

**VINEETA SINHA, PhD***Curriculum Vitae*

Head, South Asian Studies Programme  
& Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
National University of Singapore  
11 Arts Link  
Singapore 115750

[socvs@nus.edu.sg](mailto:socvs@nus.edu.sg)

[sothead@nus.edu.sg](mailto:sothead@nus.edu.sg)

[sashead@nus.edu.sg](mailto:sashead@nus.edu.sg)

+65-65163821

+65-65164528

**EDUCATION****The Johns Hopkins University**

- 1995 Ph.D (Anthropology).  
(Dissertation title: Theorising the Complex Singapore Health Scene: Reconceptualising Medical Pluralism.  
  
(Supervisors: Prof. Michel Rolph-Trouillot and Prof. Sidney Mintz)
- 1993 M.A. (Anthropology).  
  
National University of Singapore.
- 1988 M. Soc. Sci., Department of Sociology.  
  
(Thesis title: Hinduism in Singapore: A Sociological and Ethnographic Perspective.  
  
(Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Geoffrey Benjamin and Prof. Trevor O’Ling)
- 1985 B. Soc. Sci., (First Class Honours in Sociology)  
  
(Academic Exercise title: Modern Indian Movements: Religious and Counter-Religious, Singapore.  
  
(Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Geoffrey Benjamin)
- 1984 B.A. (Sociology, English Literature and Statistics)

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

### **National University of Singapore**

- July 2014 Professor, Department of Sociology and South Asian Studies Programme.
- July 2006-2014 Associate Professor with tenure, Department of Sociology
- Dec 1995-2006 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology.
- June 1990- Oct 1995 Senior Tutor, Department of Sociology.
- Nov 1988-Mar 1990 Part-time tutor, Department of Sociology.
- July 1987-Sep 1987 Part-time Tutor, Department of Sociology.
- July 1985-Mar 1986 Part-time Tutor, Department of Sociology.

### **Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore**

- Sep 1987-Sep 1988 Research Associate.

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Hindu Religiosity in the Diaspora; Religion-State Encounters; Secularity, Religiosity and Post-Secularity; Religion, Commodification and Consumption; History and Practice of Sociology; Critique of Concepts and Categories in the Social Sciences; Rethinking the Teaching of Classical Sociological Theory; Political Economy of Health; Critique of Androcentrism; Women in Academia; Women and leadership.

## **FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- In Tamil Nadu (India) and Kuala Lumpur & Penang (Malaysia):
  - June 2003, July 2004, May 2005 and February 2006: Conducted fieldwork in relation to research on Hinduism in the Diaspora.
- In Singapore:
  - January 2001 to-date: Conducted fieldwork for the three monographs I have published. Singapore and Malaysia continue to be my field sites.
  - September 1993 - December 1994: Fieldwork for Ph.D dissertation.
  - June 1985 - July 1987: Fieldwork for M. Soc. Sci thesis.
  - July 1984 - November 1984: Fieldwork for Honours academic exercise.

## **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

- English Conversational and written (Excellent)

Hindi Conversational and written (Excellent)  
 Malay Conversational and written (Elementary)

## AWARDS

2013 and 2014 ODPRT (Office of Deputy President (Research & Technology)) Grant for Research Excellence, SGD 5000.

2012 Ministry of Education, Tier 2 funding – SGD 635,000. Project Title: Urban Aspirations

2007-08 MOE Tier 1 Research Grant - SGD 20,000.00

I was awarded the MOE Tier 1 research grant for my book project on religion-state encounters. This award supported research which culminated in the publication of my book, *Religion State Encounters in Hindu Domains: From the Straits Settlements to Singapore*, published by Springer, 2011.

2007 Teaching Award, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore.

2003 Research Support Scheme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - SGD 5,000

This grant facilitated research in Singapore, Malaysia and Tamil Nadu and led to the publication of my first book, *A New God in the Diaspora? Muneeswaran Worship in Contemporary Singapore*, published by NUS Press and NIAS, 2005.

2003 Writing scheme for Assistant Professors, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

This award allowed me to complete my book manuscript, *A New God in the Diaspora? Muneeswaran Worship in Contemporary Singapore*, which was published by NUS Press and NIAS in 2005.

1991-1995 Overseas Graduate Scholarship, National University of Singapore

I was a recipient of this scholarship which supported my PhD studies at the Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.

1985-87 National University of Singapore Graduate Research Scholarship, National University of Singapore.

I completed a Master's degree at the Department of Sociology,

National University of Singapore during the tenure of this scholarship.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

2005 *A New God in the Diaspora? Muneeswaran Worship in Contemporary Singapore*. Singapore: Singapore University Press and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies.

#### Reviewed in:

*Sociological Bulletin*, Volume 55, Number 3, pp 513-16, Sep-Dec 2006, reviewed by Ravindra K. Jain, India.

*Material Religion*, Volume 4, Number 1, March 2008, reviewed by Yeoh Seng Guan, Monash University, Sunway Campus, Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia.

*SOJOURN, Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, Volume 23, No. 1, April 2008, pp 149-154, reviewed by A. Mani, Japan.

*Asian Journal of Social Science*, Volume 36(3), 687-688, 2008, reviewed by Daniel Goh, National University of Singapore.

*International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 13(1):107-108, 2009 reviewed by Paul Younger, McMaster University, Canada.

2010 *Religion and Commodification: Merchandising Diasporic Hinduism*, London: Routledge.

