Monash Asia Institute Bulletin
October 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

This month’s MAI Bulletin features another great range of upcoming events, including the final Herb Feith Foundation seminar for 2012 and the Cambodia Roundtable, as well as recent seminars by Professor Yuhua Ji and two new Monash Asia publications.

Monash and the MAI Community extends a warm welcome to Professor Koichi Iwabuchi, who is now settling into Monash and shares the MAI Director role with me leading into his full MAI Director role from beginning 2013.

The next MAI Bulletin is scheduled for Thursday 1st November 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 Monday 29th October 2012.

From Dr Max Richter and the MAI team

Item 2. Monash Asia Seminars – CSEAS Seminar Series

'Images of Light and Shadow: Priangan in the Eyes of F.W. Junghuhn’

Hawe Setiawan, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Pasundan University / Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB)

Wednesday 3rd October 2012, 4.00pm – 5.00pm
Japanese Studies Centre Auditorium, Building 54 (next to the bus loop), Monash University Clayton Campus

The works of visual art found among Franz Wilhelm Junghuhn’s (1809-1864) works on Java are of great value for the study of the visual representation of the Priangan – the mountainous regencies of West Java – and indeed of colonial subjects more widely, in the nineteenth century. Various scholars have studied Junghuhn’s contributions in the field of natural sciences, philosophy, and literature, yet there has been little interest in studying his works in the field of visual arts, despite the wide circulation of his images in many sources. Junghuhn was a German-born Dutch naturalist working on the island of Java for about thirteen years in the 1840s. He produced maps, sketches, drawings, and lithographical prints that represented geological, volcanic, botanical, and climatic aspects of Java’s landscape, including that of Priangan. I read Junghuhn’s work in a context not yet appreciated by the wider scholarly community: his ongoing efforts to synthesise his life’s work and passions in a distinct world view combining the arts, science and religion. It is this synthesising world view that distinguishes Junghuhn from other nineteenth-century naturalists.

Hawe Setiawan is currently a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Letters at Pasundan University, Bandung, and is a PhD candidate at Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB). His PhD research concerns the visual representation of the nineteenth century Priangan in the work of Franz Wilhelm Junghuhn. He work resume includes experience working as journalist, NGO activist, translator, lecturer, critic and curator. His writings including edited works, scholarly articles and translations. Recent major works include (as editor and contributor) Sosok pemimpin Sunda dalam gagasan dan pengalaman (Paguyuban...
Pasundan 2012), (as researcher) Priangan di mata Junghuhn (Sundalana No. 11, 2012), (as editor and curator) Forum Sastra Indonesia Hari Ini: Jawa Barat (Komunitas Salihara, 2010). He is currently a visiting scholar in the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University.

Item 3.  **Screening of ‘Dr. Sarmast’s Music School’ Film in Melbourne**

Directed by Polly Watkins; Produced by Beth Frey  
Runtime 97 mins, in English and Dari with English subtitles

**Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) Cinemas**  
Saturday 6th October 2012, 4.00pm + Q & A  
Saturday 13th October 2012, 4.00pm

‘Musicologist Dr Ahmad Sarmast* returns to Kabul after 15 years in exile to reopen an old music school, closed down by Muslim extremists in 1992. His dream is to revitalise Afghanistan's musical traditions - devastated by years of war and Taliban rule - and create the country's first national institute of music. He also hopes to offer Kabul's street kids and orphans the chance to study, in the belief that music might heal their trauma and offer them a better future.’

A Q&A with director Polly Watkins, producer Beth Frey and cinematographer Peter Zakharov will follow the screening on Saturday 6th October. This session will be hosted by the Australian Film Critics Association.

Trailer of the film can be view at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyrnAiS5lOs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyrnAiS5lOs)

Tickets are available from ACMI: [www.acmi.net.au/oz_dr_sarmasts_music_school.aspx](http://www.acmi.net.au/oz_dr_sarmasts_music_school.aspx)  
Full/Concession $8, ACMI member $ 6.

