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Contents

Acknowledgments from ASEAS	Page 3
Welcome Remarks from the Universitas Indonesia	Page 4
Keynote 1. Studies of Southeast Asian Politics	Page 5
Keynote 2. Historical Ambivalence	Page 6
Keynote 3. Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation	Page 7
Keynote 4. Weaving Dreams	Page 8
Plenary 1. Curating Repatriation: Narratives of Return	Page 9
Plenary 2. ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific: Whither Centrality?	Page 11
Plenary 3. Prevention of Forest and Land Fires	Page 12
Plenary 4. Democracy in Crisis?	Page 15
Panel 1. Educational Evidence in Action	Page 17
Panel 2. Governance in Transitional Societies	Page 18
Panel 3. Indonesia and the Paris Agreement	Page 21
Panel 4. History: The Past Meets the Present	Page 24
Panel 5. Environment and Economics	Page 27
Panel 6. Politics and Peace Studies	Page 30
Panel 7. History and Agriculture	Page 32
Panel 8. History and the Cold War	Page 34
Panel 9. History and the Philippines	Page 36
Panel 10. International Relations and Security	Page 38
Panel 11. International Relations and Regionalism	Page 40
Panel 12. Politics, Rhetoric and Narrative	Page 42
Panel 13. Migration and Labour	Page 44
Panel 14. Film screening. <i>About Us</i> (2018)	Page 47
Panel 15. History and Culture	Page 48
Panel 16. Environmental Sustainability and Activism	Page 50
Panel 17. Semblance of Plight	Page 53
Panel 18. ASEAN-UK Education Programme	Page 55
Panel 19. State-Driven Capital Infusion	Page 56
Panel 20. Southeast Asian History	Page 59
Panel 21. History and Culture	Page 61
Panel 22. Migration and Security	Page 63
Panel 23. History, Memory and Politics	Page 65
Panel 24. Politics and Religion	Page 67
Panel 25. Politics, Religion and Society	Page 69
Panel 26. Vulnerability, Youth and Politics	Page 71
Panel 27. Early Southeast Asian History	Page 73
Panel 28. Postcolonial History	Page 75
Panel 29. Migrant Workers and Mobility	Page 77
Panel 30. Resources, Planning and Space	Page 79
Panel 31. Development and Inequalities	Page 81
Panel 32. Environmental Politics	Page 84
Panel 33. Culture and Politics	Page 86
Panel 34. Health and Politics	Page 88
Panel 35. Culture, Politics and Identity	Page 90
Panel 36. Women's Access to Justice in Indonesia	Page 92
Panel 37. Left-behind Subjectivities	Page 95
Panel 38. Politics and Democracy	Page 98

Panel 39. Politics and Activism	Page 100
Panel 40. Politics and Ethnicity	Page 102
Panel 41. Identity and Politics	Page 104
Panel 42. International Relations and Security	Page 106
Panel 43. Education	Page 108
Panel 44. Social Sciences	Page 109
Panel 45. Health and Communications	Page 111
Panel 46. From Nature to Biodiversity (Part I)	Page 113
Panel 47. From Nature to Biodiversity (Part II)	Page 115
Panel 48. Urban Politics	Page 117
Panel 49. Elections and Activism	Page 119
Panel 50. Political Economy	Page 121
Panel 51. Social Media, Data and Communication	Page 123
Panel 52. Politics and Rights	Page 125
Panel 53. PhD Roundtable (Part I)	Page 127
Panel 54. PhD Roundtable (Part II)	Page 130

Acknowledgments from ASEAS

I am delighted to introduce the first 'in Asia' conference ever organised by the Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK, hosted in 2023 by the Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Indonesia. The Association is grateful to the organisers and committee members who made this conference possible, especially Kimberley Weir and Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad. I extend my gratitude to the generous sponsors supporting this conference, especially the University of Leeds and the Indonesia Britain Education Centre, and note with appreciation the involvement of colleagues from the British Council and the UK Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta.

The 2023 ASEAS Conference at the Universitas Indonesia is certain to be a dynamic and diverse event, featuring hundreds of papers from talented students and scholars across the world. Thank you all for joining us.

Adam Tyson

Chair, Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK
Associate Professor, University of Leeds

November 2023

Welcome Remarks from the Universitas Indonesia

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh
Salam sejahtera untuk kita semua,

On behalf of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia, familiarly known as FISIP UI, I would like to extend our warm welcome to all participants of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK Conference 2023. It is our privilege to host you in our humble but lively campus, in the first ASEAS annual conference hosted in Southeast Asia.

I believe it is a great decision to hold the ASEAS Conference here in Southeast Asia, and specifically in Indonesia. Not only because Southeast Asia is the focus of our scholarly endeavors, but also because Southeast Asia is becoming more and more important amidst the rapidly changing world, marked by increasing geopolitical tensions, socio-cultural transformations, as well as climate crisis. It is only with more open, inclusive and equal engagements between scholars from inside and outside the region that we can better understand these global challenges. Bringing the ASEAS conference to Southeast Asia is a formidable step in that direction.

We also would like to thank Adam Tyson, Chair of ASEAS, as well as all the ASEAS and FISIP UI team for arranging this event. We are looking forward to the enlightening discussions!

Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Prof. Dr. Semiarto Aji Purwanto

Dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences

Universitas Indonesia

November 2023

**Keynote 1. Studies of Southeast Asian politics: the politics of Southeast Asian studies,
1973-2023**

John Sidel (Sir Patrick Gillam Professor of International and Comparative Politics, LSE)



The past fifty years have witnessed dramatic changes in the study of Southeast Asian politics, in terms of the sites, modes, methods, and participants in the field. This brief talk will begin by identifying a set of broad shifts in the 'who, where, what and how' of the study of Southeast Asian politics, but then turn to examine changes in the internal structures and operations of this field of scholarly endeavour and inquiry.

Keynote 2. Historical ambivalence and the appeasement of memory in troubled times

Maria Serena I. Diokno (Professor Emeritus of History, University of the Philippines Diliman)



A survey ran in April 2022 by Pulse Asia, fifty years after the imposition of martial law in the Philippines, shows that nationwide, 42% of the respondents perceive martial law under Ferdinand Marcos (Sr.) positively, compared to 31% who view it negatively, while 27% cannot decide how they feel about that time. I examine why from the standpoint of martial law's many 'face masks', which the dictatorship wore depending on its audience and purpose, and highlight Dominick LaCapra's concept of social trauma as an explanation for conflicting perspectives of martial law on one hand, and historical ambivalence on the other. I also point out the danger of ubiquity in political life and how the interment of Marcos at the Heroes Cemetery in 2016 served to keep that ubiquitous brand alive in the best light possible. Efforts at historical appeasement have typically come in the form of appeals from government to 'move on', and the application of mnemonic devices by the dictator's son, now president—all harking back to his father's time—demonstrate the Marcos family's drive for historical vindication in a society that is not completely ready to forget.

Keynote 3. Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation

Dwikorita Karnawati (Head of the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics)



Keynote 4. Weaving Dreams: Fostering Economic Prosperity through Textiles, Fashion, and Culture in Indonesia

Didiet Maulana (Creative Director of IKAT Indonesia & Entrepreneur Coach)



In this keynote session, Didiet Maulana will embark on a remarkable journey through the world of Indonesian textiles, fashion, and culture. Renowned fashion visionary, Didiet Maulana, takes the stage to introduce us to his remarkable story and the incredible 12-year journey of IKAT Indonesia. As we explore the profound influence of culture on Indonesia's GDP, shedding light on the rich tapestry of traditions that drive economic growth in this vibrant nation. Didiet Maulana will personally showcase his exceptional achievements, offering a unique perspective on his path to success and the creative process that drives him. But it doesn't end with fashion alone. This keynote session also unveils a visionary movement aimed at achieving a larger, collective vision. Discover how Didiet Maulana's work has created "Jadi Gini Belajar Bersama (JGBB)" a ground breaking initiative designed to not only revolutionize education but also uplift the broader economy, by giving knowledge and sharing about his experiences building his own brand with the audience of business or brand owners. Join us for a dynamic and insightful exploration of how weaving dreams through textiles, fashion, and culture can foster economic prosperity and create a brighter future for Indonesia and beyond.

Plenary 1. Curating repatriation: narratives of return

Chair: Maria Christina Juan



This plenary discussion explores reparative responses to the loss, dispersal and fragmentation of cultural memory embodied in Philippine material culture. Using case studies in both digital and material repatriation, the discussion will consist of two paper presentations by the co-editors of the Mapping Philippine Material Project, a global, visual inventory of objects dating to the mid-20th century which are in holdings of museums outside of the Philippines. In-between, the session will screen an award-winning documentary-film that showcases the moral and affective imperative for the return of objects in exile.

Paper 1. Re-memberings: stitching together separated materials, peoples, and data

Marian Pastor Roces (independent curator, critic, and policy analyst in Manila)

This paper sketches the scale of possibility for both scholarship and reconnections with source cultures, opened up by the “Mapping...” site. Part of the substantial traction it has gained with several publics since it went online four years ago, owes to its availability for online and physical connections between and among parties involved in a constellation of concerns around issues of loss and repatriation, cultural dismemberment, and the ethics of museological practice. This paper explores the many aspects of this constellation through five examples of “re-memberings”—digitally, and, if possible, physically establishing links among widely separated museum articles, in further relation with source cultures, and moreover with existing, relevant literature. These five exercises of a more complex repatriation process than the unidimensional idea of merely returning materials to countries of origin, involves, instead, reconstructing traditions and finding these traditions within cultural complexes known to have existed in specific places; and finding the language to represent these reconstructions. Repatriation in this connection is polyvalent, including many, sometimes opposing registers: digital “return,” physical relocation, receiving contexts, options for representation of both dynamic and moribund situations, museological processes, archiving literature, and so forth. The paper ends with a pivot to theoretical domains.

Film: "Gónô Tmutul: Building a House of Stories"

Shot in April 2023, the 32-minute film documents the extraordinary story of a return. After 45 years, an English woman goes back to a people and place that has meant the world to her. With the help of two academic/curators, she embarks on a mission to give back a remarkable assortment of exquisite objects, photographs, and sound recordings to the Tbolis of Lake Sebu. Their journey points to a model for repatriating material cultures to their source communities, where now the belongings are cherished in heartbreakingly profound ways.

Paper 2. Curating Repatriation: Localised Responses, Particularised Theories

Maria Cristina Juan (School of Languages Cultures and Linguistics, SOAS). Email: cj14@soas.ac.uk

The paper continues the explorations of repatriation of material culture especially as it relates to atypical instances within current repatriation debates (i.e. return of objects that have not been looted, non-monumental objects of little marketvalue etc). The presentation will explore three case studies in past repatriation projects coming out of the Mapping Project to outline pragmatic decolonizing repatriation practices that bend towards the benefit of the othered.

Plenary 2. ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific: Whither Centrality?

Sarah Tiffin (Ambassador, UK Mission to ASEAN)



Derry Aman (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to ASEAN)



Evi Fitriani (Professor of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia)



Plenary 3. Exploring efforts towards impact mitigation and prevention of forest and land fires

Chair: Swetha Peteru

Discussant: Bambang Hero Saharjo



Credit: Dinas Hutan Riau

Forest fires, with their myriad negative impacts, are common occurrences in Southeast Asia (SEA). Every year, haze from dry-season forest fires result in profound impacts for up to 30- 50 million hectares (ha) of land in the region. Fires are a major source of air pollution that disproportionately affects the poor. Besides resulting in loss of human life and economic losses for communities / countries, forest fires degrade forest ecosystem services, exacerbate climate change, damage agricultural fields and fisheries, halt air travel, cause respiratory diseases and eye/throat infections, and impact the health of endemic and threatened species. Negative impacts of forest and land fires on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, human health, and economy transcend national borders. Several pathways are recommended to prevent impacts: a regional approach to fire prevention, sustainable land use practices that reduce deforestation and promote reforestation, establishment of early warning systems, and the depoliticization of the issue. Following many of these recommendations, over the decades, SEA has seen an increase in commitments and efforts to reduce incidence and impacts of forest and land fire. The proposed session will discuss challenges facing fire and haze control, peat protection and management, and strategies and policies in place. The three presenters will explore (1) research findings on drivers of fire in Southeast Asia and their impacts, (2) current efforts of mapping burned areas including at the regional level among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and (3) strategies developed in response to fires and haze in ASEAN.

Paper 1. A review of drivers of fires and associated biodiversity impacts in Southeast Asia

Sinta Haryati Silviana (CIFOR-ICRAF)

Forest and land fires are one of the biggest forest disturbances which are an important problem and have not been resolved until now. In recent years, forest fires have occurred in most of the tropical ecosystems of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, where millions of hectares of forest have been consumed by large fires. In addition to causing harmful haze pollution, fires have an impact on sustainable development and management of natural resources. The clearing and conversion of commercial land followed by drying with massive drainage channels and the practice of burning forests result in a high risk of fire. This study aims to understand the drivers of fires and associated biodiversity impacts in Southeast Asia, both directly and indirectly. This study uses a systematic literature review method where the collection of data and information is sourced from several scientific databases and knowledge products of journal articles located in Southeast Asia. The results show that there are many complex impacts caused by forest fires, both short and long-term, as well as the causes or triggers of forest and land fires. Fires result in the loss of various ecosystem benefits from forests and other potentials contained therein, such as biodiversity, both flora and fauna, as well as the relationship between soil and ecosystem components.

Paper 2. Development of a Guideline for Burned Area Mapping and Estimation in Southeast Asia

Michael Brady (CIFOR-ICRAF)

Measurement of burned areas is crucial for restoration, carbon emission estimation, and government law enforcement. Understanding the areas and vegetation types burned are critical information needed annually to gauge the effectiveness of fire management measures and identify areas that may require additional investments. Burned area mapping has evolved from supporting climate and fire emission modelling to supporting operational fire management and policy processes. Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been mapping burned areas annually since 2016, and it is the only country in ASEAN that publishes national burned area statistics. This mapping provides a foundation for improving fire management, tools for mapping wildfire risk and urban interface areas, and assessment of fuel types, fire danger rating, burn severity indices, and seasonal partitioning across landscapes for fire hazard mapping. Building on the Indonesian methodology that has also been adopted in Malaysia and Thailand, guidelines are being developed for the region. This paper will discuss the regional level cooperation for developing these guidelines as well as provide a preliminary look at what these guidelines being drafted.

Paper 3. Fire, Smoke, and Haze the ASEAN Response Strategy

Swetha Peteru (Sustainable Value Chains and Investment (VC) Team at CIFOR-ICRAF). Email: s.peteru@cifor-icraf.org

Forest fires and haze are significant environmental issues in Southeast Asia, particularly during the dry season. These fires are primarily caused by human activities like slash-and-burn agriculture, illegal land clearing, and logging. The smoke and pollutants from these fires can cause a thick layer of haze, deteriorating air quality and causing health problems. Forests have supported the overall economic development of the region through investment funds and the expansion of agriculture and

estate crops. However, this has resulted in forest and land conversion, where burning for land clearing, shifting cultivation and high deforestation rates have made the region susceptible to fire. While fires occur due to a complex set of interrelated factors, including direct and indirect causes, contributory factors, and underlying causes, the El Niño phenomenon has been a contributor to large-scale forest fire and haze events. This paper will explore the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) response strategy to fire and haze, specifically examining the development of a regulatory framework, organizational development or the creation of institutions, and coordination of actions among stakeholders.

Discussant. Further insights

Prof. Dr. Ir. Bambang Hero Saharjo is the Chair of Regional Fire Management Resource Center – Southeast Asia Region (RFMRC-SEA), IPB University. He is a forensic scientist specializing in forest and land fires. His work in the enforcement of environmental law began in 2000 and he is a mainstay of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as an expert in handling forest and land fire cases. Prof. Bambang is always able to reveal the facts of the field by using the latest information and technology available. All information generated through satellite data and field facts obtained becomes evidence at the trial known as scientific evidence or scientific evidence. His expertise allows him to trace the route and source of fires and he has testified in 500 court cases investigating fires. He has also helped local groups to understand the evidence about health and environmental damage. He has received various awards for his services, dedication, and support in efforts to enforce environmental and forestry law in Indonesia. Dr Bambang is the recipient of an international award, the John Maddox Prize 2019, for his persistence in becoming an expert in fighting forest and land burning companies.

Plenary 4. Democracy in Crisis? Comparing Southeast Asian Elections

Paper 1. The Real Deal? Results versus outcome in Thailand's 2023 elections

Duncan McCargo (Professor of Global Affairs at Nanyang Technological University).

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This paper draws on fieldwork data collected through interviews and observations in Bangkok plus 11 provinces during April and May 2023, and weaves this material into an argument about why in an election where all the initiative lay with opposition parties, the 'winning' Move Forward was unable to form a government. Instead, runner-up Pheu Thai became embroiled in messy deal-making, apparently driven by key figures in the ruling post-junta government, in order to form a new coalition. Thailand's 2023 election marked a new low in terms of elite machinations and external meddling, resulting in a particularly curious form of promiscuous power-sharing.

Paper 2. Beginning or end to reformasi? Malaysian elections in retrospective

Bridget Welsh (Honorary Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, University of Nottingham

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Paper 3. The road to redemption or perdition: the 2022 Philippine national elections

Ronald Holmes (Professor, Department of Political Science and Development Studies, De La Salle University. President, Pulse Asia Research Inc.). Email: ronald.holmes@dlsu.edu.ph



Paper 4. Indonesia's 2024 election: what the past tells us about the future trajectory

Philips Vermonte (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia / Senior Fellow, CSIS Indonesia). Email: philips.vermonte@uiii.ac.id



Panel 1. Educational evidence in action: how partnership and evidence in Southeast Asia is making a difference

Chair: Ewan MacRae



Across the globe, the quality of research evidence available for education systems has improved markedly. However, the implementation of such evidence into policymaking and practice still remains a need generally. This panel will discuss how educational evidence is being embedded in international development work in the region. It will discuss the importance and benefits of strengthening education management information systems (EMIS). How The Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) is helping nations to improve their education systems will be discussed. The panel will also cover how the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP), co-hosted by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UNICEF, USAID, and the World Bank (WB) has a role to play. Further, the What Works Hub for Global Education (WWHGE), a joint initiative supported by the FCDO, WB, UNICEF, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the British Council will also be discussed. The *ASEAN-UK Supporting the Advancement of Girls' Education Programme* promotes evidence and research partnerships which underpin the Programme's aims and how other such partnerships and programmes can help achieve the SDGs will be addressed. Globally, education systems are using data and research to help drive improvements in student learning outcomes and this panel will demonstrate how this is being realised in nations across Southeast Asia currently.

Speakers

Ewan MacRae is the British Council's Interim Technical Lead for the *ASEAN-UK Supporting the Advancement of Girls' Education Programme*. Email: ewan.macrae@britishcouncil.org

Jeaniene Spink, Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) Research Director, Education and Development, Melbourne

Haani Mazari, EdTech Hub, Global Country Engagement Co-Lead / Country Lead Bangladesh & Pakistan

Alejandro Sinon Ibanez, SEA-PLM Secretariat, SEA-PLM Policy Programme Specialist / Consultant, Bangkok

Panel 2. Governance in transitional societies in East and Southeast Asia: what can we learn from and how can we anticipate transition trajectories from the governance perspective?

Chair: Binh Trinh

The Soviet Bloc collapsed following the end of the state-led governance model marking an era known as “the end of history” (Fukuyama, 1989). The world has come together under the rubric of capitalist globalisation. Liberal capitalist democracy is anticipated to be the ultimate form of governance with many post-colonial and post-socialist countries adopting the recipes provided by the World Bank and IMF for a transition from state-led to capitalist and liberal democratic development. East and Southeast Asia comprise a large and important part of the post-colonial and post-socialist world. The recent economic rise of Asia, or China predominantly, has shown alternative forms of governance for development. What are modes of governance account for the development outcomes in East and Southeast Asia? What are the social, economic and political outcomes shaped by these alternative forms of governance? What can we learn from and how can we anticipate the transitional trajectories of these economies in East and Southeast Asia? The panel will answer these questions with presentations about transition trajectories in East and Southeast Asia, the New Economic Policy in Malaysia, endowments of Timor-Lester as a new, small, and poor petrostate, and civil society formation in Vietnam. The book chapter authors will build on the understanding of governance and development from the primary empirical data. Their participation in the panel aims to pluralise the current debates about governance in transitional societies in the region.

Paper 1. Navigating transitions: governance in East and Southeast Asia

Chi Zhang (British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of St Andrews, and an Associate Member of the Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence).

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This paper reviews key concepts of governance and transition to inform the transitional trajectories of post-colonial and post-socialist societies in East and Southeast Asia in the post-Cold War era. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 was expected to herald a global era of liberal capitalist democracy, but the reality has proven to be more intricate and diverse. By looking at the complexities and challenges of the political and economic transitions in the regions, we argue that the transition from state-led authoritarianism to liberal capitalist democracy has never been a linear path. The paths taken by the states in the regions have been influenced by various factors, resulting in distinct outcomes and various forms of hybrid accommodation. We make a brief retrospective review of the history of capitalist development and the process of capitalist expansion in the regions to present forms of hybrid local accommodation. We recommend further studies should look at new governance frameworks emerging from the shifting geopolitics, especially in the context of US-China rivalry, with new ideas, actors, resources and politics which will play a larger role in the transitional prospect of societies in the East and Southeast Asia regions.

Paper 2. New Economic Policy: Impact of social and economic engineering on Malaysia's development

Julia Roknifard (Assistant Professor with the School of Politics, History and International Relations, University of Nottingham Malaysia). Email: julia.roknifard@nottingham.edu.my

The legacy of colonialism has left Malaysian society with complicated race relations that are increasingly being understood as a ticking time bomb of inter-ethnic and inter-religious frictions that are holding back its ability to form cohesive social structures. Since gaining independence in 1957, the most important event in Malaysia's history was the racial riots in 1969. This event brought forth arguments that the ethnic Malays, who are Muslim as per the wording of the country's constitution, had been sidelined economically resulting in the riots. This was used as the basis to bring forth the New Economic Programme (NEP), a 20-year affirmative action project that began in 1971 and has been extended ever since. Rather than promote a more equitable society, NEP has reinforced colonial control through the use of divide-and-rule tactics, playing up fears of one ethnic group over others and allowing a small elite to amass enormous wealth in a self-reinforcing cycle that has seen race relations go from uneasy to tense in recent years. This tactic was accomplished through the skilful exploitation of insecurities and social structures that had been in place since pre-independence, which developed into a means of control by a small group of political elites.

Paper 3. How a new, small and poor country withstands global challenges: a case of Timor-Leste

Takeshi Kohno (Professor of Political Science at Toyo Eiwa University, Yokohama, Japan). Email: kohno.t@toyoeiwa.ac.jp

Timor-Leste is a new, small, and poor "petrostate" with a national budget that relies heavily on revenue from offshore fossil extraction. The country's 20-year history of independence has been shaped by its management of economic resources, particularly fossil fuels, as well as its legacy of independence struggle and international standing as a successful intervention by the international community, especially the United Nations. Although its democratic credentials have been firmly established through fair, transparent, and regular elections, recent elections (most recently in May 2023) have continued to elect leaders from the "75 generation" (those who fought against Indonesian occupation), which risks the political leadership becoming sclerotic and undermines the aspirations of the growing youth population. Additionally, the shifting geopolitical landscape as a result of the intensifying US-China rivalry in the region is likely to pressure Timor-Leste to take a stand, even if its likely accession to ASEAN membership may shield it from such pressure. The chapter explores three major endowments including socio-economic factors, oil and gas curses and the historical legacy of resistance in Timor-Leste which are key sources contributing to sustainable development prospects of the country amidst major powers rivalry in the region.

