

WEN-QING NGOEI

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EDUCATION

PhD	Northwestern University, History, 2015
MA	Northwestern University, History, 2010
BA (Honors)	National University of Singapore, English Literature, 2000

EMPLOYMENT

2019 – present	Singapore Management University, College of Integrative Studies Associate Dean (Partnerships and Engagement), 2024 to present Associate Professor of History, 2023 – present Assistant Professor of History, 2019 – 2022
2016-2019	Nanyang Technological University, Department of History Assistant Professor of History, 2016 – 2019
2016-2017	Yale University, International Security Studies Brady-Johnson Grand Strategy Postdoctoral Fellow
2015-2016	Northwestern University, Chabraja Center for Historical Studies Nicholas Chabraja Postdoctoral Fellow
2010-2015	Northwestern University Graduate Instructor and Teaching Assistant
2002-2009	Ministry of Education, Singapore

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

2019 [*Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States and Anticommunism in Southeast Asia*](#). (Cornell University Press); paperback edition June 2023.

Peer Reviewed Essays, Articles and Book Chapters

2025 [“The Vietnam War and the Regional Context”](#) in *The Cambridge History of the Vietnam War, Volume III: Endings and Legacies*, edited by Lien-Hang T. Nguyen and Pierre Asselin (Cambridge University Press).

[“On/In the Ground with Vietnamese Communists: The Cu Chi Tunnels in the Classroom,”](#) *American Historical Review* 130, no. 1 (March 2025): 136-140. Essay is part of the [AHR History Lab forum](#) marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the U.S. war in Vietnam.

“Emulating Empire: Washington’s Preoccupation with British Counterinsurgency in Malaya and U.S. Commitment to Vietnam”, *The Historian* (forthcoming June 2025)

“Nationalism and Anglo-American Neocolonialism in Southeast Asia,” in *East Asia in the World Volume II: From Imperialism to the Cold War*, edited by David Kang and Stephan Haggard (Cambridge University Press, expected fall 2025)

- 2024 [“Silver Screen Reversals of the Domino Theory: American movies and the re-imagining of Britain’s triumph over Asian Communism”](#) in *Asian Cinema and the Cultural Cold War*, edited by Sangjoon Lee and Darlene M. Espena (Amsterdam University Press)
- 2022 [“Exhibiting Transnationalism: The Alpha Gallery in pursuit of an authentic Southeast Asian art form,”](#) *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 29, no. 3 (2022): 271-299.
- [“British Neo-colonialism in Malaya and Singapore, and U.S. Empire in the Pacific,”](#) in *The Vietnam War in the Pacific World*, edited by Fredrik Logevall and Brian Cuddy (University of North Carolina Press).
- 2021 [“On Circuits Broken, Remade and Newly Forged: Tracing Southeast Asia’s Foreign Relations after the Vietnam War,”](#) *Diplomatic History* 45, no. 3 (2021): 549-555.
- [“The United States and the “Chinese Problem” of Southeast Asia,”](#) *Diplomatic History* 45, no. 2 (2021): 240-252.
- [“Re-thinking Region: U.S.-Southeast Asian Relations in the Twentieth Century,”](#) co-authored with Anne L. Foster, *Diplomatic History* 45, no. 2 (2021): 219-222.
- 2019 [“There and Back Again: What the Cold War for Southeast Asia can teach us about Sino-U.S. Competition in the region today,”](#) *International Journal: Canada’s Journal for Global Policy Analysis* 74, no. 2 (2019): 301-312.
- 2017 [“A Wide Anticommunist Arc: Britain, ASEAN and Nixon’s Triangular Diplomacy,”](#) *Diplomatic History* 41, no. 5 (2017): 903-932.
- 2014 [“The Domino Logic of the Darkest Moment: The Fall of Singapore, the Atlantic echo chamber and ‘Chinese penetration’ in U.S. Cold War policy toward Southeast Asia,”](#) *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 21, no. 3 (2014): 215-245.
Winner, Frank W. Gibney Prize.

Works in Progress / Under Review

Singapore’s Pax Americana: A City-State and its Superpower in Southeast Asia (advance contract with Cornell University Press).

“Better the Hegemon you know...’: Singapore between the Superpowers from Cold War to Present,” in *Anatomy of Choice: Southeast Asia and the Superpowers*, edited by Joseph Liow and Yuen Foong Khong, (expected publication date 2027).

Essays, Reviews, and other Media

[Review of Karl Hack, *The Malayan Emergency: Revolution and Counterinsurgency at the End of Empire*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2021), in *Journal of Contemporary History* 60, no. 1 (2025): 142-143.

[“The deeper roots of a potential new Cold War with China,”](#) *Washington Post*, 5 April 2022.

“After the Fall: Saigon and Kabul in U.S.-Southeast Asian Relations,” *Philippine Strategic Forum*, 10 September 2021.

[“Looking back on ASEAN and the Sino-US rivalry in the Cold War,”](#) *e-International Relations*, 9 March 2021.

[Review of David Fields, *Foreign Friends: Syngman Rhee, American Exceptionalism, and the Division of Korea*](#) (University of Kentucky Press, 2019), in *Diplomatic History* (June 2020)

[“The ‘Lessons’ of Britain’s Counterinsurgency in Malaya: An American Obsession.”](#) *Perspectives Daily* (American Historical Association), 2 July 2019.

[“The Origins of American Hegemony in East and Southeast Asia – and why China Challenges it](#)

[Today,](#) *History News Network*, 16 June 2019.

[Interview with Voice of America correspondent Greta van Susteren on the Trump-Kim Summit in Singapore](#), 11 June 2018.

[Review of Ang Cheng Guan, *Southeast Asia's Cold War: An Interpretative History*](#) (University of Hawaii Press, 2018), in *Calcutta Journal of Global Affairs* (2018)

["Doubling Down in Asia: Review of Victor Cha, *Power Play: The Origins of the American Alliance System in Asia* \(Princeton, 2016\), and Michael Auslin, *The End of the Asian Century: War, Stagnation and risks to the World's Most Dynamic Region* \(Yale, 2017\),"](#) in *Orbis (Journal of the Foreign Policy Research Institute*, no. 1 (2018): 154-157.

[Review of Daniel Chua, *US-Singapore Relations, 1965-1975: Strategic Non-Alignment in the Cold War*](#) (NUS Press, 2017), in *H-Diplo Roundtable Review* (2018)

["Have We Missed the Big Picture with Our Laser-Focus on Vietnam?"](#) *History News Network*, 15 December 2017.

["This is What Happened in an Earlier Brexit,"](#) *History News Network*, 23 July 2017. [Republished on the London School of Economics International History Blog, 13 December 2017].

["World War II, Race, and the Southeast Asian Origins of the Domino Theory,"](#) *Sources and Methods*, The Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, 4 April 2017.

["Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore Bloomed in the Shadow of the Cold War,"](#) *The Diplomat*, 28 March 2017.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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|-----------|---|
| 2023-2026 | Lee Kong Chian Fellow (Singapore Management University) |
| 2022-2024 | Ministry of Education (MOE) Tier-1 Academic Research Fund for "ASEAN and the Cultural Production of Southeast Asian Identities in the late Cold War." |
| 2021-2022 | MOE Tier-1 Academic Research Fund for "Anglophone Speculative Fiction in late Cold War Southeast Asia." |
| 2020-2021 | MOE Tier-1 Academic Research Fund for "ASEAN writers and artists in the post-Vietnam War world" |
| 2018-19 | Global and Diversity Scholars Fellowship from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) |
| 2016 | Lacey Baldwin Smith Prize for Teaching Excellence in Northwestern University. |
| 2016 | Henry Chauncey '57 Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Grand Strategy Program, International Security Studies, Yale University |
| 2016 | John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College [Declined] |
| 2015 | Chabraja Postdoctoral Fellow with the Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies at the Department of History, Northwestern University. |
| 2015 | Rajawali Research Fellow with the Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Program, Northwestern University. |
| 2014 | Frank W. Gibney Award from the <i>Journal of American-East Asian Relations</i> for best article "The Domino Logic of the Darkest Moment: the fall of Singapore, the Atlantic echo chamber and 'Chinese penetration' in U.S. Cold War policy toward Southeast Asia." |

- 2014 SHAFR Diversity and International Outreach Fellowship
- 2013 SHAFR W. Stull Holt Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2012 Departmental Research and Travel Funding from the Department of History at Northwestern University for archival research.
- 2010 Teagle Teaching and Learning Fellowship from the Teagle Foundation in Northwestern University.
- 2009-15 Northwestern Graduate Fellowship from The Graduate School of Northwestern University.
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INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCES, AND PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- “Better the Hegemon that You Know...: Singapore and Pax Americana from Cold War to Present,” The Colloquium in International Security Studies, Jackson School of Global Affairs, Yale University, 4 March 2025.
- “Singapore and the Big Powers in Southeast Asia: Cold War Decisions and Legacies in the Present,” BlackRock Educational Academy, 7 October 2024.
- “Singapore’s Neutral Pax America,” Australian National University Southeast Asian Institute Seminar Series, 25 September 2024.
- “The Historian Hopes for a Better Age,” Raffles Institution Asia Symposium (Singapore), 7 May 2024.
- “The Origins of the Cold War in Asia,” National Security Studies Program (Rajaratnam School of International Studies)-Ministry of Education (Singapore), 12 April 2024.
- “Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism in Southeast Asia,” Southern Methodist University, 24 January 2024.
- “Singapore’s Neutral Pax America and the Southeast Asian Regional Order,” Annual Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 15-17 June 2023.
- “The Korean War and the Historian,” Regent Secondary School (Singapore), 15 May 2023.
- “Global Cold War Connections,” Rajaratnam School of International Studies-Ministry of Education Cold War in Asia Webinar, 8 March 2023.
- “Making a Region of Southeast Asia: Traditions and New Possibilities,” Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (hybrid), 24-27 March 2022.
- “Fresh Perspectives on and against Security (Race)” and “The Transnational Networks of Southeast Asia’s Culture-makers,” Annual Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (hybrid conference), 17-20 June 2021.
- “Silver Screen Reversals of the Domino Theory: American movies and the re-imagining of Britain’s triumph over Asian Communism,” Asian Cinema and the Cultural Cold War Conference (Virtual), Nanyang Technological University, 20-22 May 2021.
- “The Work and Life of a Historian,” Temasek Secondary School (Singapore), 22 April 2021.
- “The United States, ASEAN, and the Pacific Basin Initiative,” Annual Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (New Orleans, LA), 18-22 June 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19).
- “Britain and the Chinese ‘problem’ of Southeast Asia after 1945,” The World the War Made conference at the University of Texas-Austin, 30 April 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19).
- “ASEAN and the Emergence of Sino-U.S. Détente” at the Points of Entry series of the National University of Singapore Museum, 22 February 2020.

