

Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (7/2009)

1 August 2009

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Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

Item 1. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 6 August 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

Bisa Dewek and Lelakone Menur: a commentary

Yunita Winarto
Professor in Anthropology, University of Indonesia; & Academy Professorship
Indonesia in Social Sciences and Humanities (KNAW-AIPI), Gadjah Mada
University

Professor Winarto will introduce and present her ethnographic films (in Indonesian and Javanese with English subtitles): Bisa Dewek [We can do it for ourselves] (2007), the story of rice farmers' seed groups in Indramayu; and Lelakone Menur [The story of Menur] (2009), the story of a women farmers' group in Gunungkidul.

The films were jointly produced by:

- Collaborative Research & Film Production and Dissemination Program
- Anthropology Department, University of Indonesia and
- The Indonesian Integrated Pest Management Farmers' Alliance (IPPHTI) of the Regency of Indramaya

Details: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/cseas/seminars/index.php>

All welcome

Enquiries: Dr Jemma Purdey
 Postdoctoral Research Fellow
 Monash Asia Institute, Monash University
 Email: Jemma.Purdey@adm.monash.edu.au

Item 2. Academic Colloquium

Hosted by Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and Monash Asia Institute

Iran Today: Religion, Society, Politics

Friday 7 August 2009, 10 am - 1 pm
 Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation,
 900 Dandenong Rd, E Caulfield, Building H, Level 8

Iran is emerging as a country of increasing importance to Asian, Middle Eastern and global security. But little is understood about what is happening in Iran today at the level of civil society. This colloquium brings together scholars in Melbourne who are working on Iran and neighbouring countries to share their thoughts and research results with our distinguished speaker, Professor David Menashri, who is at Monash University as a Visiting Fellow of the Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies.

David Menashri is Director of the Centre for Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University where he holds the Parviz and Pouran Nazarian Chair for Modern Iranian Studies. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Iran.

RSVP (Essential): Gillian Brameld 99029933 or acjc@arts.monash.edu.au

Item 3. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 13 August 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
 Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
 Monash University Clayton campus

A Day at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Notes of an Expert Witness

David Chandler, Emeritus Professor, Centre of Southeast Asian Studies

On 6 August 2009, Professor David Chandler testified as an expert witness at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Phnom Penh. On trial at present is Kang Khek Ieu (Duch) the former head of the infamous Khmer Rouge prison known by its code-name, S-21. David has written about the prison in his book *Voices from S-21: Terror and History in Pol Pot's Secret Prison* (University of California Press 1999) and has been asked to testify about what he wrote. In his talk to CSEAS, he will provide some background information about the tribunal, as well as an account of his day in court.

David Chandler is a Fellow in the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and Monash Asia Institute and a former director of CSEAS.

Details: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/cseas/seminars/index.php>

All welcome

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Item 4. Confirmation Seminar for Masters Thesis

Friday 14 August 2009, 2:30 pm
Room S822, Level 8 South, Building 11 (Menzies)
Monash University Clayton campus

Haji Ali Dargah of Bombay city

Clinton Gray, Master of Arts candidate, Monash Asia Institute

The religious complex is located on an islet of the coast of Worli in Mumbai. Millions of visitors, of both Muslim and Hindu faiths, flock to the shrine each year.

Despite the politics of Hindutva (Hindu nationalism) in Bombay, the Haji Ali Dargah is central to the lives of the people of the city and that this gives the shrine as much importance as the large and mosques and temples of Bombay. Clinton's research will focus on a number of aspects of the dargah: the life and legend of the saint, the history of the complex, the architectural design of the dargah, the importance of the site to Mumbai, the beliefs and practices of the pilgrims and how the dargah is administered. Drawing on data from interviews and surveys Clinton will examine why both Muslims and Hindus visit this Sufi shrine and what that tells us about the cultural life of modern Mumbai.

Enquiries: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with 'Haji Ali Dargah' in the subject heading of the email.

