

Indonesia Council Digest June 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**. **You can now join online** at <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=594>.

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@usyd.edu.au.

NEWS

Thushara Dibley writes: As you may already know, *Inside Indonesia* is going online very soon. In addition to articles, we are going to need lots of photos to keep the site colourful. At the moment we are compiling a library of photos that we can draw on for the new site. We will be using some of the photos to accompany the articles and others as thumbnails on the homepage of the site. If you have any photos of people, places and things Indonesian that you are willing to donate to the Inside Indonesia photo library please contact Thushara Dibley at thusharadibley@yahoo.com.au. We will accept photos in any format, however ideally we would prefer photos that are in high resolution digital form. Please send us a brief description of each image you send as well your name and contact details so that we can acknowledge you on the site. If you have a series of photos that you would like to display on the site in the form of a photo essay, please contact Ed Aspinall the co-ordinating editor on editor@insideindonesia.org with your idea.

Kevin Rudd, in his budget reply speech on 10 May 2007: Mr Speaker, at the dawn of the Asia-Pacific century, Australia lies in a region that will generate most of this century's economic growth. We must therefore ensure that we provide our businesses with every chance in the decades ahead to engage fully in the new business opportunities that lie ahead. My plan is to help foster a generation of Asia-literate Australians increasingly comfortable with the languages and cultures of our region. Several years ago, the government discontinued funding for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy. This was a cooperative program which operated with the States and Territories... to 2002, which by that time had enabled hundreds of thousands of Australian school children to start learning the major languages of our region. Tonight I announce that Labor will re-establish an Asian languages and studies strategy for Australian schools. This will cost \$65 million dollars over four years and will be done in partnership with the states and territories.

The University of Sydney's second Indonesian Studies working paper is now available online (see details below). If you would like to contribute a paper to the series, please contact Michele Ford (michele.ford@usyd.edu.au).

RECENT JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Michele Ford and Lenore Lyons, *Making the Best of What You've Got: Sex Work and Class Mobility in the Riau Islands*. Sydney Indonesian Studies Working Paper No.2, May 2007. Available at: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/indonesian/series/2007.shtml>.

The islands of Batam, Bintan and Karimun on the Indonesian border with Singapore and Malaysia have an extensive sex industry which caters predominantly to foreign visitors. This paper explores the place of 'sex as work' for women involved in the industry and the opportunities for class mobility that sex work may present to them. We argue that these opportunities are the product of the Riau Islands' particular spatiality, including a geographical proximity to Singapore and Malaysia, and a pattern of migration which has seen large numbers of temporary and long-term transmigrants from throughout the archipelago moving in and out of the islands in search of work. In this paper we explore these issues through the stories of two women, Lia and Ani, who – as a result of their marriages to foreign men – have moved out of the sex industry and into the lower middle class.

David T. Hill, 'Manoeuvres in Manado: Media and Politics in Regional Indonesia', *South East Asia Research*, Vol. 15, No.1, 2007, pp.5-28.

Since the post-Suharto deregulation of the media and the dismantling of the repressive Department of Information which had controlled the media centrally, the most dramatic transformation of Indonesian media has been driven, not from Jakarta but from local media enterprises. This study of media in north Sulawesi questions whether the collapse of an authoritarian regime and abandonment of media controls axiomatically produce a pluralist democratic media. Or whether equally as likely is the capture of the media by particular political interests.

Dave McRae, 'Criminal Justice and Communal Conflict: A Case Study of the Trial of Fabianus Tibo, Domingus da Silva and Marinus Riwu', *Indonesia* 83, 2007: 79-117.

The criminal trials held so far in response to the Poso conflict have not had a discernable effect in stemming violence in the area. Through a detailed examination of the investigation and trial of three Catholic men executed in 2006, this paper identifies several shortcomings in the approach to criminal justice in Poso, and concludes with a number of lessons for how criminal justice could be better handled in future instances of violent conflict in Indonesia.

BOOKS

Boellstorff, Tom. *A Coincidence of Desires. Anthropology, queer studies, Indonesia* Durham, Duke University Press, 2007.

In this book the author considers how interdisciplinary collaboration between anthropology and queer studies might enrich both fields. More than a decade he has visited Indonesia, both as an anthropologist exploring gender and sexuality and as an activist involved in HIV prevention work. Drawing on these experiences, he provides

several in-depth case studies, primarily concerning the lives of Indonesian men who term themselves gay (an Indonesian word that overlaps with, but does not correspond exactly to, the English word "gay"). These case studies put interdisciplinary research approaches into practice. They are preceded and followed by theoretical meditations on the most productive forms that collaborations between queer studies and anthropology might take.