Paper 4. The formation of civil society through a mode of governmentality in post-reform Vietnam

Binh Trinh (Independent Scholar, Vietnam). Email: trinhanbinh@gmail.com

The emergence of the nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) cluster in post-reform Vietnam is often compared with the development of civil society from the marketisation process. The formation of these organisations is also a result of the NGOisation process driven by the foreign funding policies for NGOs. In Vietnam, this process is enabled by the socialisation policy, allowing individuals

and private organisations to provide welfare services. The expansion of these organisations illustrates the conditions configured by the socialist state accompanying a mode of governmentality favouring privatisation and individualisation of welfare. Governmentality comprises governing techniques allowing the state to govern people with market liberalism and continue to restrict people's free rights with varied forms of repression. Governance with this mode of governmentality reinforces state power and people's consent with the neoliberal logic of self-government and economic maximisation. This presentation presents women's association for caregiving in privately-owned NGOs. In these organisations, women demonstrate a role in public life as they continue to mend social relations and build solidarity through acts of caring. The formation of these autonomous and people-oriented organisations alongside the process of NGOisation and marketisation sheds light on the dynamics of state-society relations in post-reform Vietnam.

Panel 3. Indonesia and the Paris Agreement: Strengthening National Environmental Governance and Policy

Chair: Stanislaus Risadi Apresian

Indonesia has produced and developed new policies to tackle climate change. The Paris Agreement has influenced the Indonesian Government to develop more ambitious climate targets. However, many policies implementation are suboptimal with lack of coordination between environmental stakeholders. Using the case of climate change adaptation, water governance, waste management, and karst mining development, this panel offers a discussion that focuses on recent implementation of environmental policies and analyses the challenges of environmental governance in Indonesia. The cases of the panel explore environmental governance across scales, with various frameworks of multi-level governance, institutional frameworks, environmental impact analysis, and socio-legal perspective. This panel is also enriched with different units of analysis, from national domain down to municipalities. Eventually, the multi-layered cases will reveal the current state of Indonesian environmental policy in regard to achieve the commitments of Paris Agreement.

Paper 1. The Political Economy of Climate Change Adaptation in Indonesia under the Paris Regime

Stanislaus Risadi Apresian (PhD candidate, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds). Email: ptsra@leeds.ac.uk

Indonesia's national policies on climate change adaptation are influenced by international climate negotiations under the Paris Regime. Several ministries in Indonesia have adopted adaptation global norms into their ministerial national strategic plans. However, they have different path of adaptation policies. For instance, each ministry might have different method in assessing vulnerability. The national governance of adaptation is lacking coordination. This pattern has caused fragmentation between ministries in implementing adaptation programmes. Moreover, most adaptation programmes are merely technocratic and top-down. Sometimes, they fail to capture the real challenges of local people and exclude them from the decision-making process. Hence, the adaptation implementation becomes suboptimal and redistribute gains and losses among CCA stakeholders. The question remains, how does climate change adaptation programmes initiated by the Indonesian Government distribute gains and losses among local communities in Indonesia. This paper aims to expose the redistribution of involved and within the local communities. The arguments of this paper are drawn from interviews data of 36 elite participants and fieldwork data in eight villages in Indonesia. This paper uses the political economy approach coined by Sovacool and Linnér (2016) to interrogate how adaptation is formulated at the national level and imposed at the local level. The investigation in eight villages reveals four dimensions of political economy processes in CCA programmes. This paper argues that the story of enclosure, exclusion, encroachment, and entrenchment processes could also be identified in the CCA programme implementation in eight villages. The local communities are excluded in the decision-making processes (exclusion), the authority to conduct adaptation that used to belong the local communities is captured by the government (enclosure), some projects have widened inequality due to unequal adaptation resources distribution (entrenchment) and caused environmental degradation (encroachment). This paper suggests that adaptation research should also consider cultural domain since the influence of culture over daily economic activities remains strong in developing countries.

Paper 2. Decentralising Water Governance for Climate Adaptation Agenda in Indonesia: Case Study of West Java

Dewa Ayu Putu Eva Wishanti (PhD candidate, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds). Email: ptdape@leeds.ac.uk

Involving subnational governments is crucial in achieving NDC Commitments in climate change adaptation (CCA) agenda. Local governments are the first responders of climate change. They are also the first source of information and data as policy inputs. Indonesia prioritises forestry and industrial sectors for emission reduction against climate change. However, water sectors do not get much highlight in Indonesia's NDC commitments. In one of the Climate Action Pathways, water sectors play deeper roles in global adaptation. The use, storage, distribution and treatment of water and wastewater contributes to about 10 % of global greenhouse gas emissions in aggregate (UNEP, 2020). There is an accelerating shift to associate water development agenda with global climate change adaptation agenda. How can Indonesia improve CCA commitments through water governance? How can decentralisation improve Indonesia's CCA commitments on water sectors? For the analytical framework, this abstract refers to a politicised framework of institutional framework and development or IAD (Whaley and Weatherhead, 2015; Cole, Epstein and McGinnis, 2019). Political process is crucial to ensure the universal access of water and upholding collective action in the process. However, participatory approaches are draining excessive collaboration cost, particularly in federal and decentralised governments. The case study is West Java, which has been the most successful province in gathering data and information, as well as in becoming a province with the largest share of water aid and investment in Indonesia. More importantly, the accomplishments of Citarum Harum Program in West Java were promoted by the government in UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow, as an effort of revitalising Citarum River. This study finds that to optimise local government's contribution to CCA in water sectors, the government should facilitate feedback pathways from local to national scale, as well as developing a substantial criteria for policy evaluation.

Paper 3. Waste Management without Direction in Indonesia: A Socio-Legal Perspective

Prisca Listiningrum (Faculty of Law, Universitas Brawijaya). Email: p.listiningrum@ub.ac.id

This article delves into the regulation of municipal solid waste management (MSW) in Indonesia, viewed from a smart city concept through the application of a circular economy. The legal politics of Law Number 18 of 2008 on Waste Management has been restricted to the concept of 3Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. While the idea of a circular economy refers to the principle of 10 Rs, consisting of refuse, rethink, reduce, reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose, recycle, and recover. The concept of circular economy is believed to be essential to achieve the decarbonization goals as mandated by Paris Agreement. With a socio-legal approach, this research examines to what extent Waste Management Law can serve as the basis for implementing circular economy in municipal areas. This research reveals that the concept of a circular economy has yet to be applied to manage waste in a municipal scope. Circular economy-based smart cities in MSW management can only be achieved through adequate facilities and changes in people's behaviour. However, it is still questionable whether the Municipal Government is fully obliged to manage household waste because the Waste Management Law is silent on this matter but clearly states the community's obligation to reduce and handle household waste as a waste producer. This is also exacerbated by

the division of waste handling tasks into two agencies which often creates confusion in waste handling. Hence, legal reforms are needed to reconcile the conflicting problems.

Paper 4. Power relations in karst mining developments: a discourse analysis of environmental assessment reporting in North Kendang, Indonesia

Abdul Kodir (PhD candidate, Department of Environment and Geography, University of York). Email: ak2067@york.ac.uk

This research paper aims to conduct a discourse analysis of environmental assessment (EA) reporting in North Kendang, Indonesia, to explore the power relations in karst mining developments. The study examines how power relations are expressed in EA reports (EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment and SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment) and how these power dynamics influence the EA process. The data generation was conducted through the identification of the framing and narratives found in the reports, which can be found across various dimensions such as initiator, time frame, justification, objective, geographical scale, scope of study, impacts, decision-making authority, participation and representation, expertise knowledge, regulatory aspects, and recommendations. The findings of this research elucidate that the state-corporate entity, through the expertise employed in the composition of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and EIA Addendum reports, implemented specific discursive strategies within these documents. Firstly, a discussion strategy was undertaken to prepare an EIA Addendum to rectify perceived procedural and data deficiencies within the original EIA, a course of action prompted by concerns raised by various stakeholders. Additionally, the discursive strategy was employed to frame and mitigate environmental issues. Furthermore, the discourse analysis unveiled the existence of both dominant and alternative discourses within the three reports. The EIA and EIA Addendum were categorised as dominant discourses due to their role in interlinking various actors and expert knowledge in support of cement mining operations, seemingly neglecting alternative policy avenues for the management of the karst landscape within the region. Conversely, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was identified as an alternative discourse as it presented alternative approaches for governing the karst resources within the North Kendeng Mountain area.

Panel 4. History: the past meets the present

Paper 1. Entangled Imaginations: The Boxer Codex, Colonial Futures, and Cross-Cultural Knowledge in the Late-Sixteenth-Century Western Pacific Rim

Zhiyu Chen (PhD candidate, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge). Email: zc305@cam.ac.uk

The Boxer Codex is a late-sixteenth-century Spanish manuscript produced in Manila. My paper reveals the contingency surrounding the acquisition and transmission of knowledge and the complexity of local contexts that must not be overlooked in writing 'global' histories of Southeast Asia. My argument proceeds in three parts. In the first part, I provide the context for the Boxer Codex's creation, focusing particularly on the complex cross-cultural situation in the port of Manila, before demonstrating that the Boxer Codex represents a case of epistemological exchange between the visual and print culture of Ming China and European natural-historical and manuscript conventions. The second part explores the Boxer Codex's role as a work of Spanish colonialism, where arguments for more active engagements with Ming China was articulated through the depiction of deities and fantastical creatures. But beneath this façade was the agency, judgement, and biases of various intermediaries. The final part expands on the idea of transmission, miscommunications, and erasures by first showing that it is in the least realistic part of the Boxer Codex – mythological deities and creatures – that these challenges to cross-cultural knowledge-making became most apparent. This allows me to argue that, far from being a venue of commensurability, European authority was preferred and asserted at the cost of relational knowledge and other subtleties. But the Boxer Codex also reflects Spanish knowledge-making in a world where their presence was precarious: whilst disciplining nature and its representation, non-European agency survived and challenged Spanish claims to colonial control.

Paper 2. Shaping a Translocal Scene of Jazz in Manila, 1946-1982

Krina Cayabyab (PhD candidate, University of Edinburgh). Email: k.cayabyab@ed.ac.uk

In this paper, I explore how the genre culture of jazz can be understood as a translocal scene which consists of dynamic spaces set in motion by a range of musical practices, multiple simultaneities, and diverse pathways of people that enable and experience a sense of belonging. I examine the mobilities of the musicians of the *Jazz Friends*, a band with fluid membership whose core members and affiliates have gained exemplary reputation in the jazz circuit from the early years of professionally playing immediately after the Second World War, toward the 1970s, when they officially named themselves. Stimulating Southeast Asian jazz joints, nightclubs, hotels, American military clubs, concert halls and recordings since the early post-Liberation years, the encounters of *Jazz Friends* are crucial routes to explore in mapping the situatedness of jazz in the Philippines from 1946 to 1982. The negotiations made by the players emerging from oral interviews and archival sources are significant in understanding the impact of gendered and racial notions to the cultural construction of the jazz scene in the country. How did *Jazz Friends* players gain power over their cultural expression of jazz? What were the emplacements of jazz in Philippine music and sociocultural history, especially after liberation from the imperial control of the US – the progenitor, and much more so the keeper and promoter of postwar jazz ideologies as its nation's art form? By highlighting the multiple places of jazz music-making within and outside the Philippines that are all connected to a locally identified construction of jazz, this paper will present how signification and ownership of jazz were embodied by the *Jazz Friends*.

Paper 3. Learning Islam in a Digitalized Indonesia: from Meaning-Making to Identity Construction

Irfan L. Sarhindi (DPhil student at the Department of Education, University of Oxford, affiliated with Lady Margaret Hall). Email: irfan.sarhindi@education.ox.ac.uk

The study departed from the idea that identity construction is inseparable from the learning and meaning-making process. Meanwhile, digitalization has blurred the boundaries between physical and digital learning spaces transforming how learning and meaning-making are experienced and how identity is constructed. Interestingly, the current discourse of Islamic education and identities did not reflect such changes, resulting in an incomplete, if not misleading, understanding. For instance, the internet as a space for learning Islam is often excluded from a broader context of multiple learning spaces and is often judged deterministically as spreading Islamic radicalism. Consequently, it denied the complexity and heterogeneity of the integrated online and offline learning spaces. In terms of Islamic identities, the current taxonomies cannot capture the multiplicity and fragmentation of identities nor acknowledge the role of an individual's agency in identity construction. As a result, the taxonomies often misleadingly saw the identity as (1) the same across spaces and themes; (2) solely taught or indoctrinated rather than constructed; and (3) always associated with a sense of affiliation to an organization. Applying Massey's conception of space (2011) and Holland et al.'s idea of practiced identity (1998), this study aims to shed light on this matter by conducting fieldwork in four loci acted as case studies: Jogjakarta, Lombok, Medan, and Singkawang. No less than 16 Muslims aged 16-18 will be the samples, selected through stratified purposive sampling. Data will be collected mainly through semi-structured interviews accompanied by participant observation. If successful, the study can offer a more holistic framework to understand better the identity construction and learning and meaningmaking processes across multiple learning spaces.

Paper 4. UK-Southeast Asia TNE partnership in Medicine & Health

Piruthivi Sukumar (Pro Dean International, Faculty of Medicine and Health / Associate Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Leeds, UK). Email: p.sukumar@leeds.ac.uk

The pandemic highlighted the importance of developing next-generation healthcare practitioners as "global professionals", who understand the challenges of universal healthcare paradigm, and deliver across borders. As a result, transnational education (TNE) partnerships, are increasingly favoured by healthcare educators and regulators with the aim to achieve a universal standard for global health. Whilst the sharing of curriculum and teaching is essential in achieving this, student mobility provides an easy way to share best practice. The Faculty of Medicine and Health at Leeds has established pathways for the mobility of medical, dental, nursing and midwifery students between HEIs in SEA and Leeds. While clinical placements/exchanges are common among HEIs, pathways for academic training of students are rare, and this has therefore been our primary focus. Intercalating, i.e., undertaking an independent UG/PG degree after 2 or 3 years in Medical School, is an established pathway in the UK for aspiring clinical academics. FMH has worked with Chiang Mai University (CMU) and The Medical Council of Thailand to extend the opportunity to intercalate to the medical students of CMU. Our partnership with Universitas Indonesia will allow us to welcome dental students to undertake Masters programs in Dental Public Health and Dental Materials, facilitating their career in academic dentistry. Our highly successful International Practice Project (IPP) supports incoming Master of Midwifery students from Indonesia to visit the Leeds School of Healthcare for a

2-week placement each year. The workshops aim to enhance understanding of midwifery practice, education, and research for both partners and interprofessional learning for students for Indonesia and the UK. These innovative models for academic training, we believe, will nurture the next generation of international health educators. We will explain and discuss all three programs in our presentation to disseminate the practices among HEIs.

Panel 5. Environment and Economics

Paper 1. From state rationality to relationality: recognizing public service and government work in water privatization

Cla Ruzol (PhD Anthropology candidate at LSE). Email: c.d.ruzol@lse.ac.uk

State bureaucracy is portrayed as the universal trope for unmotivated, monotonous, depersonalized work. However, in this ethnography, political dynamics and experiences of being involved personally are regarded as essential in government work. I followed the government technobureaucrats who are implementing a controversial large dam project to augment the water supply in the capital region of the Philippines. While the project is publicly presented as a government endeavour, the full operation of water provisioning in Metro Manila has been privatized since 1997. The paper elaborates on government work under the context of privatization from the standpoint of *loob* (inner being), a relational and reciprocal knowledge-making. One peculiarity of the workings of *loob* is the translation of supposed disinterested state rationality into relationality when trust in oneself and in others (*kapwa*) is built upon hardships and suffering towards the speculated conveniences from building large dams. In this setting, rationality, even in times it is obscured among co-workers, becomes operational through personal ties and mutual support. Knowledges on water source management are produced, reconfigured, and revealed based on the technobureaucrats' relations with top management, co-workers, the public, and their stakeholders. This includes the level at which state interest, resources, and commitment are disproportionately distributed among project stakeholders. The paper utilizes the *loob* as a concept to convey the morality of public service beyond state prescriptions and expectations from professionalism, its consequences to the public by safeguarding private interests, and how it fortifies enmity towards those uncooperative with the state.

Paper 2. Resilience and Adaptation Strategies for Socio-Environmental Change in Timor-Leste: Case Study in Kamanasa (Suai, Cova-Lima)

Brunna Crespi (Associate Researcher at UMR 208 Paloc MNHN/IRD and LEEG-UNB). Email: brunna.c@gmail.com

The island of Timor presents heterogeneous socio-cultural characteristics, set in a linguistic context between the Austronesian and Papuan worlds, and, despite all the interest that this may arouse, it has been little studied. The theme of current changes and the way they are managed by local populations reveal specificities, bringing out a cosmology articulated around a precarious environment, as well as a complex and highly evolving social organization, transcribed in the territorial system and anchored in the narratives of the oral tradition, and intended to absorb the conflicting dynamics within social groups. Taking the example of Suai Kamanasa, in the southeast of the island, our diachronic and territorial approach allows us to better understand the risks this society is facing and the available resources it can rely on to face the current socio-environmental changes. The data presented in this paper were collected during 11 months of surveys in East Timor, divided into several stays between 2015 and 2016, as part of a PhD thesis, defended in June 2018. I will emphasize here that, despite significant historical upheavals, such as climate change, the arrival of the Christian religion, Indonesian occupation, national integration, and government development policies, the changes these societies face today are perceived as forms of continuities in their social structure and its system of functioning. These perceived continuities seem to be related to their

system of resilience in the face of crises, rooted in forms of social coherence and cohesion that this paper will discuss.

Paper 3. Productivity through Diversity: Systems Ecology and Agricultural Development in Southeast Asia, 1964–1993

Leo Chu (PhD candidate, University of Cambridge). Email: clc206@cam.ac.uk

This paper studies an alternative vision of agricultural development in Southeast Asia shaped by systems ecology. Popularized by American ecologists in the 1960s, systems ecology examined the flow of materials and energy within ecosystems, and promoted the “diversity-stability hypothesis” postulating that ecosystems with higher diversity could achieve better stability. By the 1970s, this emphasis on diversity caught the attention of scientists in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines dissatisfied with the “Green Revolution” model of development due to its preoccupation with the breeding of high-yielding staple crops. In response, funding agencies tried to expand the research scope by fostering collaboration between agronomists, ecologists, and anthropologists. This led to the creation of the Southeast Asian Universities Agroecosystem Network (SUAN) in 1982, where scientists exchanged findings in topics such as agroforestry gardens in Java, swidden agriculture in upland Philippines, and multiple cropping systems in Thailand. The SUAN thereby adapted the diversity-stability hypothesis to the conservation of diverse rural environment—from biodiversity to traditional cultivation practices—which they considered crucial to the long-term productivity of agroecosystem. However, this vision failed to alter the dominant development policy in the region that favored large-scale commodity monoculture, and the network was discontinued a decade after its launch. Based on materials at the Rockefeller Archives Center, this paper shows how this vision of productivity through diversity was complicated by Cold War authoritarian regimes in Southeast Asia, especially the technocratic approach to environmental governance in New Order Indonesia, and connects the dilemma to contemporary socio-ecological issues in sustainable development.

Paper 4. Digitalization of Global Value Chains and Skills Mismatch of Manufacturing Workers

Jaewon Kim (PhD candidate at the Geneva Graduate Institute). Email: jaewon.kim@graduateinstitute.ch

Digital technologies bring all stages of the value chain on a real-time engagement, making disruptive changes particularly in the manufacturing process through automation and robotics. The challenge facing developing countries actively participating in the GVCs as an intermediary goods producer is how to adjust to and take advantage of such inevitable changes in the structure of the supply chains and of the labour market. Such accelerating structural changes in the manufacturing sector put pressure on value chain workers in Thailand as well to learn new skills to secure their jobs. However, aside from a chronic shortage of skilled workers in the country, Thailand is also one of the countries where over-skilling issue is conspicuously severe. It leads us to further examine how individual workers assess the gap between skills they possess and skills required for their current and future jobs. For doing so, this research measures individual-level skills mismatch of auto parts manufacturing workers in Thailand through online and offline survey. The overall findings from the analysis of the response distribution show that the manufacturing line workers from auto parts firms operating in the lower tier of GVCs tend to perceive themselves as having a higher level of skills and abilities than the job actually requires and not making full use of skills they obtained in school. It also

appears that, while recognizing themselves as being over-skilled at the moment, workers tend to be quite well aware of rapidly evolving digital technologies and their threat to future jobs and employability.

Panel 6. Politics and Peace Studies

Paper 1. Research in the Information Age and the Risks of Researcher Vicarious Trauma

Ronan Lee (Postdoctoral Prize Fellow at Loughborough University London's Institute for Media and Creative Industries). Email: r.lee@lboro.ac.uk

Exposure to traumatic material during research may traumatise scholars, contributing to negative health outcomes and curtailing research work. This paper argues that Asian studies as a field has been slow to address the challenges engagement with potentially traumatising material pose to researchers. The paper reviews key literature on vicarious or secondary trauma and outlines how it might affect scholars. It considers examples from the professions, and scholarly fields including the technology industry, international development, countering violent extremism studies, and genocide studies which have already begun to grapple with these challenges. A case study focussed on Myanmar-focussed research outlines how recent improvements in mobile phone camera technology, internet availability, and international linkages enabled by social media increase researchers' exposure to potentially traumatising material. A description of Researcher Vicarious Trauma (RVT) is proposed and suggestions for how scholars, institutions, and professional associations might positively tackle the contemporary challenges of RVT are made.

Paper 2. 'Micro-mediation': The localisation of peace processes amidst the global fragmentation of peacemaking

Jennifer Hodge (Research Fellow at the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform – PeaceREP). Email: jennifer.hodge@stir.ac.uk

Extant scholarship on mediation has attempted to assess the challenges posed by 'fragmentation' of both *conflict contexts*, marked by multiple conflict-parties, and the *external landscape*, characterised by competing third-party mediators. Yet current approaches conceive mediation as a process contributing to a *singular conflict or peace process*. Such conceptualisation overlooks the increased territorial fragmentation of peace and conflict processes in contexts like Syria and Myanmar, with multiple distinct dialogue processes taking place in different sub-state regions, involving different and often non-Western regional third parties with competing motivations and normative foundations. Empirically mapping dialogue processes in Myanmar since the 2021 coup and borrowing from the burgeoning scholarship on local peace agreements, this article proposes a new 'micro-mediation' framework to understand this emerging trend in conflict resolution. The article contends that the contemporary rise of 'micro-mediation' in complex domestic conflict contexts stems from two factors. Firstly, under these conditions, *different conflict actors have preferred different third parties, owing to their perception of neutrality or who they have closer socio-economic ties*. Second, *in fragmented conflicts, external states tend to invest in sub-state or localised processes that benefit their economic and geostrategic priorities, whilst also supporting national processes, which can be slow and take time to crystallise*. The article further highlights that while 'micro-mediation' has the potential to create 'islands of stability' marked by temporary cessation of hostilities, such 'islands' may both decentre the geography of conflict - rather than resolving it - and undermine the prospects for a comprehensive peace process.

Paper 3. The character of invalid votes in Southeast Asia in the digital era

Martin Petlach (Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics at Mendel University, Czech Republic).

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Elections usually cause much commotion and, at the same time, convey concern from the media and public towards the electoral processes. In the last decade, political scientists turned their attention to another specific attribute connected to elections: invalid votes. Previously this type of scientific interest might be seen in other political variables, especially the turnout, numbers of relevant political parties and its pattern of fragmentation in the party system. With an increase in the number of studies specialising in political milieus of Southeast Asia, scholars have gradually, yet slowly, started to characterise and explain the local electoral phenomena even in accordance with the abovementioned variables. Although some initial studies have already recognised the importance of turnout in Southeast Asia, the topic of invalid votes has been omitted. It is caused by the fact that the analyses studying invalid votes have mostly focused either on Latin America or Europe. Furthermore, it is necessary to mention two more sets of limitations. First, the countries of Southeast Asia vary significantly not only in terms of electoral systems but also their political arrangement. And second, through sundry official electoral bodies responsible for the process of elections, many governments do not wish to share any complete sets of electoral data. Therefore, the objective of this paper is to finally exemplify and quantitatively appraise the role of invalid votes as well as its connection to other electoral and digitalisation-based variables across the countries of Southeast Asia.

Panel 7. History and Agriculture

Paper 1. The discrimination of the Indian diaspora in Malaysia resulting from the British Colonisation: Analysing selected portraitures by Chuah Chean Teng and Chia Yu Chian

Cheryl Chelliah Thiruchelvam (Assistant Professor in the Advertising Department, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia). Email: t.cheryl@gmail.com

The close relationship between art and society is hard to diminish, as art is said to reflect social structure. Art can be used to both read the obvious and the 'hidden'. For instance, during the great war years (1600 to 1680) Dutch portraitures constituted a significant number of military subjects. However, the Napoleonic War did not have an impact on the portraitures in Italy and England. In Malaysian art development, portraitures were produced from the 20th century onward. Most of the early portraitures reflected the beauty of the tropics as well as the daily socio-economic activities of the locals. Although Malaya (Malaysia prior to independence) experienced wars (World War II, Japanese Occupation and the Malayan Emergency), the paintings that were produced during this period did not explicitly reflect the hardships, atrocities, and realities of the nation. Nevertheless, this does not mean the paintings that were produced during the war years could not be read further to analyse social conditions and power structures that were intervening with the political landscape of Malaya then. Contextualisation of the paintings in regards to the socio-political situation when they were produced as well as the historical narrative of a particular society provides a better comprehension of the paintings. As such, using a similar approach, this paper aims to analyse selected portraitures by Chuah Chean Teng and Chia Yu Chian. This paper intends to highlight the discrimination against the Indian community that began during British colonisation and continued well into the decades after the independence years.

Paper 2. Investigating the condition of Indian Coolies in Early Twentieth Century British Malaya

Ritriban Chakraborty (PhD candidate, Indian Institute of Technology Mandi). Email: chakrabortyritriban@gmail.com

The nature of migration and condition of the free coolies after abolition of indentureship in 1911 on British Malayan plantations became a point of contention among numerous stakeholders. In this paper, I would look at the different nuances of complaints raised by nationalist leaders, labourers and Indian Press and redressal planned by plantation owners and the Empire in post-abolition years in British Malaya. While the abolition gave freedom to the planters to recruit and treat the coolies as per their convenience, it made them insecure too as the coolies were no longer tied to a single estate. It would be interesting to see how the planters dealt with the situation by criminalizing the plantations. I would explore the two opposing narratives of nationalists and planters, presenting the condition of plantations. However, the World War changed the dynamics between the Empire and colonies. Eventually, it became imperative for the Empire to prohibit the imposition of fines or penal offences against the coolies on plantations through Indian Emigration Act of 1922. In fact, it was the requirement of recruits needed for world war that made British more open to Indian nationalist demands and thus, we see an impact of the same on British imperial policy due to the demands of the war. In this paper, I would analyse several primary sources to explain the relation between the core and peripheral parts of the British Empire during the period under review.

Paper 3. Farmers, fermentation and better coffee: Creating quality in Vietnam

Skylar Lindsay (PhD candidate, University of Bristol). Email: Skylar.Lindsay@Bristol.ac.uk

Coffee farming is an increasingly precarious livelihood in much of the world, as farmers struggle with thin profits, environmental crises and the long-standing inequities of the coffee industry. These dynamics are especially pronounced but also distinct in Vietnam, where the industry is driven by very small, high-yielding farms that produce cheap, low-quality Robusta coffee. Some farmers in Vietnam now seek to improve their livelihoods by increasing the quality of their coffee, often by improving the practices they use to process fresh coffee cherries into dried green beans. All coffee processing involves fermentation, as yeasts and bacteria help to remove the mucilage around the bean, altering its composition and therefore the coffee's characteristics "in the cup". This research asks the following: how are coffee farmers in Vietnam using processing methods and fermentation to create quality in their coffee? This research draws on ethnographic fieldwork with farmers and other value chain actors in Vietnam to study the intersection of agrarian change and the production of quality and value. Building on science and technology studies (STS) and commodity studies, this research shows how the intricate interplay of farmer practices, value chain networks and on-farm ecological relationships are contributing to a re-valuation of Vietnamese coffee as a commodity.

Panel 8. History and the Cold War

Paper 1. 'To swing the balance on the side of peace': The Cold War and the Baguio Conference of 1950

*Luis Zuriel P. Domingo (Department of History and Philosophy, University of the Philippines Baguio).
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The historiographic literature that governs Baguio is often from the lens of indigenous and colonial heritage. There is, however, a need for reconstructing its historical significance within postcolonial history. Baguio, a successful American colonial project, played a principal role in the direction of postcolonial history not only of the Philippines but the larger Asia-Pacific. This paper explores the importance of the 1950 Baguio Conference in the history of the Cold War in Southeast Asia. A liberal undertaking of selected nations from Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, the Baguio Conference, however, can be interpreted as a step forward in advancing the promotion of a free world against potential communist aggression, or in the words of Romulo, a "collective effort to swing the balance on the side of peace." I argue that at the height of the Cold War, the Baguio Conference was as salient as the Asia Relations Conference (1947) and the Bandung Conference (1955) in dictating the future of Asia in postcolonial history. This paper also hopes to provide another layer of understanding Cold War history away from the capital, Manila, therefore, decentralizing Cold War history in the Philippines.

Paper 2. Gender and Cold War Thailand: A Study of 'Sattrisarn' Magazine

*Rungchai Yensabai (Lecturer in International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences,
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This study examines how global politics engaged women in Thailand during the Cold War. Thailand during the Cold War is often deemed a period when American influence was overwhelming leading to significant changes of Thai society in all aspects. However, this popular perspective pays little attention to women's lives and experiences. My argument is, by investigating women's perspectives and interests, we can unveil how the Cold War benefited the American interests by subtly shaping lives of women in Thailand. The study investigates 'Sattrisarn' magazine, one of the most influential and popular magazines among middle-class Thai women in the Cold War period. The magazine prominently reveals asymmetrical relationship between the first-world women, mostly Americans, and the Thai women, from the roles of American women in organising and promoting charity events to American women's lifestyle and beauty standards. The latter greatly bolstered popularity of American products among middle-class Thai women. This study is a work in progress.

Paper 3. Convincing the Indonesians of a 'New' Life: Japanese Propaganda in World War II and Indonesian Independence

*Frank Dhont (Associate Professor in the Department of History, National Cheng Kung University,
Taiwan / Chair, International Indonesia Forum). Email: frank.dhont@gmail.com*

In March 1942 the Japanese captured Java during World War II. Their control over the Netherlands Indies was far harsher than Dutch control. Interestingly Japanese Propaganda was aimed at convincing the Indonesians of a new bright future. The Japanese tried to show a new way that was eventually to lead to Indonesian independence? The paper examines historical sources to show the

new and the old in Indonesian society during the 1942-1945 years. It uses historical data to show that despite various forms of propaganda the limitations of the Japanese propaganda impact on the one hand but the effective transformation of the society during those years on the other hand. It concludes that the significance of Japanese propaganda must be understood in combination with Indonesians some of whom internalized, refused, adapted or even articulated it.

Panel 9. History and the Philippines

Paper 1. Spies and Informers: Military Collaboration in Negros Oriental, Philippines during the Second World War

Justin Jose A. Bulado (Chair of the Social Science Department, College of Arts and Sciences, Negros Oriental State University, Philippines). Email: jjabulado@norsu.edu.ph

This study deals with the issue of military collaboration in Negros Oriental, Philippines during the Japanese Occupation. The military collaborators were usually the spies or informers of the Japanese who were utilized to help in the intelligence gathering against purported guerrilla members or sympathizers; others include members of the Bureau of Constabulary and other paramilitary groups. By and large, they are typified as a group of collaborators who have in one way or another succored the Japanese imperial forces. This study aims to provide an historical narrative of the actions done by these military collaborators, not to mention the end-results or impact of their collaboration. Moreover, this study also looks into the guerrilla reaction against the military collaborators. The last part of the study would include a brief discussion on the post-war life of the military collaborators.

Paper 2. “Sex does not only involve the body, but it necessarily involves the mind as well”: The Legal History of Sexual Consent in the Philippines

Lorenz Timothy Barco Ranera (PhD candidate at the Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman). Email: lbranera@up.edu.ph

In 2022, the Philippine Congress finally passed legislation that increased the age of sexual consent to sixteen (16) years old which implies that any account of sexual intercourse involving minors below sixteen is considered an act constituting statutory rape—which is a crime in the country. But before such amendment, the age of sexual consent was previously assigned at a lower age at twelve (12) years old and there were numerous failed attempts and strong, and vocal movements in the past to uplift the age of sexual consent. Considering this recent development, this paper attempts to reconstruct the legal development of the former age of sexual consent assigned at twelve years old based on the legal history of the Philippines. This study presents three legal and chronological premises for the age of sexual consent: (1) laws on marriageability and pubertal development of the human body, (2) laws on statutory rape, and (3) Philippine jurisprudence. The age of sexual consent implies sexual capacity (the capacity of a person to engage in sexual intercourse). Through legal history, this study accurately reveals the underlying legal philosophy on why the minimum standard for sexual capacity was twelve years of age. First and foremost, how long has been this assignment? This paper argues that the former age of sexual consent is a thousand-year-old biologically inspired construct that can be ultimately traced from the 5th-century legal system of the Roman Empire, and not to mention that the Philippine legal system was somehow a derivative of the RomanoGermanic civil law system through Spanish colonialism in the Philippines which influenced the country’s marriage and criminal laws including statutory rape. Fast forward to the twentieth century, there was repeated discourse of sexual consent in the Supreme Court of the Philippines as part of their exercise of judicial power. The learned justices of the high court soon entertained the idea of rational consent which became the legal innovation in understanding of sexual consent. Philippine jurisprudence presented a new framework—sexual consent was both an expression of our body and mind. The Philippine Congress, on the other hand, failed to immediately adopt this new framework which caused a confusion of the country’s designation of age of sexual consent. Finally, this was resolved until the passage of Republic Act No. 11648 on March 4, 2022, which raised the age of

sexual consent from twelve to sixteen years old ultimately abandoning the biological premise of sexual consent. This legislation now perfectly captures Associate Justice Marvic M.V.F. Leonen's statement in his dissenting opinion in the case of *People v. Bangayan* (2020), "Consent to sex does not only cover the physical act. Sex does not only involve the body, but it necessarily involves the mind as well".

Paper 3. Church Burials and Cemeteries as Sources of Local History in Pampanga, Philippines

Charlene Manese (PhD candidate in history at the Universidad de Sevilla, Spain). Email: charleneclassroom@gmail.com

Situated on the island of Luzon in the Philippines, the province of Pampanga boasts of Spanish colonial period-built churches that stood the test of time. Among its built heritage, these structures are given the most attention. However, preservation and research often neglect church properties such as cemeteries and burial sites. In Spain and its former colonies such as the Philippines, the construction of cemeteries was not merely done for the practical reason of burying the deceased. They were products of various monarchs' defiance of the religious practice of church interment. Other than this, they are evidence of health and sanitation measures undertaken particularly during epidemics. Their location also talks about land use, urbanization, and beliefs related to the obsolete miasma theory, which asserts that foul odor causes diseases. On the other hand, existing church burials can give a glimpse of status and defiance of government orders prohibiting this type of interment. To study the relevance of church burials and cemeteries as sources of local history, archival research was conducted primarily at the National Archives of the Philippines and Archdiocesan Archives of Manila, where Pampanga once belonged in terms of ecclesiastical administration. Further, ocular visits to the Spanish colonial period-built churches and cemeteries, church burials, and cemeteries were conducted.

Panel 10. International Relations and Security

Paper 1. Supplementing hard power in the Indo-Pacific: India's defence diplomacy in Southeast Asian countries

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The political, military, and economic contestation has made the Indo-Pacific a region prone to conflict but also a region of immense opportunity. Today, Southeast Asian countries are at the forefront of great power competition. As they acclimatise their policies with the changing geopolitics, India is also embracing and challenging itself to formulate policies that can lay out New Delhi's approach towards these countries. From pre-historic times, India wielded great cultural influence in Southeast Asia, which, in present times, it has used to exercise its soft power in the region. However, that has not been supplemented with hard power. In light of this, the paper argues that soft power alone is insufficient to advance India's regional foreign policy goals, and it needs to be complemented with hard power. Although, Southeast Asian countries do not have major conflicts among themselves. Their intent to develop defence capabilities is primarily meant to tackle domestic challenges, and countering Chinese regional hegemony remains the secondary motive of the defence build-up. However, it cannot be generalised for all Southeast Asian countries, as Southeast Asian countries experience distinct threat perceptions, both internally and externally. Acknowledging the region's significance, India has been working to establish its security cooperation with Southeast Asian countries with the advent of the Look East policy, and the Act East policy further cemented the security cooperation. Although India is exercising defence diplomacy, the cooperation remains far from optimum. Thus, the paper addresses the following questions: What barriers obstruct India's defence diplomacy in Southeast Asia? How can India advance its "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India" initiatives by defence sales to the region? How India's cooperation with Southeast Asian countries can erect a robust balance against China? Due to distinct threat perceptions, the paper addresses the above-mentioned questions by examining India's defence engagement with Southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand.

Paper 2. Data sovereignty meets international commitments: The case of Indonesia

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Data localization has become one of the most contentious trade issues in the last decade. Simply understood as an act of restricting the international data flow and requiring public and private entities to store any data within the domestic data centers, most developed countries object to this measure as the localization is deemed not conducive to economic growth and only undermines individual privacy. Meanwhile, localization policy has been implemented by many Global South countries in order to have a stronger sovereignty grip over data. Indonesia implemented the measure back in 2012 to safeguard its data sovereignty in the face of data colonialism and surveillance capitalism mainly from US companies. However, as Indonesia is increasingly involved in many international cooperations and trade agreements in which the prohibition of data localization has been the common consensus, the notion of data sovereignty held by Indonesian policymakers is now receiving an enormous challenge. This article seeks to understand how Indonesia reappropriates the idea of data sovereignty by examining the country's efforts to strike a balance between keeping sovereignty in place and liberalizing the data flow as part of international commitments. By using the perspective of data securitization by Seoane (2021), from which he

initially formulated from Wilson's (2015) resource nationalism, Indonesia successfully compromises those two seem to be conflicting ideas by situating the adequate level of data protection as a precondition to international data flow. Equal participation among interest groups during the formulation process was a key factor.

Paper 3. Indonesia and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime in Southeast Asia, 1954-1979

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Indonesia established its nuclear program in the 1950s, announced it was open to pursuing atomic weapons in the 1960s, and officially signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in the 1970s. This paper analyzes the history of the Indonesian government's policies towards nuclear energy and atomic weapons during the Sukarno and Suharto presidencies. Specifically, this study examines the ways in which Indonesia engaged with great powers such as the United States, the Soviet Union, and China concerning the transfer of atomic technology, materials, and weapons. Studies have examined the US-USSR-China economic and military competition in Indonesia throughout the 1960s, as well as the US foreign policy in Southeast Asia more broadly. However, no studies focus on the Washington-Moscow-Beijing competition for Jakarta's attention in the nuclear realm. As for Indonesia's nuclear history in the late 1960s and 1970s, there does not appear to be an in-depth study dedicated to Indonesia's policies towards the NPT. The gap in the literature on Indonesia and the NPT means there is a missing key piece of the nuclear non-proliferation regime story in Southeast Asia. The history of Indonesia's evolution in nuclear policy during the Cold War can be a starting point in analyzing the nuclear nonproliferation regime in the Southeast Asian region and the role great powers have in its development.

Panel 11. International Relations and Regionalism

Paper 1. An Empirical Analysis on International Trade between India and the ASEAN

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India and the ASEAN regional grouping had completed three decades of diplomatic relations during this year 2022 and the year has been designated as ASEAN-India Friendship Year. As India initiated its 'Look East Policy Strategy' in the year 1991, the trade ties progressed between India and the ASEAN from a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992 to dialogue and summit-level partnerships during the years 1996 and 2002 respectively. Commemorating, the two decades of India-ASEAN relations the trade ties elevated to the strategic partnership between them during the year 2012. It was in the year 2009 India –ASEAN FTA got signed and India-ASEAN Services Agreement was signed in the year 2014. ASEAN views India as the most dynamic and trusted partner of the East Asia and is keen to accelerated the trade and investment relations with the new Asian tiger. ASEAN also recognises India's huge trade potential and views it's as a strong balancing and stabilizing partner in the Asian region. The bilateral trade between the economies has grown exponentially and reached over US\$ 79 billion during the year 2020-21. India's investment in ASEAN has been growing and reached US\$2012 billion during the year 2020 and ASEAN investment has also been growing in India. Despite an impressive trajectory of trade between India and the ASEAN, there is room for further growth through the integration of India into the Asian value chains. In this background the study would assess the commodity trade patterns between India and ASEAN by observing the extent of India's trade intensity and RCA advantage and trade competitiveness between India and the ASEAN, the stability of these different indices of RCA were tested, in the light of the analysis few policy suggestion were drawn for future trade between India and the ASEAN.

Paper 2. Relations between the EU and ASEAN within the context of the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy

Trang Mai Nguyen (Senior student majoring in International Communications at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam). Email: nguyenmaitrangttqtdav@gmail.com

The Indo-Pacific region is rich in natural resources and possesses the most important sea lines of communication (SLOCs) in the world and region, making it a geostrategic region in both economic, political, and military terms. In that context, with the ambition to create a firm foothold for member states in the region, the foreign ministers of 27 EU member states approved the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy. One of the EU's strategic cooperation policies in the Indo-Pacific is to promote cooperation with ASEAN countries and diversify relations in all fields. ASEAN will continue to be a bright spot in terms of economic growth and regional connectivity, a partner that the EU can hardly ignore in its Indo-Pacific strategy. The article analyzes the EU's strategy for the Indo-Pacific region and the impact of its strategy on EU - ASEAN relations in the current situation of the world.

Paper 3. Gendering of Japan's foreign policy: A feminist foreign policy analysis of Japan's foreign policy towards and in ASEAN

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Japan's foreign policy towards Southeast Asia has undergone a shift in recent years. In 2013, former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo shifted Japan's foreign policy from the Fukuda doctrine towards the "Abe Doctrine". Furthermore, Japan's role in ASEAN has broaden. Japan is seeking to promote a Liberal International Order (LIO) and the Free and Open Indo Pacific (FOIP) in the ASEAN region. Simultaneously, there have been a noticeable shift in the foreign policy rhetoric of Japan. Since Abe's "Women Shine" policy, Japan has made efforts to highlight the "pro-women" agenda of its foreign policy. Drawing from these developments, this paper seeks to investigate the extent to which this "pro-women" rhetoric is shaping and is being mainstreamed in Japan's foreign policy towards and in ASEAN. This paper argues that the inclusion of a "pro-women" rhetoric in Japan's foreign policy approach to ASEAN is necessary in its construction of identity as a benign security-guarantor and a legitimate foreign policy entrepreneur of principles that fall under the liberal international order in the Indo-Pacific region. Through qualitative analysis, we examined Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to ASEAN from 2013 until 2023. Drawing from feminist foreign policy literature, we specifically investigated how Japan's ODA as a development aid for ASEAN is used to promote gender-norms, and target gender inequality. Findings of the study support the argument that Japan has an instrumentalist view of a "pro-women" foreign policy approach. Furthermore, the author contends that Japan is using its pro-women rhetoric and ODA to "soften" its increasing militarization. Insights from this study provides insights into feminist foreign policy operates in ASEAN and Indo-pacific Region.

Panel 12. Politics, Rhetoric and Narrative

Paper 1. Transformation of Political Role of Former GAM Elites after Conflict and Reconciliation in Aceh, Indonesia

Hasan Basri (Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran). Email: hasan22002@mail.unpad.ac.id

Post-peace between GAM and Indonesia changed the socio-political face of Aceh. GAM, which supported independence, fully participated in the political process through democracy. This study aims to determine the role of the political transformation of former GAM elites in political contestation. This research is assembled using exploratory research methods with types and sources of data using literature studies and field studies and data collection techniques using observation and interviews. The results of this study encourage the leeway given by the government to the former GAM for the formation of local parties. The formation of local parties aims to provide political vehicles for the people of Aceh to fight for their political aspirations, and the former GAM joined the Aceh transition committee. In the end, former GAM combatants were divided into two groups: the old and the young. This series of studies concluded that the political transition of ex-GAM from war to politics, as well as the conflict between ex-GAM during the political transition in Aceh, caused disappointment in the community.

Paper 2. Change is Coming in the Daang Matuwid: Comparative Rhetorical Analysis on the Presidential Rhetorics of Rodrigo Duterte and Noynoy Aquino

Allan Benedict Caparas Solacito (Graduate student at the National Tsing Hua University Taipei School of Economics and Political Science). Email: acsolacito@gapp.nthu.edu.tw

Politics is a game of rhetoric. Aristotle once said that one of the functions of rhetoric is the negotiation of truth (Arvanitis & Karampatzos, 2011). Politics being a game of rhetoric, it becomes a game of truth negotiation as well. When looking into politics this way, there are various artifacts that can be studied - protest slogans, public opinion, public speeches, and whatnot. But in what ways can truth be negotiated in politics? For David Zarefsky (2004), one interesting artifact to look into are presidential rhetorics. According to him, presidential rhetoric shapes social reality. Presidents negotiate with its constituents through different forms of public addresses about the current state of national affairs. Change is Coming in the Daang Matuwid examines and compares how two former Philippine presidents shaped social reality through their presidential rhetoric during their administrations. It looked into the different communicative behaviors employed by President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and President Rodrigo Duterte like campaign taglines, monikers, communicative framing, etc. Given that social reality is a negotiated truth, the process can be polarizing. This paper also takes a peek into the relationship of political polarization and political rhetoric. One may argue that polarization is the effect of political rhetoric but can it also be the rhetorical tool to define social reality? I argue in this paper that for Aquino and Duterte, political polarization was a tool that solidified their rhetorical strategies in shaping the social reality for the nation. They were manifested or took form in two ways: identification and vilification.

Paper 3. Policy analysis in the context of high inequalities: Articulating narratives and deliberative spaces in Chiang Mai, Thailand city lab

Noe John Joseph E. Sacramento (PhD candidate at the School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University, Thailand). Email: noejohnjoseph_s@cmu.ac.th

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In a complex world, addressing public problems may be challenged by contextual differences, normative arrangements, and high inequalities. While the mainstream approach, like deliberative policy analysis, may have showcased public-oriented and participatory processes in addressing public concerns, there are points where the public necessitates practical yet critical actions. In this work, we learn from Chiang Mai, Thailand city lab what we comprehensively conceptualized as the narrative ecology-deliberative space-power (NDP) ecosystem illustrating the role of power and narratives of agents and the types of deliberative spaces linking in a deliberative process of addressing public concern. We contemplate that types of narratives critically link to deliberative spaces to productively complement the kind of deliberation to stage in the policy process. While the work posits the theoretical underpinnings of the deliberative approach, we believe that further expanding our understanding of a critical pragmatic approach to policy analysis provides practitioners insights and guides for real-world practice.

Panel 13. Migration and Labour

Paper 1. Understanding the Motivations of Filipina Domestic and Care Migrant Workers in Taiwan

Anna Joceline D. Ituriaga (PhD candidate at the National Chengchi University, Taiwan). Email: ituriaga.anna@gmail.com

This study explores the motivations behind Filipina domestic and care migrant workers' decision to work in Taiwan. Through in-depth interviews with ten participants, the research uncovers a range of factors influencing their choice. Economic considerations, including the pursuit of better wages and employment opportunities, emerged as primary drivers. Social networks, cultural proximity, and personal aspirations also played significant roles in their decision-making process. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities behind migration decisions of Filipino domestic and care workers.

Paper 2. Filipino international schools as a meso-level facilitator of intergenerational circular migration

Jeconiah Dreisbach (PhD candidate, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona). Email: jdreisbach@uoc.edu

International schools are contact zones established in global cosmopolitan hubs to offer standardized international education for migrant families. For countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi schools were established to fulfil the educational needs of mentioned nationalities as they already established multigenerational families and communities in the region since the past half-century. These migrant schools have a unique presence in the Middle East for they provide an educational curriculum based on and are accredited by the education ministries of their respective countries. In addition, the host countries require certain subjects that concern the country's history, civics, moral education, and the Arabic language as it is the official and prestige language in the region. As the situation of migrant schools in the GCC present a distinctive angle, this article is introducing its pioneering contribution to migration studies literature as I explore the role of Filipino migrant schools as a meso-level facilitator of circular migration in the context of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This paper is based on a greater two-year ethnographic work (2021-2023) that investigated the educational and family language policies of Filipino migrant families from a critical sociolinguistic perspective. While my work is rooted in sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology, it also concerns with the wider discourses of migration and transnational mobility, most especially in the neoliberal milieu where Philippine labour migration is entrenched.

Paper 3. Navigating Return Migration: Impacts and Adaptations in North Sumatra Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

Syarifah Aini Dalimunthe (Researcher at the Population and Disaster Research Group, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia). Email: syar012@brin.go.id

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, this study delves into the profound transformations in the global workforce, focusing on Indonesia. The pandemic's repercussions have led to widespread job losses, affecting both formal and informal sectors. The evolving government regulations, from large-scale social restrictions to micro-level emergency community activity restrictions, have significantly

impacted the population's livelihoods. This working paper explores explicitly the return migration phenomenon in North Sumatra during the pandemic. The research poses crucial questions regarding the characteristics of return migrants, the responses of home regions to their return, the adaptive strategies employed by migrants, and the government's response to structural changes triggered by return migration. The study timeframe, from June to July 2020, aligns with implementing social restrictions in various destination cities. Observations in Binjai City and Samosir Regency reveal distinct waves of return migration, primarily initiated by workers in the tourism sector, followed by formal employees and, significantly, those in the informal sector. The impacts of return migration extend beyond individuals and their families to encompass economic, social, and health aspects in the home regions. This paper employs a qualitative approach, supported by quantitative data, to comprehensively analyse the situation. It emphasises the unique characteristics of the Batak ethnic group's migration and explores the challenges and opportunities faced by return migrants in adapting to their home regions. The study sheds light on the governance paradox, where the return of migrants garners limited attention from authorities despite its far-reaching implications.

Paper 4. Integrating persons with visual impairment into the Malaysian Labour Market

Dennis Teo Wei Xiang (MA candidate at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya).

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SDG 8 under *Decent Work and Economic Growth* highlighted that by 2030, achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value as one of the targets. In the context of disable people, they have the right to live in good and quality life, earn for living, pursue education and contribute to nation building. Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 in Malaysia aims to ensure disable people have the right to get access to all facilities including job opportunities in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). However, employers especially those in private sector are not keen to hire disable people due to the perception that disable people would affect their productivity. Even though the Malaysian government has implemented a policy of 1% quota of job placement both in public and private sector for disabled people, currently it only reaches approximately 0.7% to 0.8% indicating higher unemployment among disabled people. The purpose of this research as such is to investigate how to integrate Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) into the Malaysia labour market. To achieve this, in-depth personal interviews were conducted among VIPs in Klang Valley, Malaysia. The main findings are summarised as follows. Firstly, most VIPs experience various obstacles and challenges at pre-employment stage, particularly during job search and application process. Obstacles encountered include lack of accessible job portals or websites, lack of suitable job opportunities and encountering employers or job interviewers who have limited knowledge and understanding of the needs and capabilities of VIPs. Meanwhile, challenges encountered include difficulty with orientation and mobility, accessing information on computer screens, and communicating with colleagues, getting familiar with their newly-given job scopes, inaccessibility of certain work documents, getting confidence from their employers with regards to their capabilities in performing certain newly-given tasks, and getting familiar with the new working environment and job scopes. Secondly, VIPs also face difficulty to convince the employers or job interviewers on their personal skills, capabilities and potentials as they have limited sensory ability. Thirdly, employers, in public and private sector who employ VIPs feel that they do exhibit various good qualities compared to the non-disabled employees. Finally, the role of technology in integrating VIPs into the labour market is magnified in this study. Policy implications proposed include enactment and enforcement of anti-discrimination

legislation, adopting inclusive recruitment and hiring practices, raising awareness and providing education to the employers on the importance of inclusivity in the organisation, implementing accessibility standards, and providing job placement services.

Panel 14. Film screening. *About Us* (2018)

Chanintorn Pensute (Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University). Email: Chanintorn.p@cmu.ac.th



"About Us" (2018, 19.20 min; Produced by Chanintorn Pensute). This documentary follows the journey of "Deaw," a determined student with disabilities hailing from Mae Hong Son province, as he embarks on pursuing higher education at Chiang Mai University. Through Deaw's narrative and the support of his friends, we are guided on an exploration of Chiang Mai province, with a particular focus on Chiang Mai University. In contemplating Deaw's experiences, it prompts a reflection on what steps both the university and the city of Chiang Mai can take to enhance their inclusivity and accessibility for all students and visitors.

Panel 15. History and Culture

Paper 1. Bandung as Method: Reflections on Dissidence and Decolonization in Singapore

Zhi Ming Sim (PhD candidate, York University Canada). Email: szming95@yorku.ca

The 1955 Bandung Conference marks an unprecedented decolonial moment for Southeast Asia. The Conference gathered Afro-Asia leaders in rejection of continuing Western colonization and global imperial orders –articulating radical possibilities for imagining a non-aligned and anti-imperialist movement from the Third World. However, as Southeast Asian countries like Singapore move out of their cast of “Third Worldism,” this paper asks, what does a “non-alignment” and “decolonial” future mean for Singapore and the broader Southeast Asia region? This paper historicizes and maps out anti-imperialist movements from the Malayan emergencies to present-day anti-death penalty movements and growing Milk Tea Alliance solidarities as critical dissident sites for rejuvenating the Bandung Spirit towards emancipatory decolonization. This paper critically puts into conversation reflections from Chen Kuan Hsing, Han Suyin, and Syed Hussein Al-Atas, arguing for the need to ground decolonial imaginaries beyond “critical syncretism” (Chen, 2010) and in decolonial subjectivities that have always existed. Through drawing from knowledges of anti-imperial and decolonial ruptures, this paper concludes by reflecting on Singapore’s positionalities and capacities for emancipation within shifting global world orders and burgeoning tensions between US and China geopolitics.

Paper 2. Goddess Worship in Vietnam under the Yin-Yang Perspective

Tran Thi Thuy Binh (PhD candidate at the University of Auckland, New Zealand). Email: tbin787@aucklanduni.ac.nz

Vietnam comprises three primary regions: the North, Central, and South. Each region possesses its own favoured goddesses and unique worship traditions. These mother goddesses have mutually influenced one another due to North-South migration. Similar to other areas in Southeast Asia, female Vietnamese divinities are credited with establishing the earth, fortifying and safeguarding the nation, and facilitating livelihoods. Much like other goddess-worship traditions in the region, these goddesses are perceived as creators of the universe, symbols and/or defenders of the country, and pioneers in various fields. The roots of goddess worship extend back to ancient Vietnamese farmers who were deeply impacted by the yin-yang ideology. This ideology asserts that harmony is achieved through the interplay of opposing elements, such as yin and yang. Yin and yang are in a constant state of transformation to maintain equilibrium across different contexts and over time. When one element reaches its zenith, it transitions into its opposing element. Deities linked to natural elements like land, water, mountains, and fire are associated with yin or femininity. The concept of yin, embodying qualities of protection, creation, and proliferation, laid the groundwork for the inception and progression of goddess worship. I propose that the power or magic of female deities playing the role of the yang element effectively facilitates the transformation of goddesses' yin aspect, contributing to their success in defending the nation and fostering the well-being of their followers.

Paper 3. Audience Reception of Vietnamese Folklore Representation in Fairy Tale Music Videos - A Case Study of 'See Tình' and 'Kẻ Cắp Gặp Bà Già' of Hoàng Thùy Linh

Khang Huynh-Vinh (Faculty of PR and Communications, Van Lang University, Vietnam). Email: khanghuynh.pr@gmail.com

Hoàng Thùy Linh is one of the most famous music artists in Vietnam today. Her music videos contain various folklore representations and gender messages linked to contemporary society. However, not many recent studies focus on audience reception of folklore representation in music videos, especially in Vietnam. This study, then, explores how Vietnamese audiences make sense of and engage with folklore representations in two fairy tale music videos called 'See Tình' and 'Kẻ Cắp Gặp Bà Già' of Hoàng Thùy Linh. Adopting the Free Association Narrative Interview (FANI) method, which encourages the natural flow of ideas that remain subconscious in participants' minds rather than following an imposed logical structure, I conducted data collection in spring 2023 with audiences in the southern region of Vietnam. Following the reception theory of Stuart Hall for interpretation, my analysis highlighted three reading positions of the audience: some accepted the representation, some disapproved, while the others expressed some ambivalence. These varied reactions expose many influencing factors, including their own definitions of folklore, living experience, interests, gender discourses in the media, and suspension of disbelief in media consumption. The study, thus, contributes to audience studies, contemporary Vietnamese studies, cultural studies, and research on Vietnamese cultural and creative industries.

Panel 16. Environmental Sustainability and Activism in Indonesia

Chair: Adam Tyson



Paper 1. Indonesia's energy dilemma: balancing its international sustainable transition commitments and securing its energy needs

Poppy S. Winanti (Professor of International Relations / Vice Dean for Academic and Students Affairs, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada). Email: poppysw@ugm.ac.id

Sustainable transition has become a new imperative in global politics with growing calls for zero target emissions in a number of international initiatives. As many other countries, Indonesia has to fulfill its international obligations in achieving sustainable transition, which requires Indonesia to reduce its dependency towards fossil fuels. However, as an emerging economy Indonesia has to secure its energy needs, pursuing its economic growth through industrialization, providing affordable transportation and more importantly supplying electrification across the nation to overcome development gap issues. This paper argues, in achieving these two competing objectives, Indonesia executes several contradictory policies. Indonesia is quite active in subscribing to international efforts to achieve emission targets via several venues, including its role in the G20. However, in securing its energy demands, Indonesia introduces several policies and uses palm oil diplomacy to defend what is considered as unsustainable commodities in the global market, adopting resource nationalism policies via forbidding raw minerals export that are needed for building domestic energy-related industries, and intensifying mineral extraction as part of its renewable energy endeavors. By analyzing Indonesia's energy dilemma, this paper aims to contribute to the discussion on how achieving sustainable transition may result in adverse impacts.

Paper 2. Green mimicry: contesting just transition in Indonesia

Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad (Associate Professor, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Indonesia). Email: shofwan.albanna@gmail.com

This paper aims to problematize the use (or abuse) of the “just transition” discourse by looking at the Indonesian context. It discusses several initiatives using the “just transition” discourse, including the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). It argues that while the term had been put forth as one of the most important framework for achieving the collective goal for preventing the climate catastrophe, it has huge limitations to be an effective solution. First, it lacks of a clear definition and indicators, leading to its “versatility” to be used by different actors for different purposes. While the argument that “just transition” can be seen as a “contested concept” is not new, the lack of even efforts to provide a formal definition of it in initiatives using the discourse tells a deeper story. Second, as a contested concept, the term is contested under multiple asymmetric relationship in different levels of governance, leading to “unjust” practices. Third, in the Indonesian context, environmental goals seems to be appropriated, rather than merely aligned or harmonized with, to the economic goals or even narrower rent-seeking goals. This paper ends with a call to push for a clearer definition of “just transition” and a more inclusive process to ensure that “just transition” can really be “just”.

Paper 3. Legal intimidation against environmental defenders in post-authoritarian Indonesia

Agung Wardana (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Universitas Gadjah Mada / Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany). Email: made.wardana@ugm.ac.id

The fall of Suharto’s authoritarian regime has opened a political opportunity structure for environmental movements in Indonesia. Since then, environmentalists have been very active in defending the environment and local communities from expanding extractive industries in the country. Due to the nature of their work, environmentalists have faced intimidation, violence, criminalisation, and even killings as a form of Strategic Litigation against Public Participation (SLAPP) by corporations and other actors. Although SLAPP is a more subtle threat than direct violence against environmental defenders because it relies on law as a weapon, its chilling effect is powerful. Anti-SLAPP provisions protect environmental defenders, but they continue to be prosecuted through courts. Hence, this presentation will look at the nature of legal intimidation against environmental defenders in post-authoritarian Indonesia. Unlike in the Global North, in Indonesia, the state has played an essential role in prosecuting environmental defenders regarded as a barrier to the carbon and resource-intensive economic growth model.

Paper 4. Knowledge co-production in Indonesia's environmental movement: the struggle for epistemic power

Maharani Hapsari (Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Universitas Gadjah Mada). Email: ranihps@ugm.ac.id

The interface of science and politics shapes the everyday struggle of Indonesia society in dealing with environmental problems. This also appears in how the articulation of environmental

sustainability discourse in Indonesia produces unequal power relations across diverse ways of knowing. This paper seeks to elaborate the power struggle experienced by urban communities in Yogyakarta as they engage with environmental sustainability debates. It reflects upon political practices by the Indonesia Consortium of Circular Economy (ICCE) that seeks to shift the linear economic system and its socio-political repercussions to a more environmentally desirable path. This paper argues that as members of the movement pursue collective political goals, engagement with various scientific authorities produces differentiated power leverage in the relations between the movement and the state. While gaining access and control to the state's institutional resources remains a political element, knowledge co-production is also concerned with building environmental legitimacy in society mediated by the dominance of scientific authority and technocratic politics. The prospect of political transformation, therefore, demands greater attention as to how the distance between hegemonic and non-hegemonic knowledge is continuously reproduced or being challenged.

Panel 17. Semblance of Plight: Culture, Climate, and Politics in Contemporary Southeast Asia

Chair: Agnes Silva

Southeast Asia reflects semblances of progress and plights. In pursuit of development in contemporary times, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded to unite the region in addressing political, economic, and socio-cultural issues. While transformations have been remarkable, majority of the Southeast Asian countries remain part of the developing world— making them vulnerable to the effects of global challenges and experience various ‘inconveniences’. Similar to the three pillars of ASEAN, this panel represents our shared plight. Firstly, how performance politics and cultural identity govern formerly colonised archipelagic states. In this case, Bali represents Hindu-Buddhist traditions which culturally differentiates it from the rest of Indonesia. Such cultural distinctness likewise contributes to the political identity and vibrance found in contemporary Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. Secondly, how economies address issues on trade-related agricultural practices as most Southeast Asian agricultural economies have experienced trade impositions during the peak of Covid-19 pandemic. Lastly, how politics, together with culture and the economy influence ‘normalising inconveniences’ in providing gender-specific needs due to natural disasters brought by climate change. Traditionally, women in Southeast Asia are designated as household managers. In the case of Typhoon Rai in 2021, unsustainable climate change policies had a direct impact to the loss of income and livelihood of women. To summarise, this panel aims to stimulate active discussion on the role of cultural dissonance, climate change, and governance. Furthermore, the panel will highlight recommendations in addressing the similarities and semblance of plights which hamper development in contemporary Southeast Asia.

Paper 1. The WTO and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Examining Southeast Asian member-states’ agricultural-trade measures

Jules Gerard Arceo (Far Eastern University [FEU] Philippines). Email: jarceo@feu.edu.ph

Agriculture has been a key area of trade under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Given that agriculture serves as source of livelihood for millions globally, WTO member states have been actively negotiating about agricultural trade since the WTO’s establishment. With the advent of the COVID19 pandemic, states imposed various trade-related measures as a response, some of which are in agriculture. As a region whose economies have a large agricultural sector or are dependent on agricultural trade, Southeast Asian WTO member states enforced various trade measures. Against this backdrop, this paper aims to examine agricultural trade-related measures taken by WTO member states in Southeast Asia in the context of the pandemic. It primarily raises the question of what agricultural trade-related measures were taken by Southeast Asian states as WTO member states, as such an examination can lend insights on agricultural trade, highlight its vulnerabilities to external shocks, and help draw recommendations to address these vulnerabilities. This paper argues that the trade measures taken, some of which remain in place, demonstrate the critical role of agriculture not only as a source of livelihood but also as a key sector in ensuring food security, especially during crises. Internet-based research will be used to gather data from the WTO database and secondary online materials and will be processed through document analysis. The paper will focus on Southeast Asian WTO member states, particularly their trade response as WTO members from the onset of the pandemic in 2020 to 2022, when most COVID-related restrictions were lifted.

Paper 2. The ‘Normalisation of Inconvenience’: Exploring the Vulnerabilities of Women PostTyphoon Rai (Odette) in Siargao, Philippines

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Geographically situated in ‘monsoon Asia’ (Murphey & Stapleton, 2019) along the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world when it comes to natural disasters (World Risk Index, 2022; Bollettino et. al., 2018). A frequent life experience, an average of nineteen out of the eighty developing annual typhoons make landfall in the Philippine area of responsibility. The frequent experience of natural disasters annually in the Philippines led to a culture of Filipinos becoming used to inconveniences brought about by such occurrences. In 2021, Typhoon Rai (Odette), a Category-5 super typhoon, made landfall in the Philippines destroying agricultural and residential lands along its path and leaving behind 16million people affected. The authors aim to conceptualize the term “normalisation of inconvenience” to reflect the practice and culture which hinders the need to demand for sustainable climate change policies and disaster management coordination. As such, the “normalisation of inconvenience” further seeks to identify how the economic well-being and mobility of women in Siargao were affected due to unpaid labour as household managers as well as having low-income from informal employment which was reliant on the tourism and agricultural industry of the island.

Paper 3. Revisiting the Theatre State in Contemporary Bali

Wayne Winter J. Uyseco (Far Eastern University [FEU] Philippines). Email: wuyseco@feu.edu.ph

The state is often characterized to employ the use of force to shape various aspects of development and bargain with different actors to achieve its goals. In 1980, Clifford Geertz introduced the idea that nineteenth century Bali is a theatre state, meaning cultural processes did not support the state but were the state itself. Years after the groundwork was laid, the relevance and discussions surrounding such concept remained there. In this paper, I attempt to argue the timeliness and the idea that the theatre state did not go away, but rather developed in a different fashion, albeit can still be considered as a contemporary theatre state. Specifically, we consider state structure and politics, as well as state-society relations in Bali in the Indonesian context. To do these, this paper utilizes comparative-historical approaches in trying to explain the contemporary Balinese theatre state. Likewise, the paper investigates various political and social actors as determinants of policy decisions and spectacles, while considering that Bali is not independent of Indonesia. In the process of locating the contemporary theatre state, it seems that the following hold true for Bali: the Dutch allowed for the construction and reconstruction of Balinese identity and culture, the emergence of tourism allow for more audience in the spectacles found within, the emergence of new media allow traditional and new elites to perform and relate themselves with old kingships and kinships, and contemporary events shaped Bali to draw itself separate from the rest of Indonesia and the world.

Panel 18. ASEAN-UK Supporting the Advancement of Girls' Education Programme: The First ASEAN-UK project under the ASEAN-United Kingdom Plan of Action (POA) (2022-2026)

Chair: Summer Xia



The ASEAN-UK Supporting the Advancement of Girls' Education Programme emerged from the UK's official Dialogue Partner status with ASEAN, which was formalised in August 2021, the first dialogue partner ASEAN has included in 25 years. This led to an agreement for a five-year ASEAN-UK Plan of Action in August 2022. At the 2nd ASEAN-UK Senior Officials' Meeting (AUKSOM) on 08 June 2023 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, ASEAN welcomed this Programme as the first ASEAN-UK project to be implemented under the ASEAN-United Kingdom Plan of Action (POA) (2022-2026). The aim of the FCDO-funded five-year, 30m GBP programme is to provide evidence-based technical input that enables key players in the region including the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), and ASEAN Member States (AMS) to develop effective policies and programmes that improve foundational learning for all and that tackle exclusion and constraints limiting the achievement of girls and marginalised groups. The British Council and The SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) lead the Programme, supported by delivery partners, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and the EdTech Hub. This Panel will gather in person in Jakarta and discuss the outputs from the inception phase, including the ecosystem of the Programme, its theory of change and how the Programme aims to improve educational outcomes for the most marginalised. This face-to-face session will also include interaction with the audience in order to collect views on how to connect the dots and build on the existing work in the region to support the advancement of education for marginalised groups.

Speakers

Summer Xia (British Council's Country Director for Indonesia and the Head of the South East Asia region). Email: Summer.Xia@britishcouncil.org

Anila Khan, Socio-Cultural Counsellor, UK Mission to ASEAN

Amalia Serrano, Senior Officer, Education, Youth and Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat

Laura Brandes, Acting Development Counsellor, Australian Mission to ASEAN

Panel 19. State-Driven Capital Infusion: Unravelling Indonesia's Developmental Strategy under Joko Widodo

Under President Joko Widodo, Indonesia champions a developmental vision, employing its financial and tech capital to stimulate economic advancement. This panel consolidates three pivotal aspects of this strategy, emphasizing the state's guiding role in economic enrichment. The initial aspect, "The State and Political Economy of Digital Start-up," delves into Indonesia's synergy with its emerging startup landscape. It showcases the state's avid involvement in IPOs, exemplified by the GoTo Group's IPO success. This stands juxtaposed to China's Ant Group IPO incident. The narrative sheds light on the interplay between state priorities and startup paths. The subsequent dimension, titled "The Politics of Financing for Development in Indonesia: Between Northern and Southern Donors in Development Programs (2015-2022)," reveals the innovative financial conduits Indonesia has crafted for its development agendas. Instead of solely relying on Official Development Assistance (ODA), it intertwines blended finance with public-private collaborations, engaging diverse donor sources. This mirrors Indonesia's shift from merely an aid beneficiary to an emerging influencer in global finance. Lastly, "The Political Economy of Health Care Reform: A Case Study of Indonesia's 2023 Omnibus Health Law" focuses on Indonesia's strides in healthcare. By simplifying investment routes, the state envisions amplifying its health infrastructure's allure for investors. Using a neo-institutionalism perspective, it reflects on the coalition of stakeholders influencing this reform, demonstrating the state's commitment to both health improvement and investment allure. Together, these papers sketch a nation undergoing dynamic economic metamorphosis, anchored in a state-led pursuit of capital mobilization across domains. Highlighting Indonesia's multifarious strategies to galvanize both internal and global capital, the panel encapsulates the developmental aspirations of the Joko Widodo administration.

Paper 1. State Dynamics and the IPO Journey of Digital Startups: Comparative Insights from China and Indonesia

Priska (Centre for Business and Diplomatic Studies, Binus University). Email: priska001@binus.ac.id

The global ascent of digital startups has brought to the forefront the significant role of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) as milestones signaling both entrepreneurial and national progress. However, the journey to an IPO is not solely dictated by market forces but is also deeply influenced by the intricate dynamics of state policies and priorities. This paper offers a comparative lens into such state-startup interactions by examining the IPO trajectories of China's Ant Group and Indonesia's GoTo Group. China's stance on the halted IPO of the Ant Group highlights its emphasis on upholding socialist ideologies, maintaining market stability, and preserving state authority over the ambitions of even the most prominent startups. In stark contrast, the triumphant IPO of the GoTo Group in Indonesia manifests the nation's intent to project an image of an innovation-friendly environment, driven by political patronage and alignment with populist economic strategies. Using the political economy approach, this study delves into two core aspects of state intervention in the IPO process: the role of political connections and the overarching economic objectives. Our findings bridge a gap in the existing literature, shedding light on the nuanced interplay between states and digital startups during pivotal growth phases like IPOs. The insights derived from this comparative analysis are invaluable for startups, policymakers, and investors, illuminating the broader political and economic landscapes shaping the futures of digital entrepreneurial ventures.

