

Workshop on ‘Emerging Production Networks of Fintech’

National University of Singapore, 10th & 11th December 2018



Funded by Global Production Networks Centre at National University of Singapore (GPN@NUS)

With support of Global Network of Financial Geography (FinGeo)

CONTACTS

Organiser: Karen Lai (karenlai@nus.edu.sg)
Event Assistant: Jieyu Zhou (faszj@nus.edu.sg)
GPN Centre Manager: Dione Ng (dioneng@nus.edu.sg)

OBJECTIVES

Fintech, a shorthand for ‘financial technology’, brings together firms and actors from the finance industry and technology and innovation clusters in changing the ways that capital raising, financial transactions and investment decisions are being made, often through the use of big data, online platforms and mobile technologies. Given the infancy of this phenomenon, a pressing task would be to clarify the key actors, relationships and structures of this evolving industry (or sets of intersecting industries), map out key research dimensions for economic geography, and identify productive points of engagement for understanding the dynamics and evolution of global production networks (GPN) as the result of Fintech. In geography and related social sciences, much has been written about financialisation and the ways in which financial logics and practice have become influential in shaping the decision-making and economic behaviour of firms, states and consumers. Will Fintech reshape such direction of influence, as ICT innovations from outside the finance industry change the intermediary roles of finance firms with new products and new forms of service delivery? How will this change industry positions of incumbent and challenger firms as the line between finance firms and technology companies become increasingly blurred? What regulatory challenges are being posed by Fintech as it operates at the intersections of industries and production networks?

Given the speed of industry development and emerging intellectual interest in Fintech, the workshop will provide valuable intellectual space for critical discussion on key research topics, conceptual themes, methods, and intellectual and policy implications for understanding changing geographies of production and finance. The main objectives of the workshop are:

- 1) To explore the ways in which FinTech is reshaping existing production networks. (For example, through the introduction of new intermediary platforms, new ways of providing supply chain financing, or the creation of new markets.)
- 2) To examine the spatial dimensions of FinTech. (Such as in terms of agglomeration economies, the formation of knowledge networks, regional innovation systems and financial centre capacities.)
- 3) To consider the impacts of FinTech on labour and regulation, and how these might vary across different geographical contexts and markets.

In terms of outcome, the workshop will provide a valuable platform for participants to identify and explore new synergies between FinTech and GPN research, and implications for geographical enquiry. Participants will explore opportunities for development of joint research funding bids or publications. One possibility is a collection of commentaries or critical debates forum in a leading geography journal (e.g. *Geoforum*, *Environment and Planning A*) that could stimulate broader disciplinary debates for future research.

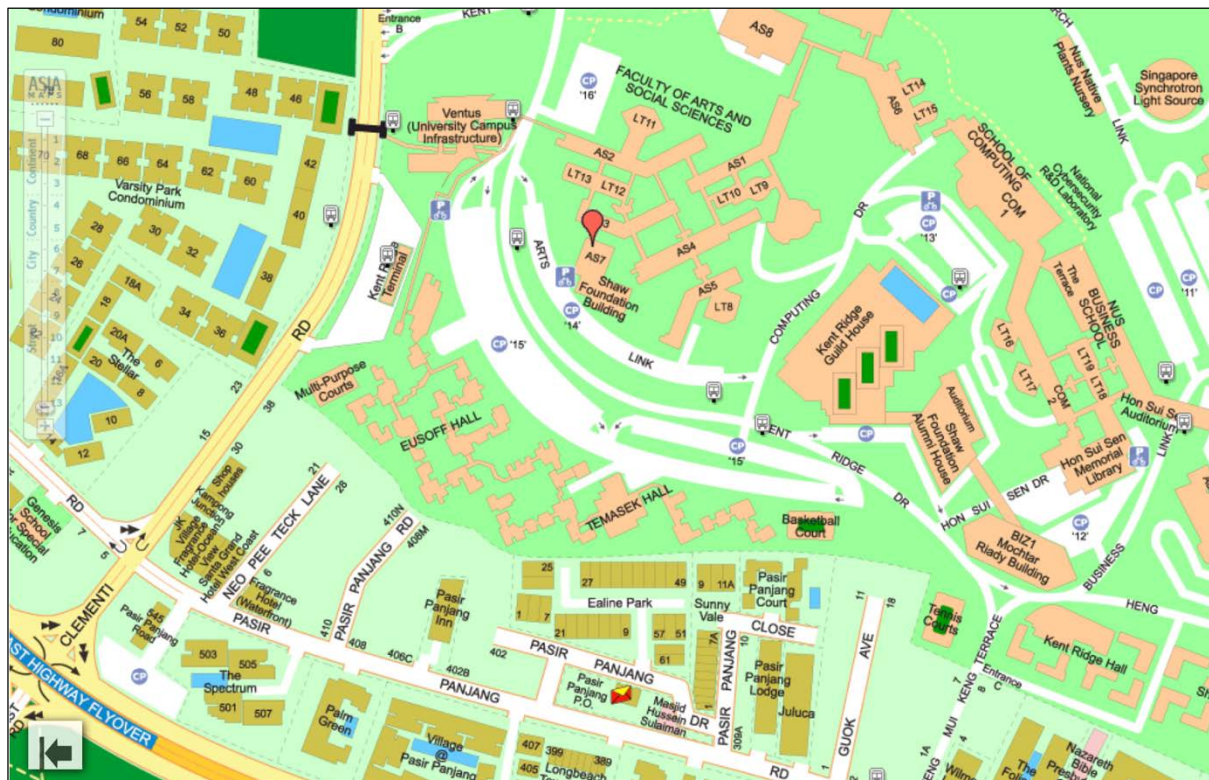
FORMAT

Each participant will present a short paper (around 3,000 words; 5-7 pages) offering critical commentary on a specific area of FinTech research followed by open discussion. The idea is not to focus on already completed research (although those can be relevant), but to provide intellectual stimulus for future research around common questions and shared themes. With the three stated objectives in mind, the short discussion papers could touch on what the participant believes to be the most interesting or important new avenues for geographical research on FinTech, their research approach to the topic, and what their future plans are for undertaking that research.

