Festa di Papia KRISTANG

1st Kristang Language Festival
20–21 May 2017

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
OPENING WORDS
FROM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Teng bong! Nus mutu alegri bolotu ja beng juntah kung nus selebrah primiru Festa di Papia Kristang! As director of Kodrah Kristang — the initiative to revitalise Kristang in Singapore — I’m immensely excited and privileged to welcome you to the Lion City’s first ever Kristang Language Festival.

Over the next two days, you can look forward to an exciting range of events showcasing Kristang and Eurasian history, heritage and culture, as well as some of our current and upcoming efforts to bring Kristang to a new generation of Singaporeans and to reach out to many of Singapore’s other constituent communities. On Saturday, join our panels and workshops and gain an in-depth look into the Kristang language and the community that still cherishes it as their own, before enjoying a unique showcase of the very best they have to offer at our Gala Dinner at Hotel Fort Canning. Then, on Sunday, compete for the honour of the Temenggong in The Southern Islands Board Game Competition, or share your perspective at our forum on Kristang and Eurasian identity, before exploring the diverse range of stories and voices on offer at our two signature community events, the Languages of Singapore Trail and Eurasian Stories, and a third panel on what you can do to preserve Singapore’s other community languages.

This Festival has been an entirely community-led effort from its very modest beginnings in October 2016, and I have been at many times humbled by the energy and enthusiasm our amazing team of volunteers has put into conceptualising, developing and preparing for this Festival in just 8 short months. I am also immensely grateful to our sponsors and supporters who believed in our vision of a Festival celebrating Kristang, and helped us make it a reality.

Our efforts to revive Kristang have always been open to all, and it is with this same joyful spirit of inclusiveness and warmth that I wish you a wonderful two days with us at the Festa. Beng papiah Kristang kung nus!

Kevin Martens Wong
Kabesa / Director
Kodrah Kristang and 1st Kristang Language Festival
Kristang—also known as Cristang, Papiá Kristang, Malacca Portuguese, Malacca Creole Portuguese, Portugis di Malacca, Serani, or Bahasa Serani—is the critically-endangered heritage language of the Portuguese-Eurasian community in Singapore, Malacca, and diaspora communities around the world. It is an intangible and priceless aspect of the community’s culture, tradition and history—a treasure unique to our region. The language, together with much of the Portuguese-Eurasian community, had its genesis in intermarriages between arriving Portuguese colonisers and local residents in Malacca. Singapore became host to a large Kristang-speaking community from the start of the 19th century, when the city was opened up for trade by the British.

In Singapore today, approximately 100 mainly older people are believed to still speak Kristang on at least an occasional basis. It is estimated that less than 50 of these remaining speakers can speak Kristang fluently. There are no official statistics on Kristang speakers. Before Kodrah Kristang, no children had been known to be learning Kristang, and it is not taught in public schools, seen on the media, or spoken in the streets. Most Singaporeans are barely aware Kristang exists.

*Kodrah Kristang* is changing that reality by bringing the language to a new generation of speakers and learners in Singapore.
ABOUT KODRAH KRISTANG

Founded in early 2016, the Kodrah Kristang (‘Awaken, Kristang’) initiative was the brainchild of NUS linguistics undergraduate Kevin Martens Wong; it seeks to revitalise Kristang in Singapore by teaching the language to a new generation of Singaporeans. With less than 100 speakers of Kristang left in Singapore—an estimated 50 speakers are fluent but are also mostly older—we are close to losing a priceless piece of Singapore’s multilingual and multicultural landscape forever. Kodrah Kristang aims to change that reality through awareness, education and collaboration with the community to restore Kristang to vigour in the Lion City, and preserve a unique part of Singapore’s intangible cultural heritage.

The multi-ethnic Kodrah Kristang core team consists of six passionate youths—Andre D’Rozario, Anirudh Krishnan, Frances Loke Wei, Fuad Johari, Kevin Martens Wong and Luís Morgado da Costa—who design and facilitate Kodrah Kristang’s free beginner Kristang classes in conjunction with many of the remaining native Kristang speakers in Singapore. Classes have reached 233 learners in under a year and will continue to be open to all. Beng papiah kung nus! Come speak with us!


