

## **CSEAS Seminar Series, 2nd Semester 2009**

Thursdays, 11-12.30pm, SG02, Manton Rooms, Menzies Building, Clayton campus

### **OUT OF SERIES SESSION**

**21 July \*(TUESDAY), 3.30-5pm\*, SGO2, Manton Rooms**

**Ken Setiawan**, Ph.D. Candidate, Van Vollenhoven Institute, Leiden University

The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM): Challenges and Relevance

When the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) was established in 1993, it was met with skepticism. Against all expectations, Komnas HAM became one of the New Order's most critical commentators, although it was not able to change state policies or behaviour towards human rights. After the fall of Suharto in 1998 significant legal reforms were introduced, many of them related to human rights and some of them directly concerning Komnas HAM. Combined with a strengthened civil society and popular attention for human rights, many observers expected Komnas HAM would develop a key role in implementing human rights in Indonesia.

In recent years Komnas HAM has faced increasing criticism and its legitimacy has declined. Why did this happen? This seminar attempts to answer this question by discussing the development of Komnas HAM, considering the Commission as an organisation as well as an entity within a particular socio-political context. In doing so, this seminar presents the factors influencing Komnas HAM's functioning and its challenges. Finally, attention will be paid to Komnas HAM's relevance in contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights in Indonesia.

**Ken Setiawan** is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Van Vollenhoven Institute, Leiden University, the Netherlands. Her research concerns the National Human Rights Commissions of Indonesia and Malaysia, and which internal and external factors influence the functioning and effectiveness of these organisations.

### **SECOND SEMESTER SERIES**

**23 July**

**Roy Jordaan**, The Netherlands

Candi Prambanan as a holy water sanctuary (continued)

The presentation will elaborate on my hypothesis — launched in 1989, in the journal of the Indonesian Archaeological Service, *Amerta* — that the central courtyard of the ninth-century Prambanan temple complex was designed as an artificial tank or pool for the production and storage of 'holy water' (*amṛta*). In the first part of the presentation I will briefly summarize the different kinds of evidence (textual, inscriptional, architectural and technical) in support of

the hypothesis, whereas in the second part the discussion is focussed on the art-historical evidence that was recently presented at an international workshop on the Old Javanese Rāmāyaṇa in Jakarta, 26-28 May 2009. The art-historical data were derived from a re-examination of the causeway relief on the Śiva temple which depicts Rāma's crossing over to Langka. Depending on the circumstances and the time remaining, an art-historical excursion will be made to the Khmer temple of Prasat Phimai, in north-east Thailand.

Roy Jordaan is author of, *Imagine Buddha in Prambanan: reconsidering the Buddhist background of the Loro Jonggrang temple complex*. Leiden: Vakgroep Talen en Culturen van Zuidoost-Azie en Oceanie, Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden, 1993; and the CSEAS Working Paper, 'Exploring the Role of the Sailendras in Early Eastern Javanese History', CSEAS, Monash Asia Institute Press, 2007. And editor of the volume *In Praise of Prambanan*. Leiden: KITLV Press, 1996. His paper 'The bridge of Rama in Southeast Asia; The causeway reliefs of Prambanan and Phimai re-examined', was recently presented at the international workshop 'The Old Javanese Ramayana: Text, History and Culture', Jakarta, 26-28 May 2009.

### **30 July**

**Margaret Kartomi**, Faculty of Music, Monash University

Effects of the Civil Conflict, the Tsunami, and the Peace Accord on the Musical Arts in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, 2003–2009

Individuals and governments, the former resistance force, and non-government organisations have used particular genres of traditional and popular music, dance, storytelling and theatre as remedies to respond to the effects of the civil conflict (1953-57, 1976-2005), the tsunami (2004), and the Helsinki peace agreement (2005) in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam. Focussing on 2005 to 2008, this paper examines changes in these genres and the general state of the arts with each change of socio-political circumstance. Particular focus is placed on the roles that local and professional artists and music-instrument-makers have played, and continue to play, in their communities' recovery from trauma and the obstacles they have overcome to counter the threat to the survival of particular musical genres. Examination of the sorts of musical genres banned during the civil conflict and of those resurrected, promoted and altered after the conflict, the tsunami and the peace accord illustrates the degree to which the musical arts are assisting in both the material reconstruction of Aceh and the means of expression and psychological healing of the people affected.