* Dr Ahmad Sarmast is an MAI Research Fellow. For more information on the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, please visit [http://afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org/](http://afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org/)

Item 4.  **Monash Asia Seminar Series**  
*‘Dancing Ethnic, Dancing Modern: The Politics of Performance Labor in “Emergent” Markets’*

Dr Priya Srinivasan  
Critical Dance Studies, Department of Dance, University of California, Riverside

**Tuesday 9th October 2012, 4.00pm – 5.30pm**  
Lecture Theatre H7, Ground Floor, Menzies Building (Building 11), Monash University, Clayton Campus
This presentation looks at dancers as laborers at two critical historical junctures at the convergence of race, immigration, and politics to provide an alternate lens with which to think through how performance and dance offer insights into the terms of citizenship. Using theory that emerges from practice (praxis), this talk will examine how performance artists have negotiated and continue to negotiate the relationship between margins and mainstreams. Dr. Srinivasan will be drawing from her recent book “Sweating Saris: Indian Dance as Transnational Labor” to make connections between U.S. and Australian performance labor markets.

Priya Srinivasan is an Associate Professor in Critical Dance Studies at the University of California, Riverside in the Department of Dance. She has a PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University. Her research uses feminist performance ethnography to explore the inter-relations between labor, migration, and dance through theory and performance practice. Srinivasan’s recent book “Sweating Saris: Indian Dance as Transnational Labor” (Temple University Press, 2012), seeks to understand dance as labor, and dancers not just as aesthetic bodies, but as transnational migrant workers and wage earners who negotiate citizenship and gender. Srinivasan is the recipient of the Gertrude Lippincott Essay Award in 2008 for the Best Essay in Dance Studies awarded by the Society of Dance History Scholars. She has recently given talks at Harvard University, Northwestern University (Summer Seminar in Critical Dance Studies), and the University of California, Berkeley. Srinivasan has worked as an experimental dance/theatre choreographer in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Shanghai (China), and has extensive training as a professional dancer in Australia having performed with Dr. Chandrabhanu and the Bharatam Dance Company.

Item 5. MEEUC Public Lecture
‘The EU and Interregionalism: the Case of ASEM’

Melissa Conley Tyler
National Executive Director, Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA)

Friday 12th October 2012, 9.00am – 11.00am
Lecture Theatre H 2.35, Level 2, Building H, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

Admissions are FREE. Please RSVP: europcentre@monash.edu or phone 9903 4638

In 2010 Australia became a member of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), an organisation that brings together 45 Asian and European states. ASEM is one of the largest international meetings at leaders’ level but has a surprisingly low profile.

ASEM is an unusual attempt to promote dialogue between two distinct regions. Commentators have mixed views of ASEM’s success: those who emphasise the importance of dialogue and relationship-building tend to be satisfied; those who look for concrete outcomes tend to be less so.

Melissa Conley Tyler will give an outline of the structure and functioning of ASEM and an update on this year’s meeting in Vientiane, Laos. She will also place ASEM in the larger context of different concepts of regionalism in Europe and Asia.
Melissa Conley Tyler, a lawyer and specialist in conflict resolution, was appointed National Executive Director of AIIA in 2006. She was previously Program Manager of the International Conflict Resolution Centre at the University of Melbourne and Senior Fellow of Melbourne Law School. In 2008 Melissa was selected as one of the nation’s 1,000 “best and brightest” to participate in the Australia 2020 Summit convened by the Prime Minister to discuss future challenges facing Australia. Later in 2008 she was selected to receive the Young Alumni Award for most outstanding graduate of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy under 40. She is a member of the International Advisory Council of the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy.

Item 6. The Herb Feith Foundation Seminar Series 2012
‘Islam, Secularism and Liberal Democracy in Indonesia and the Rise of Extremism’

Professor Greg Barton, Herb Feith Research Professor, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University

Tuesday 16th October 2012, 6.00pm for 6.30pm start
H1.16 Ground Floor, Building H, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

Some light Indonesian refreshments will be served upon arrival followed by the seminar and book launch

Admissions are FREE, but RSVP is essential for catering purposes, by Tue 9th October, Eric Cheng: Phone: 03 9903 4616 or email: eric.cheng@monash.edu

In this, the final in our new series of seminars on Indonesia, the region and peace studies related themes, Professor Greg Barton, Herb Feith Research Professor for the Study of Indonesia in the Faculty of Arts at Monash will speak about Islam, secularism and liberal democracy in Indonesia and the rise of extremism.

