Monash Asia Institute Bulletin

July 2012

2012: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Indonesian and Malay Studies at Monash

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Item 1. From the MAI Director’s Desk

The July 2012 MAI Bulletin comes out a week before the 19th Biennial ASAA Conference (University of Western Sydney, 11–13 July 2012), and contains a fantastic range of seminars and book launches, calls for papers, and other Asia-research related activities. We are continuing work on the new MAI website, and are helping to support 22 Indonesian scholars through a 10-week ALAF program organised by Monash Sustainability Institute (2 July – 8 September 2012).

The next MAI Bulletin is scheduled for Wednesday 1st August 2012. If you have news on any events or other announcements that you would like us to include, please forward this to MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu, by Friday 27th July 2012.

From Dr Max Richter and the MAI team

Item 2. Monash Asia Seminars – NCSAS Roundtable Discussion
‘Terrorism or Mass Poverty/Slow Economic Growth: Which is the Most Serious Threat to India’s Future?’

Tuesday 10th July 2012, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Special Guests:
Professor Lord Meghnad Desai (Emeritus Professor, LSE)
Professor Kumaraswamy (JNU, New Delhi)
Lady Kishwar Desai/Ahluwalia (Independent Author)

Light refreshments will be served. For catering purposes, please advise your RSVP to MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu by Friday 6th July 2012.

ABOUT OUR GUESTS
Meghnad Desai is Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He is a member of the UK House of Lords since 1991, the author of The Rediscovery of India among twenty five books, and he writes a weekly column in the Indian Express.

P. R. Kumaraswamy is Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. From 1992 to 1999 he was a research fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Jerusalem. At the JNU he teaches, writes and undertakes research on West Asia/Middle East, in particular India’s relations with Israel, the Arab world and international relations in general/terrorism. He also established the Middle East Institute, New Delhi (www.mei.org.in) in 2010.

Kishwar Desai is an independent author. Her novel ‘Witness the Night’ won the Coast Best First Novel Prize in 2011, and her next book ‘The Origins of Love’ is to be published by Simon and Schuster in June 2012 worldwide. She has also published ‘Darlingji the True Love Story of Nargis and Sunil Dutt’ which is a biography of two iconic Bollywood stars. She is currently working on a biography of Devika Ranithe, the 1930s star, film producer and studio manager.
Postgraduates attending this roundtable discussion will be encouraged to report on their work.

We acknowledge the support of the Australia India Council, the Australia India Institute (University of Melbourne) and the South Asian Studies Association of Australia for their support in bringing these guests to Australia.

**Item 3. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI/MEEUC Public Seminar ‘EU-Turkey Relations’**

Dr N Nevra Esentürk, Yalova University, Istanbul

Tuesday 17th July 2012, 1.00pm – 2.00pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Nevra Esenturk is an assistant professor, in the Department of International Relations at Yalova university, Turkey. Her academic interests are in the field of EU politics and international relations.

**Item 4. Book Launch @ Monash ‘A History of State & Religion in India’ by Ian Copland, Ian Mabbett, Asim Roy, Kate Brittlebank and Adam Bowles**

Wednesday 18th July 2012, from 4.30pm
6th Floor Foyer, Menzies Building (Building 11), Monash University Clayton Campus

The School of Philosophical, Historical & International Studies & the Monash Asia Institute are pleased to invite you to the launch of ‘A History of State & Religions in India’ by Dipesh Chakrabarty, Lawrence A Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor in the Departments of History and South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.

Enquiries: email Kerrie.Alexander@monash.edu, telephone +61 3 9902 0116.

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Authors: Ian Copland, Ian Mabbett, Asim Roy, Kate Brittlebank and Adam Bowles
Publisher: Routledge Studies in South Asian History

Offering the first long-duration analysis of the relationship between the state and religion in South Asia, this book looks at the nature and origins of Indian secularism. It interrogates the proposition that communalism in India is wholly a product of colonial policy and modernisation, questions whether the Indian state has generally been a benign, or disruptive, influence on public religious life, and evaluates the claim that the region has spawned a culture of practical toleration.
The book is structured around six key arenas of interaction between state and religion: cow worship and sacrifice, control of temples and shrines, religious festivals and processions, proselytising and conversion, communal riots, and religious teaching/doctrine and family law. It offers a challenging argument about the role of the state in religious life in a historical continuum, and identifies points of similarity and contrast between periods and regimes. The book makes a significant contribution to the literature on South Asian History and Religion.

Item 5. Monash Asia Seminars – Q & A with Ward Keeler
‘Approaching the Performing Arts from an Anthropological Perspective’

Assoc Prof Ward Keeler, University of Texas

Tuesday 24th July 2012, 1.30pm – 3.00pm
Engineering Hall (EH2), Building 60, Monash University Clayton Campus

Assoc Professor Ward Keeler will lead a discussion on how he looks at the performing arts from an anthropological perspective.