Margaret Kartomi is Professor of Music and Coordinator of Research in Monash University's School of Music - Conservatorium. Her latest book (in press), entitled *Musical Journeys in Sumatra*, is based on her annual ethnomusicological fieldtrips with Mas Kartomi throughout Sumatra over the past 36 years. The first book to be written on the music cultures of Sumatra will be published by University of Illinois Press.

### **6 August**

**Yunita Winarto**, Professor in Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, 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 are productions of the Collaborative Research & Film Production and Dissemination Program, the Undergraduate Program, Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia in collaboration with The Indonesian Integrated Pest Management Farmers' Alliance (IPPHTI) of the Regency of Indramayu.

Professor Yunita Winarto, University of Indonesia, Anthropology Department 2009 and Academy Professor KITLV appointment for University of Gadjah Mada 2008. Professor Winarto has a PhD from the Australian National University, Department of Anthropology, Research School of Asia Pacific. She is author of *Seeds of Knowledge: The Beginning of Integrated Pest Management in Java*, New Haven, Conn., Yale University Southeast Asia Studies, 2004. M.A. Yunita T. Winarto, Ph.D.

### **13 August**

**David Chandler**, Professor, Fellow, CSEAS, MAI

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

On 6 August 2007, Professor David Chandler will testify 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 CSEAS and MAI and a former director of CSEAS.

### **20 August**

**Nicholas Herriman**, Postdoctoral Fellow, CSEAS

The state in Indonesian villages: Authority, autonomy and apparatus

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.

**27 August**

**Monika Winarnita**, Adjunct Research Associate, Monash Asia Institute, PhD Candidate Anthropology RSPAS ANU

Dancing to 'Unity in Diversity' in Perth

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. Her research focuses on Indonesian women migrants ("Motherhood as Cultural Citizenship" in *TAPJA*; "Dancing the Nation in Migration" *Inside Indonesia*) and representations of violence against Indonesian Chinese ("Commemoration: Mass Rapes of Chinese Indonesian Women" ASAA 2008 Proceedings; "The Tragedy of May 1998: Glodok photo essay" *Inside Indonesia*). Her latest fieldwork involved living and dancing with Indonesian dancers in Perth (2006-8).

**3 September**

**Adam Fforde**, Asia Institute, Melbourne University

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

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. His published

academic work has addressed issues of transition theory and economic method as well as aspects of contemporary Vietnam. Recently his interests have increasingly been to do with the nature and practice of policy and policy analysis. His recent book *Coping with facts: a skeptic's guide to the problem of development* (2009, Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press) uses three countries of SEA as case studies - Vietnam, Thailand and The Philippines. He is currently working on a study of Vietnamese Capitalism and in 2010 will publish a monograph cum textbook on development economics (*Understanding development economics: its place within development studies*, Boulder CO: Rowman & Littlefield).

## **10 September**

### **\*CMS/CSEAS Joint seminar**

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

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

Drawing from ethnographic work on the Orang Asli (Malaysian Aborigines), 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 observe 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.

Alberto Gomes is associate professor and program convenor of the sociology and anthropology program at La Trobe University (Australia). He has conducted anthropological research on the Orang Asli since 1975 and has written many papers and books based on this research. His books include *Malaysia and the Original People* (with R. Dentan, K. Endicott, and M. B. Hooker, Allyn and Bacon, 1997), *Looking for Money* (COAC and Trans Pacific Press, 2004) and *Modernity and Malaysia: Settling the Menraq Forest Nomads* (Routledge, 2007). His current research is on civility and communal relations in Goa, India which attempts to explain how some people living in multicultural communities are able to avert and avoid conflict that may arise out of cultural differences (ethnic, religious and communal).

## **17 September**

**Marie Quinn**, PhD candidate, University of Melbourne

Language for education in Timor Leste: Policy and practice

Timor-Leste, newly independent in 1999, identified through its constitution two official languages, two working languages and recognized the place of the approximately 24 first languages of the country. The first 10 years has seen a shift in language use across all domains, 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 outside adherence to the 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 education settings to describe the way language policy is played out in the performance of teaching in Timor Leste.

Marie Quinn is PhD candidate from The University of Melbourne, investigating how teachers in Timor Leste use language switching to deliver the curriculum. She is an educator, based in Timor Leste, and currently working as adviser to the Australian Federal Police in their program to support training of the National Police of Timor Leste (PNTL). She has worked with many educational organizations in Timor Leste since 2001, including the Ministry of Education as a teacher training specialist, and is interested in working to produce effective curriculum and teaching methodology.

