

Gerard Sasges

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Education

2006	PhD in History, University of California, Berkeley
1996	MPhil in International Relations, Cambridge University
1993	BA (Hons.) in History, University of Victoria

Professional Appointments

2018-present	Associate Professor, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, NUS
2012-18	Assistant Professor, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, NUS
2008-11	Vietnam Country Director, University of California Education Abroad Program
2008	Program Co-Director, Vietnamese Advanced Summer Institute (VASI)
2007-08	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Ohio University
2002-07	Vietnam Country Director, University of California Education Abroad Program

Teaching and supervision

MODULES TAUGHT AT NUS

GEH1068	The life aquatic: machines and the making of the ocean (new module)
SE1101	Southeast Asia: a changing region
SE3226	Hard at work: the changing face of work in Southeast Asia (new module)
SE3228	The universe unraveling: narratives of war in Indochina (new module)
SE4225	The Cold War in Southeast Asia
SE5247	Country studies: Vietnam (new module)
SE5213	Revolt and revolution in Southeast Asia
SE5211	Socio-economic history of Southeast Asia

PH.D. SUPERVISION

2014-19	Thai Vinh Tran, "Atoms for peace and nation building in Asia during the cold war: South Vietnam case study for a comparative perspective." Ph.D. in Comparative Asian Studies (withdrawn)
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MASTERS AND UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION

2021	Randy Ng, "An ethnography of working class Vietnamese in Singapore."
2019	Chalita Eng, "Scavenging Khon Kaen's Trash Mountains"

- 2017 Liu Siqi “Brother enemy: change and continuity in official representations of Sino-Vietnamese relations (1975-1991)”
- 2016 Chua Jing Wei, “The politics, economics, and cultures of traditional alcohol in Northeastern Thailand”
- 2014 Keith Ong, “Transgendered in Transition in Contemporary Thailand”
- 2014 Yoshikazu Maeda, “Development patterns of State Owned Enterprises in Vietnam since 1986”

PH.D. EXAMINATION APPOINTMENTS

- 2020 Nguyen Thi Minh Hieu, “Cholon’s urban evolution, 1879–1930: State, Locals, and Trans-locals,” Ph.D. dissertation in the ANU Department of History (outside examiner).
- 2019 Yang Juexin, “Negotiating with socialist states: comparative feminist policies of Vietnam and China,” Ph.D. dissertation in the NUS Department of Political Science.
- 2016 Hwang Eunshil, “Sharing the same predicament”: mutual perceptions and interactions between Korean and Vietnamese Intellectuals, 1900-1925,” Ph.D. dissertation in the NUS Department of History.
- 2012 Nguyen Thi Nhu Trang, “School violence in Hanoi, Vietnam,” Ph.D. dissertation in the NUS Department of Sociology.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021 Module Design Institute, NUS Center for the Development of Teaching and Learning, 6 – 13 December.

Publications

BOOKS

- 2019 *Hard at work: Life in Singapore* (with Ng Shi Wen). Singapore: NUS Press.
- 2017 *Imperial intoxication. Alcohol and the making of colonial Indochina*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- 2014 *Viet Nam ngay nay: Chuyen muu sinb*. Ho Chi Minh City, Thai Ha Press.
- 2013 *It's a Living: Life and work in Vietnam today*. Singapore: NUS Press.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2021 “A call for reducing tourism risk to environmental hazards in the Himalaya,” (with A. D. Ziegler, R. J. Wasson, Y. Sundriyal, P. Srivastava, S. J. Ramchunder, C. E. Ong, S. K. Nepal, B. G. McAdoo, J. Gillen, D. Bishwokarma, A. Bhardwaj & M. Apollo). *Environmental Hazards*, DOI: 10.1080/17477891.2021.1984196.
- 2021 “Mold’s dominion: science, empire, and capitalism in a globalizing world.” *American Historical Review* 126, no. 1: 82-108.
- 2020 “Acceleration in a time of war: Technology, nation, and ecology in the South China Sea, 1956–66.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 51, no. 4: 597-615.
- 2019 “Symbolizing (in)dependence: Vietnam, Intercosmos, and the strategic ambiguity of late socialist ritual.” *Russian Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, 2, no. 4: 48-56.
- 2017 “Drunken poets and new women: Consuming tradition and modernity in colonial Vietnam.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 48, no. 1: 6–30.
- 2016 "Absent Maps, Marine Science, and the Reimagination of the South China Sea, 1922–1939." *Journal of Asian Studies* 75, no. 1: 1–24.
- 2015 “Scaling the Commanding Heights: The colonial conglomerates and the changing political economy of French Indochina.” *Modern Asian Studies* 49: 1485-1525.
- 2012 “Competing legacies: rupture and continuity in Vietnamese political economy” (with

