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## educational qualifications

PhD in cinema studies (2011)

**La Trobe University (Melbourne, Australia):**

*The Cosmopolitics of Magical Realism in Cinema*

Reports:

Prof. Dina Jordanova: "...substantial and original contribution to knowledge...wide-ranging familiarity with respective literature which...correlate to wider field of knowledge. The project is competently structured and well written."

Dr. Antonio Traverso: "...is an original and significant contribution to its field...the thesis expands the scarce existing scholarly literature on cinematic magic realism...the thesis offers fresh understanding of concepts and approaches through original textual analysis of a series of well-known films... The candidate's deployment of literature across fields (film studies, literary criticism, postcolonial theory, geo-politics, and others) is astute, original and well-informed. The candidate's critical engagement with the existing literature is at times excellent... The thesis provides a surprisingly abundant amount of conceptual tools in each chapter...not only is the definition/explanation of these concepts sophisticated but the candidate makes a clear effort to apply them productively, and successfully, in the analysis of the films.

MA in film studies

**Concordia University (Montréal, Canada)**

BA double major: communication studies; and leisure, tourism and society

**The University of Calgary (Calgary, Canada)**

## research interests

- Peranakan culture in Southeast Asia.
- The manifestations and significance of magical realism in the film cultures of Asia, Latin America, Middle-East, East Europe, Africa, indigenous and diasporic cultures.
- The cosmopolitics of terrorism in film.

## teaching philosophy

To provide a motivating, learning and challenging environment, in which ideas and new horizons can be expanded and explored.

## academic employment history

UiTM (Malaysia): January 2018- present

**Resident Artist. Faculty of Film, Animation and Theatre**

Teach undergraduate courses and conduct research and action-research activities

Taylor's University (Malaysia): feb 2013 – feb 2017

**Senior Lecturer**

Developed, co-ordinated and taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Trinity College, The University of Melbourne (Australia): 2007 - 2013

**Lecturer-in-Charge of Media and Communications**

Managed, developed and taught the Media and Communications area.

The University of Melbourne (Australia): 2012

**Sessional Lecturer and Tutor**

Co-ordinated and tutored undergraduate courses.

Victoria University (Australia): 2006 - 2012

**Sessional lecturer and Tutor**

Developed, co-ordinated and taught undergraduate courses.

Monash University (Australia): 2006

**Sessional Lecturer and Tutor**

Developed, co-ordinated and taught undergraduate courses.



La Trobe University (Australia): 2002 - 2006

Sessional Lecturer and Tutor

Developed, co-ordinated and taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

RMIT University (Australia): 2002-2004

Sessional Lecturer and Tutor

Developed, co-ordinated and taught undergraduate courses.

Concordia University (Canada): 1998-2001

Guest lecturer

supervision

Mekala Chandrasegaran, PhD Dissertation: *Representation of Indian Woman in Advertising*

Chia Kee Fei, Master's Dissertation: *The Influence of Film on Tourism* (2014)

Mekala Chandrasegaran, Master's Capstone Research: *Indian Woman as Prized Jewel* (2015)

Tara Ooi, Master's Capstone Research:

*The G-Dragon Phenomenon – Manufactured Identity, Androgyny and Fashion* (2016)

Neisha Sharma, Master's Capstone Research: *Sold Out – Indie Music Festivals in India* (2016)

Rachel Ong, Master's Dissertation: *Gender Construction in Malaysian Cinema*

Chee Sze Yin, Master's Dissertation: *A Study of Yōkai in Modernity*

## other professional experience

- Organising committee for the Food and Society Conference, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (Nov 2017).
- Postgraduate Committee of the School of Communication (SOC), Taylor's University.
- Organising committee for the South East Asian Research Centre for Communication and Humanities (SEARCH) conferences.
- Committee of Reviewers for The Journal of the South East Asian Research Centre for Communication and Humanities (SEARCH).
- Reviewer for Wacana Seni Journal of Arts Discourse.
- Judging panel for Inter-faith Short Video Competition at Institut Kajian Etnik (KITA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (2015).
- Organised SOC Expert Forum 2014: *Film Festivals: Programming, PR and Event Management*, and *Digital Disruption: Technological Innovation and Global Film Circulation* by Prof. Dina Iordanova.
- Planning committee for the 26<sup>th</sup> Baba Nonya Peranakan International Convention (2013); organised and co-ordinated a photograph exhibition.
- The founding secretary of the Peranakan Association of Australia (2008-2012).
- Film selection committee for the Melbourne Malaysian Film Festival (2008-2009).

