

## **Professor Koh Tai Ann**

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### **Career**

Currently Senior Associate at the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Prof. Koh Tai Ann (BA Hons; Ph.D., University of Singapore) was Dean, School of Arts, (1994- 2000) responsible for administering and developing the Arts degree programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE), an Institute of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and was promoted to full professor in 1999. When NIE re-structured, she became Dean (Academic) 2000-2003, with oversight of academic staff, Heads of Academic Groups and quality of teaching. As Dean she was also a member of NTU's Academic Board and numerous NIE, NTU and MOE committees. In 2003, she was appointed NTU's first Dean of Students responsible for assisting the President to formulate and implement policies with regard to student development, welfare, amenities and activities, setting up the Dean of Students' Office, the Student Counselling Centre and the International Students' Centre. Among other notable initiatives were a reform of the residential halls' Fellow and admission system, a report recommending a university-wide student welfare support system and a survey, "Year 1 & Year 2 Student Profiles and Staff Pedagogy at NTU". Appointed concurrently Professor at the then new School of Humanities and Social Sciences, she also helped to set up its new Division of English in 2003 especially with regard to staffing and curriculum and chaired NTU's Broadening Curriculum Taskforce. She stepped down from administration in 2006 to return to teaching and research.

She had begun her career as lecturer and senior lecturer at the Department of English at the former University of Singapore, 1971 - 1979, then was Associate Professor and Deputy Head, Department of English Language and Literature and member of Senate at the National University of Singapore where she taught across the English Literature curriculum, but specialized in the poetry and prose of the Augustan period, satire, critical theory and practice. While at NUS (and later at NTU) she also created and taught new courses in Singapore and SE Asian writing in English on which she has published extensively. As the Graduate Studies Coordinator she set up the Department's first Masters in English Literature by coursework, teaching on it till she left NUS for NIE in 1994. She has supervised numerous Honours academic research projects, Masters and PhD theses and been external examiner for MA and PhD theses from universities in the UK, Australia and Malaysia in her areas of expertise.

**Referee service:** Among the journals and academic presses that she has refereed for are *World Literatures Written in English (WLWE)*, *Southeast Asian Review of English*, *New Literatures Review*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, Centre for

Advanced Studies, NUS (now UniPress); Singapore University Press (now NUS Press), and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Publications Unit.

**Fellowships** held include being Nuffield Foundation Fellow at Manchester University; Fulbright Fellow at Cornell University; Fellow at the School of Criticism and Theory at Dartmouth College; and Visiting Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore) and University of Malaya.

### **Editorships**

She has been guest editor and editor of Singaporean journals such as *New Directions* and *Commentary*, producing special issues such as “The Role of the Arts in Singapore”, “Education in Singapore” and “Women’s Lives, Women’s Choices”; has served on the international editorial board of *World Literature Written in English (WLWE)*, and currently serves on the international editorial boards of *Moving Worlds: A Journal of Transcultural Writings* and the *Southeast Asian Review of English*. More recently, she co-guest-edited a special issue of *Moving Worlds*, “Reviewing Singapore” (Vol.10:1, 2010) and, (with Neil Murphy and Susan Philip) a special issue of the *Southeast Asian Review of English (SARE)* on “Malaysian and Singaporean Literature” (No.50 2010/2011) The latter was launched by former President of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan in October, 2012, (see <http://class.cohass.ntu.edu.sg/Publications/Pages/Journals.aspx> ) It was also an NTU “New Silk Road” project supported by CLASS.

### **Recent academic work and activity**

Her compilation, the comprehensive Singapore Literature in English: an Annotated Bibliography, first published in 2008 was digitized and updated at <https://eps.ntu.edu.sg/client/SingaporeLiterature/> thus becoming the first NTU Digital Project. See <http://ntu.edu.sg/library/digital/Pages/default.aspx>

It was launched on 23 October, 2013 in conjunction with an exhibition of Singaporean literature and readings by NTU Writers-in-Residence and students of the English Division’s Creative Writing programmes, held at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. A dynamic digital key to the entire body of Singapore’s literature in English, it was created in collaboration with NTU Library. Users, especially researchers, will find that it helpfully enables both simple and sophisticated multiple searches and is, besides, always current because it can and will be continually updated, amended and expanded indefinitely.

