

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, LINGUISTICS AND THEATRE STUDIES**

**STAFF RESEARCH AREAS
English Literature**

1. Susan Ang

Topics:

- Modern poetry
- Science fiction and Fantasy
- Children's literature

2. Andrew Hui

Topics:

- European Renaissance and Early Modern
- The classical traditions, East and West
- Comparative literature and history of ideas
- Visual culture and aesthetics
- Cultural encounters
- Libraries, museums, gardens, collections

Advising Style:

Working with students on their honors thesis is about sustained conversation over time. As the culmination of your undergraduate education, it's a significant intellectual project of your own design and vision—and my role is to help you bring it into focus, deepen it, and carry it through. We'll work closely at every stage, from brainstorming and shaping the topic to drafting, revising, and final polish.

3. Anne Thell

Topics:

- Eighteenth-century studies
- Later seventeenth-century literature and philosophy
- Travel literature and circumnavigation
- Early fiction and the novel
- The history of aesthetics
- Early women authors and early feminist critique
- Authors of special interest include Cavendish, Defoe, Swift, Johnson

Advising Style:

I enjoy the 'big idea' conversations with students and so try to ensure that HT meetings are lively discussions about conceptual frameworks and approaches, as we develop certain core arguments. I'm fairly flexible about meetings—e.g., some students like to have a specific time-slot and meet each week for all 9 weeks; others like more variation. Usually, we plot out together what is most useful for each individual student.

4. Beryl Pong

Topics:

- British modernism and late modernism
- 21st century Anglophone fiction
- science, technology, and society studies (STS)
- film, visual culture, sound studies
- philosophies of space and time

5. Chitra Sankaran

Topics:

- Ecocriticism
- Environmental justice
- Postcolonial ecologies
- Ecological feminism
- South Asian & Southeast Asian Literature

Advising Style:

I expect students to come up with a topic or topics of interest and relevant primary material. In the first meeting, we will have a detailed discussion. I expect students to begin submitting drafts early in the supervision period. I will give detailed feedback on these.

6. David Teh

Topics:

- modern and contemporary art in Asia
- media theory, critical theory and cultural theory
- worldliness and cultures of globalisation
- exhibition histories and curatorial discourse
- the moving image in Southeast Asia

Advising Style:

I am fairly flexible as a supervisor, but I prefer working with students who value independent research and the process of setting and refining their own research agenda. Organised students can expect to receive detailed feedback on draft chapters - I tend to put an emphasis on the craft of critical writing.

7. Geoffrey Baker

Topics:

19th- and 20th-century European lit (primarily British, French, German)
Literary realism and naturalism
Law and literature (esp. re: evidence)
The political potential of literature
Theory of the novel

8. Gilbert Yeoh

Topics:

- Postmodern literature and film
- Postsecular literature
- J. M. Coetzee
- Flannery O'Connor

9. Heather Brink-Roby

Topics:

- Nineteenth-century British literature
- Nineteenth-century literature and science/medicine
- George Eliot; Jane Austen; Charles Dickens; Thomas Hardy; Emily Bronte
- The changing ways in which characters' lives are treated as representative of a wider reality
- Theory of the novel
- Art and social justice

10. John Whalen-Bridge

Topics:

- Contemporary American literature
- Bohemian rebellion
- George Saunders
- Don DeLillo
- Maxine Hong Kingston
- Kaveh Akbar, Tommy Orange

11. Steven Green

Topics:

- Ancient Roman Literature: esp. Ovid, Virgil, Augustan Poetry and Politics
- The Legend of Troy in Ancient Literature (esp. Homer) until the Modern Day
- Reception of the Ancient World in Contemporary Media (esp. 20th and 21st century film, TV, and literature)

Advising Style:

After the first meeting, which typically focuses on the plan of action for the entire semester, meetings should be student-directed: the student will bring ideas for discussion to the meeting, or the meeting will be based around a previously circulated draft of a particular chapter. I am happy to read and comment on draft sections of the thesis up until the end of Week 9.

12. Tania Roy

Topics:

- Postcolonial Literature and Theory
- World Literatures
- Cultural Studies: approaches to literature and culture through postcolonial studies, psychoanalysis and Marxian-materialist traditions of cultural theory
- Trauma Studies: Approaches to literature and cultural politics through debates in memory studies, trauma studies, and related psychoanalytical or philosophical thought.

13. Valerie Wee

Topics:

- Contemporary film — texts and industry
- Mainstream Hollywood media
- Multi-media conglomeration/multi-media texts

Advising Style:

I see myself as an interested advisor and guide in the HT process. The supervisee is expected to take the lead and be responsible for identifying the research topic, the primary texts, the preferred framework and the theoretical approach(es) to be adopted in the HT before initiating a supervision meeting.

14. Walter Lim

Topics:

- The English Renaissance
- William Shakespeare
- John Milton
- Literature and Religion

15. Yanbing Er

Topics:

- Feminist and queer theory
- New conversations between feminist and literary studies
- Contemporary literature and culture, especially in light of recent debates on race, class, gender, and the environment
- Environmental humanities, especially around the tropics and/or queer ecologies
- Racial and affective politics of refusal

Advising Style:

I value students who are highly independent, accountable, and receptive to feedback. I see my role primarily as a discussant who will work with you to refine the scope of your research, strengthen your existing arguments, and better organize your writing. Please get in touch with me at the earliest opportunity to discuss your preliminary ideas.

16. Yong Li Lan

Topics:

- Shakespeare and performance (film, theatre, popular culture, digital media)
- Cross-media/cultural performance
- Digital humanities; digital archiving