

## Recent Books from Singapore – March 2022

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### **Anthropology**

Capitalism Magic Thailand: Modernity with Enchantment / Peter A Jackson  
Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2022  
x, 382p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789814951098

1. Magic – Economic aspects – Thailand.
2. Wealth – Thailand – Religious aspects.
3. Cults – Thailand.

\$ 25.40 / PB

494gm.

By studying intersections among new cults of wealth, ritually empowered amulets and professional spirit mediumship—which have emerged together in Thailand’s dynamic religious field in recent decades—Capitalism Magic Thailand explores the conditions under which global modernity produces new varieties of enchantment. Bruno Latour’s account of modernity as a condition fractured between rationalizing ideology and hybridizing practice is expanded to explain the apparent paradox of new forms of magical ritual emerging alongside religious fundamentalism across a wide range of Asian societies. In Thailand, novel and increasingly popular varieties of ritual now form a symbolic complex in which originally distinct cults centred on Indian deities, Chinese gods and Thai religious and royal figures have merged in commercial spaces and media sites to sacralize the market and wealth production.

Emerging within popular culture, this complex of cults of wealth, amulets and spirit mediumship is supported by all levels of Thai society, including those at the acme of economic and political power. New theoretical frameworks are presented in analyses that challenge the view that magic is a residue of premodernity, placing the dramatic transformations of cultic ritual centre stage in modern Thai history. It is concluded that modern enchantment arises at the confluence of three processes: neoliberal capitalism’s production of occult economies, the auraticizing effects of technologies of mass mediatization, and the performative force of ritual in religious fields where practice takes precedence over doctrine.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788706>

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### **Art**

Ghada Amer/Reza Farkhondeh : A New Collaboration on Paper (at Singapore Tyler Print Institute, from 23 February to 23 March 2008) / Martine Antle  
Singapore: STPI-Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 2008

72p.  
9789810801434  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
490gm.

The much anticipated revelation of works by artists Ghada Amer and Reza Farkhondeh promises to be a visual adventure of all things peculiar and familiar. Amer and Farkhondeh who are of Egyptian and Iranian origin respectively have been working together since 2001 on series of works charged with romantic overtones, expressionistic tendencies and sometimes relaying socio-political critique. Sharing similar backgrounds both received formal art training in France and now live in New York. Amer is regarded as “one of the most important contemporary feminist artists today”, while Farkhondeh is best known for his explorations on the traditional theme of landscapes. The meeting of these two artistic horizons took itself to another territory at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute.

By incorporating various printing techniques, drawing, painting and embroidery; these 48 unique works and 17 edition prints conjure up the imagery of fairytales and provocative silhouettes half concealed between intricate layers of printed flora. The works reveal themselves in a confluence of Eastern and Western cultural symbols and associations – showcasing Arabic script framed by images of Wonder Woman and instances of stencilled cartoon characters and Hindu gods.

Amer’s rendition of suggestive figures in hypnotic repetition of psychedelic hues, takes on the task of questioning myths, pop culture references and objectification of women. While Farkhondeh’s application of printed flora, birds and pale washes obscure these underlying erotic forms and gestures. These richly textured works juxtaposing two very different artistic styles blur conventional geographic, national, and artistic landmarks. Thus surprising viewers with its uniqueness and destabilising our accustomed preconceptions.

This also marks the first, two artists’ collaboration for STPI, expanding the creative dialogue between the studio and workshop. “This is our very first experience working with two artists at the same time. The collaboration is double the challenge and complexity, but it provided a huge creative source which produced incredible results”, says Director of STPI, Irene Lee. STPI’s paper- and printmakers find themselves responding to the challenges by adapting techniques to the imperatives of this dynamic duo, in an effort to push the limits of art and of artistic material.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799820>

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On Holding Space / Sonia Kwek (et al.)  
Singapore: Object Lessons Space, 2021  
116p.  
\$ 60.00 / PB  
324gm.

On Holding Space is a publication that hopes to unfurl the ecologies of generosity. Holding space for one another should be open-ended, an undercurrent, a deep breath. How might this expansiveness colour the way we move, make, or compose alliances?

As a platform that has primarily inhabited the digital and textual space, this publication follows closely the discursive grain of the work that we've been doing online. It is envisioned as physical and tactile extension of Object Lesson Space.

The texts and visual artworks in the publication are accomplices to one another. Complementing these interventions are a series of poems that stand in the gap, playing with both words and images to countervail the purely textual or visual.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799821>

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Dale Chihuly: Glass in Bloom: Gardens By The Bay / Dale Chihuly  
Seattle, WA, USA: Chihuly Workshop, 2021

136p.

9781576841181

\$ 50.00 / PB

742gm.

This exquisite volume accompanies Dale Chihuly: Glass in Bloom, the world renowned glass artist's first-ever garden exhibition in Asia. The catalogue features a myriad of photographed artworks set against the phenomenal landscape of Gardens by the Bay, messages and quotes from the artist, and explores his most recognised series of works featured in his exhibition in Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=790191>

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Antony Gormley / (Eds) Russell Storer & Qinyi Lim

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021

96p.

9789811815447

\$ 50.00 / HB

820gm.

This catalogue for Antony Gormley's largest-ever showing in Singapore features stunning full-colour plates of the installations at National Gallery Singapore, including the fifth Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Commission, Horizon Field Singapore. This publication also contains an interview with the artist by Eugene Tan, an essay by exhibition curators Qinyi Lim and Russell Storer, and an essay by cultural critic Ackbar Abbas, which continues his investigation into the situatedness of Gormley's practice.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=784359>

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Chua Mia Tee: Directing the Real / (Eds) Clarissa Chikiamco, Lim Shujuan & Seng Yu Jin

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021

236p.

English & Chinese Languages

\$ 80.00 / PB

1120gm.

The painter assumes the role of a scriptwriter, director and actor to freely shape the subject's image. - Chua Mia Tee. Through character, narrative and composition, visionary artist Chua Mia Tee goes beyond mere representation

to construct iconic images of Singapore's changing landscapes and its inhabitants. Alongside full-coloured plates and curatorial essays in this catalogue are Chua's writings collected together for the first time. Cogent and stirring, Chua's own words bring revelatory insight to a prolific artistic practice that has started since the 1950s. One of Singapore's most acclaimed artists, Chua was conferred the Cultural Medallion award in 2015. Singapore's highest accolade recognising artistic excellence and contribution to the arts.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=784360>

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Pae White: Friendship is Magic / Rory Padeken (Ed) Ho See Wah  
Singapore: STPI-Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 2021

1v.

9789811815805

\$ 50.00 / HB

602gm.

Having arrived in Singapore for an STPI residency in 2018, Pae White allowed herself to be guided by the space, people, food, presented opportunities and Singapore itself. These factors informed the multiple series of works realised through chance and collaboration with the Creative Workshop team. Such encounters and relationships provided her with a profound experience whose effects carry forward till today. It is this connection and closeness that forms the basis of the exhibition, Friendship is Magic.

