

Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (9/2009)

6 October 2009

Contents

1. MAI move to Caulfield campus
2. Seminar: Neoliberal development (Rajasthan)
3. Pakistan Briefing
4. Persian Music Concert
5. CSEAS Seminar: Thailand's strange southern war
6. CSEAS Seminar: US-Indonesian Relations in the Age of Obama
7. MAI PhD Confirmation Seminar: Neo-Orientalism and the (Mis-)Representation of India
8. CSEAS Seminar: Arabic-Medium Intellectualism in Malaysia in the 21st Century
9. Seminar by Dr Farish Noor: Islam in our Region - Is there a South East Asian Islam
10. Call for Papers: Trauma, memory and transformation: The Malaysian and Southeast Asian Experience
11. Student Research Workshop
12. Website of the month: Sarawak Museum

Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

Item 1. A message from the Director, MAI

MAI IS MOVING TO CAULFIELD (on 17th and 18th October)

The Monash Asia Institute is moving its premises from Clayton to the Caulfield Campus, Level 5 in Building. This is a wonderful, modern building with many amenities, close to the city (ten mins by train) and close to various restaurants.

The MAI looks forward to working with other centres of the University to create a major research hub in the Social Sciences and Humanities - our collaboration with these centres and departments will grow and intensify. Specifically, we look forward to a deeper relationship with the IT faculty, Business and Economics, the Centre for Islam and the Modern World, the School of Political and Social Inquiry, the Global Terrorism Research unit, the EU and European Studies Centre, the Centre for Global Movements and the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisations - all of which are housed in Building H. We also look forward to closer work with the Faculty of Art and Design and many others.

Our telephone numbers and postal address will change - we will notify you of the new contact details asap. In the meantime, please continue to use our email addresses as these will not change

Kindly note that the WHOLE of the MAI is moving to Caulfield - some 70 postgraduates and 60 Research Fellows.

With best wishes
Professor Marika Vicziany
Director, Monash Asia Institute

Item 2. Seminar

School of Geography & Environmental Sciences

Wednesday 7th October, 1pm
SGO2 (Manton Rooms, Ground Floor, South Wing, Building 11)

The Promise of Patronage: Adapting and adopting neoliberal development

Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly, Department of Geography, College of Geosciences,
Texas A&M University, USA

Much of the literature on NGOs and development suggests that a top down process is underway which leads to the dispersal of neoliberal ideals. Drawing on two-years of ethnographic research in Rajasthan, India, this paper examines how a poverty alleviation project "fits" into competitive and co-operative socio-economic relations already operating on the ground. It argues that in contradiction to neoliberal notions of empowerment espoused by project policies, both NGOs and their constituents have an interest in establishing and maintaining patronage networks that stabilize relationships of dependency. The paper concludes that neoliberal development projects serve to enable patron-client relationships between NGOs and villagers, and enrol the state in the continuing provision of benefits beyond those planned by the project.

Kathleen O'Reilly conducts extended ethnographic research in the areas of critical development geography and political ecology. She is interested in the ways that development interventions restructure social, environmental and spatial relations in communities and implementing organizations. Her research specifically focuses on community and women's participation components of drinking water supply projects in the state of Rajasthan, India. A National Science Foundation Grant (#0523985) supports current research on constructions of gender inside Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and their implications for project outcomes. She aims to contribute to understandings of how global-scale policies and plans are locally transformed and spatialized through the actions of fieldworkers working for NGOs.

All welcome

Enquiries: Bianca Roggenbucke, Bianca.Roggenbucke@arts.monash.edu.au

Item 3. Seminar

Monash Asia Institute
Briefing on Pakistan

Thursday 8 October 2009, 6pm to 8.30pm
Monash University Conference Centre
Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne

While the Indo–Pakistani border region has moved to the forefront of international concerns about regional stability and the war on terror, misinformation and misunderstanding about modern Pakistan have not abated. This forum is designed to provide three different perspectives into modern Pakistan and the resilience or otherwise of its people and government. Ms Zorica McCarthy is regarded as one of Australia’s most accomplished diplomats and was widely admired for restructuring the relationship between Australia and Pakistan during her period as the High Commissioner in Islamabad. Andrew MacLeod worked as the Emergency Co-ordinator in the UN’s response to the devastating Pakistan earthquake in 2005. Until the UN’s involvement the relief came mainly from Lashkar-e-Toiba. Dr Bukhari is writing a book about ethnic conflict in Baluchistan, one of Pakistan’s most contested provinces. He will speak on the role of Baluchistan in the construction of national identity.

Speakers

- Ms Zorica McCarthy, Former Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan
- Mr Andrew MacLeod, Former Chief of Operations, United Nations Emergency Co-ordination Centre, Islamabad
- Associate Professor Mussawar Bukhari, International Research Fellow, Monash Asia Institute, and Fellow of the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

This is a special Monash Asia Institute public event following **Chatham House rules**.

