



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our third newsletter. We are at the end of another semester, and we are already thinking about the next. After some speculation and hope, the PVC has announced that Semester 2, 2021, will start entirely online. None of us are surprised but I know that we are disappointed. Our students are disappointed too, and they will need our care and attention to shepherd them through the next few weeks. Hopefully, for all Malaysians as much as for all students, the crisis will pass.

Most of you will have seen the news that our Dean, Sharon Pickering, is moving to the Vice Chancellor's office as a DVC. She nonetheless visited us in our zoom drop-in on her last Friday. The Interim Dean of Arts Rita Wilson has already signaled her determination to build our cross-Campus relationships in teaching and research.

In other news, I am very sorry to say that both Emily and Suet Fun are leaving us in July. Emily, a lynch pin of the school and the kind and friendly face that is most likely to make one smile on zoom, has decided to take a break and then move into work with children. She will be wonderful in that ambition, but she will be very sorely missed here. Suet Fun has only been in staff a short while, but has already distinguished herself through her adept communications, her excellent editing, and her efficiency. However, she too has other priorities, and we respect her for making strong and principled choices. We are starting the search for two articulate and communicative people to replace Emily and Suet Fun in the Operations team. The transition will be hard, but and we wish both of them the very best of luck.

The new leadership team for 2022 is now complete. Thanks to everyone for their Eols and their careful consideration of the work we must do to make our School effective, efficient (and a tiny bit effervescent). Thanks also to the continuing Major and Minor Coordinators who will remain so important as we move forward post the BASS Review. - **Stephi**



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New Leadership Team 2022

- Associate Professor Emma Baulch – Deputy Head of School (Research)
- Associate Professor Michael Connors – Deputy Head of School (Education)
- Professor Helen Nesadurai – Discipline Head, Social Sciences
- Dr Dyah Pitaloka – Discipline Head, Communications and Arts
- Dr Joseph Goh – Director of Graduate Studies
- Dr Chrishandra Sebastiampillai – Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences Coordinator
- Dr Kyle Moore – Bachelor of Digital Media and Communication Coordinator
- Dr Seo Young-Nam – Marketing Coordinator
- Dr Rizwanah Souket Ali – External Engagement Coordinator



Research News

Global launch of MIDEQ's "The Story of Migration"

Yeoh Seng-Guan

On June 22, MIDEQ (Migration for Development and Equality Hub) and Positive Negatives launched "The Story of Migration", an animation in five languages that aims to tell the complex historical and contemporary story of the relationship between migration and global inequalities.

MIDEQ is a 5-year project (2019-2024) funded by the Global Challenge Research Fund of the United Kingdom Research and Innovation entity. Together with Dr Anita Ghimire, I anchor the Nepal-Malaysia Corridor, one of 6 corridors around the world. The animation, illustrated by Karrie Fransmann, is based on a script written by MIDEQ's partners in 11 countries in the Global South and challenges many of the ideas that currently dominate media representations of migration.

The animation engages a wide range of audiences in MIDEQ's work and highlights the importance of understanding global migration from the perspectives of those living and working in the Global South. It reflects the importance of international research projects that are able to generate new knowledge on migration issues, challenge dominant political and media narratives and ultimately improve the lives and opportunities of those living in the Global South. Most importantly it puts inequalities at the heart of the story.

Dr Benjamin Worku-Dix, Founding Director, Positive Negatives reflected:

"The Story of Migration has been the most collaborative animation we've made at Positive Negatives, co-produced with 17 partners across 11 countries and during the most challenging times when the COVID-19 pandemic has meant we needed to rely on new technologies to successfully collaborate and physically work independently. We wanted to make a film that engages a varied global audience from young students to senior policy makers in the complexities of migration and inequality. We think the film does exactly that."

On the Malaysian side, I commissioned ProjectLiber8, a key local partner, in providing the translations and voiceovers in Tamil, Malay, and Mandarin to the animation.

The 7-minutes animation can be viewed at: <https://www.mideq.org/>

Publications

Koh, S. Y. (2021). Disrupted geographic arbitrage and differential capacities of coping in later-life: Anglo-Western teacher expatriates in Brunei. *International Migration Review*, 55(2), 322–346. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0197918320926910>

Yu, Ting-Fai. 2021. "Spatialities of Queer Globalization: Middle- and Working-class Hong Kong Gay Men's Subjective Constructions of Homophobia." *Sexualities* 24(4): 636-653.

Agata Frymus. Article for The Gotham Center New York City History Blog published 24 June 2021
<https://www.gothamcenter.org/blog/the-first-cinemas-in-black-harlem-a-look-at-the-silent-film-era-1909-1926>

Research Events/Activities:

Online workshop

Dr Koh Sin Yee and her co-author Dr Cheng Yi'En (National University of Singapore) presented their paper "The 'Soft Infrastructure' of the Belt and Road Initiative: Imaginaries, Affinities, and Subjectivities in Chinese Transnational Education" at the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) webinar "Transnational Higher Education: A Focus on International Branch Campuses" on 3rd June 2021.



Research News

Research Events/Activities:

Conference participations

SA Bong presented, 'Rare earth and rare practice of "integral ecology": A feminist-postcolonial reading of 'Save Malaysia, Stop Lynas' protests', Conference on 'Women, Solidarity and ecology, 2 June 2021, organised by the Laudato Si' Research Institute, University of Oxford, UK [virtual]

SA Bong presented, 'Women decolonising theologies of, for and by Southeast Asians', 11th International Fu-Jen Academia Catholica Conference, 'Asian theologies and theologies in Asia', 2 June 2021, organised by Fu-Jen Academia Catholica, Taiwan [virtual]

SA Bong presented '[Christian ethics and sexuality](#)', summer short-term course on 'Asian and Asian American feminist theologies', webinar organised by Kwok Pui-Lan, Dean's Professor of Systematic Theology, the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, U.S., in partnership with Pacific, Asian, and North-American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry (PANAAWTM), 2 June 2021 [virtual]

Dr Ting-Fai Yu presented a paper titled "Cultural Mobilities between Queer Taiwan and Sinophone Malaysia" at the North American Taiwan Studies Association Annual Conference on 20–22 May (Online).

Dr Joseph Goh was a panelist in a public webinar organised by the Kuala Lumpur Bar Council Gender Equality and Diversity Committee on Tuesday, 1st June 2021. The webinar, which saw approximately 40 participants, garnered positive comments.

This year's [Makassar International Writers Festival \(MIWF\)](#) 'Anthropause' 23-26 June 2021, will dive deep into varied themes including resilience, survival strategies, new insights on humanity and global-local solidarity acts, inequalities, and the meanings of pandemic to individuals. One of the sessions, "*The Untold Stories of Lockdown: Voices from the Migrants*", organised by **Dr Dyah Pitaloka** and Dr Lily Yulianti Farid will hold its pre-event on 19 June 2021 in collaboration with Satya Wacana Christian University (UKSW) Salatiga, Indonesia. For registration, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/Voicesfrommigrants>.





Research News / Graduate Research News

Upcoming Research Seminar Series:

a) Research Seminar Series (07/2021), 6th July 2021, 4-5pm

“Kafkaesque cinema in the context of post-fascism” by Dr Angelos Koutsourakis, Associate Professor in Film and Cultural Studies at the Centre for World Cinemas and Digital Cultures (University of Leeds) and AHRC research leadership fellow. Please click (here- to get the link from Suet Fun) for more details.

To attend, please register [here](#).

b) Research Seminar Series (08/2021), 28th July 2021, 12-1pm

“Managing impressions of culpability: Examining Arul Kanda’s deployment of membership categories in his BFM interview” by Dr David Yoong, Associate Professor, an independent scholar and education consultant who specialize in research writing and critical discourse analysis. He is now the Director of DYLiberated Learning Resources. Please click (here- to get the link from Suet Fun) for more details.