Paper 2. The Politics of Financing for Development in Indonesia: Between Northern and Southern Donors in Development Programs (2015-2022)

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The need to finance Indonesia's development program has been increasing in recent years due to Joko Widodo's policy on massive development priorities. Over the years, foreign loans and grants have been one of the main sources to finance development programs in Indonesia. In more recent years, the landscape of foreign aids programs has also been expanded with the emerging of new donors' countries and agencies from the global south including with the extended modalities of financing. It also can be seen that financing for development has moved beyond financing from aid programs and the Official Development Assistance (ODA) of donor's country. It then led to a question on how the government of Indonesia expanded their external sources to finance development programs during Joko Widodo period? To answer this question, qualitative research through in-depth interviews with government officials and secondary data collections will be conducted. The paper intends to argue that the government has utilized various foreign sources to finance its development program including from traditional donors, new donors, and other external sources. Besides more actors involved, the modalities applied are also expanded including through public-private partnership and blended finance. With these various sources of funds being utilized, it entails further discussion on the roles of the state in making the decision on its partners for development. This paper intends to contribute to the debate and discussion on the position of Indonesia as developing countries in expanding their national strategy of state capitalism and donors' motives of foreign financializations.

Paper 3. The Political Economy of Health Care Reform: A Case Study of Indonesia's 2023 Omnibus Health Law

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Health care reform is one of the research agenda which has been increasingly discussed by scholars. This is mostly due to the fact that the political aspect of the healthcare policy reform debate has not been acknowledged enough (Gore & Parker, 2019). Scholars have highlighted the primary problems and opportunities that can be addressed when internalizing the political aspect of health reform policy, such as the relationships and interests amongst stakeholders (Campos & Reich, 2019). This study attempts to bring key concepts and research agendas within the theme of health care policy reform into the Indonesian case study. Since October 2022, the Parliament (Commission IX of the House of Representatives) together with the government (Ministry of Health) and other stakeholders have conducted a series of meetings to discuss one of the 2023 National Legislation

Programmes (Prolegnas), namely the Omnibus Law on Health. There have been many discussions, both showing support and objection, between these policy actors. Based on both theoretical and empirical grounds, this study aims to understand, using stakeholder analysis, how the relationships between actors shape their behavior and attitudes towards the issue of health reform policy in Indonesia. Primary data will be collected using semi-structured elite interviews and supplemented with secondary data from meeting notes in Commission IX of the House of Representatives, press releases from health professional organizations in Indonesia, scientific journals as well as news from the national media. From a theoretical perspective, this research will provide a new contribution to the analysis of health policy reform by building a framework for analyzing the incentives and interests of actors from the neo-institutionalism perspective. In addition, from an empirical perspective, by understanding and then addressing the barriers and challenges of policy deliberation and implementation, any efforts to improve the performance of the health system will become more likely to be realized (Campos & Reich, 2019).

Panel 20. Southeast Asian History

Paper 1. Subversion and Surveillance in the Asian-Pacific Seas: The Philippines, Singapore, and Hong Kong in the Last Quarter of the Nineteenth Century

Ros Costelo (Assistant Professor in the Department of History, University of the Philippines). Email: racostelo@up.edu.ph

The second half of the nineteenth century saw the increasing interconnectedness of the Philippines, Singapore, and Hong Kong with the development in maritime transportation and the establishment of more consistent and rapid forms of communication. During the last quarter of the century, Spanish consular officers conveyed the rising presence of undocumented suspicious Filipinos in the two aforementioned British-controlled territories. Spanish authorities conducted surveillance activities to document their movement and network, and the possible threat that they posed to Spanish government in the Philippines. Despite the Spanish consuls' repeated requests to the British government in these colonies to assist them in apprehending these suspicious individuals, the latter's legal ideas on individual liberties fomented and tolerated the presence and spread of anti-Spanish Filipino communities in Hong Kong and Singapore. This paper seeks to trace the interconnectedness of the Philippines, Singapore, and Hong Kong by following the network of subversive peoples and their movement within and beyond the Asian-Pacific waters until the outbreak of the revolution. It seeks to re-examine why it was difficult for Spain to conduct effective surveillance in the two British-controlled cosmopolitan cities, which eventually became places for heightened political expression for the Filipino subversives.

Paper 2. The Maritime Spice Trade of the Sultanates on the East Coast of Sumatra in the 19th Century

Muhammad Affan (Doctoral candidate at the Nahdlatul Ulama University, Indonesia). Email: mehmed.affan@gmail.com

Before the East Coast of Sumatra became part of the Dutch East Indies, the economy of the sultanates in the region was supported by maritime trade in spices. However, there has not been many studies on the maritime trade of spices by the sultanates on the East Coast of Sumatra because researchers tend to be more concerned with the era after the region came under Dutch rule. Based on this issue, the following article aims to discuss the maritime trade of spices by the sultanates on the East Coast of Sumatra in the 19th Century, especially in the era before the East Coast of Sumatra became part of the Dutch East Indies. The method used in this research is the historical research method. Meanwhile, the main sources that will be used in this research are reports from John Anderson who visited the region in the early 19th Century. In addition, the research will also utilize other 19th Century sources that inform about the maritime trade of spices from the East Coast of Sumatra. The result of the research reveals that sultanates such as Deli, Serdang, Langkat and Asahan have been active in the maritime spice trade at least since the early 19th century with the primary commodity is pepper. The spices were exported from river ports on the East Coast of Sumatra to Penang and Singapore. Eventually, the heyday of the maritime spice trade began to decline as the sultanates in the region fell to Dutch rule.

Paper 3. Rethinking Early Southeast Asian History: The Role of Funan and Srivijaya in Bridging International Maritime Trade with China and India

Hafiz Ghifari Berlianto (Recent graduate from the Universitas Indonesia). Email: pitusberlianto@gmail.com

Early Southeast Asian history has still not received enough attention from researchers, especially historian. Recent findings until now have focused on the role of international maritime trade that passed through the region between China and India. The role and development of the early states, on the hand, have not been so well documented in the writing of Early Southeast Asian History. The roles of first states, especially those that engage extensively in international maritime, could not be underestimated. Thus, the role of the states of Funan and Srivijaya in this matter has to be reexamined carefully. Both states served as an important trade center for international maritime trade during their respective peaks, Funan from the first (1st) to the sixth (6th) century AD and Srivijaya from around the eighth (8th) to the twelfth (12th) or thirteenth (13th) century AD. Funan and Srivijaya also played as a 'meeting place' between local Southeast Asian, Chinese, and Indian cultures. The influence of Funan and Srivijaya on the development of international maritime trade and a center of meeting between indigenous and foreign cultures needs more study to develop more comprehensive studies on Early Southeast Asian history. This article seeks to explain more about the role of Funan and Srivijaya in bridging international maritime trade between China and India and its influence on Southeast Asia afterwards. Funan and Srivijaya contributed to the spread of foreign culture, especially from India, into Southeast Asia as well as in their own territories.

Paper 4. Empires and the pursuit of opium policy: Revisiting the reports of the Opium Commissions in British India (1895) and American Philippines (1905)

Aaron Abel Mallari (Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman). Email: atmallari@up.edu.ph

At the turn of the 20th century, conversations surrounding opium began taking a dramatic shift. From being a prized commodity among colonial enterprises in Asia, it started shifting to being regarded as a drug whose circulation needed to be curbed. This paper revisits this historical juncture focusing on the history of opium policy in India under the British empire and the Philippines under the American empire. By situating the account about opium within the changing colonial landscape in these two sites, the paper builds and contributes on existing literature that make a case for the importance of looking into these colonial contexts as important precursors that affected the ways drug policy took shape in the latter 20th and 21st centuries. The paper primarily deals with the Royal Opium Commission in India (1893-1895) and the Opium Committee in the Philippines (1903-1905). These reports are revisited to present how the colonial empires navigated the changing conversations about opium and began rethinking opium policy. These two colonial inquiries into the cultivation, consumption, and circulation of opium sought to provide data that could inform colonial policy on opium. While the two have converging goals, their conclusions and recommendations diverged. As the paper explores the colonial policies on opium, as much as the discussion is about opium, it is very much about empires and the ways we could further reflect on the development of discourses on drugs leading to the heightened discourses of control that is prevalent in contemporary times.

Panel 21. History and Culture

Paper 1. Juan Luna, from painter to hero: The evolving image of a 19th-century Filipino artist

Grace Liza Y. Concepcion (Assistant Professor in the Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman). Email: gyconcepcion@up.edu.ph

Last June 12, 2023, Ayala Museum, an important centre of art in Manila, launched the exhibit entitled *Splendor: Juan Luna, Painter as Hero*. The exhibit features one of Luna's masterpieces, *Hymen, oh Hyménée*, a long-lost and recently repatriated work. Luna won a bronze medal for it in Paris in 1889. But *Splendor* is also about the painter and his legacy. It examines his life as a hero, a protagonist in the nationalist struggle. In 1884 Filipino intellectual and national hero Jose Rizal lauded him for winning gold in a prestigious painting competition in Madrid. Rizal claimed that Luna belonged to two worlds- Spain and the Philippines. He was born in the latter while trained in Spain. Through the years, Luna was identified as the epitome of the Filipino who imbibed both Spanish and Filipino identities. A real cosmopolitan, he came to represent 19th-century Filipinos' aspirations for equality with Spaniards. He was the painter whom both Spain and the Philippines could claim as theirs. His identity evolved, however, and he has come to embody heroism and the nationalist struggle of the Philippines. This paper will trace the evolution of Luna's image from painter to hero throughout the 20th century. It will examine the historical context of this changing identity and the events that brought it about. The paper argues that the construction of Luna as a hero is buttressed by the ongoing need to seek the foundations of the Philippines as a nation.

Paper 2. Translation techniques and translation ideology used in translating culture specific items into Indonesian of Jose Rizal's *El Filibusterismo*

Eliezar Lim Iñigo (MA candidate, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia). Email: eliezarinigo.2021@student.uny.ac.id

Filipino nationalist and martyr Jose Rizal is widely regarded as one of the most influential figure in Philippine history. A polymath, Rizal was a writer, artist, doctor, historian and was adept many more fields. Through his political writings and the novels *Noli Me Tangere* (*Noli*) and *El Filibusterismo* (*Fili*), Rizal's ideas made profound influence on the socio-political landscape of the Philippines during the late 19th century. Benedict Anderson, Syed Hussein Alatas, Shahrudin Maaruf, Tan Malaka and Pramodya Ananta Toer has mentioned Jose Rizal in their writings. This exhibits that Rizal's ideas and popularity also made an impact not only in the Philippines but also in Southeast Asia as well. The *Noli*, is considered as one of the most important works in Philippine Literature, is rich of Rizal's social commentary and description of the Filipino life during Spanish colonization. Its legacy transcends until the present as it is being studied in educational institutions in the Philippines. Originally written in Spanish, the *Noli*, since its publication in 1887, was translated dozen of times in English and other Philippine languages, and other foreign languages as well. *Noli Me Tangere* was translated to Bahasa Indonesia, published by Pustaka Jaya in Bandung in 1975 entitled *Jangan Sentuh Aku* which was translated by Tjetje Yusuf using two translations in English, namely from Charles Derbyshire (1912) and Priscilla Valencia (1967). This paper aims to present a study on the translation techniques (utilizing Molina and Albir's proposed categories) and translation ideologies (deriving from Venuti's suggestion of domestication and foreignization) utilized in translating culture specific terms from *Noli me Tangere*. The study wishes to shed light on how the novel was translated and presented in a language used by its archipelagic neighbor with similar experience and culture, Indonesian and how Jose Rizal was a distinguished figure in the Southeast Asia.

Paper 3. Making Art Public in Singapore: The Artists Village as an ‘Experimental Colony’ that ‘Performed’ the Museum in Southeast Asia

Adrian TAN (Co-founder of ‘The Artists Company’ / Lecturer at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore). Email: adrian.tanpc@gmail.com / adrian.tanpc@ntu.edu.sg

The Artists Village (TAV) started as a community of artists operating in zinc-roofed huts with real farmers and farm animals, representing a time when nodes of activities took place in and around particular sites and artists during the 1980s and 1990s in Singapore. This paper theorises TAV, not only as an ‘experimental colony’ of artists as historicised by art historians, but as initiators of operationalising art’s publicness to redress the separateness of art from everyday life through planned interventions in the National Museum Art Gallery (NMAG). In particular, Tang Da Wu’s role as organiser and communicator is discussed through artist-archivist Koh Nguang How’s photographic archive where his radical approach to facilitate interventions at NMAG were in my view successful efforts to decolonise and ‘perform the museum’ to and for the public. Presented as open-ended, collaborative, and free access events, I argue that these workshops, seminars, and performances shifted the social function of the museum into a public forum and a space for pluralism. Tang’s mobilisation of public spaces and the use of his body in communicative actions was an extension of his commitment as a public artist to local dialogues. Such a re-territorialisation of the museum enabled art to be made publicly accessible, ‘lived’ and experienced by people.

Panel 22. Migration and Security

Paper 1. Returning to a Displaced Space on the Side of the Road: Ethnic Migrants and Their Return to Northern Shan State, Myanmar

Tzu-kai Liu (Assistant Professor of Ethnology, National Chengchi University, Taiwan). Email: tzukailiu@gmail.com

In this paper I examine the experiences of ethnic returnees and their displacement in the time of political unrest and pandemic disruption in the Shan State of northern Myanmar. Return is often experienced as an ongoing time-space event and a homecoming process which is imbued with contested predicaments. Amidst the persistent threat from the COVID variants and the military conflicts, transborder trade and border crossings in the China/Myanmar borderlands are largely reduced and closed. Grounded in the post-pandemics and the aftermath of the 2021 coup, this paper examines a group of labour returnees who were previously working in Thailand, choose to move back their hometown in the rural regions of Lashio in Myanmar. Their home communities are located on the side of road which is adjacent to the main transportation route connecting southwest China and northeast Myanmar. This paper underscores “a displaced dwelling of alterity” both as experienced by these returnees as locals and others, and as a state of return being stranded in between where things and selves are neither fully present nor absent. It also asks the decisions these returnees made on returning and their ambivalent experiences of being stranded in a state of border closure and migration restriction due to the coup and the pandemics. Lastly, this paper examines how they resettle in a space on the side of road and develop a space of comfort and the sense of danger living under the fear of political uncertainties.

Paper 2. Dynamics of Self-Protection in Times of Conflict: Exploring Visual Narratives of Unarmed Civilian Protection in Rakhine State, Myanmar

Abellia Anggi Wardani (Lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia / Executive Director of Knowledge Hub Myanmar). Email: aaw@khm-mm.org

Riyad Febrian Anwar (Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Universitas Hasanuddin / Research Project Manager of Knowledge Hub Myanmar). Email: rfanwr@khm-mm.org

In the span of two decades, Rakhine State has become one of the most volatile regions in Myanmar. Within such a period, its local population has experienced a long pattern of conflict-related violence, from sectarian conflict between ethnic Rakhine Buddhist and Rohingya Muslims in 2012 to the violent campaign to expel the latter group from the country in 2017. To add further suffering, the locals, regardless of their ethnicity, are also constantly wary of their safety due to the resurgence of armed tension between the government and the local *de facto* ruler, the Arakan Army, who are competing to maintain tactical military control in the region. As such, Rakhine people may have to navigate their daily lives with self-prompted strategies to protect themselves as individuals, or as members of ethnic communities. Against the background above, this research seeks to use locals' drawings as elicitation tools to understand how they lived and protect themselves from being victims of violence in the current state of armed conflict in Rakhine State. This is participatory art-based research where we ventured into 5 (five) Rakhine townships (i.e. Buttidaung, Mrauk-U, Maungdaw, Minbya, and Rathedaung) to find civilians of varying ethnicities and ask their consent to participate in two drawing tasks -*storyboard* and *life domain*- with a follow-up interview to elucidate their corresponding artworks. The research ultimately tries to recall the lives of the Rakhine people

through the lens of artworks and also to identify the structure of unarmed civilian protection in the region if any.

Paper 3. Making digital (non)citizens: digital identity, paper documents and statelessness in Cambodia

Lucrezia Canzutti (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the Department of War Studies, King's College London). Email: lucrezia.canzutti@kcl.ac.uk

Since the introduction of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and particularly SDG 16.9 calling for 'legal identity for all' by 2030, digital identification programmes have proliferated across the world - especially in low and middle-income countries of the 'Global South'. What do these systems mean for stateless persons? How do they reconfigure or reinforce the boundaries between citizenship and non-citizenship? This paper answers these questions by exploring the case of Cambodia, which hosts one of the largest stateless populations in Southeast Asia. Since 2017, the Cambodian government has embarked on a digital identification programme purportedly aimed at improving service delivery, promoting human rights and, crucially, reducing statelessness. However, Cambodia's main stateless population, the ethnic Vietnamese minority, has so far been excluded from these digitisation efforts. Instead, ethnic Vietnamese families who have been living in Cambodia for generations have continued to be given temporary, paper-based immigration documents that are routinely confiscated, substituted, or invalidated by Cambodian authorities. This paper excavates the entanglements of digital and nondigital documents and records that underpin Cambodia's process of 'digital transformation'. It argues that, rather than being the inevitable by-product of an 'in-between' phase, these parallel and overlapping bureaucracies benefit authorities by creating new spaces for informality and discretion, ultimately reinforcing the citizen/non-citizen divide. In attending to digital-nondigital entanglements, the paper pays attention to both ruptures and continuities between past and present boundarymaking mechanisms, highlighting how Cambodia's history of colonialism, conflict, territorial disputes and illiberalism shape (non)identification practices today.

Paper 4. Securitizing non-traditional security (NTS) threats: China's track 2 diplomacy and regional governance in Southeast Asia

Aletheia Kerygma B. Valenciano (Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines). Email: abvalenciano@up.edu.ph

As China continues to strengthen its geopolitical position in Southeast Asia, it has expanded its regional governance strategies to include track 2 diplomacy, which focuses on multilateral security dialogues and aims to support and strengthen official diplomacy. An important question is the role of non-traditional security (NTS) threats in regional security issues shared by China and Southeast Asian states, and how they impact on the expansion of China's track 2 diplomacy. Through the lens of securitization theory, this article analyzes three regional security issues where track 2 diplomacy has been used by both China and Southeast Asia. This study finds that China's track 2 diplomacy in Southeast Asia is a result of the securitization of the NTS dimension in these issues. In addition to track 2's function as a regional governance strategy, it also serves China's wider political and security goals. This article concludes with a discussion of the prospects and challenges for China's track 2 diplomacy.

Panel 23. History, Memory and Politics

Paper 1. Rizal Province and the Guerrillas Movement: A Study of the Relationship of Geography to the Success of World War II Insurgency in the Philippines

Shaira Maree P. Bautista (Social Studies Coordinator, Reedley International School, Manila). Email: shairamareebautista19@gmail.com

Geography and History are disciplines of the Social Sciences that have always been connected with each other. Historical events shape the geography of societies and the geographical features affect certain historical events. This study aimed to study the relationship of the geography of the province of Rizal in the 1930's - 1940's and the rise and success of the guerrilla movements based there. Specifically, the paper looked into geographical features such as landscape, terrain, proximity, water forms, and natural resources of the Rizal province through narrative reports, local history from the Historical Data papers, and map sketches. These geographical reports are analyzed through the narratives of the rise and success of the guerrillas in the area, as seen in their raids and movements, that shows the influence of geographical factors. In sum, the study emphasized how geography is a factor in the movements and behavior of people, which in turn creates history. The geography of the Rizal province contributed to the rise and success of the guerrilla movement in the area which also played a part in the liberation of the country from the Japanese occupation.

Paper 2. Rising from the Dead: human remains and memory in the Philippine Drug War

Kar-Yen Leong (Associate Professor at Tamkang University in Taiwan). Email: karyentkumail@gmail.com

During President Rodrigo Duterte's the 5-year tenure in the Philippines, more than 30,000 civilians were killed in his so-called war on drugs. This paper investigates the effects his policies has had on the socio-economic landscape of the Philippines. The data gathered for this research is drawn from the area surrounding its national capital Manila and consists of in-depth interviews with the families of those killed during the drug wars. Referred to as extra-judicial killings or EJKS, many of the family members left behind have come to suffer greatly because of the lack of accountability on the part of the government. Therefore, my research looks specifically at how the families have come to cope with this form of state-sanctioned violence. In addition, I also spent time conducting fieldwork with a religiously affiliated organization meant to help these families. This organization has been at the forefront assisting these families financially as well as providing psycho-social support. Through the AJ Kalinga Foundation the family is also provided with a chance to investigate the cause of death as well as being properly deal with the remains of their dead. As such the organization also serves the function of allowing the families to find closure for their loved ones. This research hopes to contribute to our understanding of human rights in Southeast Asia not only in terms of understanding state violence but also in terms of how communities deal with such instances.

Paper 3. Social Studies Learning Materials as site of Hegemony: Scrutinizing the historical representations of Marcos' authoritarian regime in Araling Panlipunan Learning Modules

Glen Christian 'Cian' Tacasa (Undergraduate student pursuing a bachelor degree in Sociology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños). Email: gatacasa@up.edu.ph

This paper scrutinizes the presence of ambiguities and silences in Philippine History learning materials, with a particular focus on the representations of the Marcos' authoritarian regime. It explores the interplay of cultural power and control, revealing the political entity that inserts ruling ideas into the materials. Drawing on the works of Antonio Gramsci, Paulo Freire, and Michael Apple, the study uncovers a hidden curriculum that aims to perpetuate a whiter narrative of the Marcos regime as its primary hegemonic belief. Using content analysis, and close and multiple readings of the learning materials, this study was able to identify inconsistencies and blind spots that enforces and direct specific historical interpretations. The materials selectively emphasize Marcos' rhetoric while omitting critical aspects of his authoritarian rule, creating a false consensus on his regime and saturating the overall historical understanding on the events of Marcos' dictatorship. This study highlights that the selection and reproduction of historical narratives in learning materials are not a neutral enterprise, but instead it serve as tools for social control, reinforcing the interests of the ruling ideas and suppressing political dissension. By analyzing the operation of the pedagogy of ambiguities and silences, the study exposes how this hidden curriculum hinders critical understanding and engagement with historical realities. In sum, the findings shed light on the dynamics of cultural power and hegemony in education and curriculum development, particularly in Philippine History Education.

Panel 24. Politics and Religion

Paper 1. Islamic Parties and the Allure of Socialism: The case of Indonesia's Masjumi

Lin Hongxuan (Assistant Professor at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore). Email: sealh@nus.edu.sg

Until recently, scholars have generally neglected to examine the socialist inspirations of the Republic of Indonesia's most influential Islamic party, Masjumi (Partai Majelis Syuro Muslimin Indonesia, 1943–1960) during Indonesia's parliamentary democracy period (1950–59). Drawing on books published by Masjumi politicians as well as an Indonesian translation of the Syrian Islamic socialist Mustafa al-Siba'i's *Iṣtirākiyyat al-Islām* (1949, *The Socialism of Islam*), this paper explores how two prominent Masjumi parliamentarians, Zainal Abidin Ahmad and Isa Anshary, drew on socialist ideas in formulating their political visions for Indonesia as part of a broader ongoing debate in the wider Muslim world. In contrast to popular perceptions of Indonesian political Islam today, as well as Cold War-centric characterisations of Islamic political parties, this paper shows how Muslim democrats in 1950s Indonesia emphasised socio-economic justice and compassion in their articulations of political Islam.

