

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Nisar Husain **KESHVANI**  
Address: 407A, #24-17, Fernvale Road, Singapore 791407  
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Email: nisarh@keshvani.com URL: <http://www.keshvani.com>  
Citizenship: Singaporean Australian Permanent Resident



## EDUCATION

### Tertiary

2000 **Master of Arts (Research).** "Online News: The integration of print and online news services at The Singapore Straits Times and The Melbourne Age." Queensland University of Technology, Australia. Online at: <<http://www.keshvani.com/thesis>>

1998 **Bachelor of Arts (Journalism), Queensland University of Technology, Australia.** Majors: Introduction to Multimedia Technology, Film and TV Scriptwriting, Supervised Project and Economics. **Course GPA – 5.75** (Scale 1 – 7, 7 highest)

1992 – 1995 **Diploma in Mass Communication, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore**

### Secondary

1988 – 1991 **Cambridge 'O' Level Certificate with high distinctions in English, Literature and Science. Betty Secondary School, Singapore**

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

### Foreign language skills

- Proficient in written and spoken Malay
- Familiar with Hindi & Gujarati
- Studied conversational Mandarin and French

### Technical Skills

PC & Macintosh solid working knowledge of:

- Adobe Photoshop Wordprocessing
- Adobe Pagemaker BBEedit
- Multimedia Applications Macromedia Dreamweaver
- Macromedia Director Macromedia Fireworks

## AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Best student publication any medium (occasional) & the inaugural Dr Charles Stuart Ozzie for best student publication '98.**  
Coordinator of *Communique Online*, QUT Journalism's online newspaper.  
<<http://www.communique.qut.edu.au>>
- **Police National Service Commendation '97** - For Outstanding Performance & Good Conduct
- **Singapore Short Film Festival '94** - Special Jury Prize  
"Hurt Instinct" (5 mins).  
Co-directed the experimental film which was screened on National Television Twelve Singapore, October '94
- **Singapore Short Film Festival '93** - Special Jury Prize  
"Ragged" (22mins)  
Co-directed the short film which was screened at the Hawaiian Film Festival, Asian Discoveries Programme

## EMPLOYMENT

July 2001

– present

**Editor-in-Chief, *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*:** Online peer reviewed journal published under the auspices of MIT Press and Leonardo/International Society for Arts, Science & Technology. Dedicated to providing a forum for those interested in the realm where art, science and technology converge.  
<<http://leoalmanac.org>>

September

- December 2005

**Policy, Governance and Public Affairs (PGPA) Coordinator, *Caltex Singapore*:** Member of the Asia Pacific Communications team. Responsible for press liaison/communications with internal and external stakeholders, working with public relations agencies and uploading press releases and Asia Pacific stories to Caltex.com websites <<http://www.caltex.com.sg>>

February 2003

– December 2004

**Website Manager/Consultant, *Aga Khan Development (AKDN)*.** Keshvani on consultancy with the international aid agency to strategise and develop websites for 18 schools and 7 hospitals in East Africa, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tajikistan and Krygyz Republic.

Dec 1999 – present

**Editor, Editor-in-Chief, then International Co-Editor *fineArt forum*** = art + technology net news. Contributing to steering the creative identity of the 16-year old publication, focused on forming alliances with arts and Internet organisations internationally and within the Asia Pacific region <<http://www.fineartforum.org>>.

Jul 2001 – Jan 2003

**Lecturer, School of Film & Media Studies, Ngee Ann Polytechnic.** Module leader for *Web Design Applications* teaching information architecture, researching on the Internet, use various communication media, navigation basics, graphical user interface, & online publication design.  
<<http://www.np.edu.sg/~knh>>

August 2002

**Visiting Lecturer, Queensland University of Technology.** Keshvani was sent by Ngee Ann Polytechnic for a staff exchange program to QUT. Whilst at the Creative Industries Journalism discipline, he re-established and enhanced their flagship online paper – *Communique Online*. He also researched innovative online teaching techniques & strategies for implementation in QUT's News Production (Online), and Ngee Ann's Web Design Applications unit.