∧ kodrahkristang.com
♀ facebook.com/kodrahkristang
✉ kodrah@kristang.com
20 May

9:30–10 AM
Opening Ceremony
Ngee Ann Auditorium, basement

We kick off the first-ever Kristang Language Festival with a branyo performance by the O Maliao Maliao Dance Troupe 1511 from Malacca! Festival Director Kevin Martens Wong also delivers his opening address and provides an overview on the Festa programme.

10–11:30 AM | Panel Discussion
The Story of Kristang: Past Glories and Present Struggles
Ngee Ann Auditorium, basement
storyofkristangpanel.peatix.com

What is Kristang and where did it come from? Is it still spoken anywhere? Why is it dying? Why is the language known by many different names? Find out in this introduction to Kristang, the language spoken by some in the Eurasian community in Singapore as a heritage language.
Dr Bruce M. Lockhart from the National University of Singapore, together with Kristang researchers Dr Alan Norman Baxter and Dr Stefanie Pillai, and Kristang writer and poet Joan Margaret Marbeck will provide a vivid and exciting introduction to the Portuguese-Malay creole, its historical context, and its current status.

11:30–12:30 PM | Panel Discussion
The Future of Kristang: Dreams and Awakenings
Ngee Ann Auditorium, basement
futureofkristangpanel.peatix.com

What is going to happen to Kristang in the near future? Are children learning it? What can you do to get involved?

Sara Sta Maria, teacher of Kristang in the Portuguese Settlement in Malacca, Kevin Martens Wong from the Kodrah Kristang revitalisation initiative in Singapore, and Elisabela Larrea, researcher of Macanese Creole theatre, will talk about how they are reviving Kristang in Singapore and Malaysia and Maquísta in Macau, and what more can be done.
Interested in learning conversational Kristang? Experienced teachers and writers Sara Sta Maria and Kevin Martens Wong introduce you to some choice phrases in Kristang.

**What is Kristang?**
Kristang is the critically-endangered heritage language of the Portuguese-Eurasian community in Singapore and Malacca. In Singapore, Kristang has an estimated 100 speakers, half of whom are fluent but elderly. Since the 1930s, speakers of the language have dwindled and inter-generational transmission has ceased.

*Beng prendeh kung nus!*
Come learn with us!

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What do linguists do? What goes into the documentation of language structure and style? Why is language documentation important for humankind? Learn about these issues and more at this workshop which seeks to equip non-academics with the basic skills needed to carry out language documentation on their own.
Academics Dr Michael Yoshitaka “Mitcho” Erlewine and Dr Mário Pinharanda Nunes will take participants through the basics of documenting and preserving endangered languages like Kristang and Kristang’s sister creole in Macau, Maquista.

3–4 PM | Workshop
Eurasian Dance for Beginners
River Room, level 2
eurasiandanceworkshop.peatix.com

Bos kereh balah?
Wanna dance?

Be swept off your feet by the exciting and energetic steps of the Kristang branyo dance as Sara Sta Maria guides you through the moves of these and other traditional Eurasian dances.

3–4 PM | Workshop
Eurasian Food for Beginners
Discovery Room, basement
eurasianfoodworkshop.peatix.com

Love pang susi, sehbak, kari debal and other Kristang treats? Never had a chance to discover the vibrant tastes of Kristang culture? Learn how to prepare versions of sehbak and minced-meat toast (both made with chicken) in this demo-workshop by Mary Gomes, a well-known Eurasian chef.
7 PM till late
1st Kristang Language Festival Gala Dinner
Legends Ballroom, Hotel Fort Canning
festagaladinner.peatix.com

Enjoy a sumptuous spread of Portuguese-Eurasian cuisine at the Legends Ballroom at Hotel Fort Canning featuring Kristang songs, poetry, and branyo performances! Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean will grace the Gala Dinner as our Guest of Honour and will launch the first-ever Kristang Collaborative Online Dictionary and the first Kristang board game, The Southern Islands (Ila-Ila di Sul)!

