

## Gan Cheong Soon, Ph.D.

### Education

- Ph.D.            **University of California, Berkeley**  
December 2012  
*Dissertation: Contested Nationalisms, Ethnic Conflict and Propaganda: Birth Pangs of a Malaysian nation, 1957-1969*  
*Committee:* Peter Zinoman (chair), Jeffrey Hadler, Andrew Barshay  
*Examination Fields:* Southeast Asia; Comparative Colonialism (British, French, Dutch and Japanese); Sociology of Race  
  
Reviewed in Dissertation Reviews (<http://dissertationreviews.org/>)  
<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/5524>
- M.A.            **University of California, Berkeley;** History
- B.A. (Hons)    **University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;** English, Hons (2<sup>nd</sup> Upper)

### Employment

- Aug 2013 -    **Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Superior**  
present        Dept. of Social Inquiry, Belknap & Catlin, P.O. Box 2000, Superior, WI 54880
- Sept 2011 -    **Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Union College**  
Aug 2013       807 Union St., Schenectady NY 12308  
For both positions, I taught/teach Asian History– national, regional and transregional courses (introductory classes to upper-division undergraduate seminars)

### Publications

- Article        “The National Anthem as a volatile symbol of post-colonial Malaysia, 1957-1969”  
*South East Asia Research*, Vol. 23, No. 1, March 2015
- Book Review   *Berita* (Newsletter of the Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei Studies Group, Association of Asian Studies), Autumn 2014. Review of *Dynasties and female political leaders in Asia: gender, power and pedigree*, Claudia Derichs and Mark R. Thompson (eds.), Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2013
- Book review   *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Volume 72, Issue 03, August 2013, pp 752-753.  
Review of *Student Activism in Malaysia: Crucible, Mirror, Sideshow*. By Meredith L. Weiss. Ithaca, N.Y.: Southeast Asia Program Publications, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 2011

## Grants

- 2017 University of Wisconsin-Superior Faculty Development Grant
- 2015 URSCA Program Grants, awarded by The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Center for a collaborative faculty-undergraduate research project on “Food, identity and travel writing in colonial Malaya”  
<https://www.uwsuper.edu/ursca/index.cfm>
- Summer 2015 High Impact Practices Curriculum Redesign Mini-Grants, awarded by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, for redesigning a course to incorporate undergraduate research, and for a proposal on how the History program can fully incorporate undergraduate research in its curriculum.  
<https://www.uwsuper.edu/cetl/index.cfm>
- Spring 2015 Research Grant, awarded by the Department of Social Inquiry, for faculty research on “Food, identity and travel writing in colonial Malaya”

## Awards

- March 2012 2012 John A. Lent Prize of the Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei Studies Group, Association of Asian Studies (AAS)  
For the best paper related to Malaysia, Singapore or Brunei presented at the previous AAS Meeting

## Professional Service

- Sept 2017 Administrator of Official Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei Studies Group, Association of Asian Studies (AAS) page (ongoing)
- March 2013 Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei Studies Group, Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Committee to decide on the John A. Lent Prize

## Presentations

- March 2018 **Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.**  
*(Panel Organizer and Panelist)*  
Panel Title: Food, belonging and identity in colonial and post-colonial Malaysia/Singapore  
Paper Title: Food culture, identity and the Western gaze in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Malaya
- March 2015 **Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago**  
*(Panel Organizer, Chair and Panelist)*  
Panel Title: Social, Cultural and Everyday lives in 1950s-60s Malaysia and Singapore  
Paper Title: Propaganda, civics courses and nation building: where state meets everyday groups like barbers, seamstresses, rickshaw pullers and waiters
- March 2014 **Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
Talk: “The National Anthem: Contested and Volatile Symbol of PostColonial Malaysia, 1957-1969”

