

Monash Asia Institute Bulletin

December 2011

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Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

Item 1. From the MAI Director's Desk

For the last Bulletin for 2011, we hereby present another diverse range of upcoming and recent Asia-related events, announcements and other postings. For 2012, we have begun looking into new ways of organising thematic seminars and public lectures that draw together MAI and Arts and other faculty expertise, while also continuing to host occasional speakers.

There will be another stimulating range of scholarly discussion on thematic issues pertaining to South Asia. We also hope to involve the Hon John Brumby, who is now a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at Monash and Melbourne Universities, in sharing some of his experiences in government and business in relation to engaging more closely with Asia, especially China. And the Annual Indonesia Lecture Series looks set to address the theme of Sustainability.

Beginning 1st January 2012, I will undertake the role of MAI Director. We will begin to introduce the new MAI template and website. We will also continue to build up MAI's research and teaching activities more generally, in particular by zeroing in on the pool of expertise in Arts and other faculties, including that of the highly valued MAI Adjunct Research Fellows.

The first MAI Bulletin for 2012 is scheduled for Wednesday 1st February 2012. If you have news on any events or other announcements which you would like us to include, please forward this to mai-enquiries@monash.edu, by Friday 27th January 2012.

Warmest regards for the Festive Season,
from Dr Max Richter and the MAI team

Item 2. Monash CSEAS Seminar 'Anne Frank and Sukarno as Icons of History in Divided Dutch Memories of World War II'

Prof Dr Frances Gouda (Political Science and History Department - University of Amsterdam)

**Thursday 1st December 2011, 12 noon
Room W1010, 10th Floor West, Menzies Building, Monash University Clayton Campus**

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Prof Dr Frances Gouda is a professor of (post)colonial history and gender studies at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. Upon completing a degree in education in 1971 at the Rijkspedagogisch Academie in Utrecht, the Netherlands, she studied at the University of Washington in Seattle WA in the United States, earning BA, MA and PhD degrees in history (1980). Her dissertation and initial research project focused

on the social and intellectual history of nineteenth-century France and the Netherlands, which resulted in a book entitled *Poverty and Political Culture: the Rhetoric of Social Welfare in the Netherlands and France, 1815-1853*.

While visiting Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney in Australia during the period November 26 - December 10, 2011, she will present a paper on "Anne Frank and Sukarno as Icons of History in Divided Dutch Memories of World War II" and workshops on "Empire's Progeny: Gender and Ethnicity in the Dutch East Indies" as well as "Carl Heinrich Stratz and Oriental and Occidental Women's Bodies: European Imperialism, Medical Science and Physical Anthropology in the Dutch East Indies and Elsewhere in Colonial Asia."

Item 3. Monash CSEAS Seminar 'Gender Orders Transformed: Expanding Agencies of Hadhrami Women in Indonesia'

Dr Martin Slama (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Tuesday 6th December 2011, 2 pm

Room W1010, 10th Floor West, Menzies Building, Monash University Clayton Campus

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

This seminar is based on research carried out among Indonesians of Arab descent or Hadhramis, as they are called in the literature, since their ancestors migrated from the Hadhramaut (located in today's Republic of Yemen) to the then Netherlands East Indies. It examines the gender orders they brought with them from the Hadhramaut and their transformations due to local cultural influences as well as modern Islamic and secular developments. This paper attempts to elucidate Hadhrami gender orders by resorting to (and showing the analytical limits of) eminent anthropological literature on women in Indonesia. It particularly highlights the transformations of Hadhrami gender concepts and practices that have occurred during the last two decades, not least due to intensifying transnational flows and translocal networking within Indonesia. These more recent developments generate expanding agencies such as the increasing participation of Hadhrami women in the business domains of their fathers or husbands and, most importantly, the establishment of their own businesses.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr Martin Slama is a Postdoctoral Researcher, Austrian Programme for Advanced Research and Technology (APART) at the Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, with his project "Among National Elites and Local Muslims. The Hadhrami Diaspora in Contemporary Indonesia". He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Department of Anthropology, School of Culture, History & Language, ANU. Complementary to his research on the Hadhrami diaspora and on Indonesian Islam, he focuses on the uses of the new information and communication technologies in Indonesia. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Indonesia (Java, Bali, Sulawesi, North Moluccas, West Papua).

