The Division of Economics and the Economic Growth Centre cordially invite you to a seminar by Dr. James Ang

**Speaker:** Dr. James Ang  
Visiting Associate Professor  
Division of Economics  
Nanyang Technological University

**Topic:** "Agricultural Transition and the Adoption of Primitive"

**Chairperson:** Professor Ng Yew Kwang  
Albert Winsemius Chair Professor  
Division of Economics  
School of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Nanyang Technological University

**Date:** Tuesday, 5 August 2014  
**Time:** 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** HSS Meeting Room 6 (HSS-04-91)  
Nanyang Technological University  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
14, Nanyang Drive  
Singapore 637332

**About the Speaker:**

James Ang completed his PhD in Economics at the Australian National University in 2007. He has served as Lecturer, Senior Lecture and Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Monash University. His research has concentrated on how regions and countries can accelerate growth. It has focused on answering whether financial liberalization has an enhancing or retarding effect, which endogenous growth frameworks can best explain growth experiences of developing economies, and whether credit constraints, educational achievement and international knowledge spillovers play a role in ensuring sustained growth. His most recent research investigates how early historical development can have a persistent impact on shaping current performance.

**Abstract:**

This paper tests Jared Diamond’s influential theory that an earlier transition from a hunter-gatherer society to agricultural production induces higher levels of technology adoption. Using a proxy for the geographic diffusion barriers of Neolithic technology to isolate the exogenous component of the timing of agricultural transition, the results provide some support for this hypothesis. The findings indicate that countries that experienced earlier transitions to agriculture are more capable of adopting new technologies in 1000 BC and 1 AD, even after controlling for continent effects and geographic factors. Similar results are obtained for the 1500 AD estimates. However, the significant impact of agricultural transition does not hold when we control for the effects of early political institutions and cultural diffusion barriers, suggesting that these are plausible mechanisms through which early agrarian development affects the levels of technological sophistication in 1500 AD.

**Reservation:**

Admission is free. Please reply to Director-EGC, e-mail: egc@ntu.edu.sg to confirm your attendance.