

## Indonesia Council Digest October 2006

This is the digest of the Indonesia Council, a regional grouping within the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA). As the Indonesia Council does not have a separate fee structure, we urge those of you who find this bulletin useful or who attend the Indonesia Council's free biennial conference to become financial members of the ASAA (the membership form is available at <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/SpecialProj/ASAA/asaa-mship.html>).

This list is moderated, but open (i.e. digests posted on the list may be passed on to someone else). If you know of anyone who may like to be added to the list please ask them to contact the list moderator directly at [michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au).

### DEPARTMENT OF THE MONTH

Below is the Digest's inaugural 'department of the month' feature on Flinders University in Adelaide. If you would like to contribute a profile of Indonesia-related research at your university, please send a blurb of 300-400 words.

**Indonesian Studies at Flinders:** Staff who are all Indonesianists teach a range of Asian Studies and Indonesian language topics at Flinders. Firdaus works on Indonesian women's political participation, gender politics and the media, and has a current research project (preliminary results of which she presented at the ASAA conference in Wollongong last July) on media representations of the Corby case. Anton Lucas works on agrarian issues, and environment and local governance. His recent research entitled 'Berjuang diatas Perahu: Livelihood, Contestation and Declining Marine Resources on Java's North Coast' is part of a forthcoming edited volume by Carol Warren and John MacCarthy. Liz Morrell focuses on regional Indonesia, and is currently researching participatory socio-economic and political development in the post-Suharto era; recent research findings have been discussed in 'What is the news? The new local press and democracy in Indonesia', *Asian Journal of Social Science* 33 (1); 2005. Jim Schiller works on civil society, local politics and democratisation in Indonesia, local resource politics, elections and issues in decentralisation, governance social capital and participation. His 'Civil Society in Jepara: Fractious but Inclusive' is forthcoming in Henke Schulte Nordholt and Gerry van Klinken *Renegotiating Boundaries: the Politics of Local Autonomy in Post Suharto Indonesia* (KITLV in press). Indonesian studies at Flinders is incorporated into the Asian Studies major (in the BA, and Bachelor of International Studies) with a focus on history, political economy and culture and politics of the Asian region. Except for Jim Schiller the staff all teach Indonesian language as well. Later this year the Flinders team will be strengthened with the appointment of Rossi von der Borch (who recently completed a PhD on foreign domestic workers in Singapore) and her partner Priyambudi Sulistiyanto (a lecturer at the National University of Singapore) to a shared Level B lectureship in Asian Studies and Indonesian. Currently Asian Studies has 12 postgraduates (including 9 from Indonesia), doing coursework degrees in Asian Governance and PhD and Research Masters. Research students are working on local governance, corruption and decentralisation, land and social movements, cultural tourism, Golkar at the district level, and Liberal Islam.

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We've had a great response for our call for information on PhD students working on Indonesia. If you have yet to submit information about students at your institution, please send it to the Council Secretary, Kate McGregor at [k.mcgregor@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:k.mcgregor@unimelb.edu.au). as soon as possible. The Indonesia Council is interested in collecting data on Indonesia-related PhDs (a) currently being undertaken at your institution (b) completed since 2000. This data will help us lobby on Indonesianists' behalf in a number of forums. We would appreciate it if you could make us a brief list of:

- i) students' names
- ii) thesis titles/working titles
- iii) department in which the work was/is being undertaken
- iv) whether the student has a scholarship and
- v) year of completion/expected completion

If you have information about conferences, Indonesia-related news, resources, job opportunities, new books etc, you can send it in at any time by replying to this email. The deadline for the monthly bulletin is 10th of that month.