Greg Barton is the Herb Feith Research Professor for the Study of Indonesia in the Faculty of Arts at Monash. He is based in the Politics stream in the School of Political and Social Inquiry. He is acting Director of the Centre for Islam and the Modern World (CIMOW), Deputy UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific, and is active in the Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC). For the past twenty years Greg has been active in inter-faith dialogue initiatives and has a deep commitment to building understanding of Islam and Muslim society. The central axis of his research interests is the way in which religious thought, individual believers and religious communities respond to modernity and to the modern nation state. He also has a strong general interest in comparative international politics. Over the past two decades Greg has undertaken extensive research on Indonesia politics and society, especially of the role of Islam as both a constructive and a disruptive force. Since 2004 he has made a comparative study of progressive Islamic thought in Turkey and Indonesia and is hoping to extend this comparative study to India.

** This seminar will be followed by the launch of ‘Knowing Indonesia: Intersections of Self, Discipline and Nation’, edited by Jemma Purdey (see Item 16 in this Bulletin)
Despite the reaffirmation of the ‘secular’ character of the Indonesian state and the strengthening of constitutional guarantee for religious freedom during the constitutional reform period (1999-2002), religion-state relations and religious freedom in Indonesia has remained characterised by certain paradoxes. One of these paradoxes can be seen in the enactment of a number of laws strongly influenced by particular interpretations of Islamic law at the national level and the introduction of various “shari’a bylaws" at the regional level. Another paradox is the remaining in force, and its recent affirmation by the Indonesian Constitutional Court, of Law No.1/PNPS/1965 on Blasphemy which prohibits and criminalizes religious interpretations or practices which are considered “deviant” from the core tenets of six “recognized religions” (Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism). In these two cases, the principle of state neutrality, championed as one of the core principles of liberal democracy and religious freedom, has been put into question with certain interpretations of particular religion are allowed to dictate the state’s laws and policies. These paradoxical developments, however, are not without challenges. One of the sustained challenges came from “liberal” and “progressive” Muslim intellectuals and activists who strongly oppose both the formalization of Islamic law and the continuing application of the Blasphemy Law. The paper will focus on some of discursive efforts made by a number of liberal and progressive Muslim activists in response to these two particular issues. Based on the writings of and interviews with some of these Muslim activists, the paper will examine the extent to which they have advocated and negotiated the liberal discourse of state neutrality and religious freedom in the political-legal debates on these two issues. The central question of the paper is how and to what extent they reconcile the liberal premises of state neutrality and religious freedom with the Islamic politico-legal discourses and the historically dominant ideological narrative of the Indonesian state as a compromise between its “Islamic” and “secular” orientations.

Supriyanto Abdi is PhD Candidate at the Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne. Prior to his PhD study, he completed his Master of Contemporary Asian Analysis at the University of Melbourne (2005) and his undergraduate study in Islamic Studies at the Islamic University of Indonesia (Universitas Islam Indonesia/UII) Yogyakarta (2000). His recent publications include “Islam and (Political) Liberalism in Indonesia: A Note on the Recent Debate”, Journal of Indonesian Islam, Vol. 3 No. 2 (December 2009) and “Islam, Religious Freedom and the Challenge of the Blasphemy Law in Post-New Order Indonesia: Liberal and Progressive Muslim Voices” in Religious Minorities in Muslim-Majority Localities in Southeast Asia: Areas of Toleration and Conflict, edited by Bernhard Platzdasch and Johan Saravanamuttu (Singapore: Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, forthcoming).
Item 8. **Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Seminar Series**

*‘The Road to November: The US Political System, Election Process and Key Issues’*

Ifti Rashid, PhD Candidate, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University

**Tuesday 30th October 2012, 12 noon – 1.00pm**

MAI Seminar Room, H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

On Tuesday 6th November, all eyes of the world will be on the United States of America. It will be historic moment as American voters will elect the next Untied States President who shapes both domestic and foreign policy. They will make a choice between incumbent President Barack Obama (Democrats) and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney (Republican), nominated by their parties after primaries and caucuses at the local level.

