



# ANCER

RESEARCH CAMP

## Arts & Advocacy

### PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Dr Ann Lee** (PhD Southeast Asian studies, NUS), playwright and researcher, has written, co-written and dramaturged plays that have been produced in Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Mexico, and the USA. Her work for the stage is available in *Southeast Asian Plays* (Aurora Metro, 2016), and *Sex, Stage & State* (Kuali Works, 2011). Currently an External Advisory Committee member (Creative Arts and Media) at a private university in Malaysia, she is otherwise engaged in independent research projects that cover humour studies, freedom of expression, and gender and sexuality. She is currently Chairperson of Persatuan Penulis Berbilang Bahasa (PEN Malaysia) and a committee member of ReformARTsi, the coalition of 120 arts organisations and individuals in Malaysia advocating reform in arts education, arts funding and freedom of expression. Ann also holds a BA Hons in Applied Photography, Film and Television (Westminster) and a MSc in History of Science, Medicine and Technology (Oxford).

**Braema Mathi** is a researcher and activist, trained teacher, journalist, policy analyst, trainer and currently works as a tutor in a tertiary institution. She is also a former Nominated Member of Parliament. She believes in justice and tries her darndest to apply human rights to all that she gets involved in. She draws from her work and research in education, journalism, healthcare, gender, migrant worker rights, HIV, civil society structures and refugees. She has led and founded a number of registered societies, ARENA (A Recycling Network in Action), TWC2 (Transient Workers Count Too), MARUAH (human rights organisation). A member of women's group AWARE, she has led its Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) engagement for a decade. Presently she is an active member of the Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism and Singapore Unbound.

**Jerry C Y Liu** is Professor of Graduate School of Arts Management and Cultural Policy, and Dean of College of Humanities at National Taiwan University of Arts. He is the Editor in Chief of the international journal of *Culture: Policy, Management, and Entrepreneurship*. Liu is the first President of Taiwan Association of Cultural Policy Studies (TACPS), and now the Executive Director. His many academic articles and policy papers include *Taiwan's International Cultural Relations: Culture as a Method* (2022, in Chinese), *ReOrient: An East Asian Approach on Cultural Policy and Cultural Governance* (2018, in Chinese), and "Taiwan/Asia-Pacific – Culture as a Method" (2022). Liu was the consulting member of Culture Fundamental Act in 2011-2019, and the Global Outreach Office of Ministry of Culture in Taiwan. He is the project organiser of "2023-2024 Objective Analysis Framework of Cultural Value and Cultural Impact for Cultural and Creative Parks" and "2017 Project of Cultural Congress and Cultural White Paper" for the Ministry of Culture in Taiwan; and the TAICCA project of "Evaluation on the Cultural and Social Impact of Cultural Content Industries". His current research focuses on cultural sustainability, cultural SDGs and ESG, the eco-system of creative and cultural economy.

**Justin Lee** is Senior Research Fellow and Head of Policy Lab at the Institute of Policy Studies. He is working with partners to implement participatory budgeting at a Town Council and hopes to start a special version of a Citizen's Assembly designed to bridge division. He



has created a wiki platform that allows citizen mapping of social needs ([socialcollab.sg](http://socialcollab.sg)) and will soon test whether a roving community innovation lab can catalyse local initiatives in different neighbourhoods. When the conditions are right, he hopes to kickstart community-owned enterprises, community currencies and interest-free loans to the poor. He is Chairperson of ArtsWok Collaborative and serves on the research committees of Singapore Children's Society and SINDA.

**Phina So** is the Director of CICADA, the Creative Industries of Cambodia Association for Development and Advocacy, a member-based association that advocates for support for the cultural and creative industries in Cambodia. She has been working to mobilise and engage the CCI community in research, capacity building for mainly rural informal cultural workers, and paving ways for an inclusive and supportive CCI infrastructure. Prior to CICADA, Phina held the position of Manager of Knowledge Networks and Policy Programme at Cambodian Living Arts. At CLA she was ran the Living Arts Fellows programme, a cultural leadership programme for Cambodian artists, managers, researchers and policymakers. She curates and facilitates talks, seminars and conferences; manages mobility grants, and develops collaborations with academic partners. Phina is also a writer, publisher and literary translator. She founded the Khmer Literature Festival which has been running since 2017, and co-founded the small press, Kampu Mera Editions.

