

EMILY SOON

College of Integrative Studies (CIS) and School of Social Sciences
Singapore Management University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Lecturer of English Literature,* Singapore Management University (SMU), 2020 –
- Research Fellow, National Museum of Singapore, Aug 2019-Jan 2020.

**Since July 2022; previously appointed as Lecturer of Humanities*

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (English), King's College London (KCL), 2019
- M.Phil. (Medieval and Renaissance Literature), University of Cambridge, 2012
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) with Distinction, National Institute of Education (Singapore), 2007
- B.A. (English and Related Literature; First Class Honours), University of York, 2006

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:

- *Imagining the East Indies in Early Modern English Literature: Trading Faith with Southeast Asia*. [under revision]

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article and Book Chapters:

- “by the influence of her beauty”: Queen Henrietta Maria, the East India trade and the *Brachmani* of ‘Narsinga’ in Davenant’s *The Temple of Love* (1635), *The East in Early Modern English Court Performances*, eds. Sophie Chiari, Murat Ögütçü and Aisha Hussain (London: Bloomsbury) [Invited submission; under review]
- ‘Of spices and spies: *Paradise Lost*, *Os Lusíadas*, and Richard Fanshawe’s *Lusiad* (1655)’, *Modern Philology* 119, no. 4 (2022): 491-512.
- ‘Cultural inclusivity and student Shakespeare performances in late-colonial Singapore, 1950-59’, *Shakespeare Survey* 74, ed. Emma Smith (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021), pp. 167-179.
- ‘Staging China and India in Jacobean Court Masques: Negotiating antiquity, admiration and authority in 1604,’ *England’s Asian Renaissance*, eds. Su Fang Ng and Carmen Nocentelli (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2021), pp. 169-189. [Invited submission]

Multimedia Exhibition:

- ‘Digital Tour: Shakespeare and Singapore, 1840-2000’. Digital Exhibition co-curated with Alvin Eng Hui Lim, hosted online at the 11th World Shakespeare Congress (2021).

Academic Blog Articles:

- ‘The ‘little red dot’: Locating Singapore in Early Modern Literature’. Medieval and Early Modern Orients (MEMOS) Research Blog (Oct 2024)
- ‘Princely Adventures in the *Sulalat al-Salatin (The Genealogy of Kings)*’. Medieval and Early Modern Orients (MEMOS) Research Blog (Sept 2023)
- ‘Lessons in global commerce (from an early East India Company employee)’. *King’s English*. KCL English Department Blog (March 2018, originally published on *Currently@King’s*).

Reviews:

- Review of Gavin Hollis’s *The Absence of America: The London Stage, 1576-1642*. *Literary London Journal* 14, no. 1 (2017): 68-70.
- Review of James Shapiro’s *1606: William Shakespeare and the Year of Lear*. *Postgraduate English: A Journal and Forum for Postgraduates in English* 33 (2016): 1-6.
- Review ‘Scholar, courtier, magician: The lost library of John Dee’ [exhibition at the Royal College of Physicians Museum] *Harts and Minds: The Postgraduate Journal of Humanities and Arts* 3, no. 1 (2016): 1-3.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS (SELECTED)

Academic and/or research-related:

- **National Museum of Singapore Research Fellowship**, National Heritage Board
- **Nominee, KCL Doctoral Studies Prize for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis**, 2019
- **President’s Prize**, Literary London Society, 2017
- **Graduate Student Travel Award**, Shakespeare Association of America, 2016
- **Postgraduate Scholarship (Overseas)**, Ministry of Education (Singapore), 2011-12
- **Scholarship for Overseas Students**, University of York, 2003-6

Teaching-related:

- **Most Promising Teacher Award** (Winner), SMU Teaching Excellence Awards 2024
- **CIS Core Curriculum Teaching Excellence Award Hall of Fame** 2023
- **CIS Core Curriculum Teaching Excellence Award** 2023
- **Most Promising Teacher Award** (Nominee), SMU Teaching Excellence Awards 2022
- **CIS Core Curriculum Teaching Excellence Award** 2022
- **Office of Core Curriculum Teaching Excellence Award** 2021
- **Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy** (UK), 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- ‘Cartographic (dis)connections: England, Spain and the East Indies in Harington’s *Orlando Furioso* (1591)’, (upcoming, July 2025), *Society for Renaissance Studies Conference*, Bristol, UK.
- ‘From Epic Failure to Success in Asia: Re-imagining Imperial and Environmental Futures in the English *Lusiad* (1655)’, (Aug 2024). *Imperial Failures – Environment and Nature Deconstructed*, SMU-NYU, Singapore.
- ‘Masquing the Global in Caroline England: Queen Henrietta Maria and the East Indies’ (Jul 2023). *Society for Renaissance Studies 10th Biennial Conference*, Liverpool/Online
- ‘Trading Faith: Re-shaping religious passion in John Fletcher’s *The Island Princess* (ca. 1621),’ *Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (ANZAMEMS) Conference 2022* (online)
- ‘Nature-worship and the English Reformation in John Fletcher’s *The Island Princess*,’ *World Shakespeare Congress* (Singapore, July 2021; online)
- “‘Nothing that bears a life but brings a treasure’: Jacobean drama and the imaginative trade in the East Indies, 1613-21’, *English in Southeast Asia Conference* (Singapore, December 2019).
- “‘[T]he affairs of his imaginary kings’: Joshua Kirton, *The Indian History* (1657) and the politics of the English book trade’, *Society for Renaissance Studies Conference* (Sheffield, UK, July 2018).
- “‘Is it at me?’: Oriental censure and praise in Thomas Middleton’s *The Triumphs of Truth*’, *University of Reading Early Modern Studies Conference* (Reading, UK, July 2017).
- “‘[F]rom the farthest step of India’: Re-orienting fairyland in Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*’, *British Graduate Shakespeare Conference* (Stratford-upon-Avon, UK, June 2017).
- ‘Shifting times, shifting visions: Re-orienting the East Indian in Jacobean masques & civic pageants’, *KCL Centre for Early Modern Studies Graduate Conference* (London, UK, June 2017).
- “‘[T]o see the magnificency of this court’: King James I’s Indian and Chinese New Year’, *Asia in the Making of Europe* seminar, *Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting* (Atlanta, USA, April 2017).
- “‘[B]y the influence of her beauty’: Transforming Eastern bodies in Davenant’s *The Temple of Love*’, *Embodiment and New Materialisms in Premodern Literature and Culture 1350-1700 Conference* (Lancaster, February 2017).
- ‘The point of origin: Shakespeare and “India” in Elizabethan England’, *Shakespeare and the (Re-) Creation of Early Modern Geographies* seminar, *World Shakespeare Congress* (Stratford-upon-Avon, August 2016).
- ‘From Cathay to London: Re-inscribing the globe in John Harington’s *Orlando Furioso*’, *Literary London Society Annual Conference* (London, July 2016). Winner of the Literary London Society President’s Prize and Abstract Prize.

INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES (SELECTED)

- ‘*At that Point doth CINGAPUX (Singapore) appear*: Imagining Southeast Asia and Maritime Trade in Early Modern Literature. Invited presentation, MOE Festival of Ideas in the Humanities and Social Sciences roundtable (‘*Singapura before Raffles: early modern Asia in the global imagination*’; April 2024), NUS, Singapore
- ‘Imagining the East Indies in Early Modern English Literature’, Aug 2023. *CIS Thinks Big Dreams Big 2023*, SMU, Singapore

- ‘Connecting with Shakespeare: Local Perspectives on a Global Playwright’, Ministry of Education (MOE) 7th Literature Symposium (Singapore, August 2022; delivered online)
- ‘Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*’ (May 2022), recorded online lecture for MOE Literature teachers
- ‘War & Peace: Writing the Human Story’, *SMU Thinks Big*, Feb 2022. SMU.
- ‘Shakespeare & Singapore, 1900-1975’, *HistoriaSG*, National Museum of Singapore (March 2020).
- “‘Take of our Pepper, of our Cloves and Mace’: Spicing up the Lord Mayor’s Shows in Stuart London’. *Spices and Songs in the Early Modern Street*, KCL’s Centre for Early Modern Studies (London, UK, October 2017).

UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT

At Singapore Management University (2020-):

- Imagining the Self: Literature, Ethnicity and Gender in Asia (AY2021-2–present)
- Asia and World Literature: Beyond Orientalism (AY2020-1–present)
- Big Questions: Happiness and Suffering (AY2023-4); Wealth and Poverty (AY2022-3); War and Peace (AY2021-2); Global and Local (AY2020-21)

At King’s College London (2016-8):

- Early Modern Literary Culture (AY2017-18)
- Classical and Biblical Contexts of English Literature (AY2016-17)

Undergraduate Supervision at Singapore Management University:

- One Individualised Second Major student (topic: *Writing & Identity: Ethnicity & Gender in Asian Societies*), 2023–present
- One Individualised Major student (topic: *Asian Media and Visual Design Cultures*), 2024 –present

ACADEMIC SERVICE (SELECTED)

- Literary Critic, MOE Literature Seminar (2024, 2025)
- Research Team Member, Medieval and Early Modern Orientals (MEMOs), 2023 – present.
- Member, CIS Admissions and Student Affairs Committee (2022–present).
- Member, Youth Ecosperity Dialogue 2023 Organising Committee.
- Member, Wee Kim Wee Centre, Alumni, and External Relations Committee (2022-3).
- Member, Local Organising Committee, 11th World Shakespeare Congress (Singapore, 2021).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Curriculum Planning Officer, English Language and Literature Branch, Curriculum Planning and Development Division 2, Ministry of Education (MOE, Singapore), 2011-2015

Language Arts and Literature Teacher, National Junior College (Singapore), 2008-2010

References available upon request.