

Indonesia Council Digest August 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. **There is now also a real-time interactive electronic version of the Digest on Facebook – the Indonesia Council Group.**

NEWS

Thushara Dibley writes: Planning has started for the next **Indonesia Council Open Conference**, to be held at the University of Sydney on 15-17 July 2009, straight after the ASILE conference. Please start spreading the word. A flyer is attached, and further information is available at <http://indonesiacouncil.anu.edu.au/icoc2009.php>. We've also established a Facebook group for the called 'Indonesia Council Open Conference' so that attendees can network before the conference, work out where others are staying, find potential fellow panellists etc etc.

Trish van der Hoek writes: RSPAS will again support student travel/accommodation to attend the **2008 Indonesia Update Conference** to be held in Canberra September 19–20 on the topic of 'Indonesia Beyond The Water's Edge: Managing an Archipelagic State', in addition to an Update on recent economics and politics. The offer consists of a small payment of \$250 to each applicant. The money will be paid to the applicants in the form of a cheque on their arrival in Canberra. Awards will be made on a competitive basis. Interested students should send a paragraph of not more than 150 words about what they would hope to get out of the conference to Trish van der Hoek (Trish.vanderhoek@anu.edu.au) no later than **Friday August 22**. They can access the conference webpage <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/ip/IU08/> for general information about the topic and <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/ip/IU08/program.php> for the Update program.

RECENT JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Michael Buehler. 2008. The Rise of Sharia By-Laws in Indonesian districts: An Indication for changing patterns of power accumulation and political corruption. *South East Asia Research*, Vol. 16, No. 2, 165-195.

In recent years, a growing number of district governments in Indonesia have adopted sharia by-laws. The article shows that this development has to be situated in the context

of institutional change. Sharia by-laws allow regents to open up new revenue streams. These revenues are then used to consolidate political power.

Ian Campbell, 'Mysticism, aestheticism and activism: Towards the universal in the Indonesian language poetry of Acep Zamzam Noor', in *Orientierungen - Zeitschrift zur Kultur Asiens*, Bonn, Vol. 20, No. 1, 1/2008, pp. 109-147.

In *Secrets Need Words*, the landmark 2001 survey by Harry Aveling of Indonesian language poetry written between 1966 and 1998, Aveling employed the term 'new Sufism' to describe the emergence onto the Indonesian literary scene of a number of pesantren-linked poets, such as Emha Ainun Nadjib, Ahmadun Yosi Herfanda and Acep Zamzam Noor. This article examines some of the Indonesian language poetry of Acep Zamzam Noor, born in Tasikmalaya, West Java, in 1960. It explores some of the poems described by Aveling under the 'new Sufist' rubric, but suggests that there are a number of additional characteristics in Acep's verse.

BOOKS

Andaya, Leonard. *Leaves of the Same Tree: Trade and Ethnicity in the Straits of Melaka*. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 2008.

Despite the existence of about a thousand ethnolinguistic groups in Southeast Asia, very few historians of the region have engaged in the complex issue of ethnicity. Following a synthesis of some of the major issues in the complex world of ethnic theory, the author identifies two general principles of particular value for this study: the ideas that ethnic identity is an ongoing process and that the boundaries of a group undergo continual change - if at times imperceptible - changed based on perceived advantage.

Courtens, Ien. *Restoring the Balance: Performing healing in West Papua*. Leiden, KITLV Press, 2008.

Who made Mama Raja ill? This question, buzzing around the village, starts off this anthropological study on healing performances in the context of religious change. The study offers an ethnographically rich journey through the variety of healing methods in current Ayfat society (located in the interior of the Bird's Head in West Papua): indigenous (obtained during female and male initiation rites), biomedical (the missionary hospital), and Christian (created by ritual healers since the coming of the missionaries).

Hatley, Barbara. *Javanese Performances on an Indonesian stage. Celebrating culture, embracing change*. Leiden, KITLV Press, 2008.

