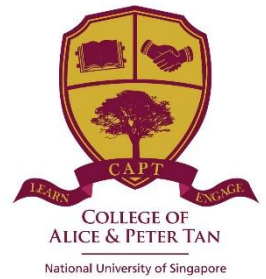


the academic bulletin

semester one



Welcome Home to the new Academic Year!

Welcome home, old and new CAPTains! This Semester we welcome a new Fellow, Ms Debby Ng, and have new Reading Groups (on Photovoice and Art). We're privileged to host Mr Chen Xi as Artist-in-Residence, and Academic Visitors Ms Shilshila Acharya & Mr Sushil Khadka. Do look out for their College events.

Dr Daniel Jew
Director of Studies, Aug 2025



Dr Jew and Games JS class

WELCOME TO CAPT!



Ms Debby Ng is a Singaporean wildlife ecologist, photojournalist, and conservationist with a love for wild places and the stories they hold. She's spent over a decade capturing images and insights from Singapore's reefs to Nepal's highlands, where she founded the Himalayan Mutt Project. She also runs the Hantu Blog, which champions marine conservation at home. A Duke University Global Fellow, Debby has taught photojournalism in Kathmandu and Singapore. When she's not in the field, she's playing with her two cats, Neptune and Mars, and obsesses over ferns, firmosses, and mountain biking through muddy trails.

a capt publication

NEW READING GROUP: **Photovoice: Empowering Communities through Photography**



Photovoice is a qualitative research methodology that combines photography with community empowerment and action. It provides participants in the Photovoice project, often those from marginalised or underserved groups, a chance to capture aspects of their environment and experiences through photography and share those images with an eye toward raising awareness in their communities. At its core, Photovoice is grounded in three goals: (1) to enable people to reflect on their community's strengths and concerns; (2) to promote critical dialogue about important issues through group discussions of photographs; and (3) to identify challenges facing communities in order to facilitate dialogue amongst community stakeholders.

By positioning reading group members as participants in a Photovoice project, this RG will give you an opportunity to identify strengths and challenges facing the CAPT community and make sense of them in novel ways with an eye toward encouraging group belonging and finding creative solutions to shared problems. Ultimately, the reading group will teach you not just about participatory research methods but also about empathy, ethics, and the transformative potential of visual narratives.

Please note: This Reading Group focuses on the above, and is not an introduction to photography per se as a form of artistic expression.

From 28 August | Every Thursday, 4-6pm | SR6
Contact: Dr Patrick Wade (wpwade@nus.edu.sg)
Ms Debby Ng (debbyng@nus.edu.sg)

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National University of Singapore
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NEW READING GROUP: *Art, History and Identity in Singapore*



How are art and architecture, and our personal, family, community and national identities in Singapore (or around the world) interrelated? What is the relation between art, and sense of identity, place and belonging? How does this apply to the College of Alice & Peter Tan as a 'home away from home' for its students? Join Singapore artist Chen Xi and Daniel Jew from NUS History in this Reading Group, where we will explore these questions. We will also have hands-on workshops on creating our own art in relation to what we learn about art styles, history, place and identity (all levels of artistic skill, including complete beginners, welcome!).



From 26 August | Every Tuesday, 6.30-8pm | SR3
Contact: Dr Daniel Jew (danieljew@nus.edu.sg)

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE THIS SEMESTER

Mr Chen Xi

This semester, we warmly welcome Mr Chen Xi, as CAPT's Artist-in-Residence (AiR). As a multidisciplinary creative, he has over a decade of experience that spans visual arts, acting, and entertainment. Over the years, he has worked with renowned clients like Samsung, Disney+, and Stabilo, and produced animated films, a mobile game, and television dramas like Wonder Boy and Soul Doctor. During his time with the College, he will be curating art workshops for CAPTains, co-teaching a Reading Group, and giving guest lectures in our courses. He will be hosted by Dr Toh Tai Chong (rc3ttc@nus.edu.sg).

Chen Xi's 'Lost to Be Found' and 'Xi the World' exhibitions:

<https://losttobefound.sg/demo/>

<https://thexiatelier.com/blogs/features/xi-the-world-exhibition-2025>

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ACADEMIC VISITORS THIS SEMESTER

Ms Shilshila Acharya & Mr Sushil Khadka

We are pleased to welcome Ms Shilshila Acharya and Mr Sushil Khadka, co-founders of Avni Center for Sustainability (ACS) in Kathmandu, Nepal, as our CAPT Academic Visitors for Semester 1, AY 25/26! ACS has been a long-time partner of STEER Nepal programme who have hosted and shared their meaningful work with different batches of CAPTains since 2022. ACS is a nonprofit organisation that aims to advocate for environmental sustainability by educating individuals, changing mindsets, and influencing behaviours. Through their different initiatives in sustainability education, research and career, ACS has been able to reach out to youth in Nepal and create local leadership and community participation, empowering people to live more sustainable lifestyles. Ms Shilshila was listed among BBC's 100 inspiring and influential women from around the globe for 2024

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-4f79d09b-655a-42f8-82b4-9b2ecebab611>).

During their stay with us from 23 August to 4 September (Weeks 3 & 4), they will be interacting with CAPTains and sharing their expertise in the area of conservation and sustainability and the role of higher education, including their experiences of building communities within marginalised contexts, through Master's Tea and dialogue sessions.

