

## Indonesia Council Digest May 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

**The Aceh Research Training Institute invites expressions of interest from scholars willing to supervise Level 3 course participants (fellows) from May to November 2008.** Research topics include Law, Religion and Gender. Full details of responsibilities and duties of supervisors together with information regarding remuneration and mentors' visits to Aceh can be obtained from the ARTI website homepage: <http://www.arti.unimelb.edu.au/> or email Linda Poskitt: [lposkitt@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:lposkitt@unimelb.edu.au).

**Fifty years of Indonesian Studies at the University of Sydney.** In 1958 the first classes on Indonesian language and culture were taught by Dr Frits van Naerssen, who had arrived from the Netherlands at the end of the previous year to take up his duties as Senior Lecturer in Indonesian and Malayan Studies. Van Naerssen went on to become the first Professor, and led the Department in its hey-day of the 1960s, when a new generation of Australians was discovering Asia, and the focus of world politics was on the region. Graduates of the Department have gone on to become distinguished academics not only in Australia, but also at institutions such as Princeton and Leiden Universities, and to become leading Australian writers, diplomats, school teachers, aid workers, journalists and internationally-successful business figures. Through collaborative programs such as that with Satya Wacana University in Java, the University has reached out to the wider community, and the Department has always emphasised strong collaboration between Indonesian and Australian academics, producing Indonesian PhD graduates in areas as diverse as architecture, politics and literary studies. To celebrate this unique anniversary we will be holding an Alumni Reunion on **15 August 2008**. Those interested in attending should contact Adrian Vickers at [adrian.vickers@usyd.edu.au](mailto:adrian.vickers@usyd.edu.au).

**The National University of Singapore's Indonesia Study Group (ISG) would welcome proposals for seminars on current research from scholars of Indonesia passing through Singapore.** The National University of Singapore's Indonesia Study Group (ISG) comprises academics from NUS, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), as well as other people in the community with an interest in what is happening in Indonesia. The ISG welcomes postgraduate students

and established scholars of Indonesia who are visiting Singapore to present a seminar at NUS. The ISG coordinators, Michelle Miller ([arimiche@nus.edu.sg](mailto:arimiche@nus.edu.sg)) and Jamie Davidson ([poldjs@nus.edu.sg](mailto:poldjs@nus.edu.sg)), are happy to organize and advertise seminars for visiting scholars to Singapore. For more information on the ISG and our seminar series, please visit the website: [http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/article\\_view.asp?id=336](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/article_view.asp?id=336)

Allan Goedecke writes: The **Asia Education Foundation (AEF) e-News** is available on the AEF website. [http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/public\\_html/enews.htm](http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/public_html/enews.htm)

## **RECENT JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

David T. Hill, 'Indonesia: Electoral Politics and the Internet' (pp.75-92) in S. Ward, D.Owen, R. Davis & D.Taras (eds) *Making a difference: A comparative view of the role of the Internet in election politics*, Lexington Press, Lanham MD, 2008.

This chapter surveys internet practices in Indonesia's elections after Suharto, discussing its use by political parties, the state, the media, and the public. The chapter suggests that it is not necessarily the socio-economic and geographic spread of internet within a society which determines the efficacy of internet's democratic impact. It can play a major moderating role, enhancing transparency, and therefore credibility in the eyes of the constituency.

Nicholas Long, 'States of uncertainty: resolving the illegal occupation of land in Kepulauan Riau' University of Sydney Indonesian Studies Working Paper No. 5, April 2008. Available at <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/indonesian/series/papers.shtml>

The dispossession of local or indigenous populations by migrants is often attributed to social or cultural problems on the part of the locals, or 'competitive advantages' on the part of the migrants. This paper challenges that view through an ethnographic exposition of a land rights hearing in the Riau Archipelago. The case explores how parallel claims to ownership and residence are established through such diverse means as title deeds, forest clearance, kinship, and civil-administrative registration, and asks what happens when these parallel templates clash. The paper thus offers a fresh approach to thinking about dispossession, land rights and local bureaucracies.

## **BOOKS**

Blackburn, Susan et al (eds) *Indonesian Islam In a New Era: How women negotiate their Muslim identities*. Clayton, Monash Asia Institute, 2008.

This book examines the religious practices and identities of Indonesian Muslim women in the post-Suharto era. After 1998 Indonesian Islam changed socially and nationally as society underwent sweeping alterations. Based on new empirical research by sociologists, political scientists, and anthropologists from Indonesia and Australia, the book underscores the negotiations Muslim women have made in arenas such as schools, organisations, popular culture and village life.