Item 4. Monash GTReC's Public Lecture 'Countering Violent Extremism: Lessons from Europe'

Dr Magnuse Ranstorp, Research Director at the Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), Swedish National Defence College

Thursday 1st December 2011, 12.15 - 1pm

Lecture Theatre B32, Basement, Building H, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

Monash University The Global Terrorism Research Centre invites you to attend a Public Lecture: Countering Violent Extremism: Lessons from Europe. All Welcome.

ABOUT THE LECTURE

Since the terrorist attacks in Madrid in 2004 and in London in 2005, various EU governments have struggled to calibrate their response against an increasing and evolving threat of violent extremism and terrorism. It is not just an issue of homegrown extremism but it is also linked to foreign fighters travelling to conflict zones and at times returning back (Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen, etc). The threat inside the EU is also not just focused on al-Qaeda-related terrorism but also on other forms of extremism as starkly illustrated by the Norwegian atrocity on July 22, 2011. This lecture will focus on the evolving terrorist threat across the EU and the pathways and lessons learned from countering violent extremism.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr Ranstorp is the Research Director at the Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS) at the Swedish National Defence College. He has directed two major research projects in the last 5 years, funded by Civil Contingency Agency, one on radicalisation processes and counter-radicalisation policies within Europe and one on CBRNE terrorism. Dr Ranstorp has also lead a Cabinet assignment on radicalisation (2008/9); a SIDA-funded project on counter-radicalisation efforts in Indonesia (2009); and a Armed Forces HQ study on forecasting terrorism in 2018 (2008). Prior to CATS, Dr Ranstorp was the Deputy and later Director of the world-renowned Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews. Since 1994 he was largely responsible with other colleagues for the unparalleled reputation CSTPV gained worldwide before and after 9/11.

Dr Magnus Ranstorp is internationally recognised as a leading expert on Hizballah, Hamas, al-Qaeda and other militant Islamic movements. His work on the behaviour of the Hizballah movement was recognized by Israeli media in March 2000 as among the contributing factors leading to the decision by the Israeli government to withdraw from southern Lebanon. It was preceded by a 3 year secret back channel between Hizballah and Israel (publicly revealed in 2000).

Both before and after 9/11, he was a consultant on terrorism issues to CNN and its investigative unit assisting on stories in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America. In 2011-2012 he is an invited member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Terrorism. Dr Ranstorp is also on the advisory board of several

peer-reviewed international academic journals, most notably *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*; *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*; and *Civil Wars*. He is an elected Fellow of The Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences. He is also, an adviser to the official evaluation of the Danish Action Plan against Extremism (which is due to be finalised in 2013).

Item 5. The Launch of Book 'THE GENOME GENERATION' by Dr Elizabeth Finkel

**Monday 12th December 2011, 6pm for 6:30pm start
Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA), Monash University Caulfield Campus**

Melbourne University Publishing invites you to the launch of '*The Genome Generation*' by Elizabeth Finkel, the author of the acclaimed '*Stem Cells*' and Higher Education Journalist of the Year 2011, by Professor Ed Byrne AO, Monash University Vice-Chancellor.

RSVP to MUP on 03 9342 0300 or mup-info@unimelb.edu.au by 5 December

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Finkel holds a PhD in biochemistry and spent ten years as a professional research scientist before becoming an award-winning journalist. She is a contributing editor to *Cosmos* magazine and also writes for the US magazine *Science*. Her numerous awards include a Queensland Premier's Literary award for her book, *Stem Cells: Controversy at the Frontiers of Science*. In 2011 she was named the National Press Club's Higher Education Journalist of the Year.

News from Other Institutions

Item 6. Free Online Access to All Routledge Area Studies and Related Journal Content until 16th December 2011

Routledge is offering free online access to all our area studies journal content for six weeks from the 3rd November to the 16th December 2011, and would like your help disseminating the 'Access All Areas' campaign.

