

Acknowledgements

This book would not have been possible without my postdoctoral fellowship at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), at the National University of Singapore (NUS), and an internal research grant which provided me with the requisite funding and research leave for the initial stages of the research. Mike Douglass and K.C. Ho, who were the leaders of the Asian Urbanisms cluster during my time there, were kind enough to support my intellectual curiosity in Penang, and even visited me there on one occasion. ARI also provided funding for two workshops that I organized during my time there, which allowed me to explore new areas of interdisciplinary research related to the issues addressed in this book, and to develop my intellectual networks in these areas. My former colleague Michelle Miller organized a workshop and subsequent special issue in 2017, which helped significantly to develop my ideas around the topic of resilience and urban governance that are central to [Chapter 5](#).

My colleagues at ARI and NUS more broadly provided a great source of friendship and intellectual support during my years in Singapore, including Sonia Lam-Knott, Desmond Sham and Fiona Williamson. The Department of Geography at NUS was also kind enough to welcome me to their weekly research group meetings, specifically Politics, Economies and Space (PEAS) and Social and Cultural Geographies (SCG). I received feedback from colleagues in these groups on drafts of writing that would ultimately make it into this book in some form. The broader intellectual discussions were also central to making sense of what was happening in Penang and connecting these events to broader issues in geography and urban studies in relation to infrastructure, political economy, culture and governance.

The book is dedicated to the people of Penang, and particularly those who were kind enough to take time to educate me on several pressing issues in the state, and to help develop my personal and professional networks there. This includes Khoo Salma, who provided significant support and engagement since my earlier days as a visiting PhD student from the University of Manchester; Remy Chacko who introduced me to the forested hillsides of Penang on a walking interview and kindly provided the image for Figure 5.1; Mike Gibby who took me for two visits to Pulau Jerejak, and provided feedback on some of my subsequent written work; Gwynn Jenkins spent considerable

time educating me about Penang's in/tangible cultural heritage, and her own book on George Town was also an inspiration; Anil Netto whose blog has been inspirational in shaping the direction of my research and providing a critical perspective on all things Penang; Andrew Han's film and videos on Penang were also inspirational, and he was kind enough to introduce me to the fishermen at Sri Tanjung Pinang who were subsequently displaced by land reclamation; Matt Benson kindly provided the materials that made [Chapter 3](#) possible; I had many conversations with Soon-Tzu Speechley in Penang and Singapore that were extremely helpful in improving my knowledge of heritage issues in George Town. The Penang Forum kindly provided the image for Figure 5.3. There are many more that I regrettably cannot name here, but whose contributions were also extremely valuable.

More broadly, I must thank those who have made my academic career possible, and without whom this book would have never materialized. This includes (in chronological order) Tim Bunnell whose undergraduate lectures and numerous writings on Malaysia inspired my own interest in the country; Josh Lepawsky who invited me to pursue my masters with him at Memorial University in St. John's and provided the funding and training for my own initial research in Singapore; Maria Kaika and Erik Swyngedouw who spotted the potential in my PhD proposal on Malaysia, and provided me with an invaluable ENTITLE fellowship to support my initial research in Penang and other cities in the country. Rebecca Wilkinson and her family made Penang feel like home, and spent considerable time educating me about the politics, histories and particularities of the place. Roger Keil read my PhD thesis on Malaysia, and most of my subsequent work, and has been my primary intellectual supporter and collaborator on my interests in the intersections of landscape and urban political ecology. Thanks to my parents for introducing me to Asia at a young age and for being my number one supporters throughout my intellectual pursuits and putting up with my perpetual absences. I am forever grateful.

Finally, thanks are also due to Emily Watt at Bristol University Press for seeing the potential in my proposal, and to three anonymous reviewers who also supported the proposal and offered useful suggestions. Earlier versions of the following chapters were initially published in the following journals, and thanks are due to the publishers for allowing reproduction of some of the text here: [Chapter 4](#) was published in *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* as 'Worlding cities through transportation infrastructure' (2017); [Chapter 5](#) was published in *Urban Studies* as 'From resilience to multi-species flourishing: (re)imagining urban-environmental governance in Penang, Malaysia' (2020); [Chapter 6](#) was published in *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* as 'Urban political ecologies of heritage: integrating cultural and natural landscapes in Penang, Malaysia' (2020).