#### Reviewed in:

*Religion*, Volume 41(4): 691-694, 2011, reviewed by Caleb Simmons, University of Florida, USA.

*Journal of Contemporary Religion*, 27(2): 324-325, reviewed by Gwilym Beckerlegge, The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK.

*International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 16(1): 126-128, reviewed by Michael Baltutis, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, USA.

*Sociological Bulletin*, 61(3): 542-544, reviewed by Ajaya Kumar Sahoo, University of Hyderabad, India

2011 *Religion-State Encounters in Hindu Domains: From the Straits Settlements to Singapore*, New York and London: Springer.

Reviewed in:

*Asian Journal of Social Science*, 40:698-699, 2012, reviewed by Ravindra Jain, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

*SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, 28(1):161-165, reviewed by Yeoh Seng Guan, Monash University, Kuala Lumpur.

*Sociological Bulletin*, 61(3):544-546, reviewed by Kiranmayi Bhushi, Ambedkar University, New Delhi.

*Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, June 2013 (forthcoming), reviewed by Dr. Norman Vasu, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

2015 *Indians*, Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies,

April 2017 *Sociological Theory Beyond the Canon* (with Syed Farid Alatas), London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan (forthcoming)

**Editorial Work**

2010 Guest Editor of the 'Current Sociology 60th Anniversary E-Special' on the theme of 'Reinserting feminist perspectives in theorizing health domains.'

(This E-Special drew together related articles from the journal's extensive archive to provide the research community with key articles and debates on particular themes. I selected 4 articles from Current Sociology archives on the theme of 'Reinserting feminist perspectives in theorizing health domains.'

([http://csi.sagepub.com/cgi/collection/feminist\\_perspectives](http://csi.sagepub.com/cgi/collection/feminist_perspectives))

2015 *Food, Foodways and Foodscapes; Culture, Community and Consumption in Post-colonial Singapore* (co-edited with Lily Kong), Singapore: World Scientific.

2017 (*Edited with Eric Thompson*) *Southeast Asian Anthropologies*. Singapore: NUS Press (forthcoming).

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

- Sinha, V. 'Marking spaces as 'sacred': Infusing Singapore's urban landscape with sacrality.' *International Sociology*, 31(4): 467-488, 2016.
- Sinha, V. 'Enacting a goddess festival in Urban Singapore: Bringing Back the Old Ways.' *Material Religion*, 10(1): 76-103, 2014.
- Sinha, V. 'Mapping a field: Forms of Hindu religiosity in Malaysia and Singapore' *Religion Compass*, April 2013.
- Sinha, V. 'Tracking signs of the 'sacred' in urban Singapore.' *Commentary*, Volume 22, March 2013.
- Sinha, V. 'Unraveling 'Singaporean Hinduism' Seeing the Pluralism Within: A Look at Three 'Home-grown' Hindu Groups.' *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 14(2-3): 253-279, 2010.
- Sinha, V. 'Mixing and Matching: The shape of everyday Hindu religiosity.' *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 37(1): 83-106, 2009.
- Sinha, V. "'Hinduism' and 'Taoism' in Singapore: Seeing Points of Convergence.' *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 39(1): 123-147, 2008.
- Sinha, V. 'The conceptualization of 'primitive mentality': Reading Lucien Levy-Bruhl and Franz Boas as methodologists' *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 35(4-5): 681-708, 2007.
- Sinha, V. 'Transnational Religion: Intersections of local and global.' *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 34(2): 203-208, 2006.
- Sinha, V. 'Problematizing received categories: Revisiting 'folk Hinduism', 'Popular Hinduism' and 'Sanskritization.' Special Issue of *Current Sociology*, edited by Syed Farid Alatas, 54(1): 98-111, 2006.
- Sinha, V. "'Persistence of 'folk Hinduism' in Singapore and Malaysia' *Australian Religious Studies Review*, 18(2)-211-234, 2005.
- Sinha, V. 'Theorising 'talk' about religious harmony and religious pluralism in Singapore' *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, 20(1): 25-40, 2005.
- Sinha, V. "Merging different sacred spaces: enabling religious encounters through pragmatic utilization of space?" *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 37, 3: 459-494, October 2003.
- Sinha, V. "De-centering social sciences in practice through individual acts and choices", *Current Sociology*, January Volume 51(1):7-26, 2003.
- Sinha, V. (with Farid Alatas) "Teaching Classical Theory in Singapore: The Context of Eurocentrism" (with Syed Farid Alatas), *Teaching Sociology*, 29, 3: 316-331, 2001.
- Sinha, V. "Reading Harriet Martineau in the Context of Social Thought and Social

Theory”, *Akademika*, Vol. 28, 2001.

Sinha, V. “Moving Beyond Critique: Practising the Social Sciences in the Context of Globality, Post- modernity and Post-coloniality.” *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science*, 28, 1: 67-104, 2000.

Sinha, V. “Reconceptualising the Social Sciences in non-Western Settings: Challenges and Dilemmas”. *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science*, 25, 1: 167-181, 1997.

Sinha, V. “Unpacking the labels ‘Hindu’ and ‘Hinduism’ in Singapore”. *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science*, 25,2: 139-160, 1997.

Sinha, V. “Towards a Gracious Society”. *Commentary*, 14, 1997.

Sinha, V. “Locating Religious Specialists in Singapore's Hindu Nexuses”. *Contributions to Southeast Asian Ethnography: Sacred Elites in Southeast Asia*, Number 8: 87-109, 1989.