They also hope to gain a deeper sense of what CAPTains value in the discourse of sustainability and conservation in today's age. They are super friendly people (well known to our STEER Nepal CAPTains!) and eager to meet you all, so feel free to say hello and have a chat with them at the DH or wherever you bump into them in CAPT.



Ms Shilshila Acharya



Mr Sushil Khadka

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CAPT HONOUR ROLL

The College is pleased to announce the CAPT Honour Roll for AY2024/2025. The Honour Roll recognises CAPTains who have contributed consistently to UTCP courses, helping to create a vibrant learning environment within the classroom.

Master's Honour Roll

He Yuxin
Ho Qian Ning Reiko
Liu Peixuan
Rosemarie Prashanti Kumaran
Tan Yi Shao

Honour Roll

Alagammai Lavanya Muthiah
E. Roshan Ganesh S/O Elango
Khoo Dylan
Lim Dao Yuan Matthew
Melissa Seah Xiao Fan
Ng Ying Hui

Ong Ee Ying
Tam Kar Yih, Joshua
Than Zheng Yu
Victoria Tay Jing Wen
Yap Kah Him

To find out more about the **CAPT Honour Roll**, visit: <https://capt.nus.edu.sg/capt-honour-roll>

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES SCHOLARSHIPS

The RC Scholarships recognise academic excellence amongst students who provide intellectual leadership in the College's formal and informal curricula. Congratulations to the successful applicants for AY2025/2026.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ahza Rayi BadrudinAnya Navin KripalaniCharissa Dharmaputri LimChia Kai En ErikaChua Jo AnnLim Zhi Han, BrandonLong Deng Jeh, Joel Daniel | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Love Meiron JamesLynette Saw Sze CheMuthukumar KritiSam Phei ShawnSamridh KhaitanSara Chu Tze YeeSu XingTeo Wen Xuan |
|--|---|

To find out more about **available scholarships**, visit:

<https://osa.nus.edu.sg/accommodation/hostel-options/#hostel-options-tab-2>

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UTC2410A Reconstructing Communities: Insights from the Balkans 14 to 28 May 2025

After a five-year hiatus, 21 CAPTains and three staff embarked on a two-week study trip in May 2025 to reconnect with CAPT's community partners in Montenegro and Bosnia. From exploring Kotor, a thousand-year-old fortified city on the Adriatic coast, to cooking a Singaporean dinner for Russian, Ukrainian, and other migrant communities in Budva, the trip was filled with moments of cultural exchange and learning. In Sarajevo, we shared baklava and tea with the imam at a 550-year-old mosque while learning about European Islam, and stood at the very site where the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June 1914 sparked World War I.

We exchanged stories with Bosnians who had endured three years in a besieged city and listened to survivors reflect on the enduring impact of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide. Furthermore, we met those who had witnessed the destruction and celebrated reconstruction of the Old Bridge at Mostar, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The trip formed part of UTC2410A Reconstructing Communities: Insights from the Balkans. From January to April 2025, we had prepared in the classroom in Singapore through lectures on the region's history, politics, multi-ethnic societies, and the legacies of war trauma, alongside conversations with changemakers from the successor states of Yugoslavia.

On the ground, we marvelled at the varied landscapes and were deeply inspired by the resilience of peacemakers working daily to bridge divides of ethnicity, religion, class, age, and nationality, building a better future in the western Balkans.



UTC2420B Sustainability in Southeast Asia: Study Trip to Thailand 5 to 16 July 2025

A total of 15 CAPTains participated in the Southeast Asia Friendship Initiative (SFI) Special Term course, UTC2420B Sustainability in Southeast Asia: Study Trip to Thailand. The course aims to expose students to the challenges Thailand faces in sustainable development, as well as the initiatives started to help Thailand achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Trip included site visits, community engagement and various hands-on activities such as goat milking and tree-planting. Through the trip, students were able to learn more about farming techniques, as well as methods employed to improve the livelihood of farmers in Nan Province, Thailand. They also had the opportunity to interact and bond with some of the local Chulalongkorn University students, learning more about their language, and the various cultural differences between Singapore and Thailand, while forming lasting friendships.



STEER Timor Leste: 13 to 22 July 2025

From 13 to 22 July 2025, 15 CAPTains embarked on a 10-day trip to Timor Leste, as part of NUS' Study Trips for Engagement and EnRichment (STEER) programme. From learning about the history of the youngest nation in Southeast Asia which gained independence in 2002, to listening to stories of the nation's current growth and development, STEER Timor Leste circled around the themes of Youth and Community Development.

Led by our CAPT fellow Dr Toh Tai Chong and our college admin staff, Meng Choo, we visited three districts - Dili, the capital of Timor Leste, Ermera and Metinaro. We participated in a range of local stakeholder engagements that provided a deeper understanding of the current context of the developing nation. Such engagements included the Singapore Embassy in Timor Leste, World Bank, school visits (universities, pre-schools and high schools), coffee plantations and processing factories, local start-ups, a history museum and several non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We learnt about the potential and challenges faced on their nation-building journey, while continuing to sustain their strong national identity. The team also had fruitful reflections as they shared their understanding on different aspects of agriculture, education and community leadership. The team definitely had an enriching and meaningful learning on this trip and roots for the thriving of Timor Leste in the years to come!



Our visit to Sweets of Timor, a local enterprise in Dili that sells chocolate using locally sourced ingredients



Beach games with students from St Paul's Methodist School in Metinaro, a school established by Singaporeans.



Our students visited local universities and engaged local youth.



Pouring freshly picked coffee cherries for processing in Ermera, ~800m above sea level.