## Presentations (continued)

- March 2011 **Association of Asian Studies/International Convention of Asian Scholars special joint conference, Hawaii 2011**  
*(Participated as panel organizer and presenter)*  
Paper title: Propaganda, the Chinese ‘problem’ and the national imagining in Malaysia, 1957-1969  
Panel title: Propaganda and Nationalism in Asia
- August 2010 **6<sup>th</sup> EuroSEAS Conference, Gothenburg 2010**  
Paper title: “State propaganda, legitimacy and the making of a new Malaysian, 1957-1969” for panel State/Subject/Subjectivities: The Micro-politics of State-making in Southeast Asia.  
Discussant: Henk Schulte Nordholt
- July 2010 **International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) 2010 Conference, Braga, Portugal**  
Paper title: “Face-to-face communication: State strategies for reaching rural citizens in a post-colonial Malaysia.”
- October 2009 **University of California, Berkeley; Centre for Southeast Asian Studies**  
Paper title: “Re-engineering a happy land: Radio, propaganda and the national imagining in Malaysia, 1957-69.”
- July 2009 **National University of Singapore workshop: Revisiting Pluralism in Malaysia.**  
By-invitation workshop, organized by the NUS Southeast Asian Studies Programme. Paper title: “Making *muhibbah*: State propaganda and the meaning of citizenship from Merdeka to May 13, 1969.”
- October 2007 **Asia Research Institute Roundtable: Being ‘Chinese’ Outside China: Problems of Research and Analysis**  
With Prof. Anthony Reid (ARI) and Prof. Allen Chun (Academia Sinica), in a three-person roundtable organized by Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Paper title: ‘Being Chinese in Malaysia.’
- August 2007 **National University of Singapore seminar series: The State of Malaysia: 50 Years On**  
With Dr. HENG Pek Koon (American University, Washington DC), in a seminar series organized by the Study Group on Malaysia, Asia Research Institute and Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore. Paper title: ‘Negotiating the urban obstacle course: The perils of managing the official message through newspapers, post-May 13, 1969.’

## Professional development

- Sept 2015 **Faculty Collaboratives Conference: Connecting Your Work to LEAP Wisconsin**  
Conference organized by the UW System to create a state-based, faculty-led “innovation hub” dedicated to advancing curricular reforms that lead to deeper student engagement, and higher retention and graduation rates

## Professional development (continued)

Nov 2014

**Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR): Creative Inquiry in the Arts and Humanities Institute** (Milwaukee, WI)

May 2014

**Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR): Institute for the Arts and Humanities**

Organized by the University of Wisconsin System, in La Crosse, WI

June 2009

**Summer Institute for Preparing Future Faculty**

*Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center, UC Berkeley* The aim of this program is to enable graduate students to excel in all aspects of academic life as they pursue an advanced degree at Berkeley and transition from graduate school to future academic careers.

Aug 2004

**Teaching Conference for New International GSIs**

*Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center, UC Berkeley*

Intensive teaching preparation for all first-time Graduate Student Instructors (teaching assistants), with an added module for international students

Fall 2004

**Professional Training: Teaching in International and Area Studies**

*International and Area Studies, University of California, Berkeley*

Semester-long seminar on teaching.

#### Professional affiliations

Member

Association for Asian Studies

American Historical Association

Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

#### Outreach

**ORIAS Working Group: Engaging World History Through Graphic Novels: Living the Legacies of 20th-century Political Violence Migration and Memory**

March 2007

Annual Working Group organized by ORIAS (Office of Resources for International and Area Studies), a UC Berkeley outreach program that provides scholarly resources and supports professional development for K-12 and community college teachers addressing international studies.

Lecture title: Lat's *Kampung Boy*: Ethnicity, history and growing up in a Malaysian village. (Lecture on the work of Malaysia's most well known graphic novelist, recently published in the US, as a tool for classroom teaching.

#### Fellowships/Appointments

- Nov 2010-May 2011    Honorary Fellow  
**Center for Southeast Asian Studies**  
**University of Wisconsin-Madison**
- July 2007-July 2008    Visiting Researcher  
**Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore**
- Aug 2001-May 2002    Visiting Scholar  
**Graduate School of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley**
- March-May 1996        Jefferson Fellow  
**East-West Center, Hawaii**

### Languages

Malay, English	<b>Fluent</b>
Spoken Hokkien, spoken Cantonese	<b>Good</b>
Spoken Mandarin, written Chinese	<b>Intermediate</b>

### Previous Work Experience

Jan 2002- May 2004    **Coordinator, International Visiting Scholar Program**  
**Graduate School of Journalism, UC Berkeley**  
Handled academic, admissions, publicity and administrative matters. Program director: Prof. Carolyn Wakeman.

Prior to enrolling in graduate school, I worked as a **journalist and editor with The Straits Times**, an English-language daily newspaper in Singapore which, at that time, had a circulation of over 300,000 and a readership of over 1 million.

I had experience in a wide range of editorial duties, as a reporter, copy editor, page layout, assistant op-ed editor, online editor and production editor. My last appointment was as Online and Night Editor with a sister newspaper, Project Eyeball, supervising over 40 journalists as the Supervising Night Editor, as well as being responsible for paper's web presence, technology news and production.