



Regionally Speaking: Overview

Rapporteur Profiles

Sharon ARRIOLA (Philippines)



Ms Maria Sharon Mapa ARRIOLA is the Associate Dean of New Media of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde School of Design and Arts. She has been part of the academe for more than 20 years teaching humanities, art studies, multimedia arts, and contemporary arts. Aside from teaching, she is also involved in various government and private initiated projects and research related to arts and design such as the 2016 National Commission for Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) National Living Treasures Award. She was also part of the Ad Hoc Panel of Experts set up by NCCA as a researcher in the field during the search and validation process. In addition, she was given a grant as a Visiting Fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. State Department International Arts Journalism Institute in Visual Arts in 2009. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Arts in Art Theory and Criticism at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Currently, she is a PhD. Candidate of the Philippine Studies Tri-College Program at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman.

Ailin CHIN (Singapore)



Ms Ailin CHIN received her M.A. in Arts and Cultural Management from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore. Prior to pursuing her postgraduate studies, she worked as an arts educator for five years. She is now the Programme Manager for Education and Outreach at The Substation, the oldest independent art space in Singapore, where she manages the residency programme. At The Substation she is currently working the School of Uncommon Knowledge, an experiment in alternative modes of education, as well as The Co-op, an on-going experiment in self-organisation which explores a co-operative model in programming for an arts space.

Felencia HUTABARAT (Indonesia)



Ms Felencia HUTABARAT is a member of the Indonesian Arts Coalition and founder of Arslonga; she was formerly the arts and culture program staff at HIVOS for the Southeast Asia region. She also worked as a consultant for British Council in the area of creative economy. Her range of work includes policy advocacy to create a domestic and international network, exchange knowledge, financial stabilization, tax policy, cultural diversity, creative economy, and establish a close relationship with cultural operators in cultural strategy, particularly in Indonesia, India, and South Africa. She completed her Economics and Cultural Entrepreneurship at the Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Ritirong Hong JIWAKANON (Thailand)



Mr Ritirong JIWAKANON received his M.F.A. in theatre design from Yale School of Drama and spent several years after school professionally designing for theatre in New York City. Now he is an assistant professor in the Department of Dramatic Arts, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, as well as professionally working as a theatre production designer in many countries. He is also the deputy director of the Institute of Thai Studies and a committee of Cultural Management Program, Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University.

Rithisal KANG (Cambodia)



Mr Rithisal KANG is the Executive Director of Amrita Performing Arts, a contemporary dance and producing company based in Cambodia. Rithisal holds an MA in Arts Management from the State University of New York, Buffalo. He has received several awards including Fulbright Scholarship, Asian Cultural Council's grant and the King's Gold Medal for his contribution to the Arts and Culture. In this capacity, he has represented Amrita, and Cambodia, speaking and moderating at local and international workshops and conferences. He has maintained a strong bond with colleagues at Cambodia's main educational arts institutions and has initiated crucial dialogue between them and the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. He has produced works, tours and festivals in Cambodia, Europe, United States and Africa, working with world's renowned art practitioners including Peter Sellars. He is also a member of several international networks including International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM), International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA), and World Dance Alliance-Asia Pacific (WDA-AP). Rithisal started Contemporary Dance Platform in 2013, enabling emerging Cambodian choreographers with a safe and nurturing space to pursue their contemporary artistic endeavours.

NGUYEN Bich Tra (Viet Nam)



Ms NGUYEN Bich Tra has been involved with San Art since 2012 and is currently San Art General Manager. In this role Tra is responsible for establishing educational relationships and sponsorship partners for San Art with the local community. She has been crucial in the building of a specialised team of arts managers at San Art in order to efficiently organize the diverse array of interdisciplinary cultural events of San Art connecting different social scenes across Saigon. Tra's extra-curriculum activities include singing and acting for specialized groups who produce shows to raise funds for various local charities. She is also a media producer with a training background in hospitality and management.

A.J. PHOTHISANE (Lao PDR)



Mr Anouza (AJ) PHOTHISANE is the founder of Laobangfai Prime Association in Lao PDR, the country's first hip-hop contemporary mix with traditional art dance showcase. Laobangfai was founded in 2005 and since then it has gained international recognition, earning AJ the title of one of best choreographers and artistic directors in his field. Laobangfai has competed on internationally in France, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, and New Zealand; likewise, AJ has assisted on cultural projects with organisations such as the United Nations, World Bank, and other NGOs to bring dance to a variety of different audiences. He co-choreographed the SEA Game opening and closing ceremonies held in Lao PDR with 4,800 youth in 2009. He also created the first Lao Music festival in Vangvieng (Vangvieng Music Festival). In addition, he participated in the creation of several projects that use dance as a means of fostering cross-cultural understanding and social development. He has a B.A. in law and political science from Lao National University.

Kathy ROWLAND (Malaysia)



Ms Kathy ROWLAND is an independent editor, writer, researcher and producer. Her articles on the politics of culture have appeared in publications in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, the US and South Korea. She has edited and introduced several volumes of plays by leading playwrights in Malaysia and Singapore. Kathy has produced theatre and visual arts events in Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, New York, Australia and Thailand. In 2001, Kathy and Jenny Daneels co-founded the pioneering arts website, kakiseni.com in 2001. In November 2016, Jenny and Kathy will launch ArtsEquator.com a new platform focusing on arts and culture in Southeast Asia.

Project Design Team

Professor Ruth BERESON, Dean (Academic), Arts, Education and Law Group, Griffith University



Professor Ruth Bereson is Dean (Academic) of the Arts, Education and Law Group. She holds a PhD from the Department of Arts Policy and Management, City University London. Ruth researches in the fields of arts and cultural management, cultural policy, cultural diplomacy and cultural leadership. Her central research interest is the relationship between governmental policies and their effects on the arts internationally and over time.

Ruth is currently working with Justin Macdonnell on a study of Australian regional Performing Arts history of the 1980s. A speaker internationally on cultural policy and arts management, Ruth has recently created a series for the Australian Government Department of Communications and the Arts entitled Cultural Conundrums which addresses the challenges the arts present to policy makers and managers.

(<https://www2.griffith.edu.au/arts-education-law>)

Professor Caitlin BYRNE, Director, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University



Professor Caitlin Byrne is Director, Griffith Asia Institute. Prior to joining Griffith University, Caitlin was Assistant Professor of International Relations and Diplomacy at Bond University, Gold Coast. She is also a Faculty Fellow of the University of Southern California's Centre for Public Diplomacy (CPD), and alumna of the Asialink Leaders' Program 2016.

Caitlin's teaching and research is focused on diplomacy and soft power in the Asia-Pacific with a special interest in the role and relevance of people-to-people links including those forged through international education, culture, sport and social media. Her research is published in a range of journals including *Politics & Policy*, *The Hague Journal on Diplomacy*, the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*. Caitlin currently leads a range of funded projects on themes spanning Australia's sports diplomacy; cultural advocacy and diplomacy in ASEAN; and the challenge of digital diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific.

Prior to joining academia, Caitlin had established a professional career which spanned strategic management, legal, foreign and social policy roles across government, business and community sectors. Caitlin currently sits on the Executive Council of the Australian Institute for International Affairs (Queensland), and the Australia-America Fulbright Commission's Scholarship Selection Panel (Queensland).

(<https://www2.griffith.edu.au/asia-institute>)

For more information about Regionally Speaking, please contact

Ms Preeti GAONKAR

Project Manager, Culture Department

E: preeti.gaonkar@asef.org

T: +65 6874 9741

About Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the [Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#)¹.

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

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This project was commissioned by ASEF to Griffith University, Arts, Education and Law Group



The Arts Education and Law (AEL) group at Griffith University is the largest and most diverse group in the University, hosting six schools and colleges:

- Griffith Law School
- School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- School of Education and Professional Studies
- School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science
- Queensland College of Art (including the Griffith film School)
- Queensland Conservatorium of Music

Griffith University was first established in 1971 and has grown to be a large multi-campus institution with internationally recognised strengths in teaching and research. Its five campuses span Australia's fastest growing corridor from Brisbane to the Gold Coast, and AEL's schools and colleges have a presence across all campuses. We focus on developing distinctive programmes to prepare students for a changing world, as well as creating an environment where research intensity can flourish. The University continues to excel in the annual QS World University Subject Rankings, with nine subject areas now in the top 100 institutions worldwide, including law, education, art and design, and performing arts from the AEL group. Griffith was also named in the 2016 Times Higher Education's Top 50 Universities under 50 years old, further illustrating our status as one of Australia's most comprehensive research and teaching universities. Our academics have won more Australian Government wards, citations, fellowships and grants than any other university in Australia, and two AEL academics have been named Australian University Teacher of the Year. Everything we do – from education to research and community engagement – is designed to meet the new world our students, graduates and communities will encounter.

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