## **24 September**

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

A Kind in Communist China: The exile of King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia in China 1970-1975

Ambassador Jeldres became interested in Cambodia and Sihanouk back in 1967 when he read an article about Jacqueline Kennedy's visit to Cambodia. He was then 16 years old, and spoke no foreign language, except his native Spanish in Chile. After he wrote to the Cambodian Mission to the United Nations he received a reply from King Sihanouk himself and learned French to communicate with the King. After the King's overthrow in March 1970, he remained in touch with King Sihanouk, who took up exile in China and Julio eventually became the King's Senior Private Secretary.

Ambassador Jeldres has authored three books on the history of Cambodia's monarchy, translated the memoirs of King Sihanouk from French into English and published numerous articles about Cambodian politics, human rights, democracy development, relations with China and the monarchy. He has also worked as a consultant with several UN agencies in Bangkok, mostly on human rights issues.

Ambassador Jeldres was Senior Private Secretary to King Sihanouk from 1983 to 1991 and since 1993 he has been the King's Official Biographer. He was made an Honorary Ambassador of Cambodia by the King in 1991.

SEMESTER BREAK

**8 October**  
**Marc Askew**

TBC

## **15 October**

**Chris Friese**, PhD Candidate, School of Political and Social Sciences, University of Melbourne

### US-Indonesian Relations in the Age of Obama: The Case for Optimism

Throughout the world, Barack Obama's 2008 election was greeted with considerable enthusiasm. This was particularly true in Indonesia, due to the presumed break with the Bush Administration's unpopular foreign policy as well as Obama's personal connection to Indonesia. The importance of both factors have been overemphasized, reflecting a misunderstanding of the continuities represented by Bush's approach to East Asian security and an overvaluing of the President's role in setting national foreign policy. As such, the transformation expected by many has thus far proven illusory, with differences largely of emphasis rather than substance.

Nonetheless, considerable cause for optimism exists, as the gains made in US-Indonesian relations and the growth of Indonesia's strategic relevance to the US over the past decade are increasingly consolidated. Both related trends are likely to continue for reasons both intrinsic and extrinsic to the bilateral relationship itself, including Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's re-election and the United States' ongoing geopolitical "rediscovery" of Southeast Asia. Though not without substantial challenges and potentially significant obstacles, on balance the relationship between Washington and Jakarta is likely to strengthen over the coming years, potentially yielding significant benefits for both countries.

Christopher Freise is a PhD candidate in the School of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Melbourne. A graduate of the University of Virginia, he has previously served as a research fellow at the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia. His research interests include American foreign policy and grand strategy, Southeast Asian security, and the role of domestic political factors in foreign policy formulation. A native of the Washington, DC area, Christopher worked for the United States Congress for several years before commencing his postgraduate studies at Melbourne.

## **22 October**

**\* CMS/CSEAS Joint seminar**

**Dennis Walker**, Research Fellow, Monash Asia Institute

### Arabic-Medium Intellectualism in Malaysia in the 21st Century

The Arabic quarterly *\_al-Tajdid\_* of the International Islamic University of Malaysia carries articles written by Malay and Arab staff, and from Arabs in the Middle East. After 50 years of independence, the sovereign Muslim state of Malaysia has the educational superstructure that has produced several thousand Malays able to understand a complex journal that aims to stand with the best that the academies of the Arab world can offer. The classical and modern Arabs are flooding into the minds of the Malays in more diversity and depth than ever before. In the other direction, Malay contributors to the journal will make the Malay people's issues and Islamic thought better understood in the Arab states.

Arab and Malay high intellectuals, then, are responding to the new chances and challenges of globalization and post-modernity together. Many Arabic articles in *\_al-Tajdid\_* develop at a higher level the acute sense of post-modern Islamic magazines in Malay of the tightening of the community of disparate civilizations around the globe. Like the Malay magazines, the Arabic journal sees chances in globalization more than challenges.

*\_al-Tajdid\_* blends the high rationalisms of (a) classical Islamic philosophy and (b) motifs from the post-Enlightenment West. It has been an open forum for “innovative liberal independent thought”. This paper tries to measure how seriously the journal attempts to apply the Islamic scriptures and the West’s post-Copernican physics to interpretation of each other. How far could these trends to liberal Islamist analysis restore enough flexibility in Islamic law to apply it and the issues of our globalizing world to each other?

Dennis is currently researching Muslims in Thailand.