

Welcome Home CAPTains!

Welcome back! This Semester we have six **Reading Groups** and are launching two exciting new Senior Seminars: **Beyond Seeing – Looking at Art and Work and Inequality**. Look out too for the speakers at the Master's Teas. We trust you'll enjoy your learning this Semester!

Dr Daniel Jew
Assoc Director of Studies, Jan 2018



NEW READING GROUP: **PHOTOGRAPHY MOVEMENTS**

(First two sessions with Academic Visitor, Pia Johnson)

First session on Tuesday, 16 Jan, 6-7:30pm, SR6

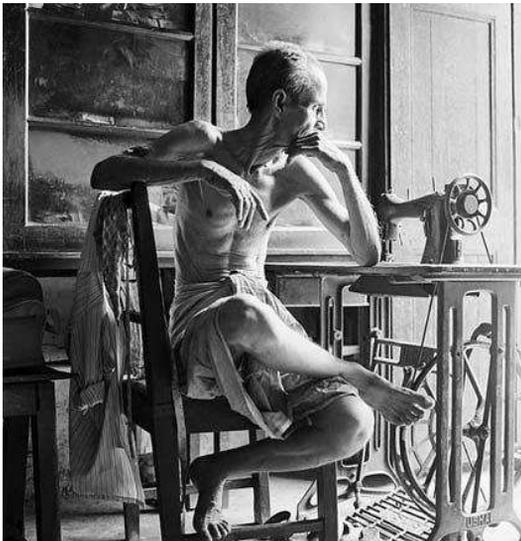


Photo credits: Dayanita Singh

- Why do phones have cameras?
- How many photos a day do you see in social media, and how many do you have on your smartphone?
- What's in an image and why do we take, and look at, so many of them?

Our emphasis will not be the technical aspects of photography (the features of a DSLR and how to use them), but different aesthetic schools of thinking and how the camera was, and can be, used to capture images. Furthermore, how do individuals and societies respond to such images.

Contact:

Prof Greg (greg.petersen@nus.edu.sg or WhatsApp 96410154)

Find out more and sign up at capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/reading-groups

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

First session on Monday, 29 Jan, 4-6pm, SR5



This Reading Group will explore the historical emergence and construction of different regions, such as Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. It investigates the factors that form a region - language, culture, economics, politics, geography, or a combination.

The main question we investigate this Semester is how the benefits of globalisation have been shared among sections in society over the past two decades. While the US is moving towards protectionism, China with its One Belt One Road (OBOR) represents a new form of 21st century globalisation. We will explore how different OBOR is from the Western form of globalisation and integration.

Contact:

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

READING GROUP: **MINORITIES & LANGUAGES**

First session on Tuesday, 30 Jan, 6-8pm, SR4

This Reading Group explores 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) & Ms Wong Soon Fen (rc3wsf@nus.edu.sg)

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READING GROUP: **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** – **FROM RESEARCH TO REALITY**

First session on Wednesday, 31 Jan, 5-6:30pm, SR4

Healthy Communities 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.



Dr Liow Chee Hsiang

A/P Adeline Seow

This Semester, we will be applying principles discussed last Semester to mini-projects in collaboration with local healthcare partners. These projects will be designed to provide a glimpse of questions that health programme planners and implementers face on the ground, and the steps that are taken to answer them. We are again privileged to have Dr Liow Chee Hsiang from the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health as co-convener.

*Please sign up as soon as possible (preferably by **19 Jan** to facilitate planning for mini-projects).
The minimum number for the group to go ahead this semester is 8 CAPTains.*

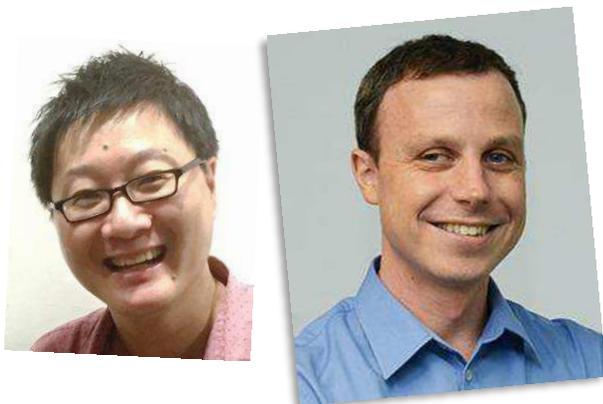
Contact: Assoc Prof Adeline Seow (adeline_seow@nus.edu.sg)

READING GROUP: **Games, Communities & Society**

First session on Thursday, 01 Feb, 4-6pm, SR5

Games have always been a part of community life. The Ancient Greeks introduced the Olympic Games. The Romans built spectacular arenas. Today, games are everywhere. The global games market was estimated at over **100 billion USD** in 2017.