Especially relevant in times of social distancing and a lesser degree of human interaction, Friendship is Magic reminds us of the unexpected yet especially rewarding—and for White, magical—outcomes that can occur when we are given the space to connect and find inspiration from one another.

This catalogue contains an essay by Rory Padeken.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799823>

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The Lines Fall Where They May / Genevieve Chua (et al.) (Ed) Ho See Wah  
(Curator) Jason Wee

Singapore: STPI-Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 2021

72p.

9789811811081

\$ 30.00 / PB

250gm.

The Lines Fall Where They May is an exhibition on mark-making and the delicate, faint signs of nonhuman life and environments. It centres on two recent bodies of print works created at STPI's workshop – the Edibles series of sap-drenched pressings by Berlin- and Seoul-based artist Haegue Yang, a continuation of her previous engagement at STPI with perishable plant-based foods; and copper- and ink-embossed paper works by Indian artist Prabhavathi Meppayil, who completed six sets of geometries (each comprising eight individual prints), three sets of which are exhibited. The Lines Fall Where They May also features the works of six other artists: Ghada Amer & Reza Farkhondeh, Genevieve Chua, Amanda Heng, Lin Tianmiao and Suzann Victor, most of which were created during their residency with STPI.

Mark-making is often thought of as visual aggregations of colour, shape, texture and scale, subject to the tightening and release of the artist's control. Alternatively, they are expressions of the artist's psychic, emotional or

relational life, as portals through which we discover the artist's subjectivity and agency. In other words, marks are the indices of various narratives that the artist expresses or allows. These marks exist as lines, blotches, indentations, brushstrokes, etchings, notches, tears, edges, and others in a near-inexhaustible list of possibilities for artistic production, with the artist as the fulcrum of activity.

The Lines Fall Where They May suggests that marks form the ways in which the artist is ever so slightly decentred, and marks are the small signs of life left by others. These marks are openings through which stories other than the artist's own are known; they are how nonhuman systems and environments make themselves felt, whether those worlds are cybernetic, vegetal, mineral or animal. These signs are barely there, but sometimes in the barely-there exists enough consideration and measure of worlds apart from our own.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799825>

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Staggered Observations of a Coast / Charles Lim Yi Yong (Ed) Ho See Wah  
Singapore: STPI-Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 2021

88p.

9789811827723

\$ 35.00 / PB

222gm.

Since 2005, Charles Lim Yi Yong's ongoing project SEA STATE examines the biophysical, political and psychic contours of Singapore through the visible and invisible lenses of the sea. Staggered Observations of a Coast extends on this vigorous enquiry.

For half a year, Lim sailed all along the east coast anchorage of Singapore, taking note of the wave patterns and clouds. As the passage of time occurred, Lim observed the same points, noted the changes, and allowed his instinctual and tactile senses to take hold; opening himself to feel and "taste" the air to gauge the humidity. By scrutinising the information from multiple entry points, the artist begins to "see" the invisible space, a construction of "nothingness" within an endless project for renewal.

This catalogue contains an essay by Dr. Elizabeth Wijaya, Assistant Professor of East Asian Cinema in the Department of Visual Studies and Cinema Studies Institute and Director of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799826>

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On Time / Ian Woo (et al.) (Ed) Ho See Wah  
Singapore: STPI-Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 2021

1v.

9789811822476

\$ 35.00 / PB

248gm.

On Time, guest curated by Marc Gloede, features new works by four Singaporean artists: Adeline Kueh, Jason Lim, Ian Woo and Zul Mahmud; these artists took part in a residency with STPI one after the other in 2021. In a unique move, the exhibition's layout will be altered routinely for the duration of the show, thus presenting fresh iterations of the presentation.

On Time inspects the role of time in the artists' production period during their STPI residency, as well as the experience of time during and of an exhibition.

The range of works on view spans print to sculpture, relief to installation, and address the impact of time on manifold levels. They invite the audience to encounter and reflect on the facet of time that is most obviously embedded in the artworks: the time of production. They further consider the role of the audience's engagement and ask: how much time are we spending with each work and how might our perception of it change over time?

In its complexity as an exhibition, On Time also asks how experience is related to duration. It rejects the idea of a static presentation and replaces this with a mode of continuous alteration. It challenges the viewers to face their own preconceived ideas of time. Lastly, it invites audiences to continuously come back and renegotiate expectations, perceptions and their own memories of former experiences. In thinking about time through the exhibition and its algamation of processes, we invite you to visit STPI throughout the four weeks to experience time with us.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799827>

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## **Biography/Memoirs**

Together We Prosper: A Memoir of Daniel Teo / Bak Lim Kua

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

250p.

9789811219061

\$ 40.00 / HB

The book depicts the storied life of Daniel Teo Tong How, a second-generation Singapore real estate developer, by chronicling the major events that took place in his family.

In tracing the developments of a family, we trace the opportunities paved and traditions passed on from generation to generation, as seen in the rise of Tong Eng Group as well as the family's pride for Daniel's granduncle, World War II hero Lim Bo Seng, and Lim Loh, a well-known building contractor in the early 20th century. Through oral history accounts and research, the authors provide a unique look into life in Singapore and China from the 19th up to the 21st century through the lens of a family.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747477>

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Letter to Grandson Jun: I Found Myself Hiking / Anthony SC Teo (Illustrator)

Sania Himawan

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

136p.

9789811255199

\$ 40.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799828>

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Letter to Grandson Jun: I Found Myself Hiking / Anthony SC Teo (Illustrator)

Sania Himawan

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

136p.

9789811255915

\$ 20.00/PB

Raised on a farm near Changi (visited by Albert Einstein in the 1920s), Anthony Teo attended Singapore's 19th century St Anthony's Boys School and

St Joseph's Institution. Having completed a course at the 330-year-old Harvard at new Cambridge in Massachusetts, USA, Anthony then went in search of America, driving across country from New York to San Francisco, through the mile-high Jackalopean landscape of Wyoming. His co-driver was his friend Leo Soong in his classic 1,000-mile-a-day steed of the 1960s — BMW 2002 ti. Leo, who unbeknownst to Anthony at the time, was Madame Chiang Kaishek's favourite nephew.

Years later, Anthony was at old Cambridgeshire's 800-year-old University of Cambridge, UK as a Visiting Fellow to complete his hunt for the origins of the two univer-cities (Harvard-Cambridge and Cambridge-Cambridge Market Town).

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799830>

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## **Communication/Journalism**

COMversations: Communication Lessons from Media Professionals / Chong Jin Chua

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

172p.

9789811253522

\$ 80.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799831>

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COMversations: Communication Lessons from Media Professionals / Chong Jin Chua

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

172p.