Item 5. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 20 August 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

The state in Indonesian villages: Authority, autonomy and apparatus
Nicholas Herriman, Postdoctoral Fellow, CSEAS

Studies of Indonesia have characterised the state as all-powerful and overbearing, and as dominating society. This paper offers a critique of the idea that local representatives are simply agents of their state superiors by viewing interactions between the state and the local community from 'below'. Drawing on research into the killings of alleged sorcerers in Banyuwangi District, East Java, Herriman demonstrates that state power in Banyuwangi is negotiated and that local state officials negotiate with, and are influenced by, local residents.

Nicholas Herriman is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the CSEAS, MAI.

Details: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/cseas/seminars/index.php>

All welcome

Enquiries: Dr Jemma Purdey
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Item 6. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 27 August 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

Dancing to 'Unity in Diversity' in Perth
Ms Monika Winarnita
Adjunct Research Associate, Monash Asia Institute, PhD Candidate
Anthropology RSPAS ANU

In Perth, members of an Indonesian women's dance group created a patriotic dance called "Unity in Diversity". It was intended to provide a new sense of patriotism and Indonesian identity in migration. However, its 2007 performance created controversy in Perth's Indonesian community. Controversy centred on aesthetics (whether the dance was tasteful) and identity (whether it represented Indonesians accurately). Nevertheless, the group found an appreciative audience at multicultural festivals. In this context, the dancers construed themselves as cultural ambassadors. However, they did not achieve the cultural and social status they craved within the

Indonesian migrant community and, particularly, within the consulate and an Indonesian state-sponsored women's group. Although being 'cultural ambassadors' provides alternative identity and status, paradoxically, migrants seek acceptance within the very social structure that subordinates them.

Monika Winarnita is concurrently Adjunct Research Associate, Monash Asia Institute and PhD Candidate RSPAS ANU.

Details: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/cseas/seminars/index.php>

All welcome

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Email: Jemma.Purdey@adm.monash.edu.au

Item 7. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 3 September 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

Smail's 'autonomous history' revisited: Reflections on Southeast Asian contributions to coping with the 'problem of development'

Adam Fforde, Asia Institute, Melbourne University

A key assumption in development literature is that development is a predictable process with knowable solutions. As a result, the literature is characterized by a combination of great uncertainty and great difference of opinion. It is no surprise then, that students and practitioners confronting the mass of competing assertions about development 'truths' become confused and frustrated. Fforde's recent book *Coping with Facts: A Skeptic's guide to the problem of development* (2009) offers guidance for the perplexed through a penetrating critique of development studies literature. Fforde develops coping strategies that help readers evaluate the contending solutions to problems of development. Fforde cements his analysis with detailed case studies of development projects in Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam.

Adam Fforde is best known for his work on contemporary Vietnam, where he has published extensively (most recently – 'Economics, History, and the Origins of Vietnam's Post-War Economic Success', *Asian Survey* Vol. XLIX, No. 3, May/June 2009). He has formal qualifications in natural science (engineering), economics and development economics and has spent about two-thirds of his career as a development practitioner.

Details: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/cseas/seminars/index.php>

All welcome

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Item 8. Distinguished Indian Historian speaks at Public Lecture in Melbourne

Monday 9 November 2009, 12:00 noon
Venue TBA

Political Religion in India: Hindu Raj? Hinduism? or Hindutva?"

Professor Robert Eric Frykenberg

Between the logic of an integrating constitutional pluralism and the more fissiparous logic of a sacralising, if not totalising, kind of "civic" religion operating within both parliamentary and an extra-parliamentary processes, political structures of India as a secular state have suffered dangerous stresses, and have survived - so far. This paper will address stresses and tensions, between what Romila & Romesh Thapar called "Syndicated" Hinduism as a modern construction (or invented tradition), linked to the secular pluralism required for political stability, and Hindutva and the Sangh Parivar's agenda of militant nationalism. See R E Frykenberg in: *The Sacred in Twentieth Century Politics: Essays in Honour of Professor Stanley G. Payne* (2008), edited by Roger Griffin, Robert Mallett and John Tortorice.

Professor Robert Eric Frykenberg is Professor Emeritus of History & South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He is widely regarded as the leading world authority on the history of Christianity in India, and since the early 1990s has the political uses of Hinduism in India.

Enquiries: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with 'Political Religion in India' in the subject heading of the email.

