JOURNEYING & NOT JOURNALLING: The Singaporean Experience

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Abstract

It is amazing just how many Singaporeans travel and to the numerous far-flung destinations. And yet, at least among writers, it is NOT usual to keep a journal, or at least one which is subsequently published or discussed in open forums. There have been, of course, one or two exceptions: Simon Tay and I myself are probably among the few who have kept journals of our journeys -or at least of some of our journeys - and in my Paper I will be sharing some of the journal notes both Simon and I are quite prepared to make public or have already made public. My Paper will also explore reasons as to why there seems to be this reluctance on the part of Singaporean writers either to keep journals or to share these with the wider public. The long-cherished tradition of journalling is, perhaps, upheld among people who are not writers and therefore the scholar must, of needs, probe and poke elsewhere to satisfy his/her thirst for Singaporeans journalling on and about their journeys.