DOWNLOAD Brochure: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/news-and-events/seminars/index.php#pakistan>

RSVP: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with ‘Pakistan Briefing’ in the subject heading of the email

Item 4. Persian Music Concert

Thursday 8 October 2009, 7 - 9 pm
Building 9, Monash University Clayton campus

Based on archaeological findings, Persian music, with an over a thousand years of history, is one of the world's earliest cultures. In the old days, musicology, the "science of music" was regarded as a branch of mathematics and held in high regard.

This performance will showcase improvisation in Persian Music also pieces by famous Persian Composers, Saba and Payvar.

An informative presentation of Persian music history will be presented by performers themselves using power point slides

Performers are:

Qmars Piraglu- Santur (Hammer Dulcimer)
Ali Bastaninejad - Flute and Ney
Kamran Khajepoor - Santur and Tonbak

Everyone is welcome! Especially those with an interest in music, its roots and traditions

Cost: Free public performance

Booking: <http://www.iranian.monashclubs.org/concert.php>

Item 5. CSEAS Seminar

Thursdays 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. In this talk the speaker

addresses both the broad discursive environment of debate and highlights a number of key encounters and observations in his ongoing research in the field.

Full details:

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

Enquiries

Dr Jemma Purdey

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash University

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

Item 6. CSEAS Seminar

Thursdays 15 October 2009, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South, Monash University Clayton campus

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

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

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.

Details:

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

Enquiries

Dr Jemma Purdey

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Item 7. MAI PhD Confirmation seminar

Thursday 15 October 2009, 1.00 pm

Room S822, Level 8 South, Building 11 (Menzies)

Monash University Clayton campus

Old Stories, New Authors: Neo-Orientalism and the (Mis-)Representation of India

Mr David Geraghty, PhD candidate, Monash Asia Institute

India, perhaps more than any other part of the former British colonial empire, has inspired Western scholars, explorers, capitalists and adventurers to take up their pens and write. The result has been a flood of literary and academic texts that catalogue, articulate and define Indian's wonders, horrors, exoticness and myriad differences from the West. Edward Said has termed this generalized hegemonic Western treatment of the East "Orientalism", and various Postcolonial scholars have localised the problem of Orientalism within the Indian context.

A key facet of Orientalism is that India and its many aspects are reduced to essentialised qualities, properties or propensities that are compared with Western norms and found epistemologically and/or ontologically deficient in some way. My research traces the (diachronic) development of this Orientalism in written commentary about India, and seeks to articulate a contemporary "neo-Orientalism" whose authors are Indian. This neo-Orientalism, moreover, poses a seeming conundrum: can "Orientals" be "Orientalists"?

David Geraghty is a PhD student with the Monash Asia Institute, a writer, and Senior Analyst, Strategic Development with the Research Office at the University of Auckland.

RSVP: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with 'Orientalism' in the subject heading of the email

Item 8. CMS/CSEAS Seminar

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

Thursdays 22 October 2009, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm
Manton Room SG02, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (11) South, Monash University Clayton campus

Arabic-Medium Intellectualism in Malaysia in the 21st Century

Dennis Walker, Research Fellow, Monash Asia Institute

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.

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

Enquiries
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Item 9. Seminar

Monash Asia Institute

Tuesday 27 October 2009, 12:00 noon
Theatre HB32, Building H
Monash University Caulfield campus

Islam in our Region - Is there a South East Asian Islam?

Dr Noor's lecture will look at the state of Islam and Muslim politics and intellectualism in the region, and pose a question: have we reached the point where there can be such a thing as 'South-East Asian' Islam? And if so, what impact can countries such as Indonesia have on informing and influencing Islam elsewhere?

Dr Farish Ahmad Noor is a Senior Fellow at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and Affiliated Professor at Universitas Muhamadiyah Surakarta (Solo) Yogyakarta, Indonesia. At the NTU he is part of the research cluster on the contemporary development of trans-national religio-political networks across South and Southeast Asia, where he is studying the phenomenon of Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Buddhist religio-political mobilisation in the public domain.

He was formerly attached to the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies in Berlin Germany, the Institute for the Study of Muslim Society Paris and the International Institute for the Study of the Muslim World, Netherlands. Dr Noor has published several books and articles examining Malay identity and the image of Islam in political discourse.