### **Book Chapters**

Sinha, V. ‘The Modern Hindu Diaspora.’ In Torkel Brekke (ed), *Modern Hinduism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming 2017)

Sinha, V. ‘Made in Singapore: Conceiving, Making and Using Ritual Objects in Hindu Domains.’ In Koning, Juliette, Njoto-Feillard, Gwenaël (Eds.) *New Religiosities, Modern Capitalism, and Moral Complexities in Southeast Asia*, Palgrave Macmillan, pp 247-263.

Sinha, V. ‘Mapping Singapore’s Culinary Landscape: Is Anyone Cooking?’ In *Food, Foodways and Foodscapes; Culture, Community and Consumption in Post-colonial Singapore* (co-edited with Lily Kong), Singapore: World Scientific, 2015, pp 159-184.

Sinha, V. ‘Religion, Commodification and Consumerism’ in Paul Hedges (ed) *Controversies in Contemporary Religion*, Santa Barbara: Praeger, pp 113-136, 2014.

Sinha, V. ‘Housing Hindu deities in urban landscapes: Insights from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur’ In Yeoh Seng Guan (ed) *The Other Kuala Lumpur; Living in the shadows of a globalising Southeast Asian city*, London: Routledge, pp 122-145.

Sinha, V. ‘Documenting Anthropological Work in Singapore: The Journey of a Discipline’ In Ajit K Danda (ed) *Locating Alternative Anthropological Traditions*, Kolkata: Indian Anthropological Society, 2012.

Sinha, V. ‘Gods on the move: Chariot Processions in Singapore’ In Knut Jacobsen (ed.), *South Asian Religions on Display: Religious Processions in South Asia and the Diaspora* London: Routledge, Chapter 11, 2008.

Sinha, V. ‘Merchandizing Hinduism: Commodities, Markets and Possibilities for

Enchantment' In Pattana Kitiarsa (ed.) *Religious Commodifications in Asia; Marketing Gods*, London: Routledge, pp 169-185, 2008.

Sinha, V. "Religiously-inspired, India-derived' Movements in Singapore.' In Lai Ah Eng (ed.) *Religious Diversity and Religious Harmony in Singapore*. Institute of Policy Studies: Singapore, pp 142-166, 2008.

Sinha, V. (with Rowena Robinson) 'Religious Studies in South and Southeast.' In Gregory Alles (ed.), *Religious Studies as a Global Enterprise*, London: Routledge, pp 127-158, 2007.

Sinha, V. 'Constructing and Contesting 'Singaporean Hinduism'', ed. Lian Kwen Fee, *Ethnic Identities in Southeast Asia, Social Sciences in Asia*, Monograph Series, Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, pp 145-168, 2006.

Sinha, V. 'Indigenizing Anthropology in India: Problematics of negotiating an identity' in *Asian Anthropology*, edited by Jan van Bremen, Eyal Ben-Ari and Syed Farid Alatas, 2004.

Sinha, V. 'British colonial rhetoric on 'modern medicine' and 'health at home': realities of health conditions in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Britain. In *Asia in Europe and Europe in Asia*, edited by Srilata Ravi, Mario Rutten and Goh Beng Lan, pp 184-213. Singapore: IAAS and ISEAS Series on Asia, 2004.

Sinha, V. 'Scrutinizing the themes of 'sameness' and 'difference' in the discourse on multi-religiosity and religious encounters in Singapore', In Syed Farid Alatas, Lim Teck Ghee and Kazuhide Kuroda (eds.), *Asian Inter-faith Dialogue: Perspectives on Religion, Education and Social Cohesion*, Singapore: World Bank and RIMA publication, 2003.

Sinha, V. 'Multi-religiosity and the secular state: A note form Singapore' In N. N. Vohra (ed.) *Emerging Asia; Challenges for India and Singapore*, pp 169-177, India International Centre, New Delhi: Manohar, 2003.

Sinha, V. 'Rebuilding institutional structures in the Social Sciences through critique' In *Reflections on Alternative Discourses from Southeast Asia*, edited by Syed Farid Alatas, pp. 78-87. Singapore: Pagesetters, 2001

Sinha, V. "Constituting and Re-constituting the Religious Domain in the Modern Nation State of Singapore". In *Our Place in Time: Exploring Heritage and Memory in Singapore*, edited by Kwok Kian Woon, Lily Kong, Kwa Chong Guan and Brenda Yeoh. Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 1999.

Sinha, V. "Discourse on Hinduism in Contemporary Singapore". In K.S. Sandhu and A. Mani (eds.) *Indian Communities in Southeast Asia*, pp. 826-846, Singapore: Times Academic Press, 1994.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

Sinha, V. 'Hinduism and Commodification' (5000 word entry), Brill's Encyclopedia



of Hinduism, Volume 3, Edited by Knut Jacobsen, 2012.

Sinha, V. 'Hinduism in Singapore' (3000 word entry), Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism, Volume 4, Edited by Knut Jacobsen, 2103.

Sinha, V. 'Malas' (3000 word entry), Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism, Volume 4, Edited by Knut Jacobsen, 2013.

Sinha, V. 'Sanskritization', (2000 word entry), *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Sociology*, edited by George Ritzer, London: Blackwell, 2006.