Highlights:

• Launch of the first Kristang Collaborative Online Dictionary
• Launch of the first Kristang board game, The Southern Islands (Ila-Ila di Sul)
• Presentation and reading of winning submissions for the Kristang Poetry Competition
• Branyo performances by the 1511 O Maliao Maliao Dance Troupe and the Troupa de Santa Maria
• Live music and entertainment by The Music Men

This is a ticketed event. Each ticket includes free-flow soft drinks, coffee, and tea during the cocktail reception and throughout dinner. Excess funds raised from the Gala Dinner will be donated to charity.
The Southern Islands (Illa-Illa di Sul) is a professionally-designed bilingual English-Kristang board game first developed for the Kodrah Kristang classes. Join us for the first ever The Southern Islands competition, with representatives from Singapore schools and Kodrah Kristang classes fighting for the favour of the Temenggong! All winners will walk away with a copy of the board game.

Not every Eurasian knows how to make sugee cake or wants to learn Papia Kristang. Why? Why do Singapore Eurasians have Asian, Portuguese, Dutch, British, Irish, German and other European heritage? What are “new Eurasians”? What does it mean to be Eurasian in this part of the world?
Explore the rich and diverse strands of the Eurasian community in a forum specifically dedicated to understanding the vibrant and varied histories of Singapore’s Eurasians. Benett Theseira, Lala Gwen Thomas and Sean O’Hara join us on the panel.

11–12:30 PM
Languages of Singapore Trail
River Room, level 2
languagesofsgtrail.peatix.com

The Languages of Singapore Trail seeks to provide you with the opportunity to learn a little of Singapore’s many diverse languages and dialects — we’re featuring more than 10! Each language will be represented by a handful of speakers at a table and participants can go from table to table to learn from hosts and hear their stories.

Featuring speakers and learners of more than 15 of Singapore’s heritage languages such as Baba Malay, Bengali, Boyanese, Bugis, Cantonese, Gujarati, Hainanese, Hakka, Javanese, Kristang, Malayalam, Maquista, Minangkabau, Punjabi and Singapore Sign Language.

Don’t know which language to start with? Don’t panic, we will have an activity book to help plan your way around the tables. Trace the journeys of our ancestors as they made their way to our island home while learning about the languages they brought with them.

One language per table. Join any of them. Open to all with registration at languagesofsgtrail.peatix.com.
11–12:30 PM
Eurasian Stories:
Conversations about being Eurasian

Discovery Room, basement
eurasianstories.peatix.com

This seeks to provide a safe space for conversations about what it means to be Kristang and/or Eurasian in Singapore. It will play home to human ‘Books’ — Eurasians from a wide variety of backgrounds — whom you will be able to loan out for a small-group conversation facilitated by a Librarian, who is there to ensure the safety and well-being of the Books. Each Book can be borrowed for 45 minutes.

This Library will feature the following Book themes:

**EHL01** Thai-Eurasian  
**EHL02** Eurasian National Serviceman  
**EHL03** Eurasian Teacher  
**EHL04** East Coast Eurasian  
**EHL05** Eurasian Telephonist  
**EHL06** Glocal Eurasian  
**EHL07** Eurasian Musician in the Spotlight  
**EHL08** Eurasian Deputy Prison Commissioner  
**EHL09** Eurasian Daughter  
**EHL10** Eurasian SEA Games Gold Medallist  
**EHL11** Eurasian Artist with a Medical Condition  
**EHL12** Eurasian Muslim  
**EHL13** Eurasian Environmentalist  
**EHL14** Eurasian Actress

This event was inspired by the Human Library movement, which began in Copenhagen in 2000 and seeks to facilitate sharing and conversation between people from all walks of life, and work toward countering negative stereotypes and prejudices about minority communities that abound in society today.

Registration for this event is compulsory. Register at eurasianstories.peatix.com with your top three preferences of Books to borrow.
2–3 PM | Panel Discussion
Minority Languages in Singapore: Challenges and New Horizons
Ngee Ann Auditorium, basement
minoritylanguagespanel.peatix.com

What can be done for minority languages like Kristang in Singapore? How have other minority language communities successfully preserved and revitalised their own languages, heritage, and traditions in the Lion City? Panellists Dr Chua Ai Lin, Dr Nala Huiying Lee, and Dr Ritu Jain will examine these and other obstacles and new directions for minority languages in Singapore.