This reading groups aims to find common threads among various games, analyse reasons for their success and critically evaluate their **role in society**. The group will be of interest to those who wish to understand the basics of **game theory, game design, game addictions, and the impact of games on communities**.



Contact:
Dr Alberto Corrias (alberto@nus.edu.sg)
Dr Daniel Jew (danieljew@nus.edu.sg)

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READING GROUP: *GREEN STORIES*

First session on Thursday, 01 Feb, 4-6pm, SR3

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

This Semester, we focus specifically on the politics and pressures that create Singapore's parks and public gardens. What are the hidden costs of dedicating natural spaces for leisure? What makes a "garden" and who does the work of turning it into a "park"? Join us as we explore the issues behind these green spaces, and the compromises made to sustain them.



Find out more and **sign up** at capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/reading-groups

ACADEMIC VISITOR THIS SEMESTER



Image by Mayu Kanamori via www.piajohnson.com/about

Pia Johnson is a photographer and visual artist, whose practice seeks to investigate issues about cultural difference, diaspora and identity. These concerns have stemmed from her mixed cultural background of Chinese and Italian-Australian descent. Pia's work engages with the social and personal aspects of understanding cultural identity, seeking to bring to the front ideas around belonging and otherness.

While in CAPT between **14 and 26 January**, she will be featured in a **Master's Tea**, offer two **photography workshops**, and work with many of our courses.

You can also find out more about Pia Johnson here: <http://www.piajohnson.com>



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NEW MODULE: *Work and Inequality* (UTC2407/UTS2405)

This module introduces students to the concept of “invisible work” – tasks that are an integral part of everyday life, yet remain unrecognized and devalued by employers, governments, consumers and even workers themselves. Drawing from the disciplines of sociology, geography, and anthropology, the class will discuss domestic and professional care work, the emotional labour of service work, and the “hidden” work of information technology industries and business process outsourcing.



Dr Yasmin Y. Ortiga (yasmin.ortiga@nus.edu.sg)

NEW MODULE: *Beyond Seeing: Looking at Art* (UTC2408/UTS2406)



Are you curious about the visual arts and their role in society? This Senior Seminar explores visual perception and the social dimensions of art, examining history, cultural values, symbolic meaning, and how these influence ways of seeing in Singapore and beyond.

Assoc Prof Greg Petersen (greg.petersen@nus.edu.sg)

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THE CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE: PROJECTS LAST SEM.



What happens next?

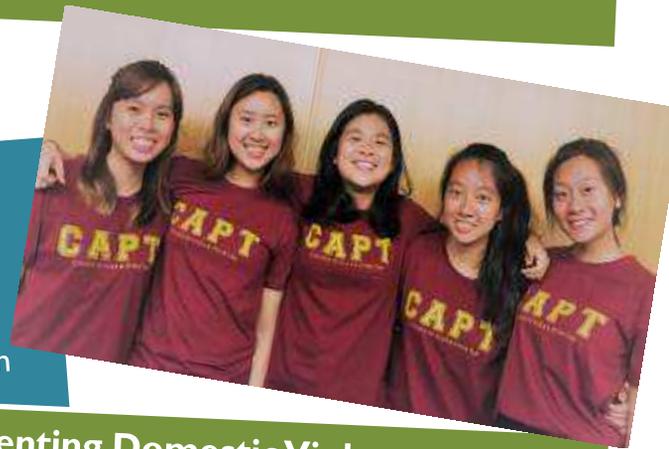
Partner: Persatuan Pemuda Islam Singapura (PPIS)

Project: Identified needs of vulnerable youth and matched needs with existing resources via the process of social innovation.

Constellations

Partner: Trybe

Project: Encouraged and built interaction skills between youth-at-risk and society to aid their integration into society through peer mentorship with Trybe youths using the medium of music.



