

Eric Kerr

Tembusu College
National University of Singapore
28 College Avenue East, #B1-01
Singapore 138598

Phone: (65) 6601-2150
Fax: (919) 6684-0279
Email: eric.kerr@nus.edu.sg
Homepage: eric-kerr.com
University page: [Asia Research Institute](#)

Biography

I am a social epistemologist and philosopher of technology. I study how knowledge is governed and organized within scientific and engineering communities. I am particularly interested in places and moments where controversies and breakdowns in communication occur and fault lines appear in consensus and common sense. I'm the Associate Editor of Social Epistemology, the former Executive Editor of the Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective, and an Advisory Board Member of East Asian Science, Technology and Society. Since 2021, I have been increasingly involved in educational leadership and university administration. I was Director of Student Affairs (Jan 2021-Dec 2022) and am currently Director of Residential Life at Tembusu College, National University of Singapore.

Academic Positions

2023-Present. Director of Residential Life, Tembusu College, National University of Singapore (NUS).

2022-Present. Senior Lecturer, Tembusu College, NUS.

2016-Present. Research Fellow, Science Technology and Society (STS) Cluster, Asia Research Institute.

2021-2022. Director of Student Affairs, Tembusu College, NUS.

2018-2021. Lecturer, Tembusu College, NUS.

2013-2018. Teaching Fellow, Tembusu College, NUS.

2013-2016. Postdoctoral Fellow, STS Cluster, ARI, NUS.

2015. Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy, NUS.

Academic Expertise

AoS: Philosophy of Technology, Social Epistemology, Science and Technology Studies.

AoC: General Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Sociology of Scientific Knowledge, Sociology of Technology, Philosophy of Engineering, Philosophy of Information, Internet Studies, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics and Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Law and Jurisprudence, Logic, Critical Thinking and Informal Argument.

Education

2013. Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Edinburgh. Title: Engineering Anti-Individualism: A Case Study in Social Epistemology. Supervisor: Prof. Duncan Pritchard.
2008. M.Litt. Philosophy (1st in year), University of Aberdeen.
2007. M.A. Philosophy (1st Class Honours), University of Aberdeen.
2004. LLB. Law, University of Aberdeen.

Publications (25)

2022. Seeing Danger: Safety on an Offshore Oil and Gas Platform. *Ethnographic Studies* (Tom Anderson, Connor Graham, Mark Rouncefield, Jerry Busby, and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2022. Clarifying the Nature of Failure in Sociotechnical Systems: Ambiguity-based Failure and Expectation-based Failure. *Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science* (Eric Kerr and Vivek Kant). [Link](#).
2022. Knowing and Doing: Making Learning Spaces in a Residential College. In Tambyah, Siok Kuan (Ed.), *Student Growth and Development in New Higher Education Learning Spaces: Student-Centred Learning in Singapore*. Taylor & Francis. [Link](#).
2020. Introduction to the special section, "Platforms, Precarity, and Entrepreneurship: Mobile Communication in Asia." *Information Society* 36(5): 237-241 (Eric Kerr and Rich Ling). [Link](#).
2020. Trolls at the Polls: What Cyber Harassment, Online Political Activism, and Baiting Algorithms Can Show Us About the Rise and Fall of Pakatan Harapan (May 2018 - February 2020). *First Monday* 25(6). (Clarissa Ai Ling Lee and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2020. Seeing the Turn: Microscopes, Gyroscopes, and Responsible Analysis in Petroleum Engineering in Birgit Beck and Michael Kuhler (Eds.) *Technology, Anthropology, and Dimensions of Responsibility*. Techno:Phil – Aktuelle Herausforderungen der Technikphilosophie, vol 1. J.B. Metzler, Stuttgart & Springer. [Link](#).
2019. Trolls Maintained: Baiting Technological Infrastructures of Informational Justice. *Information, Communication and Society* (Eric Kerr and Clarissa Ai Ling Lee). [Link](#).
2019. Breaking the Ground. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, Essays and Features. [Link](#). (Malini Sur and Eric Kerr).
2019. Epistemology Without Borders: Epistemological Thought Experiments and Intuitions in Cross-Cultural Contexts, in Peter Graham, Miranda Fricker, David Henderson, and Nikolaj Pedersen (Eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Social Epistemology*. [Link](#).
2019. Taking Stock of Engineering Epistemology: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives, *Philosophy & Technology* 32(4): 685-726. Vivek Kant and Eric Kerr. [Link](#).
2019. The Social Epistemology of Book Reviews, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 7(12): 48-52. [Link](#).
2018. The Internet in Asia Through Singapore, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 12(4): 479-494, (Connor Graham, Eric Kerr, Natalie Pang, and Michael M.J. Fisher). [Link](#).

