

## Indonesia Council Digest February 2008

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](mailto:michele.ford@usyd.edu.au). **There is now also a real-time interactive electronic version of the Digest on Facebook – the Indonesia Council Group.**

### NEWS

In mid-January *Inside Indonesia* launched a brand new edition on tourism in which editor Emma Baulch has collected a series of articles which challenge the stereotypes of tourism in Indonesia. Read all about it – and about other pressing issues like the Sidoarjo mud disaster and Suharto's death – at [www.insideindonesia.org](http://www.insideindonesia.org).

**A Reporter's Journey:** Former Indonesian correspondent and veteran commentator Mike Carlton returns to Indonesia to reconnect with old friends and explore Australia's complex relationship with its northern neighbour in this provocative and compelling three hour series. This series will also provide some remarkable footage, including the only Australian interview with one of the so called Bali Nine, Scott Rush, the convicted drug smuggler currently on death row. The series will appear on SBS (Episode 1, February 5th - 8.30pm; Episode 2, February 12th - 8.30pm; Episode 3, February 19th - 8.30pm). For more information on the series go to:

<http://www.evg.com.au/home.php?catid=1&id=62&sub=62>

For information about other **research-related opportunities overseas**, see <http://www.mobility.org.au/outgoing/>

### RECENT JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Ian Campbell, 'Mystery, Allusion and Realism: Beyond the Local in the Indonesian language poetry of Nenden Lilis Aisyah', *Orientierungen - Zeitschrift zur Kultur Asiens*, Vol. 19, No 1, 1/2007, pp. 47-83.

One of the challenges facing contemporary 'regional' poets writing in Indonesian today is how to achieve a balance between poetry that draws upon the strengths engendered by allusions to aspects of the local, often rural, environment whilst at the same time producing a poetry that has potentially universal appeal beyond the local geographical context. This article examines some of the dominant characteristics and themes taken up in her Indonesian language poetry by Nenden Lilis Aisyah, born in

Malangbong, Garut, West Java in 1971. Nenden's approach to poetry writing also represents a distinctive style of verse in the Indonesian pantheon of contemporary writing by women - the balance between 'mystery' and 'exploitation' which is at the heart of her poetry.

Keith Foulcher, 'On a Roll: Pramoedya and the Postcolonial Transition' University of Sydney Indonesian Studies Working Paper No. 4, January 2008. Available at <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/indonesian/series/papers.shtml>

The publication in 2004 of *Menggelinding I*, a collection of 58 articles, essays and short works of literature by Pramoedya Ananta Toer in the period between 1947 and 1956, illuminates an important chapter in the early history of post-colonial literature in Indonesia, as well as in Pramoedya's own literary and intellectual biography. Most historians describe Pramoedya's move into radical cultural politics as occurring after his visit to China in 1956, at about the same time LEKRA began to be more assertive in its cultural political stance. However a careful reading of these earlier sources – covering the Revolution and its immediate aftermath, Pramoedya's visit to the Netherlands in 1953 and the polemics surrounding the so-called crisis in literature of the same year – suggests that there may be more continuity in Pramoedya's development than is generally recognised, and that the lines of the LEKRA-non LEKRA polemics of the early 1960s were already being drawn in the early years of the post-independence period.

Lenore Lyons and Michele Ford, 'Love, sex and the spaces in-between: Kepri wives and their cross-border husbands', *Citizenship Studies*, Vol. 12 No.1/2008, pp.55-72.

In the Riau Islands of Indonesia significant numbers of women have entered into marriages with men from the nearby countries of Singapore and Malaysia. In many cases, neither spouse migrates after marriage: instead, husband and wife continue to reside in their country of origin. Their close geographical proximity means that the couples can see each other regularly while at the same time taking advantage of the economic opportunities presented by living on different sides of the border. These cross-border marriages challenge the normative model of the nuclear cohabiting couple/family. Our research into the motivations and desires of these cross-border couples living in the Riau borderlands reveals that space and mobility mediate their interactions with the Singaporean, Malaysian and Indonesian states, thus producing localized accounts of citizenship in which class mobility (rather than physical mobility) becomes the dominant frame through which they view state regulation of marriage and migration. This research challenges the state-centric tendencies in some of the scholarly literature on international and transnational marriage which places overwhelming emphasis on the ability of states to regulate access to citizenship rights.

## **BOOKS**

Michele Ford and Lyn Parker (eds), *Women and Work in Indonesia*, Routledge, New York and London, 2008.