Item 9. Afghanistan's National Institute of Music

<http://www.afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org>

The official web-site of Afghanistan's National Institute of Music has been launched. This music education entity is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan and MAI. Dr Ahmad Sarmast a Fellow of the

Monash Asia Institute and Monash School of Music - Conservatorium is the Director this unique initiative of MOE and MAI.

News from other Institutions

Item 10. 2010 Australia-Korea Internship Program

Applications close Friday 7 August 2009.

The Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific at the University of Sydney is currently inviting postgraduate and senior undergraduate students to apply for the **2010 Australia-Korea Internship Program (AKIP)**. AKIP was first initiated in 2004 by the Australia-Korea Foundation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to promote closer Australia-Korea relations and understanding by developing contacts and exchanges between Australians and Koreans. The internship program has been managed by our Institute in conjunction with the Korea-Australia Foundation in Seoul for the past six years.

So far, 38 outstanding postgraduate and senior undergraduate students have benefited from the opportunity to develop their professional and cross-cultural skills through on-the-job experience within national and multinational companies in the Republic of Korea. Between January and February each year, students are placed as interns for seven weeks within Korean corporations which in the past have included POSCO, Samsung, Hyundai, Alticast and Hanaro Telecom. Not only will students have the opportunity to learn and practice common business ethics and practices in the Asia-Pacific region, they will also have the unique and valuable opportunity to experience authentic Korean culture. Through homestay accommodation, interns will experience traditional family life and observe Korean customs and traditions.

Successful applicants will cover the cost of their return airfares to Sydney and Seoul and arrange travel insurance. While the internship work is unpaid, interns will receive an allowance for living and accommodation expenses.

Eligible applicants must be an Australian citizen and need to be studying in a University in Australia. Students must also be undertaking a postgraduate coursework degree or in their third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree in any of the following disciplines: economics, business, and commerce, marketing, finance, ICT, accounting and international trade. Applications close Friday 7th August 2009.

For more information on AKIP, please read the attached brochure and visit <http://www.usyd.edu.au/riap/akip/>.

Item 11. Research seminar

A History of Christianity in Indonesia

Friday 7th & Saturday 8th August 2009.
Yarra Theological Union Study Centre
98 Albion Rd., Box Hill, Vic. 3128.

We shall discuss the groundbreaking text *A History of Christianity in Indonesia* (eds. Karel Steenbrink & Jan Aritonang, Brill 2008) the research behind it. Key issues include faith & culture, Muslim-Christian relations, indigenous agency, mission methods, emerging theology.

Dr. Eddie Kristiyanto (Jakarta) & Dr. James Haire (Canberra) will initiate the two-day seminar.

Through group, plenary & panel discussions participants will probe historical, theological, anthropological and gender issues.

For details & bookings please access

Yarra Theological Union website: www.ytu.edu.au

Facilitators Dr. John Prior svd & Dr. Larry Nemer svd
Email: johnotomo46@gmail.com

Item 12. Seminar Pembangunan Insan 2009

Sunday, 9th August 2009, 12.00pm-5.00pm
Prince Phillip Theatre, Architecture Building, The University of Melbourne

Understanding Racial Integration and its Challenges

Speakers:

- Y.B. Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein,
- Y.B.M. Tan Sri Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah

Seminar Pembangunan Insan (Human Development Seminar) is a yearly event which brings in prominent Malaysian figures to Melbourne in order to address the Malaysian community on hotly debated current issues and contemporary affairs. Organised by Kelab UMNO Australia Melbourne, this year's Human Development Seminar will be the third since its inception in 2007.

This year, we will hear thoughts and comments from the Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs, Dato Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, and veteran politician Tan Sri Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah. The topic, "Understanding Racial Integration

and its Challenges,” touches at the core issue of unity. Do not miss out on this amazing one-day event to hear the thought-provoking views of these prominent politicians on the challenges Malaysia faces in racial integration.

As places are strictly limited, registration is essential. Please visit www.kuamuniti.com/wp/spi2009 to register your attendance.

Item 13. 4th Indonesian Film Festival

Australia’s largest Indonesian Film Festival.

