

A Joint Seminar with the Department of Geography

Topic: Exploring the gem and jewellery sector in Singapore: Global and regional dynamics of retail and manufacturing

ABSTRACT

The global gem and jewellery industry is subject to ongoing change that includes increased globalization and retail concentration, and a focus on fast fashion. Singapore plays an important role in the precious (non-artificial) gem and jewellery sector in terms of production and distribution. The country also hosts the leading international gemstone and jewellery luxury brands, fairs and auctions. The local jewellery retail sector is somewhat fragmented, as it embraces numerous domestic and international brands, most of which accounts for a relatively small market share. Following competition from lower-cost countries and deindustrialization, jewellery production has become increasingly subcontracted to and sourced from suppliers in Southeast Asia. This presentation explores the Singaporean gems and jewellery sector. It focuses on jewellery retailer's position and practices in the chains and networks of these luxury products, on which very little in-depth research has been conducted. Based on empirical analysis, the presentation explores two highly interrelated points. First, interlinkages between Singapore's gem and jewellery retail sector and global industry change are uncovered and conceptualized drawing upon a global production networks perspective. Second, Singaporean jewellery retailers' sourcing strategies and practices in the Southeast Asian region are explored.

SPEAKER:

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CHAIR:

[Professor Neil Coe](#)

Department of Geography
National University of Singapore

DATE:

Friday, 10 Nov 2017

TIME:

3:30pm – 5:00pm

VENUE:

Seminar Room 06-42
The Shaw Foundation Building,
Block AS7, Level 6
5 Arts Link
Singapore 117570



Lotte Thomsen

Lotte Thomsen is an Associate Professor of Business and Development in the Department of Management, Society and Communication at Copenhagen Business School. She holds a PhD in economic geography from Copenhagen University. Her research interests are in the economic geographies of global value chains with a particular focus on manufacturing and retail, and on chain entry barriers and market access for suppliers.

While apparel and food production and retail have been the main focal points of Lotte's previous work in Vietnam, Central Asia and Kenya, she is currently working on a research project on the gem and jewellery sector in Southeast Asia. Lotte's work has been published in various academic journals including *World Development* and *Journal of Economic Geography*. Lotte formerly worked in the Danish Institute for International Studies and on short-term contracts for Danida and the World Bank.