3–4 PM
Closing Ceremony
Ngee Ann Auditorium, basement

Festa di Papia Kristang closes with the presentation of prizes to The Southern Islands Board Game Competition winners and participating schools, a branyo dance finale by the 1511 O Maliao Maliao from Malacca, and a performance of songs in Kristang. Festival Director Kevin Martens Wong also delivers his closing speech.
Dr Alan Norman Baxter holds a PhD in Linguistics from the Australian National University. His work on Kristang started in 1980 with long periods of immersion in 1980–1983, which led him to author numerous publications on Kristang including a bilingual English-Kristang dictionary. He continues to conduct research on Kristang with trips to the Malacca community he considers family.

Benett Theseira has been President of the Eurasian Association since 2012 and served on the Management Committee in various capacities since 1995. The EA is a registered charity and self help group for the Eurasian community, originally established in 1919. In his professional capacity, Benett is the Managing Director of PGIM Real Estate.

Dr Bruce M. Lockhart is an Associate Professor completing his nineteenth year in the History Department at the National University of Singapore. He specialises in the countries of Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos and has a strong interest in languages along with history.

Dr Chua Ai Lin is the President of the Singapore Heritage Society, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation. She received her PhD in History from the University of Cambridge and was formerly an Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore. Her 20 years experience in the heritage sector spans public service committees at the National Library, National Heritage Board, as well as consultancy work and civil society initiatives.

Elisabela Larrea is an eighth generation Macanese and is currently working towards her doctorate, *Quim sã nós? The Voice on the Postcolonial Stage: A study of Macanese Creole Theatre*. With a passion for Macanese culture, she established a bilingual blog (belamaquista.wordpress.com) featuring weekly flashcards in Patuà (or Macanese Creole).
Joan Margaret Marbeck is a native of Malacca who was forbidden to speak Kristang by her grandmother. Through conversations and stories with her childhood friends and relatives in Kampong Tengah, she was soon fluent in Kristang. She is the author of *Ungua Adanza, An Inheritance* (1995); *Linggu Mai: Mother Tongue of the Malacca Portuguese* (2005); and *Commemorative Bahasa Serani Dictionary* (2012).

Kevin Martens Wong is a linguistics graduate at the National University of Singapore of Portuguese-Eurasian descent, head of the *Kodrah Kristang* revitalisation initiative, and director of the first ever Kristang Language Festival. Kevin was nominated for the 2017 Linguistic Society of America Excellence in Community Linguistics Award, selected for the 2016 Institute for Collaborative Language Research (CoLang) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and appointed to the CoLang Advisory Circle, which develops new initiatives for endangered languages worldwide.

Lala Gwen Thomas is a drama trainer by day and a dreamer by night. Growing up, she envied people who had their own Mother Tongue Languages. Despite being of Portuguese Eurasian descent, no one in her family spoke Kristang or knew that it even existed. Learning the Kristang language and culture now has been nothing short of rewarding for her.

Dr Mário Pinharanda Nunes completed his PhD in Linguistics at the University of Macau. He is a trained foreign language teacher and has taught Portuguese for the last 20 years in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Macau. His research interest is the Portuguese-based creole of Macau, Maquista (or Patuá), which he compares with Kristang.

Mary Gomes is the chef and owner of Eurasian cafe, Mary’s Kafe at Queen Street. For many years, Mary ran the canteen at St. Joseph’s Church at Victoria Street and has become a household name for Eurasian food, traditional snacks, and pickles. She is the author of *The Eurasian Cookbook* (2004) and *Mary’s Recipes – A Celebration of a Singapore Kitchen* (2007).
Dr Michael Yoshitaka “Mitcho” Erlewine is an Assistant Professor in Linguistics at the National University of Singapore. Much of his work is based on fieldwork on understudied and endangered languages. He recently taught a class at NUS where students conducted original research on the structure of Kristang and contributed to its documentation.

