

Indonesia Council Digest December 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MONTH

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

Selected Researchers

Michael Ewing is Senior Lecturer in Indonesian Studies at the Asia Institute (<http://www.asiainstitute.unimelb.edu.au>). His research interests include discourse, grammar, and conversation in Indonesian and Javanese, and language endangerment and documentation in Eastern Indonesia. Michael has recently been involved in an international project to document endangered languages in Central Maluku and train local community members and professionals in documentation practice. He is now working on a new project with Sander Adelaar (also of the Asia Institute), investigating dialect variation in Javanese, including historical and typological perspectives. Michael also directs the Cirebon style gamelan ensemble, Putra Panji Asmara, based in Melbourne.

Ariel Heryanto is Senior Lecturer at the Asia Institute. His research interests are around issues of cultural signifying practices, especially the everyday politics of identity and representation. Thus, he is interested in the study of semantic history (key words), discourse analysis, media, popular culture, ethnicity, nationality, hybridity, and diasporas. Although Indonesia is the country he knows best, he is keen on comparative studies especially among the neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia. His current research focuses on Pop Cultures in Indonesia: the Politics of Pleasures and Identity

Tim Lindsey is a Professor in the Asian Law Centre. He is a joint founder of the Centre of the Study of Contemporary Islam (<http://www.csci.unimelb.edu.au>) together with Abdullah Saeed of the Asia Institute. Tim has recently been awarded an ARC Federation Fellowship to undertake research on Islam and Modernity: Syari'ah, Terrorism and Governance in South-East Asia. This project will improve understandings of relationships between Islam, law, governance and terrorism in SE Asia, strengthening Australia's capacity to navigate relationships with regional Muslim societies. Tim is also working on an ARC Discovery Project researching Islamic Law in Contemporary Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

Kate McGregor is Lecturer in Southeast Asian History in the History Department (<http://www.history.unimelb.edu.au>). Her research interests include historiography, memory, the New Order and violence. Her first book, *History in Uniform: Military Ideology and the Construction of Indonesia's Past*, is due for release early next year. Her current research examines Islam and the politics of memory in post-Suharto Indonesia. Kate has served on the Inside Indonesia board in the past and she is currently serving as Deputy Convener of the University's Indonesia Forum, an organisation that brings Indonesianists, students with Indonesia interests and the Melbourne Indonesian community together in an annual event, postgraduate roundtables and other events. Kate is also secretary of the Indonesia Council and has recently been elected to the Asian Studies Association of Australia Board.

Justin Wejak is a part time PhD candidate in the History Department. His thesis examines the role of the Catholic Church in the 1960s in Indonesia. He also teaches Indonesian language at the Asia Institute.

Selected Postgraduate Students

Arskal Salim has recently completed his PhD on the Islamisation of Indonesian Laws, including the legal and political dissonances in Indonesian Shari`a between 1945 and 2005.

Vannessa Hearman commenced a PhD in the History Department this year. At this stage she is hoping to research the 1965 killings in Bali by means of an oral history project.

NEWS

Lenore Lyons writes: The **ASAA Women's Forum's** new website is linked from the ASAA home-page (<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ASAA/>) or is available directly at: <http://www.capstrans.edu.au/asaawomensforum/>. The new site contains links to the Women in Asia Conferences and the ASAA Women in Asia Publication series; and information about how to subscribe/unsubscribe to the Women's Forum Email Discussion list. The site will also contain a digital archive of materials related to events and activities organised by the Women's Caucus over the last 25 years. The Women's Forum has a rich and vibrant history but unfortunately much of this history will be lost unless we consciously preserve it. So, if you have copies of old conference or workshop proceedings, newsletters, reports, or photographs of Women's Caucus events sitting in boxes or old filing cabinets - then I'd love to hear from you! If you would like to contribute materials to the archiving project please send me an email at lenorel@uow.edu.au.

Trish van der Hoek writes: Go to <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/ip/newsletter.php> to access the "**Indonesia Project News**".