9789811253706

\$ 20.00 / PB

Starting with the belief that learning goes way beyond the classroom, COMversations highlights some of Singapore's top media professionals from print, radio, TV, and social media as they share their communication journeys. Stories from practitioners: Each chapter goes deep in conversation with Chua Chin Hon, Colette Wong, Divian Nair, Nicholas Fang, Edwin Chan, Jill Neubronner, Arlina Arshad, and Alan Soon. Each brings with them years of industry experience from their time in places such as SPH, MediaCorp, Reuters, Bloomberg, CNN, CNBC and Fox Sports Asia, capturing for us lessons that are best gleaned from being "out there" in the trenches. These lessons will bring to life the theories that are taught in communication classes. They offer practical tips on communication conveyed through stories. One, when tasked to serve as moderator for an in-conversation style interview with Barack Obama, took the effort to work on the little details that would help him break the ice with the former US President, including refurbishing a watch. Another, eyeing a job with CNN after years with Channel News Asia, was told by the international broadcaster, "Fly to London for the interview and we will give you 5 minutes to impress us". Yet another, who works as a foreign correspondent based in Jakarta, regales us with tales of journalistic enterprise, including one on how a free car ride in Iran led to a glimpse into the conservative society's underground dance party.

This book also includes a special feature with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, who shares his communication style in a range of contexts with students from Nanyang Business School at NTU.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799832>

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The COVID-19 Chronicles: Singapore's Journey from Pandemia to Peri-Pandemic Limbo / NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (Translators)  
Andrew Tan & Angee Neo

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

212p.

9789811245428

\$ 45.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799833>

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The COVID-19 Chronicles: Singapore's Journey from Pandemia to Peri-Pandemic Limbo / NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (Translators)  
Andrew Tan & Angee Neo

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

212p.

9789811251443

\$ 20.00 / PB

No one is safe until everyone is safe. Singapore's struggle against the coronavirus mirrors those being waged by countries everywhere against a relentless, invisible enemy. In times of crisis, confusion and pandemonium abound. Sensing a need for simple and concise public health education and information that could help people to make sense of a bewildering new abnormal, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine launched a long-running series of illustrated stories on social media platforms. The COVID-19 Chronicles quickly took off, drawing the attention of the WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, which arranged for the series to be shared with other countries.

This book features every Chronicles story published, and tells the story of the work behind the scenes to bring each episode to life. Offering bite-sized explanations of issues and topics seeded by the pandemic's global march, the Chronicles prods readers to stay safe, while also providing a humorous take on Singaporean life in the time of COVID-19.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799834>

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## **Ecology/Environment**

Urban Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions in Southeast Asia:  
Perspectives from Indonesia and Malaysia / Alex M. Lechner (et al.)

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011203

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 20, 2021

1. Urban ecology (Biology) – Indonesia.
2. Urban ecology (Biology) – Malaysia.
3. Sustainable development – Indonesia.
4. Sustainable development – Malaysia.

\$ 9.00 / PB

98gm.

Rapid urbanization and development in Southeast Asia have impacted its high biodiversity and unique ecosystems, directly through the use of forest lands

for infrastructure building, and indirectly through increasing ecological footprints.

In Greater Bandung, Indonesia and Greater Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, rapid urbanization over the last thirty years has resulted in an increase in built infrastructure of approximately two and three times respectively.

A Nature-Based Solutions approach can potentially underpin urban design and planning strategies in Greater Bandung and Greater Kuala Lumpur, as well as other cities in Southeast Asia, to address biodiversity conservation and also global environmental challenges such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, while supporting well-being.

Mainstreaming Nature-Based Solutions in Southeast Asia will require knowledge gaps to be addressed, greater awareness, increasing the evidence base, metrics for measuring success, support from institutions and stakeholders, and new and innovative financing.

The urgency of global socio-ecological challenges, in particular the biodiversity and climate crisis, means transformational change is needed in Southeast Asia, for urban, ecological, technical, economic, and social systems, while still supporting sustainable development.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788707>

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Raffles' Banded Langur: The Elusive Monkey of Singapore and Malaysia /

Andie Ang & Sabrina Jabbar

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

98p.

9789811241468

\$ 15.00 / HB

320gm.

Sir Stamford Raffles came across an unnamed new species in 1821 when he was documenting natural history in Singapore. This elusive primate, the Raffles' banded langur, was later named after him. This book is a one-stop resource for everything we know about the critically endangered primate that is only found in Singapore and Malaysia, including its distribution, diet, family structure, infant development, threats and conservation. The Raffles' banded langur is a large but slender-bodied monkey with black fur and white bands, while the infants are born with white fur and black bands. Exclusive high-quality photographs of the langurs are featured with family trees illustrating individually-named langurs. Interesting anecdotes about their personalities and behaviours are narrated. Living high up in the tree canopy, they eat a variety of local produce and exotic plants, from the red, juicy rambutans, stinky petai beans, to leafy angšana, perfumed wild cinnamon flowers and large sea almond fruits. This book showcases the diverse habitats of the Raffles' banded langurs, bringing us from the freshwater swamp forest in Singapore to the steep slopes of Gunung Lambak and the primary rainforests of Endau Rompin National Park in Johor, Malaysia. The book also highlights the cross-border conservation efforts and future plans to safeguard the long-term survival of the Raffles' banded langur, and promotes a better understanding and appreciation of our shared natural heritage.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799835>

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## **Economics**

Unsettled Frontiers: Market Formation in the Cambodian-Vietnam  
Borderlands / Sango Mahanty  
Ithaca, New York, USA: Cornell University Press/SEAP, 2022  
xx, 178p.

Includes Index

9781501761485

1. Borderlands – Economic aspects – Cambodia.
2. Borderlands – Economic aspects – Vietnam.
3. Cambodia – Economic conditions.
4. Vietnam – Economic conditions.
5. Cambodia – Emigration and immigration – Economic aspects.
6. Vietnam – Emigration and immigration – Economic aspects.

\$ 29.00 / PB

292gm.

Unsettled Frontiers: Market Formation in the Cambodia-Vietnam Borderlands  
by Sango Mahanty

Unsettled Frontiers provides a fresh view of how resource frontiers evolve over time. Since the French colonial era, the Cambodia-Vietnam borderlands have witnessed successive waves of market integration, migration, and disruption. The region has been reinvented and depleted as new commodities are exploited and transplanted: from vast French rubber plantations to the enforced collectivization of the Khmer Rouge; from intensive timber extraction to contemporary crop booms. The volatility that follows these changes has often proved challenging to govern.

Sango Mahanty explores the role of migration, land claiming, and expansive social and material networks in these transitions, which result in an unsettled frontier, always in flux, where communities continually strive for security within ruptured landscapes.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799836>

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SME Responses to Climate Change in Southeast Asia / Michael T. Schaper  
Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2022

44p.

Includes Bibliographical References

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 2, 2022

ISSN: 0219-3213 ; 9789815011296

1. Small business – Southeast Asia.
2. Climate change mitigation – Southeast Asia.

\$ 9.00 / PB

86gm.

Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for approximately 97 per cent of all active business entities within the ASEAN region. They are an important contributor to both emissions generation and future reduction.

A recent large-scale, multi-country quantitative assessment was undertaken into how SMEs are dealing with climate change in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. Most respondents reported a high level of concern about climate change.

Over 90 per cent of firms are currently undertaking measures to reduce emissions, albeit that they are typically simple steps such as reducing air conditioning and electricity, recycling or installing low-energy lighting. Common intentions to deal with future extreme weather events include reducing emissions, developing a disaster plan, or reviewing business insurance policies.