During this time anyone will be able to read articles online, even if they don't have current subscription access. It's a great opportunity to promote research to a wider international audience and also discover potential new journals to submit your latest research to.

Link to the Access All Areas landing page.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/showPublications?category=43983479>

Item 7. “India and the Age of Crisis: A Symposium on the Local Politics of Global Economic and Ecological Fragility”

2nd - 3rd February 2012

The University of Western Australia, Perth

The purpose of this symposium is to critically consider how politics (used in its broadest sense) in India are likely to be shaped by global economic and ecological crises. In particular, we seek contributions that address one or more of the following sub-themes on the intersections between global crisis and the specificity of politics and society in India:

- Historical perspective on crisis
- Crisis and governance
- Economy and crisis
- Labour and crisis
- Crisis and society
- Business and crisis

Convenor: Associate Professor Michael Gillan
The University of Western Australia Business School

As an expression of interest in participating in this event, scholars are invited to submit an abstract (max of 400 words) detailing the title and focus of their paper along with their name, institutional affiliation, and contact details. The organisers will then communicate with prospective presenters on the acceptance of their abstract and the presentation of a full paper at the event.

Deadline for submission of abstract: 1st December 2011.

Please submit to michael.gillan@uwa.edu.au.

Special Issue Publication: A selection of papers from the symposium will be published in a special issue of South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies in 2013.

For more information on the themes and the organisation of this event, please download the announcement

<http://sasaa.org.au/perch/resources/india-and-age-of-crisis-flyer-final.pdf>

Confirmed presenters include

(a) **Palagummi Sainath** (or P. Sainath), India’s most highly-awarded journalist with over 40 international and national awards for his investigative and social sector reporting in a career spanning three decades, and the winner of the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization’s Boerma Prize in 2001.

(b) **Swapna Banerjee-Guha**, Professor of Development Studies in the School of Social Sciences, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

(c) **Anjal Prakash**, Senior Fellow and Director – Peri Urban Water Security Project at South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies - SaciWATERS, Hyderabad, India.

Registration Fees: Standard registration \$150 (or \$80 for single day registration)
Full time students with ID and pensioners \$60
No refunds available

If you are not presenting a paper, you are welcome to attend the event. Please email your registration form to jena.peskett@uwa.edu.au.

Item 8. Call for Applications: Asian Civilisations Museum Research Fellowship Grant 2012-13

The Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore invites scholars to apply for fellowships in areas related to the museum's collections, and specifically in Peranakan material culture, Confucianism, or Christianity in Asia (up to 1800) – topics of future exhibitions.

The research fellowships support in-depth original study and writing on specialised aspects of Asian culture. Applications will be screened by a committee of curators and scholars.

Applications close on 15th February 2012.

For information, please visit http://acm.org.sg/research/research_fellowship.asp
For enquiries, please contact the Research Unit at nhb_acm_rpu@nhb.gov.sg, or +65-6332-5316.

Item 9. Call for Papers: Conference ' Bali in Global Asia - Between Modernization and Heritage Formation'

16th - 18th July 2012
Universitas Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

At the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Universitas Udayana.

Participants are invited to propose panels or individual papers on 'Bali in global Asia', with special reference to processes of modernization, urbanization and heritage formation.

Deadline proposals for panels and papers: 31st January 2012

To submit proposals, please visit
<http://iias.nl/event/bali-in-global-asia>

For more information, please contact Prof. Henk Schulte Nordholt at schultenordholt@kitlv.nl

Conference fee: USD \$50 for non-Indonesian, and IDR 200,000 for Indonesian participants. Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

Item 10. Release of 2011 ICAFS Report 'Feeding Asia in the 21st Century: Building Urban – Rural Alliances'

The International Conference on Asian Food Security (ICAFS) took place on 10–12 August 2011 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in Singapore. ICAFS 2011, themed '**Feeding Asia in the 21st Century: Building Urban-Rural Alliances**', was convened in the context of complex and multifaceted challenges throughout food systems in Asia. The conference sought to address timely questions relating to these challenges, and foster discussions among a range of stakeholders from Asia's food sectors.