"Based in Bangkok, the **Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia** (IRASEC) is a member of the network of research centres of the French Foreign Ministry. IRASEC is calling on specialists from all academic fields to study the important social, political, economical and environmental developments that affect, together or separately, the

eleven countries of the region (Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Lorosa'e and Vietnam)." URL: http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://www.irasec.com

BOOKS

Colombijn, Freek, URBAN SPACE LAND HOUSING DURING THE DECOLONIZATION OF INDONESIA, 1930-1960, KITLV, Leiden, 2007.

This book examines the social changes in Indonesian cities during the decolonization. The political upheavals of the Japanese occupation, Indonesian Revolution and the first steps to build a sovereign nation had major repercussions for the urban society. The social changes are studied from the angle of urban space in general and the provision of housing in particular. The local perspective provides fresh insight into how people experienced the process of decolonization. By stressing the importance of social class in colonial times, the book challenges the idea that a shift from ethnic to class differences was the overriding social change during decolonization. By the use of hitherto unused historical sources, the book presents a wealth of new data about both the Indonesian city and the decolonization process during the understudied 1940s and 1950s.

Cribb, Robert, CRIME, VIOLENCE AND AUTHORITY IN INDONESIA. Regimes of law and order, 1930-1960, KITLV, Leiden, 2007.

This book is a study of the links between crime and politics in a society in transition. It examines the character of the social and political dimensions of crimes of violence - murder, assault and robbery - in the Indonesian archipelago during a period of profound political transformation, 1930-1960. The central narrative of this book is a story of rivals for state power in the archipelago - Dutch, Japanese, and several kinds of Indonesians - driven by their own institutional weaknesses and by difficult circumstances to recruit violent crime of various kinds in support of their political aspirations. In doing so, they conferred upon violent crime a legitimacy beyond which that which it had previously enjoyed. This book is also the story of a persistent but often unsuccessful attempts to remove from crime the political legitimacy that it had acquired in times of war and revolution.

Gade, Anna M. PERFECTION MAKES PERFECT. Learning, emotion, and the recited Qur'an in Indonesia, 2004.

"Drawing from anthropology and the history of religions, this book shows the potential for a reawakened and engaged understanding of everyday Islam in Southeast Asia and its relationship to traditions of Qur'anic recital and schooling." Kenneth M. George, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Lindblad, J. Thomas, THE ECONOMIC DECOLONIZATION OF INDONESIA, KITLV, Leiden, 2007.

This monograph offers the first comprehensive history of the decolonization of the Indonesian economy, a process with a different momentum and timing from the

achievement of political independence. It traces the origins of economic decolonization to the late-colonial period, covers developments during the Japanese occupation and the Indonesian Revolution as well as continued operations by Dutch enterprises in Indonesia during the 1950s. The account culminates with the takeover and nationalization of Dutch private enterprises in the late 1950s. Themes discussed include economic politics, the changing position of Indonesian personnel inside Dutch-owned firms as well as the emergence of a new Indonesian entrepreneurship.

Massier, Ab, THE VOICE OF THE LAW IN TRANSITION. Indonesian jurists and their languages, 1915-2000, KITLV, Leiden, 2007.

Since the early 1970s, legal usage and terminology have been criticized by linguists, and remarkably, by jurists as well. Their criticism is focused on the heterogeneity of legal language and terminology, and the deviation of legal usage from the official standard language. Addressing the question why criticism has continued, this study exposes two fundamental defects in the government measures and in the criticism itself. Firstly, they are grounded in an instrumental approach to language, an approach that sees language as secondary in importance to the conceptual world that is considered law's core business. Secondly, they greatly underestimate the impact of the declining knowledge of Dutch upon the development of Indonesian law language. Massier argues that the law must be viewed as inextricably bound up with the language in which it is formulated. Consequently, legal training and practice are examined in this study in terms of language behaviour and conventions, of learning, writing and speaking the languages of the law.

Matsumoto, Yasuyuki, FINANCIAL FRAGILITY AND INSTABILITY IN INDONESIA Abingdon, Routledge, 2006.

