



A Roundtable on The History of US-Southeast Asian Relations

Organised by the Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and *Diplomatic History*,
Official Journal of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations



The United States has a long history of involvement in Southeast Asia, from the colonization of the Philippines at the dawn of the twentieth century through the Pacific War and the revolutionary struggles across the region that intersected with the global Cold War. Despite this multi-faceted history, scholars' outside preoccupation with US war in Vietnam has obscured much of America's diverse and enduring relationship with the wider region. This roundtable attempts to examine the US-Southeast Asian relationship with a broad, regional focus, shedding light on overlooked interconnections between the US and different states and peoples within and beyond Southeast Asia, and revealing new international histories of America's complex encounter with the region.

Venue: HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)

Date & Time: 1st August 2019, Thursday, 9.40 am – 12 pm

2nd August 2019, Friday, 9.30 am – 4 pm

Please send your queries to: NTUDH.US.SEA@gmail.com

Do RSVP your attendance by 19 July 2019 at the following URL: <https://tinyurl.com/NTUDH-US-SEA>



Event Timeline

Day 1: Welcome and Talk/Discussion on Reconceptualising Asian experiences of the Cold War		
0940	Registration / Coffee	
1000	Welcome Message	Dr. Wen-Qing Ngoei, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
Reconceptualising Asian experiences of the Cold War		
1020	Reconceptualizing the Cold War: On-the-ground experiences in Asia	Associate Professor Hajimu Masuda, National University of Singapore (NUS)
	Discussion	Associate Professor Joey Long, NUS (Moderator)
1200	Lunch (catered)	
Day 2: Diplomatic History Roundtable on US-Southeast Asian Relations History		
0930	Registration / Coffee-Tea Breakfast	
0945	Welcome Message	Dr. Wen-Qing Ngoei, NTU
1000	Introductory Remarks on the History of US-Southeast Asian Relations	Associate Professor Anne L. Foster, Indiana State University
Session One:		
1030	The United States and Southeast Asia: Reflections on Where we have been, and Where we can go	Professor Kenton Clymer, Northern Illinois University
	The United States and the 'Chinese Problem' of Southeast Asia	Dr Wen-Qing Ngoei, NTU
1200	Lunch (catered)	
Session Two:		
1300	Aid Becomes Tribute: Thailand's King Bhumibol and the Creation of the American Periphery	Dr. Matthew Phillips, Aberystwyth University
	"A Social Engineering Project of Monumental Proportions": Indonesian Transmigration and the Crisis of Development, 1968-1985	Associate Professor Bradley Simpson, University of Connecticut
	Gender, Political Detention, and Human Rights in the Philippines	Dr. Joy Sales, Washington University in St. Louis
1600	Tea / End of Session	

For the event website: <https://tinyurl.com/NTUDH-US-SEA>

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Reconceptualising Asian experiences of the Cold War



Masuda Hajimu

Reconceptualising the Cold War: On-the-ground experiences in Asia

Masuda Hajimu (PhD Cornell 2012) is a historian at the National University of Singapore, and the author of *Cold War Crucible: The Korean Conflict and the Postwar World* (Harvard University Press, 2015). His work concerns the modern history of Japan and East Asia, the history of U.S. foreign relations, and the social and global history of the Cold War. An overarching theme of his research is the evolving power of the ordinary people, regardless of political spectrum or geography, with particular attention toward ordinary people's violence and the recurrent rise of grassroots conservatism in the globalized world of the 20th century. He is currently working on his second book project, *Purity and Order: Re-conceptualizing Wartime and Cold War Asia*, which examines social experience of globalization and purification in Asia, with a particular focus on the recurrent rise of grassroots conservative backlashes from the 1910s to the 1950s. From September 2017 to May 2018, he served as a Wilson Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC.