Sinha, V. 'Pandita Ramabai Sarasvati' (2000 word entry), *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Sociology*, edited by George Ritzer, London: Blackwell, 2006.

Sinha, V. 'Benoy Kumar Sarkar' (2000 word entry), *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Sociology*, edited by George Ritzer, London: Blackwell. 2006.

'Folk Hinduism' (2000 word entry), *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Sociology*, edited by George Ritzer, London: Blackwell, 2006.

Sinha, V. 'Religious Cultures in the Diaspora' (8000 word entry), *Indians in the Diaspora*, edited by Brij Lal et. al., Didier Millet, 2006.

Sinha, V. 'Singaporean Hinduism' (750 word entry), *Encyclopaedia of Singapore*, edited by Jimmy Yap, Didier Millet, 2006.

Sinha, V. 'Indian Reform Movements (550 word entry), *Encyclopaedia of Singapore*, edited by Jimmy Yap. Didier Millet, 2006.

### **Book Reviews**

*Material Culture and Popular Religion* by Frances E. King, London: Routledge, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, 27(2): 325-327, 2012.

*Reclaiming the Nation; Muslim Women and the Law in India* by Vrinda Narain, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, *Women's Studies International Forum*, 32(2): 163-164, 2009.

*Imagined Hinduism; British Protestant Missionary Constructions of Hinduism, 1793-1900*, by Geoffrey Oddie, *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 37(5): 845-856.

*The Way that Lives in the Heart; Chinese Popular Religion and Spirit Mediums in Penang, Malaysia*, by Jean DeBernardi, *Pacific Affairs*, 80(1): 128, 2007.

*Pierced by Murugan's Lance: Ritual Power and Moral Redemption amongst Malaysian Hindus*, by Elizabeth Fuller Collins, *SOJOURN, Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, 15, 2:307-310, 2000.

*Being Mother-Friendly: A Practical Guide for Working Women and Breastfeeding*, by Penny van Esterik and Lakshmi Menon. *Southeast Journal of Social Science*, 25(2),

1997.

*Contesting Space: Power Relations and the Urban built Environment in Colonial Singapore*, by Brenda Yeoh, *Southeast Journal of Social Science*, 25, 1: 183-185, 1997.

*The Eternal Food- Gastronomic Ideas and Experiences of Hindus and Buddhists*, edited by R.S. Khare, *American Ethnologist*, 21, 4: 936-937, Nov. 1994.

Penghulu di Minangkabau (Penghulu as Traditional Elite in Minangkabau) (Mochtar Naim). In K.B. Chan and K.C. Ho (eds.) *Explorations in Asian Sociology*, Singapore: Chopmen, 1991.

*From Lawa to Mon, from Saa' to Thai: Historical and Anthropological Aspects of Southeast Asian Social Spaces* (George Condominas). *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science* 18(2), 1990.

### **Book Manuscripts in Progress**

#### **Women in Academia: Mapping the field**

This book project (conceived with Lily Kong) focuses on women academics, particularly the issue of how women are present as academic/intellectual and administrative leaders in academic institutions. The question of women's presence in academia, apart from the issue of leadership, has been moot in women's studies and in feminist scholarship. The noted under-representation of women in high-level, administrative, managerial and executive positions in universities, research centers and think tanks has been noted in all disciplines, including in the sciences. Here we would like to explore the visibility of female leadership in the academic arena (specifically in the humanities and the social sciences) and the kind of work they do in their capacity as heads of departments and in high-level administrative positions relating to organizational policy-making, etc. What difference, if any, do women leaders bring to these tasks and does one find a more enlightened and progressive attitude to women leaders in a scholarly, intellectual environment? What stereotypes and prejudices persist even in these settings? How do women negotiate their identities as academic leaders and women?

#### **Temple Tracks: Labour, Mobility and Piety**

My interests in tracking Hinduism in Singapore historically as well as theorizing the contemporary Hindu landscape continue with this book project. I use the history of the Malayan Railways (especially its manifestation in Singapore) to narrate the interlocking accounts of Indian, Hindu labour arrivals into Malaya and the various forms of Hindu presence on the island, in particular the practice of marking sacred sites as shrines and temples along the railways tracks. This project presents an interlocking narrative of multiple time-frames and chronologies, which are neither linear nor unitary. The word 'tracks' is crucial in this project, connoting multiple positionings. First, it refers simply and literally to the Hindu temples that were historically founded along the Malayan Railway tracks, a reference which allows me to address the issue of Indian and Hindu labour migration into colonial Malaya and to

chronicle the temples along these tracks. A second meaning of tracks connects with the former usage but focuses on the more contemporary period and asks the marks/imprints these temples along the tracks have left; this question is relevant especially in view of physical absence of temples and shrines (which have disappeared as a result of demolition, redevelopment and movement efforts) – what continues to be present in the name of sacrality in the absence of physical markers of sacred spaces? Indeed, since the removal of the Malayan Railway tracks since 1 July 2011, what happens to the ontology of ‘temples along the tracks’? Third, it refers to the ‘traces’ that these temples have inscribed on individual memories and consciousness. My aim is thus to tap into individual level and collective memories and remembrances about Hindu temples across the island of Singapore and also connect this with contemporary efforts to recreate/reproduce/retain sacred spaces along the railway tracks. Finally, as a researcher, I insert myself consciously into this narrative, freely moving between and across locations and timeframes through my own recollections of the island’s Hindu landscape in an effort to track temples therein. Methodologically, I rely on archival material, oral history records as well as primary data generated through my own ethnographic work, in particular eliciting narratives from informants about their memories and remembrances of Hindu places of worship and practices.