This highly relevant study provides an incisive analysis of a critical phase in recent East Asian financial history, exploring the underlying causes of the financial crisis that struck Indonesia during the second half of 1997. In-depth fieldwork data and four detailed case studies illuminate the macroeconomic foundations of the crisis, showing how Indonesian capitalists sought to liquidate their Indonesian assets without losing control of their corporate empires, by taking advantage of increased access to foreign loans and complex financial re-engineering, actions which ultimately precipitated instability and crisis throughout the whole financial system. Finally, it reflects upon the policy implications of this episode, putting forward the case for comprehensive capital controls for open and developing economies until they establish appropriate financial institutions to monitor and manage the level of indebtedness and the volatility of capitalists' behaviour.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "The Politics of Post-Conflict Aceh: In-depth Analysis and Comparative Perspectives". History indicates that transformations from war to peace carry inherent risks for igniting old and new conflicts. Post-conflict situations often face problems of elite power struggles, reintegrating former combatants, rebuilding state and civic institutions, economic and social development, and dealing with truth and reconciliation at the grass-roots level. The international community, the state, local civil society and business groups

are all crucial players in consolidating the peace. This panel focuses on the post-conflict dynamics in Aceh and draws attention to regional conflicts and other forms of power struggle for comparative purposes. There are a range of new and old challenges to deal with in Aceh since the signing of the peace deal in August 2005. They include transforming former guerrillas into formal politics, reintegrating guerrillas into civilian life, the role of Shariah Law in the province, electoral politics and revenue sharing with Jakarta, ongoing tsunami reconstruction and peace-building, state, international and local civil society relations in development, and issues of reconciliation, compensation and justice. The panel aims to explore implications of the political transformation in Aceh for other parts of Indonesia in the context of democratisation and decentralisation, as well as regional comparisons of (post-) conflict situations such as East Timor, southern Philippines, Cambodia, southern Thailand, Burma and Sri Lanka. We invite interested participants to send abstracts (200 words) of their papers to the panel convenors (see above) by **1 March 2007**. Email: antje.missbach@anu.edu.au

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "The state and illegality in Indonesia". Panel convenors: Gerry van Klinken, Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies KITLV (klinken@kitlv.nl) and Edward Aspinall, Australian National University (edward.aspinall@anu.edu.au). Contrary to normative conceptions of law and public policy, states and illegal practices often interpenetrate (Heyman 1999). In Indonesia, this can be seen, for example, in the well-known deployment of criminal militias by the authorities in secessionist arenas such as Aceh or East Timor. Other examples include essential involvement by officials in tin smuggling and illegal logging or fishing, and the fixing of procedures such as trials, tenders, or recruitment. To study these phenomena is not to engage yet again in muckraking journalism, but to come to grips with a more realistic notion of the state than was commonplace among scholars during the long New Order. Following an influential paper by Abrams (1988), later elaborated by Migdal (2001), this panel begins with the insight that much of what was written about the state in Indonesia over the last two decades had in fact fallen prey to the state's own propaganda about itself as a coherent, autonomous actor. By means of case studies on the intersection of specific state practices with illegality, this panel aims to develop more bottom-up, anthropological, historical and processual conceptions of the state. Notions of theatricality, trust networks, hegemony, rent-seeking, social banditry, and the shadow state might all be useful to different authors in this quest. Such approaches have been useful in African, Indian and South Pacific studies, but have so far been little used in Indonesia.

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "Transnational Activism in Southeast Asia". Convenors: Edward Aspinall, Australian National University (edward.aspinall@anu.edu.au); Michele Ford, University of Sydney (michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au) – please contact us both if you are interested in participating. This panel focuses on the new modes of transnational activism which are transforming the landscape of social and political engagement in Southeast Asia, as in other parts of the world. The panel has four main aims. Firstly, we hope to encourage broad participation from scholars looking at different forms and sites of transnational activism, different countries, borderlands and geographic regions, and with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. The goal is to allow for preliminary mapping of the nature, extent, and pathways of transnational activism in Southeast Asia. Second, we aim to

situate the new transnational activism within broader process of economic and cultural globalization, elucidating the connections the new activism has with other phenomena (such as migration flows and the spread of new communication technologies and media). Third, we will view transnational activism critically. Much literature on 'global civil society' adopts a celebratory tone because it examines only the emancipatory potential of the new activism, as well as its capacity to enable and facilitate local initiatives. In this panel, we hope also to focus on how the new transnational activism can entrench domination and inequality, and how it can limit and constrain choices by local actors. Fourthly, and following from this observation, the panel will examine efforts by activists in Southeast Asia to resist new forms of hegemony in international activist networks and to set or at least negotiate their own agendas.