- 2012 Scott Cheshier). *South East Asia Research*, 20, no. 1: 5-33.
 2012 “Beast of (a) burden: State, Enterprise, and the Alcohol Monopoly in Colonial Vietnam.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 43, no. 1: 133-157.
 2010 “Indigenous representation is hostile to all monopolies”: Pham Quynh and the End of the Alcohol Monopoly in Colonial Vietnam.” *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, 5, no. 1: 1-36.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2022 “Cosmic envoy: Intercosmos and the poetics of late socialist spaceflight.” In *Reading Diplomatic Images in Postwar Southeast Asia*, Naoko Shimazu and Matthew Phillips, ed., forthcoming.
 2022 “Doi moi or doi lai? Contemporary Vietnam in historical perspective.” In the *Handbook of Contemporary Vietnam*, Jonathan London, ed., London and New York: Routledge, forthcoming.
 2015 “L’Autorité de la machine: Albert Calmette et l’histoire du monopole d’alcool.” In *Autorités de l’Indochine coloniale*, ed. Jean-Jacques Tatin-Gourier, Paris: Editions le Manuscrit.
 2013 “State, enterprise, and the alcohol monopoly in colonial Vietnam.” In *The Rise and Fall of Modern Empires, (Volume I); Social Organisation*, Owen White, ed., London: Ashgate.

REVIEWS

- 2021 Claire E. Edington, *Beyond The Asylum: Mental Illness in French Colonial Vietnam*. *Pacific Affairs* 94, no. 3: 627-628.
 2019 Michitake Aso, *Rubber and the Making of Vietnam: An Ecological History, 1897-1975*. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 50, no. 2: 313-314.
 2017 Ben Kiernan's *Viet Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present*, Christopher Goscha's *Vietnam: A New History*, and Keith Taylor's *A History of the Vietnamese*: a review article, *H-France Review* 17 no. 194.
 2016 Keith Taylor, ed. *Voices from the Second Republic of South Vietnam*. *Southeast Asian Studies* 5, no.1: 163-166.
 2015 Carol Wilder, *Crossing the street in Hanoi: Teaching and learning about Vietnam*. In *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 46, no. 2: 337-339.
 2011 Hue-Tam Ho Tai, *Passion, Betrayal and Revolution in Colonial Vietnam: The Memoirs of Bao Luong*, *South East Asia Research* 19, no. 1: 169-172.
 2010 Phan Chau Trinh, *Phan Chau Trinh and his Political Writings*, trans. Vinh Sinh, *South East Asia Research* 18 no. 4: 116-119.
 2010 Susan Bayly, *Asian Voices in a Postcolonial Age: Vietnam, India & Beyond*, *The International Journal of Asian Studies* 7, no. 1: 99-101.

Grants and Awards

COMPETITIVE GRANTS

- 2018 “Governing Southeast Asian Natures: sources, methods, approaches,” (co-PI with Mathieu Guerin, INALCO), S\$80,000 USPC-NUS grant R-117-000-056-133
 2017 “Air Vietnam and the making of the Republic of Vietnam 1945-1975,” S\$31,000 MOE AcRF Tier 1 grant R-117-000-048-115

AWARDS

- 2019-20 Research Excellence Award, NUS ODPR
 2018-19 Research Excellence Award, NUS ODPR
 2017-18 Research Excellence Award, NUS ODPR
 2016-17 Research Excellence Award, NUS ODPR

2014-15 Research Excellence Award, NUS ODP
 2013-14 Writing Fellowship, NUS FASS

Invited Talks

2019 “Cosmic envoy: the poetics of spaceflight in late Socialist Vietnam” (keynote). Engaging with Vietnam conference, Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden, 15-16 July.

2019 “When Permanence is Change: Singapore 4.0.” Aspirations for Change 4.0: Critical Perspectives from Southeast Asia, University of Zurich, 28-29 May.

2018 “Permanent Impermanence: living with innovation in Singapore” (with Ng Shi Wen). Second Annual USPC-NUS Conference, Paris, 22-23 May.

2018 “Evangelist of the Anthropocene: Shoichi Kaneko and the conversion of the Vietnamese fishing fleet 1954-1975.” Southeast Asian Natures: Environmentalism and the Anthropocene in Southeast Asia, UC Riverside Center for Ideas and Society/UC Riverside Southeast Asia Program, Riverside, California, 13-14 March.

2016 “The history of the South China Sea conflict: the role of European powers.” European perspectives on the South China Sea conflict, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Brussels, 8-9 December.

2016 “Oceanography and the making of the South China Sea.” Eighth South China Sea International Conference, Nha Trang, 13-15 November.

2015 “States of Space and Spaces of the State: Towards a Geography of Colonial Rule.” The State in Vietnam and the State of Vietnamese Studies Workshop, Harvard University, 24-26 April.

2014 “Indochine, 1880-1930: les interactions des entreprises et de l’Etat; le rôle des monopoles dans l’élaboration d’un nouveau type d’autorité politique.” Conference Paradigmes de l’autorité, Université de Tours, Tours, 30-31 January to 1 February.

2010 “Scratching the Surface: Exploring the Legacies of History in Vietnam’s Political Economy.” Department of Economics seminar series, Portland State University, 28 May.

2007 “‘Indigenous representation is hostile to all monopolies’: Pham Quynh and the end of the alcohol monopoly in colonial Viet Nam.” Beyond Teleologies: Alternative Voices and Histories in Colonial Viet Nam, University of Washington, 1-4 March.

Conference, seminar, and workshop papers

2019 “Governing Southeast Asian Natures” (workshop co-convenor), INALCO, Paris, 22-23 May.

2019 “Development in a Time of War: Shoichi Kaneko and the Conversion of the Vietnamese Fishing Fleet 1954-1975.” From “Pelagic Empire” to EEZs: the Transformation of Asia’s Pacific since the nineteenth century, Asia Research Institute, Singapore, 24-25 January.

2018 “Cold or hot? War or not? New approaches to the Cold War in Vietnam/Vietnam in the Cold War” (panel convenor), Engaging with Vietnam Conference, Ho Chi Minh City and Phan Thiet, 15-21 December.

2018 “Governing Southeast Asian Natures” (workshop co-convenor), NUS, Singapore, 8-9 November.

2015 “The Indochinese state(s) in space.” Engaging with Vietnam Conference, Hanoi, 7-8 July.

2014 “Drink until the easy words and the shimmering lights: drinking liquor in colonial Indochina.” Conference of the French Colonial Historical Society, Siem Reap, 25-28 June.

- 2014 “Intoxication impériale: l’alcool et la mise en valeur de l’Indochine,” De l’Indochine colonial au Viet Nam actuel. Conference of Académie des Sciences d’Outre-Mer, Paris, 20-22 March.
- 2013 “Distillery waste into fish sauce: the strange politics of technology in colonial Indochina.” Seminar at the University of Washington Center for Southeast Asian Studies. 26 November.
- 2013 “Imperial intoxication: Albert Calmette, technological dialectics and the making of colonial Indochina.” Seminar at the Berkeley Center for Southeast Asian Studies, 21 November.
- 2013 “Inventing the indigenous: rice liquor, fish sauce, and technologies of rule in colonial Indochina.” Seminar at the Riverside Southeast Asian Studies Program, 19 November .
- 2013 “From the abyss to sunlight and back again: development processes and lived experience in contemporary Vietnam.” Seminar at the UBC Center for Asian Studies. 12 November.
- 2013 “The legitimate businessmen’s social club: opium, alcohol, the Cholon Chamber of Commerce, and the limits of French rule in colonial Cochinchina.” Conference of the American Historical Association, New Orleans, 3-6 January.
- 2011 “The Landscape of Enterprise in Colonial Vietnam.” Association for Asian Studies – International Convention of Asia Scholars Conference, Honolulu, 31 March – 3 April.
- 2008 “The Moral Economy of Oppression and Resistance: towards a deeper contextualization of resistance to the colonial alcohol regime in Northern Vietnam, 1897-1945.” Third International Conference on Vietnamese Studies, Hanoi, 4-7 December.

Public Engagement

- 2021 Invited presentation: “Finding (re)purpose: work and life in a changing world” (with Ng Shi Wen), Read! Fest, National Library of Singapore, 10 July.
- 2021 Interview, “Hard at Work: Life in Singapore.” *Socialservice.sg*. 22 February.
<https://anchor.fm/socialservicesg/episodes/Hard-at-Work-Life-in-Singapore-Prof--Gerard-Sasges-on-the-books-conceptualisation-and-the-power-of-interviewing-and-stories-eqmlfr>
- 2014 Interview, “Inside the world of work: a glimpse into the working lives of everyday Vietnamese.” *Oi Vietnam*, February: 92-94.
- 2013 Interview, “Tien si Gerard Sasges xuất bản sách về đời sống người dân Việt.” *Saigon Broadcasting Television Network*, 21 November.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bcvMBRg3BM&feature=youtu.be>
- 2013 Interview, “Kiem an: Công việc và đời sống ở Việt Nam ngày nay.” *Pho Bolsa Television Network*, 16 November.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSVT0qjYso&feature=youtu.be>