Oct 2001 – Dec 2002

**Curator, “fineArt in Motion” – fAf 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.** Nisar Keshvani curated a 1-hr traveling screening program as part of fAf's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. It features 14 artists from across the world, and has travelled to Manila, Australia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Athens, Malaysia, Singapore, USA, UK, and other countries. The program co-premiered in MAAP Australia, and the Digital Media Festival (Manila) in Oct 2001. <<http://www.fineartforum.org/screen>>

January - May 2001

**Publicist, Singapore International Film Festival.** Responsible for press liaison/publicity strategy, on-line web coordination, and information architecture.  
<<http://www.filmfest.org.sg>>

August 2000 -

January 2001

**Assoc Lecturer <Online Journalism>, Queensland University of Technology.** Established QUT Journalism's online paper - *Communique Online* <<http://www.communique.qut.edu.au>>, as a formalised Internet-based unit, and taught students computer assisted reporting, design & web skills.

November 1998 -

January 2001

*Highlights: Various Positions, Queensland University of Technology*  
**Sports Reporter, Sydney 2000 Olympics News Service.**  
Filed match reports, athlete profiles, and press conference highlights.

Feb 2000 – Jan 2001

**Senior Research Assistant, QUT Journalism Internationalisation/Trauma research project.** Working on a pilot project to internationalise the Journalism discipline's course curriculum and developing a protocol for journalists reporting on trauma.

- Mar 1999 – Jun 2000 **Part-time Academic, Queensland University of Technology**  
Tutoring 1st - 3rd year students in Journalism Ethics & Issues, Journalism Information Systems, Journalistic Inquiry and News Production (Online).
- July 1999 – Aug 2002 **Managing Editor, Communique Online**  
Facilitating the news production process, teaching and guiding 3<sup>rd</sup> year Journalism students in online journalism.
- Dec 1998 – Jan 2001 **Webmaster, Public Journalism Project**  
Website concept, development, production and maintenance for QUT's award-winning Public Journalism Project. <<http://www.publicjournalism.qut.edu.au>>
- March 1999 – January 2001 **Web Developer, Centre for Media Policy & Practice, QUT Digital Media Programme and School of Media and Journalism websites**  
Designed, developed and produced Centre for Media Policy & Practice <<http://www.maj.arts.qut.edu.au/cmpp>> and QUT Digital Media <<http://www.maj.arts.qut.edu.au/Media/dm/index.html>> websites. Web maintenance for School of Media & Journalism site <<http://www.maj.arts.qut.edu.au>>.
- 1996 – 1998 **Reporter/Staff Officer, Singapore Police Force, Public Affairs Department**  
Responsible for the coverage of Force-wide activities and production of *Police Life Monthly* magazine, newsletters, brochures and collaterals. Produced Police 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary "Tribute to Our Officers" book and also involved with foreign visit programmes and events management.
- 1995 **Student Intern, Saigon Mobile Radio Network Centre (SMR), Vietnam.** Sales & Marketing. Designed a full marketing communications plan, brochure for SMR's telecommunications system and selling aid for sales personnel.
- Layout Designer, The American Club**  
Design and layout of 40 page in-house monthly magazine.
- 1994 - 2000 **Correspondent, Asian Sources Media Group, (Manila)**  
Writing country reports, trade show reviews & product surveys for Gifts & Home Products, Hardwares and Fashion Accessories magazines.
- 1995 **Production Coordinator, "Mee Pok Man"**  
Singapore's first feature-length film. Awarded the Special Mention Prize by FIPRESCI at the Singapore Silver Screen Awards '95. Winner of Special Jury Prize at the 9<sup>th</sup> Fukuoka Asian Film Festival. Featured in the Venice, Berlin & Moscow Festivals.
- 1994 **Student Intern, Television Corporation Singapore (Singapore's national broadcaster).** Sports Unit. Involved with World Cup USA'94 coverage. Wrote scripts/edited soccer matches for weekly 'World of Sports' program. Compiled/wrote leads of foreign sports news for weekly highlights.
- 1993 **Sports Reporter, The Straits Times, (Singapore's national daily)**  
Covered Hockey & the traditional martial arts beat for 17th South East Asian Games.
- 1993 - present **Freelance Journalist, Print and online publications,** Writing film reviews, features, travel, sports and trade stories for various publications - SIM's Today's Manager, Media Mail, ADAM, Singapore magazine, Movies On-line, smallplaces.com, monster.com, Worldroom.com, and Leonardo Digital Reviews (MIT Press USA).