Item 6. Monash Asia Seminars – Anthropology Public Lecture
‘Men on the Margins of Burmese Society’

Assoc Prof Ward Keeler, University of Texas

Tuesday 24th July 2012, 4.00pm – 5.30pm
S9 Theatre, Building 25, Monash University Clayton Campus

ALL ARE WELCOME.

In a hierarchy-based society such as Burma’s, every difference carries a difference in prestige. Men and women differ in a lot of ways, but men’s prestige outranks in principle that of their wives. What about men who do not enter into social relations in normal ways, that is, do not marry and have children? Transgendered men (those whose gender-presentation and/or sexuality contravenes the expected) give up much of the status advantage their biological sex would usually grant them. Monks enjoy much greater prestige than their sex alone would furnish them. How do these men, one set positioned at the lower margin, the other at the upper margin, of Burmese society, negotiate their status in a society in which they hold long-recognized but still distinctive roles.

Ward Keeler is a cultural anthropologist specializing in expressive culture, language, and gender studies. Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas, he received his BA from Cornell University and his PhD from the University of Chicago’s Committee on Social Thought. The first part of his career he devoted to work in Indonesia (Java and Bali). In recent years he has worked more extensively in Burma. His publications include books on Javanese shadow puppets, a Javanese language textbook and a translation of an Indonesian novel, and several articles on the arts in
Java, Bali, and Burma. He has just completed ten months research on Buddhist monks and their relations with lay people in Mandalay.

**Item 7. Book Launch @ Monash ‘Musical Journeys in Sumatra’ by Prof Margaret Kartomi**

**Tuesday 31st July 2012, 6.00pm – 8.30pm**
**Room H1.16, Level 1, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus**

The School of Music-Conservatorium and Professor Rae Frances, Dean of the Faculty of Arts are pleased to invite you to attend the launch of ‘Musical Journeys in Sumatra’ by Professor Ed Byrne AO, Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University and His Excellency Mr Primo Alui Joelianto, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in Australia.

There will be performances of rare Sumatran dances and music, plus refreshments.

To RSVP via online form, please copy and paste the link below in your web browser.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dHpRNmQ0RkhzOGNsVWVtemhXbGtPMGc6MQ

This event is organised in association with Monash Asia Institute and the Indonesian Consulate-General in Melbourne.

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

**Author: Margaret J Kartomi**
**Publisher: University of Illinois Press**

Despite being the sixth largest island in the world and home to an estimated 44 million Indonesians, Sumatra's musical arts and cultures have not been the subject of a book-length study until now. Documenting and explaining the ethnographic, cultural, and historical contexts of Sumatra's performing arts, *Musical Journeys in Sumatra* also traces the changes in their style, content, and reception from the early 1970s onward.

Having dedicated thirty years of scholarship to exploring the rich and varied music of Sumatran provinces, Margaret Kartomi provides a fascinating ethnographic record of vanishing musical genres, traditions, and practices that have become deeply compromised by the pressures of urbanization, rural poverty, and government policy in. This unique collection showcases the complex diversity of Indonesian music and includes field observations from five different provinces: Aceh, North Sumatra, Riau, West Sumatra, and South Sumatra. Featuring unique photographs and original drawings from Kartomi's field observations of instruments and performances, *Musical Journeys in Sumatra* provides a comprehensive musical introduction to this neglected, very large island, with its hundreds of ethno-linguistic-musical groups.
Item 8. Book Launch ‘Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java’ by Prof Merle Ricklefs

Tuesday 14th August 2012, from 6.00pm
Asia Bookroom, Unit 2, 1-3 Lawry Place, Macquarie, ACT

The Asia Bookroom invite you to the Canberra launch of Professor Merle Ricklefs’s latest book ‘Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java: A Political, Social, Cultural and Religious History, c.1930 to the Present’ by Professor the Honourable Gareth Evans. Following the launch, Prof Ricklefs will talk about his ground breaking work.

RSVP: By 13th August 2012, by phoning 6251 5191 or email mailto:books@AsiaBookroom.com

Admission by gold coin donation to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Item 9. Call for Papers ‘Manga Studies: A Symposium Celebrating 10 years of the JSC Manga Library at Monash’

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Japanese Studies Centre Manga Library at Monash University, a symposium is being held on the 23rd and 24th November 2012. The Manga Studies symposium will be a multidisciplinary event that aims to attract scholars from a broad variety of areas of study.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words, accompanied by 50 word presenter biographies should be emailed to symposium@mangalibrary.org by Monday 30th July 2012.

For more information please see the attached information sheet and visit http://arts.monash.edu.au/lcl/jsc/events/events-2012/manga-studies.php

Item 10. Call for Papers National Symposium: Japanese Language Education 2012 ‘Creating the Future’

The Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education, Monash University (MCJLE), in association with the Japan Foundation, Sydney, is sponsoring the first National Symposium for Japanese Language Education in over 30 years. The symposium will take place on 1st and 2nd November 2012 at the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.

