

GLOBAL HISTORY SEMINAR



Dr Tzu-hui Celina Hung

Assistant Professor of Literature
NYU SHANGHAI

Creolizing the Sinophone Pacific

Tuesday 3-5pm, 10 May
1.015, WBS

As a phenomenon developing from the intersection of global migration, settlement, and colonial history, creolization is more frequently associated with colonial subjects in the Indian Ocean and the Americas than with Chinese anywhere. In Southeast Asia since the mid-eighteenth century, however, long-term encounters between communities from China, local indigenes, and the European empires have produced several distinct creolized societies beyond the usual narrative of Chineseness. This talk examines articulations of creolization by

the Chinese-descended Peranakan (or Baba) writers and educators in the former British Straits Settlements, particularly Singapore and Malacca, as the elites seek to fashion Peranakan identities out of a nexus of Anglicized, Chinese, and Malay affinities. Drawing examples from local magazines, stories, and translations by Peranakan contributors, this talk aims to generate conversations in two interconnected directions. First, it places Peranakan voices in dialogue with the creolization scholarship in the West in order to consider new grounds of theory and comparison. Second, in light of the emerging Sinophone studies vis-à-vis the Mainland-centered discourse of Chinese culture, it offers contextualized insights into culture making at the crossroads of ethnolinguistic and national transactions as well as expectations, as a response to the alleged rise, and rising problematic, of Chineseness as a category of analysis.



Global History & Culture Centre

The University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL United Kingdom
Tel : 02476 523350
Email: Amy.Evans@warwick.ac.uk