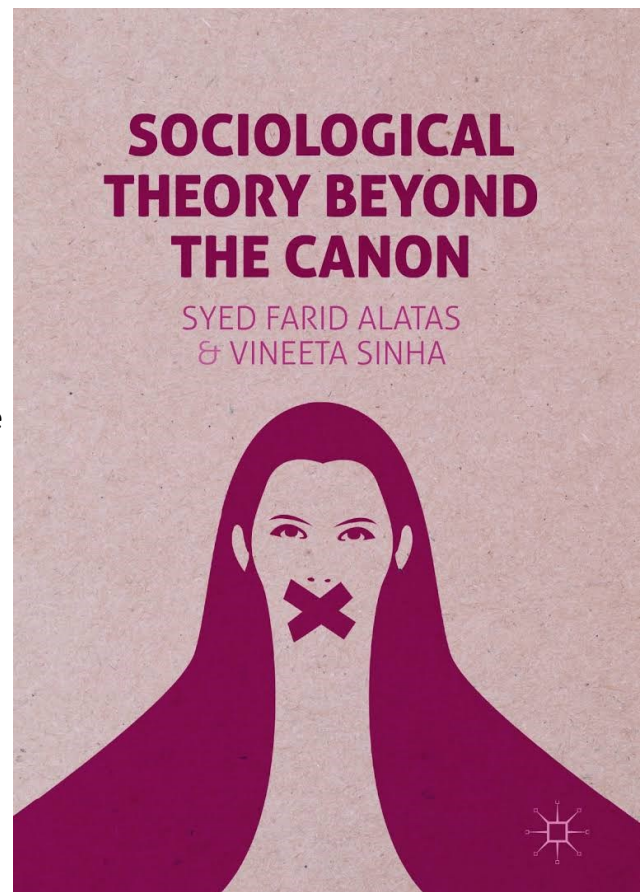


Sociological Theory Beyond the Canon

Syed Farid Alatas and Vineeta Sinha

Palgrave Macmillan

This book expands the sociological canon by introducing non-Western and female voices, and subjects the existing canon itself to critique. Including chapters on both the 'founding fathers' of sociology and neglected thinkers it highlights the biases of Eurocentrism and androcentrism, while also offering much-needed correctives to them. The authors challenge a dominant account of the development of sociological theory which would have us believe that it was only Western European and later North American white males in the nineteenth and early twentieth century who thought in a creative and systematic manner about the origins and nature of the emerging modernity of their time. This integrated and contextualised account seeks to restructure the ways in which we theorise the emergence of the classical sociological canon. This book's global scope fills a significant lacuna and provides a unique teaching resource to students of classical sociological theory.



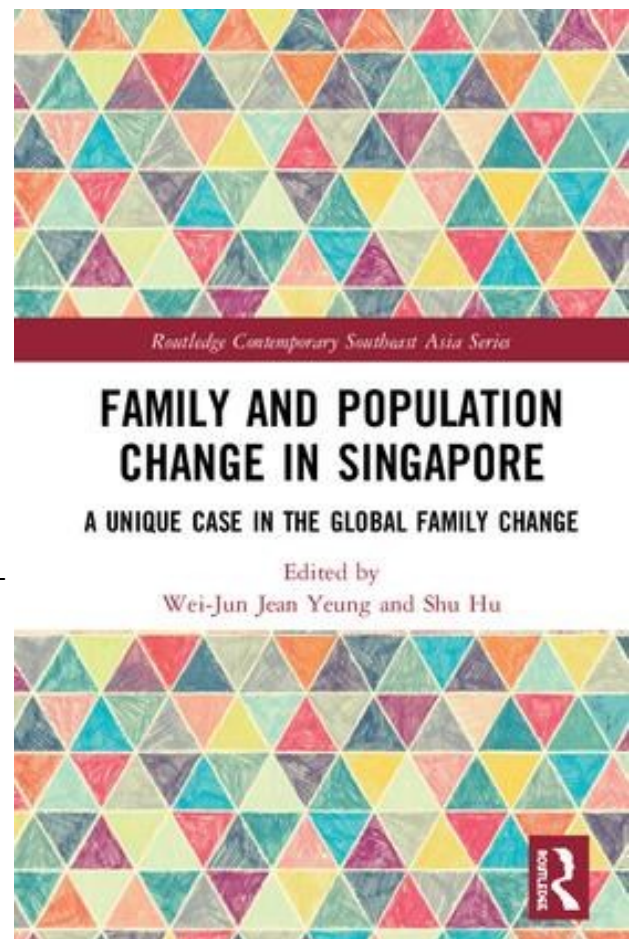
Family and Population Change in Singapore:

A unique case in the global family change

Edited by Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and Shu Hu

Routledge

This book depicts the evolution of Singapore's family and population landscape in the last half a century, the related public policies, and future challenges. Since the country's independent in 1965, family and population policies have been an integral part of its national building developmental strategies. The chapters discuss the changes in population compositions, family structures, relations, values among major ethnic groups. They also discuss policies for vulnerable populations such as female-headed households, cross-cultural families, same-sex partnering, the elderly, and low-income families. In the context of global family changes, Singapore's experience is by no means a linear extrapolation of those in the western industrialized countries, but a unique case in the global family change.

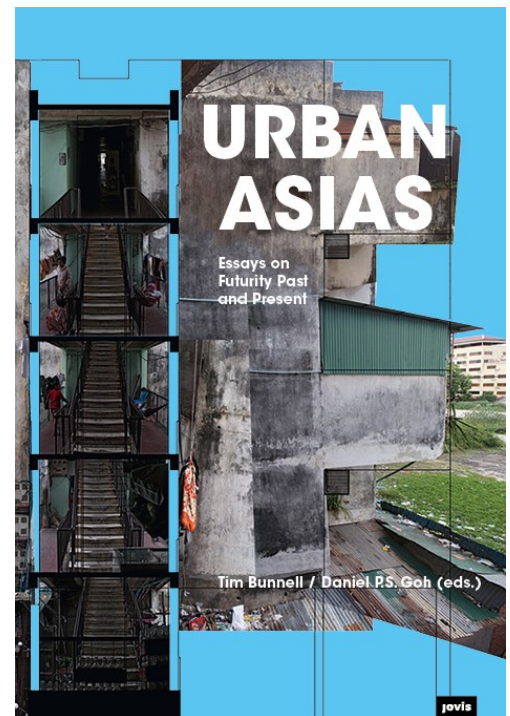


Urban Asias: Essays on Futurity Past and Present

Edited by Daniel Goh and Tim Bunnell

Jovis

Home to more city dwellers than any other region, and the locus of many of the world's most populous metropolitan areas, Asia is moving to centre stage in popular and academic debates about planetary urban futures. Among diverse urban Asias are landscapes, images, visions and aspirations that conjure new forms of the future. This volume comprises essays examining intersections of the urban and futurity. While attentive to emergent forms of urban Asia, contributors also examine futures past, the afterlives of historical projects, and archaeologies of the future. While authoritative forms of future city-making feature in several essays, others focus on everyday engagement with futurity. Many essays provide ethnographic and field-based empirical insights into urban lifeworlds that are coming into being, while others explore the theoretical and political implications of urban futures from Asia.



