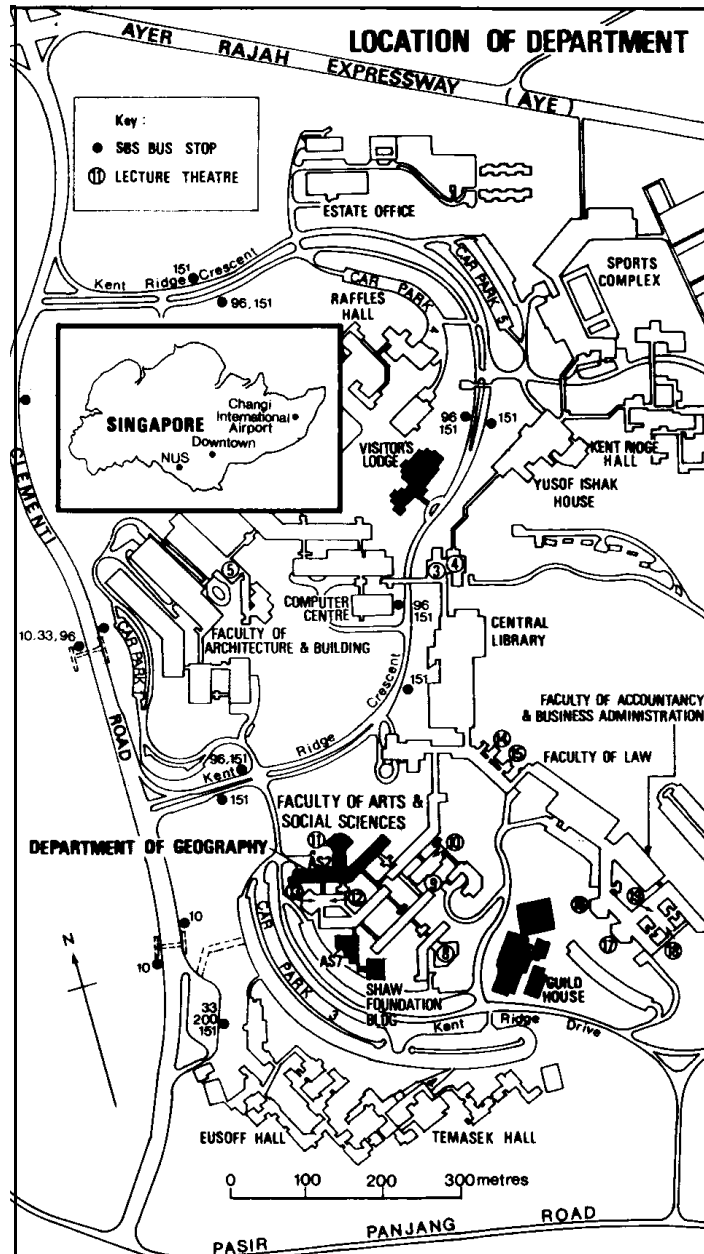


# Global Conference on Economic Geography



**National University of  
Singapore**  
5-9<sup>th</sup> December 2000



# GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

## PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS

**5-9th December 2000, National University of Singapore**

*Organised by*

Department of Geography, National University of Singapore



Founded 1905

in collaboration with economic geography study groups of  
the Association of American Geographers, Royal Geographical  
Society-Institute of British Geographers, Institute of Australian  
Geographers, International Geographical Union and  
Commonwealth Geographical Bureau.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Academic Research Fund, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,  
National University of Singapore

Blackwell Publishers

*Economic Geography*

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## INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

### Conference Rationale

There are few opportunities for "economic geographers" (broadly defined) to engage in genuinely global dialogue. In the context of globalising tendencies in the world economy, such dialogue is increasingly important for it facilitates the development of knowledge, and the establishment of international collaborative relations for both teaching and research. Such dialogue also requires economic geographers to face head on the complex issues of vantage point and ethnocentric bias.

We believe the timing is appropriate for a *global conference on economic geography*. As one of the key sub-disciplines in Geography, it is time to discuss and debate current research agendas in economic geography. It is also a critical time to rethink the relationship between the sub-discipline (within human geography) and the wider social science community; a "project" invigorated by the recent collection *Geographies of Economies* (eds. Roger Lee and Jane Wills, 1997, Arnold), and the American Association of Geographers Economic Geography Specialty Group's initiatives (details available at <http://www.ucc.uconn.edu/~wwwgeog/aagecon.html>).

