Colm A. Fox

Associate Professor of Political Science, Singapore Management University

School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University
10 Canning Rise, #05-01, Singapore 179873
colmfox@smu.edu.sg · www.colmfox.com
Last updated November 2026

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Political Science 2023–present
School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University

Assistant Professor of Political Science 2014–2023
School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University

Visiting Research Scholar 2012–2013
Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science 2014
George Washington University

Major in comparative politics, minor in international relations. Dissertation committee: Henry Hale (advisor), Nathan Brown, Eric Lawrence, R. William Liddle, and Susan Sell.

Master of Pacific International Affairs 2005
Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UC San Diego

Career track: International Politics & Southeast Asia

B.A. (Hons.), Communications 1994
Dublin City University, Ireland

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2026 *Youth Activism in Asia: A New Wave*. Edited with Meredith L. Weiss and Edward Aspinall. University of Michigan Press (Emerging Democracies series; open access).

2024 *Bonding, Bridging, & Bypassing: Understanding Ethnic Politics in Diverse Societies*. Oxford University Press. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XWONN7

Winner of the Best Book Award, APSA Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section (2025). Shortlisted for the EuroSEAS Social Science Book Prize (2026). Based on my dissertation, which won the Best Fieldwork Award, APSA Comparative Democratization Section (2015).

Journal Articles

Forth. Beyond Demographics: Ethnic and Religious Coalition Formation in Indonesia (with Edward Aspinall). *Perspectives on Politics*. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/RWMAEJ

2023 Ethnic Campaign Appeals: To Bond, Bridge, or Bypass? *Political Communication* 40(1): 92–114. doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2022.2132331. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/GINZOE

2023 Islamic Political Parties and Election Campaigns in Indonesia (with Jeremy Menchik). *Party Politics* 29(4): 622–635. doi.org/10.1177/13540688221091656. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/SRJJLU

2022 Visualizing Politics in Indonesia: The Design and Distribution of Election Posters. *International Journal of Communication* 16: 4187–4209. ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/18797. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/THEZVT

2021 Media in a Time of Crisis: Newspaper Coverage of Covid-19 in East Asia. *Journalism Studies* 22(13): 1853–1873. doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2021.1971106. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/0IS19W

2018 Is All Politics Local? Determinants of Local and National Election Campaigns. *Comparative Political Studies* 51(14): 1899–1934. doi.org/10.1177/0010414018774354. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XJLJWF

2018 Candidate-Centric Systems and the Politicization of Ethnicity: Evidence from Indonesia. *Democratization* 25(7): 1190–1209. doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2018.1461207. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/LT9WR3

Book Chapters

2026 Edward Aspinall, Meredith L. Weiss, and Colm A. Fox. Introduction: A New Wave of Youth Activism in Asia. In *Youth Activism in Asia: A New Wave*, edited by Colm A. Fox, Meredith L. Weiss, and Edward Aspinall. University of Michigan Press.

Book Reviews

2021 Review of *Demanding Images: Democracy, Mediation, and the Image-Event in Indonesia*, by Karen Strassler (Duke University Press, 2020). *Pacific Affairs* 94(2): 450–452.

2020 Review of *Indonesia: Twenty Years of Democracy*, by Jamie S. Davidson (Cambridge University Press, 2018). *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 51(3): 495–497. doi.org/10.1017/S0022463420000569

Public Writing

2020 Why Have Candidates in Indonesian Elections Increasingly Been Rallying Ethnic and Religious Support? *The Conversation Indonesia*, September 30. theconversation.com

2019 What an Election Poster Can Tell Us about Thai Election Campaigns. *Thai Data Points*, March 30. thaidatapoints.com

Works in Progress

The Personalization of Politics in Southeast Asian Elections. To be presented at the AAS Annual Conference, Boston, March 2027.

Press Coverage and the Legitimization of Protest in Hong Kong and Thailand. Earlier version presented at the APSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2024.