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "The normalization of religion in Southeast Asia". Panel convenors (please contact us three if you are interested in participating): Yves Goudineau <goudineau@efeo.fr>; Rémy Madinier <madinier@ehess.fr>; Michel Picard <mpicard@vjf.cnrs.fr>. The advance of Islam and Christianity in Southeast Asia entailed the propagation and localization of the very idea of 'religion' throughout the region. Besides movements of proselytism and conversion, this process provoked a questioning of local world views and indigenous belief systems. The contemporary states of Southeast Asia have appropriated this idea and often in the name of modernity and progress they tend to oblige their populations, including marginal ones, to have a 'religion'. This panel will tackle the issues, past and present, of the appropriation - whether voluntary or constrained - of the idea of 'religion' by the peoples of Southeast Asia. Papers should deal with one of the following topics: 1) The intrusion and ensuing establishment of Middle-Eastern monotheisms in Southeast Asia. 2) Efforts from various proselyte movements: Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, to convert populations blinded by 'superstitions' and fettered by backward customs. 3) The settling of a religious status quo conducive to national cohesion in its various guises: an explicit hierarchy in Malaysia, the common principles of Pancasila in Indonesia, or - for some time - an uncompromising secularity in communist Indochina.

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "Why cultivate? Understandings of past and present adoption, abandonment and commitment to agriculture in South East Asia". Interdisciplinary panel for the 2007 EUROSEAS conference organized by Dr. Monica Janowski (Anthropology) and Prof. Graeme Barker (Archaeology) There has been debate about the origins of agriculture in Southeast Asia in recent years, relating to the history of rice, the role of root and tree crops and of minor grains, and the management/'cultivation' of 'wild' resources such as the sago palm. In this panel we want to focus on reasons for cultivating (or not cultivating) different crops, focusing on such factors as their role as items of trade, their role in structuring local social and political relations and/or their cultural/cosmological significance. We welcome papers which draw on data from current and recent studies within all relevant disciplines including anthropology, economics, archaeology, history, politics, sociology and botany. Our intended focus is on evidence and reasons for present-day and recent dynamics of change as well as historical change. If you would like to participate, email: m.r.janowski@gre.ac.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "National identity, local medicines, and the appropriation of the therapeutic field".

Convenor: Claudia Merli, Uppsala University (claudia.merli@antro.uu.se): Medical practice and health care are arenas of confrontation between local cultural processes and national projects. As manifestation of specific religious or ethnic identities, local systems of therapeutic knowledge do however not only find themselves in opposition to modern medical technologies but also to privileged traditions, implying a two-front struggle. The two-front struggle means defending a contested past against claims from privileged traditions as well as securing space in the future claimed by modern technology. This is especially evident in countries where modernization and creation of a national identity requires the assimilation of diverse ethnic and religious groups. The dominant group can elevate a particular medical tradition perceived as ideal heritage and communicating its peculiar religious-ethnic identity to 'national traditional medicine.' Such privileged knowledge can consist of both pharmacopeias and practices, massage techniques and instrumental interventions. The general aim of the panel is to discuss the tensions emerging from the encounters between modern medical technology and competing traditional medicines, and the selection of one of the latter as "national heritage." Contributions are welcome from scholars of anthropology, sociology, public health and medicine. Thematic clusters are possible. Some key terms for thematic contributions: national crises and public health, epidemics, leper, malaria, mental health, local medical treatments, minorities, medical technologies, pharmaceuticals and materia medica. Interested participants are invited to send abstracts (about 200 words) of their papers to the panel convenor as soon as possible and at the very latest by **1 March 2007**.

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "Domestic and Intra-Regional Tourism in Southeast Asia".