This book interrogates assumptions about work and economic activity, focusing on what Indonesian women themselves see as their work, which includes not only paid

employment, home life and child care, but also activities surrounding ritual, healing and religious life. It analyses the key issues, including the contrasts between 'new' and 'old' forms of work, the relationship between experiences of migration and work, and the ways in which religion – especially Islam - shapes perceptions and practice of work. It discusses women's work in a range of different settings, both rural and urban, and in different locations, covering Sumatra, Bali, Lombok, Java, Sulawesi and Kalimantan.

**Lee Hock Guan and Leo Suryadinata (eds) Language, Nation and Development in Southeast Asia, ISEAS, 2007.**

Language policies in Southeast Asia have been shaped by the process of nation-building on the one hand and by political and economic considerations on the other. The early years of nation-building in Southeast Asia generated intensive language conflicts precisely because state policies privileged the idea of a monolingual nation and thus endeavoured to co-opt or even do away with troublesome ethnic identities. In recent years, language policies are increasingly influenced by pragmatic considerations, especially globalization and the awareness of a linkage between language and economic development, such that Southeast Asian states in varying degrees have become less insistent on promoting monolingual nationalism. This book evaluates the successes and drawbacks of language policies in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar, especially the ways in which these policies have often been resisted or contested. It is an invaluable primer on this linguistically complex region and a resource for scholars, policy-makers, civil society activists and NGOs in various parts of the world facing equally challenging ethnic/language issues.

**Ziegenhaiun, Patrick, The Indonesian Parliament and Democratization, Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2008.**

In the literature on democratic transition, the impact of parliaments on regime changes and on the democratic reorganization of the most important state institutions and regulations is usually neglected. In the Indonesian case, however, the national parliament was one of the most decisive actors and is therefore the focus of this book. The author analyses the parliament's contribution towards the process of democratization. Thus, this book contributes not only to research on the Indonesian democratization process, but also to the comparative research on parliaments in transition processes in general.

## **CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

**The 5th International Symposium of Jurnal Antropologi Indonesia** which will be held in Banjarmasin on **22-26 July 2008**. Visit the website at <http://www.fisip.ui.ac.id/antropologi> or click on the following link:

[http://www.fisip.ui.ac.id/antropologi/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=104](http://www.fisip.ui.ac.id/antropologi/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=104). If you need any further information, please contact the organizer at [antrop@centrin.net.id](mailto:antrop@centrin.net.id)

**The Institute for Development and Peace, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany, will organize four panels at the 2008 Global Conference of the International Peace Research Organization (IPRA), 15-19 July 2008, in Leuven, Belgium (<http://www.ipra2008.org/>).**

Concurrent with the Conference's theme "Building Sustainable Development: Enacting Peace and Development", the panels will focus on issues connecting the fields of peace and development. Four specific themes are presented in more detail below. Please send an abstract of 200-250 words no later than **15 February 2008** to Tome Sandevski (tome.sandevski@inef.uni-due.de). Please indicate for which panel you would like to have your abstract considered and include your institutional affiliation and full contact information (postal and email address, phone, fax) in your submission. We aim to inform you about our decision by 29 February 2008. Academics from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply. Thanks to the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, partial or full funding for travel and accommodation expenses can be provided.

**CALL FOR PAPERS for a Conference organized by the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Conference dates: 14-15 November 2008.** Papers dealing with topics of cultural mediation, interchange, and conflict are especially welcome. Possible areas of geographical concentration include Europe, the Atlantic world, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Key-note addresses will be offered by Professor Karen Ordahl Kupperman (Silver Professor of History at New York University), and by Professor Alfred J. Andrea (Professor Emeritus of History, University of Vermont). The deadline for paper proposals is **1 April 2008**. Proposals should include a title, a 250 word abstract, a brief (two-page maximum) C.V., and full contact information. Proposals should be submitted to the MEMS Organizing Committee, c/o Professor Brett Whalen, chair (bwhalen@email.unc.edu). This Conference is supported by: the College of Arts and Sciences, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and MEMS, the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program at UNC.

