Directory of Graduate Students in Australian Universities Working on Chinese Southern Diaspora-Related Subjects

Lyall CRAWFORD
Deakin University
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No title yet available

Lyall served at the Australian Embassy in Beijing and as Consul at the Australian Consulate General in Shanghai. He is presently based in Canberra with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and conducted academic fieldwork in northern China earlier this year.

He has recently commenced graduate research into the transported intangible cultural heritage of the Chinese diaspora in Australia and is interested in the Chinese belief systems and traditional performance and rituals which have survived migration from China to Australia since the last mass wave of migration which began in 1989.

HEW Wai-Weng
Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, The Australian National University
Email: waiweng.hew@anu.edu.au

Working title: “Contesting Chinese and Islamic Identities in Malaysia and Indonesia: The Case of Chinese Muslims”

Wai Weng’s proposed research is a comparative study of changing identities amongst Chinese Muslims in Malaysia and Indonesia within their political, historical and cultural contexts. Considering the social changes in both countries, the study will investigate how Chinese Muslims, as a minority Muslim group and minority Chinese group, engage with the discourse and representation of Islam and Chineseness. The study uses content analysis to examine the existing literature and relevant documents, besides interviews and participant observation.

His MPhil thesis, “"Chinese Muslim Identities in the cultural and historical context of Malaysia: Boundary-making, negotiation and hybridity", is to be published soon.

His research interests including ethnicity, religion, culture diversity, identity politics and social movement.

Chang Yau HOON
Asian Studies, University of Western Australia
Email: seewhy80@hotmail.com

Title: "(Dis)locating 'Chineseness': Reconceptualising Ethnic Chinese Identity in Post Suharto Indonesia".

Chang Yau conducted his field research in Jakarta in 2004 during which he was also a visiting scholar at the Centre of Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta. His PhD research explores postmodern identity politics, focusing on the identity construction of the ethnic Chinese in post-Suharto Indonesia. His research interests include the politics

of multiculturalism, ethnicity, hybridity, "race" relations, popular culture, and Chinese politics in Indonesia.

His most recent publications include: "Assimilation, Multiculturalism, Hybridity: The Dilemmas of Ethnic Chinese in Post-Suharto Indonesia", in *Asian Ethnicity*, 7:2, 2006: 149-66, and "A Hundred Flowers Bloom: The Reemergence of the Chinese Press in Post-Soeharto Indonesia", in *Media and Chinese Diaspora: Community, Communication and Commerce*, ed. Wanning Sun, Routledge Curzon, 2006

Apiradee JANSAENG
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University
Email: apiradee.jansaeng@anu.edu.au

Title: "The Local Autonomy of Overseas Chinese Migrants in Songkhla, the Gulf of Siam, in the Late 18th- 19th Centuries"

Apiradee's thesis concerns a transitional period of colonial expansion and southern Chinese experience in Southeast Asian maritime trade, focusing mainly on the Hokkienese Wu family who ruled in Songkhla for nearly two centuries. Over that period, the Wu family exerted great influence in shaping and constructing major intersections of political and economic flows within the Gulf of Siam Region as well as playing a central role in local collaboration with the royal court in Bangkok, the Malay states and Chinese networks in Penang, Singapore, and China. Her thesis uses the Wu family history to illuminate the political and economic transition within Songkhla and the eastern coastline of Siam during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

LOH Kah Seng
Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University
Email: K.Loh@murdoch.edu.au; lkshis@gmail.com

Working title: "The 1961 Kampong Bukit Ho Swee Fire and the Making of Modern Singapore"

Kah Seng's thesis is a social history of post-World War Two Singapore. It examines the role of Bukit Ho Swee, an urban kampong slightly west of the Singapore River on the fringe of the urban core, in the transformation of the country from colony to modern, independent state. It looks at the kampong's history from the late colonial period and the impact of the great fire that destroyed it and made 15,694 people homeless on 25 May 1961.

His most recent publications include:

"Records and Voices of Social History: The Case of the Great Depression in Singapore", forthcoming in *Southeast Asian Studies* (Tonan Ajia Kenkyu), Kyoto University. 44 (1), 2006; "Beyond Rubber Prices: Negotiating the Great Depression in Singapore", *South East Asia Research*. 14 (1), 2006: 5-31; and "New Winds in Economic History? A Look at Writings on the Great Depression in Southeast Asia". *Crossroads*. 17 (2), 2006: 66-92.