While domestic tourism has been popular in developed Southeast Asian countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand for some time, in less-developed countries such as Vietnam it has only become popular quite recently. In Vietnam's case, as in that of other less-developed countries, the increase in domestic tourism can be attributed to the country's rapid economic development, which has brought disposable income and new lifestyles to large segments of the population. Tourism has opened up new social and cultural spaces for many Southeast Asians, enabling them to assume new national and regional identities. Although domestic tourism by residents of a country within their country is by far the most common form of tourism, it has not received nearly as much attention from academics as international tourism. Furthermore, few researchers, especially in Southeast Asia, have addressed the historical and socio-cultural aspects of domestic tourism. And intra-regional tourism in general and within Southeast Asia in particular has received even less attention. Bearing its own characteristics, intra-regional tourism offers new ground for explorations into and contestations of ethnicity, ethnic relations, citizenship, modernity and transnational identity. This panel proposes to explore historical and current patterns of domestic and intra-regional tourism in Southeast Asia. It aims to serve as a forum among scholars working on tourism in the region, where new understandings, analyses and comparisons can be made. Both Southeast Asian and other-regional panelists will offer local and foreign perspectives on Southeast Asian phenomena, and move beyond the binaries of traditional and modern, hegemony and resistance, local and global that have tended to dominate the tourism literature. We invite interested participants to send abstracts (250 words) of their papers to the panel convenors (Nir Avieli, Ben-Gurion

University, Israel at avieli@bgu.ac.il and Duong Bich Hanh, Population Council at dbhanh@gmail.com) by 1 March 2007.

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "ENDURING CONFLICTS - Opposition to autocratic centers and resilience of ethnic-minority societies in South-East Asia". Convenor: Dr. Maran La Raw, Kachin research social anthropologist; emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA. Email: kachinusa@aol.com. The postcolonial era began in South-East Asia after World War II ended, over sixty years ago. Rampant political conflicts that ensued have been extensively studied and conceptualized against the fate of colonization, and a substantial body of knowledge and tradition exists today as result. The role-players of these conflicts have been autocratic governments at the center, and ethnic national minorities in the peripheries. Regardless of whether we consider the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam or Burma, the problems of enduring center-to-periphery conflicts have occurred. How many minority societies have managed to maintain an armed-conflict relationship spanning several generations has become a compelling question in itself. Ethnic minorities' societies in Burma, for example, have been subjected to massive forced relocation and relentless intimidation. How have these societies in the periphery handled the problem of continuing to function as political communities? Ultimately, why have some societies in the periphery been able to persevere, while some others have not? Our panel's goal is to ask straightforwardly analytical-scientific questions. Aside from the question about the ontogeny of postcolonial conflict relationships, there is a second, equally compelling question today, and it is concerned with the cost to societies engaged in enduring conflicts. The core issues concern how political agendas are transmitted culturally from generation to generation; how integrative institutions of society cope with premium demands for (armed) resilience, the role of traditional culture as collective memory; group identity, nationalism, accommodation and resistance, etc. The purpose of this panel is to explore the broad range of issues that bear upon the topic of resilience of ethnic minority social structure and organization in the context of protracted and contentious political conflicts in South-East Asia. We invite established as well as younger scholars to participate in this panel. It is a new window to ask fresh questions. It is conducive to questions from political science, social anthropology and history.

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "Staging Desire in Public Places". Convenors: Jörgen Hellman, Department of Social Anthropology, Göteborg University (jorgen.hellman@globalstudies.gu.se) and Sylva Frisk, Centre for Asian Studies, Göteborg University (sylva.frisk@globalstudies.gu.se) – please contact us both if you are interested in participating in the panel. In Southeast Asia, the borders between the spheres of religion and politics are constantly negotiated, contested and transformed. Various actors take initiatives to define, manipulate and make these borders meaningful. These processes are not seldom centred around questions of desires and morality. The workshop will focus how desires are expressed, exhibited, controlled and discussed in public contexts in Southeast Asia. The approach is not confined to a specific theoretical framework but welcome analyses of the distribution of power, semantic codes, as well as of meaning and practice. Even a quick glance of the area show that different processes are at work when desires are made public. During the Islamic fast, certain desires are brought forward to be

