

2007 Newsletter of the Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora

About the CSCSD

The Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora is the only academic centre in the southern hemisphere that promotes research on people of Chinese descent in Southeast Asia, Australasia, and the Southwest Pacific. The Centre seeks to stimulate scholarship that reflects the diversity of cultures, places, and political economies in this region, and to contribute critically to the field of knowledge. In particular, the CSCSD seeks to encourage scholarship that goes beyond stereotypes to exploring the multifaceted historical and contemporary nature of Chinese diaspora experience in the "South Seas" (the Nanyang), its various interfaces with indigenous people and states, its multiple standings in economies, societies and politics, and its global positioning.

Instead of adhering to the old, conventional narrative framework of Chinese diaspora as a tale of how a unique "Chineseness" manifested itself at different times and places, the CSCSD proposes to pursue a regionally and geographically oriented approach, to help free the study of overseas Chinese from its nationalist straight jacket and from the invented tradition of a single or unified Chinese essence.

For more information about the Centre, please consult our website.

CSCSD Activities in 2007

One-day international workshop. On 9 February 2007, the CSCSD was principal organiser and part-sponsor (along with the Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies and the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, both of ANU) of an international workshop at ANU entitled "Chinese in the Pacific: Where to Now?" The workshop was sparked by outbreaks of anti-Chinese rioting in two Pacific Island States over the previous twelve months. Participants and presenters considered aspects of contemporary Chinese diaspora in Australia, New Zealand, and the southwest Pacific ranging from demographic issues of changing Chinese migration and community building through to an examination of what the recent sharp rise in diplomatic interest in island states, from both China and Taiwan, might mean for the future of the Southwest Pacific.

The speakers dealing with Australia and New Zealand were Professor Graeme Hugo of Adelaide University, and Associate Professor Manying Ip of the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Those focusing on the island states were Professor James Chin (formerly of the University of Papua–New Guinea and currently Head of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science at the Monash University campus in Malaysia), Emeritus Professor Bill Willmott from Canterbury University in Christchurch, New Zealand, and Emeritus Professor Ron Crocombe, formerly of the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. Mr Michael Powles, a former New Zealand head of mission in China and Fiji, and Mr Graeme Dobell, an Australian Broadcasting Commission journalist who specialises in the Pacific, also considered the broader diplomatic and foreign affairs implications of current Chinese activities in the Pacific and among island states there.

Several of the papers were published in the inaugural CSCSD Occasional Papers series, which is available on-line via either the *CSDS* or CSCSD websites. Two of them (Willmott and Crocombe) have been translated into Chinese for this issue of *CSDS*. Two more are now available in the current issue of *CSDS*: Professor Hugo's

demographic study of changing migration patterns between China and Australia and Professor Chin's paper on old and new Chinese in Papua–New Guinea.

Visiting Scholar. The Visiting Fellow for 2007 was Professor J. Thomas Engelbert of the University of Hamburg, Germany. Professor Engelbert specialises in the history of Chinese in twentieth-century Vietnam and, as part of his VF, he conducted research in National Archives Number 2 in Ho Chi Minh City in collaboration with Dr Nola Cooke, a CSCSD research associate. During his stay Professor Engelbert also presented a well-attended seminar on 'Sino-Vietnamese Networks in Southern Vietnam during the First Indochinese Conflict (1945-1954)'.

Directory of Current PhD Students and Recent Doctoral Graduates Working in Australian Universities on Chinese Southern Diaspora-Related Subjects

McAndrew CHUA

School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, The Australian National University
Email: mcandrew.chua@anu.edu.au

Working Title: 'The Chinese and the Racial Politics of Health in mid-19th to Early 20th Centuries Australia'

McAndrew is in his first year at the ANU, researching a thesis that will look at the ways public health policies and institutions in mid-19th to early-20th-century Australia contributed to the racialisation and marginalisation of Chinese Australians.

His research interests are in the social history of the Chinese in Australia and the history of medicine and public health in general.

Sophie COUCHMAN

Asian Studies, La Trobe University
Email: sophie.couchman@gmail.com

Working Title: 'Photographs of Chinese in Australia, 1850s to 1950s'

Sophie's dissertation explores the way Chinese have been photographed in Australia from the 1850s through to the 1950s. As part of her research she helped develop and currently maintains a website devoted to Chinese-Australian historical images in Australia (www.chia.chinesemuseum.com.au), as well working on the ARC funded Chinese Heritage of Australian Federation project (www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au) at La Trobe University. Sophie's 2000 MA in Public History (Monash University) illuminated the social history of Melbourne's Chinatown. She has recently compiled a self-guided MP3 tour for the Chinese Museum in Melbourne.

Sophie has recently published:

- "Chinese Heritage Databases On-Line in Australia", *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*, Vol. 2 (2008):140-45

- "Riding with the best of them: Chinese Australians and cycling in Australia", *Scorchers, Ramblers and Rovers: Australasian Cycling Histories*, Australian Society for Sports History Studies Series, No. 21, 2006
- "'And then in the distance Quong Tart did we see': Quong Tart, celebrity and photography", *Journal of Colonial Australian History*, Vol. 8, 2006: 159-182
- 'Melbourne Chinatown Streets Database', published on the resources page of the Chinese Heritage of Australian Federation website, available on-line at: <http://www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au/resources.htm>.

HEW Wai-Weng

Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, The Australian National University
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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

Assistant Professor of Asian Studies, School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University
Email: cyhoon@smu.edu.sg

Title: 'Reconceptualising Ethnic Chinese Identity in Post Suharto Indonesia'

Chang Yau was awarded a PhD with Distinction from the University of Western Australia in 2007. He conducted field research in Jakarta in 2004 during which he was also a visiting scholar at the Centre of Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta. His 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, education, and Chinese politics in Indonesia.

Chang Yau has recently published:

- *Chinese Identity in Post-Suharto Indonesia: Culture, Media, Politics* (Brighton and Portland: Sussex Academic Press, 2008);

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- "Assimilation, Multiculturalism, Hybridity: The Dilemmas of Ethnic Chinese in Post-Suharto Indonesia", in *Asian Ethnicity*, Vol. 7, No. 2, 2006: 149-66; and
- "A Hundred Flowers Bloom: The Re-emergence of the Chinese Press in Post-Soeharto Indonesia", in *Media and Chinese Diaspora: Community, Communication and Commerce*, ed. Wanning Sun (Routledge Curzon, 2006)

Francisca HANDOKO

Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University

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Title: 'Multilingualism in transition: intergenerational code choice in two multilingual 'totok' Chinese families in Surabaya'

Francisca's thesis examines the code choice (and code-switching practices) of two multilingual *totok* families from Surabaya, Indonesia. On arrival in Java in the early twentieth century, the first migrant generation was confronted with a range of local languages including Javanese and different varieties of Malay, but most families sent their children to Chinese schools where Mandarin was the language of instruction. The closure of all Chinese schools in Indonesia by 1974 meant subsequent generations attended schools with Indonesian as the language of instruction, and learned little Chinese at home.

This study is distinguished by the complex multilingual nature of the language shift(s) and code-choices involved. The family members were multilingual to varying degrees but the typical language repertoire of individuals varies from generation to generation, and there are many instances where different codes function similarly to speech levels in a language like Javanese. Francisca uses Myers-Scotton's (1998 and elsewhere) Extended Markedness Model to explain these complex multilingual code choices.

Francisca's research interests include multilingualism and multiculturalism, ethnic identity, language shift and maintenance, code-switching, Chinese diaspora studies, language and education, language policy and ethno-linguistic vitality.