## professional development

- New Academic Staff Induction Programme at Taylor's University.
- Teaching Conference: "Tertiary Education – Where are we Heading?" at Trinity College.
- Teaching Conference: "Engaging Students in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" at Trinity College.
- Teaching Induction Session at Monash University.
- Teaching seminar: "Teaching at University" at La Trobe University.

## publications

- Sanusi, Shana and Neo, David. "Uncanny Postcolonial Modernity: Eyeing Fear in the Spaces of *Gin Gwar*". The Journal of the South East Asian Research Centre for Communication and Humanities. (accepted)
- Neo, David and Varghese, Mary. "Identity Politics of Being and Becoming of the *Cheffi Melaka* in Singapore". Pertanika Journal of Social Science and Humanities. 25.1, 2017, pp 337-352.
- Neo, David. "Colonial Cosmopolitanism of the *Peranakan* World Seen in the Grave Taste of Bukit Brown Cemetery". The Journal of the South East Asian Research Centre for Communication and Humanities. 8.2, 2016, pp 75-83.
- Teoh, Yong Chia; Yang, Lai Fong and Neo, David. "A Comparative Analysis of Malaysian and Chinese Newspaper Coverage of Nagib's Visit to China". The Journal of the South East Asian Research Centre for Communication and Humanities. 8.2, 2016, pp 33-47.
- Narayanaswami, Lokasundari; Neo, David and De Rycker, Antoon. "Chinese Culture and Customs in *Peranakan* Funerals in Malaysia and Singapore". The Journal of the South East Asian Research Centre for Communication and Humanities 8.1, 2016, pp 17-36.
- Neo, David. "50 Things Quintessentially *Peranakan*" Being Baba: Selected Articles from the Peranakan Magazine. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish, 2015.
- Neo, David. "A *Cheffi* Wedding Extravaganza" The Peranakan Issue 2, 2015, p. 14.
- Neo, David and Rathabai, Jennifer. "Elaborate Customs and Rituals" The Peranakan Issue 2, 2015, pp. 15-17.
- Neo, David. "*Ponggal*, Oh *Ponggal*!" The Peranakan Issue 2, 2015, p. 18-19.
- Neo, David. "50 Things Quintessentially *Peranakan*: The Sound of the *Nonya*" The Peranakan Issue 1, 2015, pp. 28-29.
- Neo, David. "Baba Hanyut...". Suara Baba. The 26<sup>th</sup> Baba Nonya Convention: Beyond Borders, Across Oceans – Resilience, Resurgence and Reconnection, 2013, pp. 24-25.
- Neo, David. "*Ingat Mama...*" Keeping Our Stories Alive. A Photo and Stories Display. The 26<sup>th</sup> Baba Nonya Convention: Beyond Borders, Across Oceans – Resilience, Resurgence and Reconnection, 2013.
- Neo, David. Text for brochure and website. The Peranakan Association of Australia. 2012.
- Neo, David. "Postcards from the Kitchen" The Peranakan Issue 2, 2012, p. 3.
- Neo, David. "*Cherita Rumah Tangga* (Tales of the Household)" The Peranakan Issue 4, 2012, pp. 7-9.
- Neo, David. "Shophouse Reflections" The Peranakan Issue 1, 2011, p. 26.