In this public lecture, Ifti Rashid will discuss the US political system and election process constituting one of the largest participatory democratic exercises in the world. He hopes to shed light on the values and principles of American Exceptionalism underpinning the federal system and governance. Moreover, he will analyse key local and international issues that have dominated the election process so far and likely to influence voters in the last few weeks of campaigning. The presentation is based on Ifti’s visit across the United States to see primaries and caucuses earlier in the year.

Ifti Rashid, a political and security analyst from Bangladesh, is currently a Doctoral Candidate and Endeavour Scholar in the School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University. He is based in the Monash Asia Institute. He is a former Lecturer of the Independent University Bangladesh, Political & Economic Adviser, Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, Government of Canada and visited the United States as part of the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in February 2012.

Item 9. **Cambodia Roundtable Discussion**

*‘Cambodia: Peace and Development. Twenty Years After Paris’*

**Friday 2nd November 2012, 9.00am – 5.00pm**

Monash University Caulfield Campus

The Hon Gareth Evans (Chancellor ANU and former Foreign Minister) will be the guest speaker, and will give his assessment of Cambodia twenty years after the Paris Agreements and Ambassador Pou Sothirak (Senior Visiting Research Fellow ISEAS and Former Cambodian Ambassador to Japan) will open proceedings with an assessment of Cambodia, ASEAN and the South China Sea. The Guest Speakers remarks will be followed by presentations by PhD students from around Australia on their projects.

Program will be available end of first week in October. We highly recommend registration as places are limited. *Please register your interest in attending this Roundtable Discussion by email: MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu, with subject line: Registration – Cambodia Roundtable Discussion.*
Item 10. Allan Chawner ‘Remnants’ (Beijing) Photography Exhibition

Opening Night: Thursday 4th October, 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Exhibition dates: 5th – 27th October 2012, Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat 1pm – 4pm
Colour Factory Gallery, 409/429 Gore Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Please RSVP for the opening night: gallery@colourfactory.com.au

In 2010 Allan Chawner was artist in residence at the Red Gate Gallery Residency Program at Bei Gao on the outskirts of Beijing. During this time he completed several series of works; some in collaboration with other resident artists, and others which developed as a result of his solitary cycling expeditions into the surrounding areas. In the exhibition Remnants he presents scrolls which are divided into three sections and record three different aspects of his response to this surreal and devastated landscape. These series are titled Sculptures, Place and Remains. The landscape and buildings around Bei Gao have been demolished; nothing much remains of the small houses previously occupied by migrants from the Chinese countryside, or of the various industries in which these people were employed. This area hosted several sculpture studios, mainly fabricating figurative work for public places, restaurants and hotels. Traces of this industry can be found amongst the ruins; broken sculptures lie half submerged in a forest of debris. Piles of bricks have been collected by scavenging locals; these will be taken away and used to build yet more small temporary homes a little further out of the city, away from the encroaching development. These in turn will be demolished as Beijing continues to grow.

The works in Remnants have been printed on rice paper and traditional archival rice glue has been used to mount the images. It seems appropriate to show this view of the beauty and terror of a changing China, in a way which acknowledges the importance of the underlying tradition and history of this culture. The three books which accompany the scrolls are also made according to traditional methodology; these hand-held objects allow an intimate viewing of images from each of the series. In Remnants, Allan Chawner has successfully portrayed both the beauty and the underbelly of modern China. He engages our curiosity, sympathy and optimism for this emerging world power.

- Professor Anne Graham, the University of Newcastle, 2011.