In preparation: an annotated bibliography of Malaysian Writing in English and in English Translation and literary works by expatriate writers set in the region from the 19th Century to the present. This is designed as a companion volume to Singapore Literature in English: an Annotated Bibliography

## **Public Lecture, Conference Papers and forthcoming publications**

"Shu Chiung (Mrs Wu Lien-teh): The First Chinese Woman to Write and Publish in English". Public Lecture on the life, writings and situation of Ruth Huang Shu Chiung (1882 – 1937). Given in conjunction with the Wan Qing Culture Festival, 17 October, 2012, at Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall.

"Beginnings, Connections, (Dis)Continuities: Writing in English from The Straits Settlements to Singapore in the 1950s – 1960s", International Conference on "Singapore in the 1950s and 1960s: A Social, Cultural and Educational Hub of Southeast Asia". Jointly organised by the Chinese Heritage Centre and Singapore Society of Asian Studies, 7 Sep., 2013.

"Cultural Policy in the Colonial and Post-Independence Era". Paper presented at Workshop: "Capturing the Trajectory of Singapore Cultural Policies", Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Lee Kuan Yew School of Policy, NUS. 20 Nov 2013.

Commentary on papers, "Chinese Heroines as Modern Women: Reading the Novels of Ruth Huang", by Neil Khor (Penang) and "The Ethnic Chinese of Indonesia: Lessons from Contemporary Indonesian Literature", by Dede Oetomo (Indonesia). International Conference on "Peranakan Literature: Past and Present", jointly organised by the NUS Museum/Baba House and Chinese Heritage Centre, 27 Sep, 2013.

Speaker, "Donald Moore: publisher, cultural entrepreneur and writer" in conjunction with (Re)Discovering Donald Moore: Singapore's Arts Pioneer" at The Arts House, 23 August, 2014. See <https://www.theartshouse.com.sg/Programmes/EventPage.aspx?EventID=3737>

Contributor, "Singapore Literature in English" to *Singapore Chronicles*, Singapore 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative series, to be published by Institute of Policy Studies, NUS, in 2015.

### **Koh Tai Ann**

#### **Selected Publications**

"The Gifted Who Discern and Say It for Us" [Literary history and achievements of Singapore women's writing] in *Our Lives to Live: Putting a Woman's Face to Change in Singapore*, eds., Kanwaljit Soin and Margaret Thomas. Singapore: World Scientific Press, 2015, pp 109-123

"It's Not Just the Singapore Literature Prize, But Also Literature in Singapore that is in Crisis", *Commentary: Journal of the National University of Singapore Society*, Victor Savage, Ed. Vol. 23, 2014, p.30-42. See

[http://www.nuss.org.sg/publication/1411626436\\_commentary2014\\_VOL23.pdf](http://www.nuss.org.sg/publication/1411626436_commentary2014_VOL23.pdf)

"Goh Poh Seng"; "Ho Minfong"; "Lim Poh Imm, Catherine"[Writers], in *Southeast Asian Personalities of Chinese Descent*, Vol. I. Leo Suryadinata, ed. (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and Chinese Heritage Centre, Singapore, 2012) 296; 340; 654

“ ‘It’s like rice on the table, it’s our common dish’: English and Identity in Singapore”, in *The Management of Singapore Revisited: A Critical Survey of Modern Singapore*, Terence Chong, ed. (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2010) pp 536-60

Introduction: an Appreciation, *If We Dream Too Long*, by Goh Poh Seng (Singapore: NUS Press, 2010), pp vii – xxxvi .