- Neo, David. "Our Epic Third Tan Tock Seng Family Reunion – *Bukan Main Lau-jiat!*" The Peranakan Issue 4, 2011, p. 28-29.
- Neo, David. "Strutting Our Stuff..." The Peranakan Issue 1, 2011, p. 35.
- Neo, David. "If these Walls Could Speak..." Book Review of Chinese Houses of Southeast Asia: The Eclectic Architecture of Sojourners and Settlers. The Peranakan Issue 4, 2010, p. 30.
- Neo, David. "*Semayang Abu* at Tan Tock Seng's 210 Birthday: The Second Reunion." The Peranakan October – December 2008, p. 37.
- Neo, David. Book Review of A Companion to Magical Realism. Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies 12:1 (July 2006), pp. 105-107.
- Neo, David. Book Review of Contemporary Asian Cinema: Popular Culture in a Global Frame. Screening the Past (2006). March 6, 2011: <<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/screeningthepast/20/contemporary-asian-cinema.html>>
- Neo, David. "The 'Confusion Ethics' of *Raise the Red Lantern*." Senses of Cinema (2004). March 6, 2011: <[http://www.sensesofcinema.com/2004/cteq/raise\\_red\\_lantern/](http://www.sensesofcinema.com/2004/cteq/raise_red_lantern/)>
- Neo, David. "Where are the Borders." Book Review of Malaysian Cinema, Asian Film: Border Crossings and National Cultures. Screening the Past (2004). March 6, 2011: <[http://www.latrobe.edu.au/screeningthepast/reviews/rev\\_16/DNbr16a.html](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/screeningthepast/reviews/rev_16/DNbr16a.html)>
- Neo, David. "*Red Sorghum*: A Search for Roots." Senses of Cinema (2003). March 6, 2011: <[http://www.sensesofcinema.com/2003/cteq/red\\_sorghum/](http://www.sensesofcinema.com/2003/cteq/red_sorghum/)>
- Neo, David. "Fractal Images of Memory in *Father and Son*." Off Screen (2001). March 6, 2011: <[http://www.horschamp.qc.ca/new\\_offscreen/fractal\\_images.html](http://www.horschamp.qc.ca/new_offscreen/fractal_images.html)> (This article is currently being translated into Italian to be published in an Italian journal.)

## conference presentations

- Co-facilitator of a panel discussion for the Food and Society Conference (Nov 2017): "*Peranakan* Cuisine Heritage: Identification, Location, Preservation"
- Taylor's Research Fair 2016. Poster Presentation: "Death Among the *Peranakan* Chinese: A Cultural Exception to Cosmopolitanism." October 18-20, 2016. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Taylor's Research Fair 2013. Led discussion on *Peranakan* research. December 3-4, 2013. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The Fourth International SEARCH conference: "The Identity Politics of the *Chetti Melaka*." May 28-29, 2015. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The Australian Research Center's Cultural Research Network: A Masterclass with Professor Daniel Miller, hosted fully sponsored by the University of Queensland (only 10 candidates were selected across Australia). "The Material Culture of the *Peranakans*." December 6-7, 2010. Brisbane, Australia.
- Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand: Telling Stories: Cinema, History and Experience, sponsored by La Trobe University. "Magical Realist Films: Telling Minoritarian Cosmopolitanism." November 19, 2006. Melbourne, Australia.
- Thirteenth Annual Central New York Conference on Language and Literature, sponsored by the Department of English, Cortland College of the State University of New York. "Magical Super-impositions: the Blurring Realities of Surrealism and Magic Realism in Film." October 27, 2003. Cortland, USA.
- The Third Annual Film Studies Association of Canada Graduate Colloquium, sponsored by the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema. "Magical Reels in the Third Space." March 3, 2001. Montréal, Canada.
- The Borderlands Symposium, sponsored by the University of Massachusetts. "Magic Realism in the Post: Postcolonialism and Postmodernism in *Léolo*." February 25, 2001. Amherst, USA.

## grants

- National Heritage Board of Singapore Research Grant: *The Peranakan Garden* (SGD 58,000; 2017-2019).
- Taylor's Research Grant Scheme: *Death in the Peranakan Culture* (RM 50,000; 2013-2015).
- La Trobe University: The Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand (AUD 5,000; November 2006).
- La Trobe University: Research/conference trip to New York (AUD 15,000; October 2003). Research undertaken in New York City, USA. Utilized the film library at Tisch School of Arts, New York University; I attained access to the library's collection of films on Latin America.
- La Trobe University: Translation of German and Spanish texts (AUD 3,000; May 2003).



# scholarships and awards

- La Trobe University Postgraduate Research Scholarship (2002-2006)
- Quebec Bursary (1998-2001)
- University of Calgary Alumni Association International Student Scholarship (1992-1996)

## references

### **Associate Professor Antoon De Rycker**

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