

## Recent Books from Singapore – Sept 2021

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### Art

Melissa Tan : *Back to Where We've Never Been* / Melissa Tan  
Singapore: Richard Koh Fine Art, 2018  
1v.  
\$ 50.00 / PB  
226gm.

*Back to Where We've Never Been* is the artist's first exhibition in Malaysia. It is also Melissa's first attempt in adopting found fragments and plaster to further inform her sculptures. These 16 artworks documents various construction sites found across the Malaysian causeway, layered over screen printed images of land fragments, taking the form of regions within the Lion city divided and dissected by her many expressways. The construction of these artworks discuss the erosive power of constant rejuvenation and the brief and forgotten journey that it undertakes. They contain the artist's sentiment of threading through foreign ground on familiar territory.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778532>

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### Architecture

*Big Thinking on a Small Island : The Collected Writings and Ruminations of Tay Kheng Soon* / (Eds) Kevin Y.L. & Alvin Tan  
Singapore: Equilibrium Consulting Pte Ltd (for Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore), 2021

744p.  
9789811490989  
\$ 120.00 / PB  
2052gm.

Tay Kheng Soon is one of Singapore's most important public intellectuals and thinkers. A pioneering architect of Singapore's post-independence era, Tay belongs to a select group of individuals who literally put their footprints on Singapore's development - physically and intellectually. He was Chairman of the Singapore Planning and Urban Research Group (SPUR) in the 1970s and later president of the Singapore Institute of Architects, receiving its Gold Medal in 2010. His design research extends beyond architectural scale to urban planning and finally to the global scale. Tay is a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science and a member of the World Ekistics Society, and founding Chairman of the Substation, the experimental centre of the Arts community. Beyond thinking about suitable built forms for the tropics, and the aesthetics of design, Tay takes a holistic approach to planning the built environment and wrote prolifically about these ideas. This collection brings together, for the first time, Tay's writings on these and various other topics that occupied him in a lifetime of thinking, teaching, building and expounding. His range is vast, traversing subjects as diverse as outdoor education, urban morphology, town planning, national identity, regionalism, ageing in place and the political economy of design.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778533>

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Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Planning and Design Guidelines :  
A Singapore Case Study / Dr Belinda Yuen (et al.)  
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
350p.  
9789811243417  
\$ 60.00 / HB

*Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Planning and Design Guidelines: A Singapore Case Study* provides evidence-based research and examples of existing good practices on health-enabling, age-friendly neighbourhood provision. These relate to the planning and design of outdoor spaces and enabling opportunities for active, healthy ageing. Importantly, our research prioritises the need to engage with older people when creating neighbourhood environments that contribute to healthy ageing in place.

The book and its supplementary toolkits touches on 3 main stages of age-friendly neighbourhood project — planning (environmental audit), implementation (planning and design guidelines) and evaluation of progress made (post-implementation review). We hope that these materials will contribute to the ongoing discourse of how to (re)envision urban neighbourhoods to enhance health and quality of life as people age. Needless to say, they do not supersede but support existing guidelines or regulations to improve everyday neighbourhood environment for healthy ageing in place.

Co-creation with older people is a central tenet of our research on ageing urbanism at the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities. The Lee Li Ming Programme in Ageing Urbanism conducts applied research on built environment and health of ageing population, arguing for a more integrated environmental, social and spatial approach to identify the connection between the built environment, health and quality of life that can inform the design for age-friendly neighbourhoods and communities.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778534>

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### **Biography/Memoirs**

Chia Ann Siang and Family : The Tides of Fortune / Ruth Chia,  
Linda Kow & Soh Tiang Keng  
Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2019  
176p.  
9789814868303

1. Chia, Ann Siang.
  2. Chia Ann Siang – Family.
  3. Chinese – Singapore – Biography
- \$ 32.00 / HB  
418gm.

Chia Ann Siang was once one of Singapore's wealthiest landowners and merchants. His name lives on today in Ann Siang Hill in Chinatown, but little else is known about him, particularly his private life. This illuminating new book paints the most detailed portrait to date of his life and times in colonial Singapore and traces the changing fortunes of the Chia clan through the years. Born in Malacca in 1834, Chia joined Boustead and Co., an English trading company in Singapore, as a storekeeper at the age of 16. In just six years, he was made Chief Storekeeper, and was able to buy himself a house at 58 Telok Ayer Street (and another one on Amoy Street for good measure). An astute property investor, Chia continued to acquire much real estate in the course of his life; by 1919, he owned more than 70 houses in Chinatown. In 1873, he purchased a large piece of land from John Gemmill, which soon became known officially as Ann Siang Hill. Chia Ann Siang died in 1892, leaving a fortune that supported two generations and educated a third. This book looks at the disparate fortunes of his descendants, including a son he disinherited for marrying against his wishes, and a daughter whose marriage brought two wealthy families together. Far more than a biography, this book tells the fascinating story of more than seven generations of Straits Chinese, from Chia's grandfather's emigration from Fujian to Malacca in 1774, right up to the present day.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778535>

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Soul of Ink : Lim Tze Peng at 100 / Tai Ho Woon  
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
260p.  
9789811237027  
\$ 50.00 / HB

Soul of Ink : Lim Tze Peng at 100 / Tai Ho Woon  
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
260p.  
9789811237737  
\$ 25.00 / PB

*Soul of Ink: Lim Tze Peng at 100* pays tribute to the remarkable achievement of artistic renaissance at 100. It traces the lean beginnings of Lim Tze Peng's early years, relives the times of controversy over the artist's innovations in Chinese calligraphy, and celebrates his breakthroughs. Throughout the book, attention is paid to Lim Tze Peng the man, the foundation of everything that is admirable about Lim Tze Peng the artist. It looks at the man behind the art, and how art has given life to him and his family.