*Singapore Literature in English: an Annotated Bibliography*. (Singapore: National Library Board & Centre for the Arts and Social Sciences, 2008) 275 p.

“Tradition and Modernity in the Fiction of Lee Kok Liang and Catherine Lim: Malaysian and Singaporean Chinese Perspectives”. In *Ethnic Chinese in Singapore and Malaysia: a Dialogue between Tradition and Modernity*”, Leo Suryadinata, ed. (Singapore: Times Academic Press, 2002) pp. 355-376.

“The Role of Intellectuals in Civil Society: Going Against the Grain?” In *State-Society Relations in Singapore*, Gillian Koh and Ooi Giok Ling, eds. (Singapore: Oxford University Press, 2000) pp. 156-167.

“Postcolonial Parallels, Contrasts and Connections”. In *Gladly Wolde She Lerne and Gladly Teche*, Brendon Gooneratne, ed. (London: Argus Publications, 1999) pp 82-89.

“Recreating Ourselves and Our Selves”. In *Our Place in Time: Exploring Heritage and Memory in Singapore*, eds. Kwok Kian Woon, Kwa Chong Guan, Lily Kong and Brenda Yeoh, Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 1999, pp. 38 – 46.

“Dispossession, Possession and Domestication: Literature in English in the Straits Settlements, Malaya/Malaysia and Singapore. In *The Chinese Diaspora: Selected Essays*, eds. Wang Gungwu and Wang Ling-chi (Singapore: Times Academic Press, 1998) pp. 152 –173.

“Literature the Beloved of Language: Re-thinking the English Literature Curriculum in the Singapore Context”, in *Exploring Language, Culture and Literature in Language Learning Conference Proceedings*, ed. Joyce James (Singapore: Regional English Language Centre, 1996) pp. 17-33

“E. M. Forster’s *A Passage to India* and the Imperial Mission”, in *Institutions in Cultures: Theory and Practice*, Robert Lumsden and Rajeev Patke, eds., (Amsterdam: Rodopi Publishers, Critical Theory Series, 1996) pp. 131-154.3

“Making the Self at Home: Perceptions of Migrants in the Literature in English”, in *Crossing Borders: Transmigration in Asia Pacific*, Ong Jin Hui, Chan Kwok Bun and Chew Soon Beng, eds., (New York: Prentice Hall, 1995), pp. 396-421.

“History/His Story as Her Story: Chinese Women’s Biographical Writing from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore”. In *Southeast Asian Chinese: The Socio-cultural Dimension*, Leo Suryadinata, ed., (Singapore: Times Academic Press, 1995) pp. 251-260.

"Sing to the Dawn: Novels in English by Singaporean Women", in *Emergent Voices: Southeast Asian Women Novelists*, Thelma B. Kintanar, ed., (Manila: University of Philippines Press, 1994, pp. 66-79).

"Literature in English by Chinese in Malaya/Malaysia and Singapore: Origins and Development". In *Chinese Adaptation and Diversity: Essays on Society and Literature*, Leo Suryadinata, ed., (Singapore: Singapore University Press/Centre for Advanced Studies, FASS, NUS, 1994), pp. 120-168.

"The Sun in Her Eyes': Writing in English by Singapore Women". In *Into the Nineties: Post-Colonial Women's Writing*, Anna Rutherford, Lars Jensen and Shirley Chew, eds., (Sydney, Australia/Mundelstrup, Denmark: Dangaroo Press, 1994), pp. 605-611.

**Repr.** in *Singaporean Literature in English: A Critical Reader*, Mohammad A. Quayum & Peter Wicks, eds. (Serang: Universiti Putra Malaysia Press, 2002) pp.232-251.

"Crossing that Little Bridge into Asia, With the Ghost of Empire About Us: Australian Fiction Set in South-east Asia", Special issue: Crossing the Waters: Asia and Australia, *Westerly* 4(1993): 20-32. (Nedlands: University of Western Australia).

"On the Margin, in Whose Canon? The Situation of [the Malaysian poets] Ee Tiang Hong and Shirley Lim", in *From Commonwealth to Post-Colonial: Critical Essays*, Anna Rutherford, ed., (Sydney, Australia/Mundelstrup, Denmark: Dangaroo Press, 1992), pp. 128-142.

"The Mendicant Professor: a Self-confessed Liberal in Singapore, 1960 - 1970", in *Life by Other Means: essays on D.J. Enright*, Jacqueline Simms, ed., (London: Oxford University Press, 1990), pp. 20-28.

"Telling Stories, Revealing Values: The Singapore Novel in English", Special Issue: The Novel in Southeast Asia, *Tenggara: Journal of Southeast Asian Literature* 25 (1990), pp. 96-109. (Bangi, Malaysia: Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia).

"Self, Family and the State: Social Mythology in the Singapore Novel in English", *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, Vol. XX, No. 2 (Sept. 1989), pp. 273-387. (Singapore: History Dept., NUS).

**Repr.** in *Singaporean Literature in English: A Critical Reader*, Mohammad A. Quayum & Peter Wicks, eds. (Serang: Universiti Putra Malaysia Press, 2002) pp. 112-127

"Culture and the Arts in Singapore", in *Management of Success: the Moulding of Modern Singapore*, Kernial Singh & Paul Wheatley, eds., (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1989), pp. 710-68.

"The Empire's Orphans: Stayers and Quitters in [V S Naipaul's] *A Bend in the River* [Lloyd Fernando's] *Scorpion Orchid*", in *Discharging the Canon: Cross-cultural 4*

*Readings in Literature*, Peter Hyland, ed., (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1986), pp. 38-53.

"Intertextual Selves: Fiction Makers in Two 'Singapore' Novels [*St Jack*, by Paul Theroux and *If We Dream Too Long*, by Goh Poh Seng], in *Tropic Crucible: Self and Theory in Language and Literature*, Colin Nicholson and Ranjit Chatterjee, eds., (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1984), pp. 163-191.

"Singapore Writing in English: the Literary Tradition and Cultural Identity", in *Literature in Southeast Asia: Sociological and Political Perspectives*, Tham Seong Chee, ed., (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1981), pp. 160-186. Rep. in *Singaporean Literature in English: A Critical Reader*, Mohammad A. Quayum & Peter Wicks, eds. (Serang: Universiti Putra Malaysia Press, 2002) pp. 12-32

"The Singapore Experience: Cultural Development in the Global Village", *Southeast Asian Affairs, 1980*, [Annual review of the region], (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1981), pp. 292-307.

"For Whom Do We Write?", *New Directions* (Singapore: Time Publishers), Special Issue: *The Role of the Arts in Singapore*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (1976), pp. 4-9.

### **Contributions to Encyclopaedias**

"Literature: Southeast Asia". In *Routledge International Encyclopaedia of Women: Global Women's Issues and Knowledge*, Vol. 3 Cheri Kramarae and Dale Spender, eds. (New York: Routledge, 2000); pp 1279-1282

*The Routledge Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*, E. Benson & L.W. Conolly, eds., (London: Routledge, 1994); 4 entries :

"Novel and Short Fiction (Singapore)", p.145-47.

"Goh Poh Seng", p. 593.

"Philip Jeyaratnam", pp. 732-33

"Novel (Malaysia)" pp.1135-36.

*Bloomsbury Guide to Women's Literature: From Sappho to Atwood*. Claire Buck, ed., (London: Bloomsbury Press, (1992) pp. 226-230.

(a) "Southeast Asia": section on Southeast Asian women's writing, including general bibliography.

(b) 59 individual A - Z author/title entries for Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore, with select bibliographies.