## NEWS

**Lenore Lyons is reinvigorating the Women in Asia Discussion List** (now called the Women's Forum Discussion List) on behalf of the ASAA Women's Forum (formerly the Women's Caucus). Anyone can subscribe to the list and contribute news items, comments, requests for information, book reviews, thesis summaries, advertisements, forthcoming conferences, or jobs or activities and seminar notices. Contributions will then be forwarded to the entire network. As the WIA list has been inactive for some time, former members also need to re-subscribe. If you would like to subscribe to the ASAA Women's Forum Email List, please click on the following link and follow the prompts: [http://mailinglists.uow.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/asaa\\_womens\\_forum](http://mailinglists.uow.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/asaa_womens_forum)

**Lowy Institute Poll:** The Lowy Institute Poll contains responses from both countries to questions on foreign and security policy, global affairs, and each other. Some of the questions focus on Australia's relationship with Indonesia. Others, first asked in Australia in 2005 and repeated from one survey to the next, will reveal deep changes in opinion over time. The remainder were taken from a wider international study focused on the rise of China and India. The 2006 poll was conducted in partnership with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, which fielded parallel surveys in China, India and the United States. You can download the full report from the website: <http://lowyinstitute.org/Publication.asp?pid=470>

See the **Herb Feith Foundation's homepage** at <http://www.herb-feith-foundation.org/>

## BOOKS (AND JOURNALS)

Adams, K. *Art as Politics: Re-Crafting Identities, Tourism, and Power in Tana Toraja, Indonesia*. Honolulu, University of Hawai'i Press, 2006.

*Art as Politics* explores the intersection of art, identity politics, and tourism in Sulawesi, Indonesia. Based on long-term ethnographic research from the 1980s to the present, the book offers a nuanced portrayal of the Sa'dan Toraja, a predominantly Christian minority group in the world's most populous Muslim country. Celebrated in anthropological and tourism literatures for their spectacular traditional houses, sculpted effigies of the dead, and pageantry-filled funeral rituals, the Toraja have entered an era of accelerated engagement with the global economy marked by on-going struggles over identity, religion, and social relations. In her engaging account, Kathleen Adams chronicles how various Toraja individuals and groups have drawn upon artistically-embellished "traditional" objects—as well as monumental displays, museums, UNESCO ideas about "word heritage," and the World Wide Web—to shore up or realign aspects of a cultural heritage perceived to be under threat. She also considers how outsiders—be they tourists, art collectors, members of rival ethnic groups, or government officials—have appropriated and reframed Toraja art objects for their own purposes. Her account illustrates how art can serve as a catalyst in identity politics, especially in the context of tourism and social upheaval. Ultimately, this insightful work prompts readers to rethink persistent and pernicious popular assumptions—that tourism invariably brings a loss of agency to local communities or that tourist art is a compromised form of expression. *Art as Politics* promises to be a favorite with students and scholars of anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, ethnic relations, art, and Asian studies.

Cherian, G. *Contentious Journalism and the Internet: Towards democratic discourse in Malaysia and Singapore*. Singapore, SUP, 2006.

This nuanced work draws on social movement studies to challenge current understandings of the relationship between media and the internet. The book's lively style will make it relevant for anyone interested in politics and the media in Singapore and Malaysia.

Dent, Christopher M. *New Free Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific*. Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2006.

The recent proliferation of free trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific is arguably the most important developments in the region's international trade agreements in recent years. This book presents a comprehensive study of the main causes, consequences and nature of the Asia-Pacific's new FTA trend, as well as the implications for the global economy. It explores the FTA policies of the region's trade powers and offers new conceptual and theoretical perspectives on the relationship between economic bilateralism and regionalism, in particular whether the intensifying FTA bilateralism may lead to the development of "lattice regionalism" in Asia-Pacific.

*Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* has a new website: [\\_http://kyotoreviewsea.org](http://kyotoreviewsea.org)

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

**Australian Society of Indonesian Language Educators (ASILE):** Preliminary notification for Biennial Conference, to be held **5-8 July 2007**. All those teachers, lecturers and others concerned with Indonesian language teaching and learning in Australia and beyond, start thinking about giving a presentation, workshop, poster session or performance at ASILE 2007 on the beautiful Sunshine Coast. See <http://intranet.usc.edu.au/wacana/asile/>

**World Without Walls: 21st Century Perspectives On East And West, Women's College, University of Sydney, 3-7 December 2006.** This conference marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Oriental Society of Australia with a multi-disciplinary conference drawing together scholars in humanities, arts and social sciences to discuss the place of Asian Studies in contemporary scholarship. The conference has attracted interest from students and scholars from around Australia and overseas. More than 20 panels and over one hundred papers have been registered on a diverse range of subjects, including: Asian language studies in schools; Asian media; Asian regional studies; Autobiography Bengal studies; Central Asian politics; History Wars in Asia; Humour; Middle East studies; Minorities and borderlands; Nuclear industry and trade; Politico/economic theory and Asia; Popular culture; Social change; Status of women in Asia . For an up-to-date outline of the program, including panels, keynote speeches and social events, please see the conference website [www.arts.usyd.edu.au/conference/OSA2006](http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/conference/OSA2006). Enquiries to Conference Secretary Jocelyn Chey [OSA2006@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:OSA2006@arts.usyd.edu.au).