**Dr Tully Barnett** is Associate Professor in Creative Industries at Flinders University in South Australia. Her teaching and research focus on cultural policy, cultural value and evaluation as well as digital cultural heritage studies. She is co-author of *What Matters? Talking Value in Australian Culture* (2018) with Julian Meyrick and Robert Phiddian. Recently her research has begun to consider the way heterodox economic ideas might serve as useful models for public value in the arts such as doughnut economics and foundational economy approaches as well as wellbeing broadly construed. She is a founding member of Reset Arts and Culture with Justin O'Connor and co-author of its position paper *For a Progressive Arts and Culture Policy Agenda in Australia*. She is a co-author of *Telling the Story of Arts and Health in South Australia* (2022) and *What Does an Arts and Health Organisation Do?* (2024) an exploration of best practice in the arts and health space. In 2024-2025 Tully is serving as an expert for the UNESCO reflection group on the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital environment.

**Venka Purushothaman** is Deputy President and Provost at LASALLE College of the Arts, University of the Arts Singapore and founder of the Asia-Pacific Network for Culture, Education and Research (ANCER). He is an award-winning art writer with a distinguished career in the arts and creative industries in Singapore. He speaks internationally on transformative art and design education and works to enable the development of cultural leaders in Southeast Asia. He is widely published and is currently editor of *Issue*, an annual international peer-reviewed art journal. He sits on the editorial team of the renowned contemporary art journal, *AFTERALL*, published by Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. He is also on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Cultural Policy, Management and Entrepreneurship*, an international academic journal in Taiwan. Venka holds a PhD in Cultural Policy and Asian Cultural Studies from the University of Melbourne. He is a member of the Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art, (France/Singapore), Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts (UK), University Fellow, Musashino Art University (Japan) and was recently inducted into the International Cultural Relations Research Alliance of the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (Germany).



## ANCER Research Camp Convenors

**Audrey Wong** is a cultural policy expert, civil society advocate, arts researcher/educator and the first Nominated Member of Parliament for the Arts in Singapore. She is Programme Leader of the MA Arts and Cultural Leadership programme at LASALLE College of the Arts, University of the Arts Singapore. Prior to joining LASALLE, Audrey was the artistic co-director of The Substation, an independent art space, where she organised festivals, exhibitions, conferences and artists' exchanges connecting with Southeast Asia, Europe and Australia. She has served on institutional boards and committees including the boards of Singapore Art Museum and Nine Years Theatre and was a Council member of the National Arts Council. She also sat on the Arts and Culture Strategic Review Committee (2010–2012).

**Sunitha Janamohan** has worked in the arts since 1999 with a portfolio that covers a range of art forms and creative industries. She has been an arts manager, curator, producer, venue manager and heritage manager in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia. Since 2015 she has been a lecturer in Arts Management at LASALLE College of the Arts, University of the Arts Singapore. She was a member of the Heritage Advisory Panel for the National Heritage Board of Singapore, serving on a sub-committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage for three terms (2018-2024). She is co-author of the report *Backstage: Managing Creativity and the Arts in South-East Asia* (2020) with Audrey Wong and Sali Sasaki, commissioned by UNESCO (Bangkok). Sunitha's research interests include community and socially engaged arts practice; local arts management models in Southeast Asia; and the intersections of social practice, labour, organisational behaviour and cultural leadership.

## ABOUT ANCER

**The Asia Pacific Network for Cultural Education and Research (ANCER)** is an initiative of LASALLE College of the Arts, formed in 2011 as a way to stimulate and develop inquiry and research primarily in the field of arts/cultural management and cultural policy. ANCER functions as a project-based network of arts and culture researchers and practitioners and provides a vital link between academia and practice in a part of the world where the arts and cultural sectors are in varying and rapid stages of development. It fulfils its objective of sharing and disseminating knowledge about arts management and cultural policy developments in Asia through two core programmes: the ANGER Lab and bi-annual ANGER Conference.

[www.ancernetwork.org](http://www.ancernetwork.org)