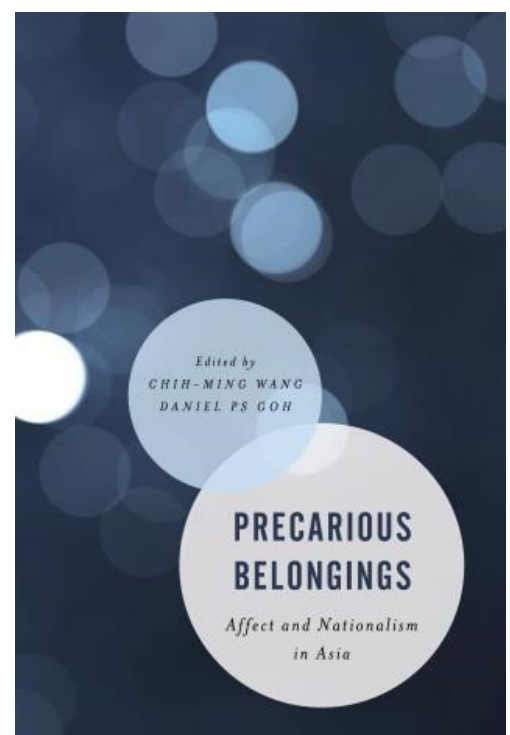
Precarious Belongings: Affect and Nationalism in Asia

Edited by Chih-Ming Wang and Daniel Goh

Rowman & Littlefield International

In the midst of refugee crises, terrorist attacks and territorial disputes across the globe, nationalism remains a powerful force in generating affects of inclusion and exclusion. In Asia, inter-Asian migration, enabled and disrupted by a history of colonialism, capitalist globalization and political conflicts, has rendered the idea of nation as both politically distinct and culturally malleable.

Precarious Belongings: Affect and Nationalism in Asia explores the affective politics of Asian nationalism by addressing the entwined structures of precarious belonging and national feelings. Bringing together leading scholars it looks at how the reification of nationalism in social movements, popular sentiments, online groups, and cultural representation directs hatred towards migrant and minority groups across Asia. The book posits that nationalist affects are embedded in the politics of exclusion, and seeks to make room for precarious belongings in the transnational and multicultural present. It should be of interest to students and scholars interested in Asian Cultural Studies, transnationalism, migration and nationalism.



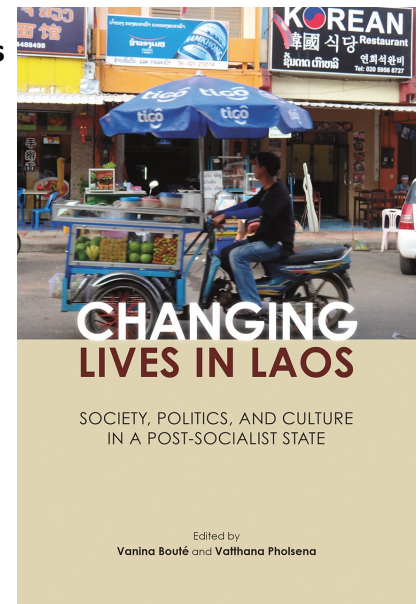
Department of Southeast Asian Studies

Changing Lives: New Perspectives on Society, Politics, and Culture in Laos

Edited by Vatthana Pholsena and Vanina Bouté

NUS Press

During the last two decades, Laos has undergone major transformations due to a massive influx of foreign investment. Improved communications and new forms of mobility have dramatically altered rural life. *Changing Lives in Laos* brings together contributions from young scholars that look closely at these transitions and the resulting rise of a new social, cultural, and economic order. The essays in this volume draw on original fieldwork and provide fresh analyses of topics such as the structures of power, the politics of territoriality, and new forms of sociability in emerging urban spaces.



