



# Research Seminars on ASEAN-China-Norms

**Organised by**

**The French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the  
East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore**

## **Research Seminar 1**

**1 April 2021 (Thursday)**

**16:00 - 18:00 (Singapore time) / 10:00 - 12:00 (Paris time)**

## **Research Seminar 2**

**8 April 2021 (Thursday)**

**16:00 - 18:30 (Singapore time) / 10:00 - 12:30 (Paris time)**

## **Synopsis**

Over the last few decades, the changing global context has been conducive for China and Southeast Asian countries to forge closer ties with each other. The constructive role played by the Chinese government in dealing with the Asian Financial Crisis coupled with changing US priorities in Asia since the late 1990s has led to a marked improvement in relations between the two regions. China is playing an increasingly important role in both market-driven and institutionalised economic integration in the region. The considerable distrust that once defined the relationship has been replaced by deeper economic ties despite regional security concerns.

These research seminars will look at the impact of China's rise on the region from both Southeast Asian and French perspectives, in particular China-Southeast Asian relations, China's outward direct investment in the region and the subsequent impact on education, labour policy and media in Southeast Asian countries. The seminars aim to enlighten and broaden the discussion on this increasingly important issue and to provide a platform for ideas and information exchange between the academia and policymakers on the future development of the regional as well as global political economy.

The research seminars are EAI's first in establishing long-term collaboration with French scholars and research institutes. The two-day seminars are opened to the public. Please register your interest in advance on the link given below and check for the seminar programme updates via EAI's website (<https://research.nus.edu.sg/eai/>).

**Registration link:** <https://nus-sg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdO6rrT0sHNYbJSVT6ecrjSwGeh8PjFh>

**For enquiries, please contact:**

Chiang Min-Hua ([eaicmh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:eaicmh@nus.edu.sg))

Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux ([elsa.lafaye-demicheaux@univ-rennes2.fr](mailto:elsa.lafaye-demicheaux@univ-rennes2.fr))

**Research Seminar 1**  
**China-ASEAN Relations: Views from Singapore and France**  
 Thursday, 1 April 2021

Moderator: **Chen Gang**, EAI, NUS

Singapore time 16:00 - 16:10 <i>Paris time</i> 10:00 - 10:10	<b>Opening Remarks: China's Economic Policy towards ASEAN as a New Joint Research Agenda</b>	<b>Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux</b> Associate Professor CASE-CNRS, Paris and Université de Rennes <b>Bert Hofman</b> Director, EAI Professor in Practice, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS
16:10 - 16:20 <i>10:10 - 10:20</i>	<b>An Official View from France</b>	<b>His Excellency Ambassador Marc Abensour</b> Ambassador of France to Singapore
16:20 - 16:40 <i>10:20 - 10:40</i>	Lecture on <b>China-Southeast Asia Relations: Does the Past Matter?</b>	<b>Wang Gungwu</b> University Professor, NUS
16:40 - 16:55 <i>10:40 - 10:55</i>	<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Robert Boyer</b> Research Director, Institut des Ameriques, EHESS
16:55 - 17:10 <i>10:55 - 11:10</i>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
17:10 - 17:15 <i>11:10 - 11:15</i>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
17:15 - 17:30 <i>11:15 - 11:30</i>	<b>China-ASEAN Relations: Singapore Perspective</b>	<b>Lye Liang Fook</b> ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
17:30-17:45 <i>11:30 - 11:45</i>	<b>China's Strategic Investment In ASEAN: Development and Motivations</b>	<b>Chiang Min-Hua</b> EAI, NUS <b>Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux</b> CASE-CNRS, Paris and Université de Rennes
17:45 - 18:00 <i>11:45 - 12:00</i>	<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Eric Frécon</b> Asia Centre, Paris

**Research Seminar 2**  
***China's Economic Rise and New Social Norms in Southeast Asia***  
 Thursday, 8 April 2021

Moderator: **Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux**, CASE-CNRS, Paris and Université de Rennes

