

Indonesia Council Digest June 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.

NEWS

Professor David Hill, Chair of Southeast Asian Studies at Murdoch University and Director of the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies, has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in recognition of his leadership in learning and teaching in higher education. David intends to use his fellowship to conduct a 'whole of sector' analysis of the state of Indonesian language learning and teaching in Australian universities, to be undertaken during 2010-11.

Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia has developed a list of "The Most Influential Books of Southeast Asian Studies". The list is now available online (accessible through www.iseas.edu.sg or directly at <http://www.iseas.edu.sg/sojredirect.htm>) and is offered as a resource for anyone interested in Southeast Asian studies. As any such list is bound to be contentious, the Editorial team welcomes feedback on this first effort. The intention is to arouse fruitful discussion rather than to prescribe for readers the publications that have defined the field.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

McCarthy, J. and Cramb, R. 2009. Policy narratives, landholder engagement, and oil palm expansion on the Malaysian and Indonesian frontiers. *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 175, No. 2, pp. 112-123.

Over recent decades a structural transformation has affected agriculture in the frontier areas of Malaysian Borneo and Outer Island Indonesia with the rapid conversion of agricultural lands, fallows, and formerly forested areas into oil palm. These frontiers have similar positions in the international political economy of oil palm and have complementary resource endowments. In both cases, state planners face the common challenges of finding a disciplined labour force, delivering land for estate development, maintaining local legitimacy, and dealing with local contestation. Yet there are significant differences in systems of governance and policy frameworks regarding land, shifting capacity of state

actors to facilitate the transformation of these agrarian frontiers, and changing degrees of local, national and international contestation. Considering the generic and the specific elements at play in each case, this paper argues that analogous policy narratives have shaped the ways in which landholders have been engaged in the process of oil palm expansion in Malaysia and Indonesia. In both cases, with the shift from state-led to neoliberal governance approaches to agricultural development, the 'frontier' has been created and transformed through policy narratives that facilitate the conversion of whole landscapes into oil palm. This has been achieved by obscuring indigenous forms of agriculture and land tenure, while creating reserves of available 'state' or 'idle' customary land, and counterpoising smallholder 'marginality' and 'backwardness' to the modernity of contemporary estate agriculture.

Marcus Mietzner (2009) "Indonesia's 2009 Elections: Populism, Dynasties and the Consolidation of the Party System", Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney. Available at: <http://www.lowyinstitute.org/Publication.asp?pid=1039>

This paper discusses the victory of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Democratic Party in the parliamentary elections on 9 April and its implications for the evolution of the Indonesian party system. Most significantly, Yudhoyono's success was only made possible by an extensive cash program for the poor, suggesting that economic populism may become a constant feature in future elections. But the significant increase of support for Yudhoyono and his party have also raised questions about their longterm prospects in the Indonesian political landscape. Forced to step aside after his (almost certain) second term ends in 2014, Yudhoyono will find it difficult to present an immediate successor. His party lacks credible senior leaders, and his sons will not be able to assume key political positions for at least another decade. Meanwhile, the established parties have a good chance of recovering from their loss in the recent elections, with the new parliamentary threshold likely to drive former splinter parties back into their folds. This concentration process in the party system is set to further stabilise Indonesian democracy, despite ongoing problems in the fields of political corruption and the quality of electoral management.

Rudnyckyj, Daromir. 2009. "Market Islam in Indonesia." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 15 (special issue): 183-201.

This paper argues that development is increasingly being posed as an ethical problem in contemporary Indonesia. This is demonstrated in describing one of several recent Islamic 'spiritual reform' movements that are creating what I term 'market Islam.' This is designed to create a form of self-management by making 'people better from the inside' and other countries, religion and labour, and individuals and their corporate employers 'breaking boundaries' that are seen to afflict Indonesian development: between Indonesia. I conclude that market Islam is not fundamentalist, but rather involves breaking the boundaries that were formerly constitutive of Indonesian modernity.

BOOKS

Aspinall, Edward. 2009. *Islam and Nation: Separatist Rebellion in Aceh, Indonesia*. Stanford University Press, Stanford.

This book presents a history of the rise and fall of separatist rebellion in Aceh. Most of the chapters deal with successive phases in Aceh's rebellion and also look at the conflict from distinct theoretical and thematic angles, focusing on topics like the genesis of nationalism, its intertwining with Islam, and patterns of insurgent violence. The book draws on hundreds of interviews with nationalist leaders, activists and guerillas, and reveals how the Free Aceh Movement went from being a quixotic fantasy to a guerilla army in the space of a generation, leading to a bitter conflict in which thousands perished.