In organising this global conference on economic geography, we have three specific objectives:

The conference will provide a forum for constructive cross-regional dialogue among economic geographers from all regions and countries. Such dialogue is critical for the advancement of the subject.

The conference will provide an opportunity for economic geographers from outside Asia to interact with geographers and other interested social scientists from within the host region. While acknowledging the Anglo-American influence in much of the recent work in economic geography, we recognise that there is a considerable stock of knowledge in the Asian region that contributes to our understanding of regional and global economic geographies. In short, the conference will enhance the global *interdependence* of networks of economic geographers.

The conference and its associated activities will enable economic geographers from outside the Asian region to experience (first-hand) the dynamics of economic transformations in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Through carefully designed field trips, both within and outside of

Singapore, the conference will offer insightful educational experiences that can be brought home for the benefits of students and institutions.

## **Conference Organising Committee**

Tim Bunnell (National University of Singapore) – Treasurer

Neil Coe (University of Manchester, UK)

Philip Kelly (York University, Canada)

Andrew Marton (University of Nottingham, UK)

Kris Olds (National University of Singapore) – Chairperson

Martin Perry (National University of Singapore) – Treasurer

Jessie Poon (University of Buffalo-SUNY, USA)

K. Raguraman (National University of Singapore)

Henry Wai-chung Yeung (National University of Singapore) – Secretary

## **Transport to/from the Conference**

### ***Public transport***

NUS campus is served by a variety of buses. If you are travelling to NUS by public transport take the MRT to Clementi station, walk for five minutes into the bus exchange loop (ask around if you get lost), and then take the 96 bus to NUS. The ride should cost around 60 cents for air-con buses. Make sure you alight at the first stop when the bus turns into NUS campus. Please refer to the map on the inside-cover of this booklet as it will show you where the conference venue is located. When leaving NUS note that the No. 96 bus goes to Clementi MRT station where you can catch a mass transit train to the downtown area. One other option is a mix of MRT and taxi – taxis are plentiful around the Clementi MRT station and cost approximately S\$3-4 to NUS. See below for more information on taxis.

Buses take coins or a TransitLink Farecard – this is a stored-value card which can be used on buses, the MRT and the LRT. Farecards can be bought from or revalued at TransitLink Ticket Sales Offices at various MRT stations and bus interchanges. You can also revalue Farecards at the Automatic Vending Machines using NETS and the Integrated Ticketing Machines using NETS or

cash or buy Farecards from MRT Station Control Rooms and selected 7-Eleven outlets.

### ***On campus transit***

There are two internal shuttle bus lines on campus and they stop at a variety of stations throughout the campus. They cost 20 cents per ride.

### ***Taxis***

Taxis are relatively cheap in Singapore. You can either wave them down on the street with a waving arm/hand signal, or else telephone and book them. Taxi drivers take cash and some take credit cards. The three main taxi firms and their respective booking numbers are:

CitiCab (552-2222) <http://www.citycab.com.sg>

Comfort (552-1111) <http://www.comfortgroup.com.sg/transport.htm>

Tibs (481-1211) <http://www.tibs.com.sg>

Please note that taxis are difficult to locate on Friday and Saturday evenings and especially when it starts raining! It usually costs between S\$7 and S\$10 to take a taxi from NUS to the downtown area. Please note that fare rates increase by 50% between midnight and 6:00 am...and please do not waste time trying to find a cab between 11:45 pm and midnight as they are nowhere to be found!

### **Registration**

Please register for the conference between 8 am and 8:30 am on Wednesday 6 December 2000 at the foyer of AS7 Shaw Foundation Building located in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore (see the attached map on the inside-cover of this booklet). The registration desk will be open from 8 am to 9 am on Wednesday 6 December and Thursday 7 December 2000.

### **Conference Secretariat**

The Secretariat is located at the foyer of AS7 Shaw Foundation Building located in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of



Singapore. There will be someone to assist you if you have any queries during the conference.

You may also contact the Department of Geography (AS2 #03-01) at 874 3853 during office hours (8:30 am - 5:30 pm).