Farmer, teacher, principal, and artist, Lim Tze Peng counts Lee Man Fong, Cheong Soo Pieng, and Liu Kang as his mentors. These men, like the others from the pioneering generation of Nanyang artists, are no longer around. Lim Tze Peng remains standing, a witness to and player in Singapore's art history since the 1940s.

His life started late; everything got going only after the ripe old age of 80. A Cultural Medallion winner at 82 and a Meritorious Service recipient at 95, Lim Tze Peng is used to the twists and turns of life and has been trained by experience to endure the vagaries of fate. You could describe his art as the art of perseverance. The works he produces these days need to be seen to be believed. Bigger, bolder, and boasting far more colour than ever before, his art is as invigorating as that of a young man, whilst embodying the soul of a sage.

At the heart of this book is the word "soul". What pushes a man at the age of 100 to continue breaking new ground in his life's work? How has he been able to surprise not just the art community but himself?

This is Woon Tai Ho's second book on a Singaporean artist. His first, *To Paint a Smile*, is about the artist Tan Swie Hian.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778536>

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## **Economics**

The Riau Islands : Setting Sail / (Eds) Francis E. Hutchinson & Siwage Dharma Negara

The Sijori Series

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2021

xxviii, 468p.

Includes Index

9789814951050

1. Kepulauan Riau (Indonesia) – Economic conditions.
2. Kepulauan Riau (Indonesia) – Politics and government.
3. Kepulauan Riau (Indonesia) – Social conditions.

\$ 29.90 / PB

810gm.

Building on earlier work by the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute on the SIJORI Cross-Border Region, spanning Singapore, the Malaysian state of Johor, and the Riau Islands, and a second volume looking specifically at Johor, the third volume in this series explores the key challenges facing this fledgling Indonesian province.

Adopting a multidisciplinary framework, this book explores three issues: what have been the social, political, and environmental effects of the rapid economic change set in motion in the Riau Islands; to what extent can or should the province seek to reconfigure its manufacturing-based economy; and how have the decentralization reforms implemented across Indonesia affected the Riau Islands.

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<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775717>

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Refreshing the Singapore System : Recalibrating Socio-Economic Policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century / W.L. Terence Ho (Ed)

Lai Ann

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021

422p.

Includes Index

9789811236532

1. Economic development – Singapore – History – 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. Social planning – Singapore – History – 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. Singapore – Economic policy.
4. Singapore – Economic conditions.
5. Singapore – Social policy.

\$ 52.00 / HB

780gm.

Singapore's rapid ascent from Third World to First since its independence in 1965 has won it acclaim as an "economic miracle". Economic success has been accompanied by impressive achievements in social development, as reflected in international rankings of human capital and human development.

The city state's achievements are founded on a socio-economic system characterised by low tax rates, flexible labour markets, and individual "self-reliance", with state support centred on social investment in education and public housing.

Entering the 21st century, however, slowing economic growth, an ageing population, global competition, and widening income dispersion have put the Singapore System under strain. This has prompted a significant refresh of social and economic policies over the past 15-20 years.

This book aims to bring the reader up to date on Singapore's socio-economic development in the first two decades of the 21st century. It looks back to the shifts in policy thinking that have accompanied structural changes to Singapore's society and economy, taking stock of the policy innovations aimed at sustaining income growth, economic security, and social

mobility. It looks around to compare Singapore's approach to those of other countries facing similar challenges, situating Singapore's experience in the wider international discourse on public policy. Finally, it looks ahead to how the Singapore System may evolve in the years to come.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778538>

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### **Education**

Strategic Learning : A Holistic Approach to Studying / Robert K Kamei

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
200p.

9789811226632

\$ 52.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778539>

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Strategic Learning : A Holistic Approach to Studying / Robert K Kamei

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
200p.

9789811227776

SGD 26.00 / PB

*"Dr Bob was our pediatrician. If we could trust him with our kids, you can trust him with how to learn better. I discovered many surprising truths about learning in this book, so follow the scientific research and become a better learner." – Guy Kawasaki, Bestselling book author, chief evangelist of Canva and creator of the 'Remarkable People' podcast*

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Most "how to learn" books focus only on study techniques. However, knowing these study techniques doesn't guarantee they will be successfully implemented. Based on Professor Kamei's popular undergraduate course at the National University of Singapore, the author shares his unique

perspective as an educator and physician to provide a strategic approach to learning that will benefit all students looking to optimize their learning.

His extensive experience with helping students with their studies has identified a wide variety of reasons why they were not learning properly. What throws many learners off is that they hold certain myths that result in poor study habits.

Learners who understand the truth behind these myths can use this knowledge to better plan their study and have an advantage over others that don't.

Furthermore, modifying your study methods won't make much difference if you are too sleepy to learn or lack the motivation and self-discipline to pick up a book. These foundational aspects of learning also need to be solidly in place. This book takes learners through the author's holistic method to help students learn better and meet whatever learning challenges they face.

Learners of all ages who wish to optimize their learning will benefit from this book, as well as educators seeking an approach to help their students learn better.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778540>

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Special Needs in Singapore : Trends and Issues / Meng Ee Wong & Levan Lim

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
400p.

9789814678544

\$ 125.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778541>

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Special Needs in Singapore : Trends and Issues / Meng Ee Wong & Levan Lim

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
400p.

