

Indonesia Council Digest March 2007

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>).

The Indonesia Council Digest is circulated monthly. If you have information about conferences, Indonesia-related news, resources, job opportunities, new books etc, send it in at any time by replying to this email. Older copies of the digest can be downloaded from the Indonesia Council website (<http://indonesiacouncil.anu.edu.au/digest.php>). 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.

NEWS

New section in the digest. Had an article published lately that relates to Indonesia? Send the bibliographical details and a short abstract by email (preferably in a Word attachment) and I'll include it in the digest.

The Asian Legal Information Institute (AsianLII - www.asianlii.org), in the Faculty of Law at UTS, is a non-profit and free access website for legal information from all 27 countries and territories in Asia located from Japan in the east to Pakistan in the west, and from Mongolia in the north to Timor Leste in the south. Access to AsianLII is free. AsianLII was launched for free public access on 8 December 2006 in Sydney. Launches in a number of Asian countries will take place, beginning with the Philippines in January 2007. Facilities AsianLII provides for searching and browsing databases of legislation, case-law, law reform reports, law journals and other legal information, where available, from each country in the region. At launch it will provide access to nearly 100 databases drawn from almost all 27 Asian countries. Over 140,000 cases from at least 15 countries, and over 15,000 pieces of legislation from at least 18 countries will be searchable. All databases can be searched simultaneously, or searches can be limited to one country's databases or other combinations. Search results can be ordered by relevance, by date, or by database.

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

It seems a long time since the **University of Sydney** announced it was going to close down its **Indonesian Studies** program, but it is in fact less than three years since that decision was reversed in the face of public pressure and intense internal lobbying. Sydney's change of heart was sincere, and we now enjoy strong support from the Head of the School of Languages and Cultures and the Dean of Arts.

Indonesian Studies has undergone a series of major staffing and structural changes since that time, culminating in the re-establishment of a stand-alone department. Keith Foulcher paved the way for the transformation, working hard to ensure that we had a tight, viable curriculum structure. He has continued to provide invaluable support for the department

since his retirement in early 2006, when he was replaced by Michele Ford. We regretfully said a final farewell to Ed Aspinall in late 2006 when he formalised his decision to move to the Australian National University. Max Lane is currently on a contract to replace Ed, and Adrian Vickers' appointment as Professor of Southeast Asian Studies has shored up the Indonesia-focused teaching expertise within the Asian Studies program. Peter Worsley also makes an important contribution to teaching and research supervision in an honorary capacity. A number of capable part-timers make up the rest of the team. The department had around 80 undergraduates in 2006, including an important UTS cohort we inherited when the UTS Indonesian program was closed down at the end of 2005, and a very healthy Honours program, which produced three first-class Honours theses last year, and involves four students in 2007.

Our research strengths lie in the areas of Indonesian literature, culture, history, social movements and grassroots politics. We have postgraduate research students working on social change, grassroots politics, Islam in the media, masculinity in children's literature, homosexuality in Indonesian film, Australian women in Bali and ancient East Javanese temple reliefs. Max is himself currently completing his PhD on class through the University of Wollongong, and working on further translations of Pramoedya. Michele is in the final year of an ARC project (with Lenore Lyons) looking at transnational interactions in the Indonesia-Singapore borderlands. She is also researching civil society organisations' strategies for influencing industrial relations policy-making processes in Surabaya and Batam (with Surya Tjandra); developments in trade unionism in post-tsunami Aceh; and trade union and NGO responses to labour migration in Southeast Asia. Adrian is continuing his work on Indonesian historiography, and is just beginning two new ARC projects, one on Indonesians in Northern Australia (with Julia Martinez) and one on the garment industry in the Asia-Pacific (heading a large cross-institutional team). In February 2007, the department established an international Indonesian Studies Working Paper series, which has already attracted interest from academics in Australia, the Netherlands, Russia, the United States and Denmark.

If you would like a profile of your department (and/or Indonesia-related research at your university) included in the digest, send 300-500 words to michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au.

BOOKS

Boomgaard, Peter (ed), *A World of Water: Rain, rivers and seas in Southeast Asian histories*, Leiden, KITLV Press, 2007.

Water, in its many guises, has always played a powerful role in shaping Southeast Asian histories, cultures, societies, and economies. This volume, the rewritten results of an international workshop, with participants from eight countries (including Australia), contains thirteen essays, representing a broad range of approaches to the study of Southeast Asia with water as the central theme. As it was exposed to the sea, the region was more accessible to outside political, economic, and cultural influences than many landlocked areas. The sea is a source of food, but also of many hazards. At the same time, Southeast Asian societies and cultures are confronted with and permeated by 'water from heaven' in the form of rain, flash floods, irrigation water, water in rivers, brooks and

swamps, water-driven power plants, and pumped or piped water. Finally, this volume deals with the role of water in classification systems, beliefs, myths, illness and healing.

Monfries, John (ed) Different Societies, Shared Futures: Australia, Indonesia and the region. Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2006.

Australia's relationship with Indonesia is one of its most important and contentious bilateral relationships, characterized by sharply differing social and cultural mores and by periodic crises and mutual distrust, but also by significant person-to-person contacts in many fields. This book examines the wide range of factors and approaches that are involved in meeting the bilateral and regional challenges, including government links, public images and mutual perceptions, regional organizations, the role of Islam, the aid relationship, security and counterterrorism, economic and business relations and the student market. The articles by the authors in this book reflect a complex, many-sided relationship that is not susceptible to simplistic formulas or stereotypes.