### **Plenary Sessions**

There are four plenary sessions and one roundtable. The first plenary session will be given by Professor Ash Amin from the University of Durham, England, between 8:45 am and 10:15 am on Wednesday 6 December 2000 at Lecture Theatre 11. This is immediately followed by the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* Lecture to be given by Professor Chua Beng Huat from the National University of Singapore, between 10:15 am and 11:00 am. The third plenary session will be delivered by Professor Katherine Gibson from Australian National University as an *Antipode* Lecture in LT11 between 6:15 pm to 7 pm on Wednesday 6 December 2000. The final plenary session will be held between 6:15 pm and 7 pm on Thursday 7 December 2000 at Lecture Theatre 12. Professor Trevor Barnes from the University of British Columbia, Canada, will deliver the lecture.

The *Antipode* roundtable will be held between 6:15 pm and 7 pm on Friday 8 December 2000 at Lecture Theatre 12.

### **Conference Receptions**

Blackwell Publishers will host the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* Reception at the foyer of Lecture Theatre 11 between 10:15 am and 11:00 am on Wednesday 6 December 2000. There will be another reception hosted by Blackwell Publishers at the foyer of Lecture Theatre 11 immediately after the *Antipode* Lecture to be delivered in Lecture Theatre 11 between 6:15 pm to 7 pm on the same day. *Economic Geography* will host a reception after the plenary session in LT12 between 6:15 pm to 7 pm on Thursday 7 December 2000. You are cordially invited to all three receptions.

### **Lunches**

The conference registration fees include three lunches from Wednesday 6 December 2000 to Friday 8 December 2000. All lunches will be held in the NUSS Guild House. There will be road signs indicating the location of the NUSS Guild House. Vegetarian and halal options are available.

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY

**TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2000 (WHOLE DAY)**

**1. Fieldtrip - Johor, Malaysia: From Agricultural Dependence to Export-Manufacturing Region**

**Organiser: Tim Bunnell <geotgb@nus.edu.sg>**

The fieldtrip will commence with a series of briefings in the morning on economic development in the state capital, Johor Bahru. This will include presentations by three of the key institutions involved in state development: Johor Economic Planning Unit (UPEN), Institute Sultan Iskandar and Johor Corporation. The remainder of the schedule consists of visits to industrial sites. The first, a palm oil plantation and processing complex at Ulu Tiram managed by Johor Corporation, reflects the traditional mainstay of the state economy. Lunch will be taken at the site, courtesy of Johor Corporation. The second site, Pasir Gudang industrial township, exemplifies the more recent emphasis of state economic development. There are two pick-up points for the bus, the Visitor's Lodge at NUS (leaving at 7.30 am) and at Merchant Court Hotel (leaving at 8.00 am). The same locations will be used as drop-off points in the evening. We plan to arrive back in Singapore at around 6 pm.

**2. Fieldtrip - Industrialising Indonesia: Economic and Social Dimensions of Rapid Development on Batam**

**Organiser: Philip Kelly, York University, Canada <pfkelly@yorku.ca>**

Participants should meet at 8 am sharp at the Ferry Terminal inside the World Trade Centre on Teloh Blangah Road. The group will assemble at the Delifrance bakery outlet downstairs from the booking desks. Please remember to bring passports, and visas where necessary.

**WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2000**

8:00 – 8:30 am	<b>Registration</b> (Foyer, AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, NUS)
8:30 – 8:45 am	<b>Opening Session</b> (Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)
8:45 – 10:15 am	<b>Plenary Session</b> (Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)
10:15 – 11:00 am	<b>Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography Reception</b> (Foyer, Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)
11:00 – 12:45 pm	<b>Session 3.1 Dynamics of urban and regional development I</b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 3.2 Theories and discourses of economic geography</b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 3.3 Geography of service economies I</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
12:45 – 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b> (NUSS Guild House)
2:00 – 4:00 pm	<b>Session 3.4 Dynamics of urban and regional development II</b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 3.5 Organising industrial spaces I</b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 3.6 Geography of service economies II</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b> (Foyer, AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, NUS)
4:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>Session 3.7 Dynamics of urban and regional development III</b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 3.8 Organising industrial spaces II</b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 3.9 Geography of service economies III</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
6:15 – 7:00 pm	<b>Antipode Lecture</b> (Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)
7:00 – 8:00 pm	<b>Blackwell Reception</b> (Foyer, Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)

## THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2000

8:30 – 10:00 am	<b>Session 4.1 <i>Dynamics of urban and regional development IV</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 4.2 <i>Finance and economic geography I</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 4.3 <i>Virtual economies I</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-06)
10:00 – 10:30 am	<b>Tea Break</b> (Foyer, AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, NUS)
10:30 – 12:30 pm	<b>Session 4.4 <i>Dynamics of urban and regional development V</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 4.5 <i>Finance and economic geography II</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 4.6 <i>Geographies of transitional economies</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01) <b>Session 4.7 <i>Virtual economies II</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-06)
12:30 – 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b> (NUSS Guild House)
2:00 – 4:00 pm	<b>Session 4.8 <i>Innovation, learning, and communities of practice I</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 4.9 <i>Economy and the environment I</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 4.10 <i>Development geography I</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b> (Foyer, AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, NUS)
4:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>Session 4.11 <i>Innovation, learning, and communities of practice II</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 4.12 <i>Economy and the environment II</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 4.13 <i>Development geography II</i></b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
6:15 – 7:00 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> (Lecture Theatre 12, NUS)
7:00 – 8:00 pm	<b>Economic Geography Reception</b> (Foyer, Lecture Theatre 12, NUS)

**FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2000**

8:30 – 10:00 am	<b>Session 5.1 Geographies of international trade and investment I</b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 5.2 Labour Geographies I</b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 5.3 Development geography III</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
10:00 – 10:30 am	<b>Tea Break</b> (Foyer, AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, NUS)
10:30 – 12:30 pm	<b>Session 5.4 Geographies of international trade and investment II</b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 5.5 Labour Geographies II</b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 5.6 Geographies of global capitalism I</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01) <b>Session 5.7 Rural and resource economies</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-06)
12:30 – 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b> (NUSS Guild House)
2:00 – 4:00 pm	<b>Session 5.8 Geographies of international trade and investment III</b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 5.9 Labour Geographies III</b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 5.10 Geographies of global capitalism II</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b> (Foyer, AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, NUS)
4:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>Session 5.11 Geographies of international trade and investment IV</b> (AS7 Seminar Rooms A,B,C) <b>Session 5.12 Labour Geographies IV</b> (AS7 Seminar Room D) <b>Session 5.13 Culture and ethnicity in economic geography</b> (AS7 Seminar Room 01-01)
6:15 – 7:30 pm	<b>Antipode Roundtable: A Crisis of Economic Geography?</b> (Lecture Theatre 12, NUS)

**SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2000 (MORNING)**

**Fieldtrip: Exploring the Diverse Industrial Landscapes of Singapore**  
**Organiser: K. Raguraman Krishnas, National University of Singapore**  
<geokrk@nus.edu.sg>

Fieldtrip participants are requested to meet in front of Block AS7, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS at 8.45 a.m. to catch the bus.

The fieldtrip will begin with a bus-ride to one of the government organisations involved in economic and industrial planning in Singapore. Officials there will provide a brief presentation on the evolution of the industrial landscape in Singapore over the past 30 years. This will be followed by a guided tour of various industrial sites in Singapore, including business parks, science parks and other planned industrial estates. This will give participants an opportunity to appreciate the changing character of industrial land use in Singapore. The tour will end with lunch at a local restaurant.

## DETAILED PROGRAMME

### WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2000

- 8:00 – 8:30 am**     **Registration**  
(Foyer, AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, NUS)
- 8:30 – 8:45 am**     **Opening Session (Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)**  
**Welcome Address**  
Professor Lee Soo Ying  
Director, Institutional Resources & Special Duties  
National University of Singapore
- 8:45 – 10:15 am**     **Plenary Session (Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)**  
**Chair:** Kris Olds, National University of Singapore  
*Geographers on geographies of globalisation*  
Professor Ash Amin  
University of Durham, UK
- Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography Lecture**  
**Chair:** Victor R. Savage, National University of Singapore  
*Pop culture China: Conceptualization*  
Professor Chua Beng Huat  
National University of Singapore
- 10:15 – 11:00 am**     *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*  
**Reception** (Foyer, Lecture Theatre 11, NUS)