Major obstacles to dealing with climate issues are firstly, a lack of knowledge and secondly, insufficient funds. Governments are the preferred source of information, followed by business associations/chambers, friends and family. Social media, YouTube and websites are overwhelmingly the dissemination modes of choice. There were significant variations in these patterns from one reporting country to another. Policymakers can help SMEs adjust to climate change by: encouraging them to adopt simple emission reduction measures; providing training and financial support; ensuring appropriate online delivery of advisory and assistance measures; and localizing responses to meet the needs of SMEs which are specific to different ASEAN member states.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788704>

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Assessing the Benefits of the ASEAN+6 Single Window for ASEAN Members /  
Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy & Neo Guo Wei Kevin  
Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2022  
40p.

Includes Bibliographical References

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 1, 2022

ISSN: 0219-3213 ; 9789815011272

1. Southeast Asia – Economics integration.
2. Electronic commerce – Southeast Asia.

\$ 9.00 / PB

82gm.

The ASEAN+6 Single Window (ASW+6) in this study refers to the geographic expansion of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) to enable cross-border electronic exchange of trade-related data and documents among ASEAN member states and six FTA partners, namely, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. The ASW is part of ASEAN's trade facilitation reform to reduce intraregional trade costs and time.

This study considers cross-border paperless trade measures to represent the implementation of ASW+6, using data from the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in 2019. The simulation analyses reveal that the ASW+6 has significant potential to reduce times required to export and import, and to boost trade in ASEAN and its FTA partners.

Partial implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures would imply an increase in ASEAN's exports of US\$102 billion annually. Under a more ambitious scenario of full implementation of cross-border paperless trade, the export gain for ASEAN would be US\$199 billion annually. At the same time, the time required to export would fall by anything between 19 to 98 per cent, depending on the reform scenario considered.

Trade gains from a full-fledged ASW+6 have not yet been reaped: even strong performers such as Singapore, Australia and New Zealand have areas for improvements, and weaker performers such as Cambodia and Laos need to make significant progress to catch up with the rest of the region, and deepen their mutual trade integration.

The sequence of expanding the ASW to FTA partners may begin with countries that are major sources of ASEAN's export gains identified in this study and those that have expressed their political will to move in that direction. These are Japan and South Korea. The ASW should then be enlarged to remaining FTA partners, especially China and India.

While trade gains from ASW+6 are substantial, the implementation costs can also be significant due to different regulatory requirements across ASEAN+6 countries. Aid for trade and capacity-building to support the reform process have to be an integral part for the design of ASW+6.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788705>

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The Singapore Synthesis: Innovation, Inclusion, Inspiration / Ravi Menon  
IPS-Nathan Lecture Series

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

220p.

9789811251078

\$ 40.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799837>

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The Singapore Synthesis: Innovation, Inclusion, Inspiration / Ravi Menon  
IPS-Nathan Lecture Series

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

220p.

9789811251450

\$ 20.00 / PB

Ravi Menon is the Institute of Policy Studies' 9th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore. This book is an edited collection of his four IPS-Nathan Lectures, delivered in July 2021, and includes highlights of his question-and-answer segments with our virtual audience.

Mr Menon examines how Singapore will come under pressure from four tectonic shifts altering the global landscape. Although still relevant, Singapore's guiding ethos of adaptation, meritocracy, and pragmatism may no longer be sufficient. To secure our future, we will need more innovation, inclusion, and inspiration. What does an innovative economy look like? What does it take to create a more inclusive society? What does it mean to be an inspiring nation? How does it all hold together in a refreshed Singapore Synthesis?

The IPS-Nathan Lecture series was launched in 2014 as part of the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore. It seeks to advance public understanding and discussion of issues of critical national interest for Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799838>

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Economics in Practice: Evidence-Based Policymaking in Singapore / (Ed) Ming  
Leong Kuan (et al.)

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

356p.

Includes Index

9789811250019

\$ 60.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799839>

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Economics in Practice: Evidence-Based Policymaking in Singapore / (Ed) Ming Leong Kuan (et al.)  
Singapore: World Scientific, 2021  
356p.  
Includes Index  
9789811250118  
\$ 30.00 / PB

Singapore is recognised to be one of the most successful economies in the world given its rapid economic and social transformation. Its success is the result of a judicious blend of markets and government, high-quality governance, and public policies that are coherent, consistent and coordinated. This book showcases the contribution of Economics to Singapore's public policymaking. To illustrate the diverse areas that economic analysis has contributed to, this book comprises three sections that span the economic and non-economic policy domains in Singapore. Section I covers economic policies relating to economic growth, trade, investments, productivity, innovation, industrial development, the enterprise landscape and manpower. Section II highlights socioeconomic and security policies, and covers themes such as income inequality and mobility, families, healthcare costs and crime. In Section III, the focus is on infrastructural policies relating to the environment, housing and land transport.

This book commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Singapore Government's Economist Service. As the premier service for economists in the Singapore public sector, the Economist Service plays an integral role in supporting evidence-based policymaking through rigorous economic research and analysis of public policies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799840>

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Resilience, Dynamism, Trust: 50 Landmark Statements by MAS Leaders / (Ed) Monetary Authority of Singapore  
Singapore: World Scientific, 2021  
528p.  
9789811245244  
\$ 40.00 / HB

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is Singapore's central bank and integrated financial regulator. As a central bank, MAS promotes sustained, non-inflationary economic growth through the conduct of monetary policy and close macroeconomic surveillance and analysis. It manages Singapore's exchange rate, official foreign reserves, and liquidity in the banking sector. As an integrated financial supervisor, MAS fosters a sound financial services sector through its prudential oversight of all financial institutions in Singapore — banks, insurers, capital market intermediaries, financial advisors and financial market infrastructures. It is also responsible for well-functioning financial markets, sound conduct, and investor education. MAS also works with the financial industry to promote Singapore as a dynamic international financial centre. It facilitates the development of infrastructures, adoption of technology, and upgrading of skills in the financial industry.

This 50th anniversary compilation provides convenient access to the thinking behind MAS' policies and strategies as they have evolved, through 50 landmark statements by its leaders.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799841>

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## History

Singapore Tamil Muslims / Mashuthoo Abdul Rahiman & Raja Mohammad  
Singapore: Singapore Kadayanallur Muslim League, 2021

xxvi, 298p.

9789811495601

\$ 50.00 / HB

728gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799842>

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The Letters of Sir Stamford Raffles to His Sister Mary Anne Flint / John Bastin  
(Ed) Stephanie Yeo

Singapore: National Museum of Singapore, 2021

xx, 172p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789811819810

1. Raffles, Thomas Stamford, Sir, 1781-1826 – Correspondence.
2. Flint, Mary Anne, 1789-1837 – Correspondence.
3. Raffles, Sophia, Lady, 1786-1858 – Correspondence.
4. Colonial administrators – Singapore – Correspondence.
5. Colonial administrators – Great Britain – Correspondence.

\$ 42.00 / HB

660gm.

The letters of Sir Stamford Raffles to his sister, Mary Anne Flint, are preserved in the Raffles Family Collection in the British Library, London. They are among the most interesting of his private letters, containing primary information on Singapore during its early years as a British settlement, and on Bengkulu when Raffles was Lieutenant-Governor of Fort Marlborough in charge of the East India Company's settlements in west Sumatra.

The letters reflect Raffles's deep affection for his sister, whose life was closely associated with his in Penang, Melaka, Java, Bengkulu, Singapore and London – an association which continued with Lady Raffles, whose letters to her sister-in-law form Part Two of the book. The letters in this volume are annotated with incisive commentary by historian John Bastin, and complemented by images from the National Museum of Singapore and other key collections.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799843>

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Workers and Democracy: The Indonesian Labour Movement 1949-1957 /  
John Ingleson

Singapore: NUS Press, 2022

xviii, 372p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789813251601

1. Labor movement – Indonesia – History – 20th century.
2. Labor unions – Indonesia – History – 20th century.
3. Industrial relations – Indonesia – History – 20th century.

\$ 42.00 / PB

560gm.

A study of worker activism and labour unions in the eight years between the recognition of Indonesian sovereignty by the Netherlands at the end of 1949 and the nationalisation of Dutch assets in 1957, *Workers and Democracy* contributes to the ongoing re-evaluation of the era of liberal parliamentary democracy in Indonesia. The focus is on the agency of workers and the structures, strategies and industrial campaigns of unions in the context of intense ideological conflict, competing union federations, the opposition of employers to collective action and the efforts by the Indonesian state to manage industrial conflict. The imposition of martial law in March 1957 was the deathblow to parliamentary democracy and to the freedom of workers and unions to engage in collective action. It was not until Suharto's 'New Order' regime collapsed in 1998 that Indonesian workers regained the freedom of association and the right to engage in collective action.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799844>

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## Law

Real Estate and Taxation in Singapore / Hong Beng Tay, Yew Kwong Leung & Wei Hwa See

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

450p.

9789811226496

\$ 45.00 / HB

Real Estate and Taxation in Singapore provides a multi-disciplinary approach to the subject for Singapore real estate and tax aficionados. The book helps the reader to navigate the complex world of real estate taxation by taking them through the various changes in the Singapore real estate market over the years, as well as the property development and investment life cycle from acquisition and development, to investment and ownership, to disposal. The book primarily focuses on tax issues — income tax, stamp duty, property tax and goods and services tax — faced by property developers and investors in Singapore. It further explains the tax and non-tax aspects of topics relating to the Master Plan, development charge and differential premium, the real estate market cooling measures, as well as real estate investment trusts and funds.

It is an all-in-one, 'must-have' reference book for professionals, policy-makers, academia, students and the general public who are interested in the field of real estate and taxation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799845>

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## Literature

Picking Off New Shoots Will Not Stop the Spring: Witness Poems and Essays From Burma/Myanmar 1988-2021 / (Ed) Ko Ko Thett & Brian Harman

(Translators) Kenneth Wong (et al.)

Singapore: Ethos Books (Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd), 2022

264p.

9789811825842

1. Burmese poetry – Translations into English.
2. Burmese prose literature – Translations into English.
3. Burmese poetry (English).
4. Burmese literature (English).

5. Burma – History – Poetry.
  6. Burma – History.
- \$ 18.00 / PB  
294gm.

Fallen innocents on blood-stained streets. The defiant banging of pots and pans echoing in the darkness. The birth of a springtime revolution amidst the interrupted lives of a country and its people. On the morning of 1 February 2021, a coup d'état was initiated by the Tatmadaw, Myanmar's military, effectively overthrowing the democratically elected members of the country's ruling party, the National League for Democracy, and casting Myanmar into chaos.

This volume collects the poetry and prose of the many writers, cultural figures, and everyday people on the ground in Myanmar's urban centres, rural countryside and in the diaspora, as they document, memorialize, or merely try to come to grips with the violence and traumas unfolding before their eyes. Written in English or translated from the original Burmese the collection includes some of Myanmar's most important contemporary authors and dissidents, such as Ma Thida, Nyipulay and K Za Win, as well as up and coming authors and poets from all over Myanmar, reflecting the country's rich cultural and ethnic diversity.

In addition, poetry and essays that reflect socioeconomic life of the so-called transitional Myanmar (2010-2020), a period of relative freedom for writers when much of the censorship regime was lifted and the internet and social media were introduced in the country, as well as prominent protest poems and essays, by dissidents Min Ko Naing, U Win Tin and Min Lu, who lived through the hopes and horrors of the 1988 uprising of Myanmar are featured in this volume.

A feast for the literary imagination, an elegy to those who have fallen, and a courageous act of defiance by those that continue to fight, these firsthand accounts provide an important window into a crucial moment in Myanmar's history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=790972>

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Sembawang: A Novel / Kamaladevi Aravindan (Translator) Anitha Devi Pillai  
Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2020

327p.

9789814893282

1. Sembawang (Singapore) – Fiction.
2. Families – Fiction.

\$ 20.00 / PB

314gm.

Singapore, 1960s: Sembawang is home away from home for a tightly-knit community of bachelors and families who work at Her Majesty's Naval Base. Behind closed doors, a matriarch controls her daughters-in-law's movements. A bachelor from Kerala pines by his window for his forbidden lover. A maid from a rubber estate across the border aches to hold her young son once more. An inter-racial love between a conservative Tamil woman and a worldly Chinese man wreaks havoc in the life of an innocent bystander. The idyllic village life is shaken when two midwives are viciously attacked at the maternity clinic, and again when one of their own beloved residents meets

with an unnatural death. As catastrophes strike, the village comes together as one. A dramatic, sweeping saga of Sembawang families across five decades.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=791940>

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### **Official Publications**

APEC Energy Overview 2019 / APERC

Tokyo, Japan: APERC-Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre, Tokyo (for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, Singapore), 2020

1v.

\$ 130.00 / PB

1022gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=791275>

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### **Politics/Current Affairs**

In This Together: Singapore's COVID-19 Story / The Straits Time Covid-19 Team (Ed) Sumiko Tan

Singapore: Straits Time Press, 2022

352p.

Includes Index

9789814827966

1. COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 – Singapore.
2. COVID-19 (Disease) – Singapore – Prevention.
3. COVID-19 (Disease) – Government policy – Singapore.

\$ 25.00 / PB

1230gm.

In This Together: Singapore's Covid-19 Story is a dramatic insider account of the first two years of the pandemic.

It is a story of suffering and resilience, of miscalculation and foresight, and of grumbling yet cooperation.

The book is written by journalists of The Straits Times who have been in the thick of covering the ongoing crisis.

More than 300 people were interviewed, including the President of Singapore, the Prime Minister, business owners and survivors of the disease.

Through their recollections, the book chronicles how the country came together to fight the virus, even as everyone has had to stay resolutely apart while doing so.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799846>

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Breakthrough 2.0: Singaporeans Push for Parliamentary Democracy / Derek da Cunha

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

392p.

Includes Index; Select Bibliography

9789811227271 (HB)

1. Elections – Singapore.
2. Political parties – Singapore.
3. Opposition (Political science) – Singapore.
4. Singapore – Politics and government – 1990-.

\$ 110.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799847>

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Breakthrough 2.0: Singaporeans Push for Parliamentary Democracy / Derek da Cunha

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

392p.

Includes Index ; Select Bibliography

9789811229312 (PB)

1. Elections – Singapore.
2. Political parties – Singapore.
3. Opposition (Political science) – Singapore.
4. Singapore – Politics and government – 1990-.

\$ 25.00 / PB

500gm.

Some six decades of socialisation by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) has ingrained in a majority of Singaporeans the instinct that it is not unusual to give up certain personal liberties for the greater good as long as the PAP State ensures the material well-being of Singaporeans. The general election of 2020 (GE2020) during the COVID-19 pandemic, put this social compact between the people and the State to the test. Significant job losses, wage cuts, and an erosion of personal wealth — due to measures to counter the pandemic — cut substantially into the PAP popular vote nationally, and resulted in an unprecedented 10 candidates from the opposition Workers' Party (WP) being elected to Parliament. GE2020 confirmed the trend from GE2011, when the WP first made a breakthrough, that Singaporeans will only accept a party in moderate opposition to the PAP. This narrative differs markedly from conventional wisdom.

Breakthrough 2.0 explores the aforementioned phenomena. The book analyses critically the issues surrounding parliamentary elections in Singapore. It also focuses on issues not explored by many other observers, namely voter psychology; election processes; and, party branding. A comparative analysis of election practices and processes in other jurisdictions is also employed to determine where parallels can or cannot be drawn with the situation in Singapore.

The author has had direct access to personalities across the political parties. Consequently, he utilises primary sources, supported by evidence, in sketching out backstories to events which exposes certain myths that were prevailing in social media in the months running up to GE2020.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799848>

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Inequality and Exclusion in Southeast Asia: Old Fractures, New Frontiers /

(Eds) Lee Hwok-Aun & Christopher Choong

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

xx, 344p.

Includes Index

9789814951203

1. Equality – Southeast Asia.
2. Marginality, Social – Southeast Asia.
3. Southeast Asia – Social policy.

\$ 23.00 / PB

462gm.

Inequality is a defining global issue of our times. Southeast Asia stands out in some ways; the 2010s have seen most countries in the region reduce income gaps. Nonetheless, inequality levels remain high, especially in the middle-income to high-income countries, and popular disaffection and economic anxiety prevail, even while official statistics may paint more buoyant scenarios. The age-old problem of group-based exclusion in the development process manifests in new ways. This book provides up-to-date overviews of inequality levels and trends, primarily related to income, but also wealth and other socio-economic variables pertaining to education and health. The country chapters also examine salient themes of inequality, especially structural changes and public policies to redress inequality and exclusion, labour market developments, population groups, regional dynamics, and informal economies. We gain an appreciation for the unique conditions and diverse experiences of each country, and draw comparative insights across the region.

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“This is an impressive collection of papers written by scholars from Southeast Asia and addressing an important set of issues which deserve serious attention from policymakers. Inequality and social exclusion are problems which never seem to go away, even in the high-income countries, and this collection will be valuable for all those seeking to understand how serious the situation is in eight Southeast Asian states. The editors are to be congratulated on bringing together such a timely book.” - Anne Booth, Emeritus Professor of Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788703>

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COVID-19 and the Structural Crises of Our Time / Lim Mah-Hui & Michael Heng Siam-Henge

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2022

xxii, 202p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789814951807

1. COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 – Economic aspects.

2. COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 – Political aspects.

\$ 25.40 / PB

286gm.

“We live in paradoxical times. Traditionally, the West has led the world in theory and practice. Yet, recent developments, from COVID-19 to the storming of the US Capitol, show how lost the West has become. This loss of direction has deep roots. In their usual thoughtful and incisive fashion, Lim Mah-Hui and Michael Heng Siam-Heng, draw out the deeper origins of our current crises and show us a new way forward. A must-read for anyone who wants to understand our strange times.” - Kishore Mahbubani, founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, is the author of *Has China Won?*

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“A powerful and compelling critique of neoliberal globalization and its potentially devastating, but long underestimated, consequences for financial stability, the environment, social equity and democracy. COVID-19 has laid bare these dysfunctions and stresses. But this is not a pessimistic book. The authors argue, correctly, that we may be on the cusp of another Great

Transformation. The choices we make today to make markets more resilient, improve social protection, and preserve our freedoms could lay the foundations for a sustainable globalization that works for future generations.”  
- Donald Low, Professor of Practice in Public Policy and Director of the Institute for Emerging Market Studies, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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“This fascinating book highlights the interplay between financial and health crises that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed. Financialized capitalism is bad for the planet, bad for human health, and creates more unequal and insecure societies. The authors make a strong and convincing case for re-embedding markets into society and finance into the real economy.” - Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA

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“Lim and Heng’s ambitious volume argues that 2020 was the year of the global ‘perfect storm’ of multiple crises, with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating financial, economic, socio-political and environmental breakdowns. They extend Karl Polanyi’s original insights to appeal for a sustainable global New Deal. While the reader may not agree with all their theses, the scope of their coverage and ambition will set the stage for debates over the annus horribilis.” - Jomo K.S., Founder-chair, IDEAS [www.network.ideas](http://www.network.ideas); former United Nations Assistant Secretary General

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"This book provides plenty of food for thought for many pondering if the COVID-19 crisis could lead to a major transformation of the global economic system shaped by unfettered market forces and policies of governments in their service." - Yilmaz Akyuz, former Director, UNCTAD, Geneva.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788698>

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Communicating COVID-19 Effectively in Malaysia: Challenges and Recommendations / Serina Rahman.

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2022

52p.

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 3, 2022

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011319

1. Communication in public health – Malaysia.
2. COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 – Malaysia.

\$ 9.00 / PB

96gm.

Malaysia was initially lauded for its ability to combat the first few waves of COVID-19 but infection spikes since the Sabah state elections in September 2020 and subsequent exponential increases in both infections and deaths in 2021 left the nation reeling. Nationwide vaccination is seen as the only way out of the pandemic.

Malaysia’s COVID-19 communication strategy was hampered by political machinations and myriad changes in government. The need to shore up favour among the electorate resulted in inconsistent messaging and regular U-turns whenever there was public outrage at arbitrary restrictions. This resulted in confusion on the ground, preventing successful COVID-19 management and containment.

Under the current regime, claims to more accessible data have been disputed and doubts have surfaced over data transparency and accuracy. There is an urgent need to ensure convincingly reliable information, as well as to use more engaging messaging on more suitable media.

A holistic and effective COVID-19 communication strategy should adopt principles from several communication approaches, resulting in messages that are clear, simple and accessible as well as consistent and credible.