Lane, Max, *Unfinished Nation: Indonesia before and after Suharto*, New York, Verso, 2008.

This book traces the evolution of Indonesia from its anti-colonial stirrings in the early twentieth century to the lengthy, and eventually victorious, struggle against the dictatorship of President Suharto. In clarifying the often-misunderstood political changes that took place in Indonesia at the end of the twentieth century, the author describes how small resistance groups inside the country directed massive political transformation. It shows how the real heroes were the Indonesian workers and peasants, whose sustained mass direct action was the determining force in toppling one of the most enduring dictatorships of modern times. Taking in the role of political Islam, and with considerations of the future of this fragmented archipelago nation, this book is an illuminating account of modern Indonesian history.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

**"Ownership and Appropriation", the University of Auckland, Dec 8th-12th, 2008.** The deadline - **May 1st** - is fast approaching for paper abstracts to be submitted for an international joint conference of the ASA (Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth), the ASAANZ (Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand), and the AAS (Australian Anthropological Society). There are over 40 panels to choose from. Further details are available at <http://www.theasa.org/asa08>

**AAS 2009 Session on Traditional Political Authority in Asia, Illinois, United States.** Seeking paper presenters and discussants for a session on traditional forms of political authority throughout Asia (Southeast/ South/ East/ North). Topical focus is currently open, but I am most interested in exploring how indigenous political organization has transformed over time, and/or the interaction between traditional authority structures and state authority. The 2009 AAS Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago. The official CFP has not yet been issued, but the deadline for panel submissions is in mid-August, and the proposal for this panel will need to be hashed out and completed well before then. I am an anthropologist and ethnohistorian, and would like to hear from any potential participants, regardless of field or specialty. Please contact me (Oona Paredes) via email only at [oonaparedes@gmail.com](mailto:oonaparedes@gmail.com), and include "AAS 2009" in the subject line of your email.

**The 3rd International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming in Education will be held from December 2 - 5, 2008 at the University Satya Wacana, Salatiga / Indonesia.** It will focus on the global impact of women migrant workers from South East Asia. If you wish to give a paper, please send, no later than **May 18, 2008**, your abstract to the Conference e-mail address [pug\\_uksw@yahoo.com](mailto:pug_uksw@yahoo.com). For further details we would like to refer to the Conference website: [www.uksw.edu/ppsg](http://www.uksw.edu/ppsg). The conference participation is free of charge. Participants are encouraged to find sponsors for the costs of travel and accommodation.

**The Future of Asian Feminisms: Confronting Fundamentalisms, Conflict and Neoliberalism. Second Conference Kartini Network, Bali Indonesia, 2-5 November 2008.** Following the successful First Kartini Conference in Dalian, China, in 2004 this second Kartini conference will discuss the future of Asian feminisms assessing past experiences and charting new paths. One of the major foci will be successes or failures of legal campaigns in specific contexts. Participants will be invited to present papers or poster presentation to the following five panels: 1. Women's and Gender Studies in Asia:

Historical Perspective and Future Challenges 2. Fundamentalisms and Feminisms 3. Conflicts And Violence 4. Sexuality 5. Poverty, Vulnerability and Livelihoods. The application should contain a title, a short proposal of no more than 200 words and a short cv of the applicant(s) of no more than 200 words. Subscription rate: US \$ 175; Reduced rate (students, Asian activists and scholars based in Asia) US \$125. Applications can be directed at [kartiniasia@gmail.com](mailto:kartiniasia@gmail.com). Deadline for submission is **1 July 2008**. More information is available on the website, [www.kartini-asia.org](http://www.kartini-asia.org)

## **PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

**The University of Sydney's Indonesian Studies Working Paper Series** is calling for submissions for publication later this year or early 2009. The series is an international online forum for the circulation of polished academic papers from a broad range of disciplines on Indonesia-related topics. To date, contributions have come from KITLV, Cambridge, ANU and Cornell as well as the University of Sydney. As copyright remains fully with the author, papers can be republished elsewhere. If you wish to submit a paper for consideration, send it by email to Michele Ford ([michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au)).