9789814667135

\$ 35.00 / PB

The fields of special needs education and disability in Singapore have witnessed significant changes and developments especially during the past two decades in the wake of Singapore's evolution towards its vision as an inclusive society. This collection of chapters presents information, knowledge, research, and perspectives across a wide range of topics and issues that are relevant to the lives of persons with disabilities, their families and their communities. This book offers a compendium of local knowledge and research on special needs and disability and integrates international literature, exemplary practices, and innovative ideas for considering future directions and efforts for the fields of special needs education and disability in Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778542>

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## **History**

Sang Nila Utama and Tun Seri Lanang : Singapore's Last Malay Schools / Hidayat Amin (Ed) Lee Seow Set (Ideated) Wan Hussin Zuhri

Singapore: Helang Books (Archipelago Consultancy), 2021  
272p.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical reference

9789811432989

1. Sang Nila Utama Secondary School – History.
2. Tun Seri Lanang Secondary School – History.
3. Education, Secondary – Singapore.
4. High schools – Singapore.

\$ 40.00 / HB

1382gm.

Everyone remembers his or her school days. They make up our most powerful memories. The school experience is like an enjoyable and exhilarating boot camp that helps prepare us for adulthood. School is where we discover our talents and

develop our interests. It is where friendships are formed and leaders nurtured. It is perhaps where we even met our first love.

As Singapore crossed into the 21st century, the education system had to evolve, moving in tandem with the changing needs of society, shifting attitudes, new mindsets and focus. With technological advancements, school infrastructure has been enhanced and redeveloped. Although many of our pre-independence schools are no more, the lived experiences of pupils who call them alma mater are by no means easily erased or diminished. Two of these schools were named in honour of Southeast Asia's historic personalities: Sang Nila Utama (the founder of Singapura) and Tun Seri Lanang (Grand Vizier and literary figure). These premier secondary schools paved the way for pupils in the Malay stream to pursue a fulfilling secondary education, something which they would not otherwise have been able to do for want of resources. In fact, these schools were so outstanding that they attracted top students from Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei to study in Singapore.

This is the story of Singapore's last Malay schools.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778543>

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Divine Custody : A History of Singapore's Oldest Teochew Temple / Yeo Kang Shua

Singapore: NUS Press, 2021

272gm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789813251441

1. Temples, Chinese – Singapore – History.
2. Temples, Chinese – Social aspects – Singapore.
3. Temples, Chinese – Singapore – Design and construction.

\$ 52.00 / HB

976gm.

Teochew-speaking gambier and pepper farmers were early settlers of Singapore at the turn of the 19th century. Wak Hai

Cheng Bio, now surrounded by the skyscrapers of Singapore's central business district, traces its history back to the earliest days of the colony. Its two deities - the Emperor of Heaven and Mazu, the Goddess of the Seas, tutelary deities of the Teochew people and travellers by sea respectively, long accompanied the sojourns of Teochew-speakers in the region. No written sources or inscriptions commemorate the founding of the temple, but the author's research in the history of land tenure of Singapore and old maps and title deeds provide new evidence for the temple's foundation. Just as eloquent as these forms of textual evidence, and the many poetic and commemorative inscriptions that enliven the temple and charge its spaces with meaning, is the testimony of the building itself, its siting, materials, its ornamentation and artworks. The author led the UNESCO award-winning effort to restore the temple from 2010 to 2014, and so is uniquely placed to understand what its architecture can tell us of the legacies and histories of the communities that formed and were formed by the temple. The book is exemplary in the way it uses material culture and architectural history as historical sources, and so will be of interest to heritage studies, history and those seeking to understand the experience of Chinese communities in Southeast Asia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778544>

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30 Years On : A Reflection on Southeast Asia's Fight Against Communism During the Cold War Years / Daljit Singh & Lye Liang Fook

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

16p.

9789814951951

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 14, 2021

\$ 9.00/ PB

The year 2021 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Cambodian Peace Agreements which ended the Cambodian conflict and the Cold War in Southeast Asia.

Communism was a perennial concern in Singapore and Malaya (later Malaysia) from 1948 into the 1980s -- a concern which younger generations may not appreciate. The threat came largely from the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) supported by China, and from Vietnam.

The CPM waged a guerrilla war in Malaya. They were defeated by 1960 but tried to revive the insurgency in the 1970s. In Singapore they attempted to attain political power through a united front with the People's Action Party during the 1950s. The victory of the communists in the Vietnam War in 1975 alarmed non-communist Southeast Asia. The concern was aggravated by Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in 1978. ASEAN states strongly opposed Vietnam's action on the grounds that the invasion and occupation of a sovereign country violated a fundamental principle of international law. Successive UN General Assembly resolutions supported the ASEAN position with significant majorities.

Thailand was pivotal to the security of the rest of non-communist Southeast Asia. Had it succumbed to Vietnam's pressures and reached an accommodation with Hanoi, the security of the rest of Southeast Asia would have been endangered. Thailand stood firm. Had it not done so, the people of Southeast Asia would be living in a different world today.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775721>

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Lion City Narratives : Singapore Through Western Eyes /  
Victor R Savage

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
500p.

9789811229152

\$ 52.00 / HB

*Lion City Narratives: Singapore Through Western Eyes* fulfils four aims. First, it is a study of subjective Western impressions of Singapore's 145 years (1819–1963) of colonial history. The study is not meant to be an in-depth historical analysis of

Singapore, but rather to give the reader an impressionistic account of how Western residents viewed Singapore over the decades. Second, this study could be seen as a short biography of Singapore's evolution as a city. The chapters on the imageability of Singapore and its urban morphology provide a holistic perspective of Singapore's urban dynamics. Third, this book provides a cultural insight into Singapore's population, both White residents and transient visitors, as well as the locals or Asians. Fourth, it opens a window into Singapore's development at a time when the West was at its cultural zenith and when Great Britain was the principal superpower of the 19th century. Hence Singapore carried twin colonial legacies — it was the archetype trading emporium between East and West, and it became, for the British, the major point d'appui for defence. Finally, the Singapore colonial narrative is set in a broader academic discourse that allows the reader to see a wider picture of Singapore's colonial development.

The book does not attempt to make a definitive statement about the Western involvement in Singapore; it deals more with an association of many subjective Western perspectives that add colour to the liveability of the tropics, perceptions of the exotic Orient, and the myriad views of ethnic groups.

Without the Western writings, paintings, and maps, academia would have minimal records of Singapore's development. As a new colony in the early 19th century however, Singapore's growth has been extremely well documented.

This book will appeal to Singaporeans interested in understanding Singapore's colonial past, Westerners interested in the Western cultural persona in the development of Singapore, researchers dealing with the urban development of less-developed countries and colonial development in the tropical world, and lastly, academics who are interested in Singapore and the region's political and economic development as a case study.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778545>

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Troika! : The Remarkable Ascent of a Great Global University,  
Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 2003–2017 /  
Bertil Andersson (et al.)  
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
200p.  
9789811236051  
\$ 42.00 / HB  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778546>

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Troika! : The Remarkable Ascent of a Great Global University,  
Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 2003–2017 /  
Bertil Andersson (et al.)  
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
200p.  
9789811236563  
SGD 26.00 / PB

This book provides a personal history of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and its remarkable rise, starting from 2003, into the ranks of the top universities in the world as a leading Asian university and the youngest (less than 50 years old) to have achieved this status. It describes the role of the leadership team of Su Guaning, Haresh Shah, and Bertil Andersson, which together formed the "Troika". It provides a record of NTU's growth and how it came about through a root and branch reform of the university executed, with the support of the Singapore Government and the NTU Board of Trustees, by the Troika, to become such a prominent academic institution.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778548>

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Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd The Pioneer Merchants of Singapore : Johnston, Boustead, Guthrie and Others / R E Hale  
., 2021  
350p.

9789811247125

\$ 42.00 / HB

Pioneer Merchants of Singapore tells the stories of some of Singapore's earliest merchants, including Alexander Laurie Johnston, Edward Boustead, Alexander Guthrie, and eleven others, including Tan Che Sang, Dr Jose d'Almeida, and D S Napier. Much has been written about Sir Stamford Raffles and Lt. Col. Farquhar, but almost nothing has been published about these merchants of all races operating in Singapore during the first few years following its acquisition by the East India Company in 1819. It includes never-before-published information drawn from letters dating back to 1818. These, including letters from Johnston's first employee and business partner Andrew Hay and a previously unrecorded letter from Raffles himself, shed light on much which otherwise would have been lost to us.

This book aims to fill a gap in our knowledge of the early days of Singapore and the challenges faced by its early residents. It is a must-read for those who are interested in the history of Singapore's early years as a trading colony.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778552>

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Two Missionary Accounts of Southeast Asia in the Late Seventeenth Century : A Translation and Critical Edition of Guy Tachard's Relation De Voyage Aux Indes (1690-99) and Nicola Cima's Relazione Distinta Delli Regni Di Siam, China Tunchino, E Cocincina (1697-1706) / (Ed & Translated) Stefan Halikowski Smith

Amsterdam, Netherlands/UK: Amsterdam University Press & Arc Humanities Press, 2019

xiv, 250p. ; 156x234x22.86mm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9781641893183

ARC-Connected Histories in the Early Modern World Series

\$ 128.24 / HB

548gm.

This volume presents critical editions of two previously unpublished missionary accounts of Ayutthaya and the East Indies scene after the "National" Revolution of 1688 in Thailand. The texts presented are *Relation de Voyage aux Indes, 1690-99*, by Guy Tachard, a French Jesuit; and *Relazione Distinta delli Regni di Siam, China, Tunchino, e Cocincina* (ca. 1707), by Nicola Cima, an Italian Augustinian. These interesting, substantial texts tell us a lot both about the Europeans who were writing them, and about Southeast Asia in a period when information was in much shorter supply than prior to 1688, and when kingdoms across Southeast Asia tended to retract from outward engagement and to become what historians have christened "hermit kingdoms." They are coloured by delusional thinking: in Tachard's case of an active French colonial presence in that part of the world irrespective of the lessons of 1688-89, or in Cima's case, of a revived Venetian maritime trade to the East Indies in an unlikely partnership with the Danish East Indies Company. Including a substantial introduction to contextualize the accounts, this book makes available in English some primary source material addressing important and overlooked aspects of the European missionary mentality.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750882>

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Stories of Pandemic : Award Winning Stories, Commentaries and Visuals, Chronicling the Year We Will Never Forget / The Majority Trust (Foreword) O Heng Swee Keat (Deputy Prime Minister)

Singapore: The Majority Trust, 2021

1v.

9789811818752

\$ 65.00 / PB

842gm.

Stories Of A Pandemic (SOAP) chronicles the extraordinary experience of Singapore stricken by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The collective experience of the people were captured as the outbreak unfolded, and the accounts were told through the winning works of journalists, photographers, academics and members of the public.

Stories of A Pandemic is a collection of winning stories, commentaries and visuals that document Singapore's journey from January 2020 to January 2021.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778554>

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## **Literature**

A Tapestry of Colours, 1 : Stories from Asia / (Ed) Anitha Devi Pillai

Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2021

168p. ; 198x130mm.

9789814928724

1. Short stories, English – Asia.
2. Short stories, Singapore (English).

\$ 14.00 / PB

188gm.

This book comprises stories from Southeast Asia, South Asia and East Asia, written especially for young adults.

This specially curated anthology of short stories from Asia explores the human spirit and lives of the common man separated by time, space and culture, and yet united in the human spirit to overcome the difficulties that they face in life. It provides an insight into the rich and diverse landscape of Asia, as well as heritage and cultural practices. It also challenges pre-conceived notions of biases and beliefs about other cultures and opens up room for discussion on the differences that define the human race.

*A Tapestry of Colours 1* provides a platform for readers to develop global awareness of the landscape and the people of Asia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776934>

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A Tapestry of Colours, 2 : Stories from Asia / (Ed) Anitha Devi Pillai

Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2021

188p. ; 198x130mm.

9789814928731

1. Short stories, English – Asia.
2. Short stories, Singapore (English).

\$ 14.00 / PB

208gm.

Book Details:

This book comprises stories from Southeast Asia, South Asia and East Asia, written especially for young adults.

This specially curated anthology of short stories from Asia explores the human spirit and lives of the common man separated by time, space and culture, and yet united in the human spirit to overcome the difficulties that they face in life. It provides an insight into the rich and diverse landscape of Asia, as well as heritage and cultural practices. It also challenges pre-conceived notions of biases and beliefs about other cultures and opens up room for discussion on the differences that define the human race.

*A Tapestry of Colours 2* encourages readers to reflect on their own values, perspectives and identities, and reflect on how their own experiences, beliefs and actions Impact society.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776935>

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A Luxury : Omnibus Edition / Ann Ang (et al.) (Eds) Christine Chia, Joshua Ip & Cheryl Julia Lee

Singapore: Math Paper Press (BooksActually), 2021

394p.

9789811809002

\$ 26.00 / HB

532gm.

*A Luxury: Omnibus Edition* is simultaneously a time capsule and a time-machine. The first volume, *A Luxury We Cannot Afford*, bottled the lightning of poetry, prose and plays in 2015. The second, *A Luxury We Must Afford*, took a leap forward into the unknown future of Singapore. You will find something to please and pique every reader in this anthology.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778555>

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Looking After the Ashes : Old Wives' Tales, Taboos;  
Supernatural and Childhood Superstitions / Kopi Soh  
Singapore: Penguin Book (Penguin Random House SEA), 2021  
xii, 196p.

9789814882101

\$ 22.00 / PB

206gm.

If you eat while lying down, you will turn into a snake. If you don't polish off all the rice on your plate you will marry a man full of pimples and pockmarks. *Looking After the Ashes* is a semi-biographical fiction of Kopi Soh's childhood stories. Growing up in a large extended Taoist influenced Peranakan family filled with strong women, Kopi hears these words of 'wisdom' daily. She used to live in a world where clipping finger nails at night was strictly forbidden, pointing at the moon would result in one's ears getting chopped off, and children were forced to stay indoors during sundown for fear of collision with evil forces. A world where mental disorders and illnesses were believed to be caused by malevolent spirits. Talisman, mediums and fortune tellers were a part of everyday life.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778556>

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Singapore at Home : Life Across Lines / (Eds) Pallavi Narayan  
& Iman Fahim Hameed  
Singapore: Kitaab (Kitaab International Singapore), 2021  
xxiv, 238p.

9789811480454  
\$ 16.00 / PB  
296gm.

Stories from Singapore at Home: Life across Lines offer a rare glimpse into the lives of a diverse cross-section of the island-state's residents, and invite us into their most intimate space-home. Immigrants, migrants, expats, settled generations bring us into their bedrooms, balconies, kitchens and other spaces, their heartaches, traumas, dreams and desires. In so doing, they reshape their life experiences and their relationships with those whom they share their home.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778558>

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Lousy Love Poems / Clara Chow  
Singapore: Math Paper Press (BooksActually), 2021  
1v.  
English & Chinese Languages  
9789811813467  
\$ 10.00 / PB  
66gm.

"In Chinese, I am always 16," observes Clara Chow in her debut poetry collection. These poems written in Chinese – and the author's own English translation – are an experiment in bilingualism: How am I a different person in a different language? Simple, direct and heart-felt, this book is an attempt to connect with a fictional beloved, a love letter to a mother tongue, and a reclamation of a dormant self.

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多情的人与多情的城相遇擦出了火花，而《几首烂情诗》诞生了。谁说情诗必须有对象？《几首烂情诗》是赵燕芬的第一本双语诗集，以一双带着童真浪漫的眼睛给平凡的世界添上了颜色。

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778568>

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Translations to the Tanglish / Joshua Ip  
Singapore: Math Paper Press (BooksActually), 2021  
140p.  
9789811813450  
\$ 10.00 / PB  
110gm.

*Translations to the tanglish* is a collection of the 44 greatest-ever poems from the tang dynasty and song dynasty, dodgily “translated” into (1) english; (2) 2021; (3) singapore; (4) a pandemic. so su dongpo never used zoom, and du fu never caught covid-19; so li bai never drank lagavulin and wang wei never went to little india. but hey, none of them ever spoke english either.

flip on, or scroll down, or swipe through. in a world where every other poem is about the moon, our modern moon is a smartphone screen – what we reflect upon, what brings us light, what accompanies us when we drink alone, and what we share with someone a thousand miles away.

the collection asks you to invite thousand-year-old notions of sorrow, angst, regret, ennui, drunkenness, homesickness, longing and laughter into a contemporary frame, and to see if these long-buried poets of long-lost dynasties can still entice a modern heart to choose to be lost - in translation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778569>

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Revenge of Gaia : Contemporary Vietnamese Ecofiction /  
(Compiled, Translated & Intro) Chi P. Pham & Chitra Sankaran  
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA),  
2021  
xviii, 158p.  
9789814954822  
\$ 26.00 PB  
198gm.

Vietnamese literature, officially an ideological state instrument of nation-building, eulogizes acts that celebrate the victory and the power of human beings over the natural world.

Generations of Vietnamese have been taught in school that Vietnam has ‘forests of gold’ and ‘seas of silver’ as well as fertile land. Vietnamese literary works, whether about the non-human or the human world, potentially reflect and resonate to these political orientations in environmental policies that ultimately serve the path to ‘progress’, ‘development’ and ‘modernisation’ of the nation. The fiction chosen for this collection have been in active circulation in Vietnam since 1986, ‘The Reform Year’, when Vietnamese artists and writers were politically and culturally ‘liberated’ and engaged with great commitment in criticizing, among other things, the government’s environmental policies and ways in which these were enmeshed in economic strategies and schemes for so-called national progress. Thus, modernization and industrialization that were the chosen paths of the postcolonial Vietnamese government, become the major targets of contemporary Vietnamese ecofiction. All these stories, extremely contemporary, emphasise a counter-narrative that challenges socialist goals of development and modernisation. They articulate and affirm a more holistic vision, where man is no longer a predator but a participant of nature. These stories therefore are politically charged and pave the path for a more visionary future.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=765770>

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Singa-Pura-Pura : Malay Speculative Fiction From Singapore /  
(Ed) Nazry Bahrawi

Singapore: Ethos Books, 2021

200p.

9789811442957

1. Singaporean fiction (Malay) – Translations into English.

2. Speculative fiction.  
\$ 18.00 / PB  
236gm.

From a future of electronic doas and AI psychotherapists, sense-activated communion with forests and a portal to realms undersea, to a reimagined origin and afterlife—editor and translator Nazry Bahrawi brings together an exciting selection of never-before translated and new Malay spec-fic stories by established and emerging writers from Singapore. Especially in an anglophone-dominated genre, very little of Malay speculative fiction from Singapore is known to readers here and beyond. Yet contemporary Bahasa literature here is steeped in spec-fic writing that can account as a literary movement (aliran)—and unmistakably draws from the minority Malay experience in a city obsessed with progress.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778575>

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Bhooma : Demigods, The Awakening / R. Saravanan ( Singapore: R. Saravanan, 2021  
xii, 172p.  
9789811487224  
\$ 8.00 / PB  
292gm.

Four Demigods on the cusp of adulthood...  
One running from his past, another unaware of his past, one seek glory, the other craves power,  
.....aim to attempt the labyrinth, a magical warren of deadly threats that appears once every ten years. If they succeed... great power and fame awaits them. However first they must get past powerful sentinels from the Night City, who guard the entrance to the labyrinth. As the Demigods embark on their mission, unbeknownst to them, beings of great power takes an interest in their activities.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778088>

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## **Official Publications**

Labour Force in Singapore, 2020 : Impact of COVID-19 on the  
Labour Market / Ang Boon Heng  
Singapore: Manpower Research and Statistics Department,  
Ministry of Manpower, 2021  
2020 Edition

1v.

ISSN: 0129-6965

\$ 80.00 / PB

846gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776599>

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APEC Energy Statistics 2018 : APEC Energy Working Group  
Japan: Energy Statistics & Training Office, Asia Pacific Energy  
Research Centre (APEREC), Tokyo (for Asia-Pacific Economic  
Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, Singapore), 2021

1v.

ISSN: 0219-0842

\$ 120.00 / PB

560gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776600>

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## **Performing Arts**

Metamorphosis : Chronicling a Decade of DIAP : Envisioning  
Its Future as IPAC / (Compiled & Ed) Vidhya Nair  
Singapore: Apsaras Arts Ltd, 2021

352p.

9789811822520

\$ 49.95 / HB

1256gm.

As we foray into another decade of growth and inclusivity, we  
raise a toast to the idea of Metamorphosis, celebrating  
transition, transformation and taking flight. With IPAC, the

Indian Performing Arts Convention, we at Apsaras Arts, hope to nurture, evolve, infuse ourselves with newness and carry on a spirit of learning and continue to be inspired by the lessons imbibed by our rich Indian performing arts, for a future full of possibilities.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778578>

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Reading the Room : A Playwright's Devising Journey / Haresh Sharma (Ed) Shawn Chua

Singapore: The Necessary Stage, 2021

480gm. ; 150x240 mm.

9789811802775

1. Necessary Stage (Firm).
2. Playwrighting.
3. Drama – Technique.

\$ 32.00 / PB

1046gm.

Haresh has honed his devising and playwrighting skills through his work with TNS and its founder and Artistic Director Alvin Tan over the past 34 years, establishing its signature focus on social issues and a research and process-driven approach to theatre-making. *Reading the Room: A Playwright's Journey* breaks down TNS' devising methodology and processes into four chapters: Devising with Communities, Devising and Verbatim Theatre, Devising and International Collaboration, Devising and Interdisciplinary Theatre.