In 2010 the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations funded a report on ‘The Current State of Japanese Language in Australian Schools’. The report gathered more comprehensive data than had ever been collected before and interviewed a wide range of stakeholders to provide a detailed assessment of the current state of the field and to suggest an agenda for future development. It identified serious issues in a number of areas, in addition to ongoing strengths, and made six key recommendations. One of these was the Establishment of a National Council for Japanese Language’ to provide leadership, representation, advocacy, and opportunities for the sharing of information and expertise. This Symposium is a direct response to that recommendation, and to the need for Japanese
language educators to engage with important developments in language education policy under way at national and state levels, including the development of the Australian Curriculum – Languages.

The National Symposium will provide a unique opportunity for educators and other stakeholders to discuss issues on a national scale and to share best practice. The Symposium has an ambitious agenda, which seeks to combine presentations and discussions on cutting-edge research, innovative practice, and policy development and advocacy.

Themes include:

- Engaging hearts and minds: Advocacy in and out of the classroom
- Curriculum, including the Australian Curriculum and Japanese
- Information Communication Technology
- Innovative structures for changing learning (including pathways for heritage learners, vocational education, immersion and CLIL, Distance learning)
- Teacher education and development

Further details and a call for papers (to be submitted by Wednesday 1st August 2012) can be found at:

**Item 11. Call for Panels and Papers for the 8th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 8)**

The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) is the premier international gathering in the field of Asian Studies. It attracts participants from over 60 countries to engage in global dialogues on Asia that transcend boundaries between academic disciplines and geographic areas. Since 1998, ICAS has brought more than 15,000 academics together at seven conventions. More information on ICAS and previous conventions www.icassecretariat.org

ICAS 8 will be hosted by the University of Macau (UM) and will be held in the Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel. Some 1,500 to 2,500 Asia specialists are expected to attend. This city is located in the heart of East Asia and successfully merges its long history of culture and tradition with diversity and cosmopolitanism.

**Date:** 24th – 27th June 2013  
**Venue:** Macao, The People Republic of China  

**Deadline:** 15 July 2012 for submission of:

- Individual papers
- Organised panels (organized by a group of varying (national) backgrounds)
- Institutional panels (constituted and sponsored by an institution, association, network or company)
- Roundtable proposals
All abstracts and presentations should be in English. Submission of abstracts for panels, roundtables and papers can be made using ICAS 8 registration forms, available from www.icassecretariat.org. Participants are expected to fund their own travel and accommodation.

For more information on ICAS 8 and requirements for participation, please visit www.icassecretariat.org or www.umac.mo/icas8.

Item 12. Release of GIGA Focus International Edition
‘Myanmar: The Beginning of Reforms and the End of Sanctions’
by Marco Bünte and Clara Portela

Since March 2011, Burma/Myanmar has witnessed a liberalization of the press, the release of political prisoners and the initiation of a political dialogue between the regime on the one hand and the opposition and ethnic groups on the other. The reforms culminated in by-elections on 1 April 2012, which in turn resulted in a landslide victory for Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD). Overall, political reforms in Burma/Myanmar are being initiated from “above.” They are elite-driven and stem from the president and progressive members of the military-dominated party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

On 23 April 2012, the European Union (EU) suspended its sanctions against Burma/Myanmar in response to a series of domestic political reforms that have been enacted since Thein Sein became the new president in March 2011.

The recent report published by the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) includes the following issues:

• Authoritarianism and political reforms in Myanmar
• The background to the fragile reforms
• Challenges for democratization and ethnic reconciliation
• A complex package of sanctions
• Phasing out targeted sanctions
• The intricacies of EU decision-making
• Perfecting strategies for terminating sanctions

The full report is available for download at http://www.giga-hamburg.de/index.php?file=gf_international.html&folder=publikationen
Past Events

Item 13. Radio Interview with MAI Researcher on ABC Radio National RN Drive 'Closeup: Rapping in Iran'

Professor Marika Vicziany, MAI researcher, and Apranik, a pioneering woman rapper in Tehran, joined Mr Waleed Aly, the presenter of RN Drive broadcast programme, on Thursday 14th June 2012, to discuss Iranian rap music. Research suggests that rap music came from underprivileged areas where people had no access to musical instruments, music teachers or production studios.

The interview (about 10.5 min) is available for listening or download at: www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/drive/close-up3a-rapping-in-iran/4066360

Item 14: Australian Leadership Award (ALA) Fellows from Indonesia commencing the program ‘Developing Research Capacity for Sustainable Development in Response to Climate Change’

Twenty-two Indonesian scholars are visiting Monash University from 2nd July to 8th September 2012, under the 10-week program: ‘Developing Research Capacity for Sustainable Development in Response to Climate Change’ under the Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship scheme funded by AusAID, organised by the Monash Sustainability Institute. The program’s goals and purpose are to develop research skills among emerging research leaders in Indonesian universities. The Fellows include staff from the University of Palangkaraya, University of Indonesia (UI), Gadjah Madah University (UGM), Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Bogor University of Agriculture (IPB), and University of Tanjung Pura.

ALA Fellowships aim to develop leadership, address priority regional development issues, and build partnerships and linkages between Australian organisations and partner organisations in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East.

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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