Paper 2. The Awakening of Ba-Alawi in Islamic Da'wah in Indonesia: The Influence of Kinship-Based Networks on Fostering Group Feeling among the Young Generation of Ba-Alawi

Geradi Yudhistira (PhD candidate, University of Amsterdam / Assistant Professor, Universitas Islam Indonesia). Email: g.yudhistira@uva.nl

After the re-establishment of a trans-oceanic network connecting Southeast Asia and Yemen in the late 20th century, there has been a notable rise in the influence of the Hadhrami diaspora in Indonesia. One of the sub-groups within the Hadhrami community is the Ba-'Alawi, who are believed to trace their lineage back to Prophet Muhammad. The Ba-'Alawi clan is known for their distinctive practice of disseminating Islamic teachings through the practise of Thariqa- 'Alawiya, a spiritual sufi-order rooted in the principles of their forefathers dating back since the 10th century in Hadhramawt. One of the contributing factors that led to their growing influence in da'wah was the emergence of a strong sense of their group feeling, referred to as 'Asabiya, in. The resurgence of group-feeling is exemplified by the significant inclination among the younger Ba-'Alawi generation to pursue occupational aspirations as preachers (Habib), as opposed to pursuing other conventional occupations, as exhibited of the previous Ba-'Alawi generations in modern Indonesia. This study examines the role of trans-national and domestic kinship relationships in the dissemination of traditional 'Alawiya values, which have the potential to foster 'Asabiya feelings within young Ba-'Alawi. Based on fieldwork conducted between January and December 2022, it was seen that kinship networks played a pivotal role in the transmission of information among the younger Ba-'Alawi, as evidenced by some instances observed in the regions of Depok, Solo, and Yogyakarta.

Paper 3. The Wahhabi propagation and conflict among Muslims in Indonesia

Endang Turmudi (Research Centre for Society and Culture, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia). Email: endanqturmudi@yahoo.com

The Wahhabi movement in Indonesia has resulted in the division of Indonesian Muslims into what are commonly called "traditionalists" and those who are called "puritans". These two parties were in

conflict throughout the modern Indonesian era, which began with the presence of Islamic organizations in the early twentieth century. This conflict arose because the Wahhabism-supporting movement carried out purification and believed that Indonesian Islam was not authentic because it was more spiced with non-Islamic things, with the latter being referred to as syncretic. The intensity of the purification propaganda is increasing and has become widespread in the last two decades because the younger preachers of Wahhabism, who call themselves “Salafis”, use modern technology such as videos, which they upload so that the videos are seen by the wider society. Although the issues propagated in the field of jurisprudence fall within khilafiyah (which is subject to different interpretation), which in the history of Islam are marked by the presence of various schools of thought, the Wahhabis who feel the most correct in their Islamness have invited the reaction of the Indonesian Muslim majority represented by so-called “traditionalist Muslims” (Nahdlatul Ulama: NU). The latter have reacted in various ways, ranging from religious lectures to poetry, as well as attempts to reconceptualize their Islamic thoughts. While the core propaganda of the Wahhabi is cleansing Islam from a local culture considered to be outside of Islam, the traditionalists, in contrast, introduce Islam that is already localized. It is in this context that the traditionalists represented by NU introduce the so-called “Islam Nusantara”, which is then greeted by various Islamic circles themselves. It is argued here that Islam Nusantara is Islam that has so far been practiced in Indonesia where local or indigenous cultures are accommodated, thus making Islam in Indonesia different in character from Islam in the Middle East. Moderation is the backbone of the religiousness of Indonesian society and this concept is presented by NU circles in the presence of political violence perpetrated by hardline Muslims and to counter the rigid and intolerant Wahhabi purification efforts. This intolerance and aggressive character of Wahhabism is regarded by a senior traditionalist ulama, Dr Said Aqil Siraj, as a source that leads its adherents to terrorism. Wahhabism is not the same as terrorism, he suggests, but due to its aggressive character it is a gateway to terrorism. This paper discusses problems related to Wahhabization, through the Salafi movement, which has caused conflict between Indonesian Muslims that has intensified in the last decade.

Panel 25. Politics, Religion and Society

Paper 1. Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) and Political In(tolerance) Among Islamists in Jakarta

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Political intolerance – which refers to an individual attitude not to accept political freedom towards other individuals or groups who have different political ideas or views – has been an increasingly important political issue in Indonesia in recent years. The country began free and fair elections in 2004 at the national level, and followed with regional elections. But at least two surveys show the level of political intolerance peaked in Indonesia between 2017 and 2019. Some scholars have examined this issue in Indonesia through various perspectives, including online political intolerance and political intolerance among members of Muslim organizations. Others discuss the use of Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) method to predict the level of intolerance among a particular group of people in Indonesia. Two different groups of scholars use this method to study political intolerance among undergraduate students at two separate universities in Indonesia. This research contributes to expanding all existing scholarships on political intolerance by explaining the level of SDO among Islamists who live in Jakarta, and whether the SDO level positively correlates with their political intolerance. Islamists here refer to people who “seek to make Islamic law and values a central part of public life and the structure of the state.” They become the subject of this research because their role in the dissemination of political intolerance ideas was instrumental, especially during the run-up to the 2017 Jakarta gubernatorial election. This study, which uses mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative), will involve at least 200 Islamists who live in Jakarta.

Paper 2. Community Engagement in the Diffusion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Norms in Indonesia: The Role of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)

Abubakar Eby Hara (Senior Lecturer at the Department of International Relations, University of Jember, Indonesia). Email: eby-hara.fisip@unej.ac.id

Apart from being a program launched by the United Nations, SDGs can be considered a global norm that is being spread to all countries in the world. So far, there has been much attention to the role of government in accepting, socializing and diffusing these norms to society. Not much attention has been paid to how society is involved in the process of diffusion of SDGs norms. Therefore, this paper tries to see how community groups launch the SDGs program which has been accepted nationally. Taking the case of the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) Religious Organization, acceptance of this global norm which is considered universal does not happen simply. The research was carried out using in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions and secondary sources from the mass media, documents and research reports. Even though there is no real opposition to the program, in religious communities that are unfamiliar with global values, strong religious justification is needed. Apart from that, the 17-point SDGs program is generally considered to be comprehensive. When it reaches the community, this needs to be modified by adding one more point, namely the Village SDGs. Theoretically, the process of diffusion of SDGs norms shows that even in norms that are well standardized and universal, there is a process of change and reinterpretation at the community level. The findings in this paper can contribute to the theory of norm diffusion which sees that the process of internalizing norms that have been institutionalized needs to be interpreted and

reinterpreted at the community level so that society is more comfortable accepting and implementing them.

Paper 3. Raising the Minimum Legal Age to Curb Child Marriage: The Role of Women Ulama Congress in Indonesia

Hilda Widya Kemala (PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan). Email: hilda.kemala@fuji.waseda.jp

This study was conducted to explore reasons behind Indonesia's successful passing of law revision to raise the minimum age of marriage. Protective laws oftentimes face difficulties to be enacted as there are oppositions on traditional religious grounds. As the country with the 8th highest number of child marriages in the world, Indonesia's revision on the minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 19 is worth exploring. Through examinations on constitutional courts data and interviews with relevant NGO and government actors, this study aims to dissect domestic factors enabling the marriage law revision in this Muslim-majority country. It is argued that from 2017, there was a growing commitment by the Indonesian government to eliminate child marriage. Domestic forces are spearheaded by NGOs on women's rights and supported by gender-friendly Islamic figures (ulama). By deploying women ulama in the fight against child marriage, there was a growing awareness of existence of women ulama which introduce more feminist interpretation of Islam in Indonesia. Therefore, the government's top-down approach to end child marriage by implementing protective laws is a result made possible through support from women's rights NGOs and women ulama group's faith-based advocacy.

Panel 26. Vulnerability, Youth and Politics

Paper 1. Drawing Beyond Silence: Exploring Well-being and Imagined Futures of Encamped Refugee Youths in Thailand

Charlotte Hill (*Media Arts and Design, Chiang Mai University, Thailand*). Email: Charlotte.hill@cmu.ac.th

Exploring the everyday lives of encamped refugees presents ethnographers with a multifaceted and delicate endeavour. There are myriad reasons why refugees in protracted displacement might respond to our questions about their lives and well-being with “I don’t know” or “I don’t remember.” From stress and anxiety stemming from traumatic experiences to cultural barriers, language limitations, and a lack of trust in the researcher or project, exploring encamped life is often challenging, nuanced, and complex. However, my observations working with and researching encamped youths is that they generally want to share their present realities and future imaginings but often find it difficult to verbalise. This can lead to frustration and a feeling of disempowerment. In this context, I will argue that expanding the interview stage by engaging with participatory visual techniques, such as drawing, can help unpack complex thoughts and feelings more effectively. Through an ethnographic lens, this research explores the nuanced perspectives of encamped youths and the aspects of life they deem important in their pursuit of well-being and living beyond survival. Immersed within the intricate tapestry of Mae La and Nupo refugee camps located on the Thai-Myanmar border, this study employs the visual research method of drawing to access the inner thoughts and worlds of 80 encamped youths in protracted displacement. While drawing as a research method has traditionally been associated with children, over the last 20 years, it has slowly gained traction as a tool to elicit thoughts and feelings from young adult populations; however, I will argue that this method, as an extension to researching vulnerable populations warrants more attention. According to Taylor (2020): “Drawing enables us to realise our imagination(s), to draw in and on the material world and to explore what it is to be human” (p.6). By affording participants the opportunity to articulate their lived experiences and future imaginings through the expressive medium of drawing, followed by reflective discussions, this study illuminates two critical themes present in encamped youths’ lives. Firstly, it focuses on how encamped youths perceive their current situation as caged birds. Secondly, it unpacks their imagined futures, unveiling their hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

Paper 2. Leave No One Behind: SDG 4 for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Malaysia

Norani Abu Bakar (*PhD candidate at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya*). Email: norani.abubakar@aya.yale.com

Among the 3.2 million non-citizens that are residing in Malaysia, 18,960 have been confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as refugees and asylum seekers (RAS). Malaysia does not ratify UNHCR 1951 Refugee Convention, and its immigration act stated that all RAS are ‘illegal immigrants.’ They are susceptible to arrest and harassment, and do not get access to basic services such as healthcare and formal education. School-going-aged (SGA) refugees receive their education through Alternative Learning Centres (ALCs) set-up primarily by humanitarian actors. This year, however, almost 70% of them are not enrolled to any education providers. In comprehending challenges and recommending solutions for Refugee Education (RE), this paper conducted a review on the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 Quality and Equitable Education for the refugees in Malaysia. Suggestions on improvement for RE

were drawn out from Systematized Literature Review's data synthesis and thematic analysis from Key Informant Interviews. This study revealed that RE progress in Malaysia has been slower as compared to many refugee host countries. Improvement can be accelerated primarily through interagency collaborations at the national and regional levels and by addressing the main barriers to education that demotivate refugee families and learners from pursuing education.

Paper 3. Youth at risk in Laos: exploring and addressing interconnected vulnerabilities through multidisciplinary and participatory action / research (Project Health – Expertise France)

Pascale Hancart Petitet (Senior Researcher at the International Unit TransVIHMI, University of Montpellier, Institut de recherche pour le développement, INSERM). Email: pascale.hancart-petit@ird.fr

In Laos, there is a notable high fertility rate among adolescents. The incidence of HIV among 15- to 24- year-olds accounted for a significant portion of all new figures. Furthermore, the phenomenon of young people in Laos seeking to escape poverty and embrace a different way of life is driving urban migration. However, this transition for young individuals from rural to urban areas brings about a complex mix of opportunities and risks. The question arises: What measures are being taken to address this situation? Our objective is to spotlight the methods and outcomes of an ongoing project known as "HEALTH" that integrates multidisciplinary research and action, with the overarching goal of developing and testing an intervention model aimed at enhancing access to MCH, HIV, TB, and malaria prevention and treatment specifically for women, children, and adolescents. The Health Project operates in two remote districts within Savannakhet province. The initiative began with an epidemiological baseline survey, followed by an in-depth qualitative study to understand the behaviors and knowledge of adolescents in the area. A Mobile Health Education Package was then created, based on existing materials from Laos, adapted to the research findings. Prioritizing the health and well-being of youth, particularly in areas of sexual and reproductive health and infectious disease risk, is crucial. In the HEALTH project, we rigorously test the materials we create, using the findings to refine our dissemination strategy based on evidence. It's vital to amplify the voices of adolescents in health matters and to seamlessly integrate health research with prevention and care initiatives.

Panel 27. Early Southeast Asian History

Paper 1. Between Ethnicity and Nationality: Defining 'Chinese' in British Malaya's Colonial Courts c. 1890-1930

Christian Jones (PhD candidate, Freie Universität Berlin). Email: christian.jones@fu-berlin.de

In the English language, “Chinese” is used to refer to people of Chinese (typically Han) ethnicity as well as (today) citizens of the People’s Republic of China. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this led to frequent confusion for Chinese emigrants who may have been ethnically Chinese but not necessarily Chinese nationals. In this paper, I look at how British courts conceived of “Chinese” within British Malaya, a loose grouping of colonies and protectorates with various pluralistic legal arrangements presiding in different territories. Around 1900, the courts came under increasing pressure to define what was meant by “Chinese” as legislation mounted applying to “Chinese” people specifically while at the same time both the British and Qing formalized their nationality laws. In the course of these deliberations, judges and lawyers (in conversation with common law courts elsewhere) constructed a notion of Chineseness that was ethnically and culturally bound, and which limited possibilities for belonging and subjecthood within Malaya. Typically revolving around family law, such cases tended to reinforce the idea that ethnic Chinese were outsiders to Malayan society and loyal only to the Chinese government (pre and post Qing). Thus, I show how even local-born British subjects, with multiple generations residing in Malaya, often found themselves treated as aliens and Chinese nationals, with citizenship becoming affixed to race. This would become all the more significant as special rights and privileges were accorded to those deemed indigenous “sons of the soil” (bumiputra) from this period and onwards into independent Malaysia.

Paper 2. Early Philippine manuscripts in European collections, 1762–1916

Leif Garinto (PhD candidate at the School of Languages, Cultures, and Linguistics, SOAS University of London). Email: 694203@soas.ac.uk

This study examines the European acquisition of Philippine books during the Spanish colonial era and its influence on contemporary historical perspectives regarding printing and publishing in the Philippines. It analyses the trajectory of these manuscripts from Manila into European collections and their impact on existing historical narratives concerning printing and publishing during the Spanish colonial period in the country. Focusing on three volumes acquired by the orientalist William Marsden from the hydrographer Alexander Dalrymple in 1808 that were subsequently deposited in the archives of SOAS, University of London, in 1916, the study posits that these texts predominantly reached Europe as spoils of war. It argues that two factors have significantly contributed to gaps in understanding the print and publishing landscape in the Philippines during the Spanish colonial era: first, the displacement of these books from their native context to distant European locales, and second, the fact that they are written in languages (i.e., Spanish and Latin) that are scarcely studied by Filipino scholars. The study traces the journey of these books, originating from Filipino printers, progressing to Spanish ecclesiastical libraries in the Philippines, becoming war trophies during the British occupation of Manila, and eventually forming part of an ‘Oriental’ manuscript collection by an East India Company officer. By tracing the survival routes of these colonial Philippine manuscripts and uncovering the motives behind their presence outside their homeland, the study aims to understand how manuscripts are collected and collections are formed. Focusing on the manuscripts obtained by Marsden (who acquired them from Dalrymple, who took part in the British sack of Manila in 1762), the study underscores how the acquisition and subsequent removal of these

manuscripts from the Philippines have led to a gap in the understanding of printing and publishing during the Spanish colonial period in the Philippines.

Paper 3. Expressions of Malayness in the Straits of Malacca 1500-1800: Re-Constructing Malayness using Indigenous Texts

Norman Ohira (Lecturer at the State Institute of Islamic Studies (IAIN) of Kerinci, Jambi, Indonesia).
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“Malayness” remains an issue in the contemporary Malay world. In both Malaysia and Indonesia there is a debate about who can claim to be a “real Malay”. Previous studies describe Malays in political and power terms. But, how do Malays construct and express their Malayness? Indigenous Malay texts from the 16th to 19th centuries help us understand how Malays themselves were expressing “Malayness”. Indeed, there is a variety of expressions of Malayness in the Malay texts. Using selected indigenous texts, I examine four aspects of the expression of Malayness.

Panel 28. Postcolonial History

Paper 1. Border history from a Kelabit longhouse: Value, change and sociality

Valerie Mashman (Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Borneo Studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak). Email: mvanne@unimas.my

The Kelabit vie to be *doo'*, belonging to the great and the good. This value can only be realized and assessed through social relationships within the community and allied communities beyond. An analysis is made through an oral history of warfare, peacemaking and Christian conversion, which describes the search for the good life *ulun nok doo'* through warfare, the Brooke government and conversion to Christianity. Underlying these episodes of transformational change, there is a continuity revealed through the value system which prizes the quality of being *doo'* belonging to the great and good which is both inherited at birth and acquired through effort. This leads to an analysis of the mobility (*iyuk*) of value which continuously generates the standards of *doo'*-ness which enhance social relationships and provide the means for the bringing together and consolidation of alliances of *lun tauh*, "our people" through warfare and by peace-making. With the arrival of Christianity, the good life comes through Christian prayer; a time that is free from omens, a time of change, and yet a time for extended sociality and evangelization to the Penan. This retrospective approach to understanding value uses oral history to demonstrate how the Kelabit manage their social lives through their value system, affirming their agency and their capacity to impact episodes of history.

Paper 2. Transnational model of Acehese figure in colonial era: an orientation of Teungku Kuta Karang

Fakhriati (Researcher at the National Research and innovation Agency, Indonesia). Email: fakhriati1406@gmail.com

Interacting with the outside world does not necessarily resemble the pattern that is globally practiced. Teungku Kuta Karang as an Acehese figure who lived in the 19th century could position himself as a transnational actor. This article aims to explore the model of transnationalism developed by Teungku Kuta Karang upon his interaction, communication, and knowledge building with diverse nations of the world. By employing historical and philological approaches, this study analyzes the works of Teungku Kuta Karang alongside with the history and contexts that surround his transnational capacity. The study found that Teungku Kuta Karang developed a unique transnational practice during his life, in ways that it contributes to the benefit of local and global communities. Through this study, it is expected that the model of transnationalism developed by Teungku Kuta Karang could be explored further, especially in the light of developing a tolerant and moderate nation in the present time.

Paper 3. Dewan Djambi Sementara in Independence Revolution at Jambi 1949

M Taofik Kurohman (MA student at the History Department, Faculty of Cultural Science, Universitas Indonesia). Email: m.taofik@ui.ac.id

The independence revolution in Jambi was different from the spirit of social revolution in other regions. The local political conflict in Jambi was based on the jealousy that arose among Jambi's traditional elites towards the new Republican elites who came from outside Jambi. From this,

emerged a narrative about the restoration of the Jambi Sultanate which had been destroyed previously during the 1900-1907 in the Jambi War. Political efforts between the Jambi government and the Indonesian government or Dutch government were made to solve political problems in Jambi. By using historical methods that emphasize primary and secondary sources, this study describes the background to the formation of the Dewan Djambi Sementara, the journey of the Dewan Djambi Sementara and the impact of the Dewan Djambi Sementara. The demand for restoration of the Sultanate and autonomy rights evaporated with the transition of administration between the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia, the result of the Round Table Conference in Den Hag. However, Jambi's spirit of regionalism demands regional autonomy at the provincial level to continue during the Republic of Indonesia.

Panel 29. Migrant Workers and Mobility

Paper 1. The art of merit-making: Experiences of Vietnamese immigrants and migrants workers in Taiwan

Dam Thi Dao (Doctoral candidate, College of Social Science, National Chengchi University, Taiwan). Email: damdao2@gmail.com

For the majority of lay Buddhists in Vietnam, the practice of Buddhist rituals such as going to a pagoda to burn incense, recite sutras, bow to Buddha, and make offerings aim to amass merit. Practitioners believe that the accumulation of merit will help them to undo karma, prepare for life after death, or make wishes come true. This religious behaviour reflects the practical approach of most Vietnamese people to religious beliefs (*tôn giáo tín ngưỡng*) that is a blend of Buddhism and other forms of folk beliefs, especially ancestor worship. When Vietnamese people migrate to another country to start a new life, they take this practice with them as a piece of cultural baggage and a way to cope with challenges arising in a foreign land. This article draws on the concept of “merit-making” (*làm công đức*) and ethnographic methods at two religious sites that represent the Vietnamese followers of Mahayana Buddhism and Yiguan Dao, a new religious movement whose doctrines are essentially based on the three teachings (Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism), in Taiwan to delve into the essence of their worship activities. Via the two-site case study, this article addresses two questions: What practices do those followers perform to gain merit? And how does the performance of meritorious deeds affect their way of thinking and way of life? By answering these two questions, the article demonstrates the ongoing intersection between religion and migration in general, and contributes to enriching scholarship on religion and Vietnamese migration to Taiwan in particular.

Paper 2. Transnational Social Movements for Migrant Worker Protection in Southeast Asia

Irza Khurun'in (Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia). Email: irza.khurunin07@ub.ac.id

The past two decades have witnessed a significant surge in international migration within ASEAN, impacting societies and economies. However, the protection of migrant worker rights in Southeast Asia remains inadequate, leading to vulnerabilities such as exploitation and trafficking. Notably, not all Southeast Asian nations have fully established protective measures, creating room for cross-border civil society activism. This study examines transnational social movements, including The Migrant Forum in Asia, the International Domestic Workers Federation, and others, advocating for migrant worker protection in Southeast Asia. It investigates their formation, engagement with governments and local communities, and strategies for achieving their goals. The research uses qualitative methods, including interviews and literature review, to investigate the formation of these transnational social movements, their engagement with governments and local communities, and their methods for enhancing migrant worker protection in Southeast Asia. The study's objectives are to examine the formation of these movements, analyze their interactions with governments and local communities, and evaluate their approaches to improving the protection of migrant workers in the region. Findings reveal that these movements operate as networks and alliances, advocating for policy changes, raising public awareness, promoting regional cooperation, and providing direct services and support to migrant workers. Overall, they strive to create a safer and fairer environment for migrant workers in Southeast Asia by leveraging the collective efforts of organizations and individuals across borders.

Paper 3. Indonesian Migrant Worker in Malaysia and the Use of Magic Beyond the Border

Yuniardo Muhammed Alvarres (Undergraduate student of Cultural Anthropology, Universitas Gadjah Mada). Email: ayuniardo@mail.ugm.ac.id

Becoming a legal Indonesian Migrant Worker (PMI) turns out limit the worker's mobility itself. At least, that's what the PMI said to me. On the PMI journey of merantau (nomads) seeking money to Malaysia, I saw a tendency from the migrants to choose to move illegally, because they can have more flexibility to move from one job to another, they can have the freedom to jump between borders in neighbouring countries. This became my main point on the research. How do the migrants guarantee their safety, comfort, and relation with locals and their families of different statuses legal and illegal? Some of the practices they tell me to survive as an illegal migrant worker is to substitute the role of the state with religion and supernatural behaviour. For example, the role of ustadz (Islamic figure) as a substitute for health insurance using do'a (prayer) they sent from Indonesia, or dukun as a substitute for safety given by the authority using rajah (amulet) or magic spell that can make people immune to weapons and disappeared. I use photo elicitation as a method. I take a picture of my journey from Indonesia to Malaysia and give the photo to the informant, then see their reaction to the photo I gave. Beyond that, I also use participant observation to see the unseen relationship between migrants with their agency

Paper 4. A Study of Precarious Work in the Indonesian Film Industry: Insights from Cultural Workers and Child Actors

Datin Tarina Alysa Bachtiar (PhD candidate at Mahidol University, Thailand). Email: datintarinaalysa@gmail.com

The glamorous facade of the film industry often obscures the harsh realities faced by its cultural workers, including child actors. Child actors or child stars are frequently overlooked in their roles. This research sheds light on the dual roles child actors play, both as children and as cultural workers, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding their rights. At the heart of the film industry lies its production sector, akin to other creative sectors. Each film is unique, making cultural workers a crucial asset. The nature of work in film production is casual, flexible, and project-based, in response to the high uncertainties and risks in the film business. This precariousness is characterized by uncertainty, job insecurity, and a lack of social benefits for creative workers, including child actors. Through a qualitative exploration of the experiences of cultural workers and child actors in the Indonesian film industry, this research unravels the multifaceted nature of precariousness. It delves into their interactions with the industry, whether in commercial or independent production, revealing shared challenges. This research makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing discourse surrounding precariousness within the creative sectors. It not only provides illuminating insights into the unique challenges faced by cultural workers and child actors within the film industry but also offers a roadmap for potential improvements and fostering positive change. By acknowledging and systematically addressing these issues, stakeholders are empowered to collaborate towards the creation of a more equitable and supportive environment for those who bring stories to life on the silver screen.