Allan Chawner has been a practicing artist for more than 30 years. During this time he has consistently held exhibitions and collaborated with writers or composers. Allan’s artwork is based around notions of sense of place in portraiture and landscape. His work is a response to identity: both of the self and of the communities. He presents exhibitions internationally and has also developed links with small communities, exhibiting in venues outside mainstream art galleries. Allan ‘s work is part of many public and private collections both in Australia and overseas. Allan has been lecturing in visual arts since 1978 and remains a Conjoint Associate Professor of Fine Art at The University of Newcastle, New South Wales.
**Item 11. Symposium ‘Theatre and Dance in Asian-Australia: Discussing Contemporary Performance in an Age of Liquid Modernity’**

**Monday 8th October 2012, 5.30pm for 6.00pm start**  
Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, Parkville

**Admissions are FREE – For catering purposes, please RSVP: ljoel@unimelb.edu.au**

The symposium is presented by Asialink and the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne. Researchers will discuss the findings of a three year Australia Research Council funded project that investigates comparative modernities across performances in the region. The discussion will be followed by a conversation with artists who will discuss their work and respond to the issues raised by the project.

**Presentation on the Asia Pacific modernities project**  
Assoc Prof Denise Varney (chair), Prof Barbara Hatley, Assoc Prof Chris Hudson and Assoc Prof Peter Eckersall

**Artist panel. Conversation moderated by Peter Eckersall**  
- Dr Rachael Swain, artistic director of Marrugeku (www.marrugeku.com.au)  
- Chi Vu, playwright and installation artist. Asialink residency alumni from 2000  
- Tony Yap, artistic director of Tony Yap Company. Asialink residency alumni from 2005

**Q&A will be followed by refreshments until 8:00pm.**

**Item 12. The 7th Indonesian Film Festival in Melbourne**

**8th – 13th October 2012**  
RMIT Capitol Theatre, 113 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

The Indonesian Film Festival (IFF) is an annual event established in 2006. It was especially created to boost cultural interaction between Australians and Indonesians. This year, IFF Inc, in collaboration with Melbourne University Indonesian Students Association, proudly presents five movies line-up.

*Dilemma (Dilema)*  
Thu 11 October 2012, 7.15pm (98 mins) #

*Lovely Man*  
Fri 12 October, 7.15pm (75 mins) Australian Premiere

*Paper Boat (Perahu Kertas)*  
Fri 12 October, 9.15pm (110 mins)

*Mama Cake*  
Sat 13 October, 4.15pm (137 mins) # International Premiere

*For Ucok (Demi Ucok)*  
Sat 13 October, 7.15pm (75 mins) # World Premiere  
# followed by Meet the director & actress, Q&A Session

For more information, please visit [www.iffmelbourne.com](http://www.iffmelbourne.com)

Tickets: Single ticket $15, Mini Pass (5 screenings) $ 60  
Booking online [http://iffmelbourne.com/#/menu/Tickets.html](http://iffmelbourne.com/#/menu/Tickets.html)  
or email ticketing@iffmelbourne.com
**Item 13. The 2nd Iranian Film Festival Australia**

For the last twenty years one of the most exciting national cinemas has been that of Iran. With its recent Oscar for *A Separation* and many other majors awards around the globe, it has re-inforced its position as a national cinema of major significance, despite its position as a major site of conflict within Iranian politics and the often difficult circumstances under which Iranian filmmakers operate.

This second edition of Iranian Film Festival Australia, now nation-wide, showcases the best of 2011 and 2012 in all its diversity. An exciting mix of dramas and comedies, it features the best and most interesting of contemporary Iran’s established and new directors, and many of its major actors. Please note all films are rated 18+.

Brisbane 4 – 7 October 2012, Brisbane Powerhouse  
Melbourne 10 – 14 October 2012, Australia Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)  
Canberra 11 – 14 October 2012, Arc Cinema  
Sydney 18 – 21 October 2012, Dendy Newtown  
Adelaide 25 – 28 October 2012, Mercury Cinema

For details of schedules and tickets, please visit the IFFA website [www.iffa.net.au/](http://www.iffa.net.au/)

**Item 14. ACFID Universities Linkages Conference 2012**  
*‘The Challenges for Participatory Development in Contemporary Development Practice’*

28th – 29th November 2012  
Manning Clarke Conference Centre, Australian National University

This is the third conference as part of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) [http://acfid.asn.au](http://acfid.asn.au) Universities Linkages, which brings scholars and aid practitioners together to discuss important development issues.