### **Sojourning Deities: Unbounded Efficacy**

Much of the literature on migration and religion is anthropocentric, focusing on the movement of humans across national boundaries and querying how such flows also enable the export of religious practices, institutions, sentiments, ideologies and solidarities. The idea of moving deities is not alien for Hindus. A great deal of festival Hinduism sees ‘utsav’ (processional) versions/manifestations of Hindu divinities temporarily venturing beyond their secular abodes. These outings serve to ‘please’ the deity as well as benefit spectators who imbibe the deity’s divine power. However, this project examines the phenomenon of globally sojourning Hindu deities – not as a byproduct of human mobilities, or an *accompanying* move - but as an independent phenomenon, consciously and deliberately planned to achieve particular outcomes. This demonstrates a particular religious logic and ambition at work; its success rests on tremendous financial investment and secular labour as well as effective negotiation of bureaucratic and administrative terrains, unlike the movement of humans. Moving away from the idea of religious processions, I examine a *different variant of the phenomenon of ‘gods on the move.’* Relying on ethnographic data about ‘divine visits’ from India to Singapore and other diasporic Hindu locales, I argue that this voyage across national boundaries registers several critical moves: it attempts to spread divine power and mark divine territory, enhance unity and solidarity amongst devotees, lead to the formation of new communities and demonstrate not only cosmic but transnational efficacy of deities beyond particular national borders. I suggest that even as trans-global Hindu communities are necessarily embedded within discrete boundaries of nation-states, their sense of religious connectivity with sentiments, solidarities and ideologies is by no means contained in these frames and assumes global even cosmic proportions.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

I have organized the following international conferences:

Transnational Religions: Intersections of the local; and global', 19-20 July 2004, National University of Singapore.

Religious Commodifications in Asia: Enchantment of Globalising World held between 24-25 November 2005 at the National University of Singapore.

'Religious syncretism and Everyday Religiosity', Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Religion and Multiculturalism Cluster, National University of Singapore, 2005.

Pathways to Female Leadership in Asia' Co-organized with the LKY School, Singapore 29-30 September 2011.

### **INVITED, KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SPEAKER**

Invited to give the Keynote Address at the 8<sup>th</sup> Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore Law faculty, 22-26 July 2013 (**declined due to competing commitments**).

Invited to be one of two teaching faculty at the International Sociological Association's PhD Lab at the University of Sydney, 15 – 20 July 2013.

Invited to be a speaker at a 'Roundtable on Intellectual Capacity Building' at International Convention of Asia Scholars, Macau June 25-27, 2013.

Invited to present a paper at the International Sociological Association's National Association Conference in Ankara, 13-17 May 2013.

Invited as a discussant and commentator to a Workshop on "Designing an MA in Gender, Culture and Development: teaching , research and activism" from 10 - 12 January 2013 at BRAC Centre, Dhaka, organized by The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation of BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and Department of English and Humanities (ENH) of BRAC University.

Invited to be one of 3 panelists on the theme of 'Asian Feminisms' at BRAC University, Dhaka, 12 January 2013.

Invited Plenary Speaker at the Asia Pacific Sociological Association's Conference held in Manila, October 2012.

Invited to Chair the Plenary Session at the 7th ARI Graduate Forum, 19 July 2012, Singapore.

Invited Plenary Speaker, Conference on 'Religion in Public Spaces in Contemporary Southeast Asia', organized by PPIM UIN Jakarta with the Support of the Embassy of Canada and ASEAN Foundation, March 13-14, 2012, Jakarta.

Invited to give a talk entitled 'Religion and Global Forces: Hinduism in the Indian Context' at the Shell's Scenarios Workshop, 17-18 October 2011, Singapore.

Invited as discussant at a panel on a conference organised by the Asia Research Institute on the subject of 'Religious Pluralism' in 2011.

'Celebration of a Decade of Academic Study of Religion in Dhaka University,' 14-16 March 2010 at the Department of World Religions, Dhaka University, Bangladesh.

I was invited to this event by Prof. Joseph O'Connell. At this event, my paper 'Religious Studies in South and Southeast Asia' (co-authored with Rowena Robinson In Gregory Alles (ed.), *Religious Studies as a Global Enterprise*, London: Routledge, pp 127-158, 2007) was assigned as required reading for core participants. Unfortunately, I had to decline this invitation due to teaching commitments.

Invited Keynote Speaker at 'EnCAFE' (European Network of Comparative Analysis of Food and Eating' held in conjunction with the PhD Summer School held at Taylor's University College, Subang Jaya, Malaysia, from 28th June to 2nd July 2010.

Invited as a discussant a workshop on 'Transnational Religion, Migration and Diversity in Southeast Asia', held in Kuala Lumpur, 2-4 December 2004.

Invited to attend and participate in the Freeman Foundation Seminar with a focus on Higher Education organized by the Salzburg Seminar, June 1999, Salzburg, Austria.

Nominated by the National University of Singapore to participate in the Salzburg Seminar session entitled "Through the Patient's Eyes: Collaboration between Patients and Health Professionals," Session 356, May 23-30, 1998, Salzburg, Austria.

## **TEACHING**

I joined the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore in December 1995. Since then I have had the opportunity to teach both undergraduate and postgraduate courses and supervise honours, masters and doctoral research.

