

Al LIM

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Education

PhD in Anthropology and Environment, Yale University, USA, 2026
MPhil in Anthropology and Environment, Yale University, USA, 2023
MSc in Urbanisation and Development (best overall performance), LSE, UK, 2020
BA (Hons) in Urban Studies (*summa cum laude*), Yale-NUS College, Singapore, 2019

Academic Appointments

Presidential Assistant Professor of Anthropology, CIS

Other Positions Held

Core Contributor, Virtuals Ventures, 2025
CEO Office, ARC, 2024
Visiting Researcher, Chulalongkorn University, 2023–24
IvyPlus Scholar, UC Berkeley, 2022

Awards and Honors

H Russell Bernard Paper Prize, Society for Anthropological Sciences, 2025
Social Science Research Council (Singapore) Graduate Research Fellow through SMU, 2023–25
LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre UK Postgraduate Prize (Highly Commended), 2020
Faculty Scholar, Yale-NUS College, 2015–19

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association
Association for Asian Studies

RESEARCH

Research Interests

Cultures of Finance and Technology
 Crypto, AI, and Digital Economies
 Urban Southeast Asia

Publications

Journal Articles [Refereed]

Lim, Al. 2025. "Experimenting through *Sen*: The lived networks of Thailand's cannabis boom." *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.

Lim, Al. 2024. "Tracing the smart virus in a smart city: a discursive analysis of Singapore's early pandemic surveillance response." *Urban Geography*, 45(10): 1780–1798.

Lim, Al. 2024. "The Gendered Allure of Nang Kwak: From Statuettes to NFTs in Thailand." *The Journal of the Siam Society*, 112(2), 133–154.

Kanoi, Lav, Paul B. Burow, Yufang Gao, **Al Lim**, Kaggie Orrick, Evan A. Singer, and Michael R. Dove. 2024. "Re-constructing Restoration: A Critical Review of the Practice, Politics, and Process of Restoration in Diverse Ecologies." *Environment and Society: Advances in Research* 15: 23–46.

Lim, Al. 2024. "Statue and Mine: Chao Anouvong, Chinese Capital, and Rescaling the Lao Nation." *The Journal of Lao Studies*, 8(1), 41–71.

Kanoi, Lav, Vanessa Koh, **Al Lim**, Shoko Yamada, and Michael R. Dove. 2022. "'What is infrastructure? What does it do?': Anthropological perspectives on the workings of infrastructure(s)." *Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability*, 2: 012002.

Yamada, Shoko, Lav Kanoi, Vanessa Koh, **Al Lim**, and Michael R. Dove. 2022. "Sustainability as a Moral Discourse: Its Shifting Meanings, Exclusions, and Anxieties." *Sustainability* 14(5): 3095.

Zhou, Wen, Kaggie Orrick, **Al Lim**, and Michael R. Dove. 2021. "Reframing Conservation and Development Perspectives on Bushmeat." *Environmental Research Letters* 17: 011001.

Book Chapters

Woods, Orlando, **Al Lim**, and Lily Kong. 2025. "Sedimented Surveillance in Southeast Asia's 'Smart' City-State: The Case of Singapore." In Dietrich Oberwittler and Rebecca Wickes(eds.), *Handbook on Cities and Crime*: 468–82. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Lim, Al. 2022. "Rewriting Food Insecurity Narratives in Singapore." In Hyun Bang Shin, Murray Mckenzie, and Do Young Oh (Eds.), *COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a Post-Pandemic World*: 239–248. London, UK: LSE Press.

Lim, Al, and Feroz Khan. 2020. "Learning to Thrive: Educating Singapore's Children for a Climate-Changed World." In Matthew Schneider-Mayerson (Ed.), *Eating Chilli Crab in the Anthropocene: Environmental Perspectives on Life in Singapore*: 221–240. Singapore: Ethos Books.

Book Reviews

Lim, Al. 2023. Review of *Turning Land into Capital: Development and Dispossession in the Mekong Region*, by Philip Hirsch, Kevin Woods, Natalia Scurrah, and Michael B. Dwyer, eds., Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2022. H-Environment, *H-Net Reviews*.

Lim, Al. 2023. Review of *Projectland: Life in a Lao Socialist Model Village*, by Holly High, Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2021. *LSE Review of Books* and *LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre Blog*.

Lim, Al. 2022. Review of *Fighting for Virtue: Justice and Politics in Thailand*, by Duncan McCargo, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2020. *LSE Review of Books* and *LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre Blog*.

Research Grants

Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund (Tier 2), 2026–29. Collaborator on “Autonomizing Environmental Governance in Asian Cities: AI, Climate Change, and Frictional Urbanisms” with Prerona Das, Orlando Woods, Federico Cugurolo, and Lily Kong.

MacMillan International Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University, 2023.

Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund (Tier 2), 2022–25. Collaborator on “Technocratic Regionalism in Southeast Asia: The Translational Politics of Smart City Knowledge Transfer” with Orlando Woods, Prerona Das, Sarah Moser, and Lily Kong.

Sin Wai-Kin Fellowship, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2022–24.

TEACHING

Teaching Areas

Digital Economies and Society

Urban Theory

Southeast Asian Studies

Courses Taught

Singapore Management University

Undergraduate Programmes: Big Questions

EXTERNAL SERVICE – PROFESSIONAL

Season 5 Editor and Host, *Mergers and Acquisitions* Podcast (“Crypto through the Years” Series), Society for Economic Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, 2026

Peer Reviewer for *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*; *Urban Studies*; *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*; *Journal of Cultural Economy*; *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*; and *ACM CHI* (two Special Recognitions for Outstanding Reviews, CHI 2026)

Co-Chair of the Board of Directors (2022–2024); Northeast Regional Representative (2021–2022), Association of Thai Students in the USA