

# PP5526

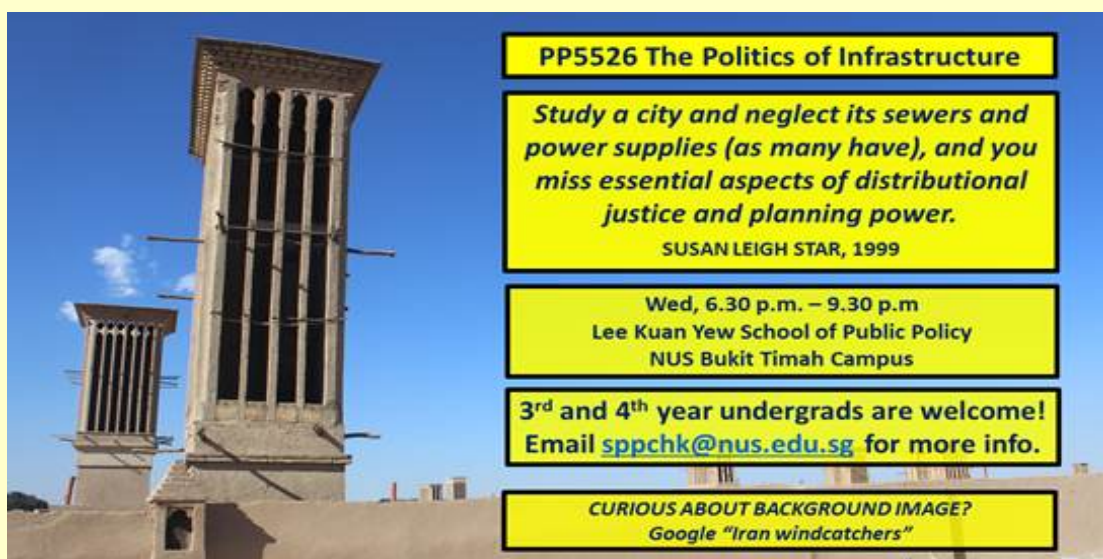
## THE POLITICS OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Addresses the role that infrastructure plays in society, and how its construction, maintenance, and breakdown shape power relations in our world. By combining approaches from history and Science and Technology Studies (STS), it aims to equip students with a multi-disciplinary skill set needed to understand the diverse range of issues undergirding infrastructural projects, politics, and policies.

The module begins with an introduction to infrastructure studies and how ethnography has helped us understand large organisations at both micro and macro levels. Then, following a brief introduction to complexity science and emergent behavior, we examine historical examples of how humanity has overcome logistical challenges in different geographical and temporal contexts.

We will consider different kinds of infrastructure, including container shipping, communication, oil, bureaucracy, data centres and knowledge infrastructures.

Email [sppchk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:sppchk@nus.edu.sg) for an updated syllabus.



**PP5526 The Politics of Infrastructure**

*Study a city and neglect its sewers and power supplies (as many have), and you miss essential aspects of distributional justice and planning power.*

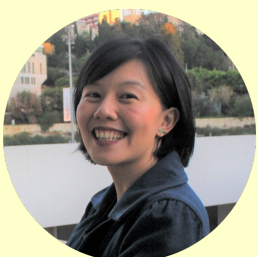
SUSAN LEIGH STAR, 1999

Wed, 6.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
NUS Bukit Timah Campus

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year undergrads are welcome!  
Email [sppchk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:sppchk@nus.edu.sg) for more info.

**CURIOUS ABOUT BACKGROUND IMAGE?**  
Google "Iran windcatchers"

### About the instructor...



**Visiting Asst Prof Koh Choon Hwee**  
PhD (History) Yale University  
MA (History) American University of Beirut  
BA (Philosophy and South Asian Studies) NUS

Historian of the Middle East working on the land-based, horse-run Ottoman postal system that connected Belgrade to Baghdad, Crimea to Cairo roughly from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. She grew up in Bukit Panjang but has spent the past ten years in the Middle East and the US.