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. Based on research by anthropologists from Indonesia and Australia, it explores the negotiations Muslim women have made in areas such as schools, organisations, popular culture and village life.

Lewis, Jeff and Lewis, Belinda. Bali's Silent Crisis: desire, tragedy and transition, Maryland US, Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield, 2009.

Bali's Silent Crisis brings new perspectives to analysis of the contradictions of contemporary Balinese culture. This book examines Bali's complex fusion of traditional and modern cultures and the tensions generated through rapid social and cultural change. Wrought through the incendiary of the New Order massacres of 1965-6 and the contemporaneous establishment of Bali's first international 5 star hotel at Sanur, these transitions have generated both trauma and hope for the Balinese people. The crisis is examined in terms of development, sexuality, youth culture, especially in the under-researched tourist zones of Denpasar and Kuta, environmental degradation and the challenges associated with Indonesian politics and Islamic militancy.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Online REGISTRATION is now open for the **Transmission of Academic Values in Asian Studies** workshop being held on 25 & 26 June 2009, in Canberra. Please go to <http://www.aust-neth.net/workshop.php>. Registration is FREE (although there is a charge for the workshop dinner). The registration deadline is FRIDAY, 12 JUNE 2009.

Southeast Asia Update, KITLV, Amsterdam. Persons interested in participating or presenting are kindly invited to contact the seminar's secretary. More information and the provisional program can be found in the attached pdf file as well as at: http://www.kitlv.nl/home/news?subpage_id=225

The Australian Network for Japanese Law (ANJeL), Sydney Centre for International Law (SCIL), and the Centre for Asian and Pacific Law in the University of Sydney (CAPLUS), in partnership with the Australian Human Rights Centre (AHRC) will host an international conference on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November 2009 at Sydney Law School. The theme of the conference is **Human Rights in Asia-Pacific: Towards Institution-Building**. This Call for Papers is for scholars and practitioners who wish to participate in debates as

to what role the existing and potential human rights monitoring institutions can play in fostering an environment conducive to the establishment of a broader "Asia-Pacific Community" locally and internationally. Interested persons should submit a paper title and a synopsis (200-500 words) of their proposed paper no later than 30 June 2009.

In the Image of Asia: Moving across and between locations, Tue 13 – Thu 15 April, 2010, ANU, Canberra, Australia. This interdisciplinary conference explores how 'Asia' has been imagined, imaged, represented and transferred visually across linguistic, geopolitical and cultural boundaries. It aims to challenge established assumptions (and consumptions) of cultural products of 'Asia', from arts, artefacts and film to performance. Effectively a globalised examination of localized cultural 'Asia', this conference is an interdisciplinary dialogue along the following themes: 1) 'Locations of cultures'; 2) Identity and images; 3) Representation of culture as translation and 4) Hybridity and agency. It seeks to develop an analytical apparatus to capture the complex positioning of 'cultural translators' and 'cultural products' across borders. As such, this conference will shed fresh light on the diverse, polyphonic cultural productions of 'Asia' against the backdrop of shifting power dynamics between 'east' and 'west', 'north' and 'south' in a transnational era.

We invite proposals for papers dealing with any of the themes of the conference. Please send proposals of 250 words max, with your name and affiliation to Fuyubi Nakamura (fuyubi.nakamura@anu.edu.au) or Ana Dragojlovic (ana.dragojlovic@anu.edu.au) by **11 September 2009**.

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Routledge is keen to consider proposals for new books in the field of Southeast Asian politics. Publishing mainly at University level, our list includes research monographs, core textbooks and reference works. Routledge Asian Studies authors include established academics and younger scholars. We have an extensive backlist of titles in Southeast Asian Studies and Asian Politics, and new titles are published on a regular basis. For further information on our programme, please see <http://www.routledgeasianstudies.com>. If you are interested in submitting a manuscript, please contact Dorothea Schaefer, Editor for Asian Studies (Southeast Asia, Central and South Asia): dorothea.schaefer@tandf.co.uk.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral Fellowships for East and Southeast Asia, Lund University, Sweden.

Postdoctoral fellowships focusing on any East or South-East Asian country. The fellowship is full time and of two years duration (commencing 1 November 2009), at the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University in Sweden. The deadline is **June 12, 2009**. For more information visit <http://www3.lu.se/info/lediga/admin/document/PA2009-1482.pdf>.