Audiences should be segmented so that messages can be better tailored to their needs, with adequate information on the necessary steps to prevent infection and spread. Fake news, misinformation, and disinformation should be constantly tackled and debunked.

The Gerai OA and OA Lindungi Komuniti Facebook pages are outstanding examples of grassroots information dissemination channels that effectively provide fact-checked, coherent and accessible information to local communities in languages and on media best-suited to their audiences.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788697>

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Hashtag Campaigns during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Malaysia: Escalating from Online to Offline / Pauline Pooi Yin Leong & Amirul Adli Rosli  
Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

52p.

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 21, 2021

ISSN: 0219-3213 ; 9789815011227

1. Internet and activism – Malaysia.
2. Social media – Malaysia.
3. Social movements – Malaysia.

\$ 9.00 / PB

100gm.

Hashtag campaigns on social media enable users to express their sentiments on various issues and mobilize people to be part of a movement or cause; they have been used effectively by disenfranchised members of society against powerful elites.

While some are of the opinion that online campaigns are ineffective due to “slacktivism”, such campaigns can spill over to offline protests, especially if there are strong emotions such as anger, or a sense of injustice or social deprivation, spurring people on.

The earlier hashtag campaigns in Malaysia—#AntaraDuaDarjat (#BetweenTwoStatus) and #DengkiKe (#AreYouJealous)—were expressions of unhappiness over perceived double standards in the enforcement of COVID-19 public safety protocols.

Later hashtag campaigns such as #KerajaanGagal (#FailedGovernment), #KerajaanZalim (#CruelGovernment) and #KerajaanPembunuh (#MurdererGovernment) became increasingly negative as public disenchantment grew due to the government’s weak handling of the pandemic and the consequent economic fallout.

Public frustration that manifested itself in the #BenderaHitam (#BlackFlag) and #Lawan (#Protest) movements soon transitioned into offline campaigns and protests against the government.

Apart from political hashtag campaigns, there were also welfare movements such as #KitaJagaKita (#WeTakeCareOfOurselves), #BenderaPutih (#WhiteFlag) and #RakyatJagaRakyat (#CitizensTakeCareOfCitizens), which enabled Malaysians to help the less fortunate affected financially by the COVID-19 lockdowns, by rendering food aid and other assistance.

A key conclusion of this study is that online hashtag campaigns have served as early warning of trending public sentiment. They also have the potential to hype up emotions online and subsequently galvanize support for offline campaigns and protests. As #Lawan and #BenderaHitam showed, these can have direct political outcomes.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788699>

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Public Perceptions of the Election Commission, Election Management and Democracy in Malaysia / Helen Ting Mu Hung & Andrew Kam Jia Yi  
Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021  
72p.

Includes Bibliographical References

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 19, 2021

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011173

1. Elections – Malaysia – Public opinion.
2. Malaysia – Election Commission – Public opinion.
3. Public institutions – Malaysia – Public opinion.

\$ 9.00 / PB

128gm.

This report presents findings from a nationwide face-to-face survey of 2,627 Malaysians between March and April 2021 regarding public perceptions on the Election Commission (EC) and on election management.

Malaysians by and large hold a cautious, moderate affirmation of the state of democracy in Malaysia, and of it having made notable progress over the past decade.

A quarter of respondents regard the 2018 general election to be very free or/and fair, while 43 per cent think that it was free/fair though not without problems. This perception appears to have been influenced by the fact that there was a change of federal government.

Public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the election management process and the EC is weakly affirmative, as revealed by a majority expressing a lack of confidence in an eventual online voting system being handled transparently.

Urban residents generally have greater distrust in state institutions.

Some notable contrasts in regional trends:

-- Sarawakians have a high level of trust in state institutions.

-- Sabahans have the lowest appreciation for the progress made in the state of democracy in the country, the lowest satisfaction with civil liberty, or the lowest trust in state institutions except for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the EC.

-- West Malaysians have the lowest level of trust in the MACC and EC but express the highest level of appreciation for the progress that have made in the state of democracy.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788700>

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The National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN): A New Arrangement for Research in Indonesia / Ahmad Najib Burhani, Lilis Mulyani & Cahyo Pamungkas

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

36p.

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 18, 2021

Includes Bibliographical References

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011159

1. Research – Indonesia.
2. Government agencies – Indonesia.

\$ 9.00 / PB

74gm.

On 28 April 2021, the Indonesian government, under President Joko Widodo, dissolved the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education (Kemenristek-Dikti). Since then, the management of higher education has been taken over by the Ministry of Education and Culture, while research and innovation are now the responsibility of the National Research and Innovation Agency (Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional, or BRIN).

Based on Presidential Regulation (Perpres) Nos. 33 and 78 of 2021, various research institutes, such as LIPI, BATAN, LAPAN and BPPT, and research agencies in some ministries have been or will be merged into BRIN, making it a “super-government agency” with an “overarching” role.

With a Rp26 trillion budget allocated by the government for research per year and with a large number of researchers, BRIN is expected to boost national research and innovation, and help the country catch up with countries such as Singapore and South Korea.

BRIN, however, faces some serious challenges. It is not related to budget, infrastructure or human resources, but to the research ecosystem and research culture of Indonesia. Technocratism, which has been restricting research in the country, will be its first challenge. Politicization of research supervision as indicated by the involvement of political parties in research supervision is another issue. Achieving an environment that makes good and healthy research possible built around an effective system of funding, academic rewards, and a vibrant academic community, will be the third challenge.

If BRIN manages to overcome these challenges sufficiently, it will be in a good position to enhance the capacity and competence of Indonesian researchers as the foundation for an advanced Indonesia by 2045.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788701>

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The Democratic Action Party in Johor: Assailing the Barisan Nasional Fortress / Kevin Zhang, John Choo & Fong Sok En

Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

60p.

Includes Bibliographical References

ISSN: 0219-3213 ; 9789815011104

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 17, 2021

1. Johor (Malaysia) – Politics and government.
2. Democratic Action Party.
3. Political parties – Malaysia – Johor.

\$ 9.00 / PB

110gm.

Until approximately two decades ago, the Democratic Action Party (DAP) struggled to make inroads in Johor due to: (1) the unique historical developments in the state, which benefited its primary opponent Barisan Nasional (BN), and (2) the decentralized party structure in Johor with party branches serving as the main player responsible for grassroots mobilization and campaigning, which resulted in an underdeveloped and less cohesive state party structure.

Despite Lee Kaw playing a crucial leadership role for the nascent party to take root in the state, Johor remained in the periphery during the initial decades of the party's establishment. The party managed to achieve some electoral success only in central Johor around the Kluang.

The party achieved a rare breakthrough in Johor during the 1990 General Election when numerous Chinese educationalists allied with the DAP under the call of then Dong Zong chairman Lim Fong Seng. However, the national alliance frayed soon after, with the DAP losing its momentum in Johor by the next general election.

