



NUS
National University
of Singapore

**NUS Global
Asia Institute**

JY Pillay Comparative Asia Research Centre

<http://www.gai.nus.edu.sg/re-jyp.html>

CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS ON

Comparative Asian Capitalisms: Organizing Market Economies Across East and South Asia

1. Introduction

The CARC's current research programme is designed to tackle one of the most important questions in social science research on Asia – *how and why are Asia's market economies organized differently?* It seeks to provide a state-of-the-art understanding of the dynamic industrial transformations of market economies in East and South Asia. During the past three decades, substantial research conducted in a wide range of social science disciplines, such as business and organization studies, comparative political economy, development studies, economic sociology, and legal studies, has shown that high-growth Asian economies owe their meteoric rise to unique configurations of business firms, inter-organizational networks, innovation and financial systems, political-legal structures, and state and non-state forms of governance. Several important and highly influential conceptual perspectives have been developed to understand and explain these varieties and configurations of economic organization in Asian capitalisms. They have also made very significant impact on the social sciences in the global research communities.

Although the processes and outcomes of this economic organization in individual Asian countries have been studied in different disciplines throughout the world, the above critical dimensions of economic organization in Asia have not often been brought together in a truly comparative and multidisciplinary setting. As a "programme architect", the CARC will fund projects structuring cross-national comparative studies in a multidisciplinary fashion that straddles different disciplines, schools, and faculties in NUS. Through a combination of cutting-edge theoretical and empirical research in a wide range of comparative Asian contexts, these projects can also offer critical information and policy insights to those in the private and public sectors who are interested in doing business in Asia and in the divergent processes and outcomes of economic development in Asia.

We are seeking competitive proposals from related disciplines with the objective of providing relevant insights into these issues. The application process will be conducted in two stages. (See Proposal Submission Template below). Proposals from multi-disciplinary teams are particularly welcomed.

2. Examples of Potential Research Areas (Non-Exhaustive)

Over a programme period of 3-5 years, the Centre's theoretically grounded comparative approach to analyzing this fundamental issue is likely to bring new insights (1) to enrich existing debates on different forms of global capitalisms; (2) to advance empirical understanding of Asian economies; and

(3) to develop evidence-based policy recommendations for governments and business communities in Asia. Drawing upon diverse research talents in different schools and faculties of NUS, the research programme aims to develop the CARC into one of the world's premier centres for comparative Asia research. Key research foci for funding support are:

- (1) Political-economic dynamics of state and non-state institutions in capitalist development
- (2) Comparative analysis of firms and institutions in industrial transformation
- (3) Changing knowledge and innovation systems at the national and regional scales
- (4) Human capital, migration, and labour market dynamics
- (5) Governance: corporate governance, legal and regulatory systems, and financial market development

These research foci provide fertile ground for cross-national comparative studies that can enrich our understanding beyond studies based on single country cases. While the focus is preferably placed on the key development issues in China, India, and Indonesia, experience in other Asian countries will also be drawn upon in enhancing our comparative understanding of market organization and economic development.

3. Proposal Submission Template

Stage 1

A. LETTER OF INTENT (2 pages)

Provide a summary of the research question you wish to address. State clearly how it adds value to the existing literature and if it has broader impacts. Include an indication of the total amount of funding required for the project. This can be revised in Stage 2. After an initial screening, successful project teams will be notified whether their projects will move onto the second stage.

Stage 2

A. PROJECT SUMMARY (1 page)

Include a self-contained description of the activity that would result if the proposal is funded. Include a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. *Clearly address in separate statements the intellectual merit and broader impacts.*

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (5 pages)

i. INTRODUCTION

Provide a basic but thorough introduction to your subject. State your overall vision and motivating rationale. What is lacking in the existing literature? Provide background and need/significance of your proposed research. If you have preliminary results you may include a summary of them.

ii. PROJECT PLAN

Include Goals, Objectives and Deliverables. Describe your intended activities. Provide enough information as to why you and your team are expert enough to accomplish the goal. Include for each Objective: (1) Methods/Activities (2) Expected Results/Deliverables (3) Limitations & Alternatives & (4) Timeline/Resources if needed.

- iii. **MANAGEMENT PLAN** (for projects with more than one PI)
Detail how the project will be managed. Who is responsible overall for the project? Include information on specific roles and responsibilities for PI, co-PIs and senior personnel. How will communications be handled? Include activities, persons responsible and timeline.
- iv. **DISSEMINATION**
What are the targeted outputs? How will results be broadly conveyed? (e.g. Professional conferences, journal papers, monographs, special seminars etc.)
- v. **SUMMARY**
Summarize project goals and expected outcomes, including how they pertain to broader impacts.

C. REFERENCES CITED (1 Page)

Be sure to cite any references mentioned.

D. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES (1 page)

Include professional preparation, appointments and five most significant publications of PI, co-PIs and senior personnel.

E. BUDGET

Competitive research grants starting at S\$150,000 (up to S\$300,000) are open to NUS faculty to pursue multidisciplinary comparative research in any of the above areas. Principal investigators of larger grants (>S\$250,000) should ideally be tenured faculty. Also indicate names and affiliations of core team members.

The maximum grant period is for three years. The total budget should be broken down semi-annually and by activity. (*Note: The funds may be used to support Post-Doctoral Fellows and Research Assistants*)

4. Proposal Submission Timeline

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| a. Stage 1: Letter of Intent Submission | By 31 October 2018 |
| b. Results of 1 st round review | Early December 2018 |
| c. Stage 2: Full Proposal Submission | By 31 January 2019 |
| d. Decision from Review Committee | Late March 2019 |

Please submit your Letter of Intent (and, if selected, full proposal) to gaibox7@nus.edu.sg stating “**JYP-CARC Grant Submission**” in the subject line and copy your Faculty’s Vice-Dean Research Office.

Thank you.

Henry Yeung
Distinguished Professor and Director, JYP CARC