2017. Survey Techniques, in Bryan Turner, Peter Kivisto, William Outhwaite, Chang Kyung-Sup, Cynthia Epstein, and J. Michael Ryan (Eds.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, Wiley-Blackwell. [Link](#).
2016. Evidence in Engineering, in Diane Michaelfelder, Byron Newberry, and Qin Zhu (Eds.) *Philosophy and Engineering: Exploring Boundaries, Expanding Connections*. Springer: 43-59. [Link](#).
2016. Richard Rorty and Epistemic Normativity, *Social Epistemology*, 30(1): 3-24, (Eric Kerr and J. Adam Carter). [Link](#).
2016. Are You Thinking What We're Thinking?, in James H. Collier (Ed.) *The Future of Social Epistemology: A Collective Vision*, Rowman and Littlefield. [Link](#). An earlier version of this paper appeared in (2013) *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*. [Link](#).
2015. Epistemological Experiments in Cross-Cultural Contexts, *Asia Research Institute Working Paper Series*, 223: 1-27. [Link](#).
2014. The "Extendedness" of Scientific Evidence, *Philosophical Issues (Notis supplementary volume)*, 24(1): 253-281, (Eric Kerr and Axel Gelfert). [Link](#).
2014. Engineering Differences Between Natural, Social, and Artificial Kinds, in Maarten Franssen, Peter Kroes, and Pieter E. Vermaas (Eds.) *Artefact Kinds*, Synthese Library Volume 365: 207-225. [Link](#).
2013. Meaning, in Phyllis Ilari et al. (Eds.) *The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction*, London, UCL: 77-89 (Eric Kerr and Simon d'Alfonso). [Link](#).
2013. Knowledge, in Phyllis Ilari et al. (Eds.) *The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction*, Society for Philosophy of Information, London: UCL: 90-100 (Simon d'Alfonso and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2013. Truth, in Phyllis Ilari et al. (Eds.) *The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction*, Society for Philosophy of Information, London: UCL: 101-114 (Simon d'Alfonso and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2012. Skepticism and Information, in Hilmi Demir (Ed.) *Luciano Floridi's Philosophy of Technology: Critical Reflections* (Eric Kerr and Duncan Pritchard). [Link](#).

Books, Edited Volumes, and Special Issues (3)

2020. Platforms, Precarity, and Entrepreneurship: Mobile Communication in Asia, *The Information Society* 36(5) (Eric Kerr and Rich Ling).
2018. Networked Human, Network's Human: Humans and Networks Inter-Asia, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 12(4) (Connor Graham, Alfred Montoya, and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2013. *The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction*, (with Phyllis Ilari et al.), London, UCL. [Link](#).

Book Reviews, Media Writing/Coverage, and Other Writing (15)

2020. Belonging to the Land: A Review of Bruno Latour's "Down to Earth". *The Berlin Review of Books*. [Link](#). Republished in *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*. [Link](#).
2020. The Day Real Conversation Died? *Teaching Connections*. (Connor Graham and Eric Kerr) [Link](#).
2020. Distraction and Attention in a Pandemic: Designing a Virtual Classroom. *Teaching Connections*. [Link](#).

2020. Australia's bushfire smoke is lapping the globe, and the law is too lame to catch it. *The Conversation*. [Link](#). (Eric Kerr and Malini Sur)

2019. What do Sydney and Other Cities Have in Common? Dust. *The Conversation*. [Link](#). Article was featured on *ABC News*. (Malini Sur and Eric Kerr).

2019. Kino Kino film-philosophy event covered in TimeOut. [Link](#).

2019. Internet Life and Lore in Southeast Asia, ARI Newsletter 43 (Eric Kerr and Connor Graham). [Link](#).

2019. Internet Life and Lore in Southeast Asia. [Link](#).

2018. Hidden Nature: Fernando and Stengers on scientific communities, solutions, and memories. *Singapore Review of Books*. [Link](#). Reprinted (2019) in *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, 8(1): 46-49. [Link](#).

2018. A Hermeneutic of Non-Western Philosophy, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, 7(4): 1-6. [Link](#). Translated into Chinese by Wu Wanwei. [Link](#).