Through these chapters, you will experience the range and breadth of Haresh's work through case studies of landmark plays *Off Centre* (1997), *Good People* (2007), *Boxing Day: The Tsunami Project* (2005), *Mobile* (2006) and *Manifesto* (2016). In addition, *Reading the Room: A Playwright's Journey* also includes interviews with selected artistic collaborators across various disciplines and generations such as Bani Haykal, Charlene Rajendran, Karen Tan and Siti Khalijah, and his answers to questions about devising theatre crowd-sourced from the public and other collaborators.

## **Politics**

The Birthday Book : The Roads We Take / (Eds) Cheryl Chung & Aaron Maniam

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd (for The Birthday Collective), 2018

268p.

9789811177187

1. Singapore – Politics and government – 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. Singapore – Economic conditions – 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. Singapore – Social conditions – 21<sup>st</sup> century.
4. Singapore – Forecasting.

\$ 40.00 / PB

492gm.

In this edition, 53 contributors reflect on “The Roads We Take” – the paths they have chosen to take in their lives. More than just personal stories, these essays highlight the importance of resilience and the evolution of the political and social landscape in Singapore. The book compels readers to think of the complexity of the future roads we must take, as individuals, as a nation – because in sunny Singapore, no one road stays forever.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=777693>

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The Forests for the Palms : Essays on the Politics of Haze and the Environment in Southeast Asia / Helena Varkkey

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

117p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789814881869

\$ 16.90/ PB

Transboundary haze has been a recurring problem in the Southeast Asian region since at least 1982. Why does this toxic form of air pollution still persist? Helena Varkkey, a Malaysian political scientist, has been studying this multifaceted problem for more than fifteen years. This book provides an ideal collection for those who want a clear but concise introduction to this complex issue. Its commentaries explore how often sensitive matters of ASEAN diplomacy, national interest or political patronage continue to stand in the way of clear skies in the region.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775718>

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The Unrealized Mahathir-Anwar Transitions : Social Divides and Political Consequences / Khoo Boo Teik  
Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021  
36p.

9789815011005

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 16, 2021

\$ 9.00 / PB

The failure of two expected transitions of leadership from Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Anwar Ibrahim (in 1998 and 2020) are traceable beyond their personal entanglements to the social divides and political currents of their time.

The unrealized transitions are symptomatic of UMNO's dynamic of "dysfunctional succession". Under Mahathir, the party split. Under Najib, it was defeated. The condition persists as the current Prime Minister, Muhyiddin Yassin, has not even appointed a deputy prime minister after being in power for fifteen months.

The unrealized transitions were a setback for a "reform agenda", which Anwar Ibrahim articulated, but which emerged from dissident movements for diverse reforms. These movements helped the multiethnic, socially inclusive, opposition to win the 14th General Election. They are only seemingly dormant because of the pandemic.

The Pakatan Harapan regime had the best chance to supply a fresh vision, deeper social understanding, and commitment to reform. The present Perikatan Nasional regime's fixation on "Malayness" overlooks twenty years of intense intra-Malay conflicts that began with the failure of the first transition. As the "7th Prime Minister", Mahathir had a rare chance to redeem himself from major errors of his first twenty-two-year tenure. He squandered his chance by not honouring the Pakatan Harapan transition plan.

Anwar Ibrahim's opponents mock him for being obsessed with wanting to be prime minister. Yet they obsessively fear his becoming prime minister. Anwar may be twice loser in political succession but "the spectre of Anwar" still haunts Malaysian political consciousness.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775720>

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COVID-19 Pandemic in Singapore / (Eds) Yee Sin Leo & Paul Tambyah

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021

236p.

9789811239373

\$ 70.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778583>

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COVID-19 Pandemic in Singapore / (Eds) Yee Sin Leo & Paul Tambyah

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021

236p.

9789811239823

\$ 25.00 / PB

The National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) is the result of many years in the planning, and it finally officially opened its doors in September 2019, just months before the entire world was tested by the COVID-19 pandemic. This book is the work of many people who represent an even larger pool

of people from NCID, Singapore and the rest of the world in trying to understand and contain the SARS- CoV-2 virus. There are chapters on science, the public health response both locally and globally, as well as personal reflections from NCID and Tan Tock Seng Hospital staff and staff from other public healthcare institutions who were deployed to NCID which bring home the human impact of the pandemic. We are very grateful to all the authors for taking the time to put together their thoughtful chapters as well as the senior academics and public health leaders who have provided us with generous comments on the manuscript. We hope that the readers of the book will gain a better insight into the response to the virus from so many different perspectives. There are many lessons learned that we hope will be invaluable as we face the next emerging infectious disease in the years to come.

This book provides a comprehensive look at many different aspects of response in Singapore to the pandemic, including clinical, laboratory, epidemiology, research, community engagement and the unprecedented challenge of outbreak involving migrant workers in dormitory settings. On a personal note, it has first-hand accounts of staff at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases who were at the forefront of battling COVID-19 in Singapore. It also gives a global perspective of the pandemic, together with insights into the unique Singapore experience of managing the pandemic. The Singapore response to the pandemic has been something which the global community has been very interested in and this book is the first to comprehensively describe that response from a number of different angles which will be useful to scientists, clinicians, public health professionals and policy makers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778585>

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Understanding Singapore Politics, 2nd Edition / Bilveer Singh  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021  
268p.

Includes Index ; Select Bibliography

9789811243370

\$ 90.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778586>

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Understanding Singapore Politics, 2nd Edition / Bilveer Singh  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021

268p.