The dismantling of repressive state control in Indonesia after the fall of Suharto in 1998 diminished interest in political critiques from the stage, and growing economic weakness caused patronage and sponsorship to dry up. By 2003-04 however, a revival was underway as performers engaged in the politics of regional autonomy and democratization, and actors responded to the devastating Yogyakarta earthquake of 2006 by staging shows in the worst-affected areas to help sustain community spirit and pride in local culture. The author's account of more than thirty years of theatre activities and social

change shows how performers and audiences have adapted, resisted, incorporated and survived.

Tomsa, Dirk. Party Politics and Democratization in Indonesia: Golkar in the post-Suharto era. Abingdon, Routledge, 2008.

This book represents a comprehensive study of Indonesian party politics in the post-Suharto era. It deals with Golkar since its transformation into a competitive party in 1998/99 - it examines the party's organizational infrastructure, its decisional autonomy and programmatic platform as well as the party's relations to the mass media.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

ICAS 6 Think Asia! Daejeon, Korea 6-9 August 2009. The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) is one of the largest biennial gatherings for Asia scholars to meet and discuss new developments in the fields of the Human and Natural Sciences. Since 1998, ICAS has brought more than 5,000 academics from 60 countries together at five conventions. ICAS 6 will be hosted by the Chungnam National University (CNU), the Center for Asian Regional Studies (CARS) and Daejeon Metropolitan City and will be held in the Daejeon Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The overarching theme is: Think Asia! More than 1,500 Asia Studies specialists are expected to come to Daejeon. This city is located in the heart of the Korean peninsula and successfully merges its long history of culture and tradition with leading research in science and technology. 15 October 2008: Deadline for submission of individual abstracts and panels organized by a group of different (national) backgrounds. 15 November 2008: Deadline for submission of institutional panels: constituted and sponsored by an institution, association or a network. Please note that all abstracts and presentations should be in English. Submission of abstracts for panels and papers can be made through ICAS 6 registration forms available at <http://www.icassecretariat.org> On the website you can also access a forum to get into contact with colleagues to discuss the possibilities to form a panel. Information.

Islamic Resurgence in the Age of Globalization: Myth, Memory, Emotion, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, September 4-6, 2009. The resurgence of Islamic sentiment starting in the later part of the twentieth century assumed various forms, from moderate da'wa organizations to radical jihad vanguards. This multitude of Islamic and Islamist discourses and modes of collective action are now being integrated, together with the societies in which they are embedded, into the wider process of globalization. The dramatic increase in economic, social, cultural, and political connections across the globe, and the growing awareness that we all live in one world, have deeply affected many Islamists' perceptions of Self and Other, their assessment of the nature of the challenges Islam faces, and their modes of resistance to the hegemonic West and to local Westernized elites. We invite interdisciplinary paper proposals dealing with the Islamic resurgence in the late 20th and early 21st centuries from the perspective of three key concepts: myth, memory and emotion. Myth is used here especially in Roland Barthes' sense as a form of meta-language in which given symbolical signs are appropriated and stripped of their original contexts, history, and significances only to be infused with new and "mystifying" conceptual content. Examples of myths could be the new significances ascribed to Saladin and the Crusades, Jerusalem and Karbala, the hijâb

and the siwâq. This connects to memory (remembering and forgetting), either collective (such as different - liberal, radical, Sufi - "remembrance" of the legacy of al-salaf, of the Ottoman Empire, of the "orthodox" Sultan Awrangzeb, etc.) or private (inspired by childhood experiences, persecution of relatives, etc). Finally, emotion refers to the social and psychological mechanisms which motivate people to adopt religious attitudes, join Islamic organizations and movements of various types and shades, and sometimes even be prepared to sacrifice their lives on the path of God. Traveling expenses and accommodation for paper presenters will be covered by the organizers, as will be an excursion to the fjords and a concluding dinner. Abstract proposals (maximum 400 words, with a brief CV, maximum two sentences) should be sent by January 31, 2009 to: Ulrika Mårtensson (ulrika.martensson@hf.ntnu.no) Itzchak Weismann (weismann@research.haifa.ac.il) Mark Sedgwick (mjs@teo.au.dk). Acceptances and rejections will be notified by April 2, 2009.

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Gender and Modernity in Youth Cultures. This volume explores how children and adolescents construct gendered identities in dialogue with global ideologies conveyed through mass media, Pentecostal churches and other religious movements, schools, migration, and other global "scapes." In a now classic work, Appadurai (1996) argued that global modernity involves a rupture from past certainties and increased scope for "imagining" new kinds of identity. "Modernity" itself is a rhetorical construction promoted by neo-liberal economic policies and a number of dissimilar forces including global popular culture, Pentecostalism and other religious movements, and national governments. "Modern" societies are imagined as involving individual autonomy, universalism, and identity defined through consumption of "modern" goods and behaviors. Numerous works, however, have established that visions of modernity are fluid, multivalent, and context-bound as local actors draw on inherently ambiguous ideologies to adjust to particular local environments. Visions of modernity are particularly informed by the interplay between gender, age and class as individuals imagine new ways of positioning themselves in local communities, and this volume will reflect the complex process by which this occurs cross-culturally. The papers in this volume will examine children and adolescents as active agents who use these various messages, within particular local conditions, to make sense of their own lives. We would like to receive abstracts and enquiries regarding possible submissions no later than **October 1, 2008**. Please send all communications regarding the edited volume to susandewey@depauw.edu.

ABC-CLIO is seeking scholars of Asian history and culture to contribute 750-1,500 word articles to its forthcoming 21-volume World History Encyclopedia. The project, which will consist of approximately 8,000 entries written by hundreds of scholars, is led by world historian, Alfred Andrea, President-Elect of the World History Association and Professor Emeritus at The University of Vermont. Please visit the URL listed below to view the list of open topics. Topics for Asia are listed in chronological order, grouped via eight themes. In order to meet review standards, we do require that contributors hold a Ph.D., ABD, or have recognized expertise in the field. World History Open Topics: <http://www.abc-clio.com/academic/aboutus/callToAuthors.aspx> If you are interested in writing any of the entries listed, please send a query letter and a c.v. to: Fred Nadis, Project Editor,

FNadis@abc-clio.com and/or Jeanie Azizian, Project Coordinator, JAzizian@abc-clio.com. There are a number of open topics, including nationalist movements in Indonesia.

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESEARCH/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The American Council of Learned Societies is pleased to announce a fourth year of the program of grants to individuals in the archaeology and early history of East and Southeast Asia. This program is undertaken in cooperation with the Henry Luce Foundation. For further information, see attached flyer. The full description of the program and the application forms are available at <http://www.acls.org/programs/esaaeh>. We are especially concerned that this information is received by scholars in East and Southeast Asia. Please contact your colleagues in East and Southeast Asia, those who might wish to apply, or those who might know potential candidates.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

University of Hong Kong - Research Assistant Professor in Modern Southeast Asian History. Applications are invited for appointment as Research Assistant Professor in Modern Southeast Asian History in the School of Humanities (History), on or before February 28, 2009, on a three-year fixed-term basis, with the possibility of renewal. Research Assistant Professor (RAP) posts are created specifically to bring new impetus and vigour to the University's research enterprise. Positions are available from time to time to meet the strategic research needs identified by the University. Applicants should have a PhD degree and be an active researcher in their fields. Although the primary focus of an RAP's duty is research, he/she may be assigned some teaching duties, generally up to 50% of the normal teaching load. Information about the School can be obtained at <http://humanities.hku.hk/>. Further particulars and application forms can be obtained at <https://www.hku.hk/apptunit/>. Applicants should ask referees to send three confidential references directly to the Appointments Unit (quoting Ref.: RF-2007/2008-866). Closes **September 1, 2008**. Candidates who are not contacted within 3 months of the closing date may consider their applications unsuccessful. Enquiries about the post should be sent to Dr. John Carroll (icarroll@hkucc.hku.hk).

