Pragmatic Resistance, Law, and Social Movements in Authoritarian States: The Case of Gay Collective Action in Singapore

Lynette J. Chua

From private meetings in living rooms in the early 1990s to the emergence of annual rallies and decriminalization campaigns in the past six years, Singapore's gay rights movement has grown and changed over the past 20 years. In this article, Lynette J. Chua draws from qualitative empirical fieldwork to analyze how gay activists in Singapore deploy a strategy of pragmatic resistance - by adapting to changes in their socio-political environment, and navigating not only formal legal restrictions on civil-political liberties, but also the cultural power of law and informal political norms.