Dr Nala Huiying Lee is an assistant professor at the National University of Singapore, where she convenes the Endangered Languages and Language Documentation reading group. She works on language endangerment as a co-developer of the Language Endangerment Index used by the Catalogue of Endangered Languages on the Endangered Languages Project (endangeredlanguages.com). As a member of the Peranakan community and a researcher of Baba Malay, the Peranakan people and language are a matter close to her heart.

Dr Ritu Jain is a lecturer in at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, who is interested in language policy & planning and language rights of immigrant minorities. She researches the implications of affirmative policy measures towards minority Indian languages of Singapore, and explores the impact of their language education decisions on individual and group identity, community social positions, and intra- and inter-ethnic community harmony.

Sara Frederica Sta Maria is a teacher for the underprivileged children of the Portuguese Settlement. Every Saturday since 2011, she has been teaching Cristang culture, traditions, and the language to the Settlement children. The lesson materials were created by her late father who did not get the chance to carry on his work.
Sean O’Hara is a business owner, part-time university lecturer, and corporate trainer of primarily Irish and Portuguese heritage. He has a Master’s Degree in International Relations and has a keen interest in understanding the role of cultures in global interactions. While working for a foreign government, he conducted briefings about Singapore to delegates of various nationalities from different continents and despite this, feels that Eurasians in Singapore are not well understood locally.

Dr Stefanie Pillai is Dean and Professor of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya. She is the Principle Investigator for a funded project on the sounds of Malacca Portuguese Creole (MPC) and has been using her research as a basis for revitalisation efforts. MPC is close to her heart as she has Portuguese-Eurasian heritage on her maternal side.

A KRISTANG SONG

UNGUA GRANDI LUZ
ADANZA PRA FUTURA

Original lyrics (English) by David Cheong
Translation (Kristang) by Joan Margaret Marbeck

Korus: Istoria nus sa korasang,
Futura nus na sa mang.
Lembransa nus na sa bida,
Mas desah nus tudu intindeh
Ki nus misteh dah krengkrena,
Ake grandi luz adanza pra futura.
Kontu mareh, bentu, tukah
Asi pun, bida
Kontu dia kabah
Lumi sol lo teng basu di mar
Bentu mar sufrah, asi pun
Krensa lo kriseh, tukah.

Nus olah mundu beng mas pertu,
Nus olah nus isti ngka mas ensong,
Nus oleh ungua grandi oputunidadi
Fikah jenti-jenti mas bong,
Cegah oras fikah juntadu,
Konservah nus sa kultura bunitu,
Krengkrensa misteh gardah,
Nus misteh aguentah tudu.

Korus

Bontadi nus fasal,
Nus kereh tudu jenti sabeh,
Nus kereh krengkrensa,
Subih, cegah na riba pontu,
Olotu misteh lantah Luz Kristang,
Ateh mureh, nus sa andasang,
Isti nus largah – Lembransa,
Amor ku Adanza!

Korus

David Cheong is the eldest child of the Kristang poet, writer and lexicographer, Joan Margaret Marbeck. Kristang represents the sounds, smells and tastes of his maternal lineage and what he remembers of his hometown: Malacca, Malaysia. Despite lack of contact and practice, he still understands the Kristang language, thanks in large part to his mother’s work. His favourite words are “sehbak” and “kari debal”.
ABRIGHTER HORIZON

Original lyrics (English) by David Cheong
Translation (Kristang) by Joan Margaret Marbeck

Chorus: Our history in their hearts
         Our future in their hands
         Our memories in their lives
         And hopefully we’ll understand
         That they must be given a brighter horizon.

As the tides change
So do our lives
As the day ends
The sun set all around
The sea breeze blows
And everything must change and grow

We see the world coming closer
We see that we’re not alone
We see a change for a renewed identity of our own
To live as one in a culture that’s unique
To preserve it we must focus
On the children that will keep

Chorus

Our wish is simple,
We want everyone to know
That the younger generation
Must share and reach our goals.
We must carry on the light
Forever and ever
We must hope, they’ll promise
That they’ll always remember.

Chorus
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