

Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (8/2009)

9 September 2009

Contents

1. CMS/CSEAS Seminar: Orang Asli and Malays
2. Documentary on Cambodia
3. Seminar: Kim Ha Gyong's Literature
4. Malam Rendra
5. CSEAS Seminar: Language for education in East Timor
6. CSEAS Seminar: A king in Communist China
7. Conference: External relations of the EU
8. Launch: International students' handbook (studying in Australia)
9. Seminar: Caregiving and disability in Japan
10. CSEAS Seminar: Thailand's southern war
11. Conference: Interpreting legal transfer
12. Ron Lister Visiting Fellowship
13. Website of the month: Burma Campaign Australia

Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

Item 1. CMS/CSEAS Seminar

Jointly hosted by the Centre for Malaysian Studies and Centre of Southeast Asian Studies

Thursday 10 September 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

Civility, 'Double life' and Interethnic Relations: Orang Asli (Malaysian Aborigines) and Malays in Malaysia

Alberto Gomes, Associate Professor, Sociology and Anthropology Program, Latrobe University

Drawing from ethnographic work on the Orang Asli, this paper addresses the question: what sort of strategies do people employ to sustain peaceful, harmonious, and civil social relations with people they perceive to be different? The Orang Asli, like many other tribal communities in Southeast Asia observes what Sellato (1994: 210) in the context of his study on the Punan, a hunting-gathering people of Borneo, called 'double life'. The people adhere to a set of rules and norms in their intra-community interactions but present a different face to outsiders. Gomes will discuss how 'double life' or 'sly civility'

(Bhabha 1994) operate as strategies that thwart conflict and abate tensions between Orang Asli and Malays.

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. Documentary Film

Thursday 10 September 2009, 4–6pm
Room S704, 7th floor, south wing, Menzies Building, Clayton campus.

The Monash film and television studies seminar series Under Construction presents a special screening:

The Burnt Theatre (also known as Artists Of The Burnt Theatre, 2005), a documentary by renowned Cambodian director Rithy Panh, maker of the acclaimed S21: The Khmer Rouge Death Machine (2003). Panh is among the key political artists of our time. This film has never before been seen in Australia, and may never be seen again! It will be introduced by a visiting scholar from Portugal, Andre Dias, who will lead a discussion afterwards.

Refreshments will be served. All welcome.

Inquiries: Dr. Adrian Martin, adrian.martin@arts.monash.edu.au

Item 3. Japanese Studies Centre Seminar

Friday 11 September 2009, 2:00 pm
Japanese Studies Auditorium, Clayton Campus building 54 (next to bus loop)

Embodied subjectivity in the literature of Kim Ha Gyong, a Korean writer in Japan

Speaker: Elise Foxworth, Monash University

Enquiries: Alison.Tokita@arts.monash.edu.au

Item 4. Malam Rendra

Wednesday 16 September 2009, 8:00 pm
Room 125, Building H. Caulfield Campus, Monash University

On the 6 August 2009, internationally acclaimed Indonesian poet, playwright, director and actor WS Rendra passed away. In memory of Rendra, the Indonesian Studies Program, Monash University, together with the Australian Association for Literary Translation will be holding a 'Malam Rendra' – an evening celebrating Rendra's poetry, drama and his work in translation. The presenters will be:

Professor Emeritus Barbara Hatley, University of Tasmania, author of 'Javanese Performances on an Indonesian Stage'

and

Professor Harry Aveling, Translation Studies, Monash University, translator of many of Rendra's poems, and author of 'Contemporary Indonesian Poetry'.

The program will be convened by Paul Thomas, Indonesian Studies, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, Monash University.

Contact Email: paul.thomas@arts.monash.edu.au

Item 5. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 17 September 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

Language for education in East Timor: policy and practice

Marie Quinn, PhD candidate, University of Melbourne

Timor-Leste, newly independent in 1999, identified two official languages, two working languages and approximately 24 local languages. The first decade has seen a shift in language use, generally along generational, geographical and employment lines. In the case of formal education, the policy on the language of instruction has changed over this time, yet teacher practice at all levels of education is influenced by factors apart from state policy.

This presentation will give a general overview of how language is used in the country and present research data from Timorese primary school classrooms and observations from across other educational settings to describe the way language policy is played out in the performance of teaching in East Timor.

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 6. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 24 September 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

A king in Communist China: the exile of King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia in China 1970–1975

Julio A Jeldres, Honorary Ambassador for Cambodia, former senior private secretary to King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and the King's official biographer

Ambassador Jeldres became interested in Cambodia and Sihanouk in 1967, when he read an article about Jacqueline Kennedy's visit to Cambodia. He was then 16 years old, and spoke only Spanish, his language in Chile. After writing to the Cambodian Mission to the United Nations and receiving a reply from King Sihanouk himself, Jeldres learned French to communicate with the King. The two remained in touch after the King's overthrow in March 1970, and Jeldres eventually became the King's Senior Private Secretary.

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 7. Annual Conference

24–25 Sept. 2009
Monash University Law Chambers
472 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Australia

The external relations of the European Union: historical and contemporary perspectives

A global conference of the Monash European and EU Centre

With the Monash Asia Institute (Monash University, Melbourne), the National Centre for Research on Europe (University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand), the University of New South Wales, (Sydney), the Australian Institute of International Affairs (Melbourne), the European Studies Centre (Sichuan University, China) and the Machiavelli Centre for Cold War Studies, University of Florence.