"Southeast Asia", In Robert Clark, ed., *abes (Annotated Bibliography of English Studies)* University of East Anglia, UK: Swets & Zeitlinger Publishers, 1997. (61 entries). An online reference work.

## **Selected Review Articles**

*Theatre and the Politics of Culture in Contemporary Singapore*, by William Petersen, 2003, in *Australasian Drama Studies* 42 (April, 2003) 193-197.

"In Search of the Singapore Soul," *The Shrimp People and People of the Pear Tree* by Rex Shelley. Special issue: Asian Literature; *San Francisco Review of Books*, 1994. 19(1): 21-23. (San Francisco, USA).

*Malaysia* (World Bibliographical Series, Vol. 12), by Ian Brown and Rajeswary Ampalavanar (Oxford: Clio Press, 1986), 310 pp. *JMBRAS (Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society)*, Vol. LXI. Part II (Dec. 1988), Kuala Lumpur, pp. 142-146.

"Exiles". *No Man's Grove*, by Shirley Lim (Singapore, Department of English Language & Literature, NUS, 1985) and *Tranquerah*, by Ee Tiang Hong (Singapore, Department of English Language & Literature, NUS, 1985), *CRNLE Reviews Journal 2* (1986), pp. 76-83.

*Elizabeth Choy: More than a War Heroine* by Zhou Mei (Singapore: Landmark Books, 1995), *Singapore Book World*, 26 (Sept 1996) pp. 48 - 51.

*Pages from Yesteryear: a Look at the Printed Works of Singapore, 1819 - 1959* (Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 1989), *Commentary*, Vol. 8, Nos. 3 & 4 (June, 1990) pp. 88-90.

*O Singapore!* by Catherine Lim (Singapore: Times Books International, 1989), *Book Page*, *The Straits Times*, 7 June, 1989.

*Raffles Place Ragtime* by Philip Jeyaratnam (Singapore: Times Books International, 1988), *Singapore Book World*, 19 (1989/90), pp. 27-31.

*Crossing the Peninsula and Other Poems*, by Shirley Lim (Singapore: Heinemann Books, 1980), *Singapore Book World*, 11 (1980), pp. 39-41.

"Young Voices": *Saya*, Marie Bong, ed., (Singapore: Educational Publications Bureau, 1979), *Commentary: Journal of the National University of Singapore Society*, Vol. 4, No. 3 (1980), pp. 63-65.

*The Shadow and Other Poems*, by Yeo Bock Cheng (Singapore: Heinemann Books, 1978), *Singapore Book World*, 10 (1979), pp. 54-55.

*Lines from Batu Ferringhi* (Singapore: Island Press, 1978) *Singapore Book World*, 10 (1979), pp. 47-48

*Asian Values and Modernisation*, Seah Chee Meow (ed.) (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1977), *New Directions*, Vol. 4. No. 2 (1977), pp. 29-31.

"Seeing Asia by Train", *The Great Railway Bazaar* by Paul Theroux (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1976), *New Nation*, 20 March, 1976.

## **Selected unpublished Conference Papers**

“How to Read, and What For: Literatures and Literacies in Our Time, Our Place”. Plenary Paper presented at the International Conference on “Language and Nationhood: Confronting New Realities”, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, 16-18 December, 2003.

“Education Reform: Implications for Competitiveness, Equity and Democratization: a Response”, Conference on “State, Market and Democracy in East Asia and Latin America”, co-organised by Institute for National Policy Research, Taiwan and Centro de Estudios Publicos, Chile, Santiago, 11-13 Nov. 1999.

‘Set all neatly down into Economy’: National Education and ‘Making a People’” Plenary Paper presented at the international conference on “Re-Imagining Multiculturalism”, Faculty of Arts, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 1-3 October, 1999. [Unpublished; funding problems]

“Ulysses by the Merlion’: Fact and Fable in the Poetry of Post-colonial Singapore”, conference on “Fact and Fable: East-West Interaction”, The English Association with Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, 31 July – 1 August, 1999.