2018. Haw Par Villa project covered in FishEye Magazine (French), [Link](#) and Revue Trait d'Union (French). [Link](#).

2018. Curatorial Statement for Techno-Imaginations: Internet Lore in Asia (Eric Kerr and Nancy Mauro-Flude). Originally published: [Link](#). Republished by *Institute of Network Cultures* and the *Cyber-feminism Index* (entry #604).

2017. A Primer on Technology, Time-keeping, and Time-telling. Reprinted on eric-kerr.com. [Link](#).

Other Works (3)

2019. Art-Philosophy Collaboration. [REC: Haw Par Villa](#) and [project description](#) (with Olivier Perriquet).

2017. Film. [Something Beautiful](#). Premiere: F3 (Fågelbo Film Festival), Fort Lauderdale, Florida. November 2018 (with Sarah-Tabea Sammel).

Grants (11)

2023. Treating Lifestyle Disease Infodemics: Building Trust and Literacy in the Clinical Encounter. PI. Humanities and Social Sciences Seed Fund, NUS (SGD39,700).

2023. Technology for Social Good. Teaching Enhancement Grant. Member, NUS (SGD5,000).

2022. Exploring Instructional Approaches to Develop Students' Ethical Mindset for a Better Understanding of the Ethical and Social Implications of Technology. Teaching Enhancement Grant. Co-Investigator, NUS (SGD15,000).

2021. REC: Haw Par Villa. Research grant. PI, ARI (SGD5,000).

2021. Teaching in Residential Colleges. Member, NUS.

2017. Haw Par Villa. Collaborator. Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée (CNC / DI-CRéAM), France (EUR 8,000).

2017. Writing the Internet: Internet Lore in Asia. Co-organizer. National University of Singapore (SGD24,000).
2017. The Industrial Revolution 4.0: Preparing for Disruptive Technologies in 21st Century Asia. Conference fund with DongHyun Song, NUS
2016. Folklore and Digital Technology in (South) East Asia. Co-author and Lead Collaborator with Gregory Clancey (PI) and Connor Graham. Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fund (SGD39,950).
2015. Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance. Conference fund with Tyson Vaughan, NUS.
2014. Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanizing Asia. Co-author and Lead Collaborator with Mike Douglass (PI) and Michelle Miller. 3-year Ministry of Education Tier 2 Grant (SGD834,410).

Awards (8)

2023. Annual Teaching Excellence Award, NUS.
2022. Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award, NUS.
2020. Provost's Young Educator Award. NUS.
2011. New Generation Thinkers. AHRC and BBC Radio candidate.
- 2008-2011. AHRC Doctoral Competition Full Award.
2009. AHRC Oversees Funding Award for fieldwork in Southeast Asia.
2007. Croom Robertson Fellowship for best student in Masters programme. University of Aberdeen.
2007. College of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate School Award for best student in class. University of Aberdeen.

Selected Recent Conference Papers, Talks, and Lectures

2021. "Techno-Imaginations: Objective Visions?" Co-chair of panel, Society of Philosophy and Technology Conference. *Lille Catholic University, France*.
2021. "Opticity and hapticity in photogrammetry," *4th International Conference on Stereoscopic and Immersive Media: Photography, Sound and Cinema Research*. Lisbon, Portugal (with Olivier Perriquet).
2021. "Automation, Memory, and Recording: Thinking about Haw Par Villa through Digital Folklore and Photogrammetry," public lecture at *Baba House museum, Singapore*.
2021. "Epistemic Injustices of Trolling," the 5th Wee Kim Wee Soka International Seminar on Global Peace and Understanding, *Singapore Management University*.
2021. "Smart Citizens: Opening Remarks for *Singapore Research Nexus* conference on Smart Citizenship in and Beyond Singapore, NUS.
2021. "Humanities and Social Sciences - Research Conditions and Opportunities in Singapore," *Berlin University Alliance and its International Strategic Partnerships*, hosted in cooperation with the National University of Singapore and the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Berlin. (with Axel Gelfert)
2019. "The Other AI: Automation, Innovation, and the Future of Work," Social Economic Policies Asia (SOPAS) Inception Workshop and Programme Launch, *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Tokyo*.

