Hitherto, much of Singapore’s history has been a history of its colonial past, starting from 1819 when the ambitious Stamford Raffles claimed Singapore for the British East India Company. Few contemporary history books trace Singapore’s past before that time. A notable exception is the new book: Singapore: A 700-Year History – From Early Emporium to Global City authored by local historians Tan Tai Yong, Kwa Chong Guan & Derek Heng. Providing a critical examination of this new volume and offering their own perspectives on the writing of Singapore history are three younger academics and teachers: Jason Lim, Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied and Alvin Tan. This forum-styled programme also serves as an engaging and interactive platform between domain experts of the respective subjects with the audience.

THE PANELISTS

Dr Jason Lim is post-doctoral fellow Department of History, National University of Singapore. He researches on overseas Chinese merchants in Singapore and their trade with China.

Dr Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied is Assistant Professor, Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore. He researches the history of colonialism in Southeast Asia, with a special focus on the construction of identities, native resistance, the impact of colonial structures on the lives of ethnic minorities and western perceptions of Islam in the region.

Mr Alvin Tan is a history teacher with Raffles Girls’ School and Honorary Secretary of the Singapore Heritage Society.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr Tan Tai Yong is Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore.

Mr Kwa Chong Guan is Head (External Programmes) at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University as well as Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of History, National University of Singapore. He was formerly Director of the National Museum.

Dr Derek Heng is Assistant Professor at the Department of History, Ohio State University.