

Lingnan University 50th Anniversary Lecture Series (2017-2018)

Inter-disciplinary Lectures on Culture and Society

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HKAC Art Shop Inspiration Series

Organised by the Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University

Co-organised by Hong Kong Arts Centre

Anxious States: Culture and Politics in Singapore and Hong Kong

Since Singapore and Hong Kong are the two most economically successful, ethnic Chinese dominant city-states in Asia, comparisons have always been made between these locations. Fundamental to the Singaporean collective social life is a realization that 'the world does not need Singapore but Singapore needs the world'. The demand for immigrants to supplement the small local workforce is constant, adding complexity to the domestic multi-ethnic population and geopolitical situation, and confounding the processes of individual and national identity formation. The constant demand of physical space threatens to erase heritage, social memories and individual biographies, yet simultaneously encourages a progressive future-mindedness. The prevalent social anxieties undergird a wide political consensus that emphasizes stability, cohesion and political order. This has engendered a 'politics of the middle ground', favoured by the long governing single-party dominant parliament, that marginalizes liberal individual rights and individuals who falls out of the 'middle'. Are such anxieties broadly shared by Hong Kong and its people? And, if they are, how might some of these anxieties be culturally and politically expressed, and in what institutional structural configurations?

Speaker

Chua Beng Huat is currently Head, Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College and Professor, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. He has served concurrently as Provost Chair Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Science (2009-2017), Research Leader, Cultural Studies in Asia Research Cluster, Asia Research Institute (2000-2015); Convenor Cultural Studies Programmes (2008-2013) and Head, the Department of Sociology (2009-2015), National University of Singapore. He is co-executive editor of the journal, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*.

His book publications include: as author, *The Golden Shoe: Building Singapore's Financial District* (1989), *Communitarian Ideology and Democracy in Singapore* (1995,1997) and *Political Legitimacy and Housing: Stakeholding in Singapore* (1997), *Life is Not Complete without Shopping* (2003), *Structure, Audience and Soft Power in East Asian Pop Culture* (2012) and, *Political Liberalism Disavowed: communitarianism and state capitalism in Singapore* (2017); as editor, *Consumption in Asia: lifestyles and identities* (2000), *Communitarian Politics in Asia* (2004), *Elections as Popular Culture in Asia* (2007), (Co-editor, Chen Kuan-Hsing) *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Reader* (2007), *East Asia Pop Culture: Analysing the Korean Wave* (2008) and *Port Cities in Asia and Europe* (2008).

Moderator

Tejaswini Niranjana is Professor and Head, Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. She is co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, which offered an innovative inter-disciplinary PhD programme from 2000-2012. She is the current Chair of the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society.

She is the author of *Siting Translation: History, Post-structuralism and the Colonial Context* (Berkeley, 1992), *Mobilizing India: Women, Music and Migration between India and Trinidad* (Durham, 2006), and a forthcoming monograph on musicophilia in Mumbai. Her most recent edited volume, with Wang Xiaoming, is *Genealogies of the Present: Situating Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* (Delhi, 2015).

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嶺南大學 50 週年講座系列 (2017-2018)

文化與社會跨學科講座

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HKAC Art Shop 啟發分享系列

主辦：嶺南大學文化研究系

協辦：香港藝術中心

焦慮國家：新加坡及香港的文化與政治

新加坡及香港同樣是經濟成功、華人為主的亞洲城市，所以論者歷來都把她們相提並論加以比較。新加坡群體社會生活的核心，是一種「世界不需要新加坡，但新加坡需要世界」的感受及認識。她持續需要移民補充其勞動力的不足，這令她本來多族裔的人口及地緣政治更加複雜；對實質空間的持續需求，也威脅到消滅歷史文化遺產、社會記憶及個人歷史，同時，又鼓勵一種渴求進步指向未來的心態。但在這種廣泛的政治共識背後，有著隨處可見的社會焦慮，這導致了一種「中間路線政治」，長期由單一執政黨主導的議會偏好這種政治，也符合自身利益，它把個人自由權利及逸出「中間路線」的個人邊緣化。香港及香港人是否也有這些焦慮？如果有，這些焦慮會以怎樣的文化及政治方式表達，又會在甚麼的制度及結構組成之中表現呢？

講者

蔡明發為耶魯-新加坡國立大學學院 (Yale-NUS College) 及新加坡國立大學社會學系教授，他曾在新加坡國立大學擔任過多個重要職位，包括人文及社科學院教務長首席教授 (2009-2017)，亞洲研究所亞洲研究部中擔任過文化研究的組長 (2000-2015)，文化研究部召集人 (2008-2013)，社會學系系主任。他是學術期刊 *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 的執行編輯成員。

他的著作包括：專著：*The Golden Shoe: Building Singapore's Financial District* (1989), *Communitarian Ideology and Democracy in Singapore* (1995,1997) and *Political Legitimacy and Housing: Stakeholding in Singapore* (1997), *Life is Not Complete without Shopping* (2003), *Structure, Audience and Soft Power in East Asian Pop Culture* (2012) and, *Political Liberalism Disavowed: communitarianism and state capitalism in Singapore* (2017); 編輯：*Consumption in Asia: lifestyles and identities* (2000), *Communitarian Politics in Asia* (2004), *Elections as Popular Culture in Asia* (2007), (Co-editor, Chen Kuan-Hsing) *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Reader* (2007), *East Asia Pop Culture: Analysing the Korean Wave* (2008) and *Port Cities in Asia and Europe* (2008).

主持

寧蒂珠是嶺南大學文化研究系教授及系主任，她是印度班加羅爾的文化及社會研究中心的首辦人之一，該中心在 2000 年至 2012 年開辦創新的跨學科博士課程，她是現任亞際文化研究學會主席。

她的著作包括 *Siting Translation: History, Post-structuralism and the Colonial Context* (Berkeley, 1992), *Mobilizing India: Women, Music and Migration between India and Trinidad* (Durham, 2006)，以及一本有關孟買音樂愛好者及文化的著作即將出版。此外，她與王曉明合編了 *Genealogies of the Present: Situating Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* (Delhi, 2015)。

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