2019. "Trolling and Informational Justice". *Nazerbayev University*, Kazakhstan.
2019. "Ambiguity-Based Failure in Sociotechnical Systems". *Society for Philosophy and Technology*, Texas A&M University, USA.
2019. "Technologies of Teaching Philosophy". *Society for Philosophy and Technology*, Texas A&M University, USA.
2018. "Troll-myths". AI Narratives in Singapore, organized by the *Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence* (University of Cambridge), NTU Institute of Science and Technology for Humanity.
2018. "Breaking the Ground: The Forensics of Excavation and the Value of Containment". *Society for Social Studies of Science*, Sydney, Australia. (with Malini Sur)
2018. "Malfunctions in Artefacts and Systems". *17th National Conference on Philosophy of Technology*, Qinhuangdao, China. (with Vivek Kant)
2018. "Systemic Malfunctions: The Births and Deaths of Malfunctions in Sociotechnical Systems". *Postphenomenology and Human-Technology Relations*, University of Twente, Netherlands. (with Vivek Kant)
2018. "Crude Phenomena: Malfunction in Items and Systems". *Technological University of Berlin*, Germany.

Teaching

As Course Coordinator or Lecturer (5)

- Knowledge and Expertise (Tembusu College, NUS) - philosophy and sociology of knowledge and expertise.
- Technology and the Fate of Knowledge (Tembusu College, NUS) - epistemology, history, and sociology of knowledge.
- Fakes (Tembusu College, NUS) - multidisciplinary thematic seminar centred around social studies of fakes and fakery.
- Time and Life (Tembusu College, NUS) - philosophy, anthropology, and sociology of time.
- Introduction to the Philosophy of Technology (Department of Philosophy, NUS) - philosophy of technology.

As Guest Lecturer (6)

- Knowledge and Technology (United World College, Singapore).
- Interactive Storytelling (Department of Communications and New Media, NUS).
- Climate Change (Tembusu College, NUS).
- Software Studies (Department of Communications and New Media, NUS).
- Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (Department of Philosophy, NUS).
- Ancient Philosophy (Nanyang Technological University).
- Philosophy of Technology (CityTech, City University of New York).

As Tutor (3)

Introduction to Philosophy II (Department of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh).

Philosophy of Science (Department of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh).

Introduction to Philosophy I (Department of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh).

As Supervisor/Mentor (9)

2022. Ziqi Zhao (Meme Musicians), Undergraduate Research Opportunity (UROP), Tembusu College, NUS.

2022. Yew-Chee Chew (Building a Change-Oriented Virtual Leadership Framework in the Higher Education Sector: An Exploratory Review), ARI Graduate Fellowship, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

2021. Joseph Aloysius Raja Sekar (Dataveillance), PhD Independent Study Module (ISM), Department of Communications and New Media, NUS.

2021. Marcus Jeremiah Choo (Chaos), UROP, Tembusu College, NUS.

2021. Charles Ladia (Digital Citizenship and Deliberative Democracy in Philippine Social Movements), ARI Graduate Fellowship, University of the Philippines Diliman.

2020. Hung Tsung Jen (Fake Jamu Scandals, Nationalism and the Making of Local Wisdom), ARI Graduate Fellowship, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan.

2019. Huang Li-Yuan, Wayne (Digital Archipelago: Cosmopolitan "Nomads" in Bali and Beyond), ARI Graduate Fellowship, National Taiwan University.

2018. Lee Mun Yee (Haw Par Villa), UROP, Tembusu College, NUS.

2016. Yew Wei Lit (Green Protests in the Shadow of Authoritarian Rule: Boundary-spanning Contention in China and Malaysia), ARI Graduate Fellowship, City University of Hong Kong.

Other Teaching and Service Roles (3)

2021-2023. College Admissions Coordinator, Tembusu College.

2020-Present. Founder and Lead Fellow. Techne (a maker group located at Tembusu College).

2019-Present. Lead Fellow. **Curios** (a student creative writing magazine).

*Service**Certificates, Workshops, and Short Courses in Education and Student Affairs (14)*

Certificate in Higher Education (Grade: 99.1%) , Harvard University Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning.

Certified Basic First Aider and CPR (Hands Only) and AED provider, Red Cross.

Certified Yellowdig Instructor.

Designing Inclusive Classrooms for People with Disabilities, Disabled Peoples Association Singapore.

Fundamentals of Autism, Autism Resource Centre Singapore.

Social & Behavioral Research Basic Course, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative.

First Responder Training, First Responding to Sexual Assault, Bystander Training, Respect and Consent facilitator, Risk Indicators of People in Distress, Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Breaking Bad News, Understanding Grief, Fire Safety Coordinator, and Fire Warden, Emotional First Aid (National University of Singapore).