“Challenges to Nation-building and Sense of Citizenship: Containing Contradictions”, Second Young Singaporeans Conference, Institute of Policy Studies, 10-11 October, 1997, Singapore.

“Excuse Me, Are you a Model?’ Autobiographies of a Bondmaid in the Colony and a Fashion Model in the Republic of Singapore.” Conference on *The Politics and Poetics of the Body: Pacific Rim Triangulations*, organised by University of California, Santa Barbara, Stanford University, SUNY, Stonybrook, Josai University, Japan. April 29 - 1 May 1994.

“A Literature of Our Own: The Idea of a National Literature in Postcolonial Multicultural Asian Societies”, International P.E.N./UNESCO Symposium on the *Main Issues in Asian Poetry and Fiction*, Korean P.E.N. Centre, Seoul, Korea, Sept. 29-30, 1992.

“Singapore Literature and Singapore Writing: the Critic as Creator”. Inter-Faculty Seminar: *Criticism and Creativity*, organized by the School of Architecture, National University of Singapore, 19 July, 1991. 20 pp.

“Caught Between Worlds: Strategies of Accommodation in the English Fiction from Singapore”. Conference of the South Pacific Assoc. of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Association, Massey University, New Zealand, 9-14 Feb, 1987.

“F.R. Leavis in Our Time: ‘English’ and ‘the Critical Function’ in a Post-colonial Culture and Society”. 23rd Congress of the Australasian Universities Literature and Language Association, University of Melbourne, Australia, 4-8 Feb., 1985.

“The Essential Discipline of English Studies”. *Conference on English Language and Literature* organised by the Department of English Language and Literature, Singapore 8-16 April, 1981.



“The Development of a National Culture”. Seminar on *Islam and the Contemporary World* organised by the Muslim Society, University of Singapore, Singapore, 21 June, 1978.

**Other Publications: Selected Articles, Interviews in Journals and National Press and other Papers**

“The World of the English-educated in the 1960s and the 1970s”. Interview. *Tangent*, 6 (April, 2003) 261-294.

‘Art Education: What For?’, Forum, Goethe Institute, 27 March, 1999,

“Women and Education”, Leadership for Girls in the Next Millennium Seminar, National Youth Achievement Awards(NYAA)/Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), 20 March, 1999.

“Whose Standards?” Forum, The Qwerty Literary Festival, The Substation, 13 March, 1999.

“The Leading Women: the Passion, Power, Politics and Problems”. Conference on “Leadership for Girls”. Association for Women for Action and Research (AWARE) and National Youth Achievement Award Council , March 8, 1997, Singapore.

“Women Leaders”. Conference on Leadership Development for Young Women and Girls, Project Access, March 17-19, 1998, Singapore.

“English in Southeast Asia: Is it an Asian Language?” Keynote address, Conference on English in Southeast Asia, English Language and Applied Linguistics Division, NIE, NTU, Nov. 21-23, 1996, Singapore.

“Fashions in Grammar Teaching”. Keynote address, “The Teaching of Grammar in the new English Language Curriculum in Schools” organised by MOE, CDIS and Regional English Language Centre, RELC, 7 - 9 March, 1996. 5 pp

“Literacy in English for the School Curriculum as a Whole”. Keynote address, “Australia-Singapore Symposium on the English Curriculum in Singapore”, Regional English Language Centre, 16 - 18 February, 1995. 5 pp.

“Negotiating the Minefield: Who Leads, Where and Why”. Forum on *Women and Leadership*, organised by Non-government Organisations (NGOs) Committee for the 4th UN Conference on Women: “*Let the Women Speak*”, to be held in Beijing, September, 1995; 27 August, 1994. Published in *AWARENESS* : Journal of the Association of Women for Action and Research, Dec. 95. pp. 17-23.

“Women and Politics”. Forum on *Women in Politics*, National University of Singapore Society, 24 Nov., 1993.

