

## Welcome Home CAPTains!



Welcome to a new academic year! This semester is packed with many exciting learning opportunities. **Seven Reading Groups**, including a new one ('Green Stories') and three compressed RGs (led by Academic Visitors on 'Art', 'Logic & Reasoning', and 'Dinosaurs') will be running - do check the website for the Reading Group synopses. Also, look out for the Master's Teas to hear various experts share their work. Last but not least, enjoy the Junior Seminar, Senior Seminar, Writing Module, ISM or Capstone that you signed up for.

Assoc Prof Reuben Wong  
Director of Studies, Aug 2017

## NEW READING GROUP: **GREEN STORIES**

First session on Wednesday, 30 Aug, 2-4pm, SR6



Singapore's green spaces are stories in the process of being told, with their own cast of characters, conflict, and unexpected plot twists. This interdisciplinary reading group explores both the biophysical and social changes that created Singapore's parks and gardens. We also investigate how these green spaces impact social life, shaping how Singaporeans interact with each other and how the city maintains itself.

This reading group is conducted in collaboration with the project, *Emerging Cultures of Urban Farming in Singapore*, led by Asst. Prof. Marvin Montefrio, Division of Social Sciences, Yale NUS.

Contact: Dr Toh Tai Chong ([rc3ttc@nus.edu.sg](mailto:rc3ttc@nus.edu.sg)) & Dr Yasmin Ortiga ([yasmin.ortiga@nus.edu.sg](mailto:yasmin.ortiga@nus.edu.sg))

Find out more and **sign up** at [www.capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/reading-groups](http://www.capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/reading-groups)



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## READING GROUP: A DIFFERENT WAY OF LOOKING – AN ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

First session on Thursday, 17 Aug, 6.30-8pm, SR4

Together with Chris Gilmour, our Artist-in-Residence this semester, we will analyze the relationship artworks have with place and context, considering **how an artwork modifies spaces, interacts with its context, dialogues with society and represents the people or organizations that sponsor it.**



Students can further understand and appreciate **the artist's approach to making and materials** in both practical and theoretical terms, considering how material processes have influenced **the way art works have been conceived and made through history.**



Contact: Assoc Prof Greg Petersen ([greg.petersen@nus.edu.sg](mailto:greg.petersen@nus.edu.sg))

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## READING GROUP: LOGIC & REASONING

First session on Thursday, 17 Aug, 4.30-6pm, Reading Room

Logic is the study of principles of correct reasoning. Led by Prof Rod Downey, this Reading Group will look at what constitutes a correct argument. We will begin with simple propositional logic, and a glimpse into early Greek reasonings. We will also look at common fallacies, and how we can construct our own arguments using diagrams.



To understand modern society, a knowledge of everyday reasoning with statistics and probabilities is very relevant. How should we understand the statistics quoted in the news media? What is the difference between a 'frequentist' and a 'Bayesian' approach to probabilities?

Contact: Dr Daniel Jew ([danieljew@nus.edu.sg](mailto:danieljew@nus.edu.sg))



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## READING GROUP: **IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF DINOSAURS**

*First session on Monday, 11 Sep, 2-4pm, SR5*



This is a special Reading Group on palaeontology and prehistoric life led by Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich. These are some of the topics that will be covered during this semester “Why are we fascinated with Dinosaurs?”, “Dinosaur diversity”, “Fossilisation and processes” and “Dinosaur origins, extinctions, present day dinosaurs”.

Contact: Dr Joelle Lai ([chiuyun@nus.edu.sg](mailto:chiuyun@nus.edu.sg)) & Dr Toh Tai Chong ([rc3ttc@nus.edu.sg](mailto:rc3ttc@nus.edu.sg))

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## READING GROUP: **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** – **GLOBAL HEALTH IN ACTION**

*First session on Wednesday, 30 Aug, 4:30-6pm, SR4*

Healthy Communities (HCRG) is an interdisciplinary Reading Group for people who are interested in bridging the gap between evidence and practice, and in examining the real-world issues that individuals, communities and health systems face in trying to improve the health of populations.

This semester, we will focus on understanding priorities for meeting health needs in different countries, and how these needs are being addressed through global health programmes that function in many different ways – from rolling out new technologies and medicines ... to improving access to health services... to changing behaviour, population-wide. Also, we are privileged to have Dr Liow Chee Hsiang from the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health as a co-convener this semester.

Contact: Assoc Prof Adeline Seow ([adelineseow@nus.edu.sg](mailto:adelineseow@nus.edu.sg))



'Millions Saved' (published in 2016, and written by Amanda Glassman, Miriam Temin) is our focus for this semester.



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## READING GROUP: **REGIONS – FORMATION OR FAILURE?**

*First session on Wednesday, 30 Aug, 4-6pm, SR2*



This reading group will explore the historical emergence and construction of different regions, such as Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and “the West”. It investigates the factors that form a region, *inter alia* language, culture, economics, politics and geography.