This report details the proceedings of the three-day conference. It also contains an ICAFS Statement put forth by participants on ways forward to address food security in Asia.

The report can be found at

<http://app.getresponse.com/click.html?x=a62b&lc=cBzQ&mc=Be&s=yur6M&y=p&>

Recent Events

Item 11. Radio Interview of Mr Maseeh Rahman '*Indian students still face 'uncertainty' in Australia*' on ABC Radio Australia (Mon 7th Nov 2011)

After the MAI Roundtable Discussion 'Current Indian Student Situation in Melbourne' on Wednesday 2nd November 2011, Mr Maseeh Rahman was interviewed by Sen Lam on Monday 7th November 2011.

His interview audio '**Indian Students Still Face 'Uncertainty' in Australia, Says Analyst**' can be found on the Connect Asia website

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/connectasia/stories/201111/s3358244.htm>

Interview Summary:

- Australian Immigration authorities cancelled the visas of over 15,000 foreign and Indian students, because they violated the terms of their stay.
- The cancellations were a rise of 37 per cent compared to the previous year.
- Students from India were hardest hit, because many had enrolled for vocational courses, and some had missed classes to work more hours than they were allowed.
- He says the situation has certainly improved for Indian students in the city over the past few years.

Item 12. Announcement '2011 ASAA President's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis

The Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) is delighted to announce its President's Prize for the best thesis on Asia awarded in 2010. The winner is **Dr Roberto Manuel Benedicto**, who wrote the winning dissertation, entitled '**Bright Lights, Gay Globality: Mobility, Class, and Gay Life in Twenty-first Century Manila**' in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne. Dr Benedicto will receive a prize in the sum of \$1,500. He will also receive the DK Book Award worth \$500.00, presented by DK Agencies, the global book distributor based in New Delhi.

For the first time in its history, the Association is also delighted to announce the awarding of a second prize of \$500 to **Dr Agnieszka Sobocinska** for her dissertation entitled '**People's diplomacy: Australian travel, tourism and relations with Asia, 1941-2009**'. Agnieszka submitted this work to the University of Sydney.

Committee members were enthusiastic in their approval of Benedicto's thesis, which presents a critical analysis of Manila's middle-class, gay club scene. Benedicto theorises this scene with reference to current theories of sexuality in cultural globalisation. One of the judges described it as '*a gripping, wonderfully original read. It has a sophisticated theoretical approach and reads as a brave auto-ethnography; simply fabulous writing*'. Another judge wrote: '*It has changed the way I view the city [Manila] after decades working in the field of urban studies*'.

Dr Sobocinska's thesis drew similar praise: '*a sweepingly broad, multi-disciplinary survey of the changing non-diplomatic relationships and attitudes of Australians towards Asia from war and Cold War through to tourism and terrorism*'.

The Association congratulates Roberto and Agnieszka, and extends its gratitude to: the Australian universities that submitted a total of nine theses for the committee's deliberation; the committee-members who generously gave of their time to evaluate the entries; and to the secretary, Dr Julian Millie.

Item 13. 'The Inaugural AAHM Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage', Manila, The Philippines

8th-12th November 2011

The National Museum of the Philippines in Manila, The Philippines

Dr Mark Staniforth, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow School of Geography and Environment Science, Faculty of Arts, Monash University, is the Chair of the Scientific Committee and was involved in organising this conference.

The Conference aimed to raise the profile of Underwater Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific region and has UNESCO patronage. This conference provided a great opportunity to engage with and build collaborations with maritime archaeologists and underwater cultural heritage managers as well as to provide a forum for discussion

and the exchange of ideas, approaches and the latest research about underwater cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. A wide range of people involved with underwater cultural heritage attended including those from universities, government agencies, museums, NGOs, IGOs, the private sector and the community.