## **SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESEARCH/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Women in Asia: Emerging Research Talent Showcase.** Nominations are sought from outstanding early career researchers to attend the Ninth International Women in Asia (WIA) Conference as keynote speakers. The conference will be held in Brisbane from 29 Sept – 1 Oct 2008. We are seeking scholars who are emerging leaders in their fields, undertaking innovative exciting research on cultural issues. The successful applicants will present their research in one of the conference plenary sessions, receive a substantial contribution towards their travel and accommodation costs, and be given keynote billing for the conference. Applicants should submit a CV and a statement of no more than two pages in length including a 250 word abstract of their proposed presentation, and explaining their reasons for wishing to participate, how they will benefit from participation, why they should be selected, and the names and email addresses of two referees who would be willing to provide a reference by email. Applicants must have received their Ph D by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, and no earlier than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. Applications should be emailed to : [wia@uq.edu.au](mailto:wia@uq.edu.au). The closing date for nominations is **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, 2008. Enquiries can be emailed to [wia@uq.edu.au](mailto:wia@uq.edu.au) . Telephone enquiries can be made to Associate Professor Helen Creese (07) 33656413; Dr Tomoko Aoyama (07) 33656350 or Dr Rosie Roberts (07) 33656399 Further information about the conference can be obtained at the conference website accessible through the LCCS School homepage at <http://www.uq.edu.au/slccs> The Emerging Researchers Showcase is supported by funding from the ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network.

**Mangold Trust 2008 GRANTS FOR TRAVEL IN 2009.** The 2009 grant round will open on 1 September 2008 and close on 17 October 2008. It is anticipated successful applicants will travel overseas for study in 2009. For the 2008 round, the Fund will give priority to those students who will be studying Indonesian, Chinese, Japanese or Spanish languages. Detailed guidelines and application form will be posted on the website in late July 2008. In the meantime, set out below are the basic eligibility criteria which will apply to this round of grants. The amounts available in this grant round range from about

\$5,000.00 to a maximum of \$20,000.00 for any specific grant. Applicants must: be enrolled in an award course in a tertiary institution in Victoria, and have attained second year level language competence; be engaged in full-time study; submit a program of study; be supported by references as to capacity and character; undertake a course of study abroad at a tertiary level or other level acceptable to the Trust; demonstrate that part of the costs of their program of study will be defrayed by the applicant, or from third party sources. Preference may be given to applicants whose financial circumstances would not otherwise permit them to participate in study abroad. For more information, see <http://www.mangoldtrust.org.au/>

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Associate Professor/Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian and International Studies at the City University of Hong Kong.** The post is tenable from September 2008 or January/August 2009. Candidates with applied research achievements will receive very positive consideration. Relevant experience in business and industry will be a definite asset. Duties : Teach and conduct research in any combination of the following areas : International Studies/International Security/Human Security/Development Studies/Area Studies (East and/or Southeast Asia) and Environmental Policy Studies. The appointee will teach courses for undergraduate programmes in International Studies and East & Southeast Asian Studies and for a Master programme in Development Studies, and work with an interdisciplinary team of scholars and teachers. He/She may supervise MPhil and PhD students. For enquiries, please contact Dr. Graeme Lang, Head of Department by email: [graeme.lang@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:graeme.lang@cityu.edu.hk), or Dr. Catherine Chiu, Associate Head of Department by email: [catherine.chiu@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:catherine.chiu@cityu.edu.hk). Additional information is obtainable (a) from the University's home page at <http://www.cityu.edu.hk>

**Research leaders for the Cairns Institute - Professor (Level E, 2 positions).** The School of Arts and Social Sciences is establishing an Institute for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities (provisionally the "Cairns Institute"). It will focus on issues and themes having direct relevance to human populations in tropical regions within a global context, particularly within the Asia/Pacific rim, most specifically Northern Australia, the Pacific and Asia. The Institute will be located at the Cairns Campus of James Cook University. It will be a vital locus for national and international scholars, providing excellent research facilities and context for the development of collective and individual projects in the social sciences and humanities as they inform life in the tropics. The University is seeking to appoint two established research professors of energy and vision who will take guiding roles in shaping the future directions of the Institute. Applications are invited from suitable qualified academics from any discipline in the social sciences and humanities, who are committed to building a major research institute and initiating and fostering significant interdisciplinary projects. The appointees will have responsibility for leading research programs of particular relevance to the tropics within a global context. These may include, but are not limited to: environmental history and the social implications of climate and ecological changes; urbanization and migration; inter-ethnic relations; issues affecting indigenous and minority populations; state sovereignty and supra-national political and economic realignments; social policy and socio-economic sustainability; crime; social justice, inequality and poverty; human services; health, productive ageing and quality of life; cultural heritage; and the arts.