Dr Boo Cheng Hau inherited the decentralized state leadership structure when he became the DAP Johor chairman in 2005. Under Dr Boo's leadership the party prioritized welfare provision and constituency services in several state constituencies, particularly Skudai (in Gelang Patah) and Bentayan (in Bakri). The grassroots machinery was also strengthened while mechanisms were established to resolve intra-party conflicts in the lead-up to general elections. In the 2008 General Election, these efforts paid off and DAP Johor achieved its (till then) best results by capturing four state constituencies--including Skudai and Bentayan--in addition to the Bakri parliamentary seat.

In the aftermath of GE2008, where DAP made unprecedented gains in Penang, Selangor and Perak, the national DAP leadership began to shift their attention towards Johor as the latter was perceived as the next frontline state. The party continued its upward swing and made unprecedented gains in the 2013 General Election.

As DAP maintained its momentum, coupled with the success of other Pakatan Harapan (PH) component parties in Johor during the 2018 General Election, the DAP under the PH coalition displaced BN as the Johor state government.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788702>

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Social Context, Policies, and Changes in Singapore: Beyond the First 50 Years  
/ (Eds) Intan Azura Mokhtar & Yaacob Ibrahim

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

508p.

Includes Index

9789811247743

\$ 42.00 / HB

This book is a collection of essays by thought and advocacy leaders, policymakers, and academics in Singapore who have been and are in positions of influence in shaping social policies, and hence the social context, in the country. These essays are meant to initiate discussion, promote debate and broaden understanding of the social issues at play, the challenges faced, and the trade-offs involved in enhancing social policies, strengthening the social compact, and shaping the social context in Singapore.

This is done through addressing issues and challenges in (1) Government and Civil Society; (2) Education; (3) Employability and Employment; (4) Social and Family Development; (5) Demographics and Social Spending; (6) Healthcare and Healthcare Financing; (7) Urban Planning and the Environment; (8) Disruptions, New Technologies and Smart Nation.

It is hoped this book will be useful for students of sociology, social policy or public policy, as they discuss the dynamics and trade-offs involved in planning, shaping and implementing social and public policies in Singapore. This book also hopes to inform and initiate dialogues among Singaporeans on the social issues and challenges we face in our city-state and which we have to collectively address as a nation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799849>

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Building Immunity: Crisis and Contagion in the City State / J J Woo  
Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

164p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

978-981-124-139-0

\$ 32.00 / HB

From the financial contagion of the 2007 Global Financial Crisis (GFC) to viral contagion in the recent COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore has been severely impacted by ripples and shockwaves that have emanated from global financial and healthcare crises. At the same time, it has proven to be highly resilient amidst such instability. This book provides an in-depth account of Singapore's policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and GFC. It focuses on the policy capacity-building efforts that have taken place in the aftermath of earlier crises such as the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak and the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis.

Linked across time and space, these four crises — SARS, COVID-19, the AFC and GFC — reflect a consistent pattern in Singapore's approach to crisis management. This is a pattern that involves policy learning and capacity-building after each crisis, and the application of these lessons and capacities to subsequent crises. In focusing on the role of policy capacity in Singapore's crisis response measures, this book will provide policymakers and practitioners with a useful framework that can be used to plan for future crises and pandemics.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799850>

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Meaning Matters: Essays by David Chan / David Chan

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

200p.

9789811250682

\$ 32.00 / HB

This book is the third collection of essays by behavioural scientist Professor David Chan, most of which first appeared in The Straits Times. Endorsed by fifty leaders from different sectors, this book provides a powerful springboard for self-reflections, sense-making, internal and public discussions, and individual and collective actions. A common theme that runs through these essays may be described as "Meaning Matters" which refers to the content and subject matter of the critical issues experienced by people and what it means to them. It is also about why the way that people think, feel and act as they

make sense and meaning of their experiences should matter to individual well-being and societal progress in Singapore. This book goes beyond examining what critical issues mean or matter to people, policy making and nation building, and why they do, to focus on translating the "what it means" and "why it means" to "how it means" and "when it means".

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799851>

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## **Sociology**

Beneath The Rug: 30 Stories from Singapore's Social Impact Sector/ Solve n+1 (Eds) Cheng Tian Wei & Lewin Low

Singapore: N Plus One Pte Ltd (Solve n+1), 2021

xii, 268p. ; 150x220mm.

9789811821349

\$ 28.00 / PB

488g.

A community doctor struggles with the tension between limited resources and unlimited needs. He has to decide who to serve, what services to offer, and who he has to turn away. How would you decide who is denied help?

An ex-offender wonders whether society has predetermined what job he should have. Have you already decided on his behalf?

A policymaker reflects that the Government must be ready to adapt, to flex, and to morph policies and processes so that they remain client-centric in order for less to fall through the cracks. How can you collaborate with them?

Beneath the Rug is a collection of stories from 30 individuals in the social impact sector. Hear from diverse voices including practitioners,

changemakers, policymakers, and people with lived experiences. It is our

sincere hope that as the stories in this book reveal what lies beneath the rug, it will also nudge all of us towards greater understanding, deeper reflection, and more meaningful engagement with our communities.

What would you see, if you peered under the proverbial rug of Singapore's society?

Come alongside us in learning to listen, understand, and serve our communities more effectively.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=790207>

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Modernization in Asia: The Environment/Resources, Social Mobilization, and Traditional Landscapes Across Time and Space in Asia / Satoshi Abe

Singapore: World Scientific, 2022

240p.

Includes Index

9789811243899

\$ 100.00 / HB

This book explores the unfolding of modernity in the greater Asia that uniquely takes shape at different times and places, with a particular attention to a common thread that has been at heart of the development: religion. The status of religion has been relegated in the Western modernity to such that its effects be restricted within the private realm and not be exerted in the public or one's rationality. This edited volume sheds light on the multifarious forces of religion both in the past and present that have impacted on the essential

aspects of modern society — aspects in which one does not usually have recourse to religion in the West — from science and technology, politics, and to identity in Asia. Interdisciplinary approaches in the volume allow one to broadly examine religious practices within Asian contexts, thus enabling to reevaluate the concept, scope, and gamut of so-called religion.

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Gender Equality: The Time Has Come/ Corinna Lim

IPS-Nathan Lecture Series

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

156p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789811248689

\$ 40.00 / HB

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Gender Equality: The Time Has Come/ Corinna Lim

IPS-Nathan Lecture Series

Singapore: World Scientific, 2021

156p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789811249341

\$ 20.00 / PB

Corinna Lim is the Institute of Policy Studies' 8th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore. This book is an edited collection of her three IPS-Nathan Lectures, delivered in April and May 2021, and includes highlights of her question-and-answer segments with our virtual audience.

Ms Lim examines the most pressing concerns facing women in Singapore, contributing her insights to the national gender equality review. She analyses why gender equality in the workplace and home has not advanced more despite Singapore's promising start in the 1960s with the introduction of the Women's Charter and gender-neutral education. She looks at what Singapore should do to accelerate gender equality, and tackles the issues of masculine norms that are harmful, support for family caregiving, and comprehensive sex education in Singapore.

The IPS-Nathan Lecture series was launched in 2014 as part of the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore. It seeks to advance public understanding and discussion of issues of critical national interest for Singapore.

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