

- 2 August (Saturday) -

10.30am *Biographies Today*

- 11.45am

Biographies tell the stories of Singapore which are complicated and diverse that may often overlap and contradict. The panel will discuss how to capture the complexity of characters portrayed as well as the innovative techniques in narrative fiction writing used to tell their story.

Philip Holden, a professor of English Language & Literature at the National University of Singapore, will speak about *Biographies Today*. His talk will be followed by the panel discussion featuring Ambassador K. Kesavapany the former Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies who commissioned many biographies during his tenure and Kevin Tan (*Marshall of Singapore: A Biography*, 2008). This session will be moderated by Tan Dan Feng, Director of Interlexis Group, GistXL Technology and Select Books.

12.00pm *Pioneers*

- 1.00pm

Biographers who have written about the pioneers who contributed to Singapore's nation-building weigh in on the seemingly daunting task of capturing the life and work of these national icons on the page. This panel will feature Asad Latif (*Lim Kim San: A Builder of Singapore*, 2009), Kevin Tan, Ooi Kee Beng (*In Lieu of Ideology: An Intellectual Biography of Goh Keng Swee*, 2010; *Serving a New Nation: Baey Lian Peck's Singapore Story*, 2011) as well as Ambassador K. Kesavapany. This session will be moderated by Professor Philip Holden.

2.00pm *Trail Blazers*

- 3.00pm

A community is built and made stronger by its many trail blazers in the social, arts and civic spheres. Their achievements and life in service are now immortalised in books about them. This panel will feature Dhoraisingam S. Samuel (*V. Pakirisamy Pillai: A Pioneer, Community Leader, Philanthropist And True Singaporean*, 2009) and Kirpal Singh (*Naked Ape. Naked Boss: The Man Behind The Singapore Zoo & The World's First Night Safari*, 2014). This session will be moderated by Carolyn Camoens, a published writer who has written for print, stage and screen.

3.00pm Tea Break

3.15pm *Family Portrait*

- 4.15pm

Where does one begin to trace a family's history? How much do you reveal without upsetting other family members who want to keep family secrets and not wash "dirty linen" in public? These biographers reveal the sensitivities involved in drawing their family portraits. This panel will feature Josephine Chia (*Frog Under A Coconut Shell*, 2010), Katherine Seow (*Seven Generations And Counting: The Story of Pang Siew Peck*, 2006) and Tammy L Wong (*'A' Is For Achar, 'L' Is For Love*, 2011). This session will be moderated by Wong Kim Hoh, a senior writer for the Straits Times.

- 3 August (Sunday) -

10.30am *Writing Autobiography*

- 11.45am

How do you condense decades of your life to just a few hundred pages? Are autobiographies a vanity project or a way to capture our personal histories as lessons for future generations? Our panellists explore the intricacies of writing your autobiography.

Noted writer Robert Yeo will speak about his unique ripple approach to autobiography writing. He puts his life at the centre and then it ripples out to family, community, country and world events that have influenced him. This will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Constance Singam (*Where I Was: A Memoir from the Margins*, 2013), Gwee Thian Hock (*A Baba Boyhood: Growing Up During World War 2*, 2013) and Hidayah Amin (*Gedung Kuning: Memories of a Malay Childhood*, 2010). This session will be moderated by Gene Tan, Director of the National Library of Singapore and the Singapore Memory Project.

12.00pm *Inspirational Stories*

- 1.00pm

Ordinary Singaporeans share their stories of courage as they overcame obstacles, including life-threatening illnesses and sexual abuse, to forge a path that is deeply personal yet inspirational. This panel will feature Jolene Goh (*Jolene's Story*, 2012), Leong Kaiwen (*Singapore's Lost Son: How I Made It from Drop-Out to Millionaire Princeton PhD*, 2012) and Lishan Chan (*A Philosopher's Madness*, 2012), and Theresa Tan (*A Clean Breast*, 2013). This session will be moderated by Annaliza Bakri, an educator and translator.

2.00pm *Remembering Places*

- 3.00pm

Home is where the heart is, as the axiom goes. These autobiographers use their childhood places as starting points for their memoirs, and show how a place with its sights, sounds and smells can be a powerful trigger for memory. This panel will feature Hidayah Amin, Josephine Chia (*Kampung Spirit: Gotong Royong, Life In Potong Pasir 1955 to 1965*, 2013) and Tan Kok Yang (*From the Blue Windows: Recollections of Life in Queenstown, Singapore, in the 1960s and 1970s*, 2013). This session will be moderated by Kelvin Ang, Director of Conservation Management at Urban Redevelopment Authority.

3.00pm Tea Break

3.15pm *My Journey*

- 4.15pm

An autobiography is but a record of our continuing journey and lessons in life. These writers look back on their lives and career, and offer different perspectives on their own journeys so far. This panel will feature Dr K. Puvanendran (*The Curious Adventures Of A Doctor From Jaffna - From Old World Charm To Majulah Singapura*, 2013), Margaret Thomas (*Memoirs Of A Migrant*, 2nd ed, 2013) and Vernetta Lopez (*Memoirs Of A DJ: Life In Progress*, 2012). This session will be moderated by Robert Yeo.

4.30pm *Hot Off The Press*

- 5.30pm

We present writers of the latest autobiographies published. Be amongst the first to meet them, hear them read and to get a copy of the book signed! This panel features Dr Loretta Chen (*Woman On Top*, 2014) the multi-hyphenate maverick in the arts and corporate world as well as Mrs Barbara Baker who will be representing her husband Mr Maurice Baker (*The Accidental Diplomat*, 2014) who was an academic and one of Singapore's first-generation diplomats.