

A PUBLIC LECTURE

REMEMBERING SUN YAT SEN IN SINGAPORE: NEGOTIATING HISTORY, IDENTITY AND SPACE

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Abstract

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) also known as Wan Qing Yuan, served as Sun Yat Sen's revolutionary command post. It was also the birthplace of the Singapore branch of the Tong Meng Hui. Under the ownership of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and managed by the National Heritage Board, it is one of the three 'Heritage Institutions' along with the Indian Heritage Center, and Malay Heritage Center.

As the memorial hall continues to commemorate Sun Yat Sen over the years, how did its narratives and programmes shift with the changing positioning of the institution in the context of Singapore? How does the interest of the different institutional actors shape how the history of Sun Yat Sen is presented? What is the role of the building within the context of the broader Balestier neighbourhood and Singapore? In this seminar, we'll discuss how Sun Yat Sen is commemorated in Singapore, focusing on the evolving curatorial practices, programs, and narratives at Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall and Zhongshan Park. We'll explore how these developments intersect with the institutional framework and the broader shifts in Singapore's social and cultural landscape.



Bio

Lin Chia Tsun is a curator in Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall. She has led several heritage documentation projects in Singapore and has published books on The Nine Emperor Gods Festival in Singapore: Heritage, Culture, and Community and Chinese Vernacular Shrines in Singapore. She earned her Ph.D from Nanyang Technological University focusing on the dynamics of Overseas Chinese Associations' networks.



2023.11.15 (Wed)

9:45 am - 11:20 am

WLB 210



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:



孫中山文教福利基金會
SUN YAT-SEN EDUCATION AND CHARITY FOUNDATION



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