## **UNDERGRADUATE MODULAR TEACHING**

### **1000 level modules**

SC1101 Introduction to Sociology

SC1102 Introduction to Anthropology

SC1103 Singapore Society

### **2000 level modules**

SC2215 Sociology of Food

### **3000 level modules**

SC3101 Social Thought and Social Theory

SC3208 Religion in Society and Culture

**4000 level modules**

SC202 Reading Ethnographies

SC4218 Religion, Secularity and Post-Secularity

SC4101 Practicing Sociology and Anthropology

**GRADUATE MODULAR TEACHING**

**5000-6000 level (graduate modules)**

SC5209 Sociology of Everyday Life

SC6224 Producing Ethnographies

**SUPERVISING STUDENT RESEARCH**

In addition to undergraduate graduate classroom teaching, I have also been heavily involved with supervision of student research, both at the honours and graduate levels. Since 1995, when I started teaching at the department, I have handled at least two (and in some years 3) honours students every academic year. I have also supervised graduate research of several students at the Masters and PhD levels, taking on a larger number of students than is the norm. I serve on graduate committees outside the Department of Sociology and act as internal and external examiner for NUS-based theses.

**UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

<b>SUPERVISOR (HONOURS THESES)</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
1997/1998	Chan Ming Hui, Grace	Are only Christians saved? A discourse on Salvation and Religious Tolerance
	Faten Hana Bte Mustafa	The Practice of Self-Medication among the Malays in Singapore
	Lim Khek Gee	Life goes on: The Experience of AISA in Singapore
1998/1999	Gan Wee Jin, Timothy	Singapore's Foreign Infusion: The State, the people and foreign Talent
	Hasanah Bte Hassan	Interpreting pregnancy: "Experts" at work
1999-2000	Pher Chi Khing	Mudding: Social Phenomena in Graphics-boned virtual realities
	Rajan Ronald	'The Making of a Bogeyman: A Sociological Inquiry into the Bomoh Myth in Contemporary Singapore

2000/2001	Lim Yun Xin	'People Like Us...' A Sociological Account of Women Drug Users in Singapore
	Wong Fang Ying	Rethinking The "Problem Child"
2001/2002	Chan Cheryl	Charismatic Christianity in Singapore: Rethinking the Sacred
	Heng Su Ling Mandy	Negotiating Fate: Fortune-Telling in Singapore
2002/2003	Law Joo Siang, Cedric	The Making of "Religious" Spaces and Objects: Christian Bookshops in Singapore
	Wong Li Ling, Karen	Entertainment Evangelism: Christianity and Social Identity of Pastors in Singapore
2003/2004	Budiman Afandi Rais	An Ethnography of Marijuana –Smoking Groups in Singapore
2004/2005	He Liwei	"Piece of Cake": Young Women, Cookery and Cultural Consumption
	Wee Emmelene	Designing Life: Identity, Presentation and Cultural Consumption through Home Décor
	Won Wei-Ling Adeline	Born a Christian? Or Born-Again Christian: A Study of the experiences of Second-Generation Christians in Singapore
2005/2006	Chitra d/p Pubalan	Fire walking in Singapore: Negotiating Gender Roles, Group Solidarity and Urban Identity.
	Soh Ting Jia Sarah	Gastroporn! – Food, sex & Emotions in the Singapore Context
2006/2007	Bittiandra Chand Somaiah	Docu(Wo) Menting "Religion" among the diasporic coorgs of Singapore
	Leong Huan Chie	Ancestor worship in Singapore: Intergenerational narratives of Chinese women
	Tan Xiang Ru	Talking about "Caste" in the diaspora: Views from the old and new Indian diaspora in Singapore
2009/2010	Gursharon Kaur Sidhu	Negotiating a Punjabi Identity: Accounting for Religious Conversions of Sikhs to Christianity
	Loh Han Loong	Transcending Dichotomies: Embodied Intersection of Self, Structure and Agency Amongst Singaporean Chinese Males
2010/2011	Ang (Hong) Shu-Zhen Diana	Around the Dinner Table: Reconfiguring Family Through the Notion of Mealtimes
	Chuang May Tiffany Jordan	What makes Schools 'International'? – A Neo-Institutionalist Exploration of Five Schools in Singapore
2011/2012	Adeline Setiawan	Commodification of Catholic Religious Objects: Sites of Consumption, Material Culture, and Everyday Practice in Singapore
<b>EXAMINER HONOURS THESIS</b>		
2001/2002	Adeline Chiang Hsu Leen	Beyond Humanitarianism: Power and NGO- Karen Refugee Relations
	Jeyaletchmi d/o Arumugam	'From Kalapani' to 'Swarnabumi': Diasporic Consciousness and the making of Indians in Singapore
	Won Ting Ting	The Logic of Giving: An Exploratory Study of Altruism

