

# Indonesia Council Digest May 2009

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, recently published articles 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).

## NEWS

Around 100 abstracts have now been received for the **Indonesia Council Open Conference**, which will be held at the University of Sydney from 15-17 July this year. The organizing committee will be finalizing the program on 5 May, so any last minute abstracts should be sent to [ICOC2009@gmail.com](mailto:ICOC2009@gmail.com) by Sunday 3 May at the latest. A postgraduate workshop will be held on the afternoon of 15 July, followed by the showing of the film: "40 Years of Silence: An Indonesian Tragedy", which is open to all conference delegates. 16-17 July will be jam-packed with panels, with a conference dinner generously hosted by the Indonesian Consul-General on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup>. The organizers would like to thank all those who are planning to attend for your support. Students based outside Sydney who plan to attend should check the information in the scholarships section of this Digest.

The recently-announced **Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards** will provide scholarships for the 'best and brightest' university students from Australia. The Government is committing \$14.9 million over four years to establish this scholarship program. Forty scholarships will be awarded annually to Australian university students, twenty at undergraduate level and twenty at postgraduate level. Ten scholarships will also be awarded to the top international Endeavour Awards scholars from Asia each year. The first round of successful scholarship recipients will commence in the 2010 calendar year. Recipients of the **Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Postgraduate Awards (Australian applicants)** will be funded to study for up to one year of their Award (PhD or Masters) in Asia. 20 scholarships, valued at up to \$68,500 each, will be awarded annually. Recipients of the **Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Undergraduate Awards (Australian applicants)** will be funded for up to one year study at a university in Asia. A work experience or internship opportunity of up to one year offshore will also be provided. The undergraduate scholarships are valued at up to \$43,000 each. Eligible higher education providers in Australia will be able to nominate up to five candidates for each of the postgraduate and undergraduate Awards. Information regarding the application process for the 2010 round will be available in May, with nominations sought by the end of September 2009 for a 2010 calendar year commencement.

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Rosslyn von der Borch, "Eating Together: Navigating Commensality in Expatriate Households Employing Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore" in *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*, Issue 19, February 2009.

Employers and migrant domestic workers in Singapore live together, but do they eat together? Allowing or inviting a domestic worker to eat at table does not automatically signify inclusion and equality, any more than not eating together necessarily signifies exclusion and subordination. It is the author's view, however, that on a continuum from inclusion to exclusion, openness to eating together would lie at the former end, and the denial or rejection of that possibility at the other. This paper examines the reflections of employers and migrant domestic workers on the complexities inherent in navigating this issue and attempts a nuanced analysis of the manner in which these women negotiate race, class, culture, and personality differences in the intimate setting of the private home.

## **BOOKS**

Emmerson, Donald. *Hard Choices: Security, democracy and regionalism in Southeast Asia*. Stanford, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, 2009.

Security has long trumpeted democracy as a priority for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). But the brutal dictatorship in Burma/Myanmar, political pluralism in Indonesia, and the global growth of democratic norms have led some Southeast Asians to question ASEAN's habit of turning a blind eye to domestic abuses by member states. The concept of regional security, meanwhile, is being reoriented from military threats toward new dangers to health and the environment and from state.

Millie, Julian, *Splashed By the Saint: Ritual Reading and Islamic Sanctity in West Java* Leiden, KITLV Press, 2009.

Sanctity is a concept recognized by Muslims throughout the Islamic world, and often motivates observances with highly localized characteristics. The author spent a year attending a supplication ritual in which Muslims of West Java directed their prayers to Allah through 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jaelani (d.1166). The supplication takes the form of reading or singing the narrative proofs of 'Abd al-Qadir's saintliness in a ritual context. The ritual has deep roots in the Sundanese culture of West Java. The book captures the variety of understandings that participants bring to the ritual when it is held in various contexts, including Java's largest Sufi order, religious schools and private homes.

## **CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

The sixth EuroSEAS Conference will be held on 26-28 August 2010 in Gothenburg, Sweden. All scholars with an interest in Southeast Asia are cordially invited to propose panels for the conference. In line with previous EuroSEAS conferences, the meeting in Gothenburg will cover a wide range of topics in all fields of social sciences and

humanities. Dead line for panel proposals 1 June 2009. Please send your proposals to [jorgen.hellman@globalstudies.gu.se](mailto:jorgen.hellman@globalstudies.gu.se). For practical information, please have look at our website [www.globalstudies.gu.se](http://www.globalstudies.gu.se)

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

Honours, Masters and Doctoral students presenting a paper at the ICOC 2009 this July are welcome to apply for a scholarship to help cover travel costs. There are two scholarships available valued at \$500 each. To apply, please send an original 2000-3000 word paper based on your conference topic to [icoc2009@gmail.com](mailto:icoc2009@gmail.com) by Wednesday 3 June, 2009. The best two papers (as judged by the organizing committee) will be awarded the scholarship. Applicants who are not successful may be invited to submit an article based on the topic of their paper to Inside Indonesia (<http://www.insideindonesia.org/>). Eligibility criteria: you must currently enrolled in an Honours, Masters or PhD program and presenting a paper at the ICOC 2009. Only those students currently residing in Australia, but living outside of Sydney are eligible (Australian citizenship is not a requirement).

Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships are open to pre-service students taking a number of languages including Indonesian. If you have students taking your classes who may be eligible, they can find more information at [http://www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au/language\\_teachers\\_fellowships/default.htm#Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships](http://www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au/language_teachers_fellowships/default.htm#Endeavour_Language_Teacher_Fellowships).