Sneddon, James Neil. Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian, Canberra, Pacific Linguistics ANU, 2006.

This book aims to describe aspects of the language as spoken by educated Jakartans in every day interactions. This style of language in many ways significantly different from the formal language of government and education, to the extent that it deserves separate consideration.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

2007 Indonesia Update: Islamic Life and Politics, The Australian National University, 7-8 September 2006. Some 190 million Indonesians profess Islam as their faith. But what precisely is the role of Islam in their private and public lives? How is this changing in contemporary Indonesia? Considerable research has been done on specific aspects of Indonesian Islam, such as politics, liberal thought and violent radicalism, but a great many other aspects are little studied and poorly understood outside Indonesia's Islamic community. For example, growing numbers of Muslims, particularly in urban areas, are seeking more overtly Islamic expressions of their identity. This is evident in the rising popularity of shari'a banking and insurance, Islamic spiritual healing and traditional treatments such as cupping and herbal remedies, Muslim fashions, Islamic multi-level marketing, corporate mystical brotherhoods and new electronic preaching media such as video-stream sermons to mobile phones, cyber chat rooms and satellite television programs. This conference will examine the multi-dimensional nature of contemporary Indonesian Islam. It will take a critical look at developments in politics and radicalism, as well as the increasing Islamisation of the economy, marketing and health and education services. The aim is to capture the complexity and rapidly changing nature of Islamic religiosity. For further details see <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/ip/IU07/>.

2007 Canadian Council for South East Asian Studies (CCSEAS) Conference - Beyond Political and Intellectual Boundaries: Southeast Asian Studies in the 21st Century, Quebec, Canada, 19 -21 October 2007. We are pleased to announce the upcoming conference of the CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR SOUTH EAST ASIAN STUDIES.

Containing a more methodological flavour than previous conferences, this conference's objective aims to bring scholars from a range of disciplines around the same "table" in order to examine existing links across disciplinary boundaries and between space and time scales of analysis. To read the full Call for Papers, please visit our website <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/htm/2007CCSEAScall-e.htm> **CALL FOR PAPERS PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 1st APRIL 2007.**

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for papers: **1 April**, Culture and Identity: **Kasarinian Philippine Journal of Third World Studies**. Rapid development of information technology, the proliferation of transnational capital exchange, the broadening reach of mass media, labor subcontracting, large-scale consumption, and mass migration have opened up new pathways for the critical analysis of culture and identity formation. These developments are sometimes heralded as promising avenues of unbridled progress, which serve as resources for the emergence of new modes of knowledge, identity and cultural expression. But these developments also tend to conceal the reality of uneven development, which prompts us to question contemporary identity formation and construction, and its implications in everyday life, especially in so-called Third World countries. Understanding transformations of identity and culture also calls for a reexamination of conventional discourses of gender, ethnicity, and nationhood. This issue of Kasarinlan will feature theoretical, methodological and conceptual issues of identity and cultural representation as they may be linked directly or indirectly to politics, economy, military, and social life, with the view to charting new alternative discourses. Topics include: nationalism; regionalism; transnationalism; social movements; democracy and human rights; race, ethnicity and citizenship; gender and sexuality; mass consumerism; mass media and new technologies. The journal is interested in publishing concise, theoretically-grounded empirical research with a high degree of scholarship. For Notes for Contributors see:

http://www.upd.edu.ph/~twsc/publications_kasarinlan-notes.html<http://www.upd.edu.ph/%7Etwsc/publications_kasarinlan-notes.html>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Political Science at Northern Illinois University invites applications from qualified candidates in comparative politics and international relations who have a research specialization in **Southeast Asian politics** for an anticipated tenure track opening at the assistant professor level beginning August 16, 2007. A PhD in Political Science by the time of appointment is required. We seek a candidate with demonstrated or potential excellence in both teaching and scholarship. The ability to contribute to the teaching of research methods, broadly construed, is desirable. The Department of Political Science has 26 faculty members and offers B.A., B.S., M.A., M.P.A. and Ph.D. degrees. The successful applicant also will be a faculty associate in the University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies, comprising 27 faculty members. The Center is a federally funded National Resource Center for Southeast Asia. The Center is the recipient of numerous grants, has formal exchange relationships with several Southeast Asian universities, maintains a publications program, and oversees the teaching of five languages of the region. NIU is located approximately 60 miles west of Chicago. It has an enrollment of more than 25,000, including a graduate student body of over 6,400.

Applicants must send curriculum vitae, letter of application, three letters of recommendation, appropriate transcripts, writing samples, and evidence of teaching effectiveness to: Professor Christopher M. Jones, Department Chair, Attn: Southeast Asian Politics Search, Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2887. Review of completed applications will begin on **March 1, 2007** and will continue until the position is filled (MF: means there's probably still time if you're quick!).

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) has a range of exciting short and long term **volunteer positions in Indonesia**. In this round, there are roles for scientists, conservation program officers, community development program support officers, lecturers, teachers, ESL/EFL specialists, media specialists, librarians, managers, health workers, translator/editors, curriculum specialists and education program coordinators and psychologists. Applications for the current round close on **11 March**. For more information about AVI, to view specific position descriptions and how to apply for these roles, please go to: <http://www.australianvolunteers.com/work/index.asp?menuid=170>
