

Singapore's Forthcoming Elections: Prospects for Change

A Public Lecture presented by Dr. James Gomez,
Monash University

Singapore's 11th general elections since independence are widely expected to be held in the second quarter of 2011, against the background of significant Constitutional and legislative changes affecting the electoral system. In April 2010, the People's Action Party (PAP) government tabled into law three parliamentary bills that collectively lower the number of Group Representation Constituencies (GRC), increase the number of Non-Constituency Members of Parliament (NCMPs) and render the scheme of Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs) permanent. Amendments also provide for a "cooling off" day on election eve during which there is to be no election advertising (including alternative content online), only "news" from government licensed news organisations and sanctioned party political broadcasts. Nevertheless, alternative content is expected to appear online during the cooling off day, with Facebook the platform to watch in the city-state's forthcoming elections.

Wednesday 23rd March 2011

1:30 pm

Senate Room

All Welcome, Free Admission

Dr. James Gomez is presently Deputy Associate Dean (International) and Head of Public Relations, School of Applied Media and Social Sciences at Monash University. He is the author of *Self-Censorship: Singapore's Shame* (Think Centre, 2000) and *Internet Politics: Surveillance and Intimidation in Singapore* (Think Centre, 2002) as well as co-editor of *New Media and Human Rights in Southeast Asia* (Routledge, forthcoming). Other publications include his 2008 "Online Opposition in Singapore: Communications Outreach Without Electoral Gain", *Journal of Contemporary Asia* and "Citizen Journalism: Bridging the Discrepancy in Singapore's General Elections News", published in 2006 in *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*. Dr. Gomez contested in Singapore's 2006 general elections as an opposition candidate. He can be contacted at james.gomez@monash.edu