The 2018 Conference on “America’s Asia, Asia’s America”

August 13-14, 2018 at the National University of Singapore

Marked by the Trump Administration's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Paris Climate Accord and the Chinese State's initiative on "One Belt, One Road," the geopolitics of the transpacific has undergone some subtle changes. Are we moving toward what critics call the "post-American world"? How will these changes reconfigure the fields of Asian studies and American studies, which were the products of the Cold War? Is the transnational turn in literary studies in fact an Asian turn? Are global Asian studies and transpacific American studies responses to the geopolitics of the transpacific? Specifically, how will the United States redefine its political ideals of democracy and human rights in relation to the rise of the Asian Pacific? What visions and lessons can the United States draw from its political, economic, cultural, and military encounters with the region since the late nineteenth century? These questions not only require us to consider the correlation between the United States and the Asian Pacific geopolitically but also compel us to investigate the role of literature and culture in national and transnational spaces and histories.

This conference will bring together leading scholars in American studies and Asian studies and initiate a critical conversation on geopolitics, representation, and transpacific American studies. Hailing from North America, Oceania, East and Southeast Asia, these scholars will share their unique critical and historical perspectives on geopolitics and histories on the one hand and explore the US encounter with the Asian Pacific in different literary/cultural forms, genres, media, and discourses on the other hand. As a hub between East and West, between East and Southeast Asia, Singapore has been positioned as a unique site for such engaging critical exchanges and conversations.

The conference is co-organized by Dr. Yuan Shu from Texas Tech University, a Fulbright Scholar at the National University of Singapore, 2017-18, and Dr. Kenneth Dean from the National University of Singapore. It will be open to faculty members and students at all universities in Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries.

Possible topics:
- Transpacific American Studies as a New Field Imaginary in American Studies
- ChinAmerica: Neoliberalism, Confucianism, and Epistemology
- Singapore as a Cultural Hub between East and West
- Southeast Asia and Transpacific American Studies
- Sinophone Literature: Ungrounded Empire or Peripheries without Center?
- South China Sea: a New American Mediterranean or a New Asian Balkans?
- Nationalism, Transnationalism, and Globalism in the Asian Pacific
- The Cold War and the US Imagination of the Asian Pacific
- Buddhism, Hinduism, and Spirituality in North America and the Asian Pacific
- Transnational Popular Culture and Cinema: from Hollywood to Bollywood
- Sex, Violence, and Fantasy in the American and Japanese Graphic Novels
- US Experience and Influence in the Philippines
- Representation of Asians and Asian Americans in Hollywood and American Popular Culture
- Transnational and Global American Literature
- Asian American Studies and African American Studies
- Human Rights and Human Wrongs in the Asian Pacific
- Technology, Discourse, and the Chinese American Community
- Literatures and Cultures of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the War on Terror
- Empire, Ecology, and Transpacific American Studies

Possible Speakers:
Donald Pease, Dartmouth College (American Studies)
John Carlos Rowe, University of Southern California (American Studies)
Brian Russell Roberts, Brigham Young University (American Studies)
Lisa Lowe, Tufts University (Asian American Studies)
Aihwa Ong, UC-Berkeley (Cultural Anthropology and Critical Theory)
Paul Bové, University of Pittsburgh (American Studies and Critical Theory)
Cathy Schlund-Vials, University of Connecticut (Asian American Studies)

Gordon H. Chang, Stanford University (Asian Studies)
Tani Barlow, Rice University (Asian Studies)
Eric Hayot, Penn State University (New Media, Comparative Literature, and Asian Studies)
Haun Saussy, University of Chicago (Comparative Literature and Asian Studies)
Pheng Cheah, UC-Berkeley (Comparative Literature and Critical Theory)
Der-wei Wang, Harvard University (East Asian Studies)
Rey Chow, Duke University (East Asian Studies)

Paul Giles, Sidney University (American Studies)
Wang Hui, Tsinghua University (Asian Studies)
Kuan-hsing Chen, Chiao Tung University (Asian Studies)
Wang Ning, Shanghai Jiaotong University (Comparative Literature and American Studies)
Kendall Johnson, University of Hong Kong (American Studies)
John Eperjesi, Kyung Hee University in South Korea (American Studies)
Lily Tope, University of the Philippines (American Studies)
Bayu Kaladeva, University of Indonesia (American Studies)