Panel 30. Resources, Planning and Space

Paper 1. Local tourists and global aspirations at Indonesia's miniature parks

Suzie Handajani (Lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada). Email: suzie_handajani@ugm.ac.id

In the last five years there has been a flourishing of miniature parks and copysites in Indonesia. These parks predominantly portray global icons from all over the world. The miniatures are easily identified due to their frequent exposure in the media. Due to the ever-present cameras attached to mobile phones, providing instagram-able spots have become the dominant attractions that these parks offer. This research is about the visitors of these miniature parks. There are six parks sampled here, located in Yogyakarta, Bandung, Semarang and Purwokerto. Observations are done at five miniature parks in addition to interviews with the visitors from three of these parks. The research enquires regarding their motivations in visiting the parks. This research is not a marketing analysis, but a cultural problematization between local identities and global aspirations. Preliminary findings suggest that the visit to these parks are done partly to confirm their knowledge of the global icons portrayed in the parks. The visit is exciting because they recognized the miniatures. Unlike festivals or concerts which offer novelties, these visits to the miniature parks offer a sense of familiarity. The copysites are like a slanted version of what they know already from social media. The visitors are consuming imported images in the form of miniatures and copysites. This is interesting because now the objectifying gaze is reversed from the east to the west. The (predominantly western) icons are displayed in a stereotypical manner for the mass consumption of local tourists.

Paper 2. The city, the sea, and the periphery: how does planning imagine these spaces and so what are the consequences?

Farhan Anshary (PhD candidate, Newcastle University). Email: f.anshary2@newcastle.ac.uk

Planning practices have been criticised for privileging the city while putting non-city spaces aside in their considerations. Is such a problematic differentiation still reproduced, and more importantly, how does it affect existing socio-ecological arrangements and possibly contribute to maintaining injustice? My ongoing doctoral project aims to investigate the issue further by looking at Greater Jakarta, Indonesia, as the site of inquiry. The research is divided into two parts with different focuses: 1) the city and the sea and 2) the city and the periphery. In the first part, I look at how the sea and offshore islands are governed under a form of spatial governance that has historically favoured the "mainland." I specifically focus on Kepulauan Seribu and its relation to the city as a place where different contesting imaginaries of the sea and city are articulated, from conservation to exploitation, from space to the space of accumulation. In the second part, I look at how national development and spatial plans imagine the non-city space city outside Jakarta, which is often expressed in a term like "pusat dan daerah" ("core and region") that denotes the nationwide, regional socio-economic inequalities. I mainly attend to two interrelated moments: 1) shifting discourses and attitudes in problematising rural-urban migration, and 2) shifting paradigm in solving agrarian affairs in the rural area as the critical ingredient in solving regional inequalities. The data collection will be done mainly through interviews, policy documents, and archives. The data analysis will be worked through the framework of cultural political economy.

Paper 3. New evidences and ancient water management system of Sriksetra ancient Pyu city

Khin Zaw Win (Director, Bagan World Heritage Site, Myanmar). Email: k.z.win@protonmail.com

If you look at the Pyu cities that have been discovered in Myanmar, you will find large lakes to collect and store water near them. The Pyu settled along the Irrawaddy River for water collection and water management. When we approach and study the water management of the old city of Sriksetra, it is very complicated as the old city has been in existence for a long time. In addition to this, the expansion of agricultural land over the past 2,000 years has greatly changed the land cover. When studying the water management of the old city of Sriksetra, it is basically the soil record found during the excavation research. Over lapping of phases some vertical overlapping, some horizontal over lapping can be found. Therefore, it is very necessary to be able to pull out and study the layers of the relevant period, so that we can connect with the evidence left on the ground according to the relevant period. According to later researches, there were many clues that it was smaller than this at the time of the break. This evidence is further strengthened by carbon experiments. According to the results of the carbon 14 test and the excavation results, it was found that the city of Sriksetra expanded its water management systems after the 5th century AD.

Panel 31. Development and Inequalities

Paper 1. Power Resources, Social Ties, and Inequality: Rural Threats and the Distributional Outcomes of Rural Development in Indonesia and Malaysia

Sirojuddin Arif (Head of the MA in Political Science Program at Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia). Email: sirojuddin.arif@uiii.ac.id

Researchers have shown that threats from rural forces can have consequential impacts on state development policies in rural areas. Facing such a threat, governments are likely to allocate more resources to the agricultural sector to contain the threat and build political support among the rural population. Other than developing rural infrastructures like irrigation, roads, and markets, the government may use the resources to provide farmers with subsidized production inputs such as fertilizers and seeds. Governments may also enhance the provision of social services in rural areas by building more schools and health centers for rural dwellers. However, how the threat may also affect the distributional outcome of rural development policies remains under theorized. Under what conditions did rural threats lead to more equal development outcomes in rural areas? Drawing on the case of rural development in Indonesia and Malaysia in the 1970s, this study aims to answer this question by assessing the effect of power relations between the rural population and the state elite on the distributional outcome of rural development in the two countries. This paper argues that the distributional impact of state development policies in rural areas is a function of the political standing of poor farmers in front of the state elite in the resulting political configuration created by the threat of the rural forces. The presence of social ties linking poor farmers and the state elite can enhance the distributional outcome of rural development programs. Otherwise, the benefits of the rural development programs are likely to be skewed toward rich farmers.

Paper 2. Analysing Assemblages for Alternative Human and Non-Human Sustainable Futures: the case study of Coffee Agroforestry Practices in Lao

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Increasingly solutions promoting techno-fixes and disconnecting humans from their nonhuman counterparts have been critiqued for not doing enough to address the environmental degradation brought on by modern industrial agriculture (IPES-Food, 2016). 'Alternative' practices such as agroforestry have been touted as potential solutions for maintaining ecological integrity within the agroecosystems that operate within the diversity of species' timescales (such as animals, plants, soil, water, and others). In spite of scholarly recognition of non-human agencies (Kurki, 2020; Lawrence, 2022), few have investigated how human producers relate to their nonhuman counterparts and what kinds of relationships exist, especially in an agri-food setting that entangles the 'global commodification' of plants harvested through 'alternative practices'. Furthermore, the topic of this paper addresses an understudied aspect of more-than-human assemblage approaches in that it is insufficient in uncovering social inequalities. Yet, one of the most intriguing issues in rural sociology within smallholder agriculture in the Asian agrarian context is social differences in gender and between different generations (White, 2020). Coffee plant cultivation and its global commodification present an interesting case where ecology, trade and value chains and politics collide. I will situate the study in Lao, where 'traditional' communities have been selected in an international socio-technical project with the mission to grow coffee sustainably and in a socially inclusive way. This place represents both the trans-local relations inherent in international projects and trade and value chains and is an interesting site to observe the kinds of relations between different genders and

generations of humans with nonhumans and the intermingling of socio-ecological issues raised through those relations. My overall research question is **how do humans and nonhumans relate with each other to perform practices of 'sustainable' coffee production in Northern Lao, and with what political implications (for sustainability)?** This question will further be divided into three sub-questions, each addressing the kinds of relations, how each assemblage is constituted, and how different human identities envision alternatives. This study will harness relational approaches, by developing the concept of 'assemblages of practices' (Li, 2007; Wilshusen, 2019). The study will also develop an approach to intergenerational relations using the concept of Intersectionality. This study will foreground the ethics articulated within feminist research on care in practice (de la Bellacasa, 2011; de la Bellacasa, 2017), while highlighting different kinds of relations between humans and non-humans (Arora et al., 2022) and their temporalities (Brice, 2014). These different ways of relating, which are interwoven with each other, end up constituting assemblages of socio-material practices where products like knowledge and crops are produced. Framed by a case study design and qualitative methods, I will use various data collection techniques such as interviews, embodied observations and interactions, reflection, and audio-visual techniques (especially to examine more-than-human relations and processes). I expect to contribute to the scholarly debates advocating for a more pluralistic, experiential and qualitatively rich sense of what sustainable development could mean. On the more empirical level, I expect to contribute to the currently sparse literature on *relational ethnography* (Desmond, 2014), by reworking traditional research methods. Finally, I hope to shed light on widely obscured political issues surrounding a popular beverage, coffee, in the context of a globally interconnected Asian region, with clear policy implications and, in turn, help reimagine sustainable futures for diverse human and nonhuman communities.

Paper 3. Dynamics of the Fishing Industry in Teluk Village, District Pandeglang, 1998–2021

Hilma Rosdiana (MA student at the History Department, Universitas Indonesia). Email: hilma.rosdiana@ui.ac.id

The geography of Indonesia is 76% covered with water. Banten is an area that has a water area of 11,091,564 km², 133 villages are located in coastal areas. This great landscape is utilized by the community as a source of livelihood. In Pandeglang Regency, there is one coastal area that has developed a fishing industry with the majority of the community working as fishermen, namely Teluk Village. The fishing community that developed in Teluk Village was formed by migrants from the coastal area of the North Coast of Java. They began arriving in Teluk Village in 1960 and continued to grow along with advances in shipping technology. Using the historical research method, this study aims to explain the dynamics of the fishing industry in Teluk Village, Labuan Sub-district in 1998-2021. As an oral history, this research focuses on the experiences of those who lived during this period. The monetary crisis that occurred in 1998 had an impact on the decline of various fields. However, on the contrary, the capture fisheries sector actually experienced an increase and profit because the price of fish, shrimp, squid became higher and the need for fish increased. In 2018, the fishing industry in Teluk Village experienced a decline due to the Sunda Strait tsunami that occurred on December 22, 2018. To recover after the tsunami, repairs, and construction of facilities to support fishermen's activities only fully recovered in 2021.

Paper 4. Not all milk and honey—the limits of milk practices in Malaysia, 1957–1969

Chin Kar Yern (Research Associate at the Asia School of Business, Kuala Lumpur). Email: karyern.chin@asb.edu.my

This study investigates the development of milk practices in Malaysia in the 1950s and 1960s as shaped by national independence and global postcolonial concerns of hunger and food security in Southeast Asia. As people and governments engaged with food development technologies, knowledge, and programs—facilitated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) and other global bodies—they became involved in a reordering of natural, social, and cultural practices of milk through the logic of food science and transregional markets. Milk was a mirage promising many things: a prosperous economy; opportunities of accumulation and socioeconomic uplift; transnational commerce; well-fed people; modern desire and fulfillment. Yet in the reach towards these utopian ideals, limits and failures became apparent in Malaysia’s milk projects. In furthering the vision of agrarian producers, state institutions struggled to foster husbandry through breed refinement and dairy cooperatives to groom capital owners that could pioneer a Malaysian dairy industry. Import substitution industrialization promoted collaborations between foreign companies and local capitalists, elaborating supply chains in Malaysia and outmaneuvering local milk production. Milk schemes and school lunch programs by state welfare systems and other groups with vested interests distributed milk to sustain populations—programs to socialize feeding practices affected by the politics of governance and taste. Institutional discourse, public writings, and personal thoughts reflected milk’s influence on conceptions of productivity, health, taste, desire, and well-being across communities, be it in the news, magazine advertisements, coffee shops, and school lunch programs.

Panel 32. Environmental Politics

Paper 1. The Dilemmatic Transformation of Climate Governance and Lessons from East Asian Developmental States

*Mohammad Farhan Alkaff (MA student, Taipei School of Economics and Political Science, Taiwan).
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This research explores the complexities of climate governance, drawing insights from East Asian developmental states. It underscores the urgency of addressing global warming and environmental degradation through international agreements like the Paris Agreement. However, the voluntary nature of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) raises concerns about minimal efforts by participating countries, departing from a just climate transition. To address these challenges, this paper turns to East Asian developmental states with their unique governance models. It examines their strong bureaucratic systems and emphasizes the importance of predictability and dense networks of interpersonal connections, enabling collaboration among stakeholders. Yet, the paper also highlights potential drawbacks of this embeddedness, particularly in climate governance. Close ties between business elites and the state can hinder climate action, as seen in protectionist policies affecting the renewable energy sector. Additionally, the role of inequality in environmental performance is explored, revealing the complex interplay between income, inequality, democracy, and environmental protection. In conclusion, this research recognizes the value of learning from developmental states' experiences while calling for a nuanced approach. It suggests amplifying non-state actors' roles in climate governance, addressing protectionist barriers for green technology transfer, and focusing on broader socio-economic goals. As climate change looms, navigating dilemmas and drawing lessons from developmental states can pave the way toward a sustainable and equitable future.

Paper 2. Pedagogy in the Anthropocene: Teaching the Climate Crisis

*Elvis A. Galasinao Jr. (MA student at De La Salle University, Philippines). Email:
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My paper argues that sociologists have been woefully remiss in incorporating the climate crisis into our research agendas and, even more, into our teaching. After laying out the gravity of the situation, we issue a call for sociologists to consider whether they wish to continue this striking denial of responsibility to our students and to knowledge production. My study then presents four ways that we have infused our understanding of climate change, climate crisis, and climate justice into courses on global issues, social movements, inequality, and much more. I believe that “climate justice” – the key concept that drives our concern as scholar-activists working closely with undergraduate students – allows for a proper sociological emphasis on structured inequality and relational/intersectional thinking. My paper also points interested readers to resources that we have created and invites them to contribute to a new project on writing case studies for teaching the climate crisis.

Paper 3. A review of incorporating local narrative strategies in climate change planning documents across in Indonesia, Cambodia, and Vietnam

Daniel Yonto (Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China). Email: Daniel.yonto@xjtlu.edu.cn

There is growing recognition of the need to understand lived experiences of climate change within the context of urban poverty in the Global South, where even small climate shocks can have significant implications for the livelihoods of the urban poor. In this context, Southeast Asia (SEA), an area characterized by a large coastal population in complex terrains, has been designated one of the most vulnerable regions to a changing climate. Yet, it remains relatively under-represented in the rapidly growing climate change planning. To date, SEA climate change research has been focused on regional impacts of the terrestrial ecosystems, followed by the marine ecosystems, with the most negatively impacted economic sectors being agriculture and fisheries, the backbone of many SEA economies. In contrast, local understandings of climate change remain under-researched in SEA, particularly in secondary cities as opposed to major urban capitals and emerging megacities. To bridge this knowledge gap, this research constructs a discourse analysis to compare how local narratives of urban climate have been included in Indonesian, Cambodian, and Vietnamese climate change planning documents. This study aims to identify what current strategies climate change planners use to incorporate local narratives in climate change planning documents and whether these strategies have been put into action. Results demonstrate that adopting climate change plans without the input of local residents misses an opportunity to reveal interconnections between lived experiences of rising urban vulnerabilities and a changing climate, demonstrating how climate change can exacerbate the everyday challenges of SEA urban life.

Panel 33. Culture and Politics

Paper 1. The use of hauntings as a postmemorial language in Malaysian writer Rani Manicka's debut novel, *The Rice Mother*

Gwendolyn Bellinger (PhD candidate at Monash University Malaysia). Email: gwendolyn.bellinger@monash.edu

In this presentation, I explore the use of hauntings as a postmemorial language in Malaysian writer Rani Manicka's debut novel, *The Rice Mother*, to convey painful episodes of Malaysian history, notably the Japanese Occupation. Drawing upon Cathy Caruth's trauma theory, Jan Assmann's cultural memory concept, and Marianne Hirsch's postmemory framework, I analyse how characters in the novel project their traumas and emotional experiences, creating an intergenerational family narrative haunted by the past. These hauntings exemplify the multigenerational process of remembering, re-remembering, and reinterpreting history, as well as how stories are revived and passed down over time. This presentation underscores the significance of these hauntings in cultural storytelling and historical transmission. They play a crucial role in memorializing histories that might otherwise be lost due to trauma and silence. By investigating how hauntings serve as a means of keeping the past alive, we gain insights into the enduring power of narratives to preserve collective memory and educate future generations.

Paper 2. Scaling the *Ili*: Folklore as Archive in Prescillano Bermudez's *Dagiti Pundador*

Mark Louie Tabunan (PhD candidate in the Comparative Literature program of the University of the Philippines). Email: mark.tabunan@unp.edu.ph

The long 1970s, known for momentous changes in Philippine intellectual history, is a period of discovering and defining local epistemologies in language, literature, and the arts as an attempt to redefine the nation in all its warp and woof. Winner of the 1st Philippine Writers Foundation (PWF) Writing Grant for the Ilokano Novel in 1980 and the National Books Award's Best Novel in Ilokano, Prescillano Bermudez's *Dagiti Pundador*, the focus of my presentation, is a case in point for the aim of rediscovering folklore as an intervention in nation-making grounded in locally calibrated epistemological throughlines. A rejoinder to Isabelo de los Reyes's *El Folk-Lore Filipino*, the novel is a repository of saber popular and an Ilokano community's chronicle of itself. My presentation catalogs Ilokano folklore in the novel and teases out scaling as a heuristic in arguing that the vagaries of nation-making are scaled up within the Ilokano community and its affinities with its neighbors. Thereafter scaled out, this locality becomes a representative, even a microcosm, of the nation with wide local variations. The practice of culture through folklore makes the region a topos for the articulation of localness, different yet similar with other *ili* (towns, communities) of the nation-state, casting the local as singular and the national as multiple.

Paper 3. Discourse analysis of sexuality from Truyen ki man luc (Collection of Strange Tales) to Hoa vien ki ngo (Gathering in the flower garden)

Do Thu Hien (Lecturer at the Department of Literature, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, VNU Hanoi). Email: dohien@gmail.com

Luong Xuan Bach (recent graduate from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University).

The research report focuses on analyzing and comparing the discourses on sexuality between *Truyen ki man luc* (Collection of Strange Tales) by Nguyen Du and *Hoa vien ki ngo* (Gathering in the flower garden) under Michael Foucault's theory. By researching and indicating the discourse differences, it will reflect the social characteristics, institutions and ideologies affecting people at the time of the two works. They revolutionized the concept of promoting human beings through liberation, as well as the humanitarian spirit in Vietnamese medieval literature. This sexualization, however, cannot be stabilized, and no work is strong enough to counteract it. As a result, the issues surrounding the history of literature will be clarified.

Panel 34. Health and Politics

Paper 1. Giving birth in the forest: maternal vulnerabilities and death in remote Laos

Pascale Hancart Petitet (Senior Researcher at the International Unit TransVIHMI, University of Montpellier, Institut de recherche pour le développement, INSERM). Email: pascale.hancart-petitet@ird.fr

Beginning in the late 19th century, one of WHO's recommendations to reduce maternal mortality was to train Traditional Birth Attendants. In 2004, WHO discontinued training programs targeting TBAs. Currently, a majority of women are giving birth in institutions and maternal mortality rates have declined. However, in many contexts, women still rely on traditional birth attendants. In rural remote Laos, women are giving birth alone. Based on an ethnography conducted in Laos since 2013 and on recent ethnography conducted in Southern Laos, the paper aims to interrogate the biographical, social and cultural facts, and the gendered dimensions that lead women to give birth alone in the forest. The corpus of data was collected from women and men villagers, traditional birth attendants in remote villages and from caregivers in health centers and hospitals. The figure of the childbearing woman in the forest will be used as a prism to explore the interactions of the materiality of the reproductive body with the environment. By mobilizing the theoretical concepts of authoritative knowledge (Jordan 1978), stratified reproduction (Collen 1995) and reproductive governance (LM Morgan 2012) we will examine the following questions: How do the persistence of childbirth practices that are dangerous or even lethal to mothers and newborns, and subjective experiences of reproductive care, reveal power relations? How do these relations underpin the legitimization, re-appropriation, or delegitimization of childbirth knowledge and practices?

Paper 2. Commodification of marriage solemnization: kahwin lari (eloping) from Malaysia to Songkhla, Southern Thailand

Thirunaukarasu Subramaniam (Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Universiti Malaya). Email: stkarasu@um.edu.my

Malaysian Muslims are aware of cross-border marriages into Songkhla, Southern Thailand in the form of marriage elopement. The statistics of eloping into Songkhla is steadily increasing. Besides unwanted pregnancy, avoiding family disagreement, the high marriage cost as well as polygamy are some of the reasons for eloping to Songkhla. This study, therefore aims to uncover the phenomena of elopement into Songkhla among Malaysian Muslim couples using a qualitative approach through in-depth interviews involving elopers, marriage service providers and religious authorities. In Malaysia, Muslim husbands must obtain consent from their first wife if they decide to practice polygamy. All Malaysian states mandate that every application for polygamy must get written permission from the Syariah Court as outlined in Section 23(1), Islamic Family Law Act 1984. Because of such requirement, there is a high demand to elope into Songkhla. Certain group namely the service providers views marriage elopement as an opportunity to make profit by commodifying the marriage eloping service to Southern Thailand. They offer various marriage service packages to suit the budget of the customers. The provision of marriage services by these service providers are promoted through various websites as well as social media such as Facebook. As such, it has created a demand and supply causing the marriage elopement services to Southern Thailand to be traded as a commodity. Stiff competition also emerged among marriage service providers, but some of the providers have learned to complement one another in the provision of this service.

Paper 3. Symbols from the forest to the textile of Lao's ethnic in high region on Truong Son in Indochina

Nguyen Phuong Lien (Lecturer at the Department of Oriental Literature, Faculty of Literature, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University). Email: phuonglienvhad@gmail.com

Being one of the oldest ethnics in Indochina, Lao's ethnic stay on the Truong Son (meaning: long mountains), the longest mountain here, still live with the forest by connecting to the nature. While textile industry is developing in both Lao and Vietnam, some of villages almost use only clothes which are done handmade by the women. Traditional clothes are not only need colour from nature, as the forest's products, but also keep for the people here stories around each details on these clothes. From these stories, we can collect a chain of symbols of the life between people and animals. They shows the opinion about the relation with the nature when people believe that they are belong to the balance world. They provide new feeling for the modern people (by travelling) when Lao's ethnic who are living on the Truong Son tell tourists and their guests about their textile with stories for each symbol: deer, tiger, bird, many kinds of flowers and trees... with the explanation about custom of Lao's ethnic. The way they chose to mix history topics with folklore arts here become a developable method for this poor community because there is some exhibition about their textile (with the stories about these symbols) were made by Ethnic Museum in big cities in 2015, 2016... And when the tourists come here sometime to find memories about the war in the past, this is the different effect on high region for them in the present days. So, continuity with the more effective plan to protect nature and traditional way of living while developing the economic need more ideas.

Panel 35. Culture, Politics and Identity

Paper 1. Who Are the “Others” in Writing Southeast Asian Art History?

Chao Hu (Lecturer at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China). Email: huchao.cafa@outlook.com

In 2015, the newly established National Gallery of Singapore held an inaugural exhibition *Between Declarations and Dreams: Art of Southeast Asia since the 19th Century*. It was a comprehensive experiment in summarizing and showcasing what could be understood as an art history of modern Southeast Asia, as part of Singapore’s endeavor to be a center of Southeast Asian art. The paper starts by analyzing how this exhibition was structured in a pan-Southeast Asia storyline, which was more around a shared timeline than around art development in specific countries. However, throughout the exhibition, the national or country-specific historic backgrounds were palpable and at times heightened the differences among these countries, despite an effort to group all artworks in a chronological sequence around the same theme of *Between Declarations and Dreams*. This contradiction of a regional art history framework versus vast political, historical, and cultural differences among these countries leads to the question of how each country’s art history is received in line with an ongoing need and effort to establish a regional narrative of Southeast Asia Art. The writing of art history of a nation-state normally crafts its own boundary and tradition with visible or invisible “others”. While Southeast Asia is a constructed geographical norm, what are the “others” to define and discern the borders for a collective art history of this region? To answer this question, the paper explores three current "schools" or common "perspectives" in today's discussion on Southeast Asia art, in the hope of bringing about inputs, thoughts, and suggestions to develop this research.