As a powerful trade negotiator and a leading player in global issues such as the environment, development aid, social policy and human rights, the EU is increasingly recognized as a new force for global security and welfare. Certainly the EU sees itself as a growing political and strategic presence. But is this perception shared by non-EU countries and organisations? Exactly how is the EU perceived by the international community and how have these perceptions developed since the creation of the European Communities in the 1950s? Has the EU been perceived to be more of an economic actor or a political force? Is the EU seen as a regional model that could be emulated? Which countries are favourable and which hostile to a growing EU influence in their region or internationally?

In particular, the conference aims to promote the collaboration of academics and scholars on the following themes:

- The EU, its origins and evolution since the 1950s as seen from the perspective of non-EU countries and regions.
- The post-colonial heritage in EU external relations.
- The EU and its view of the Asia-Pacific.
- The EU and international organizations: past and future challenges.

Registration for the following conference is now open:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/europecentre>.

Item 8. Book Launch

Wednesday 30 September 2009, 6.00pm-7.30pm
Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne.

The international students' handbook: living and studying In Australia

Asialink is proud to host the launch of the International Students Handbook:

<https://www.unswpress.com.au/isbn/9781921410758.htm>

Danny Ong, the handbook's author and former President of the Monash University International Students Association, will outline key steps in ensuring the best experience for international students in Australia. Danny has experience consulting with governments, universities and professional organisations, and presents at conferences on the experience and welfare of international students. Professor Richard Larkins AO, Vice-Chancellor and President of Monash University from 2003 until June 2009, will provide a

response from the higher education perspective. A senior government representative will also provide a response.

Danny Ong is currently a PhD candidate at the Monash Asia Institute, Monash University.

The event will include refreshments and opportunities to network. International student support staff, domestic and international students are encouraged to attend.

COST: Free

REGISTRATION is essential:

http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/calendar/events/featured/asia_launch_of_the_international_students_guide

Item 9. Japanese Studies Centre Seminar

Tuesday October 6, 1:00 pm

Japanese Studies Auditorium, Clayton Campus building 54 (next to bus loop)

Caregiving and disability in Japan

Speaker: Carolyn Stevens (University of Melbourne):

Enquiries: Alison.Tokita@arts.monash.edu.au

Item 10. CSEAS Seminar

Thursday 8 October 2009, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South
Monash University Clayton campus

Thailand's strange southern war: insurgency, disorder and the fragile state

Marc Askew, Anthropology Program, University of Melbourne

With the violence in its sixth year, opinion in Thailand is divided about the prospects of substantial reduction in current levels of violence, the driving force of which is deemed an 'insurgency'. Evaluations of government policy and counter-insurgency strategy continue to be shaped around various competing discourses about the 'southern problem' and the causal premises implicit in these. In short, the meaning and causes of (and solutions to) the 'fire in the south' are highly contested among key actors and opinion makers, and the blame game continues about who is at fault. Meanwhile, on the ground, in the villages and communities of the borderland, the situation is more complex than most press reports would suggest. This talk will address the broad discursive environment of debate and highlight a number of key encounters and observations in ongoing research in the field.

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 11. Conference

15 – 16 October 2009

Sala Veneziana, Monash University's Prato Centre, ITALY

Interpreting legal transfer: a comparative analysis conference

The Asia-Pacific Business Regulation Group, Department of Business Law and Taxation at Monash University and the Asian Law Centre at the University of Melbourne will host a two day conference at Monash University's Prato Centre in Italy.

Over recent years the globalisation of legal and regulatory regimes has significantly increased. Much analysis of this phenomenon assumes that asymmetries in power and economic development among countries correspond with underlying levels of social and legal development. This analysis perpetuates an assumption that legal knowledge is concentrated in the 'developed core' and is sub-optimal, albeit 'evolving', in the 'developing' world. With these assumptions it is easy to assume that 'good' law (usually from Western sources) should displace, or augment regulatory norms existing in non-Western legal systems.

This conference seeks to analyse legal/regulatory transfers from an interpretive perspective that treats transfers as narratives rather than instruments. We want to move beyond hypotheses that privilege the transferability of laws; such as the legal origins literature and the 'faith' in legal transplantation and examine at close range how legal transfers are decoded in new locations. We therefore seek interpretations of legal transfers that empirically explore what happens to legal transfers in their new locations.

This conference will bring together those working empirically on the interpretation of legal transfers to debate how local knowledge influences law and legal change within Asia. It will follow a round-table format, aiming to allow participants the opportunity to present their work in a collegial atmosphere, resulting in the publication of an edited collection of papers.

RSVP: Email: law-alc@unimelb.edu.au

Tel: +61 3 8344 6847

Other Enquiries: Professor John Gillespie,
john.gillespie@buseco.monash.edu.au

News from other Institutions

Item 12. Ron Lister Visiting Fellowship 2010 (Fixed-term)

Each year the Department of Geography at the University of Otago hosts the Ron Lister Visiting Fellowship for one semester. We are particularly interested in someone with an interest in a development related field, preferably concentrating on either India or China. This may be of interest to someone who has a sabbatical and wishes to pursue some research, as the teaching is confined to a semester-long graduate course on the subject of your choice. A stipend is included. Details for the position can be found at:

<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-Asia&month=0908&week=c&msg=hT8pP%2b8Bk6BADUcdAKCYQw&user=&pw=>

Item 13. Website of the month: Burma Campaign Australia

<http://www.aucampaignforburma.org/>

Burma Campaign Australia is a network of groups and individuals around Australia campaigning for peace, democracy, good governance and human rights in Burma. We include human rights advocates, academics, aid agencies and a broad range of Australia-based ethnic and pro-democracy groups from Burma. Also included are Burmese Members of Parliament-elect living in exile. Crucially, we are connected to and co-ordinate with people inside Burma, around its borders and the global network of campaigns on Burma.

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>