Preventing Domestic Violence

Partner: Casa Raudha Women Home

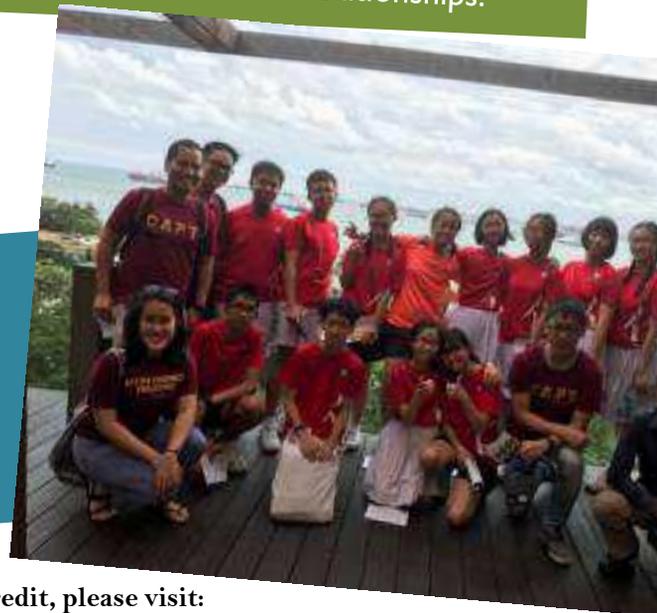
Project: Investigated the perceptions and expectations that youth people have about what constitutes abusive romantic relationships.



Recapturing Food Waste

Partner: Nan Hua High School (NHHS)

Project: Increased general awareness of food waste reduction in NHHS and mentored student leaders so that similar projects in the future can be sustained.



If you're interested in taking a Capstone for credit, please visit:

<http://capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/capstone>

Indiaversity

(RE)BUILDING COMMUNITIES: INSIGHTS FROM INDIA

Article written by Tan Lei Zuo & Ang Huiyu

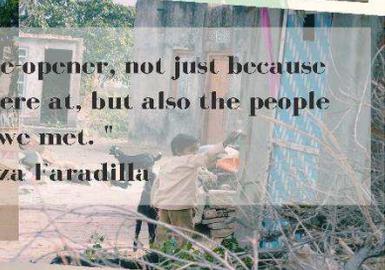
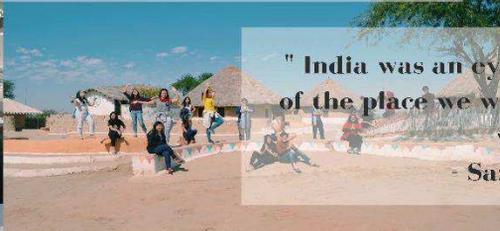
" Markedly contrasting from usual overseas service learning projects, we were involved with the community in such a fashion - through talks over masala chai tea, walking through their community spaces, learning their artisanal crafts and asking many many questions. These offered us glimpses and knowledge of the community development work in India. It has been a journey of adventure and discovery; the opening of treasure troves filled with heaps of jewels of learning. "

- Hannah Erh



" India was an eye-opener, not just because of the place we were at, but also the people we met. "

- Saza Faradilla



" STEER India has provided me a holistic perspective towards community development in India, exposing me to the struggles and stories of empowerment of the various communities in India as well as the work done by NGOs. This is certainly one of the most meaningful community engagement opportunities I have undertaken in CAPT. "

- Leon Chua



You can always stay in your comfort zone, but why not be in the learning zone?

This interdisciplinary module, offered by College of Alice and Peter Tan (CAPT), in the National University of Singapore (NUS) explores community development through a series of seminars, field trips, and a fascinating experience to India. The engaging experiences beyond the classroom served to concretize the theories learnt in class, allowing students to truly appreciate community development for what it is.



STEER MYANMAR

A group of 22 students went for a 13-day STEER trip to Myanmar. During the two weeks, the students visited the cities of Mandalay, Bagan and Lake Inle where they learnt about the social, economic and environmental issues and development of Myanmar and also witnessed the rich cultural tapestry, beautiful pagodas and natural landscape.



The students had the opportunity to visit local schools and meet various stakeholders: policy makers, locals from both urban and rural communities, and businessmen from the private sector.

These interconnected stakeholders allowed students to view the various aspects and multi-faceted society of Myanmar through different lenses and from different cultural perspectives.

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