

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Cool living heritage in Southeast Asia

**Dr Tim Winter and Professor Donald McNeill from the Institute for Culture and Society, and Associate Professor Johannes Widodo and Dr Jiat-Hwee Chang from the National University of Singapore will research electronic air-conditioning and the degree to which traditional, less energy intensive alternatives to thermal comfort can be maintained and reinstated. This project is funded by the Australian Research Council through its Discovery Projects grants scheme.**

'The challenges of reducing the carbon emissions of buildings are significant and complex', says Dr Winter. 'With electronic air-conditioning systems now commonplace throughout the developed and developing world, vast amounts of energy are being used for cooling buildings and their inhabitants. Recent decades have seen a sharp upturn in the amount of energy used in the climate regulation of interior spaces, and an alternative comfort paradigm is particularly needed in tropical and sub-tropical climates. The team will incorporate the architectural designs, forms of material culture, tradition-based habits and practices into a single, interactive knowledge platform website.'

The project addresses electronic air-conditioning and its alternatives within a context of sustainable urban lifestyles in Southeast Asia. A wide array of tradition-based, low-carbon thermal comfort alternatives to air-conditioning will be examined, and the degree to which these can be reinstated in urban planning and design will be investigated.



The outcomes will provide tangible points of access for people trying to incorporate existing and traditional mechanisms for maintaining comfort into policy and planning, and in so doing bring in a dimension that may well contribute to energy reduction and more sustainable forms of urban development.

**Project Title:** Cool living heritage in Southeast Asia: sustainable alternatives to air-conditioned cities

**Funding has been set at:** \$195,000

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