Participatory development involves including people who are affected by the development process as planners in that process and became very popular in the 1980s and 1990s as a response to globalization and neoliberal development policies. It is inspired by the work of Robert Chambers as a way of overcoming the shortcomings of top-down development and the limitations of expert research and planning. Participatory development's catch cry might be 'ordinary people know best'. It has, however, been criticized for being tokenistic and not been able to address the issues of top down development and more recently results-based planning. This conference will explore these issues from both an academic and practitioner perspectives.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Prof Robert Chambers** is a Fellow of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. He has worked on rural development in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and is currently concentrating on the development and spread of the approaches and methods of participatory rural appraisal. He is author of Rural Development: Putting the Last First; and his latest book is: Provocations for Development.
**Prof Gita Sen** combines a distinguished academic career with policy advocacy and NGO activism. She is a professor at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India, and Adjunct Professor of Global Health and Population at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her recent work includes research and policy advocacy on the universal health care, the equity dimensions of health, and the gender dimensions of population policies. She is the author, co-author or co-editor of several books on these gender-related issues. She is a founding member of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Woman for a New Era).

**Emele Duituturaga** is a Pacific Islands gender and development specialist, academic, consultant and trainer. Emele has served in senior roles including CEO of the Fiji Ministry for Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation and Head of the Pacific Women’s Resource Bureau for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Dr. Alan Fowler is an Emeritus Professor at the International Institute of Social Studies in the Hague and for more than thirty years an advisor to and writer on civil society organisations involved with international development. Now based in South Africa, his current advisory work focuses on reforms in the governance of international civil society alongside academic initiatives around the theme of Civic Driven Change (CDC), that is civic innovation stemming from citizens and their (in) formal associations.

**REGISTRATION**

Early Bird: $220 (until 30th September 2012)
Full registration: $275
Full-time student: $100

**CONFERENCE WEBSITE**
http://archanth.anu.edu.au/events/development-studies-conference

**Item 15. New Book on India from Monash Asia Series**

*Wanderings in India: Australian Perceptions*

Edited by Rick Hosking and Amit Sarwal
Published by Monash University Publishing

*Wanderings in India: Australian Perceptions*, sharing its title with a curious and entertaining travel book written by the first Australian-born writer John Lang, is a collection of essays about diverse encounters between Australians and Indians in both South Asia and the Antipodes. The chapters—creative, reflective and academic—meet the objectives of a volume that provide snapshots of the wide range of interests and issues that Australians have shown towards India. Taken as a whole, the chapters represent a range of responses, reactions and experiences that chart the course of the ongoing engagement between Australia and India, between Australians and Indians. While there is something of an emphasis on literary responses, charting the ebb and flow of writers’ reactions to India from the 1850s onwards, this volume also includes historical, political, sporting and other writings about the complex “magnetic amalgams” that link Australia and India.
Associate Professor Rick Hosking has recently retired from Flinders University in South Australia, where he taught in Literatures in English, Creative Writing and Australian Studies. He has had a long association with Australian Studies in India, teaching Australian Literature at JNU in 1989. He has research interests in Indigenous history, travel writing, historical fiction and Australian-Indian cultural exchange.

Dr Amit Sarwal is Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi and Founding Convenor, Australia-India Interdisciplinary Research Network (AIIRN), New Delhi, India. He was an Honorary Visiting Scholar at Monash University as an Endeavour Asia Award winner (2006-2007). He has co-edited a number of books on Australian studies, latest being: *Sold by the Millions: Australia’s Bestsellers* (2012).

For information on other titles in the Monash Asia Series, please visit [www.publishing.monash.edu.au/ma-series.html](http://www.publishing.monash.edu.au/ma-series.html)

**Item 16. New Book on Indonesia from Monash Asia Series**

*‘Knowing Indonesia: Intersections of Self, Discipline and Nation’*

Edited by Jemma Purdey


Published by Monash University Publishing

This is the first book in almost two decades to bring together scholars of Indonesia from the Australian academy in a single volume to reflect on and engage in a deep critique of their field. This is a timely contribution. The importance of Indonesia to Australia has never been more acute and it is essential that we have the tools for interpreting and understanding our nearest neighbour. Investigation of debates within the field of Indonesian studies will help us interpret better the perceptions and politics informing our study. As is befitting the multi-disciplinary nature of Indonesian studies, the book brings together leading political scientists, historians and anthropologists to give their unique perspectives and analysis of this field in the Australian academy and elsewhere in the West. This approach results in some divergent views on the fundamental questions of how Indonesia should be studied and the uses of Indonesia knowledge for activism, and presents new ideas about how we might pursue our work in the future.