Singapore time 16:00 - 16:15 <i>Paris time</i> 10:00 - 10:15	<b>ASEAN's Response to China's Economic Policy Uncertainty</b>	<b>Lean Hooi Hooi</b> USM, Penang
16:15 - 16:30 <i>10:15 - 10:30</i>	<b>Chinese Investments in Vietnam: New Trends and Industrial Issues</b>	<b>Van Hong Thi Ha</b> Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
16:30 - 16:45 <i>10:30 - 10:45</i>	<b>Can a Mouse Lift an Elephant? Examination of Chinese Investment in Malaysia's East Coast Railway Construction</b>	<b>Lee Chun-Yi</b> University of Nottingham <b>Lee Pei May and Lau Zhe Wei</b> International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
16:45 - 17:00 <i>10:45 - 11:00</i>	<b>Strategies of Chinese Public Companies in Renewable Energy (Malaysia/Cambodia Compared)</b>	<b>Antonin Morin</b> CKS, Phnom Penh
17:00 - 17:10 <i>11:00 - 11:10</i>	<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Clément Séhier</b> Université de Lille
17:10 - 17:15 <i>11:10 - 11:15</i>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
17:15 - 17:30 <i>11:15 - 11:30</i>	<b>Urban Production in Southeast Asia Under the Sign of the BRI: Preliminary Analyses and Comparative Perspectives</b>	<b>Adèle Esposito</b> IRASEC (CNRS), Chiang Mai
17:30 - 17:45 <i>11:30 - 11:45</i>	<b>The Universities' Internationalisation in ASEAN: The Impact of China</b>	<b>Jimmy Stef</b> IRASEC-CNRS, Malaysia
17:45 - 18:00 <i>11:45 - 12:00</i>	<b>Competing Models in the Draft Law on Associations, Vietnam: China Versus Europe's Norms</b>	<b>Giang Nguyen</b> LIRIS (Université de Rennes)
18:00 - 18:15 <i>12:00 - 12:15</i>	<b>New Risks for the Media in Southeast Asia: An Updated Assessment</b>	<b>Laure Siegel</b> Mediapart, Bangkok
18:15 - 18:25 <i>12:15 - 12:25</i>	<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Kong Tuan Yuen</b> EAI, NUS
18:25 - 18:30 <i>12:25 - 12:30</i>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Chen Gang</b> Assistant Director (Policy Research), EAI

## *List of Speakers*

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation and Organisation</b>
1	HE Amb Marc ABENSOUR	Ambassador, Embassy of France in Singapore
2	Prof Robert BOYER	Research Director, Institut des Amériques, EHESS, Paris, France
3	Dr CHEN Gang	Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director (Policy Research), EAI, NUS
4	Dr CHIANG Min-Hua	Research Fellow, EAI, NUS, Singapore
5	Dr Adèle ESPOSITO	Senior Research Fellow, CNRS (France), IRASEC, Bangkok, Thailand
6	Dr Eric FRÉCON	Research Fellow, Centre Asie (France), posted to Singapore
7	Prof Bert HOFMAN	Director, EAI and Professor in Practice, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS, Singapore
8	Dr KONG Tuan Yuen	Visiting Research Fellow, EAI, NUS, Singapore
9	Dr LAU Zhe Wei	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia
10	Prof LEAN Hooi Hooi	Professor, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
11	Dr LEE Chun-Yi	Associate Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham, UK
12	Dr LEE Pei May	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia
13	Mr LYE Liang Fook	Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore
14	Dr Elsa Lafaye de MICHEAUX	Associate Professor, CASE CNRS and Université de Rennes, France
15	Dr Antonin MORIN	Post Doc, Centre for Khmer Studies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
16	Ms NGUYEN Thi Thu Giang	PhD Student, LIRIS, Université de Rennes (France) and Vusta Hanoi, Vietnam
17	Dr Clément SÉHIER	Senior Lecturer, Ecole Mine-Telecom IMT-Université de Lille, France
18	Ms Laure SIEGEL	Journalist, Arte Correspondent for Southeast Asia, Mediapart (France), posted to Bangkok, Thailand
19	Mr Jimmy STEF	PhD student, CNRS (France), IRASEC, posted to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
20	Dr VAN Hong Thi Ha	Department Head, Department of Chinese Economic Studies, Institute of Chinese Studies, Vietnam Academy Social Sciences, Hanoi, Vietnam
21	Prof WANG Gungwu	University Professor, NUS, Singapore

## *About the Speakers*

### **Marc ABENSOUR**

Ambassador Marc Abensour has been the Ambassador of France to Singapore since November 2016. A graduate of the École normale supérieure, he joined the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994. He served in the Asia and Oceania as well as Strategic Affairs Directorates and held various postings at the French Embassies in Beijing and Washington and Permanent Representation to NATO. Before his Singapore posting, he was Director of International, Strategic and Technologic Affairs at the General Secretariat for Defence and National Security and then Inspector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Robert BOYER**