**Call for panel participants: Religious NGOs in Authoritarian States for an accepted panel, Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, 3-6 April 2008.** Miwa Hirono is seeking presenters for a 'religious NGOs in authoritarian states' panel in the Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Atlanta from 3 to 6 April 2008. The panel had other presenters, but unfortunately they are no longer available for the meeting. The following is the panel abstract. If you would be interested in participating in this panel, please let her know at <miwa.hirono@anu.edu.au> at your earliest convenience. Abstract: The literature on NGOs has generally failed to explore the potential for and challenges of religious NGOs acting under political constraint. This is a significant oversight given that religious belief is at the heart of the identity of many NGOs, just as it is of the many local communities in which the NGOs carry out their activity. Religious identity is a sensitive issue particularly to authoritarian states attempting to secularise the activity of religious NGOs. This panel examines how religious NGOs attempt to maintain their religious identity within an authoritarian state context, and how religious NGOs and authoritarian states negotiate with each other in relation to the activities of religious NGOs. The extent to which religious NGOs maintain their religious identity while avoiding conflicting with local and national political authorities will be given particular attention. This panel also takes a local perspective, exploring how the presence of religious NGOs affects local religious groups, irrespective of whether they share the same religious views as those NGOs or not.

**Return and Onward Migration Workshop School of Social and Political Studies, University of Edinburgh 9th-11th April 2008.** Migration studies has acquired a central position across the social sciences, with research focusing on forced displacement and voluntary migration, internal displacement, child migration, global labour flows and skilled migration. This workshop will interrogate return migration (back to source societies) and onward migration (to a third destination). Return migration is often seen as an ideal in policy discussion regarding refugees, asylum seekers and migrants alike - the return of refugees after the end of conflict, the reversal of the 'brain-drain' through the return of skilled professionals to developing countries, or the expulsion of unsuccessful asylum seekers and irregular migrants. Return migration that meets the basic criteria of not resulting in re-emigration may be considered 'sustainable' and therefore desirable from the perspective of host and home governments alike. From the perspective of returnees, however, return migration may itself imply 'failure'. Moreover, resettlement and reintegration into the home society may be rife with difficulties especially when such societies have been transformed in the interim through war, political upheaval or economic crisis. More than ten years on after the UNHCR's decade of repatriation we have not witnessed a mass return of refugees. In fact, according to the UNHCR, there remain more than 38 protracted refugee situations affecting over 6.2 million people. Many will continue live permanently in their country of asylum, but others may resettle or be resettled in a third country. Such onward migration to a third destination (about which there is no comprehensive body of literature) similarly throws up multiple opportunities and obstacles in terms of legal documentation, access to resources, socio-economic wellbeing, socio-political integration, and the maintenance and dissolution of family life. Call for Papers We welcome abstracts of up to 250 words for papers from all relevant social science disciplines and with any geographical focus on the following suggested themes: In/voluntary repatriation; Return of repatriates; Resettlement policies; Un/official dispersal; Beyond 'the myth of return'; Migrant identities. Please send abstracts (including your name, email address, and institutional affiliation) by **Friday 1st February 2008** to: [Laura.Jeffery@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Laura.Jeffery@ed.ac.uk) and [Jude.Murison@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Jude.Murison@ed.ac.uk)

**2nd Annual ACSA Conference Asian Ways: Traditions and Transitions Bangkok, Thailand, 5-6 August 2008.** The insistence of journalistic discourse to refer to Asia today as to a continent in transformation, on the rise, in motion, in progress, in transfer and transition can but make one wonder about the seemingly irresistible need to resort to the metaphor of movement to convey the world's opinion on the changes Asia has been undergoing in recent decades. Still, movement implies a journey and journeys map out the roads - those more and less taken. And while moving us forwards, the same roads may in fact lead us back into the past. To a journalist this may well seem yet another opportunity to invoke the famous 'Asian Paradox'- a useful turn of phrase coined to express practically every aspect of Asian culture that escapes Occidental logic. For has it not been already declared that Tradition stands in a way of Progress and the two are mutually incompatible? How is one then to comprehend the notion of a modern traditional society – as an oxymoron, a paradox, or perhaps as just one of the many observations that can be made about contemporary Asia? This conference seeks to explore new ways of understanding Asian traditions and transitions, inviting contributions reflecting on the changes in reading and representing Asian literatures, cultures and societies. We invite papers and presentations on Asia-related aspects in literature, language, literary criticism, film & media, theatre & performing arts, art & design, architecture, new media, cultures & societies, gender, race;

ethnicity, popular culture, martial arts, religion, philosophy, ideology, semiotics, critical theory and any other forms of cultural expression. All critical approaches are welcome. Please submit your 200-word abstracts to Katarzyna Ancuta at [kancuta@au.edu](mailto:kancuta@au.edu) or [kancuta@gmail.com](mailto:kancuta@gmail.com) by **31.03.2008**, including your University affiliation, and whether or not you will require any visual aid equipment for your presentation.

