

**The origin, scope, significance and orientation of Southeast Asia Studies in  
Malaya and Singapore**

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In 1930s in Malaya and Singapore, through the effort of a group of scholars and journalists from China, the research on Southeast Asian Studies had gradually taken shape and obtained considerable achievements. In terms of content, motivation, methodology and philology, there has been a close link between local academic tradition and the Chinese scholars in the research on Southeast Asian Study. The Southeast Asian study in Malaya and Singapore, however, was historically oriented. Their objective is mainly racist. Their methods used are in accordance with textual research of Qing Dynasty which can be incorporated into the field of Sinology. It has hitherto become an academic tradition in Southeast Asian study where attention should be focused.