Item 17.  Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Seminar Series (Recent event)  
‘The Social Function of Local Narratives in Jandol, Pakistan’

Usman Shah  
Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures & Societies

Thursday 20th September 2012, 4.00pm – 5.00pm  
Monash Asia Institute Seminar Room, H5.95 Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Usman Shah is a former Monash University student, having conducted his MA research on international development interventions in Kunduz and Takhar provinces of Afghanistan. For his current PhD research, he has been based at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies. This research project focuses on an exploration of the written and oral traditions relating to the valleys of Jandol, located in the District of Lower Dir, in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, an Afghan-border region at the centre of multifaceted contestations over power, territory, ideology and identity. Relying heavily on participant observation, the project creates an ethnographic picture of the region and allows for the exploration of local narratives in the form of legends and epic poems. In conjunction with textual sources such as British archival reports dating from the time of the creation of the Afghan-Pakistan frontier, these oral sources are contextually analysed with an overall aim of exploring their social function given the background of contemporary violence and fragile governance.

Item 18.  Monash Asia Seminar Series (Recent event)  
‘Current Trends in China in the Context of Globalization and Intercultural Communication’

Professor Yuhua Ji  
Department of English Language and Literature, Xiamen University, China

Tuesday 25th September 2012, 4.00pm – 5.30pm  
Monash Asia Institute Seminar Room, H5.95 Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

This presentation started with an effort to define culture as “human intentional action and its results” and a brief introduction to the 4-E (ecology-economy-ethics-equilibrium) theory of culture. While objecting to cultural essentialism, the speaker finds acceptable a weak version of cultural essentialism which embraces the idea of historical inertia that cultural differences die hard. In this age of globalization, historical inertia necessitates intercultural communication. Cultures are dynamic and assimilatable but inertial at the same time. With this theory as an explanatory tool this talk focuses on current trends in China in five broad aspects: A, B, C, D, E: Arts (introduction and integration of foreign art elements into China and Chinese art, renaissance of traditional Chinese art, renaissance of traditional Chinese art, multi-channels for artistic talent shows), Business (environmental products, ethical tourism, outbound investment), Culture (media, cultural enterprises, religion), Daily life (assimilation and adaptation of foreign food and drink, clothes and houses, “saint girls”, “naked wedding” and cross-national marriage), and Education (westernization and internationalization of education at all levels, English
language domination, exchange programs, Confucius institutes overseas). Illustrations of current trends in A, B, C, D, E were provided and questions concerning them were answered.

Dr Yuhua Ji, Chair Professor and PhD advisor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Xiamen University, P.R. China, is a storyteller for children on China’s national and local TVs as well as a comedian having given 35 crosstalk performances and skits in China and the UK. In addition to authoring over 60 books, translating 12 books, and publishing 40 journal articles, Ji has invented several unique methods of teaching foreign languages to children and adults (including his groundbreaking “Diglot Weave” method which has been adopted by Disney English). He has given over 80 talks at universities in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the USA, Canada, and the UK. A director and writer of 32 plays performed on campus and local TVs, he is one of the few Chinese professors capable of singing Peking Opera and classical as well as popular Chinese songs in English. His research interests include intercultural communication, critical studies of language and culture, teaching methodology for public speaking, foreign languages, translation and creative writing.

Item 19. Monash Asia Seminar Series (Recent event)
‘Evolution of Love Stories and Love Songs in China:
A Presentation Through Story-telling and Singing’

Professor Yuhua Ji
Department of English Language and Literature, Xiamen University, China

Thursday 27th September 2012, 4.00pm – 5.30pm
Monash Asia Institute Seminar Room, H5.95 Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

This presentation began with an introduction to five classical love stories told and retold by generations of Chinese story-tellers, i.e. The Cowherd and the Weaving Girl, Lady Meng Cried the Great Wall Down, The Love story of Liang Shambo and Ju Yingtye, The Romance of the White Snake, and The Fairy Girl Married Dong Yong.