Mei-Fen KUO

School of Asian Studies, La Trobe University

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Title: 'Making Chinese Australia: The Role of the Sydney Chinese Community, 1892-1912'

Mei-Fen has just had her doctorate accepted. Her thesis traces the making of a distinctively Chinese-Australian community at a time of growing urbanism and emerging Australian and Chinese nationalism, from the 1880s through to the early years of the twentieth century, principally in Sydney and Melbourne. It focuses on two main issues: the construction of Chinese-Australian identities and patterns of social leadership, and the part played by Chinese-language newspapers in this process from the early 1890s. The making of Chinese Australia was a social and historical process, overseen by urban elites that mobilized Chinese communities through engagement in political movements, historical narratives and participation in community affairs.

Mei-Fen has published:

- “The *Chinese Australian Herald* and the Shaping of a Modern ‘Imagined’ Chinese Community in 1890s Colonial Sydney”, *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*, Vol. 2 (2008): 34-53.

LOH Kah Seng

Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University

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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.

Kah Seng has recently published:

- “Approaching Life and Death: History and Memory in Interviews with Individuals Formerly Suffering from Leprosy in Singapore”. *s/pores*. 1 (2), January 2008.
 - <http://spores.wordpress.com/2008/01/12/approaching-life-and-death-history-and-memory-in-interviews-with-individuals-formerly-suffering-from-leprosy-in-singapore>
- “Our lives are bad but our luck is good”: A Social History of Leprosy in Singapore’, *Social History of Medicine*, 21 (2), August 2008. Advance Access copy:
 - <http://shm.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/hkn035?ijkey=mO8JvJeXPNWgAbV&keytype=ref>
- “Black Areas: The Urban Kampongs and Power Relations in Postwar Singapore Historiography”, *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*. 22 (1), April 2007: 1-29.
- “The Left-Wing Trade Unions in Singapore, 1945-1970”, co-authored with Michael Fernandez in *Paths Not Taken: Political Pluralism in Postwar Singapore*, ed. Michael Barr & Carl Trocki (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2008): 206-27.
- “Introduction: At the Gates of History”, *Tangent* special issue, “The Makers and Keepers of Singapore History”, 6 (2), 2007: 12-17.
- “Presently Seeking the Bukit Ho Swee Fire”, *Tangent* special issue, “The Makers and Keepers of Singapore History”, 6 (2), 2007: 155-66.

Lucille NGAN

Visiting Scholar, Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong

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Thesis title: ‘Identity and Life Course: A Long-term Perspective on the Lives of Australian-born Chinese’

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Lucille was awarded a doctorate in Sociology by the University of New South Wales in December 2007. Her research focused on examining the negotiation of Chineseness through the experiences of Australian-born Chinese whose families have resided in Australia for over three generations.

Her research interests include ethnic relations, migration, transnationalism, life course, Chinese diaspora, and cultural identities.

Lucille has recently published:

- "Living In-Between: Hybrid Identities among Long-Established Australian-Born Chinese in Sydney", *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*, Vol. 2 (2008): 137-45
- "Negotiating the Chinese Identity", *Graduate Journal of Asia-Pacific Studies*, 6 (1), 2008:14-36
- "Generational Identities through Time: Memories and Homelands of the ABCs," in ed. A. Davidson and K. E. Kuah-Pearce, *At Home in the Chinese Diaspora: Memories, Identity and Belonging* (Hampshire: Palgrave, 2007), Ch. 5.

Charlotte SETIJADI

School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University

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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 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 was in Jakarta on fieldwork in 2007, where she was a visiting fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

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

Charlotte has 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 completed his dissertation in 2007 and received his doctorate in 2008. His 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, he unveils an extensive and interwoven regional network based on the intricate inter-family, inter-ethnic, inter-state and inter-class relationships and interconnections.

Yeetuan has recently published:

- "The Big Five Hokkien Families in Penang, 1830s–1890s", *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*, Vol. 1 (2007):106-15
(csds.anu.edu.au/volume_1_2007/Wong.pdf) and
"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).