The Personalization of Politics in Thailand: What 30,000 Election Posters Can Tell Us.

Youth Activism and Protest in Indonesia. Journal special issue, co-edited with Edward Aspinall and Yatun Sastramidjaja. Under review at *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*.

DATASETS

Replication packages on Harvard Dataverse include the data, code, and codebooks or variable descriptions.

Ongoing	*Southeast Asia Protest Event Database (SEAPED)* (in development). Regular collection of protest data from across Southeast Asia, building a database for comparative research on protest.
2011, 2023	*Thai Election Poster Dataset*. Over 30,000 posters photographed across Thailand during the 2011 (12,000+) and 2023 (18,000+) national election campaigns. The 2011 posters are coded for the spatial proportions of visual and textual content. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XJLJWF
2009–12	*Indonesian Election Poster Dataset*. Over 25,000 election posters photographed in legislative and regional head elections across most of Indonesia's provinces, stored in a database for coding and analysis. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/GINZOE; doi.org/10.7910/DVN/SRJJLU; doi.org/10.7910/DVN/THEZVT; doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XWONN7
1997–2014	*Indonesian Press Campaign Reports*. Campaign reports from the regional newspaper *Waspada* (Medan) for five legislative elections, coded for campaign events, endorsements, and social group appeals. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/LT9WR3; doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XWONN7
2010–13	*Indonesian Interethnic and Interreligious Coalitions Dataset* (with Edward Aspinall). Ethnic and religious identities of 675 candidate tickets in 123 regional head elections across seven provinces. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/RWMAEJ
2020	*Covid-19 Editorials in East Asia*. English-language editorials from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea, January–June 2020, coded for tone and framing. Replication data: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/0IS19W

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026	Shortlisted, EuroSEAS Social Science Book Prize, for *Bonding, Bridging, & Bypassing*. 14th EuroSEAS Conference, Madrid.
2025	Best Book Award, APSA Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, for *Bonding, Bridging, & Bypassing*. Presented at APSA, September 13, 2025.
2024–26	Lee Kong Chian Fellowship, Singapore Management University (S$10,000 per year).
2024–25	PI, Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 grant (#23-SOSS-SMU-025), "Press Coverage and the Legitimization of Protest in Hong Kong and Myanmar," 1 May 2024–30 April 2025 (S$10,725).
2017	Young Southeast Asia Fellow, Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG-East) First Annual Meeting, Fulbright University Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, December 12–14.
2016–19	PI, Ministry of Education AcRF Tier 1 grant (#16-C242-SMU-008), "The Personalization of Politics in Southeast Asia," 1 October 2016–31 March 2019 (S$20,876).
2015–16	PI, Ministry of Education AcRF Tier 1 grant (#C242/MSS15S011), "Targeted Campaign Messages and Electoral Mobilization in Thailand," 1 September 2015–31 August 2016 (S$11,836).
2015	Best Fieldwork Award, Comparative Democratization Section, American Political Science Association, for the dissertation "Appealing to the Masses: Understanding Ethnic Politics and Elections in Indonesia."

2011	Best Graduate Paper, Indonesia and East Timor Studies Committee, Association for Asian Studies annual conference, Honolulu.
2009–11	Matsushita International Foundation field research grant.
2009	Sigur Center for Asian Studies field research grant.
2009	Fulbright language program grant.
2008	US–Indonesia Society language program fellowship.
2008	Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship, Department of Education and Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute (declined).
2008	Sigur Center for Asian Studies field research grant.
2007–08	Graduate fellow, Institute for Global and International Studies, George Washington University.
2005–09	Ph.D. fellowship, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, George Washington University.
2004–05	Tuition grant, UC San Diego.
2004	Field research grant, UC San Diego.
1998–2003	Various graphic design and new media design awards.

INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS, AND ROUNDTABLES

2026	Book talk, *Bonding, Bridging, & Bypassing*. Indonesia Forum, University of Melbourne, October 20.
2026	Book talk, *Bonding, Bridging, & Bypassing*. Indonesia Study Group, ANU Indonesia Project, Australian National University, Canberra, October 14.
2024	Book talk, *Bonding, Bridging, & Bypassing*. University of Hong Kong, November 28.
2024	Book talk, *Bonding, Bridging, & Bypassing*. Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, November 26.
2024	Organizer, follow-up online workshop for the special issue "Youth and Student Protest in Indonesia," July 5.
2024	Organizer, workshop "Youth and Student Protest in Indonesia," Jakarta, March 7–8. Seven contributing scholars; co-editors Edward Aspinall and Yatun Sastramidjaja.
2024	Organizer, two-day online workshop "A New Wave of Youth and Student Activism in Asia," February 15 and 19.
2023	Organizer, workshop "A New Wave of Youth and Student Activism in Asia," SMU, October 2–3. Eight chapter authors from Asia, the US, and Europe, five discussants, and co-editors Edward Aspinall and Meredith Weiss.
2019	Invited speaker, launch of *Indonesia: Twenty Years of Democracy* by Jamie Davidson, National Library, Singapore, April 11.
2019	Participant, workshop "Elites, Masses and Representation: Designing a Cross-national Study for Southeast Asia," Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, January 23–24.
2019	Invited discussant, book workshop for *Making Identity Count in Asia*, edited by Ted Hopf. Asia Research Institute, NUS, January 10.
2018	Co-organizer (with Jacob Ricks), workshop "The Politics of Identity in Thailand," SMU, January 11–12. Presented material on the personalization of politics in Thailand.

2017	Invited participant, workshop "Civil Islam Revisited, Indonesia and Beyond." Paper: "Personal Votes and the Politicization of Religion: Evidence from Indonesia's Democratic Transition." Asia Research Institute, NUS, October 23.
2016	Chair, Public Forum on US Elections, SMU.
2016	Invited participant, Trust in Southeast Asia Workshop, SMU.
2012	Invited participant, Patronage, Clientelism, and Electoral Dynamics Workshop, Bali, Indonesia.
2011	Invited speaker, "Electoral Campaigning and the Politicization of Identity," Inter-departmental Seminar Series, Australian National University.
2011	Invited participant, Indonesian Graduate Student Workshop on Indonesian Studies. Paper: "Inevitable Victory: Electoral Media Campaigns in Ambon, Maluku." Australian National University.
2010	Invited speaker, "Politics of Identity in Indonesia: Results from Political Campaign Advertisements" (with Jeremy Menchik). CSIS, Jakarta.
2010	Invited participant, Democracy and Identity in Asia Workshop. Paper: "Democracy, Decentralization & Ethnic Politics: Electoral Campaigning in Indonesia, 1955–2010." University of Toronto.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026	Convener, panel "Youth Activism in Asia: A New Wave of Student Protest and Political Mobilisation," with co-editor Meredith L. Weiss and chapter authors. 14th EuroSEAS Conference, Madrid, September 1–3.
2024	"Press Coverage and the Legitimization of Protest in Hong Kong and Thailand." APSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, September 5–8.
2024	"The Press and Protest in Thailand." EuroSEAS, Amsterdam, July 23–25.
2017	"Ethnic Politics and Coalition Formation: Evidence from Local Elections in Indonesia" (with Edward Aspinall). EuroSEAS, Oxford, August 16–18.
2016	"Targeted Campaign Messages and Electoral Mobilization in Thailand." AAS-in-Asia, Kyoto.
2016	"Campaigning Through the Press: Democratization & Elections in Indonesia." Asian Studies Conference Japan; IPSA World Congress, Poznań.
2013	"Mobilizing Ethnicity: The Impact of Electoral Rules and Ethnic Diversity." APSA Annual Meeting, Chicago.
2013	"Personal Charisma and Electoral Campaigning in Local Indonesian Elections." AAS Annual Conference, San Diego.
2012	"Measuring the Politicization of Identity." Prepared for the APSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans (meeting cancelled).
2012	"Local Election Campaigning in Maluku, Java, and North Sumatra." Graduate Conference on Indonesia, UCLA.
2012	"Populism & Contestation: Thailand's 2011 Election." AAS Annual Conference, Toronto.
2010–11	"Politics of Identity in Indonesia: Results from Political Campaign Advertisements" (with Jeremy Menchik). CSIS, Jakarta (2010); AAS Annual Conference, Honolulu (2011; Best Graduate Paper, Indonesia and East Timor Studies Committee); APSA Annual Meeting, Seattle (2011).