Snitwongse, Kusuma and W. Scott Thompson (eds) *Ethnic Conflicts in Southeast Asia*. Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2005.

Destabilizing and sometimes changing trajectories of ethnic conflicts have continued to challenge nation-states worldwide. Southeast Asia is no exception: socio-economic and political fault lines, and tremendous ethnic diversity coupled with uneven development and globalization, have seen resurgence of old conflicts or new ones. As well as the sometimes violent immediate effects of such flare-ups, there are also longer-term cross border impacts in the form of refugees from ethnic conflicts, illegal migrant labour, as well as drugs and arms smuggling. This volume examines different ethnic configurations and conflict avoidance and resolution in five Southeast Asian countries.

Wieringa, Saskia, Evelyn Blackwood and Abha Bhaiya, *Women's Sexualities and Masculinities in a Globalizing Asia*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2007.

This book is a unique collection of writings by both academic and activist scholars on women's same-sex sexualities and female masculinities in a globalizing Asia. Through richly detailed studies, this book explores the emergence of contemporary lesbian and butch/femme relationships, and communities throughout Asia and their location within the context of nationalist struggles, religious fundamentalism, state gender regimes and global queer movements.

Young, Adam J. *Contemporary Maritime Piracy in Southeast Asia: History, causes and remedies*. Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2007.

This book explores contemporary maritime piracy in Southeast Asia, demonstrating the utility of using historical context in developing policy approaches that will address the roots of this resurgent phenomenon. The depth and breadth of historical piracy help highlight causative factors of contemporary piracy, which are immersed in the socio-cultural matrix of maritime-oriented peoples to whom piracy is still a thinkable option.

The threats to life and property posed by piracy are relatively low, but significant given the strategic nature of these waterways that link the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and because piracy is emblematic of broader issues of weak state control in the littoral states of the region. Maritime piracy will never be completely eliminated, but with a progressive economic and political agenda aimed at changing the environment from which piracy is emerging, it could once again become the exception rather than the rule.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

CAPLUS (Centre for Asian and Pacific Law at the University of Sydney and the Law Council of Australia) will present a Conference: Law Reform and Business Efficiency – China and Indonesia, On Friday 6 July 2007 from 9.00 am – 5.30 pm. Full details of the conference and registration form can be downloaded from the Law School website at: http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/CLE/docs_pdfs/2007/CAPLUS_conference06072007.pdf

Muslim Youth as Agents of Change in Indonesia: 1st International Conference within the framework of the Indonesian Young Leaders Programme; 27-29 November 2007, Klub Bunga Hotel, Butu Malang, Indonesia. We invite you to submit paper abstracts for this conference. You are also welcome to send in panel proposals. Deadline to send in abstracts: 15 August 2007. Abstracts should be no longer than 200 words and be accompanied by a short resume/CV (max. 2 pages). For further information: M.R. van Amersfoort, youngleaders@let.leidenuniv.nl or visit: www.indonesiayoungleaders.org [<http://www.indonesiayoungleaders.org/>](http://www.indonesiayoungleaders.org/)

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS DEADLINE: FRIDAY, June 1, 2007. International Conference on Inter-Asian Connections Dubai, UAE: February 21-24, 2008. The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is pleased to announce an open call for proposals from faculty members at accredited universities and colleges in any world region, to organize and direct a 4-day thematic workshop at an international conference on "Inter-Asian Connections." Workshop directors selected by the SSRC will be expected to help recruit and select 8 international workshop participants from across relevant disciplines in the social sciences and related fields. To be held in Dubai, February 21-24, 2008, the conference will host multiple workshops showcasing innovative research from across the social sciences and related disciplines, on themes of particular relevance to Asia, reconceptualized as a dynamic and interconnected historical, geographical, and cultural formation stretching from the Middle East through Eurasia and South Asia, to East Asia. This expanded understanding should bring to the fore new and unanticipated research themes and cross-regional/trans-regional connections and formations. The conference theme of "Inter-Asian Connections" is flexible enough to encompass a wide range of projects, from explorations of inter-regional historical and material connections (for instance, trade and migration flows; Asian international relations; the diffusion and exchange of ideas and ideologies), to cross-national and comparative investigations of contemporary political, socio-cultural, and economic processes. We invite researchers to apply to organize a workshop on a theme of their choice. Each workshop may have one or two directors and will include 8 participants (graduate students, junior faculty, other researchers and scholars) chosen competitively. Workshop directors should have sufficient research experience on the region and themes of their proposals. The full text of the call for proposals, along with information on the application process and selection criteria, is available at: http://www.ssrc.org/program_areas/global/papers/.