disciplined and controlled in an open and collective process of asceticism. In the Buddhist context, on the other hand, monk's uncontrolled desires are scrutinised and criticised in media. Yet another example is reality shows or soap operas where desires are central themes and the limits of the acceptable are tested in public. It is our hope that examples from areas such as consumption, commercials, religious practices, or legislation will further enhance our understanding of these processes. Desire is here treated as a broad category of human behaviour and thus not limited to sexuality. Questions that we encourage writers to address are, for example, how are desires controlled, formed, disciplined, expressed, and created in public sites or discourses? In contemporary Southeast Asia, what desires are regarded as dangerous or threatening to normality? What discourses are at work here and who are the actors? What differences and similarities may emerge from a comparison of cases in the region?

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUROSEAS Conference, 12-15 September 2007, Naples for panel entitled "Ten years after the Pacific Asia financial crisis". Panel convenors: Chris Dixon London Metropolitan University c.j.dixon@londonmet.ac.uk; Mike Hitchcock m.hitchcock@londonmet.ac.uk. The Asian financial crisis is one of the key events of our time. For many people in East and South East Asia, it is likely to be a defining event of their lives. It may be – though this is less certain – one of the defining events in the trajectory of economic thought' (Webber, 1999). The 1997 financial crisis was widely expected to result in major long-term changes in the political economy of Pacific Asia. For some, the crisis marked the end of the Asian Miracle and the end of state-led forms of development. As a direct consequence of the crisis many believed that there would be a rapid opening of the region's protected markets, liberalisation of restrictive foreign ownership regulations, and reform of corporate governance and financial practices. This most certainly in Thailand and Indonesia where such reforms were key conditions of the IMF rescue packages. Within the general question of the nature and extent of the long-term impact of the crisis there are a series of major issues: has there been a major shift in the relationships between domestic capital, finance and the state?; has there been a significant shift in corporate governance, financial practices and regulation in the direction of Western norms?; If so what impact has that had on what some have termed the South East Asia-Chinese business form and national economic dynamism?; how effective have the reforms to foreign ownership regulations been?; To what extent have there been significant increases in foreign control of key firms and sectors?; to what extent has there been shifts in: the global position of South East Asia / Pacific Asia; the balance of economic and political power within the region; the extent, form and prioritising of regional integration, etc. Papers are invited that address the issues at regional, national and sub-national levels or focus on particular question e.g. was the Mahathir 'experiment' a success?. There is here the basis for an interesting and timely conference panel that would form the basis for a volume of essays. Please submit titles, abstracts of papers (300 words) and any suggestions by – at the latest - **March 1st 2007**.

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

The Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) is keen to strengthen Australian and regional interest in scholarly work on the teaching and learning of Asian languages and cultures, and in the role of language studies in the development of disciplinary knowledge and understanding. A recent initiative in this endeavour has been to establish

collaboration with the Editorial Board of the *e-FLT Journal* to co-publish an annual **supplementary issue of the journal devoted to the teaching and learning of Asian languages**. The first of these issues, edited by Dr Jane Orton of the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne, was published 10 April, 2006 and a second is in preparation. *e-FLT* is a free on-line electronic journal published by the Centre for the Study of Languages at the National University of Singapore, with Dr Wai Meng Chan as Editor-in-Chief. *e-FLT Journal* is registered on Ulrich's list and with DEST as a fully peer-reviewed journal. The ASAA annual supplementary issue of the *e-FLT Journal* will accept articles and reviews on a broad range of topics related to the teaching and learning of modern or classical Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, Hindi, Korean or Thai. They may be written in English, Chinese, Japanese or Indonesian. They do not need to be associated with study in Australia. Contributions are to be submitted to the *e-FLT Journal* for registration prior to review. Full submission information is available on the *e-FLT Journal* website <http://e-flt.nus.edu.sg> Current and prior issues are also available on the same website.