Prof Robert Boyer is a French economist trained at Ecole Polytechnique, Sciences-Po Paris and Paris 1 University. Before becoming Fellow at Institut des Amériques, Paris, he was senior researcher at CNRS

and professor at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Prof Boyer has developed an historical and comparative analysis of the institutional transformations of capitalism under the label of Régulation theory. Systematic international comparisons converge towards a taxonomy of contemporary socioeconomic regimes and their growing interdependence within an unprecedented configuration of the world economy. Among his publications are the *Régulation Theory: The State of the Art* (with Yves Saillard), Routledge, 2001, *The Future of Growth, Economie politique des capitalismes*, La Découverte, 2015, *Les capitalismes à l'épreuve de la pandémie*, La Découverte. Please visit <http://robertboyer.org> for further details.

### **CHEN Gang**

Dr Chen Gang is Assistant Director and Senior Research Fellow of the East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore (NUS). After joining the EAI in 2007, he has been tracing China's politics, foreign policy, environmental and energy policies and publishing extensively on these issues. He is the single author of *Politics of Renewable Energy in China* (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2019), *The Politics of Disaster Management in China: Institutions, Interest Groups, and Social Participation* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), *China's Climate Policy* (London and New York: Routledge, 2012), *Politics of China's Environmental Protection: Problems and Progress* (Singapore: World Scientific, 2009) and *The Kyoto Protocol and International Cooperation against Climate Change* (in Chinese) (Beijing: Xinhua Press, 2008). His research papers have appeared in internationally refereed journals such as *Asian Survey*, *Asia Pacific Business Review*, *The Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies*, *The International Spectator*, *The Polar Journal*, *China: An International Journal*, *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* and *The Journal of East Asian Affairs*. He provides consultancy for the Singapore government on policy issues in East Asia. He is frequently interviewed by media like the *South China Morning Post*, Channel NewsAsia and *Xinhua News Agency*. Dr Chen has also formulated the "Contemporary China–Southeast Asia Relations" module for NUS Master of Arts students and the "Public Sector Risk Management" curriculum for MPA students at the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He was a member of the Global Emerging Voices programme jointly sponsored by The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Stiftung Mercator, Torino World Affairs Institute and Australian National University in 2012. He has participated in various international research projects such as the "EU-Asia Dialogue" co-funded by the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) of Germany and the Asian Energy Programme sponsored by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

### **CHIANG Min-Hua**

Dr Chiang Min-Hua is Research Fellow, EAI, NUS. She obtained her PhD in economics from Université Pierre-Mendès-France, now part of Université Grenoble Alpes, in 2008. Her research interests include Asia-Pacific regionalism, trade and investment, and issues related to economic growth and development in East Asia. She has published in numerous academic journals and contributed commentaries regularly to the East Asia Forum and Taiwan Insight. She is currently editing the book *Political Economy of North Korea's Economic Development*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, CO, USA (forthcoming in 2022).

### **Eric FRÉCON**

Dr Eric Frécon is Instructor, Singapore University of Social Sciences and a visiting academic at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He is also an Adjunct Fellow at the French Research Institute for Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC) and at the French Naval Academy where he taught for six years. During the 2012-2019 period, he coordinated the Southeast Asia Observatory (Asia Centre, Paris) and worked with the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore from 2008 to 2011.

### **Bert HOFMAN**

Prof Bert Hofman, a Dutch national, is Director of EAI, NUS and Professor of Practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Before joining NUS, he has been working with the World Bank for 27 years, 22 of which were in Asia and 12 of which were in China. Prof Hofman was the World Bank Country

Director for China 2014-2019, the country economist 2004-2008, and the Chief Economist for the World Bank in the East Asia and Pacific region 2011-2014. He also worked on Indonesia, the Philippines, Korea and Mongolia. Before joining the World Bank, Prof Hofman worked at the Kiel Institute of World Economics, The OECD and NMB Bank (Now ING). He has extensive experience in advising governments around the region on a wide range of development issues and has published on fiscal policy, debt issues and China's and Indonesia's recent economic history.