To attend, please register [here](#).

Graduate Research News

Achievements by SASS Graduate Research Student

Mr. Matthew Yap Tuck Mun entered a national writing competition by Think City, which wanted short stories on the future of Malaysia and Covid.

He won first prize and his story has been published in a limited-edition anthology and as an e-book. He was also interviewed by Think City, had a radio interview with BFM for World Book Day 2021, and the book was featured in The Star.

The below is the ebook link:

https://thinkcity.com.my/UNDPKisah/wp-content/themes/understrap-child/anthology/KisahEng_New.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3kFLpz9Lav2fPqiu7fOB1VYKg3cfuiXTSlenABVhAEzILS12yk3t1c7xA

(Title: MARI, page 19)



Graduate Research News

New student

Name: THAM JIA VERN

Title of project: The Effectiveness of Severe Punishments on Drug Offenses: A Study Of Malaysia And Singapore

Supervisors:

Associate Professor Mai Sato (main supervisor, Faculty of Law, Monash University Australia)

Dr Thaatchayini Kananatu (associate supervisor, School of Business)

Dr Marek Rutkowski (associate supervisor, School of Arts and Social Sciences)



Project Description:

The study will explore the deterrent effects of jail sentences and the death penalty, two 'severe' punishments, on drug offences in Malaysia and Singapore. It will assess how such punishments affect the behavior of drug users and traffickers, as well as drug markets and other social indicators of drug use.

About me:

Tham Jia Vern is a part-time student here at Monash, and she also does research for her day job. Her research interests include criminal justice reform, inter-group relations, and electoral autocracies.

Scholarships:

Tham Jia Vern has been offered the Eleos Justice Doctoral Scholarship to do her PhD at Monash University Malaysia. She will be based here (in SASS), with local associate supervisors, but Associate Professor Mai Sato will be the main supervisor.

Commencement Date: 21st June 2021



Graduate Research News

New student

Name: CHLOE YAP WEN TING

Project Title:

Queer Sinophonicities Online: Exploring Queer Chinese Malaysians' Internet mediated Negotiations of Identity

Supervisors:

Associate Professor Emma Baulch (main supervisor)

Dr Ting-Fai Yu (associate supervisor)



Project Description:

This project looks at internet-mediated experiences in exploring how intersections of race, ethnicity, and sexuality operate in online spaces and practices. Through interviews and textual analysis, queer Chinese Malaysian perspectives on internet use and identity negotiation will be presented with the aim of contributing towards the fields of queer digital media and Sinophone studies.

About me:

Chloe Yap recently completed the Master of Communication and Media Studies programme at Monash University Malaysia in 2020. Her thesis, *Queer Eye for the Nine-nine: Performing Gender and Sexuality in Brooklyn Nine-nine*, offered an understanding of television and popular culture as a form of engagement with contemporary politics through a queer theoretical framework. Her current research focuses on the internet-mediated experiences of Chinese Malaysians to explore how intersections of race, ethnicity, and sexuality operate in online spaces and practices.

Commencement Date: 1st July 2021



Education News

Learning Outcome

Chan Chang Tik

What is a learning outcome (LO)? Let's consider the following LOs taken from a School:

1. Solve first order ordinary differential equations, including by separable variables and integrating factors.
2. Solve second order linear differential equations with constant coefficients.
3. Use differential equations to model simple engineering problems.
4. Evaluate and inverse Laplace transforms and use them to solve ordinary differential equations.

Back to the question on what is a learning outcome?

It is simply a statement to indicate what you want to achieve upon learning the item(s) stated in the statement. Now, refer to LO1 and LO2, after you have solved the first and second order differential equations, then what have you achieved? Practically, not much, just solving equations. Therefore, LO1 and LO2 are topics in a Unit and not learning outcomes. The lesson here is in writing LO, try to focus on the outcomes to achieve upon successful learning. It is not about what you want your students to do like in LO1 and LO2 (action only) and there are no outcomes.