Call for contributors for a book by Dr Gabriele Marranci entitled **Muslims, Globalization and Secularism**: To contribute to the collection, send an abstract of no more than 600 words by **20 December 2006** to Dr Gabriele Marranci g.marranci@abdn.ac.uk. The idea that secularism is one of the main elements of western democracy and part of so-called "western civilization" has been reinforced within western politicians' rhetoric of the War on Terror. Islam is today often perceived and misrepresented as an antagonistic force to the concept of secularism. The increasing debates existing within western countries as to the nature of the relationship between Islam, democracy, and the concept of secularism has overshadowed the internal debate existing among Muslim scholars as well as ordinary Muslims living in the West. There is no doubt that Muslims, both western-born and migrants have formed their ideas about the concept of secularism, which they have expressed through religious and political views. Contributors are encouraged to explore how Muslims in different contexts debate, criticise, reformulate, rethink or reject the concept of secularism. Authors may focus on how Muslims living in the west have formed their own idea of secularism and the impact that secularism has on Muslim lives. All the contributions will be peer-reviewed, as well as the final manuscript.

Call for contributors for a book by Melissa Butcher & Selvaraj Velayutham (editors) entitled **Dissent and Cultural Resistance in Asian Cities**. Since Asia's economic boom in the 1990s, major cities in the region have undergone unprecedented transformation. From Beijing to Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur to Jakarta and Singapore to Chennai, Asian cities are bustling with movement and activity, vying for global city status. The growth of these cities, their role and interconnectedness with the rest of the world and distinctive characteristics, have been well documented from an historical and empirical standpoint by many theorists in the field. These works inform us of processes of urban change arising as a consequence of converging global capital, technology and labour flows, and their impact on the built environment. However, the ways in which people living in Asian cities respond to this changing milieu in their daily lives has received little scholarly attention. What counter narratives can be told about these emerging world cities? That is, what kinds of strategies or practices have people developed to demonstrate their dissent or resist the transformative dynamics of the city. This book seeks to critically engage with the urban experiences of dissent and emergent resistance against the disjunctive global and local

flows that converge and intersect in Asia's fastest growing cities. Rather than constructing occupants of the city as victims of globalisation or urbanisation, the book will present ways in which people are using everyday strategies that are embedded in cultural practice, to challenge dominant socio-economic and political forces impacting on these urban spaces. Taking the city as a site of contestation and a stage where social conflicts are played out, essays will highlight the connections between power and resistance; how the spatiality and the built environment of the city generates conflict; how protagonists use the cityscape to stage their everyday and public dissent; and the nature and impact of resistance. Contributing essays are invited that explore the conditions, strategies, and outcomes of such dissent and forms of cultural resistance, grounded in an event or project in a particular Asian city. Essays will deal with, but are not limited to, the following themes: Counter narratives and re-imagining the city; Urban planning, neighbourhoods and the creation of community; Urban development, ghetto-isation and gentrification; Power and politics in the urban arena; Grassroots activism and social movements; Gender, class and the politics of identity; Transgressive spaces and places. Research papers employing qualitative methods (ethnography, in-depth interviews, focus groups, narrative analysis) are preferred. Please send a proposed title and a 500-word abstract by **31 January 2007** to: Melissa Butcher: melissa.butcher@mq.edu.au; Selvaraj Velayutham: selvaraj.velayutham@scmp.mq.edu.au. Accepted contributions (7,000 words) will need to be completed by August 2007. We are in discussion with a number of potential publishers in the field. Please contact the editors for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESEARCH/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Graduate Student Conference - Cornell University Southeast Asia Program. The Cornell Southeast Asia Program invites submissions for its 9th Annual Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference. This year's conference will take place at the Kahin Center for Advanced Research on Southeast Asia, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY on March 16-18, 2007. We welcome submissions from graduate students engaged in original research related to Southeast Asia. Graduate students working in the following disciplines as well as other related fields that contribute to the understanding of Southeast Asia are encouraged to apply: History, literature, art history, sociology, musicology, religion, anthropology, archeology, architectural history, gender studies, political science, economics, and linguistics. This year's keynote speaker will be Patricia Spyer, Professor of the Anthropology of Contemporary Indonesia, Leiden University, The Netherlands. Patricia Spyer is the author of *The Memory of Trade: Modernity's entanglements on an Eastern Indonesia Island* (Duke, 2000) And editor of *Border Fetishisms: Material Objects in Unstable Spaces* (Routledge, 1998). Her current research focuses on the role of mass and small media in the dynamics of the violence and reconciliation processes in the Moluccas, Indonesia. We ask that interested graduates students submit a one-page abstract describing their paper and a curriculum vitae by **January 15, 2007**. Abstracts and CVs must be written in English and formatted as either a MS Word or PDF document. Selected authors will be asked to give a 20-minute presentation on their paper (not including a 10-minute discussion session). Submissions should be sent to swl3@cornell.edu and tnp5@cornell.edu. Authors of accepted submissions will be given until February 23, 2007 to send in the full version of their final paper. A limited number of modest travel grants are available. Please indicate in your email when you submit the abstract if you would like to apply for a travel grant. More details about the conference