- "Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" in the Lectures of Opportunity Series of the U.S. Naval War College (Newport, RI), 24 October 2019.
- "Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" at the Council of Southeast Asian Studies of Yale University (New Haven, CT), 23 October 2019.
- "Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" in the Pardee Research Seminar of Boston University, 21 October 2019.
- "The Malayan Emergency: An American Obsession" at the "Malaysia and the Cold War" Conference organized by the History Department of East China Normal University (Shanghai, PRC), 28-29 September 2019.
- "British Neocolonialism in Malaya and Singapore and U.S. Empire in the Pacific" at the "Vietnam War in the Pacific" Conference organized by Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia), 15-16 August 2019.
- "The Malayan Emergency: An American Obsession" in the Histories Series of the National Library Board (Singapore), 25 July 2019.
- "Teaching to Render the Unseen American Empire Visible" at the Annual Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (Washington DC), 20-22 June 2019.
- "Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" at the Committee for International Relations of the University of Chicago, 24 April 2019.
- "Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" at the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies/ Department of History of Northwestern University, 23 April 2019.
- "Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 19 April 2019.
- ["Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" at the Washington History Seminar of the Woodrow Wilson Center \(Washington DC\), 11 March 2019.](#)
- "Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism, in Southeast Asia" at the Weatherhead East Asian Studies Center/ Center for International History of Columbia University (New York), 7 March 2019.
- ["Empire of Dominoes: Britain, Southeast Asian Anticommunism, and U.S. Hegemony," at the Clements Center for National Security in the University of Texas-Austin, 5 March 2019.](#)
- "Solving the Chinese Problem: US Cold War Policy, Southeast Asia's Chinese Diaspora and Indigenous Nationalism Across the Region" at the American Historical Association Annual Conference, 3-6 January 2019.
- "Teaching the Vietnam War in the Singapore Classroom" at the Annual Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 21-24 June 2018.
- "Southeast Asia in the Cold War", Ministry of Education (Singapore) Lecture for Cambridge Advanced Level Examinations Teachers, 2 March 2018.
- "U.S.-Southeast Asia Relations in the Twentieth Century," at the Southeast Asian History Seminar, Brown University, 11 April 2017.
- "Patriot Games: How British Nation-Building Colonialism solved Malaya's 'Chinese Problem'" at the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Toronto, Canada, 16-19 March 2017.

“ASEAN Diplomatic Strategies in the Recent Past” at the *Troubled Waters: The South China Sea Question* Conference, organized by the Brady-Johnson Grand Strategy Program, Yale University, 3 March 2017.

TEACHING

At the Singapore Management University, my undergraduate offerings include all the COR3001 Big Questions core modules on the themes of Happiness and Suffering, Global and Local, War and Peace, and Wealth and Poverty. I have also taught COR2691: “Making Peace in, and with, a World at War,” the pilot module for Big Questions-War and Peace.

SERVICE AND CONSULTANCY

University and School Committees and Service

Associate Dean (Partnerships and Engagement) of the College of Integrative Studies (CIS), 2024-present

Member, UEEC (University External Engagement Council), 2024-present

Member, Individualized Major Committee of CIS, 2024-present

Co-Chair, D3 (Deferred Declaration of Degree) Committee of CIS, 2023-present

Member, Ministry of Education (Singapore) and Social Sciences Research Council Ideas Festival Committee, 2023-2024

Faculty Lead for CIS, Singapore Teaching and Research Talent (START) Development Program, 2022-present

Co-Chair, Wee Kim Wee Centre, Alumni, and External Relations Committee of CIS, 2022-present

Member, SMU-Institutional Review Board, 2022-present

Member, CIS Research Grants Committee, 2020-Present

Member, CIS Standing Search Committee, 2020-present

Professional Service and Consultancy (External)

Member, International Task Force of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), 2024 to present.

Editorial Board Member, *Diplomatic History*, 2022-2024

Manuscript and book proposal peer reviewer for Cornell University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Cambridge University Press.

Manuscript peer reviewer for *Cold War History*, *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, *Journal of Cold War Studies*, *Kyoto Southeast Asian Studies*, and *Modern Asian Studies*.

Syllabus Consultant and Content Lecturer for the History Team of the Humanities Branch, MOE Curriculum Planning and Development Division (CPDD), 2018-present

Organizing Committee, Annual Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), 2018-2020