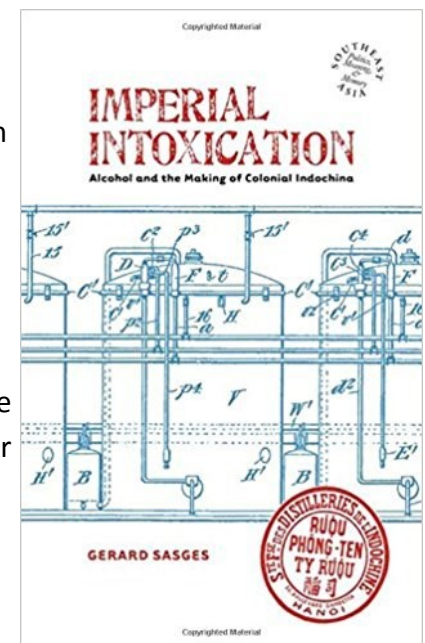
Imperial Intoxication: Alcohol and the Making of Colonial Indochina

Gerard Sasges

University of Hawaii Press

Making liquor isn't rocket science: some raw materials, a stove, and a few jury-rigged pots are all that's really needed. So when the colonial regime in turn-of-the-century French Indochina banned homemade rice liquor, replacing it with heavily taxed, tasteless alcohol from French-owned factories, widespread clandestine distilling was the inevitable result. The state's deeply unpopular alcohol monopoly required extensive systems of surveillance and interdiction and the creation of an unwieldy bureaucracy that consumed much of the revenue it was supposed to collect. Yet despite its heavy economic and political costs, this unproductive policy endured for more than four decades, leaving a lasting mark on Indochinese society, economy, and politics.

The alcohol monopoly in Indochina was part of larger economic and political processes unfolding across the globe. New research on fermentation and improved still design drove the capitalization and concentration of the distilling industry worldwide, while modernizing states with increasing capacities to define, tax, and police engaged in a never-ending search for revenue. Indochina's alcohol regime thus arose from the same convergence of industrial potential and state power that produced everything from Russian vodka to blended Scotch whisky. Yet with rice liquor part of everyday life for millions of Indochinese, young and old, men and women, villagers and city-folk alike, in Indochina these global developments would be indelibly shaped by the colony's particular geographies, histories, and people. *Imperial Intoxication* provides a unique window on Indochina between 1860 and 1939. It illuminates the contradictory mix of modern and archaic, power and impotence, civil bureaucracy and military occupation that characterized colonial rule. It highlights the role Indochinese played in shaping the monopoly, whether as reformers or factory workers, illegal distillers or the agents sent to arrest them.



Department of South Asian Studies

A Republic in the Making: India in the 1950s

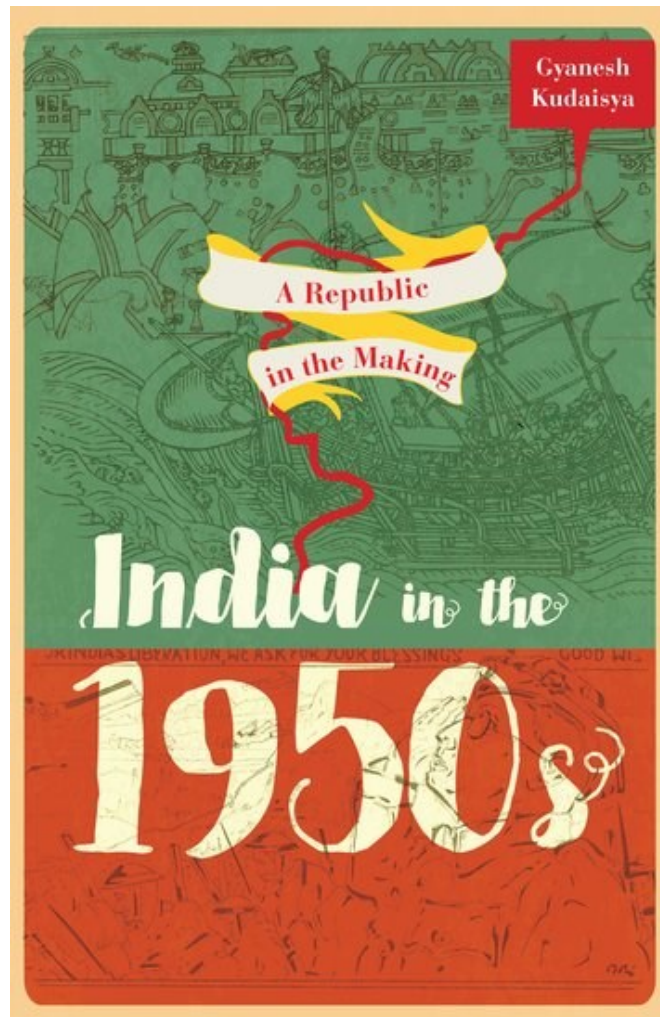
Gyanesh Kudaisya

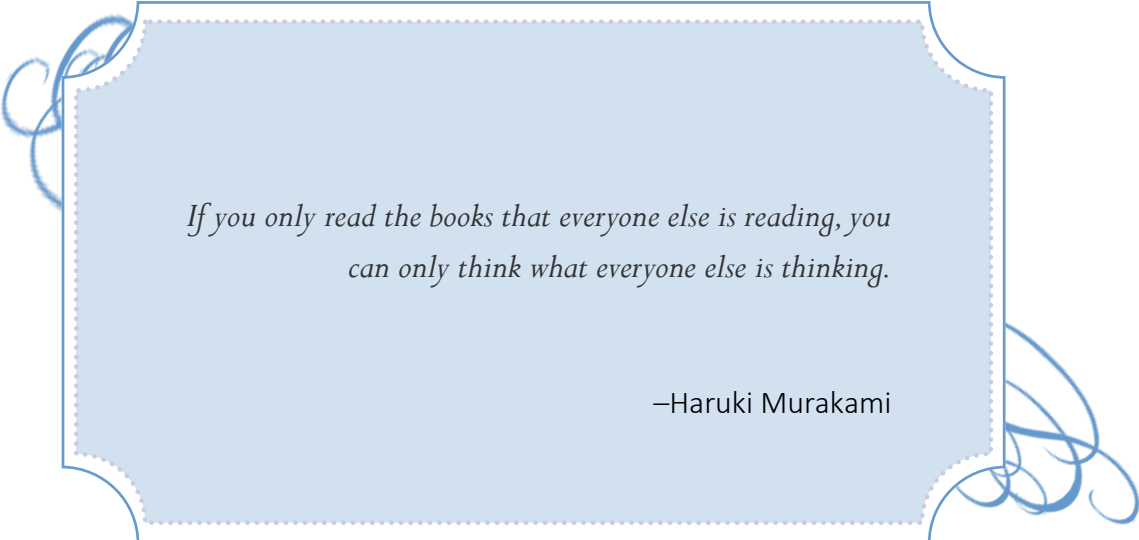
Oxford University Press

This work takes a critical look at India in the 1950s, a momentous decade in its contemporary history. It looks at the colossal challenges which India faced in its years after Independence and conveys a sense of the hopes and aspirations, dilemmas and anxieties of its political leadership. It considers the key ideas, paths, and trajectories which were articulated in these years and have left an enduring imprint upon the Republic's fabric as we know it today. The values and personalities from that decade continue to remain a frame of reference, a benchmark for public life in present-day India.

The narrative on the 1950s is woven around certain key themes: the manner in which India moved away from conditions of disorder and turmoil to deal with the 'unfinished business' of Partition; the cartographic reconstruction of India as a political space; the uncertain journey of its democratic institutions; the crafting of inclusive citizenship amidst the ambiguities and anxieties surrounding the minorities; and finally, the audacious project of economic self-reliance through development planning and land reforms.

Presented as a broad-brush canvas, rather than a micro-history of the 1950s, this work offers insights into how India came to be transformed in critical ways to anchor itself as a resilient, democratic polity, increasingly coming to terms with societal diversity and heterogeneity. It shall be useful to those interested in unraveling the trails and tracks of India's exciting journey in its formative decade as a new nation.





*If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you
can only think what everyone else is thinking.*

—Haruki Murakami

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With thanks to the authors and the Research Division team