Judy MAXWELL
The Australian National University
Email: judy.maxwell@gmail.com

No title yet available

Judy specializes in Chinese transnational migration. Her Master's degree from the University of British Columbia researched Chinese Canadian Second World War veterans and why they fought for a country that would not recognize them as citizens. Her PhD comparatively examines [creative] strategies used by Chinese to gain access to Australia and Canada during the times of exclusion (for Australia 1901 and for Canada 1923).

Her other research interests include the Chinese Labour Corps from the First World War, Melbourne's Chinese community in the 1920s, heritage Chinese cemeteries, Second World War Hong Kong, and the life stories and cultural experiences of Chinese transnational migrants (from South America, India, Australia, Caribbean, etc).

Lucille NGAN
School of Anthropology and Sociology, University of New South Wales
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Working title: "Chineseness: A Long-term Perspective on the Identity of Australian Born Chinese"

Lucille's research examines how diasporic Chinese construct and deal with a labelled identity by examining the politics of identity and recognition. The study focuses on examining the negotiation of Chineseness through the experiences of long established Australian-born Chinese whose family has resided in Australia for over 3 generations. Despite generational longevity and strong national and cultural identities grounded in Australia, often they are still viewed through a prism of Otherness. Chineseness is still a significant part of their identity whether they willingly choose to identify it or not. By unravelling the ambiguities of 'being Chinese' in everyday life, this study explores the ways in which cultural consciousness impacts on their relations with the wider society. One concern is with the construction of hybridised identity- 'how do they construct their identity within the Chinese-Australian context?' A second concern is whether there a sense of Chineseness that impacts on social incorporation with Australian society.

Her research interests include ethnicity, migration, identity, and Chinese diaspora.

Charlotte SETIJADI
School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University
E-mail: casetijadi@students.latrobe.edu.au

Working title: "Negotiating Chineseness: Young Jakarta Chinese in Post-Suharto Indonesia"

Charlotte's doctoral project looks at the lives of young Jakarta Chinese in the present post-Suharto era (also known as the "reform" era). This project plans to explore the ways in which today's young Chinese perceive their ethnicity and engage with the discourse of "Chineseness" in their everyday lives and interactions (both with Chinese and non-Chinese). It will also be looking at the heterogeneity, socialisation patterns, and lifestyles of young Jakarta Chinese from different socio-economic classes. Charlotte is currently in Jakarta for fieldwork where she is a visiting fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Her research interests include consumerism, multiculturalism, Chinese diaspora studies, popular culture, and cosmopolitanism.

She recently published “Questioning Proximity: East Asian TV dramas in Indonesia,” in *Media Asia* 32 (4), December 2006.

TAN Teng-Phee
Asia Research Center, Murdoch University
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Title: "Everyday Politics Behind Barbed Wire: Case Studies of Chinese New Villages in Malaya During the 'Emergency', 1948-1960."

Teng-Phee’s thesis examines Chinese ‘new villages’ during the Communist ‘emergency’ in Malaya. By using the social historical approach, he wants to reconstruct the other side of the story based on the perspectives of the New Villagers, and examine how they responded to government policies and interacted with one another behind barbed wire.

Yeetuan WONG
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University
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Title: “The Rise and Fall of the Big Five of Penang and their Regional Network, 1800s - 1900s”

Yeetuan’s thesis explores the role and the importance of a cluster of big five Hokkien families (the Khoo, the Cheah, the Lim, the Yeoh, and the Tan) in the socio-economic and political spheres of Penang and its surrounding states (southern Burma, south-western Siam, western Malay states, and the North and the East Coast of Sumatra) in the nineteenth century. By tracing the various strands of these big five families' activities and actions, my work unveils an extensive and interwoven regional network which was based on the intricate inter-family, inter-ethnic, inter-state and inter-class relationships and interconnections. Such a regional network, I argue, was not only crucial to the rise and fall of the big five families as a powerful and leading economic force but also to the socio-political and economic development and transformation of Penang and the surrounding region.

He has published a research note, “The Big Five Hokkien Families in Penang, 1830s–1890s”, in this issue of *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*, and has a chapter entitled "Blood Ties, Marriages and Sworn Brotherhood: Penang's Big Five Families and Southern Siam during the 19th century" in *A Plural Peninsula,* ed. Michael J. Montesano and Patrick Jory (in press).