This semester, we will specifically revisit the pivotal events of 2016 and 2017. In June 2016, the UK voted to leave the EU, a complicated divorce that will take years to negotiate. Then Donald Trump, an anti-establishment candidate, was elected president of the US. In June 2017, some Middle Eastern states cut diplomatic ties with Qatar. Do these events signify the breakdown of regional orders in our world?

Guest speakers - Prof Petr Suchy (Chair, Department of International Relations and European Studies at Masaryk University) and Prof Bretisla Dancak (Dean, Faculty of Social Studies) from Brno, Czech Republic - in one of Regions RG meetings.

**Contact:**

Assoc Prof Reuben Wong ([polwongr@nus.edu.sg](mailto:polwongr@nus.edu.sg)) & Dr Linda Matar ([linda@nus.edu.sg](mailto:linda@nus.edu.sg))

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## READING GROUP: **MINORITIES & LANGUAGES**

*First session on Tuesday, 29 Aug, 6-8pm, SR6*

This reading group will explore the policies, challenges and research related to minorities and languages, with a special focus on Singapore and the region.



Why is Mandarin an official language in Singapore and Hokkien only a “dialect”? How and why has the number of Indian languages available as Mother Tongue in schools expanded since independence? Why have other Southeast Asian countries chosen some languages over others for official status? The group will discuss these questions and consider how language and education policies relate to concepts of identity, ethnicity and nation building.

**Contact:**

Assoc Prof Bruce Lockhart ([hisbl@nus.edu.sg](mailto:hisbl@nus.edu.sg)) & Ms Wong Soon Fen ([rc3wsf@nus.edu.sg](mailto:rc3wsf@nus.edu.sg))

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## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: CHRIS GILMOUR



Chris is a British sculptor known for his sculptures from recycled cardboard. He has been working with the ACE Wing to conduct workshops for community partners and was also part of FOC CE Day. He will be leading a special CAPT Reading Group on **A Different Way of Looking – An Artist's Perspective**. Chris will be based in the Garage over the next two weeks and welcomes anyone to drop by to work on cardboard, or simply to have a chat.

## ACADEMIC VISITORS THIS SEMESTER



**Prof Rod Downey** is a mathematician and computer scientist from Victoria University of Wellington. He works towards understanding the computational content of mathematics and is known for his work in mathematical logic and computational complexity theory. Prof Downey has visited CAPT twice since 2015. He will be leading a special CAPT Reading Group on **Logic & Reasoning**.

**Mr Rajiv Khandelwal** is the founder and CEO of Aajiveeka Bureau, an agency in Rajasthan that provides services and support to rural migrant workers who enter urban areas for employment. Rajiv has more than 20 years of experience as a development practitioner in West India and East Africa. He will be involved in **UTC 2404 (Re)Building Communities: Insights from India** and **UTC 2403 Citizenship in a Changing World**, and leading dialogues with students and Fellows.



**Prof Patricia Arlene Vickers-Rich** is a world-renowned palaeontologist and ornithologist from Monash University, Melbourne. She has published several award-winning books on popular science. She discovered the dinosaur *Leaellynasaura*, which is named after her daughter, Leaellyn. She will be leading a special CAPT Reading Group on **In the Footprints of Dinosaurs**.

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## THE CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE: PROJECTS LAST SEM.



### Project Kindle

**Partner:** Methodist Children & Youth Centre

**Project:** Used evidence-based elements of mentoring and group-engagement to convey socio-emotional lessons to foster children.

“ *This (Capstone) made me even more passionate about wanting to address the various issues in the early childhood sector in Singapore, as children who go through trauma at a young age need all the support they can get.*  
– Darrell Ong ”

### Project Beat It!

**Partner:** Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH)

**Project:** Empowering SAMH clients through percussion music.



“ *I personally feel that this capstone journey is a very meaningful and insightful journey. It has provided me with a platform to exposure and understand a part of the society that normal Singaporeans might not even have a chance to.*

– Alvin Ng ”

### Trybe Capacitate 2017

**Partner:** Trybe and Singapore Boys' Hostel

**Project:** Understanding issues that youths faced through activities.

### Mental Wellness Game Plan: Road to Resilience

**Partner:** Singapore Association of Mental Health (SAMH)

**Project:** Developing an Intentionally Designed Sports Programme to improve mental resilience of youths through sports.



If you're interested in taking a Capstone for credit, please visit:  
<http://capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/capstone>



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## STEER BOTSWANA



Twenty-eight students from CAPT and RC4 embarked on an unforgettable 15-day journey to a land of blue skies and welcoming hearts on the African continent as part of the Study Trips for Engagement and EnRichment (STEER) Botswana programme.



Organised by CAPT, in conjunction with RC4 and the NUS International Relations Office, STEER Botswana introduced students to the educational, environmental and economic sectors of the region through one of its most politically stable states. The trip was held from 21 May to 5 June and led by CAPT faculty Dr Tan Lai Yong, Ms Wong Soon Fen and Dr Kevin McGahan.

Scan here for more details as covered by NUS News:



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