SR Joey Long

Moderator for Discussion

Joey Long is an Associate Professor of History at the National University of Singapore. A former NUS history major, Joey Long received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Cambridge in 2006. His main fields of interest are the cold and hot wars in post-WWII Southeast Asia, the history of American foreign relations with Asia, the history of Singapore, and Asia-Pacific security. Before joining NUS, Long was the director of the history program at Nanyang Technological University. He was also previously an assistant professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and a visiting history and public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. In addition to articles published in *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Diplomatic History*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *South East Asia Research*, and a number of edited volumes, Long is the author of *Safe for Decolonization: The Eisenhower Administration, Britain, and Singapore*. Fellowships and awards he has received include a Fulbright Grant, the Lawrence Gelfand-Armin Rappaport Fellowship from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, and the Holland Rose Trust Award from the University of Cambridge.

Diplomatic History Roundtable on US-Southeast Asian Relations History



Anne L. Foster

Introductory Remarks on the History of US-Southeast Asian Relations

Anne L. Foster is an Associate Professor of History at Indiana State University. She is the author of *Projections of Power: The United States and Europe in Colonial Southeast Asia, 1919-1941* (Duke University Press, 2010), the editor of *The American Colonial State in the Philippines: Global Perspectives* (Duke, 2003) and has served as co-chief editor of *Diplomatic History*, journal of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) since 2014.



Bradley Simpson

"A Social Engineering Project of Monumental Proportions": Indonesian Transmigration and the Crisis of Development, 1968-1985

Bradley Simpson is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut. He is the author of *Economists with Guns: Authoritarian Development and US-Indonesian Relations, 1960-1968* (Stanford University Press, 2008), as well as numerous articles and book chapters on Indonesian politics and foreign policy. He is currently writing a global history of the idea of self-determination in international politics. His next book will explore how Western engagement with Indonesian authoritarianism shaped the politics of development, Islam, and human rights in the world's fourth largest nation during the reign of General Suharto, who ruled the country from 1966 to 1998.



Joy Sales

Gender, Political Detention, and Human Rights in the Philippines

Joy Sales is a scholar of transnational social movements and Filipino American studies. She has received many awards for her research including the Fulbright Fellowship to the Philippines and the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. She completed her PhD in History at Northwestern University, and from fall 2019 will be a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Program in American Culture Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Also, she proudly serves as Chair of GABRIELA-Chicago, an organization part of GABRIELA National Women's Alliance. Founded in 1984, GABRIELA is dedicated to the liberation of Filipino women and national democracy in the Philippines.



Kenton Clymer

***The United States and Southeast Asia:
Reflections on Where we have been, and Where we can go***

Kenton Clymer is a Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of History, Northern Illinois University. He is the author of seven books, most of which concern US relations with South and Southeast Asia. His two-volume history of US relations with Cambodia won the Robert H. Ferrell Book Award in 2005 from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. His most recent book is *A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar since 1945* (Cornell University Press, 2015).



Matthew Phillips

Aid Becomes Tribute: Thailand's King Bhumibol and the Creation of the American Periphery

Matthew Phillips is a lecturer in Modern Asian History at Aberystwyth University, Wales. Since May 2018 he has been on secondment at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office where he works as a Research Analyst on Thailand, Burma, Cambodia and Laos. His research focuses on alternative modes of Cold War diplomacy, including the role of space, consumption, personal interaction, cultural transmission and spectacle. He has published on a range of topics, including his 2016 book, *Thailand in the Cold War*. Matthew also contributes to a number of media outlets, including the New York Times.



Wen-Qing Ngoei

***Event Convenor
The United States and the 'Chinese Problem' of Southeast Asia***

Wen-Qing Ngoei is an assistant professor of history at Nanyang Technological University. He completed his PhD at Northwestern University and joined NTU after postdoctoral stints at Northwestern and Yale University. Ngoei's book, *Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism in Southeast Asia* (Cornell, 2019), argues that British decolonization intertwined with Southeast Asian anticommunism to shape U.S. policy in the wider region. He has published in *Diplomatic History* (2017) and his prize-winning essay on the domino theory appears in the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* (2014).