RSVP: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with 'South East Asian Islam' in the subject heading of the email

Item 10. Call for Papers

Conference and Workshop: Tuesday June 22 – Thursday June 24, 2010

hosted by School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University, Sunway campus, Malaysia

Trauma, memory and transformation: The Malaysian and Southeast Asian Experience

Venue:

School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University, Sunway campus

Jalan Lagoon Selatan, 46140, Bandar Sunway, Selangor Darul Ehsan,
Malaysia

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstract: Monday November 2, 2009

Notification of Acceptance: Tuesday December 1, 2009

Submission of Conference Paper: Monday May 3, 2010

In recent humanities and social science research there has been a cross disciplinary interest in notions of both trauma and memory. Trauma is seen as a moment of profound alteration and change in the lives of both individuals and communities. The range of catalysts for the assessment of trauma is wide, from the effects of war, terrorism, state violence and natural disaster through to the more personal instances of trauma such as illness, sexual identity acceptance and survivors of crime, including survivors of gender based violence.

The study of memory has also been an important development in the humanities and social sciences. Memory study complements more traditional historical discourse by offering alternative pathways to an assessment of personal and shared experience. Memory Studies provides subaltern communities with a distinctive opportunity to have their recollections and memories considered as a part of a living history – revealing narratives that might be alternative to the grand narratives of national and regional historic discourse(s).

This conference wishes to scrutinize localized Malaysian and Southeast Asian responses to trauma through an analysis of a variety of case studies that are informed by memory and that reveal as a result patterns of transformation that have arisen. How do individuals and communities in Southeast Asia respond to trauma? How is trauma overcome? What role does reflection play in the process of transformation? What particular features do the Malaysian and Southeast Asian experiences of a range of traumas add to our understanding of trauma and memory at a global level?

Participants for this conference can bring experience from a wide and diverse array of academic disciplines as well as practitioners such as Non-Governmental and Civil Society groups concerned with Southeast Asia.

Abstracts and Panel proposals not exceeding 500 words should accompany a brief biography and be sent no later than **Monday November 2, 2009** to:

Benjamin McKay, Lecturer, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Sunway, Jalan Lagoon Selatan, 46150 Bandar Sunway, Selangor Darul Ehsan, MALAYSIA

Email: benjamin.mckay@sass.monash.edu.my

Fax: (+603) 5514 6365

Item 11. 2009 Higher Degree Research (HDR) Student Workshop

hosted by Monash University's

International Business Research Group (IBRG)
Development Research Unit (DRU)
Monash European and EU Centre (ME&EUC)

Tuesday 10 November 2009, 9.30am to 5.00pm HB.32, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Students undertaking Honours, Masters and DBA/PhD programs in International Business, Development areas and research related to the European Union are cordially invited to join other HDR students and their supervisors at a research workshop. Students working on International business, Development areas and research relating to European Union are particularly encouraged to present.

The objectives of the workshop:

- to provide a venue for students to report on their progress;
- to allow academics and fellow students to comment constructively and supportively on each others' research;
- to allow academics and fellow students involved in areas of International business, Development and European business research to come together and share ideas and approaches within their respective disciplines.

The form of student presentations may vary. Honours students and those who are newly enrolled might prefer to simply introduce themselves and briefly describe their topics. Ideally, students who are presenting will have completed their first year. Students will have 30 minutes to present their project with an additional 10 minutes of supportive and constructive feedback.

Welcome: 9.30 to 9.45am

Associate Professor Cherrie Zhu, Director of the IBRG, Department of Management
Dr Mita Bhattacharya and Professor Brett Inder, Co-Directors of the DRU, Faculty of Business and Economics
Professor Pascaline Winand, Director of the Monash European and EU Centre

Opening Address: 9.45 to 10am

Professor Kim Langfield-Smith is Deputy Dean (Research) and Professor of Management Accounting.

Professor Kim Langfield-Smith graduated with a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Sydney, Master of Economics from Macquarie University, and a PhD from Monash University.

She is a fellow of both CPA Australia (FCPA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (FCA). She is chair of the Accreditation Advisory Committee of CPA Australia and is the nominee of CPA Australia and ICAA on the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB). From 1999 to 2001, she was President of the Accounting Association of Australian and New Zealand (AAANZ) (now called AFAANZ), the professional organization for accounting and finance academics.

Professor Kim Langfield-Smith held previous appointments as Head of the Department of Accounting and Finance at Monash, Head of the School of Business at La Trobe University as well as other academic appointments at the Melbourne Business School, the University of Tasmania, and University of Technology, Sydney.

Convenor: Dr. Susan Freeman

RSVP (essential for catering purposes) for expressions of interest in participating in the workshop and a thesis title to be forwarded to (susan.freeman@buseco.monash.edu.au) by Monday 2nd November, 2009.

Item 12. Website of the Month

Sarawak Museum: <http://www.museum.sarawak.gov.my/main.htm>

The eight museums featured in this website were built close to a century ago. The museums remain and survived over the years. The buildings themselves are historical and today, serve as the custodian and keeper of all the historical documents and artefacts such as antiques, monuments, cultural landmarks, [archaeological specimens](#), architectural, artistic and religious materials associated with the traditions and beliefs of the people of Sarawak and Borneo as a whole.

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>