Includes Index ; Select Bibliography

9789811245688

\$ 25.00 / PB

*Understanding Singapore Politics, Second Edition*, aims to present a structural-functional understanding of politics in Singapore. This textbook provides a foundational knowledge of Singapore's politics by discussing key topics including the country's history, political and party systems, role of parastatal organisations, nation building, political leadership, electoral politics, hot-button national issues and the role of Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore politics. Recommended for anyone who has an interest or a stake in the island republic, this introductory text provides insights on what drives, shapes and influences Singapore's politics and explains the political behaviour of Singaporeans.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778588>

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Singapore Perspectives : Politics / (Ed) Natalie Pang & Shamil Zainuddin

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021

136p.

ISSN: 1793-4338

9789811227684

Singapore Perspectives Series

\$ 90.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778589>

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Singapore Perspectives : Politics / (Ed) Natalie Pang & Shamil Zainuddin

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd., 2021

136p.

ISSN: 1793-4338

9789811225727

\$ 25.00 / PB

As in other societies, Singapore's politics can be described either in terms of the political parties that have competed for power over the course of its history, or in terms of the citizens who have defined our polity and have driven our democratic processes. Naturally, as Singaporeans have become better informed and more engaged in fashioning their own future, the nature of the contest among the political parties has also shifted.

This book is a collection of speeches presented at Singapore Perspectives 2020 by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Heng Swee Keat, as well as Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing. It also features speeches and discussions by public intellectuals and civic leaders. Each speaker presents a perspective on their "experience" of politics, both in the traditional sense of elections and governance as well as beyond those formal structures.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778590>

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### **Religion – Islam**

Reaching for the Crescent : Aspirations of Singapore Islamic Studies Graduates and the Challenges / Norshahril Saat, Azhar Ibrahim & Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

224p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789814951371

\$ 29.90 / HB

Islamic religious teachers (*asatizah*) and scholars (*ulama*) play a significant role in providing spiritual leadership for the Singapore Malay/Muslim community. Lately, the group has been cast under the spotlight over a range of issues, from underperformance in the national examination, their ability to integrate into the broader society, exposure to radical and conservative ideas such as Salafism from the Middle East, and unemployment. *Reaching for the Crescent* examines a growing segment within the group, namely Islamic studies graduates, who obtained their degrees from universities in the Middle East and neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia. It identifies factors that condition the proliferation of Islamic studies graduates in Singapore, examine the dominant religious institutions they attend, the nature of Islamic education they received, and their challenges. It tackles the impact of their religious education on the spiritual life and well-being of the community. Based on qualitative and quantitative data collected, the book calls for a rethinking of a prevailing discourse of Arabization of Singapore Muslims and academic approaches that focus on madrasah education and Islam through the security lens.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775715>

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Naquib Al-Attas' Islamization of Knowledge : Its Impact on Malay Religious Life, Literature, Language and Culture / Mohd Faizal Musa

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 16, 2021

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

32p.

9789815011081

\$ 9.00 / PB

The concept of the Islamization of knowledge was introduced by Syed Muhammad Naquib Al-Attas in the late 1970s. It aimed to detach knowledge from Western culture and

civilization in order to replace it with Islamic concepts, frameworks and values.

The Islamization of knowledge was to occur in the fields of education and culture, manifesting in changes to the syllabus in institutions of higher learning and niche areas of interest in selected research institutes. In the field of culture, however, it resulted in an unintended consequence of Malay literature being heavily characterized by Islamic elements.

Over the years, proponents of the Islamization of knowledge in Malaysia have moved beyond the fields of education and culture. They have entered the mainstream and become part of the state machinery, thus possibly impacting national policies. The concept has also evolved and arguably led to the strengthening of Islamic conservatism among Malaysian intellectual and cultural elites.

More specifically, its exclusivist thinking does not augur well for intra- and intercommunal relations in the country.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775716>

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## **Religion – Buddhism**

Wayward Distraction : Ornament, Emotion, Zombies and the Study of Buddhism in Thailand / Justin Thomas McDaniel  
Singapore: NUS Press, 2021  
viii, 284p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789813251502

Kyoto-CSEAS Series on Asian Studies No. 24, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

1. Buddhism – Thailand.
2. Buddhism and cultures – Thailand.
3. Buddhism and art – Thailand.

\$ 32.00 / PB

430gm.

When more than 93 per cent of the citizens of one country profess a single religion, as Thais do Buddhism, and when that religion is deeply integrated into national institutions and ideologies, it becomes tempting to think of the religion as a textual, institutional, cultural and conceptual whole. But at the same time it is obvious that expressions of Buddhism in Thailand reflect anything but a single order: they are often gaudy, cacophonous, variegated, and jumbled: almost technicolor. Diversity and apparent contradiction are everywhere. A more open engagement with Buddhism in Thailand will require a willingness to be distracted, to step away from received hierarchies and follow the intriguing detail in the ornate design, the odd textual reference, to prefer "thin description" over a search for meaning.

Justin McDaniel's book-length writings in Buddhist and Theravada Studies are well known and widely cited, but his approach cannot be understood without taking into account his shorter writings, what he calls his wayward distractions. Collected together for the first time, and set in place by a compelling introduction that argues for a strongly materialist approach, these essays cover subjects ranging from ornamental art to marriage and emotion, the role of Hinduism, neglected gender and ethnic diversity, Buddhist inflections in contemporary art practice, and the boundaries between the living, the dead and the undead. These writings will be of importance to students of Theravada and Thailand, of religion in Southeast Asia and more generally, of the materialist turn in studies of religion.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778596>

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