11-20 August 2009

ACMI Cinemas & RMIT Capitol Theatre, Melbourne

The Indonesian Film Festival 2009 is going to host a feast of cinematic delicacies from the top range of Indonesian movies for 10 days, heavily garnished with a range of special events that will feature the casts and directors of the featured films.

Rolling on its fourth edition, the Indonesian Film Festival 2009 is bigger, richer, and tastier than ever before. Mixing the bold, the controversial and the romantic, the Indonesian Film Festival brings to your table the finest selection of Indonesian cinema.

Alive snapshots of the culture-packed Indonesia will not only give a new experience for the international eyes, but also offers a new perspective and a spirit-reawakening for Indonesians. So, join us to celebrate and let your taste buds to HAVE A TASTE!

Festival Passes and Tickets are now on sale!

For further information visit www.indonesianfilmfestival.com.au

Item 14. Call for papers

Due date: 14 August 2009

Meeting the Millennium Development Goals: Old Problems, New Challenges' conference

Co-hosted by the Australian Council for International Development and La Trobe University, Meeting the Millennium Development Goals: Old Problems, New Challenges will be held at La Trobe University, Bundoora, from 30 November to 1 December 2009.

The Millennium Development Goals are a United Nations partnership initiative to eradicate extreme poverty and other forms of disadvantage and human crises by 2015. Some progress has been made but major gaps are evident.

This conference will look at what needs to be done to ensure momentum is maintained. The key concepts of learning, innovation and partnerships will shape the conference which will bring together a wide range of stakeholders including community representatives, academics, professionals from inside and outside the traditional development field, the corporate sector and others who may ordinarily not think of themselves as concerned with development.

Submissions that bring in new ideas or present ideas in innovative ways will be prioritised, as will those that are submitted in partnership between two different sectors or two different disciplines. Submissions can deal with specific MDGs or contribute to discussions about the goals as a whole.

We also welcome submissions that will further opportunities and ideas for collaboration between our sectors with the express aim of achieving more effective development practices and research.

Please see <http://www.acfid.asn.au/meeting-mdgs-call-for-papers>

Final deadline for submissions is 14 August 2009. Abstracts should be emailed to Dr Gerhard Hoffstaedter with 'MDG abstract' in the subject.

Item 15. Call for papers

Persian Gender Network (an Initiative funded by the World Bank) invites academics and policy makers to submit an abstract for a paper to be featured in its upcoming conference on 19-20 November, 2009 at Harvard University, Boston Massachusetts.

PGN seeks to select 5-6 outstanding papers on topics related to women's economic empowerment rights and opportunities in the three countries of Afghanistan, Iran, and Tajikistan. This will include topics related to women's employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship as well as how women's work and contribution to the overall national economy can be recognized and empowered.

Please send an abstract no more than one page highlighting the topic, the methodology, the evidence/data used and key literature. The papers could be from across academic disciplines, as long as they address the themes above. The selected papers will receive US\$1500 of stipend as well as coverage of cost of travel for participation in the conference. The deadline for submission of the abstract is 15 August.

Please send your abstracts to PGN coordinator Roksana Bahramitash :
bahramitash@gmail.com

Roksana Bahramitash, Ph.D.
Directrice à la recherche
Chaire de recherche du Canada en Islam, Pluralisme, et Globalisation
Université de Montréal

Item 16. Website of the month

<http://www.censusindia.gov.in/>

Census of India (Office of the Registrar General, New Delhi, India)

The Indian Census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on different characteristics of the people of India. With a history of more than 130 years, this reliable, time tested exercise has been bringing out a veritable wealth of statistics every 10 years, beginning from 1872 when the first census was conducted in India non-synchronously in different parts. To scholars and researchers in demography, economics, anthropology, sociology, statistics and many other disciplines, the Indian Census has been a fascinating source of data. The rich diversity of the people of India is truly brought out by the decennial census which has become one of the tools to understand and study India.

About the MAI Bulletin

The Monash Asia Institute Newsletter incorporates news items from the research centres of the Monash Asia Institute, partner organisations and other groups working to promote Asian Studies in Australia.

For further information about the Monash Asia Institute and this newsletter:
<http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/>

To unsubscribe, please send an email to: Monash-Asia-Institute Enquiries
<MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au>