

Welcome Home, CAPTains and a Happy New Year 2023!

Semester 2 of AY2022/23 will see the introduction of three new modules, all of which are Senior Seminars. With that, there will be a total of eight Senior Seminar to be selected. In addition to that, one of our longest running Reading Groups, Minorities and Languages, will also be offered.



This issue of The Academic Bulletin also features snippets of the Special Term Unrestricted Elective module, Community Internship, a write-up on the CAPT Research Forum, and an introduction of one of our College Staff, Ms Aikho Hirano. As someone who is writing the welcome message to The Academic Bulletin for the first time, I am rather sceptical that this is even read by any of our CAPTains. Please prove me wrong by dropping me a short message that you have read it via Telegram, @teckeong.

Assoc Prof Seow Teck Keong
Co-Director of Studies, Jan 2023

NEW STAFF: **AIKHO HIRANO**

Aikho joined CAPT and Tembusu in September 2022. She is handling Finance matters for both RCs.

Aikho had been in the hospitality industry for the last 13 years and had been well acquainted with Guest Services and Events Sales roles, along with Finance and Procurement. She is more conversant in the Filipino language than in Japanese despite having Japanese and Filipino ethnicity. She is extremely passionate about feline welfare & conservation.



NEW SENIOR SEMINAR: **UTC2416/UTS2411 POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN SINGAPORE**



In this module, we will take on an interdisciplinary lens in understanding the needs, strengths and challenges of youths and youths-at-risk in Singapore, as well as the ecosystems they are embedded in. Specifically, using the positive youth development approach, we will discuss how environmental and intrapersonal strengths can improve positive outcomes for these youths. We will also explore topics such as youth culture, youth mental health, risk and resilience in youth, youth voice and activism, among others. Importantly, we will examine how our deepened understanding of youths can inform our meaningful engagement with them.

Contact: Dr Vania Yip (rc3vyt@nus.edu.sg)

NEW SENIOR SEMINAR: **UTC2418/UTS2412 CRIME, SOCIETY AND INEQUALITY (CSI): SINGAPORE EDITION**

What defines 'crime'? How does the likelihood of who commits crime and who is identified as 'criminal' differ across social contexts? This module approaches the relationship between crime and society through conceptual categories of class, gender, race, age, and geography drawing on local and global contexts of crime and justice. Students will use interdisciplinary approaches to learn how institutions, policies, experts and mainstream society shape the landscape of crime, victimisation and justice. Furthermore, they will critically examine whether various formal and informal mechanisms of crime control adequately restore social order or conversely increase recidivism, exacerbate vulnerability and engender inequality.



Contact: Dr Lavanya Balachandran (lavanyab@nus.edu.sg)

Find out more on Senior Seminars, visit

<https://capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/utcp/senior-seminars>

READING GROUP: *MINORITIES & LANGUAGES*



Why is Mandarin an official language and Hokkien only a “dialect” in Singapore? 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.



From 31 January | Every Tuesday, 6-8pm | SR5

Contacts: Ms Wong Soon Fen (rc3wsf@nus.edu.sg) (Top, as pictured)

Assoc Prof Bruce Lockhart (hisbl@nus.edu.sg) (Bottom)

COLLEGE OF ALICE & PETER TAN

National University of Singapore

National University of Singapore

UROP FEATURE AY2022/2023

UROP Title: Unpacking Pedagogical Meanings in Overseas Experiential Learning: A Case Study of CAPT STEER Student Blogs (Balkans/India/Nepal)

Supervisors: Dr Lavanya Balachandran, Dr Kankana Mukhopadhyay

Student: Chun Lei Suen Charlene

This UROP aimed to examine the learning outcomes of STEERs through student blogs, as well as the pedagogies that guide students towards the outcomes. Blogs are a flexible medium that can be used differently, varying from informal records of student experiences to a means of formal academic assessment. Using blogs formally and informally resulted in them reflecting different learning pathways taken by students.

According to student blogs, experiential learning on STEERs started from the appreciation of complexity in students. Intentional pedagogies, such as engagements with partner organisations, educational institutions and guest speakers, as well as pre-trip seminars and module readings, then guide students along different learning pathways. Informal blogs reflected a pathway that led to a gain in intercultural knowledge and competency, while formal blogs reflected a pathway that led to developments in critical thinking which resulted in an increased understanding of societal complexity.



If you are interested in taking a UROP for credit, visit

<https://capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/urop>

If you are interested in taking a Capstone or ISM for credit, visit

<https://capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/overview-of-capstone>

<https://capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/ism>

COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP FEATURES AY2021/2022 ST

Partner Organisation: South Central Community Family Service Centre

Supervisor: Ms Sue Chang-Koh

Students: Choo Wan Xuan Abigail, Lorcan Timothy Murphy, Lum Wan Yi Suzannah



Our CAPTains interned at South Central Community Family Services Centre (SCCFSC) under the Family Transformation Programme (FTP)'s Education and Housing team. They oversaw the tuition programme and crafted activities for Primary 6 students to build self-awareness and interpersonal skills. They were also involved in FTP's KeyStart Housing Programme to support lower income families purchase or renovate homes. Our CAPTains learnt more about the role of a community worker and the importance of building on each other's strengths to uplift the community.

Partner Organisation: Montfort Care

Supervisor: Ms Wong Soon Fen

Students: Kelly Kok Jing Hui, Ong Zai Sheng Bryan, Wong Ju Le, Yu Hongchen

During their time in Montfort Care, our CAPTains conducted research on the impact of collaboration on mental health professionals and shadowed social workers on different cases. The internship taught them the importance of mental health education and support in Singapore and provided insights into casework management.



Partner Organisation: HEB-ASHRAM

Supervisor: Dr Lavanya Balachandran

Students: Yong Han Ming, Lim En Ning, Lim Jun Ting Lionel



Integrating back to society after spending some time away in prison has been a challenge for some individuals. Our CAPTains had the opportunity to learn more about the rehabilitation process during their internship at HEB-Ashram, a rehabilitative centre for substance abuse. They were involved in diverse roles, from producing its corporate video to preparing the annual report. One accomplishment was the creation of the digital learning package that will help this community better integrate to society.

COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP FEATURES AY2021/2022 ST

Partner Organisation: HealthServe

Supervisor: Dr Kankana Mukhopadhyay and Dr Misty Cook

Students: Ching Chieh Chere, Chua Zi Yi, Daniel Chew En Kai



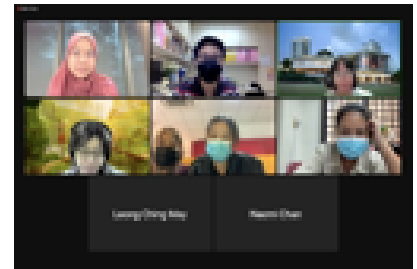
HealthServe has been a long-term partner of CAPT, and last summer, our CAPTains had the opportunity to intern in this organisation. Our CAPTains learnt more about the migrant community through outreach activities, as well as take on event planning roles. Aside from the meaningful connections forged with the staff and migrant brothers, our interns also got the chance to learn soft skills such as collaboration and communication.

Partner Organisation: Fei Yue Active Ageing Centre

Supervisor: Assoc Prof Thang Leng Leng and Ms Angie Tan

Students: Siew Ahn and Johnathan Tan Jern-Wei

With the elderly population growing in Singapore, centres like Fei Yue Active Ageing Centre (FYACC) support the health conditions of the ageing population through a suite of activities. Our CAPTains who interned in FYACC conducted NUS-Health District surveys and carried out befriending services through phone calls to the elderly. This widened our CAPTains' perspectives on the struggles that the elderly face on a daily basis and their health conditions.



Partner Organisation: Ray of Hope

Supervisor: Dr Toh Tai Chong

Students: Yune Thiri Khin, Wong Shu Juan, Ray Yeo, Darrell Lim Enrui



Ray of Hope (ROH) is both a registered charity and a crowdfunding platform. It helps to set up donation campaigns with full transparency so that donors know where their donations are going to. ROH also supports community building and ground-up initiatives to empower the community. Our CAPTains were tasked with responsibilities that were related to their course of study, went on case visits, attended community partner meetings and participated in work discussions. This allowed them to gain insights on the rewards and challenges of the social service sector.

COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP FEATURES AY2021/2022 ST

Partner Organisation: Animal Concerns Research & Education Society

Supervisor: Dr Joelle Lai

Students: Jace Liew, Judith Han Jia En, Lei Yu Yolanda, Shaylie Yu Shihui



Animal Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES) is an animal welfare society that focuses on protecting animals and ensuring that they are treated with care and respect. Our CAPTains held different roles to support ACRES' publicity, education and wildlife management teams. Through this internship, they gained more knowledge on Singapore's wildlife, the illegal wildlife trade and rare wildlife species.

Partner Organisation: YouthReach

Supervisor: Dr Vania Yip

Students: Ngia Wen Xin and Tan Xian Zhen



Our CAPTains interned with Boys' Town's outreach department, YouthReach, to gain a better understanding of the youth community. Our CAPTains created social media content for youth engagement, shadowed their staff for follow up sessions with the youth, and gained new perspectives on youth work in Singapore.

Partner Organisation: FaithActs

Supervisor: Assoc Prof Thang Leng Leng and Ms Angie Tan

Students: Chan Jing-Ee Naomi and Qian Yilin



FaithActs is a non-profit community care service that hopes to transform the lives of youth-at-risk, disadvantaged families and seniors with challenging needs within the Queenstown district. CAPTains that interned in FA last summer were involved in facilitating programmes for the seniors, mentoring children, and going on home visits with the caseworkers. This internship allowed CAPTains to learn more about social work, the struggles that different communities face, and how students can play a part in alleviating these struggles.

CAPT Research Forum 2022

The third CAPT Research Forum titled ‘Leading Change in Sustainability & Disability Inclusion: Unpacking Active Citizenship through Research & Practice’ was held on 17 September 2022 and saw a total of 69 attendees. This iteration of the forum aligned with the celebration of CAPT’s tenth anniversary and celebrated the College’s rich history of engaging communities and leading change in diverse ways, guided by the College ethos of active citizenship and community engagement. In particular, the forum foregrounded and engaged with the idea of “Active Citizenship” through two panel themes wherein research, practice, and advocacy were drawn upon to advance discussions about social change.

The forum centred on 2 panels. The first panel was on sustainability across economic, social, and environmental disciplines. Given the importance of sustainability in today’s climate, this panel aimed to reimagine what desirable ecosystems for both human (i.e. economic and social) and non-human (i.e., environment) factors entailed, as well as the myriad ways in which these can coexist and be further improved. Speakers Dr Mathew Mathews & Mr Shamil Zainuddin from the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), NUS touched on economic sustainability of platform work through examining the lived experiences of Grab employees (drivers/ delivery personnel). This was followed by a sharing by Ms Lim Shiyun from 3Pumpkins Limited on social sustainability, community connection, and community development in low-income neighbourhoods through providing safe spaces for low-income children (Tak Takut Kids Club). The final presentation by Mr Lim Cheng Puay from Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) focused on environmental sustainability through documenting efforts on restoring optimism in environmental sustainability.



CAPT Research Forum 2022

The second panel centered on **disability inclusion** and ranged from topics on theoretical frameworks of disability to empirical studies on disability in Singapore. This panel aimed to raise awareness of and subsequently synthesize different perspectives on disability stemming from academics, practitioners, artists, and students – paving the way for conceptualizing positive change in the context of disability inclusion. Speaker Associate Professor Wong Meng Ee from National Institute of Education (NIE) explored disability trends in Singapore, as well as disability in the context of meritocracy in Singapore, as documented in his latest book. Independent disability advocate Mr Shalom Lim then shared about disability and crip theory to advocate for greater disability inclusion in Singapore. The last presentation by Ms Grace Cheong and Ms Kirti Joy Menon from NUS, based on a Capstone project, was empirical in nature and examined the lived experiences of Visually Impaired (VI) persons in Singapore through qualitative methodology.



This iteration of the forum included a unique element: poster presentations by CAPT alumni, as well as current students at the College. There was a total of 13 posters, with 8 on the theme of disability inclusion and 5 on sustainability. Posters also featured the students' own unique projects, initiatives, and works on the respective themes.