The History Department at the University of Miami plans to appoint a tenure-track assistant professor in East Asia, Southeast Asia or South Asia. Minimum qualifications include a PhD and evidence of potential for excellent scholarship and teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The process of reviewing applications will begin on **November 1, 2008** and continue until the position is filled. Please send a letter of application, CV, and three letters of recommendation to Chair, Search Committee, Department of History, University of Miami, P.O. Box 248107, Coral Gables, FL. 33124-4662. Website: <http://www.miami.edu/careers>.

National University of Singapore - Associate Professor, International Relations. We invite applications for a position in international relations in the Department of Political Science at the level of associate professor. The position is open to applicants in all specializations and methodological approaches who can help build the Department as a centre for outstanding scholarship in international relations. Applicants should send, by post or email attachment, a full curriculum vitae, statements of research and teaching interests, copies

of five published articles or chapters representing their best work, and the names and contact details of at least six referees whom we may contact at a later stage. Preliminary enquiries and nominations are welcome. To insure full consideration applications should arrive by **October 15, 2008**. The position will remain open, however, until filled. We strongly uphold the principle of non-discrimination and encourage every qualified person to apply. For further details, contact: Prof Terry Nardin (polhead@nus.edu.sg).

University of Chicago, Political Science - Comparative Politics, General. The Department of Political Science invites applications for TENURED or TENURE-TRACK positions in Comparative Politics, to begin in the academic year 2009-10. The positions are open with respect to specialty and approach. Applications should include a c.v., letters of recommendation (for tenure track candidates only), publications and other writing samples in the applicant's central area of research, a brief description of future research plans, and evidence of teaching performance such as course evaluations (if available). Application deadline is **September 15, 2008**, although we will consider applications received after that date. No applications will be considered if received after December 1, 2008. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Address to: Comparative Politics Search Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, 5828 S. University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637. An AA/EO Employer.

University of Chicago, Political Science - Comparative Politics: New Initiative. The University of Chicago's Political Science Department announces a new initiative on "States, Disorder, and Identity." Our objective is to appoint creative, theoretically motivated scholars who address issues of abiding concern to political life. Thematic areas include the following: the institutional and discursive dimensions of state-building; the impact of colonial rule on postcolonial states; the state as an instrument of governance and disorder; riots, revolutions, and/or crime; race, class, gender, ethnicity, nationalism, and piety as sources of political belonging; and the politics of immigration. Positions are open with respect to rank and methodology. We also welcome applications from disciplines other than political science. Applications should include a c.v., letters of recommendation, publications and other writing samples in the applicant's central area of research, a brief description of future research plans, and evidence of teaching performance such as course evaluations (if available). Application deadline is **September 15, 2008**, although we will consider applications received after that date. No applications will be considered if received after December 1, 2008. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Address to: Comparative Politics Search Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, 5828 S. University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637. Please apply to either the general comparative politics search or to the new initiative; there's no need to apply for both. An AA/EO Employer.

The Ohio State University is seeking to appoint an Assistant Professor in Women's/Gender history. The position is open to any topical, chronological, or geographic specialty. Our program features several strong areas of specialization, and we envision an appointment that could develop new fields or strengthen existing ones. For more information about our Women's/Gender history program, please visit: http://history.osu.edu/courses/curriculum/field_women.cfm. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in hand at the time of the appointment (Autumn 2009). The department will begin reviewing applications on **November 1, 2008** and continue until the position is filled.

Please send a letter of application, a C.V., and three letters of reference to Chair, Women's/Gender History Search Committee, Department of History, The Ohio State University, 230 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210. The Ohio State University is an AA/EOE employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Contact Info: Chair, Women's Gender History Search Committee The Ohio State University Department of History 230 W. 17th Avenue Columbus, OH 43210 Website: <http://history@osu.edu>

POTENTIAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Rebecca Lunnon, a BA (Bahasa Indonesia, Anthropology) student experienced in Indonesian studies is looking for the opportunity any time during the next 6-7 months to be a strictly on-line research assistant (being in Indonesia with no access to a wide range of books). In-depth knowledge of Islam in Indonesia (political and social organisations) and terrorism and JI, but also parts of Indonesian history (Balinese puputan, tourism, Sukarno and independence etc.). Email Rebecca at beccataufig@gmail.com.