“Monumental Homes Spoil Look of Neighbourhood”, *The Straits Times*, 20 Nov., 1993, pp. 18-19.

“Who’s Minding the Children?” Article for special feature on “The Family in Singapore” *The Straits Times*, date? 1989.

“What Feminism Means to Me”, *Awareness*, Journal of the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), Vol. 3:4 (Oct., 1989), pp. 6-7.

(a) “There’s No Need to Regret Treating Women as Equals”, *Commentary*, special issue on “Women’s Choices, Women’s Lives” Vol. 7:2 & 3 (Dec.1987), pp. 135-136. Reprint.

18(b) “There’s no need to Regret Treating Women as Equals”. Response to PM Lee Kuan Yew’s speech given at the NUS, “New Bearings in the Nineties”, 16 Dec. 1986, *The Straits Times*, 10 January, 1987.

“Who’s Managing the Home?” *Commentary*: Journal of the National University of Singapore Society, special issue: *Women’s Choices, Women’s Lives*, Vol. 7, Nos. 2 & 3 (Dec., 1987), pp. 130-134 (double-column pages).

Reprint of a reply in the *Sunday Times* to Mr.Devan Nair’s attack on university academics. “Dr Koh’s Reply to Devan Nair”, *Commentary*, Vol. 4:3 (Aug.1980), p.8-

“English Language and Literature in Singapore”. Forum with Goh Poh Seng (writer), Ilsa Sharp (journalist/editor) and Jan Gordon (University of Singapore English lecturer). *Commentary* Vol. 4:2 (Jan., 1978), pp. 1-8.

“We Strive to Find Our History’: a schoolbook with a lesson for adults”. Feature article, *Singapore Herald*, 4 Dec., 1971.

Review: “Prejudice in a Primary Three Textbook”, *Our Pioneering Forefathers*, by Tan Suan Imm (Singapore: Ministry of Education, 1971), *Singapore Herald*, 9 Nov., 1971.

### **Chair of Conference Sessions/Conference Convenor during past five years**

#### **Convenor**

One-day Symposium, “Seeking an Audience: Singapore Literature in English”, 7 Nov, 2008, Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and Singapore National Library. In conjunction with launch of *Annotated Bibliography of Singapore Literature in English*.

#### **Chair of sessions**

International Workshop on Colonial Modernity and Beyond: the East Asian Context, Division of English, NTU, 12 – 13 March, 2010, Singapore.

Conference on *Narrating Race Between Nationalisms and Globalisation*, 11-14 July, 2006, Dept of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

“Irresponsible” Singapore’, Conference on “(Ir)responsibility”, 28-30 Sept, 2006, English Division, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

“Art and Creativity in a Museum Context”, ASEAN-COCI Conference on Museum as a Resource in Art Education, 6 May, 2005, Singapore Art Museum.

“The Japanese Occupation in Drama and Literature”; and “War in Literature”, Conference on *The Japanese Occupation: Sixty Years after the End of the Asia-Pacific War* Conference, Humanities and Social Studies Education, NIE and Singapore History Museum, 5-6 Sept, 2005.

### **Public Service**

Aug 2007 –to 08 Member, Fulbright Review and Selection Committee for Singapore.

Mar 2007 – Feb 09 Chair, Cultural Medallion Award Panel (Literary Arts)  
Chair, Young Artist Award Panel (Literary Arts) National Arts Council.

May 2005 – Apr 08 Chair, Speak Good English Movement (SGEM) Ministry of Information, Communications and Arts (MICA).

Feb. 2007 –09 Member, Films Consultative Committee, Media Development Authority (MDA).

Feb 2004 – 2015 Member, Arts Consultative Committee, Media Development Authority (MDA).

Sep 2004 – Apr 05 Member, Speak Good English Movement Committee, MICA.