Editorial, Committee, and Consultancy Positions (16)

2022-2024. Advisory Board Member, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*. [Link](#).

2020-Present. Associate Editor, *Social Epistemology*. [Link](#).

2019-Present. Editorial Board Member, Review Editor. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics: Digital Impacts*. [Link](#).

2018-2021. Academic Advisor. *Kino Kino*. [Link](#).

2017-Present. Editor and Chair. Newsletter and Outreach Committee, *Asia Research Institute*, NUS (Committee Member since 2013).

2014-Present. Editorial Board. Collective Studies in Knowledge and Society book series, *Rowman and Littlefield*. [Link](#).

2019-2022. Member. Social and Economic Governance Programme Asia. *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Tokyo*.

2020-2021. Scientific Committee. *Society for Philosophy and Technology*.

2020-2021. Executive Editor. *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*. [Link](#).

2016-2021. Consultant. Personal Epistemology in Engineering Education. NSF CAREER grant (US). Devlin Montfort (PI), Oregon State University.

2017-2020. Book Reviews Editor. *Social Epistemology*. [Link](#).

2012-2018. Co-Founder, member of the Management Board, and Treasurer. *Society for Philosophy of Information*. [Link](#).

2017. Member. Roundtable on Future of Science, Technology, and Society. *Centre for Strategic Futures*, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore.

2017. Member. Steering Committee. *Asia Research Institute*, NUS.

2014-2017. Editor. Publications Committee and Working Paper Series. *Asia Research Institute*, NUS.

2016. Editor for *Academia.edu*. [Link](#).

Conferences and Workshops Organized (12)

2019. Organizer. Workshop on Automation, Innovation, and the Future of Work for the *Konrad Adenauer Foundation*, Tokyo.

2018. Co-Organizer. "Phenomenology and Technology" workshop for the 17th HCI (human-computer interaction) India conference. Bangalore, India.

2018. Organizer. Workshop on the Fourth Industrial Revolution for the Sharjah Tatweer Foundation, NUS.

- 2018. Programme Committee. 9th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *University of Ghent*.
- 2018. Organizer. Writing the Internet: Internet Lore in Asia, *NUS*.
- 2017. The Industrial Revolution 4.0: Preparing for Disruptive Technologies in Asia (with DongHyun Song), *NUS*.
- 2016. THATCamp on Technology and Pedagogy (with Catelijne Coopmans and Ellen Spero), *Singapore University of Technology and Design*.
- 2016. Co-Organizer. Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance (with Tyson Vaughan), *NUS*.
- 2016. Programme Committee. 8th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *University of Ferrara*.
- 2016. Local Organizing Committee. Society for the History of Technology Annual Conference, *NUS*.
- 2016. Programme Committee. 7th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *University College London*.
- 2014. Programme Committee. 6th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *Duke University*.

Exhibitions Organized (3)

- 2021. Techno-Imaginations: Objective Visions? (with Olivier Perriquet and Manon Maes) [re-organized as an online event due to COVID-19 pandemic], *Society for Philosophy and Technology*, Catholic University of Lille, France.
- 2018. Co-Curator (with Nancy Mauro-Flude), *Techno-Imaginations: Internet Lore in Asia* held in conjunction with the *Writing the Internet* conference, Singapore.
- 2016. Curator and Festival Leader, *Techno-Imaginations on Screen* held in conjunction with the *Society for the History of Technology* conference, Singapore.
- 2010. Curator, The Art of Eric A.C. Sutherland, *Scottish Arts Club*, UK.

Reviewer (28)

Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Big Data and Society; Design Issues; Design Science; East Asian Science Technology and Society; Erkenntnis; European Journal for the Philosophy of Science; First Monday; Frontiers in Human Dynamics; Information, Communication and Society; Frontiers in Psychology; The Information Society; Journal for General Philosophy of Science; Mobile Media & Communication; New Media + Society; Ng Teng Fong foundation; Oxford Review of Education; Perspectives on Science; Philosophia; Philosophy Psychiatry and Psychology; Rowman and Littlefield; Science and Education; Science, Technology & Human Values; Science, Technology and Society; Scientonomy; Social Epistemology; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Synthese; Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology.

Technical and Professional Skills

Environments (Processing, Ableton Live, Twine), Web development (HTML, CSS, Wordpress), \LaTeX .