Globalising Urban Histories: Interdisciplinary approaches to politics, material cultures and ideologies in world cities, 4th and 5th December 2007. CRASSH, Cambridge. This conference looks at the city as a site through which global networks of exchange and cultural transmission can be explored. Though the city has become a popular focus for research across academic disciplines and chronological periods, these studies often see

urban space as an iteration of a larger system (be it nation, empire, or cosmopolitan network). Looking to develop new approaches and analytical tools for the study of world history, this conference seeks to situate the city within wider frameworks of material and cultural dissemination. In so doing we are interested in interrogating conventional views of 'modern globalisation' and in developing our understanding of longer-term processes of global transmission. The conference will explore the ways in which ideology and material culture intersect and interact to shape urban spaces and urban lives. We therefore welcome papers that cover a broad chronological and geographical spectrum, within the following broad themes: Problematizing Identity: notions of identity and community within the complex plurality of urban life, with particular attention to gender, race and class; rights, Social Obligation and Citizenship: the construction and operation of ideas of selfhood, belonging and municipal citizenship; Interrogating the Discipline: new theoretical and analytical approaches to world history and urban studies. We particularly welcome participation from graduate students and early career academics. Applicants should submit a 500 word paper proposal and c.v. (in Word, RTF, or PDF format) to ern20@cam.ac.uk by Saturday 30th June 2007. We will contact accepted participants by Monday 23rd July 2007. For additional information about the conference, please contact the conference organizers or visit the conference website at <http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/2006-7/urbanhistcfp.html>

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to contribute a paper to **The University of Sydney's Indonesian Studies working paper series**, please contact Michele Ford (michele.ford@usyd.edu.au).

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESEARCH/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Sydney: The Vice-Chancellor's Research Scholarships (VCRS) are offered for the first time in 2007 to attract students with an outstanding track record of academic achievement and research potential to pursue full-time PhD study at the University of Sydney. Up to 20 VCRS will be awarded every year. Applicants must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident who will commence their full-time PhD candidature in the semester that the scholarship is awarded. A separate application for the VCRS is not required and highly ranked applicants for the [Australian Postgraduate Award or University of Sydney Postgraduate Award](#) will be automatically considered. The VCRS will be awarded by the Vice-Chancellor on recommendation by a selection committee consisting of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the Dean of Graduate Studies and a Federation Fellow nominated by the Vice-Chancellor. Academic excellence and outstanding research potential will be the selection criteria. The value of the VCRS will be \$30,000 p.a. (tax-exempt) for up to three years for full-time PhD students. A maximum extension of up to six months is possible provided the student is making satisfactory progress and the grounds for the extension relate to the study are beyond the control of the student. A relocation allowance of up to \$5,000 may be provided for students who need to relocate to Sydney to take up the scholarship. The VCRS can be held at any Faculty at the University but is not transferable to other universities. All other conditions of award including leave will be the same as those offered by the Australian Postgraduate Awards. **Applications for these awards are now open. Applications close Friday, 15 June 2007.**

The **Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP)** invites applications from young people aged between 21 and 25 years at the time of application, willing to represent Australia for two months in Indonesia during December 2007 and January 2008, as members of the AIYEP 2007-08. The program aims to provide wider opportunities for the young people of Indonesia and Australia to appreciate the culture, development and way of life of each other's country. Participants will be chosen from applicants undertaking tertiary studies or employed in any one or more of the areas: Agriculture, Arts, Music, Asian Studies, Economics, Business, Education, Engineering, Science, Environmental Management, Journalism, Media, Law, Medicine, Politics, Sports and Tourism. A good level of Indonesian language is desirable. Full details and an application form are contained in the *"Advice to Applicants"* on the All's website at <http://www.dfat.gov.au/aii>.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) has exciting overseas assignments available for Australians with skills in education and training. Assignments in education vary widely, and include multiple English Language Teaching, Teacher Training and Curriculum Development roles in China and Indonesia. AVI volunteers work in partnership with local people and organisations. Their skills and knowledge contribute to reducing poverty, building cross-cultural relationships and supporting sustainable development. For further information, contact Ian McDonald on (03) 9279 1781 or imcdonald@australianvolunteers.com. Visit www.australianvolunteers.com to view and apply for current assignments. Both short term and long term assignments are often available. Applications close **June 12, 2007**.