**In Search of Reconciliation and Peace in Indonesia, 19-20 July 2007:** A number of Southeast Asian countries have been badly shaken in recent decades by religious, ethnic, social, political and economic conflicts. The search for reconciliation and peace is an important issue in the whole region. Promoting an interdisciplinary examination of one of the countries affected, Indonesia, this workshop goes beyond a mere political approach to reconciliation and offers new understandings of cultural reconciliation processes and factors, which both facilitate and inhibit reconciliation in different cultures. The workshop aims to invite scholars from different academic disciplines such as social anthropology, sociology, law, political science, history and others from Indonesia and abroad. We invite both empirical case studies based on original fieldwork and theoretical reflections to be presented at the workshop. The workshop will cover reconciliation issues that deal with conflicts on different scales, in different contexts, in different regions and in different phases of contemporary Indonesian history. The publication of selected papers of the workshop will make a unique and new contribution to understanding 'the other' dimension of reconciliation and different cultures of reconciliation. Paper proposals including 250-word abstracts and a 5-line biosketch should be submitted to Dr Birgit Brauchler ([aribb@nus.edu.sg](mailto:aribb@nus.edu.sg)) by **15th December 2006**. Successful applicants will be advised by 15th February 2007 and will be urged to send in a completed paper by June 1st. Some funding will be available for those in the Asian Region, post-graduate students, and others unable to fund themselves, depending on the number of workshop participants. Further enquiries should be directed to Dr Birgit Brauchler ([aribb@nus.edu.sg](mailto:aribb@nus.edu.sg)), Dr Maribeth Erb ([socmerb@nus.edu.sg](mailto:socmerb@nus.edu.sg)), Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto ([seasp@nus.edu.sg](mailto:seasp@nus.edu.sg)) or Dr Jamie Davidson ([poldjs@nus.edu.sg](mailto:poldjs@nus.edu.sg)).

**CROSSING BORDERS, conference, 4-5 February 2007, Sarawak.** The Research Unit for Study of Societies in Change (RUSSIC), Curtin University, with the support of Curtin University, Sarawak campus, is holding a two-day conference at Curtin's Sarawak campus in Miri. The focus of the conference is on border issues relating to Borneo and the neighbouring region. Further information concerning the conference is available at: [www.curtin.edu.my/BorneoConference2007](http://www.curtin.edu.my/BorneoConference2007)

**First International Conference of Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies, Feb 2007, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore.** This conference is sponsored by the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Executing Agency for Aceh and Nias (BRR) and the Asia Research Institute, NUS, Singapore. The cost of invited speakers will be met by funds generously provided by BRR. Participants should plan to arrive in Banda Aceh on February 23rd. The Conference will be followed, on 27th February, by a planning meeting of invited potential stakeholders in an International Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies. The papers of the conference will form the basis of a path-breaking book, to be published in both English and Indonesian. The three-day conference will contain the following panels: 1. Seismology, geology and environmental impact 2. History of Aceh and the Indian Ocean world 3. Language, culture and society 4. Post-tsunami relief, reconstruction and disaster mitigation 5. Conflict resolution, peace-making and democratisation issues 6. Islam, law and society Abstracts (100-200 words) of papers to be sent to Ms Alyson Rozells at [ariaar--at--nus.edu.sg](mailto:ariaar--at--nus.edu.sg) by 15 October 2006, and papers by **31 January 2007**. Invitations will only be confirmed after receipt and evaluation of the abstracts. Papers should be in English, though presentations and discussion may be in either English or Indonesian. URL [http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events\\_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=539](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=539)