## CONSULTANCIES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE

- Co-Chair, Leonardo Global Crossings Award 2005  
<<http://mitpress2.mit.edu/e-journals/Leonardo/isast/awards2005GX.html>>
- Board Member, fineArt forum Management Committee (Australia)  
<<http://www.fineartforum.org>>
- Board Member, Leonardo/International Society Art, Science & Technology Board (USA) <<http://www.leonardo.info>>
- Board Member, Art, Science, Technology Network Board (France)  
<<http://www.astn.net>>
- Board Member, SIGGRAPH Singapore Chapter Management Committee  
<<http://www.siggraph.org.sg>>
- Program Advisor (Asia Pacific), Multimedia Art Asia Pacific (MAAP) Festival  
<<http://www.maap.org.au>>
- Advisor, Inter-Society for Electronic Art (ISEA) Web Committee (Japan)  
<<http://www.isea.ac.jp>>
- Advisor/Partner, Advisory Committee of the Virtual Library of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) "Digi-Arts" Sub-portal (France) <<http://www.unesco.org>>

## PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2005 New Media Education: Multimedia Art Asia Pacific Festival 2004, *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*, MIT Press (forthcoming). URL: <http://lea.mit.edu> Guest Editors: Seah, Machan & Keshvani.
- 2005 Geometric Art of Eastern Europeans, *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*, MIT Press (forthcoming). URL: <http://lea.mit.edu> Guest Editors: Krasek & Keshvani.
- 2003 Using Cyberspace as an area for new cultural expressions. World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Asian Regional Conference Tokyo (Jan 2003)
- 2002 Student Oriented Learning for the Online Environment  
*Ngee Ann Polytechnic Teaching & Learning Forum 'n Fringe*, October 2002
- fineArt forum & the Leonardo Electronic Almanac: pioneering arts organizations & their strategies. Collaboration, Networking, and Resource-Sharing, June 2002, Ayeyarwady Art Assembly (Myanmar) and IFIMA Germany (International Forum for Intermedia Art).
- 2001 Online news: the changing digital mediascape. *Journal of Australian Studies* 70 (Romancing the Nation), University of Queensland Press, Australia, pp 99 – 105. Keshvani & Tickle
- How an online news service can aid the digital artists' cause? Digital Media Festival 2001 (Manila), College of Fine Arts, University of Philippines.
- Emerging Art + Science + Technology Intelligence: A New Species of Innovation and Where to Find It, Creative Disturbance, San Francisco USA. Keshvani was 1 of 3 international reviewers.
- 2000 Trends In The Online Newsroom: A Study Of The Straits Times Interactive, *Asia Pacific Media Educator*, Issue No. 9, July - December 2000, University of Wollongong, Australia, pp 106 – 118.
- Weaving the way of the web: A guide to producing a student online newspaper, *Journalism Educators Association Conference*, University of Queensland, December.
- Electronic News Futures, *Australian Journalism Review*, August, pp. 68-80. Tickle & Keshvani.
- A study of technical challenges news publishers face in the digital age, *Computers & Writing 2000 Online*, Fort Worth, Texas, June.

The changing face <phase> of news journalism as we know it, *International Association of Mass Communication Research (IAMCR)*, Singapore, July.

Straits Times Interactive and The Age Online: Trends in the online newsroom, *Australian and New Zealand Communication Association*, Southern Cross University, (Refereed Paper), July.

Internet Trends: A digital snapshot of Singapore's Communications and Information Technology climate and the Straits Times Interactive, *Asian Studies Association of Australia Inc.* University of Melbourne (Refereed Paper), July

1999 Electronic News Futures, *Journalism Educators Association Conference*, Sydney (Refereed co-authored paper)

The Integrated Newsroom, *Australian Key Centre for Culture & Media Policy Postgrad Colloquium*, University of Queensland, 1999

## GRANTS & PROJECT SUPPORT

2004 Rockefeller Foundation, support for the Global Crossings mandate to showcase the work of international artists and scholars, recognize the work of these individuals with a prestigious Leonardo/ISAST award, and enabling such artists and scholars to participate in the public sphere of the field: Project Partners: Leonardo/ISAST: USD\$56 100. USD\$56 100.

