

Global City Futures: Desire and Development in Singapore

Speaker: **Assoc Prof Natalie Oswin**
Department of Geography, McGill University

Chair: **Dr Woon Chih Yuan**
Department of Geography, NUS

Date/Time: Friday, 21 October 2016, 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Place: Earth Lab, AS2-02-03, NUS

Abstract

As more and more nation-states around the globe introduce legislation that aims to undercut discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, queer scholars and social justice activists face the historically novel situation in which they must grapple with instances of the acceptance and inclusion of LGBT persons alongside instances of persistent homophobias and heterosexisms.

In this talk, I discuss the reality that Singapore's government has introduced an official discourse of gay-friendliness while it simultaneously and stubbornly upholds policies and legislation that overtly discriminate against LGBT persons. I interrogate why the city-state, at this ostensibly 'queer' time in its history, is still a stubbornly 'straight' space.

About the Speaker

Natalie Oswin is Associate Professor of Geography at McGill University (Montreal, Canada), with research interests on sexual citizenship, and specific emphasis on how sexual politics intertwine with processes of globalization and urbanization.

Her publications include articles and book chapters on South Africa's post-apartheid gay and lesbian movement, the cultural politics of heteronormativity in Singapore, and conceptual pieces on queer geographies.

She is Managing Editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.



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