**The Second International APRU Conference: Independence and After in Southeast Asia: Old and New Interpretations; 14–15 August 2007, Penang, Malaysia.** Call for Papers / Panels: The discourse of nations achieving political independence and the characterization of the years that followed as the "postcolonial" period has long been a mainstay of the academic agenda in studies of Southeast Asia, particularly in the disciplines of history, political science, economics, literature and language, anthropology, and sociology. The ups and downs of nation-building, the maintenance of political stability and economic sustainability are but some of the major issues that faced post-independent nation-states of Southeast Asia. Deadline for Abstracts: **15 January 2007**. Deadline for Working Papers: 1 June 2007. Individual Participants: Individuals are invited to present a 20-minute working paper relevant to any aspect of the conference's theme. They are requested to submit an abstract (150-200 words) to the Secretariat. Specialized Panels: Scholars who wish to organize a panel (4-5 presenters; 1-hour per panel) based on a particular topic relevant to the conference's overall theme are to submit to the Secretariat the following materials: Proposed Panel: Abstract (350-400 words); Convenor / Panelist I: Abstract (150-200 words; Panelist II: Abstract (150-200 words); Panelist III: Abstract (150-200 words); Panelist IV: Abstract (150-200 words); Panelist V: Abstract (150-200 words). Further information is available at [www.usm.my/APRU/index.html](http://www.usm.my/APRU/index.html)

## **PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Call for Contributions to a Book, Asian Experiences of Everyday Life: The Senses in Culture and Society.** Scholars working in the social sciences are invited to contribute to an edited collection based on the roles and meanings of the senses in Asian contexts. Socio-cultural analyses of the senses have hitherto focused mainly on Western settings, and on non-industrial contexts through anthropological endeavours. The collection is an attempt to fill the lacuna by inviting contributors to deliberate upon the ways by which the senses influence and organise social actors' everyday life experiences in Asia, or within Asian communities located in different locales, both within and beyond the region of Asia. Possible lines of approach include theoretical considerations, historical deliberations, empirical/conceptual arguments, and auto-ethnography. How do social actors perceive and experience space and place through the senses? How do sights, smells, sounds, and textures operate as defining elements in relational events? How do codifications of sensual experiences map everyday life? How is sociality governed by agreements on the operations and the uses of the senses? What roles do the senses play in relation to the social shaping of the body, memory, group dynamics, and individual lived experiences? How do we locate the senses in the contexts of modernity and post-modernity? Please submit an abstract of 200-250 words with a short biography before **December 10, 2006**. Full papers (6000-6500 words) are due by April 30, 2007. Please email abstracts and papers to both editors: Devorah Kalekin-Fishman [dkalekin@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:dkalekin@univ.haifa.ac.il). Kelvin E.Y. Low [socleyk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:socleyk@nus.edu.sg)

**Asia Pacific: Perspectives** is a peer-reviewed electronic journal welcoming submissions from all fields of the social sciences and the humanities with relevance to the Asia Pacific region. In keeping with the Jesuit traditions of the University of San Francisco, Asia Pacific: Perspectives commits itself to the highest standards of learning and scholarship. Please consult the website for more information about subject matter, submission guidelines, and the like. Visit the website at <http://www.pacificrim.usfca.edu/research/perspectives/>

**Call for Papers on Central, East or Southeast Asian History in History Compass Journal.** History Compass, a major electronic journal recently launched by Blackwell Publishing in association with the Institute of Historical Research (London), is looking for original survey essays concerning Central, East or Southeast Asia prior to 1800CE. Essays should review new developments in the history. Contact: [keren.oertly@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com](mailto:keren.oertly@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com). URL: [www.history-compass.com](http://www.history-compass.com)

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Associate Lecturer/Lecturer in Asian Studies, University of Tasmania (Hobart campus).** Applications are invited for appointment to this position, which will be offered on a full-time tenurable basis, commencing on 1 February 2007. The appointee will be expected to teach and co-ordinate Asian Studies units, co-ordinate the Asian Studies program, and possibly contribute to the Chinese, Japanese or Indonesian language teaching program. Applicants with China-related research interests and language skills would be particularly welcome. Applicants should have a demonstrated ability to teach well, and have experience in teaching Asian Studies or a related discipline at tertiary level; ability to

coordinate the inter-disciplinary Asian Studies program and teach individual units; demonstrated ability to conduct scholarly research, and a PhD in Asian Studies or a related discipline (Level B), or completion/ near-completion of PhD degree in Asian Studies or a related discipline (Level A). Closing date: **11 October**. For further information about the position please contact Head of School, Professor Barbara Hatley on (03) 6324 3058, fax (03) 6324 3652 or email [Barbara.Hatley@utas.edu.au](mailto:Barbara.Hatley@utas.edu.au).  
[http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/pos\\_vacant/pos\\_vacant.asp?Type=Academic](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/pos_vacant/pos_vacant.asp?Type=Academic)