Each participant has 30 minutes in the programme for respective topics. Since the short papers would have been circulated ahead of time, there is no need for a full presentation. Instead, each participant will have 10 minutes to highlight key arguments/questions emerging from his/her written piece and then the floor will be open for questions and discussion for the remaining 20 minutes. At the end of Day 1 and Day 2, there will be time aside for wider discussion about key issues emerging from that day.

WORKSHOP VENUE

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore
Block AS7, 5 Arts Link
Shaw Foundation Building
Research Division Seminar Room #06-42
Singapore 117570



WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Monday 10th December 2018		
09.00	Travel from hotel to NUS A shuttle bus will bring participants from the hotel to NUS. Please be at the hotel concierge desk at least 5 minutes earlier; the bus will leave at 9.00am sharp.	Hotel concierge desk
09.45-10.15	Welcome remarks by Co-Director, GPN@NUS <i>Neil Coe</i> Participants' introduction	Block AS7, Research Division Seminar Room #06-42
10.15-10.45	Coffee/tea break	
10.45-11.15	Introduction: Fintech as hydra? Towards a geographical analysis <i>Karen Lai</i>	
11.15-12.15	Chair: <i>Tan Xuan Kai</i> Emerging geographies of FinTech: A comparative study of organisational, institutional, and strategic financial centre change <i>David Bassens</i> Financial competitiveness and institutional oligopoly in Australia: Fintech, disruption and the Sydney-Melbourne agglomeration <i>Phillip O'Neill</i>	
12.15-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.30	Chair: <i>Jack Harris</i> Understanding the relationship between AI and financial employment in globally connected financial centres <i>Michael Samers</i> Skilled migrants and regional innovation in Hong Kong IT sector <i>He Wang</i>	
14.30-15.30	Chair: <i>Dennis Stolz</i> Platformed populations: The user subjects of FinTech <i>Paul Langley</i> When GPNs Meet the Crowd and the Cloud:	

	Exploring the Digital Geographies of Data and Currency <i>Matt Zook</i>	
15.30-16.00	Coffee/tea break	Block AS7, Research Division Seminar Room #06-42
16.00-16.30	Open discussion	
16.45	Transportation from NUS to Orchard Rendezvous Hotel Singapore	AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, Lobby
18.30-	Dinner (<i>Sponsored by FinGeo</i>) * For invited participants only *	<i>Details to be announced</i>
Tuesday 11th December 2018		
08.45	Travel from hotel to NUS A shuttle bus will bring participants from the hotel to NUS. Please be at the hotel concierge desk at least 5 minutes earlier; the bus will leave at 8.45am sharp.	Hotel concierge desk
09.30-10.30	Chair: <i>Felicia Liu</i> Global production networks of Fintech <i>Sabine Dörry</i> The funding landscape of Fintech in China: a preliminary analysis of venture capital-backed peer-to-peer lending platforms <i>Fenghua Pan</i>	Block AS7, Research Division Seminar Room #06-42
10.30-11.00	Coffee/tea break	
11.00-12.00	Chair: <i>Karen Lai</i> How Bank-Fintech collaborations open up new trade flows: A global production networks perspective <i>Eric Knight</i> FinTech as Goldilocks? Regulating the platform ecologies of FinTech <i>Andrew Leyshon</i>	
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-14.00	Discussion/future plans	
14.30	Transportation from NUS back to hotel	AS7 Shaw Foundation Building, Lobby

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

David BASSENS, Associate Professor, Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
<http://www.cosmopolis.be/people/david-bassens>

Sabine DÖRRY, Senior Research Fellow, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic
Research (LISER)
<https://www.liser.lu/staff/sabine-doerry/>

Eric KNIGHT, Associate Professor in Innovation and Management, The University of
Sydney Business School
<https://business.sydney.edu.au/staff/eric.knight>

Paul LANGLEY
Professor, Department of Geography, Durham University
<https://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/staff/geogstaffhidden/?id=9775>

Andrew LEYSHON, Professor, School of Geography, University of Nottingham
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/geography/people/andrew.leyshon>

Phillip O'NEILL, Professor and Director, Centre for Western Sydney, Western Sydney
University
https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/staff_profiles/WSU/professor_phillip_o_neill

Fenghua PAN, Associate Professor of Economic Geography, School of Geography, Beijing
Normal University
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Fenghua_Pan

Michael SAMERS, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky
<https://geography.as.uky.edu/users/msame2>

WANG He, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, City University Hong Kong
https://www6.cityu.edu.hk/pol/faculty_academic_teaching_detail.asp?id=64

Matt ZOOK, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky
<https://geography.as.uky.edu/users/zook>