

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR SOH YI DA, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER
AT THE NUSS PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE 2023
7PM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
18 APRIL 2023, TUESDAY**

1. Address the Audience

Professor Tan Tian Yuan

NUSS Visiting Professor 2023;

Shaw Professor of Chinese in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies;

Professorial Fellow of University College at the University of Oxford

Professor Ong Chang Woei

Head of the Department of Chinese Studies, NUS

NUSS Management Committee members

Fellow NUSS members

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good evening to you, and thank you for taking the time to join us for tonight's NUSS Professorship Lecture.

For those who are here for the first time, a very warm welcome to you.

2. About the NUSS Professorship Lecture

As part of NUSS' contribution towards the development of meaningful interactions with its alma mater through academic pursuit, NUSS established the NUSS Professorship in 1996 with an endowment of \$1.5 million. NUSS has seen NUS appointing more than 20 NUSS Visiting Professors, including in 2017, its first full time NUSS Chair Professor.

The NUSS Professorship Lectures seek to enable distinguished faculty, often Visiting Professors at NUS from around the world, to share knowledge with the NUS community and the general public.

I'm pleased to extend a warm welcome to our speaker, **NUSS Visiting Professor 2023, Professor Tan Tian Yuan**, a proud Singaporean Chinese. Professor Tan is one of the most well-known scholars of pre-modern Chinese literature active today. He currently holds the position of Shaw Professor of Chinese at Oxford University and is also a Professional Fellow of University College, Oxford. The position of Shaw Professor of Chinese is one of the permanent professorships at Oxford and one of the most prestigious appointments in the field of Chinese Studies worldwide.

Professor Tan's research focuses on drama, songs, and other forms of vernacular literature in the later dynasties of China. He has single-authored two books – (1) *The English Book Songs of Contentment and Transgression: Discharged Officials and Literati Communities in Sixteenth-Century North China* was published by Harvard University Asia Center (2010).

Professor Tan's other book - *A Critical Edition of Kang Hai's Songs, with Notes and Two Essays*) was awarded second prize in both the 2011 National Excellent Classical Books Award and Excellent Classical Books of East China Region Award, a rare feat for a non-China-based scholar.

Our moderator for this evening is **Professor Ong Chang Woei**, Head of the Department of Chinese Studies, NUS. Professor Ong is a specialist in the history of late imperial China.

3. Introduce the Session

Tonight, Professor Tan will share with us how does one's cultural context shape an individual's reading experiences and reception to literary works. Professor Tan will discuss examples of cross-cultural readings, from Ezra Pound's fascination with classical Chinese poetry to Voltaire's eighteenth-century rendition of an old Chinese drama, and rethink the meanings of terms such as "Chinese Shakespeare" or "Global Renaissance".

I hope that you will find this session an enriching one.

4. Thank You