		amongst Singapore Youth
2002/2003	Azlina bte Abdul Samat	Viewing Bollywood: Malay Consumption on Hindi Films
	Harsimar Kaur d/o Singh Gurdip	2 Generations of Sikh Women in Singapore
	Koh Ling Ying, Pamela	The Teaching Experience: Dynamics of Knowledge Production (A Sociological Study from the Perspective of Secondary School Teachers)
2004/2005	Dong Zhiyan Joanna	Virtual Intimacy and the Paradox of Anonymity
	Pereira Shane Nicolas	Sins of the Flesh: The Paradox of Sexuality and the Self in Roman Catholicism
	Tan Tong Leng	Presentation of a Gendered Self in Eating Situations
	The Adi Cendana	Resolving Conflicting Worldviews: A Study of Taoism to Christianity Conversions in Singapore
	Wen Cuiyan	Coping Strategies in the Face of Marginalization: A Sociological Study of Jehovah's Witnesses in Singapore
2005/2006	Nurul Huda bte Abdul Rashid	A Biography of the Silenced: 'Olden Things' in a "Grandfather's Collections"
2008/2009	Christopher N Selvaraj	The Politics of Postcolonial Recognition: State Racialization and the Ceylon-Tamil Community in Singapore
2009/2010	Seah Min Li, Mable	The 'Everyday' Expatriates: Migrant Experiences of Indian Professionals
	Hui Kok Wing Victor	Incorporation and Stratification: PRC Migrant Identity Politics in a Methodist Church
2010/2011	Soon Chuan Seng	Development and Political Subjectivity: The Singapore Middle-Class
	Anthony Victoria Michele	Chindian Youth: The Negotiation of Ethnoracial Identity
	Kho An-Jie Amade	Humorously Serious: Humor and Complaint in Everyday Political Life in Singapore
2011/2012	Annmalai Kokila Parvathi	Marriage in Thamaraiakkam: Arranging Love and Loving Arrangements
	Yeo Rui Feng Faith	Hegemonic and Emergent Masculinities: Singaporean Films and Local Men's Negotiation of the Masculine Self

## GRADUATE SUPERVISION

### Current PhD Students

Ritu Jain (South Asian Studies Programme)

Gopika Jadeja (South Asian Studies Programme)

Shivani Gupta (South Asian Studies Programme)

Magdelana (Comparative Asian Studies)

George Jose (Department of Sociology)

Achala Gupta (Department of Sociology)



### Completed Masters and PhDs

1996	Niven Kumar	The everyday, urban space and the state in Singapore the body in practice
2000	Lee Hing Giap, Justin	The Blurring of Boundaries at the Periphery: Explaining the Eclecticism and Syncretism of Alternative Healing, Psychotherapeutic, Motivational and Spiritual Movements
2001	Lim Yun Xin	Voicing poverty
	Chow Yvonne	Aging bodies: Cultural narratives of men-o-pause(s) in Singapore
2002	George Baylon Radics (Phd)	Politics from the Heart: Personal Choices, the War in Mindanao, and Social Structure
2004	Nagah Devi d/o Ramasamy	Ethnographic Accounts of the 'Sathya Sai Baba' Movement – A Spiritual Reform- Oriented Movement in Singapore: Identity Formation, Charity-giving & Rationalization Process
	Sim Hee Juat	WE, THE PEOPLE OF SINGAPORE: Understanding Market Citizenship and its Implications
	Md Saiful Islam (PhD)	The "Poisoned" Body: An Anthropological study of Arsenicosis in Rural Bangladesh
2005	Seuty Sabur (Phd)	Mobility Through Affinal Relations: Bangladeshi "Middle Class", Transnational Immigrants and Networking
2006	Yang Wei	Theorizing "Over-Prescription": Drug Prescription Practices Relating to the Pharmaceutical Industry in Shanghai
	Tay Koon Mong Alvin	The Continuity of Chinese Religion in Singaporean Modernity
2007	Bittiandra Chan Somaiah	Recovery Narratives of Hungering & Healing
	Tan Xian Ru	Food Consumption in Singapore: Negotiating Pleasure, Health and Ethics
	Mamta Sachan Kumar	Trade of the Times: Preconceiving "Diaspora" with the Sindhi Merchants in Japan
2008	Sapitula Manuel V J (PhD)	The Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion: A Sociological Study of Popular Religion in the Philippines
2009	Chan Lin-Nah Lynette	'Flea-ting' Markets: Commodities, Consumption and Value in a Flea Market in Singapore

### Examiner Of Masters and PhD Theses

1997	Tan Siah Yeow, Kevin	The Sacred Cage: A study of Religious Enchantment in Contemporary Singapore.
1999	Leow Hui Ping, Jessica	Body, Beauty, Discipline.

2001	Neo Yeow Ann, Aaron	Studying Soka: Buddhist conversion and religious change in Singapore
	Torsten Tschacher (South Asian Studies)	Islam in Tamilnadu
2003	Tan Li-Jen	Sikhism
2004	Cheng Xiaolin	HIV/AIDS Non-Governmental Organizations in Singapore
2007	Nurhaizatul Jamila Jamil	"Perempuan, Isteri, dan....: Embodied Agency and the Malay Women of Contemporary Singapore"
	Rodney Sebastian	The State's Management of New Religious Movements in Singapore: A Case Study of ISKCON.
2009	Nurhaizatul Jamila Jamil	"Perempuan, Isteri, dan....: Embodied Agency and the Malay Women of Contemporary Singapore"
2010	Rodney Sebastian	The State's Management of New Religious Movement in Singapore: A Case of ISKCON
2011	Enrique N P Leviste	Catholic Church Hegemony Amidst Contestation: Politics and Population Policy in the Philippines
2012	Ayesha Raj	The New Indian Middle Class: Work & Gender in the Global Workplace
2014	Arunima Datta	
<b>Member Of Thesis Committees</b>		
2005	Tong Kooi Chin (Sociology)	Christian Ethics and Economic Life: A Case Study of Overseas Chinese Christian Entrepreneurs in Post-1978 China
2007	Kazi Fahmida Farzana (South Asian Studies)	Everyday life of Rohingyas in Bangladesh.
2009	Kathryn Sweet (History)	Political Economy of Health Care in Laos