Then it reviewed the evolution of love songs in the past hundred years, from the early period of semi-colonialism in the beginning of the 20th century through the early period of New China to the post-Cultural Revolution period till the first decade of the 21st century. Love has been expressed through songs projecting different images such as cottage, shepherd, cowboy, the moon, the sun, wolf, butterfly, spider, etc. They reflect changes of conception about love in different times. The following songs were sung by Prof Yuhua Ji to illustrate the changes in language, image, imagination, tempo and style: Kangding love song, In a place far, far away, Under the silver moonlight, My heart is mirrored by the moon, Husband and wife go home together, A thousand years of waiting for this love, What a sweet smile, Two Butterflies, Legend, transforming us into butterflies, and Wanna love even if I die.
Dr Yuhua Ji, Chair Professor and PhD advisor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Xiamen University, P.R. China, is a storyteller for children on China’s national and local TVs as well as a comedian having given 35 crosstalk performances and skits in China and the UK. In addition to authoring over 60 books, translating 12 books, and publishing 40 journal articles, Ji has invented several unique methods of teaching foreign languages to children and adults (including his groundbreaking “Diglot Weave” method which has been adopted by Disney English). He has given over 80 talks at universities in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the USA, Canada, and the UK. A director and writer of 32 plays performed on campus and local TVs, he is one of the few Chinese professors capable of singing Peking Opera and classical as well as popular Chinese songs in English. His research interests include intercultural communication, critical studies of language and culture, teaching methodology for public speaking, foreign languages, translation and creative writing.

**Item 20. Radio Interview with MAI Researcher on ABC Radio National RN Drive ’Closeup: China in the Bronze Age’ (recent event)**

Professor Marika Vicziany, MAI Researcher, was joined by Alison Betts, Associate Professor of Archaeology at the University of Sydney, to discuss Central Asia and Western China during the Bronze Age. Betts discusses evidence found to suggests plants within Western China were used as herbal medicines at the time. Betts discusses the clothing that people wore during the period.

The interview (about 10.5 min) is available for listening or download at:  
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/drive/close-up3a-china-in-the-bronze-age/4284542

**Item 21. Upcoming Events @ Monash**

For more details of these events, please visit Monash Asia Institute website [Calendar], http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/mai/  

3rd October 2012  
CSEAS Seminar ‘Images of Light and Shadow: Priangan in the Eyes of F.W. Junghuhn’ @ Caulfield Campus

4th October 2012  
MAI Seminar ‘Russia’s Strategic Engagements in Asian Affairs’ @ Caulfield Campus

9th October 2012  
‘Dancing Ethnic, Dancing Modern: The Politics of Performance Labor in “Emergent” Markets’ @ Clayton Campus

16th October 2012  
The Herb Feith Foundation Seminar Series 2012 ‘Islam, Secularism and Liberal Democracy in Indonesia and the Rise of Extremism’ @ Caulfield Campus

17th October 2012  
CSEAS Seminar ‘Contemporary Muslim Arguments for State Neutrality and Religious Freedom: Liberal and Progressive Voices in Post-New Order Indonesian Islam’ @ Clayton Campus
30th October 2012
MAI Seminar ‘The Road to November: The US Political System, Election Process and Key Issues’ @ Caulfield Campus

2nd November 2012
Cambodia Roundtable Discussion ‘Cambodia: Peace and Development. Twenty Years After Paris’ @ Caulfield Campus

15th – 16th November 2012
AUSTRAL + ASIA ‘Cultural Space, Theatricality and the Performance of Asia in Australasia’ @ Clayton Campus

23rd November 2012
Celebrating 50 Years of Indonesian/Malay Studies at Monash

About the MAI Bulletin
The Monash Asia Institute Bulletin 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, this Bulletin and our events: http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/mai/

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