



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES REGIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
(SEASREP)**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**WRITING WORKSHOP FOR ACADEMIC PUBLICATION  
22-24 FEBRUARY 2017  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

The SEASREP FOUNDATION invites Southeast Asian postdoctoral students and young to mid-career academics and researchers residing in the Southeast Asian region to participate in this three-day writing workshop. This workshop is supported by the Japan Foundation Asia Center.

**BACKGROUND**

Each year, universities across Southeast Asia produce graduate theses and dissertations, yet only a few find their way to journals and books. Several reasons explain why. One is that writing a dissertation is vastly different from writing for a journal or a book; graduate students learn how to do the first but not necessarily the second. Until recently, moreover, some students tended to look upon the doctoral dissertation as the pinnacle of their career when, in fact, it is merely the beginning. Today academics are under great pressure to publish research findings in highly regarded journals. Hence the need for training in academic writing is felt more strongly now than before. A big challenge springs additionally from the fact that English is not the basic language for many scholars in Southeast Asia.

Among the most common weaknesses in academic writing are the following. The second point, in particular, is frequently mentioned by journal editors.

- Absence of a clearly stated research question;
- Lack of an argument developed in response to the research question;
- Failure to identify the central issue in the abstract and introduction;
- Failure to identify a target audience;
- Insufficient explanation of the significance of the research;
- Inclusion of irrelevant material;
- Excessive detail in the supporting data; and
- Failure to provide adequate support for the argument.

These weaknesses often cause manuscripts to be rejected without being sent for peer review, and as a result significant research findings go unpublished.

**OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the workshop is to help researchers prepare manuscripts that will clear an initial screening, and that editors will send out for review. Specifically, the presentations will:

- Provide writers a clearer understanding of what editors look for when evaluating submissions;
- Highlight the underlying dynamics or argumentation in a research article so that the argument in it is organized for clarity and effectiveness;

- Increase awareness and efficiency in the use of linguistic conventions so that ideas are conveyed accurately, clearly and appropriately;
- Develop and deploy strategies for planning and revising a manuscript;
- Explain the evaluation process and how to respond to referees' reports.

#### WORKSHOP COMPONENTS

- *Needs assessment.* Prior to the workshop, participants are required to submit a sample of a written academic work so that the facilitators would be able to have a sense of the level of discussion and inputs they would need to consider in conducting the workshop. A pre-workshop survey will also be circulated for the participants to fill-out to further identify areas that may need improvement;
- *Input.* Discussion of publication requirements, structuring the argument, and linguistic conventions; and
- *Feedback.* Small group and individual consultations to discuss writing samples submitted by participants.

#### WORKSHOP FORMAT AND LENGTH

The workshop will have three eight-hour sessions spread over three days. The workshop will consist of the following:

- Lectures on academic writing for publication
- Seminars with writing exercises
- Small group sessions discussing work by participants
- Individual (one-on-one) sessions analyzing weaknesses in participant submissions and strategies for revision

#### WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Paul Kratoska, Publishing Director, NUS Press, National University of Singapore; former editor of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*; currently edits the *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*; taught Southeast Asian history at the Ateneo de Manila, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and the National University of Singapore.

Susan Lopez-Nerney, taught language, writing and professional communication in the Centre for English Language Communication, NUS, 1992-2013; now designs and runs writing workshops for graduate degree candidates and post-doctoral holders.

Paul Nerney, taught language, writing, and critical thinking in the University Scholars Programme, the University residential college academic program, and the Centre for English Language Communication, NUS, for 32 years; currently designs and runs writing workshops for graduate degree candidates and post-doctoral holders.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Southeast Asian researchers or academics residing in the Southeast Asian region who are Southeast Asian nationals;
- Doctoral degree in the humanities or social sciences;

#### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Letter explaining why applicant wishes to take part in the workshop
- Sample research paper (4,000 words) for discussion and review in the workshop;
- Curriculum vitae.

#### TRAVEL GRANTS

The grant will provide for the participants' airfare (budget economy), accommodation, meals, and a modest stipend. Snacks and lunch will be provided during the workshop proper.

Applications must be prepared in English and submitted by email no later than 9 January 2017 to the SEASREP Foundation at [seasrep@pltdsl.net](mailto:seasrep@pltdsl.net). The notice of acceptance will be sent out by email on 20 January 2017.

#### INQUIRIES

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