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Service To The Discipline

2014 to-date	Elected Vice President (Publications), International Sociological Association.
2010-2014	Elected Executive Committee Member, International Sociological Association
2010	Academic Reviewer for tenure and promotion case, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
2016	Academic Review for tenure and promotion case, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi

July 2016 to-date	Member of the Editorial Board, <i>Sociological Quarterly</i>
2010-2015	Co-Editor, <i>Asian Journal of Social Science</i> (Brill)
2000-2010	Deputy Editor, <i>Asian Journal of Social Science</i> (Brill)
2000 to-date	Academic Editor, Brill Monograph Series, <i>Social Sciences in Asia</i>
2005 to 2013	Founding Editor, E-Bulletin (now known as the ISA ESymposium), International Sociological Association.
2013 to 2014	Director, Social Justice and Democratization Site, published by SAGE London,
2010 to-date	Member of the Editorial Board of the Sociopedia.isa,
July 2012 to-date	Advisory Editorial Board Member, “Asia-Pacific Journal of Innovation in Hospitality and Tourism (APJIHT)”, Taylor’s University, Malaysia.
2012 to-date	Member of Editorial Board, E-Journal of the Indian Sociological Society
2011	International Sociological Association, Journeys through Sociology, University of Berkeley, California, USA (This 31 minute Skype interview was uploaded on Youtube on 30 September 2011).

Academic Reviewer of articles and monographs for the following international journals and book series:

- *Cultural Anthropology*
- *Critical Asian Studies*
- *Material Religion*
- *South Asian Diaspora*
- *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*
- *Asian Studies Review*
- *Journal of Contemporary Religion*
- *Political Power and Social Theory*
- *SOJOURN*
- Sociopedia (A publication of the International Sociological Association)
- Current Sociology Monograph Series (A publication of the International Sociological Association, published by Sage)

### **Departmental Service**

July 2015 to-date                      Head, Department of Sociology, NUS

July 2012 to-date	Head, South Asian Studies Programme, NUS
July 2008-2012	Deputy Head, Department of Sociology, NUS
July 2006-2007	Assistant Head, Department of Sociology, NUS
2008	Chair, Departmental Evaluation Committee, Promotion and Tenure for Dr. Ganapathy Narayanan, Department of Sociology (awarded tenure and promoted)
2012	Chair, Departmental Evaluation Committee, Promotion and Tenure for Dr. Daniel Goh, Department of Sociology (awarded tenure and promoted)
2011	Chair of the DEC for Dr. Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman, Department of Malay Studies (promoted and on educator track)
2010	Member, Departmental Evaluation Committee for Promotion and Tenure for A/P Anne Raffin, Department of Sociology (awarded tenure and promoted).
2011	Member, Departmental Evaluation Committee for Promotion and Tenure A/P Volker Schmidt, Department of Sociology (awarded tenure).
<b>University Service</b>	
July 2016 to-date	Member, Faculty and Promotion Committee, NUS
July 2015 to July 2015	Member, Faculty and Promotion Committee, NUS
July 2015 to-date	Member, Asia Research Institute Management Board, NUS
July 2015 to-date	Member, NUS Publishing Committee
July 2012 to-date	Member, Yale-NUS Consultative Committee
July 2008-2011	Convenor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Religious Studies Minor, NUS
2008-2010	Member, Co-Chair of Search Committee for the South Asian Studies Programme, NUS
2009, 2010 & 2011	Member, Annual Review Committee, South Asian Studies Programme, NUS.
2010-2014	Chair, Writing Semester Committee, FASS, NUS

2006-2014	Convenor, FASS Religion Cluster
2010-2015	Asia Research Institute Associate, Religion and Globalisation Cluster

### **Community Outreach and Engagement**

2002-2003	Member of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee for Civics and Moral Education, Secondary, appointed by the Ministry of Education, Singapore
2003-2007	Member of the Indian Program and Advisory Committee, appointed by the Media Development Authority, Singapore
2005	Consultant and Researcher, project on 'Social capital in Singapore', Ministry of Community Development and Sports
2006	Consultant, Oak Three Films in their production of "Gods Must be Hungry"
2012-2013	Consultant, 'Eat to Live: Wartime Recipes,' produced by National Museum, Singapore.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

2014-2018	International Sociological Association, Vice-President (Publications).
2012- todate	American Anthropological Society.
Life Member	Indian Sociological Society.
Life Member	Asia Pacific Sociological Association.
2004-todate	AWARE, Singapore.

### **REFEREES**

1. Margaret Abraham  
Professor of Sociology  
Special Advisor to the Provost for Diversity  
Hofstra University  
202F Davison Hall  
Hempstead, NY 11549

email: [margaret.abraham@hofstra.edu](mailto:margaret.abraham@hofstra.edu)

2. Michael Burawoy  
Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
University of Berkeley  
e-mail: [burawoy@berkeley.edu](mailto:burawoy@berkeley.edu)
3. Prof. Riaz Hassan  
Emeritus Professor of Sociology  
Flinders University  
[riaz.hassan@flinders.edu.au](mailto:riaz.hassan@flinders.edu.au)