## **PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

The Indonesian Studies Working Paper Series is looking for contributors willing to submit papers for distribution in late 2008 and early 2009. The working papers, which are not formally published, and therefore can be advanced drafts of materials for publication elsewhere, can be written in any disciplinary framework. The papers already on the site have received considerable interest – for example, one of the papers was fully downloaded over 160 times in the few months between mid-September 2007 and the end of December. To date we have had contributors from KITLV, Cornell and Cambridge as well as from Australian researchers. For further information, see <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/indonesian/series/index.shtml>

*International Feminist Journal of Politics (IFJP)*, launched in 1999 and published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis, seeks applications from scholars in the fields of feminist and women's studies, interested in taking up a co-editorship role on the journal from mid-2008. *IFJP*, which publishes original scholarship engaging with topics at the intersections of politics, international relations and women's studies, is edited by a team of three. The new editor will join continuing editors Sandra Whitworth (York University, Canada, home base office of the journal) and Catherine Eschle (University of Strathclyde, UK). The editorial term will be for three years beginning July 2008. Since it was founded, *IFJP* has sought to ensure that its editorial team is located in different universities and in different parts of the world, and as such we welcome in particular applications from scholars located outside of North America and the UK. The journal is committed also to increasing submissions from scholars located in the global South, and thus applications from candidates based there are strongly encouraged. The important editorial qualities are a high level of commitment to collaborative journal work and the best standards of peer reviewed publishing, along with significant achievements in feminist scholarship. Interested applicants should forward their CVs and a statement outlining what they would bring to the editing role, particularly in terms of the journal's international remit, and signal any institutional support, including time allowance for journal work. Please forward applications to the homebase editorial offices via email: [ifjp@yorku.ca](mailto:ifjp@yorku.ca). Potential applicants are welcome to contact the current editorial team for information about *IFJP* or this position by e-mail in the first instance: Sandra Whitworth ([sandraw@yorku.ca](mailto:sandraw@yorku.ca)); Catherine Eschle ([catherine.eschle@strath.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.eschle@strath.ac.uk)); Rekha Pande ([panderekha@yahoo.com](mailto:panderekha@yahoo.com)). Further information about the journal can also be found on our website, at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14616742.asp>. Applications may be sent at any time and the final deadline is **1 May, 2008**.

## SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESEARCH/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The **Australia-Netherlands Research Collaboration** commenced operations in the second half of 2007. ANRC supports stronger Australia-Netherlands academic relations and aims to bring together researchers from both countries to focus on Southeast Asia. Applications are invited from Dutch and Australian scholars specialising in the study of Southeast Asia to convene an academic workshop in the period 2008 – 2012. The workshop must feature collaboration between Australian and Dutch scholars, and must actively involve scholars / experts from Southeast Asia. Workshops may take place in The Netherlands, Australia or Southeast Asia. Each collaboration must be led by an Australian and a Dutch academic leader, and when applicable, by a Southeast Asian academic leader. Administrative guidance with respect to the workshops will be provided by the ANRC project managers in each country. For Workshop funding guidelines and selection criteria, go to [www.aust-neth.net](http://www.aust-neth.net) or contact [Helen.McMartin@anu.edu.au](mailto:Helen.McMartin@anu.edu.au), tel 02 6125 0693. Closing date is Friday, **14 March 2008**.

The **Centre for Asia-Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS)** at the University of Wollongong, Australia, is calling for applications from interested scholars for its **2008 Senior Visiting Fellowship scheme and Postdoctoral Writing Fellowship scheme**. Applications are competitively assessed. Details can be found at: <http://www.capstrans.edu.au/working/fellowship-schemes.html>. Application deadline is **4 Feb 2008**. For your information, details of previous visiting fellows can be found at: <http://www.capstrans.edu.au/people/vis-fellow/index.html>

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Twelve-month Level A Postdoctoral Fellowship (2008-09) in the Monash University Centre of Southeast Asian Studies**. Closing date for applications **29/2/2008**. The Centre of Southeast Asian Studies seeks a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to conduct research on Southeast Asia from a humanities or social science perspective, prepare their research for publication and apply for an ARC APD to continue their career at Monash University. This is a fixed-term, 12-month contract. Relevant PhD and languages are essential, while Southeast Asian field experience, a record of publication and grant success are desirable. For full selection criteria, follow the links beneath the heading 'More Information' at the base of the advertisement to "Download Position Information" and "How to Apply for Monash jobs". See <http://sssd.adm.monash.edu.au/employ/job.asp?refnumber=A088576&work=&staff=Academic&faculty=&keyword=&whichpage=2&pagesize=5>