More information of this Conference can be found at

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

Item 14. MAI Special Seminar 'Laws Liberty and Livelihoods: Manushi's Policy and Law Reform Battles for Cycle Rickshaw Pullers and Street Vendors in India'

Madhu Purnima Kishwar

Thursday 24th November 2011, 12 noon - 2.00 pm

Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The audio visual presentation described the existing policies governing two of the largest groups of urban self employed poor in India as illustrative examples of the vicious statist controls that trap the legitimate occupations of people in the unorganized sectors of economy in a web of illegality which make them easy victims of extortionist mafias and human rights abuses. The presentation also described the landmark victories in Manushi's 18 year long battle in pushing for policy and law reform for these two sectors as part of our work towards a bottom up agenda of economic reforms in India as well as the setbacks and continuing hurdles faced in implementing the new policies and laws. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of the new laws drafted by Manushi as illustrative examples of enabling legislation that strengthens the rights of the poor without resorting to draconian punitive measures.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER*

Madhu Purnima Kishwar is Senior Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)—a social science research centre, based in Delhi. Director of the Indic Studies Project based as CSDS and Convener of a series of International Conferences on Religions and Cultures in the Indic Civilization. She is the Founder Editor and publisher of Manushi - A Journal about Women and Society published since 1979. The Journal is run by a non-profit Trust. Kishwar is also Founder President, Manushi Sangathan - a forum for research based advocacy and active interventions for democratic reforms that will promote greater social justice and strengthen human rights for all, especially for women.

* From Madhu Purnima Kishwar's blog <http://www.manushi.in/pages.php?pageid=7>

Item 15. Radio Interview of Madhu Kishwar 'Harsh controls on urban poor must be lifted' on ABC Radio Australia (Thu 24th Nov 2011)

Before the MAI Special Seminar 'Current Indian Student Situation in Melbourne' on Thursday 24th November 2011, Madhu Kishwar was interviewed by Sen Lam.

Her interview audio and its transcript '*Harsh Controls on Urban Poor Must be Lifted: Expert*' can be found on the Connect Asia website

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/connectasia/stories/201111/s3375234.htm>

Item 16. Seminar @ Monash 'Sport and the Media in Malaysia: National Imperatives and Western Seductions'

Callum Gilmour, Sunway Campus in Malaysia, Monash University

Monday 28th November, 3pm - 4.30 pm

Room 2.26, Building T, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

This seminar was organised by the Research Unit in Media Studies (RUMS), which is a collective of Monash University researchers committed to the study of media theories, histories, practices and industries. RUMS builds upon existing staff strengths and interests in how media audiences, industries and texts are produced and circulate within contemporary culture and society. A particular emphasis of the Unit is the development and inclusion of postgraduate researchers in events and activities.

Contact: Brett Hutchins (Brett.Hutchins@monash.edu, Phone: 03 9903-2098).

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Elite sport has sought to branch out from saturated domestic media markets in the West and expand into new territories. To varying degrees, the growth of local Asian sports cultures has been impeded by the power of Western sport. As many of these nations reach or approach developed nation status, sport's capacity to stimulate national identity, pride and unity has been eroded or retarded by the hegemony of Western sports brands. This paper addressed the Malaysian context, where the nation-building process has been problematised by the complex racial, cultural and religious make-up of its population. It also analysed the obstructive tension between local sporting developmental agenda and the orchestrated intrusion of global (predominantly Western) sports commodities.

Item 17. Website of the month: EU-Asia Centre

<http://www.eu-asiacentre.eu>

The EU-Asia Centre is a new think-tank dedicated to promoting closer relations between the EU and Asia. The inexorable shift in the global balance of economic and political power towards Asia has profound consequences for the EU. There is a serious risk that Asia and Europe will drift apart, making it increasingly difficult to

tackle global challenges. It is therefore necessary to encourage serious strategic thinking in Europe about the implications of the rise of Asia and the future course of EU-Asia relations.

The EU-Asia Centre aims to establish itself as the leading, Brussels-based research policy think-tank on EU-Asia relations, covering developments in Asia and relations between the EU and Asia. In addition to publishing our own policy papers and hosting our own events, our aim is to be the hub of a network spanning institutes and think tanks around Europe and Asia. The website will be a repository of all official events pertaining to EU-Asia relations; it will have a calendar of events run by partner and other organisations; and it will provide useful links to a range of government, academic, think tank, business and media organisations.

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@monash.edu