including abstract format and submission guidelines may be found at:

http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/southeastasia/academics/student_symposium.asp

SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY IN INDONESIA 2007/2008. The Indonesian Department of National Education is offering scholarships to foreign students to study Indonesian language, traditional music, dance or handicrafts at one of 38 institutions throughout Indonesia. This year there are three streams to the scholarship (darmasiswa) program: 1.Darmasiswa RI Regular Program – 1 year; 2.Darmasiswa RI Plus Program – 1 year; 3.Darmasiswa RI Short Course Program – 6 months. DEADLINES FOR APPLICATION (The Consulate General in Sydney will accept applications from New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia – applicants in other states should contact the nearest Indonesian mission). **1.Darmasiswa RI Regular Program – 15 MARCH 2007; 2. Darmasiswa RI Plus Program – 15 APRIL 2007; 3. Darmasiswa RI Short Course Program – 15 DECEMBER 2006.** For further information and to obtain an application form please contact the Information Section of the Consulate General on 9344 9933, fax 9349 6854 or email info@kjri-sydney.org specifying which program you wish to apply for. Applicants can also obtain more details about the Darmasiswa program on the website <http://darmasiswa.depdiknas.org>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS: The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, invites applications for up to twenty Postdoctoral Fellows (PDF) to be based in its various departments and programmes. The PDF scheme is intended for scholars at the beginning stages of their academic career. Candidates are generally expected to have completed their doctoral studies no more than three years prior to the time of application. Candidate who have satisfied all PhD requirements and are awaiting the conferment of the degree may also apply. The one-year Fellowship is renewable, upon review, for a second year. The closing date for applications is **31 December 2006**, for appointments to begin in August 2007. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by March 2007. Please visit <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg> or email faslimj@nus.edu.sg for details.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (1-2 appointments in each of the following areas)

Assistant / Associate/ Full Professor in Political Theory: Candidates must have a Ph.D. in political science or a related field such as philosophy or history. We are especially interested in candidates with a strong research record and teaching experience in any area of contemporary political theory, the history of Western political thought, or Eastern (Chinese, Islamic, or Indian) political thought.

Assistant / Associate/ Full Professor in Comparative Politics: Candidates must have a Ph.D. in political science or a related field. We are especially interested in candidates with a strong research record and teaching experience in American politics, Middle East politics, East or Southeast Asian politics, or approaches to comparative politics.

Assistant / Associate/ Full Professor in Public Administration: Candidates must have a Ph.D. in political science, public administration, or a related field. We are especially interested in candidates with a strong research record and teaching experience in fundamentals of public administration, organization theory, public personnel management, or administrative systems in Southeast Asia.

Applications should include (1) a cover letter specifying research and teaching interests and experience, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) the names of three to six referees with complete contact information, (4) one or two sample publications, and (5) sample syllabi. We will review applications as soon as we receive them and solicit reference letters for short-listed candidates. The deadline for posting applications is **28 February 2007**. All positions will remain open, however, until they are filled. We strongly uphold the principle of non-discrimination, especially with regard to race and gender. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply. Applications and queries may be directed to: Prof Terry Nardin, Head, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, AS1-04-10, 11 Arts Link, Singapore 117570, Singapore. Telephone: (65) 6516-3970, Fax: (65) 6779-6815, E-mail: polv2@nus.edu.sg

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