

Notice of workshop and call for contributors

Islamic Culture(s), Nation-building and the Media: Contemporary Issues

<http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/islam/>

The Monash Asia Institute will host a workshop enabling discussion about processes of nation-building and the role of Islamic culture(s) within these processes. The workshop will be held in Melbourne on 22-23 September, 2006.

Aims

At this time, a number of states in the Islamic world are engaged in nation-building processes. In all of these cases, the understandings given to nation-building involve reflection on models, traditions and authoritative pasts that are in some ways 'Islamic'. This workshop will bring together established and early career scholars to discuss the cultural influence of Islam on nation-building in the Asia-Pacific region.

Media component

The APFRN 2006 Signature Theme is 'Building Effective Communication in the Asia Pacific'. The workshop will embrace this theme in its final session, in which journalists will present views on the obstacles to effective dialogue between the media and academia, and the specific ways in which the 'media frame contests over nation in Islamic countries'.

Themes of interest

- Contests over nationhood, including constitutional models and rhetorics of nationhood.
- Role of traditional political elites.
- Nation and the social ethic: Ethnic and gender difference.
- Intellectual and cultural expression.
- Identity, national education and languages.
- Media representation about Islam and nation-building.

Keynote speakers

Prof Dr Abdul Munir Mulkhan, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Professor Hossein Elahi Qomshei, Tehran


Special invitation to postgraduate and postdoctoral scholars

We encourage participants at postgraduate and postdoctoral level. Some financial assistance is available for early career researchers travelling from interstate.

Please send abstracts and a brief biography to the convenors:

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Funding and host organisations:  ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network, Monash Asia Institute, UNE Asia Centre, UWA School of Politics, ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies.