

## **Monash Asia Institute Bulletin** (2/2009)

10 March 2009

### **Contents**

1. CSEAS Seminar: Failure of the Bangsamoro right to self-determinism
2. Public lecture: Afghanistan: War without end?
3. National Conversation Series: The PMs
4. Seminar: Buddhist traditions and mental health
5. Seminar: Who am I? Religion, identity and public life
6. CSEAS Seminar: The Malays
7. Lecture & Demonstration: Afghanistan music
8. CSEAS Seminar: Angkor imaged, Angkor imagined
9. CSEAS Seminar: Gender analysis in SE Asian politics
10. Documentary Film Released: Indonesia in the margins
11. China Data Online
12. SEAP2009 Conference
13. New Publication: Churchill, Roosevelt and India
14. Website of the month

### **Monash Asia Institute and Monash University News**

#### **1. CSEAS Seminar**

##### **Failure of the Bangsamoro right to self-determination: Separatism and sovereignty in contemporary Philippines**

Charles Donnelly, PhD Candidate, Monash Asia Institute

Thursday 12 Mar 2009, 11:00 am

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

Eleven years on, the Mindanao peace process is in tatters. Declared unconstitutional by the Philippine Supreme Court in October 2008, the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) was intended to pave the way for a comprehensive peace pact between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Looking to examples of newly independent states such as East Timor and Kosovo, the MILF Peace Negotiating Panel enthusiastically adopted the right to self-determination - as understood in international law - as the best means to overcome restrictive constitutional provisions on autonomy. The Government panel, on the other hand, though agreeing to the legal norm in deliberations, was ultimately overruled by judicial review. This discussion assesses the failure of the Bangsamoro right to self-determination in contemporary Philippines.

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

ALL WELCOME

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## 2. Public Lecture

Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria

### **Afghanistan: War Without End?**

Dr Faridullah Bezhan, Monash Asia Institute

Thursday 12 March 2009, 5.30pm – 7pm  
Dyason House  
124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

More than eight years after the Taliban's removal from power by US-led international forces, followed by the election of a new government, Afghanistan has entered into an entirely different phase of war. It is marked by challenges of a revitalised Taliban-led insurgency which has not only stepped up activities in its heartlands around the south and east, but is now operating in other parts of Afghanistan. The Taliban groups conduct operations and are holding territories within the tribal belt of Pakistan alongside the Afghan border. This situation demonstrates the lack of an effective strategy or even an unwillingness by the governments of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the coalition forces to combat the Taliban. These developments require the Obama administration, which has given Afghanistan top military priority, to review its strategies and consider a military surge among other approaches to the problem. All this raises a vital question: is war winnable in Afghanistan, if so, how? These questions are vital for Australia, with its military involvement in Afghanistan and amid growing fears for the stability of the region.

Dr Faridullah Bezhan is a senior research fellow at Monash Asia Institute, Monash University. Currently he is working on an Australian Research Council (ARC) project, "The Jihadi, Revolutionary and Antiwar Fiction in Afghanistan, 1978-2007". He has written several books and articles in English and Persian on the literature, politics and history of Afghanistan. His most recent monographs are: 'The Politics of Satire': Tarjoman, the First Afghanistani Satirical Newspaper' (Monash University Press, 2008), 'Gift of Badakhshan: literature and history' (Mawqofat Afshar, 2007), which he edited and annotated, and 'Afghanistani Storytelling and Writing: history, performance and forms' (Monash Asia Institute, 2006).

Registration and costs: <http://www.aiia.asn.au/cde.cfm?event=254627>

### **3. National Conversation Series, 2009**

The National Library of Australia and  
National Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University

#### **The PMs: Illuminating the path to power**

Friday 13 March 2009, 2-4 pm  
National Library of Australia Theatre

Prime-ministerial biographers Jenny Hocking, David Day and Peter Van Onselen discuss the challenges involved in writing about Australia's political leaders.

Chaired by Ken Begg, each writer will reveal the stories of the complex and extraordinary men who rose to become Prime Minister.

Entry - free

Bookings: (02) 6262 1271 or [bookings@nla.gov.au](mailto:bookings@nla.gov.au)

### **4. Public Seminar**

organised by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology, Monash University and Monash Asia Institute

#### **Mindfulness Counselling: Buddhist Traditions and Mental Health**

Sunday 15 March 2009, 2.00-4.00 pm  
Room K309, Monash University Caulfield Campus

This public seminar includes a presentation by the Ven. Naotune Vijitha Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Dhammasarana Temple in Keysborough. He is a scholar well versed in Pali and Buddhist studies.

The seminar will be followed by a panel discussion with:  
The Ven. Sucinta, trained as a psychologist in Germany, and a fully ordained nun (Bhikkhuni) in the Theravada tradition since 1998, residing at Sanghamittarama in East Bentleigh;

Professor Padmasiri de Silva, Adjunct Research Associate with CSRT, formerly Head of the Dept of Philosophy & Psychology at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Prof de Silva has an advanced diploma in counselling, and is practising in the field.

Dr Craig Hasted, of the Dept of General Practice, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University, will then launch a new book by Dr Padmasiri de Silva, 'An introduction to mindfulness-based counselling: the magic of the ordinary & the elegance of small things' (Sarvodaya Vishvalekha Publication, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka).

Light refreshments will be served.

Free admission, but bookings recommended

[Susan.Grist@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Susan.Grist@arts.monash.edu.au)

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Prof. Constant J. Mews

Director, Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology

School of Historical Studies, Monash University

## 5. Seminar

Co-Sponsored by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology, Monash University and the State Library of Victoria.

### **Who am I? Religion, identity and public life**

Monday 16 March 6.00-7.30pm

Village Roadshow Theatre,

State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street (Entry 3 La Trobe St)

Public conversation with Stephen Crittenden, ABC religious affairs journalist, and Waleed Aly, lecturer in the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University, and media commentator

Details: <http://arts.monash.edu.au/religion-theology/>

Reservations recommended: [Susan.Grist@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Susan.Grist@arts.monash.edu.au)

## 6. CSEAS Seminar

### **The Malays**

Professor Anthony Milner, Australian National University

Thursday 19 March 2009, 11:00 am

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

Just who are 'the Malays'? What it is to be 'a Malay' seems to have differed from one era or one regional context to another. It is also far from certain that people called 'Malay' by Europeans and other outsiders generally defined themselves in this way. Ought we to speak of a 'Malay race' or 'Malay ethnicity'? Or are such concepts products of a particular phase of European thinking about human classification? Another intriguing question is why 'the Malays' have so often expressed the fear that they might 'disappear from this world'.

The paper will discuss the history of Malayness, reaching back to Melaka and earlier, and then consider briefly the fate of the Malay idea in the nation and region building of the last century.

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

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## 7. Lecture and Demonstration

Monash Asia Institute, School of Music-Conservatorium, Monash University  
and Australian Institute of International Affairs (Victoria)

### **Both Sides of the Curtain: Discovering the Music of Afghanistan**

Emeritus Professor John Baily and Dr Veronica Doubleday

Wednesday 25 March 2009, 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria  
Dyason House  
124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, 3002

In the 1970s, before the start of the long war in Afghanistan, John Baily and his wife Veronica spent over two years researching music in the historic city of Herat. Together they bridged the gender divide. John studied the music of men's gatherings, concerts and wedding ceremonies, and Veronica frequented the separate world of women's parties and rituals. They also learned to perform the music they were studying. In this talk they describe the challenges and excitement of their work, illustrating their account with their own musical performance, and visual and audio recordings from that time. They provide a refreshing picture of musical life in Afghanistan before the Taliban.

John Baily is Emeritus Professor of Ethnomusicology at Goldsmiths, University of London. He and Veronica Doubleday have numerous publications on the music and culture of Afghanistan. They are currently Visiting Academics at Monash University.

Admission free, booking  
(recommended): [MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au) with "Afghanistan music lecture" in the subject heading of the email.

## 8. CSEAS Seminar

### **Angkor Imaged, Angkor Imagined**

Tom Chandler, PhD candidate, Monash University

Thursday 26 March 2009, 11:00 am

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

The increasing popular acceptance of virtual three-dimensional (3D) technologies in games, animations and online collaborative spaces are at last beginning to deliver on some of the promises of 'virtual reality made some years ago. However, in comparison to the media heavyweights of Rome, Greece and Egypt, the virtual image of Angkor remains largely unexplored. How this image might be conveyed to the popular imagination in the coming years, in Cambodia and elsewhere, poses interesting questions.

This largely visual presentation will outline some of these possibilities and overview ongoing research into the computer-generated 3D visualization of landscapes, people, architecture and daily life in ancient Angkor.

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

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## 9. CSEAS Seminar

### **Has gender analysis been mainstreamed in the study of Southeast Asian politics?**

Susan Blackburn, PSI, Monash University

Thursday 2 April 2009, 11:00 am  
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South, Monash University Clayton campus

About 20 years ago some of us feminist scholars became exasperated at the neglect of gender in writing on Southeast Asian politics and held a conference at Monash University to discuss the matter. As women, we were offended by the invisibility of our sex in political science. The conference in 1987 gave rise to a book edited by Maila Stivens entitled 'Why Gender Matters in Southeast Asian Politics' in which I analysed a number of scholarly books on Southeast Asian politics.

Two decades later I am revisiting my earlier analysis to see what, if anything, has changed. When we held our earlier conference, feminism had only just begun to influence the study of Southeast Asia. Many feminist works relevant to Southeast Asian politics have now been written. Can we now see their impact on mainstream politics writing?

The paper will examine several scholarly books that cover Southeast Asian

politics in a general and comparative way, and some that are more specifically about Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam in order to get the picture at the level of individual countries. I will hazard some explanations as to the differences and similarities we find in these works, and what they tell us about the state of gender analysis in political science.

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

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## **10. Between Three Worlds Films: New Release**

MAI Press and Between Three Worlds Films present a new Indonesian film available on DVD

### **Indonesia at the margins: political documentaries and essay films**

by Garin Nugroho (1991–2002)

The Collection comprises the following four films (all subtitled in English)

Air Dan Romi ('Water and Romi', 1991)  
Dongeng Kancil Tentang Kemerdekaan ('Kancil's Story About Independence', 1995)  
My Family, My Films and My Nation (1998)  
Aikon: Sebuah Peta Budaya ('Icon: A Cultural Map', 2000-2002)

The four films on this DVD are the most important early documentary and essay films by Indonesia's leading director of features, Garin Nugroho. The subjects examined in this collection include environmental issues in Jakarta, the plight of some young street kids in Yogyakarta, the past and future of West Papua, and Nugroho's relationship to his own films. The first two films in effect are pioneering works in the development of critical and investigative documentary in Indonesia, made in the Suharto era, at a time of considerable political repression. The two later films are innovative documentary-essay films, made by Nugroho with the resources of his SET Workshop. In this collection all the films have had their subtitling revised or based on completely new translations.

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/films/margins.php>

## **11. China Data Online**

The Monash University library now subscribes to China Data Online - Zhongguo Shu Ju Zai Xian in English and Chinese. China data Online can be

accessed from:

<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/databases/c.html>

The online collection includes: Statistics from the national to city level, industrial and marketing data, national and provincial yearbooks, census information and census atlases.

This complements the library's existing China-focussed databases - China Academic Journals, Dragonsource and Factiva

## **News from other institutions**

### **12. Conference**

Southeast Asia Psychology Conference (SEAP 2009)

organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Theme: **Issues, challenges and opportunities in Southeast Asia**

9-11 July 2009, Sabah, Malaysia

Participants and papers are invited for the following areas:

Psychology, Economics and Business, Social Sciences and Humanities and other related fields.

More details: <http://www.ums.edu.my/conferences/index.php>

Enquiries: Conference Secretariat Psychology and Social Health Research Unit, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Locked bag 2073, 88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. Tel: +6088 320000 ext 8079, 8104

### **13. New publication**

#### **Churchill, Roosevelt, and India: Propaganda during World War II**

by Auriol Weigold

Routledge, \$140 HB, ISBN 9780415990028, 2008, 224 pps

As the United States was drawn into the Second World war, pressure grew from a number of nations for India's independence. Prime Minister Churchill, in Britain's name, engaged deliberately in propaganda in the United States to persuade the American public and, through it, President Roosevelt that India should not be granted self-government at that time. Weigold adroitly unravels the reasons why this propaganda campaign was deemed necessary by Churchill, in the process, revealing the campaign's outcomes for nationalist Indians.

In 1942 Sir Stafford Cripps went to India to offer limited self-government for the duration of the war. However, when discussions between Churchill and

Cripps collapsed and Indian leaders rejected Cripp's Offer, the failure of the talks was publicised in the United States as a matter of Indian intransigence and not Britain's failure to negotiate - a spin of the news that critically affected public opinion. Relying upon extensive archival research, Weigold exposes the gap between Britain's propaganda account and both the official and unofficial records of the course the negotiations took. Weigold concludes that during the drafting, progress and planned failure of Cripp's Offer, this episode in the imperial endgame revolved around Churchill and Roosevelt, leaving Indian leaders without influence over their immediate political future.

Auriol Weigold is Course Convenor and Lecturer in the University of Canberra's highly successful BA International Studies.

**14. Website of the month:** chinadialogue

<http://www.chinadialogue.net/>

chinadialogue is a bilingual source of high-quality news, analysis and discussion on all environmental issues, with a special focus on China.

**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/>

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