2008	"A History of Violence: Militia Groups in Indonesia." International Graduate Conference on Asia Pacific, East-West Center, Hawaii.
2004	"Recommendations for Cambodian Electoral Reform." Presented to the Executive Office of the Cambodian Government, Phnom Penh.

TEACHING

Singapore Management University 2014–present

Current

AI-Driven Media Research (POSC108; new course)

Social Movements in Asia (POSC304)

Past

Mass Media and Public Opinion Research (POSC322)

Elections and the Media (POSC320)

Introduction to Politics and Policy Studies (POSC003)

George Washington University (Teaching Assistant) 2005–2012

International Political Economy

Introduction to Comparative Politics

International Affairs

Open-i Interactive (Lecturer in New Media Design) 1998–2002

STUDENT SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

2025–26	Nisha Shanker, "Legitimising Violence: Legal and Media Narratives in the Erasure of Dissent in Southeast Asia." Independent study (supervisor), Term 1.
2024	Yong Jia Ying, "Pathways to Political Participation: Women and Civil Society in Malaysia." Senior thesis (co-examiner).
2023–24	Privina Ramanan. Independent study (co-supervisor, with Charlotte Setijadi), Term 2.
2022	Elijah Lai, "Understanding Attitudes towards COVID-19 Vaccinations in Singapore." Senior thesis (supervisor). Winner of SMU's Best Senior Thesis Award in Social Science.
2021	Hong Yi Tay, "The Silent Epoch." Senior thesis (co-examiner).
2019	Bryan Ang, "Political Legitimacy and SkillsFuture: A Political Economy Analysis of the Political Legitimacy of Singapore's Higher Education System." Senior thesis (co-examiner).

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2025–26	Area Coordinator, Political Science, School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University.
2021–26	Coordinator, Southeast Asia Research Cluster Seminar Series, School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University.
2018	Faculty advisor to SMU Apolitical Society students on writing and distributing a political primer on populism.

Referee	*Asian Journal of Communication*, *Asian Politics & Policy*, *Chinese Journal of Communication*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Democratization*, *Electoral Studies*, *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, *Journalism Studies*, *Oxford Development Studies*, *Pacific Affairs*.
2007–present	Member, American Political Science Association.
2010–present	Member, Association for Asian Studies.
2007–12	Member, US–Indonesia Society.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant, Cambodian Government 2004

Worked with the chairman of Cambodia's cabinet. Researched, wrote, and presented reports on conflict, democracy, and electoral reform.

Independent Design Consultant 2002–2003

Consultancy and design services for Amnesty International, Nickelodeon, and other clients.

Design Director, Nickelodeon Online 1997–2002

Directed creative work by in-house and contract designers and international design firms; managed a team of five full-time designers and numerous freelancers. Led a full redesign of Nickjr.com and Nickelodeon's e-commerce site. Won numerous national and international awards.

Graphic Designer, Apunix 1995–1997

Designed brochures, multimedia kiosks, and training videos for Sun Microsystems, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sony, and the City of San Diego.

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Languages	Indonesian (advanced)
Methods	Content analysis (manual and LLM-assisted), protest event data, survey design
Analysis	Python, R, Stata, MAXQDA, Fiji (ImageJ); large language model APIs for automated text coding
Design	Illustrator, Photoshop, HTML & CSS
Archiving	Lightroom, FileMaker, Extensis Portfolio