**Director, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore: Applications and nominations are invited for the position of Professor and Director, Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS).** ARI has just celebrated its fifth birthday, under the leadership of Professor Anthony Reid, whose term as Director will end in July 2007. Its mission is to provide a world-class focus and resource for research on the Asian region, located at one of its communication hubs. ARI engages the social sciences broadly defined and especially interdisciplinary frontiers between and beyond disciplines. Researchers gather at ARI for shorter or longer periods of research or to attend conferences and seminars. The Institute currently has six research clusters: changing family in Asia, Asian migration, cultural studies in Asia, religion and globalization in Asian contexts, Southeast Asia-China interactions, and Asian Cities. It also maintains an open cluster to allow scope for other important research and for the development of new clusters. The successful candidate is expected to be a distinguished scholar, with a capacity to lead cutting-edge research on Asia and relevant administrative experience and leadership qualities. S(he) would be well-versed in establishing international collaborations and networking, and preferably possess the ability to attract external funding. S(he) should have a commitment to the goal of building a dynamic Institute, drawing in high quality researchers and visitors, and building up a strong research and PhD program. A competitive remuneration package can be expected. Initial professorial appointment may be on tenure or term contract. The appointment would be a joint full professorship appointment with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of NUS. Teaching at the faculty level would be welcomed but not mandatory. Supervision of some graduate students would be expected. The appointment as Director would be for 3 years in the first instance, but the terms of the contract as Professor would be negotiable. The closing date for applications is **30 November 2006**. For further information about this appointment, contact Ms Verene Koh at [arikohhk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:arikohhk@nus.edu.sg). More information on the Asia Research Institute can be found on its web site at [www.ari.nus.edu.sg](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg).

**RCUK Fellowship in Modern Asian History:** At the end of this 5 year fellowship you will be offered a permanent academic position, subject to successful completion of the University's probationary period. You will conduct research in modern Asian History both individually and in collaboration with colleagues in the Department and wider University to enhance the institution's research and teaching profile in Asian History and Asian Studies. In addition, you will teach undergraduate and postgraduate students to a high standard, and participate as appropriate in the administration of the Department's activities. You will have a proven record of research excellence and undergraduate teaching experience and the ability to conduct historical research in at least one modern Asian language (including reading and, where appropriate spoken language skills). Candidates with a strong research record in any area of modern Asian History (excluding South Asia, but including Southeast Asia) are invited to apply for this post, but preference may be given for a

specialist in modern Chinese history. See <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/jobs> Application packs are available from Personnel Services on 024 7652 3685 (24 hour answerphone), by email: [recruit@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:recruit@warwick.ac.uk), our website below or [www.jobs.ac.uk/warwick](http://www.jobs.ac.uk/warwick). An application form MUST be completed if you wish to apply for this post. Closing date: **13 October 2006**. Contact Info: Personnel Services, University House, University of Warwick, email: [recruit@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:recruit@warwick.ac.uk), Tel: +44 (0) 24 7652 3685, Website: <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/warwick>

**The University of North Florida seeks to hire a tenure-track assistant professor of South or Southeast Asian History** to begin the fall 2007-2008 academic year. Preference will be given to candidates capable of teaching a general Introduction to Asian History and courses in the modern era, as well as upper-level and graduate courses in their areas of specialization. Teaching experience and evidence of potential for excellence in teaching and scholarship are required, as is a Ph.D. (or ABD status with degree awarded no later than August 13, 2007) in History. Formal application must be made on-line at <http://www.unfjobs.org>. Please send additional application materials, a letter of application, curriculum vitae, graduate transcripts, and three letters of recommendation, by mail to: Asian History Search, Position Number 322750, Department of History, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, S., Jacksonville, FL 32224-2664. Postmark deadline: **November 1, 2006**. Website: <http://www.unfjobs.org>

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