Aug 2003 – Aug 06 Member, Art Appraisal Committee, Singapore Art Museum (SAM).

Apr 2000 –Apr 04 Chair, Cultural Medallion Award Panel (Literary Arts)  
Chair, Young Artist Award Panel (Literary Arts) National Arts Council.

Jun 1995 – Mar 04 Member/Director, Management Committee/Board of Directors, The Substation Arts Centre.

Mar 1999 – Jul 03 Member, Programmes Advisory Committee, Singapore Broadcasting Authority (SBA)

Sep 1999 – Jul 03 Chair, Information and Education Programmes Advisory Sub-Committee, SBA.

Nov 1997 – Jul 03 Member, Singapore Art Museum Board (SAM),

Aug 1998 – Jul 00 Chair, SAM Exhibitions Committee.

Aug 2000 – Jul 03	Chair SAM Acquisitions Committee Chair, SAM Art Appraisal Committee Member, SAM Publications Committee
1990 – 2003	Member, Advisory Committee, Institute of Policy Studies
1992 – to date	Member, Literary Arts Advisory Panel, National Arts Council Referee, NAC Publishing Grants Scheme
Apr 1998	Member, Cultural Medallion Awards Committee (Literary Arts), NAC.
1998 – 1999	Member, Arts Conference Committee, NAC
1997 – 1998	Chair, Culture and Arts Feedback Group, Feedback Unit,
1995 – 1997	Rapporteur, National Arts Council Committee on National Arts Education Policy, 1995-97
1995 -- 1997	Chair, Editorial Committee, Report: <i>“Arts Education in Singapore: the Next Wave of Creative Energy”</i> , National Arts Council, Jan, 1997. Ministry of Community Development (MCD).
1995 – 1999	Member, TV 12 Programme Advisory Panel, Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC)
1989 – 1999	Member, Executive Committee, National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS)
1990 – 1999	Chair, NBDCS Book Awards Committee
1984 – 1999	Judge/Chief Judge, NBDCS National Book Awards Panel (Fiction)
1987 – 1997	Member, Resource Panel, Government Parliamentary Committee (GPC) for Education. (Longest-serving member, for 5 terms)
Jun 1995 – Jul 1996	Member, Arts Jury, Singapore International Foundation. (SIF)

### **Community Service**

Sep 1997 – 1998	Member, Hong Kong Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) Hong Kong Education Bureau, Sep 1997 – Dec 1998.
Jun 1994 – 2009	Patron, Singapore Tertiary English Teachers’ Society (STETS)
1995 – to date	Patron, Society for Reading and Literacy

- 1999 – 2003            Member, Executive Committee, UNIFEM Singapore(Chapter of the United Nations Women’s Development Fund, UNIFEM)
- 2003 – to date            Advisor, Executive Committee, UNIFEM Singapore.
- Jun 1998 –Jul 2000    Vice President and founding member, Fulbright Association of Singapore.  
Chair, Public Talks Committee
- 1994 – to date            Member, Singapore Heritage Society.
- 1985 –2002; 2009 –    Founding Member, Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE)
- May – Sep 1995            Chair, Panel of Judges, NAC-SPH Golden Point National Short Story Awards.

### **Public Speaking Engagements and other service**

Regularly sought after to chair or speak on panels at forums and workshops (eg keynote address, ELLTAS conference, May, 2007; ASEAN/SAM panel on Museums in Education, 2005; at literary events (Siglap Community Centre’s Evening of Indian Poetry, 2004) or symposiums ( SIF’s annual “Singapore Student Symposium”, 1997); give keynote papers (eg IPS “Young Singaporeans’ Conference”, 1997), address NGOs and others (eg Yayasan Mendaki,1999, Society for Reading and Literacy, 1999; MOE Gifted Education Programme, 1999; British Council, 1998), judge at debate finals (Junior Colleges, Universities), literary competitions, speak on broadcast media (TV and radio) on educational, language and literature topics, and so on.