### **KONG Tuan Yuen**

Dr Kong Tuan Yuen received his PhD in industrial economics from the National Central University, Taiwan. He had taken part in many economic research projects on Taiwan at the Research Centre for Taiwan Economic Development. He is now visiting research fellow at the East Asian Institute of the National University of Singapore. His current research interests include China's industrial development and China-ASEAN economic relations. Some of his works had been published in *China: An International Journal*, *Review of Global Politics*, *Applied Econometrics and International Development* and *Journal of Overseas Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies*. His co-edited books include *Studying Hong Kong: 20 Years of Political, Economic and Social Developments* (2018) and *China and Asia Economic Integration* (2020). He is also a frequent contributor for Singapore's local media.

### **LAU Zhe Wei**

Dr Lau Zhe Wei officially joined the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) as Assistant Professor in October 2018. Prior to this, he was an Academic Trainee attached to IIUM under PhD (Politics) scholarship with the University of Bristol. Before furthering his PhD studies, Dr Lau was teaching in a few private higher education institutions. His main research includes, but not limited to Malaysian politics, electoral studies, Malaysian Chinese studies and Hong Kong politics. He was also SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) Scholar in year 2019, sponsored by the Department of State, United States. Dr Lau has been a weekly columnist for an online media, Malaysian Insight (Chinese version), since April 2020.

### **LEAN Hooi Hooi**

Prof Lean Hooi Hooi is Professor, School of Social Sciences (Economics Programme), Universiti Sains Malaysia. She is also Affiliate Professor at IPAG Business School, France and Universitas Indonesia. She has published more than 150 articles in many reputable international journals. Her publications' H-index is 44, with articles on Google Scholar registering more than 8,000 citations. Prof Lean was awarded one of the Top Research Scientists Malaysia by Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2018. She received Malaysia's Research Star Award in 2017 from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and Clarivate Analytics, and National Academic Award in 2015 from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. Prof Lean is Fellow of the East Asian Economic Association. She serves as an Associate Editor for *Singapore Economic Review*, *Frontiers in Energy Research*, *Malaysian Journal of Economics* and *International Journal of Economics and Management*. She is also an editorial board member of *Energy Research Letters*, *Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business* and *Asian Journal of Economics and Finance*. She is also an editorial advisory board member of *Indonesian Capital Market Review* and the *Labuan Bulletin of International Business and Finance*.

### **LEE Chun-Yi**

Dr Lee Chun-Yi is Associate Professor at the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham. She is also the Director of Taiwan Studies Programme at Nottingham. Dr Lee's first book was published by Routledge in 2011 titled, *Taiwanese Business or Chinese Security Asset*, under the Leiden Series in Modern East Asia History and Politics. Dr Lee's joint project with Prof Andreas Bieler on 'Globalisation, national transformation and workers' rights: An analysis of Chinese labour within the global economy' (October 2011 to September 2014) was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Dr Lee completed another project funded by Chiang-Ching-kuo (CCK) Foundation in Taiwan on 'Chinese Investment in Taiwan: Challenge or Opportunity for Taiwan's Industrial Development' in

December 2016. Dr Lee is currently, working on a public policy research project on Taiwan's and UK's strategies to counter COVID-19. She is also working on her second monograph on the topic of 'China's New Normal: The Impact of China's Rise on the Global Political Economy'.

### **LEE Pei May**

Dr Lee Pei May is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at IIUM. She completed her PhD in 2019 under the supervision of Professor Andreas Bieler and Dr Lee Chun-Yi of the University of Nottingham where she worked on her thesis titled 'Assessing China's development in the Global Economy: Underdevelopment, Uneven and Combined Development or Developmental Catch-up?' Her general research interest is on international political economy/international relations, with a special focus on China.

### **LYE Liang Fook**

Mr Lye Liang Fook is Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Regional Security and Political Studies Programme as well as Coordinator of the Vietnam Studies Programme at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. His research interests cover China's foreign policy, China's "One Road, One Belt" initiative, China-ASEAN relations and China-Singapore relations. He was part of a research team that completed a review of the Suzhou Industrial Park, the first flagship project between China and Singapore. His research extends to other government-to-government projects between the two countries such as the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city and the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity. His publications have appeared in journals like the *International Relations of the Asia Pacific*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies* and *China: An International Journal* and in books by Routledge, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Publishing, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Publishing, World Scientific Publishing and Eastern Universities Press. He was formerly Research Fellow and Assistant Director of the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore where he headed the Singapore Secretariat of the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) and the Network of ASEAN-China Think Tanks (NACT), two Track II bodies that promote regional cooperation. He is a regular participant at the annual China-Singapore Forum, a Track 1.5 body that seeks to promote bilateral relations.

