

About the Author

Irene Ng is the authorised biographer of Mr S. Rajaratnam. Her first volume of the pioneering biography, *The Singapore Lion: A Biography of S. Rajaratnam*, was published in 2010. Her anthology *The Short Stories and Radio Plays of S. Rajaratnam* (2011) brought his literary legacy to the public notice, inspiring stage and film adaptations for a contemporary audience.

Irene was born in Penang, Malaysia, but moved to Singapore at the age of 16 for her pre-university education, eventually taking up Singaporean citizenship. She studied English language, sociology and philosophy at the National University of Singapore, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Social Science in 1986. She later obtained a Master of Science in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

From 1986 until 2001, Irene worked as a journalist for *The Straits Times* and *The New Paper*, picking up journalism and writing awards as a senior political correspondent. In 2001, she gave up journalism to join politics. As a Member of Parliament, she was active in the Government Parliamentary Committees of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Education as well as of Information and the Arts. After joining politics, she worked as director of programmes and senior research fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and then, as a director at National Trades Union Congress. She later took on the position of Writer-in-Residence at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute to work on the biography of S. Rajaratnam. In 2006, she was awarded an honorary professorial fellowship at Edinburgh University. In 2012, she was a visiting senior fellow at East-West Center, Hawaii. A full-time writer, she now divides her time between Singapore, Malaysia and Scotland, where she lives with her husband, Graham Berry.