2002 Ngee Ann Polytechnic, support for the fineArt in Motion 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Screening Programme. Project partners: QUT, fineArt forum, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Leonardo Electronic Almanac

2001 Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Arts Fund, for the production of 12 issues of fineArt forum, 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations & Strategic Alliance with Leonardo Electronic Almanac. Project partners: QUT & fineArt forum: AU\$30 250

2000 Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Arts Fund, Evolving fineArt forum from a volunteer publication to a full-fledged professional ezine. Project partners: QUT & fineArt forum: AU\$22 800

2000 QUT Community Services Grant Scheme, Producing fAf's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative CDROM for distribution to international libraries, and developing arts organisatiosn & countries. Project Partners: QUT & fineArt forum: AU\$5 000.

1999 Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Arts Fund, Producing 12 issues of fineArt forum – 1999 - 2000. Project partners: QUT & fineArt forum: AU\$10 000

## CAREER GOAL

Position, in any area of journalism, electronic publishing, web development or education requiring planning, highly developed interpersonal and writing skills.

## REFEREES

Paul Brown  
Executive Editor  
fineArt forum  
Tel: (61 7) 3367 8050  
paul@paul-brown.com

Roger Malina  
Executive Editor/President  
Leonardo Network  
Tel: (1) 415 391 1110  
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Philip Cheah  
Director  
Singapore Film Festival Pte Ltd  
Tel: (65) 63484 007  
singbigo@singnet.com.sg

**Profile - Nisar Keshvani** (by Julie Jansen, Australian journalist)

"A journalist by instinct and training, Singaporean Nisar Keshvani is a consultant, Internet journalist, web developer, filmmaker, curator, educator and new media specialist. In the last decade, he has worked across five continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and Australia/Oceania).

Keshvani has published papers in refereed journals, presented at 11 conferences (Japan, Manila, Myanmar, Singapore, Australia) in the areas of new media technologies, newsroom trends, education, art, science and technology. He has also received six grants totally \$125,000 for various art and technology community service projects. Keshvani has worked on various corporate productions, co-directed two award-winning short films and curated a travelling screening programme, which travelled to 14 countries.

Keshvani is currently pursuing his PhD on the use of information communication technology as an instructional interface to develop innovative and user-friendly teaching and learning interactions. His research focuses particularly on developing country context where the infrastructure and availability of equipment is limited.

He is Director of Leonardo (Asia Pacific), editor-in-chief of the *Leonardo Electronic Almanac* (<http://leoalmanac.org>). MIT Press distributes the international peer reviewed electronic journal covering the arts, sciences and technologies. He is also International Co-Editor of *fineArt forum* (<http://www.fineartforum.org>) - one of the Internet's longest running arts publications.

Keshvani has published papers in refereed journals, presented at 11 conferences (Japan, Manila, Myanmar, Singapore, Australia) in the areas of new media technologies, newsroom trends, education, art, science and technology. He has also received six grants totally \$125,000 for various art and technology community service projects. Keshvani has worked on various corporate productions, co-directed two award-winning short films and curated a travelling screening programme, which travelled to 14 countries.

In 2003 - 2004, Keshvani was on consultancy with the *Aga Khan Development Network* (a group of international development agencies working in health, education, culture and rural and economic development, primarily in Asia and Africa) as Website Manager to strategise and develop the international aid agency's hospital and school services in East Africa, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tajikistan and the Krygyz Republic.

From July 2001 – January 2003, Keshvani was Digital Media Lecturer with *Ngee Ann Polytechnic's* film & media school. As Module leader for Web Design Applications <<http://www.np.edu.sg/~knh/wda>>, he taught information architecture, Internet-based research, use of communication media, navigation basics, graphical user interface, & online publication design. <<http://www.np.edu.sg/~knh>>. In August 2002, Keshvani was Visiting Lecturer at *Queensland University of Technology*, Australia. Sent by Ngee Ann Polytechnic on a staff exchange program, whilst at the Creative Industries Journalism discipline, he re-established and enhanced their flagship online paper – *Communique Online*. He also researched innovative online teaching techniques & strategies for implementation for units he taught.

In 2001, Nisar was publicist for the 14th *Singapore International Film Festival* <<http://www.filmfest.org.sg>> handling press liaison, promotions, co-ordination, website development and information architecture. He was also exposed to film traffic, acquisitions and programming.

In 1999, he took over the editorship of *fineArt forum* <<http://www.fineartforum.org>>, an 18-year-old art & technology international online news service. He steers the creative identity of the publication and plans to form strategic alliances with arts and Internet organisations internationally and in the Asia Pacific. He was Editor-in-Chief from January 2001 – 2003 and is currently International Co-Editor.

Nisar chairs the fineArt forum Management Committee, and sits on the *Art, Science, Technology Network* <<http://www.astn.net>>, *Leonardo/International Society Art, Science & Technology Board* <<http://www.leonardo.info>>, *SIGGRAPH Singapore Chapter Management Committee* <<http://www.siggraph.org.sg>>. He is Program Advisor (Asia Pacific), for the Brisbane *Multimedia Art Asia Pacific* (MAAP) Festival <<http://www.maap.org.au>>, focused on fostering ties between Australian and Asia Pacific multimedia industries.

His web experience includes maintaining Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) *School of Media & Journalism* website (<http://www.maj.arts.qut.edu.au>), as developer of the *Centre for Media Policy & Practice* (<http://www.maj.arts.qut.edu.au/cmpp>) and QUT's *Digital Media Programme* sites. He writes for various online publications including *worldroom.com*, *movies-online*, *smallplaces.com*, *monster.com* and is a *Leonardo Reviews* panellist.

Besides web weaving, Nisar lectured in online journalism at QUT and was Managing Editor of *Communique Online*. He established the in-house student online paper, as a formalised unit and taught online production techniques. He developed hardware/software support and introduced students to important Computer-Assisted Reporting concepts, web design and essential Internet skills. Nisar also tutored 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> QUT journalism students in *Journalism Information Systems*, ethics and *News Production* (Online). During this time, he researched QUT Journalism's Internationalisation project to develop a set of protocols journalists use to deal with traumatic situations.

Throughout Nisar Keshvani's journalism career at QUT, awards were cited for projects he has worked on. Nisar developed the QUT *Public Journalism Project* website, a prestigious project funded by the Australian Research Council in alliance with QUT, The Courier-Mail, Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland. During this period Public Journalism was awarded the Print Media Peace prize by the United Nations Association of Australia in 1998 and 1999. As part of his final-year undergraduate Journalism degree project, he coordinated *Communique Online*, winning the 1998 Journalism Educators Association "Best Student Publication" award and the inaugural Dr Charles Stuart Ossie award for "Best Publication".

In 1999, he completed a research Masters thesis exploring the World Wide Web's impact on journalists, their work practices and management policy in news organisations. His twin case studies looked specifically at operational aspects of the *Age Online* (Melbourne) and the *Straits Times Interactive* (Singapore). He presented elements of his research at the *Computers and Writing Online 2000* (USA), the *Asian Studies of Australia Inc. (ASAA)*, *Australia and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA)*, *Journalism Educators Association (JEA)* and the *International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)* conferences. His research was published in the *Australian Journalism Review*, *Asia Pacific Media Educator & Journalism Australia Studies*.

He kept a finger on the pulse of Singapore's trade and export scene for the *Asian Sources Media Group* based in the Philippines from 1993 - 2000. In his scant spare time, Nisar pursues his passion, film-making. Two films he co-directed were awarded the Special Jury Prize in the 1993 and 1994 Singapore Film Festivals, and in 1995 he worked as production coordinator on Singapore's first locally-made feature film, *Mee Pok Man*, which screened at the Venice, Moscow, Japan and Berlin festival circuits. In 2001/2, Nisar curated a 1-hour travelling screening program <<http://www.fineartforum.org/screen>> as part of fAf's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. It has travelled to Manila, Australia, Thailand, USA, UK, South Africa, and other countries.

His research interests include; instructional science, curriculum development, new media technologies, media convergence, WWW development, online content management, technology in education and information architecture."