Incidentally, all the four LOs could be summarised into just one LO, that is, evaluate and invert the Laplace transform and use them to solve differential equations and to model simple engineering problems. In the rewritten LO, you learn to evaluate and invert the Laplace transform (action), once you have done that, the outcomes are to solve differential equations and to model simple engineering problems (outcomes of the action).

It is sad that learning outcomes which serve as the foundations for learning and teaching as well as assessment, are not given the respect they deserve. At times, they are not referred to when setting assessment questions and the consequence is invalid questions which may nullify the outcomes of the assessment results. In what follows, to deliver quality education to students, it is crucial that lecturers equipped themselves with knowledge of learning outcomes.

On a positive side, the Faculty Moodle template which is equivalent to the campus new Moodle template may be a step in the right direction to promote constructive alignment. Having said that, it is important to note that the focus is on alignment and not mapping. In other words, lecturers must have a good understanding of learning outcomes in order to align them to the assessment and teaching activities. Otherwise, the consequences are there is mapping but no alignment; weekly quizzes are used to assess learning outcome at a high level of cognitive domain; enquiry-based learning is used to teach outcome at a low level of the cognitive domain. In summary, besides having an aesthetic value, the Moodle template should also have functional values to support learning and teaching in line with the constructive alignment concept.



Staff Achievements

- ✚ **Dr Ting-Fai Yu** achieved the status of Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.
- ✚ **Dr Sharon A. Bong** on air: (check this out) <https://www.bfm.my/podcast/the-bigger-picture/today-i-learned/what-is-patriarchy-and-how-does-it-hurt-women-men>
- ✚ Drs **Ting-Fai Yu** and **Joseph Goh** have been selected as members of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee which aims to drive the campus' diversity and inclusion agenda in alignment with Monash University's broader organisational strategy. They will attend their first meeting on Friday, 18 June 2021.
- ✚ **Dr Lai Jia Yen** was recruited as Commission Member of IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) - Indigenous Peoples, Customary, Environmental Law, Human Rights Specialist Group & Natural Resource Governance Framework Working Group.
- ✚ **Mr Callum Gilmour** interviewed on the radio:
BFM Evening edition:
'The Ethics of Live Broadcasting and the Christian Eriksen Incident at Euro 2021'
From 4.00 onwards:
<https://www.bfm.my/podcast/evening-edition/evening-edition/ethics-of-live-broadcasting>
- ✚ Sessional staff **Ms Lee EeLeen** recently published her novel. The title of the book is *Liquid Crystal Nightingale* (2020, Abaddon), a science-fiction novel set in a dystopic, corrupt world where living is only for the decadent rich, and survival for the fittest. The book has been called an "ambitious and complex debut" by *The British Fantasy Society* and "Richly imagined and engrossing" by *SFX Magazine*.
Anyone interested in purchasing a copy can get in touch with her. The price (paperback) is around RM50.
Congratulations Ee Leen for this sterling achievement.



About Us

Agata Frymus

I moved to Malaysia from Bristol, UK, at the end of October 2020. I am originally from Szczecin, Poland, but have been living abroad, in the UK and Belgium, since the age of nineteen. All my family lives in Poland.

I've always loved to travel, and was lucky enough to indulge in that passion because of my work. I've travelled quite extensively in the US, for both research and fun. My last big holiday was a trip through Croatia, Montenegro and Albania in October 2019. It seriously has been too long! As a bit of a control freak, I probably enjoy the planning stage as much as I enjoy the *actual* holiday.

I am vegan, and generally interested in the issues related to animal liberation. People like to tell me that some places are 'impossible' to travel to as a vegan (Albania was apparently one such place), but I like to prove them wrong! Sure, it was not easy to find vegan food in Hangzhou, China – and my very limited knowledge of Mandarin didn't help – but it can be done.

Being a film scholar, I find the question of 'what is your favourite film?' impossible to answer. My favourite TV show, however, is the British series *Peep Show*. My second favourite is an American one: *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.