### **Elsa Lafaye de MICHEAUX**

Dr Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux is Associate Professor in political economy at the University of Rennes and a member of the Centre d'études sur l'Asie du Sud-Est de Paris (CASE, CNRS-Ehess-Inalco). Between 2014 and 2016, she was based in Kuala Lumpur working for IRASEC and an associate researcher at Malaya University. Her work focused on the transformations of the Malaysian economy vis-à-vis the diversity of Southeast Asian capitalisms in a historical perspective. Her study on Malaysian-Chinese relationship began in 2013. Since 2019, she has been leading the ASEAN-China-Norms, an international research network of the CNRS on normative circulations (labour standards and social rights) that accompany the dense economic relations between China and contemporary Southeast Asia.

### **Antonin MORIN**

Dr Antonin Morin is a lecturer at the Royal University of Law and Economics of Phnom Penh. In 2015, as part of a ministerial doctoral contract with the LIRIS laboratory in University Rennes 2, he carried out field research in Cambodia and Malaysia (2015-2019). His research was the subject of a thesis defended in May 2019 titled, *The world in Chinese harmony: Establishment strategies of Chinese public enterprises in Malaysia and Cambodia*. The thesis pays particular attention to Chinese public policies and the development of renewable energies and large hydraulic dams in Southeast Asia. Currently, he is conducting research on urban planning and socio-economic transformations in Sihanoukville with the University of Montreal and the Centre for Khmer Studies.



### **NGUYEN Thi Thu Giang**

Ms Nguyen Thi Thu Giang is PhD student in management and sociology of the University Rennes 2 France. Her research interests include associations and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) in Vietnam, issues related to development of associations and NGOs in ASEAN, China and Europe. She is now working with the Vietnam Union of associations of Science and Technology.

### **Clément SÉHIER**

Dr Clément Séhier is Associate Professor in economics with the Institute Mines Telecom Lille-Douai and member of Centre Lillois d'Études et de Recherches Sociologiques et Économiques, Université de Lille, CNRS, UMR 8019. He researches on the Chinese industry and its integration within global value chains, Chinese labour movement and the development of labour policies in China, and the corporate social responsibility of multinational corporations in Asia.

### **Laure SIEGEL**

Ms Laure Siegel is an independent journalist and correspondent for Mediapart newspaper based in Bangkok. She covers political developments in South and Southeast Asia for French and English-language media (*ARTE*, *Nikkei Asian Review* and so on). Ms Siegel obtained her bachelor's degree in History-Geography and a Masters in Journalism at the University of Strasbourg and worked as a reporter in Europe and the Middle East prior to her work in Asia since 2015. She regularly leads media workshops in France and Southeast Asia and is the vice-president of the Union de la Presse Francophone in Thailand.

### **Jimmy STEF**

Mr Jimmy Stef is a PhD student in sociology at the CNRS. He is a member of two French research laboratories: The 'Migrations and Society' Research Unit (URMIS) at the University of Paris and the University Cote d'Azur, and the Research Institute of Contemporary Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. His research thesis is on "The internationalization of higher education in Southeast Asia. Between transnational education, privatization and the building of local and international elites: the case of Singapore and Malaysia" (since 2018).

### **VAN Hong Thi Ha**

Dr Van Hong Thi Ha is Senior Researcher, Institute of Chinese Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS). She obtained her PhD in economics from the Academy of Social Sciences, VASS in 2016. Dr Van was Acting Head of the Department of Chinese Economic Studies, Institute of Chinese Studies, VASS since 2011 before becoming its Head since 2017. She is also a member of the academy's Task Force, Chinese Studies Review's Editorial Board, Scientific Board and Institute of Chinese Studies. Along with researching activities, she is a Lecturer of the Academy of Social Sciences, VASS and a Visiting Lecturer of the Oriental Studies Faculty, Hanoi National University. Her research interests include China economic reform, Vietnam and China economic reform and Vietnam-China economic relations.

### **WANG Gungwu**

Prof Wang Gungwu is University Professor of the National University of Singapore, Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University and former Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong. He was awarded the Tang Prize in 2020 and the Fukuoka Prize in 1996. He is the author of more than 20 books, the most recent being *Home is not here* (2018), *China Reconnects: Joining a deep-rooted past to a new world order* (2019) and (with Margaret Wang) *Home is where we are* (2020).

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