Paper 2. An Pagsarakiki: an exploration of Waray Kuratsa in Society

Eva Cuenza (Recently graduated from the College of Music, University of the Philippines Diliman). Email: ecuenza@gmail.com

Among the Waray-speaking people of the Eastern Visayas in the Philippines, there exists a traditional dance and music that has been constituted in culture and that socially functions in fiestas, weddings, and parties. These communities have been dancing the kuratsa for hundreds of generations. This folk dance has the ability to gather a crowd that would impel not only merry-making and entertainment but accomplish a ritualistic purpose to make people get involved in a fund-raising event, throwing heaps of money while the couple dances in grace. The exploration of kuratsa music and its subtle interdependence with society resulted in the discussions as to why people were able to continue observing this dance tradition. I argue that the adaptability of how the tradition has been negotiated in time is a catalyst to its continuous transmission. I support my argument with a crucial understanding to how the Waray people see themselves through their identity, by looking at values that drive social customs and expectations; and an examination of a social dynamic that this dance tradition has a function such as raising funds and building a community. These are important postulations that are not just to uncover the significance of kuratsa as an identity marker for the Waray people, but also as an attempt to understand how and why they convey these sentiments through cultural expression in society

Paper 3. Influence of Preserving Digital Art of Shadow Puppetry Culture Society

Dahlan Abdul Ghani (Universiti Kuala Lumpur). Email: dahlan@unikl.edu.my

Wayang Kulit Kelantan or Shadow puppetry with Indian influence especially on character design, traits and narrative, is the most popular and oldest shadow puppet entertainment in Malaysia. Unfortunately, this heritage entertainment is slowly being extinct. Even though with the current updated technologies, globalisation and digital native's era, efforts are essential to ensure that Wayang Kulit will survive with this current scenario. Using 3D computer animation is considered one of the most unique Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) technique to create Wayang Kulit visual styles. Therefore, this paper would like to discuss several factors and challenges by implementing 3D computer animation shadow puppetry and the current impact within the culture and society acceptance.



Panel 36. Women's Access to Justice in Indonesia

Chair: Nabiyla Risfa Izzati

Access to justice is a fundamental human right, and all members of society must have equal access to legal remedies and protection. Yet, women's access to justice has been an issue for years in Indonesia due to the complex interplay of cultural, social, and legal factors. The patriarchal norms that are deeply embedded in Indonesia's society, for example, can discourage women from reporting abuse or seeking legal redress. Moreover, the legal system's complexity and bureaucracy can be daunting for many women, particularly those with limited education. In the past few years, several regulations and policies have been implemented in Indonesia in order to improve women's access to justice. As women access to justice plays a crucial role in promoting gender equality, human rights, and social justice; this panel will reflect on the progress and challenges on this issue in Indonesian context, especially regarding women access to court. The panel will also discuss the best practice from other region to explore what can be done so that women can feel safe to seek justice through court, without fear of stigma or retaliation.

Paper 1. Understanding Barriers to Women's Access to Justice in Indonesia: At the intersection between stereotype, religious norms, and customs

Herliana (Faculty of Law, Gadjah Mada University). Email: herliana@mail.uqm.ac.id

During the 20th century, the modern understanding that justice encompasses gender equality gained widespread acceptance and was codified into legislation. However, the idea of gender equality was not always present in notions of justice. In Indonesia, both formal and informal institutions, as well as long-standing restrictive gender norms, determine the roles that women must play. In many cases, these norms severely limit women in taking advantage of their rights and opportunities in multiple dimensions, including access to justice. Despite tremendous progress in addressing gender inequality, there is still a large gender gap in Indonesia. Indonesia, a country with a strong patriarchal culture, is working to close the gender gap, but the process is taking a long time. According to the United Nations, Indonesia has one of the highest gender disparity indices among the ASEAN nations. Although the law and the constitution protect women's rights, stereotypes and adherence to religious conventions and norms frequently prevent women from asserting their rights, getting legal assistance, or taking legal action. This paper addresses the barriers Indonesian women face to have access to justice. This paper argues that the issue of stereotyping given toward women, religious norms and customs are often become hindrance in women pursuing their legal rights. This is legal normative research. Data will be gathered through literature on prevailing laws and regulations, as well as secondary data from various sources.

Paper 2. Women's and Children's Interests in Judicial Review of the 1974 Marriage Law

Laras Susanti (Fulbright scholar, University of Pittsburgh / Faculty of Law, Gadjah Mada University). Email: susanti.laras@ugm.ac.id

My doctoral research focuses on interpreting family law matters by Indonesia's Constitutional Court. I intend to demonstrate that despite having no formal role in religious interpretation, the Constitutional Court is influential in interpreting family law matters. My first analysis chapter explores the paralyzed legislation-making in family law matters. I find that such a situation has

caused citizens who demanded new interpretations of women's and children's interests to submit judicial review cases under the 1974 Marriage Law to the Constitutional Court, reasoning that several issues governed by the Law violated their constitutional rights. The finding leads me to seek further examination of women's and children's interests in the Court. First, this article aims to identify types of women's and children's interests and the actors involved in the judicial review. Second, I intend to understand the actors: the petitioners, the lawmakers, the relevant institutions (religious and non-religious authorities), and the experts' standing toward the existing family order under the Marriage Law. Third, I analyze the Court's reasoning to identify what factors influenced the Court to accept or reject the petitioners' offered new interpretations. Through court decisions analysis and literature review, I argue that the judicial review under the 1974 Marriage Law is a continuance of a multifaceted game of interpretation of family law. The Court's decisions showed that the Court examined arguments from both political axes: the proponent of new interpretations and the proponent of conservative views in family law. As this research is ongoing, my findings and arguments are expected to be further developed.

Paper 3. The Edge of Margin: The Role of Paralegal for Women in Accessing Justice in Indonesia

Sri Wiyanti Eddyono (Faculty of Law, Gadjah Mada University). Email: sriwiyanti.eddyono@ugm.ac.id

Since the publishment of Law 16/2011 on Legal Aid, the existence of paralegals is recognized as one of the important elements in legal aid to service justice for the poor. This paper discusses the role of community paralegals in the Empowerment of Women as Bread Winner or Head of Householder (PEKKA) in Indonesia. The paralegals are the members of the PEKKA organization that trained with legal skills so that they could assist their members and other women in their community in handling various cases of gender-based violence, including family violence. This Research utilized qualitative approaches by gathering paralegal views of their roles and experiences in six districts in Lombok, North Sumatra and West Java. This research finds that the paralegal has played a significant role in their community. Yet, their position is very dilemmatic since they are not affiliated with legal aid and don't get funds to handle cases, so it becomes voluntary as legal assistants in the community. Since they are poor, they can only run if they have enough money to self-support the activities. Legal institutions question and distrust their skills and ability to handle women's cases. These findings show that the paralegal's role is at the edge of the margin. Although paralegal is recognized, they don't get enough facilities and protection in conducting their roles.

Paper 4. Critical Analysis of Abortion Policy under Indonesian Criminal Law from the Perspective of Victim Protection

Diantika Rindam Floranti ((Faculty of Law, Gadjah Mada University). Email: diantika.rindam.f@mail.ugm.ac.id

Criminal policies related to abortion have a strong nexus to women's issues, particularly discrimination against women. It cannot be denied that abortion can only be done by women, and only women can experience pregnancy. Since the root cause of abortion is an unwanted pregnancy, it is also not uncommon for many women victims of violence to get an abortion, whether it is due to external or internal force. At the international level, OHCHR has provided clear guidance on decriminalising abortion as part of state obligations to eliminate discrimination against women. The Indonesian Criminal Law still criminalizes abortion with exceptions for women who experience

pregnancies due to sexual violence. Nonetheless, the requirements for safe and legal abortion for victims of sexual violence under such abortion policy cannot always be fulfilled, in that sense, it can hinder victims' access to their rights, and even make the victim vulnerable to criminalization. This study aims to analyse to what extent abortion policy under Indonesian Criminal Law already accommodate appropriate measure to provide effective protection of women's victim of violence. This doctrinal legal research analyses existing abortion policy in Indonesia while also utilising case study on how the victim of sexual violence who seeks for safe abortion access treated based on current policy. The obtained data will be analysed using a qualitative descriptive method to answer the problems.

Panel 37. Left-behind Subjectivities: A Critical Interrogation of Philippine Development from the Margins

Chair: Karl Hapal

In 2015, the government adopted the long-term goal that by 2040 the Philippines will become a middle-income country with its citizens enjoying stable, comfortable, and peaceful lives.¹ Since its launch, the government, as it had done before, has carried out this vision through the intensification of (foreign) capital, resource extraction, and labour exportation. Meanwhile, the government has repeatedly urged the Filipino people to participate in the slow-moving train of progress as exemplified by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s call for unity. There is no doubt that the train of progress has had some tangible results (e.g., poverty incidence fell from 23.5 percent to 16.7 percent between 2015 and 2018). However, a critical examination of this process raises the question, who are enjoined to be part of the ride, who are left behind in the process, and what are its implications to unilateral invocations of development? These questions are informed by an argument drawn from post-colonial literature and sub-altern politics which argue, among other things, that development (and its ideologies), apart from informing socio-economic and political processes, also produce certain types of people or subjectivities that occupy specific (if not constrained) spaces often dictated by their serviceability to capital.

This panel offers four presentations on a variety of topics on Philippine development such as the ambivalent role of the Philippine middle-class in development (Asst. Prof. Bañez and Asst. Prof. Hapal); the politics of just energy transition (Asst. Prof. Rosel); land rights, indigenous peoples, and state violence (Asst. Prof. Reyes); and the complexities of building resilience (Asst. Prof. Panganiban). Diverse as these topics may be, the presentations draw from the frame of marginality and sub-altern politics as its common denominator. Using the concept of marginality, these presentations aim to demonstrate how development has produced left-behind subjectivities and its material and symbolic consequences in the name of the transnational desire for economic development, peace, and prosperity. It also aims to show the coercive character of how ideas on development travel from the global North to the South, impelling the vision and method to achieve development that is influenced by colonial and neo-colonial logics.

Finally, the presentations also aim to show how these left-behind subjectivities challenge, contest or, even more, project their own desires against mainstream invocations of development. The panel presentation is also laden with the concomitant agenda of the political act of privileging left-behind subjectivities – that of the marginalized, sexualized, and racialized other – into focus amid transnational and regional issues (e.g., global economic headwinds, the battle for hegemony in the greater Southeast Asia region and regional security) that occupy much of the scholarship in the ASEAN region.

Paper 1. Assessing the Role of the Philippine Middle Class as Guardians of Democracy: An Empirical Analysis of Democratic Values from the World Values Survey

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Karl Hapal (College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines, Diliman). Email: kfhapal1@up.edu.ph

The middle class has been regarded as a democratizing force and as the backbone of development. A cursory examination of Philippine history suggests that they are, as evidenced by their leadership in major democratic insurrections such as the EDSA 1 and EDSA 2, or their participation in various formations within civil society. This presentation interrogates this assumption by looking into the purported democratic values of the middle class using the World Values Survey. By using the World Values Survey, this presentation shows the different iterations of democracy, rather than showing that one class is more democratic than the others. Seen this way, the presentation is able to show points of convergence or inflection points between and among classes. Borrowing from Wataru Kusaka (2017), examining these contact zones may provide some insight to opportunities for deepening democracy in the Philippines. Conversely, areas of divergence can shed light on the ongoing challenges facing the country's democratic future.

Paper 2. Just Energy Transition for Whom?

Lisa Victoria N. Rosel (College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines). Email: lnrosel@up.edu.ph

In 2021, the Philippines submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in accordance with the Paris Agreement, committing to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 75% from 2020-2030. The calls for a just energy transition from civil society have been building up alongside the campaign for climate justice for the past decade. Recent developments such as the NDC further highlight the country's plans for transitioning to clean energy. This presentation examines the existing discourse on just energy transition in the country and identifies key actors, energy-related issues, and proposed solutions. While a just energy transition agenda for the country is important, this presentation also wants to emphasize efforts of grassroots communities in terms of participating in the just energy transition discourse. Specifically, the presentation looks into the experience of Aniban Para sa Lehitimong Panirahan Ligtas sa Sakuna (ALPAS), an organization of informal settler households who fought for socialized housing and opted for the solarization of their homes. Their stories bring into light how accessing renewable energy in the country turns out to be more expensive for poor households, more burdensome for women, and seems to transfer the burden of just energy transition to households and grassroots communities.

Paper 3. Deepening the Divide: The Marginalization of Non-Moro IPs in BARMM and its Implications in Philippine State Formation

Jennie Lyn C. Reyes (College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines). Email: jcreyes@up.edu.ph

This study looks at the marginalization of the Teduray, one of the 18 major non-Islamic Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) in Mindanao, at the crossroads of the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), two watershed legislations that aim to address the rights and self-determination of ICCs/IPs in the Philippines. It seeks to uncover the invaluable contributions of indigenous peoples to the rich tapestry of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and the nation as a whole, despite the historical, political, and cultural narratives that have perpetuated their cycle of marginalization further in the periphery. Through an exploration of historical and contemporary political economy, key legal frameworks, and the role of identity where it competes, overlaps, or

coexists, this research aims to shed light on the opportunities for and evolving challenges that hinder the empowerment and inclusion of non-Moro indigenous communities in the process of state-formation in the Philippines.

Paper 4. Unpacking the complexities of resilience-building in compounded emergencies

Ivy Marian P. Panganiban (College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines). Email: ippanganiban@up.edu.ph

Humanitarian emergencies have been on the rise in both frequency and severity over the past decade. In 2022 alone, the Philippines experienced a cascade of emergencies, including destructive typhoons, volcanic unrest, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, protracted armed conflicts in Mindanao, as well as the persistent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and deteriorating economic conditions. This study examines the key components of building resilient communities, particularly in the context of the compounding emergencies faced by local communities, humanitarian organizations, and development actors in the Philippines. By juxtaposing the realities on the ground with development agenda, interventions and policies, the aim is to shed light on power dynamics and inequalities that exacerbate the vulnerability of households in disaster-affected communities. This study further interrogates ironies in how local leadership, community organizing and building networks of support are being operationalized.

Panel 38. Politics and Democracy

Paper 1. Uncovering the conservative liberal origins of Thailand's official national ideology of "Democracy with the King as Head of State"

Michael K. Connors (Associate Professor, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia). Email: michael.connors@monash.edu

The prevailing interpretation of the 1949 Constitution is that it was an act of reactionary monarchist revanchism against democratic forces. This approach is sometimes polemical. It serves progressive national identity projects against the official national ideology of Democracy with the King as Head of State. Though grammatically varied, that ideology found its first official iteration in the 1949 constitution. This paper argues that a close reading of debates around the 1949 Constitution reveals what may be called an 'inferential liberal theory' of politics. This is done by applying a morphological approach to ideology and revealing liberal concerns in promoting monarchy as a politics of what this author calls a 'logics of liberal security': a politics of transitional authoritarianism in the perennial struggle to embed liberal norms and institutions. Through the presentation of substantive evidence, this paper furthers a developing argument about the nature of Thai liberalism pursued by this author.

Paper 2. From Victory to Democracy: The "Democracy" in the Victory Monument of Thailand

Gil D. Turingan (PhD candidate, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand). Email: gil.turingan@gmail.com

This paper discusses the symbolic transformation of Thailand's Victory Monument (Anusawari Chai Samoraphum) in the Thai public memory, from embodying the military's victory to representing the complicated concept of Thai democracy and the democratic rights of the Thai people. At first, this monument had nothing to do with Thai democracy. Due to the spatial agency, such as protest activities claiming this structure, it turned into one of the democratic spaces in Bangkok. By looking at the stories of contentious politics in this structure and the existing sources and narratives about this monument, this research reveals that the development in the symbols and meanings of the Victory Monument mirrors the story of the democratic struggles of the Thai people from 1942, the year it was inaugurated, up to the context of the 2020 student protests and vice versa. This study also asserts that the "democracy" conveyed in this monument follows the current Thai democracy discourse, such as the traditional and Western schools of Thai democracy. Despite the popularity of the Democracy Monument in Bangkok as a symbol of Thai democracy, this monument which was also a product of Plaek Phibunsongkhram's regime is noteworthy to examine and explore. This research provides an understanding of the democratic struggles of the Thai people through a different lens and symbol of democracy. It also promotes historical awareness and preserves public memory by emphasizing the role of public monuments in Thai history, society, and democracy.

Paper 3. The Rural Communal Democracy: A Study in Sik, Kedah, Post-State Elections 2023

Hazman M.B. Baharom (PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan). Email: hazman@akane.waseda.jp

The common assumption among thinkers of democracy is that once democracy is instituted in a state, it will operate according to the mechanism defined by liberal democracy. However, in contentious rural areas in Malaysia, this assumption does not hold water in many situations.

Additional unique variables such as communal politics, grassroots traditional education, and spaces of grassroots community engagements must be taken into account. In Malaysia, political pundits are advancing various theories to explain the popularity of certain individuals such as the Kedah Chief Minister, Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor who hailed from the rural area of Sik. Various explanations did not sufficiently grasp the dynamic of the grassroots politics in the area. This paper is an attempt to offer explanations about this dynamic, looking from Sik itself. Through in-depth interviews with leaders of all local political parties that exist in Sik, the paper will explain the various factors that not only affected the voting patterns in Sik but could also be extended to the whole state of Kedah in the 2023 Malaysian State Elections. Analysis will be done by extending Carol Hanisch's explanation of "the personal is political," due to the fact that places like Sik has been marginalized at many levels in mainstream political analyses. Finally, this paper will outline further questions that must be considered to improve our understanding of democratic theories by learning specifically from the experience in Sik.

Panel 39. Politics and Activism

Paper 1. The Rising Digital Feminism in Thailand: An Exploration of How Thai Feminists Engage in Digital Activism

Kosum Omphornuwat (Lecturer, College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Thammasat University, Thailand). Email: kosum@tu.ac.th

Digital transformation poses new challenges to women's rights and well-being. It creates both risks and opportunities arising from the effects of technologies. Cyberbullying, romance scams, sextortion and digital violence are among some of the dangers targeting on women via the online platforms. Nevertheless, the very same digital technologies can offer potentials for women in advancing their education, career, social connectivity as well as promoting new feminism. This paper offers a critical analysis of the rising digital feminism in Thailand. By looking at literature on the rise of new feminism that coincides with the rise of digital technologies, it maps out the impact of digitalisation on women's movement and explores how Thai women's rights activists engage in digital activism. Case studies of online feminist activism in Thailand, such as #FreeYouth, #ThatMadWoman, #FemLiberate will also be discussed.

Paper 2. Women Activism and Empowerment in Contemporary Indonesia: Concept and Definition from the Grassroots

Erna Herawati (Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia). Email: e.herawati@unpad.ac.id

Kader Posyandu (women health volunteers) in Indonesia have been established since the state founded. They play a crucial role and have been the integral part of the country maternal and child healthcare system for decades. While they are not directly part of the formal women's movement, their work intersects with and contribute to women's well-being and empowerment in various ways. Their effort help address the specific health needs of women and children which is a critical component of the women's movement agenda in the country. As they engage with their communities, they become advocate for women's right and empowerment beyond health care issue. Many of them are women from local communities who taken roles in healthcare, and by doing so they contribute to their own empowerment by gaining skills, knowledge, and sense of agency. Thus, they contributes to the broader goals of gender equality and women's empowerment in Indonesia. Despite the fact that *Kader Posyandu* and their activism have been viewed as the coproratist women's activism and government instrument for community development program, it is one of the prominent women activism which illustrate women's activism that lead to empowerment at the grassroots level in contemporary Indonesia. This study aims at describing how women at the grassroots level define the concept and meaning of women's activism and women's empowerment drawing from the case of *Kader Posyandu* activism in contemporary rural and urban West Java, Indonesia.

Paper 3. Dissecting Political Ideologies: Examining the Impact of Misinformation on Malaysian Political Affiliations, Moderated by Political Knowledge and Trust

*Mehvar Khan (PhD candidate at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia).
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The mainstream use of the term "fake news" and its surge during the 2016 US elections demonstrated the potential of false information in distorting public perception. This phenomenon is also evident in Malaysia, where the spread of political misinformation and propaganda significantly affects how Malaysians engage with and perceive democracy, political parties, and electoral processes. This study delves into the influence of fake news on individual political beliefs in Malaysia. This study delves deeply into understanding how such misinformation affects individual political beliefs. By examining the nuances of how Malaysians process and react to fake news, the research aims to shed light on the broader implications of misinformation on political ideologies, affiliations, and the overall democratic discourse in the country. Using the concept of conspiracy endorsement as motivated reasoning, this study categorised participants based on their political beliefs and affiliations. It then explored how these affiliations correlate with their political knowledge and trust. A quantitative method was employed, surveying 310 diverse participants online, who were then exposed to fake political news related to major Malaysian political parties. Firstly, the findings of this paper provide substantial evidence that Malaysians tend to adopt attitudes that align with their ideologies when confronted with misleading and polarising political content, such as narratives depicting political opponents engaging in malicious activities and corrupt schemes. Secondly, this paper emphasises the significance of political knowledge and trust as elements that enhance confirmation bias. Finally, the findings establish a connection between the left-right schema and Malaysian partisanship while simultaneously analysing conservatism and liberalism in the context of Malaysian politics. It also offers insights into how hyperpartisan misleading content impacts political inclinations within the context of a Southeast Asian democracy.

Panel 40. Politics and Ethnicity

Paper 1. Media and the global entanglements of Southeast Asian postcolonial racisms: The case of Manila

Jason Vincent A. Cabañes (Professor of Communication and Research Fellow at De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines). Email: jason.cabanes@dlsu.edu.ph

This paper spotlights the media's role in entrenching the contemporary racism that has emerged at the confluence of postcolonial and Western racial logics. This is a second order and global kind of racism that perniciously entrenches Whiteness—as a set of physical traits and/or of social values—as the yardstick for measuring the humanity of non-Western people. The paper argues that crucial to understanding the mediation of this contemporary racism is a transnational sensibility. This is a scholarly attunement to how media matter not only in the articulation of racial hierarchies of different societies, but also in their intertwining. A productive site to develop such a transnational sensibility is the Southeast Asian region. Here one finds global cities predominated by diverse postcolonial racisms that are distinct from but entangled with those in the West. As an exemplar, the paper focuses on the Philippines capital of Metropolitan Manila. It discusses how in this capital, the media contribute to a public discourse that hinders locals from reflecting on their skin-tone based postcolonial racial hierarchy of themselves and of the migrant and cultural minorities in their midst. This paper also discusses how the mediated racism in Manila then gets entangled with that of other societies. It sheds light on how the city's locals who migrate to other global cities like London end up problematically emphasising their affinity with the Whiteness of predominant cultural groups. They consequently find it challenging to imagine solidarities with their fellow migrants and other cultural minorities.

Paper 2. Theorizing Han Chinese Racism in Malaysia: The Historical and Global Dimensions

Jonathan Yong Tienxhi (PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Cambridge). Email: jy423@cam.ac.uk

The theorization of racism has been dominated by frameworks drawn from Western contexts, focusing on White racism against Black populations. In response to the need for a more plural theorization of racism, as well as Chen Kuan-hsing's (2010) call for scholars to engage with the issue of 'racism in the Han-centric worldview', this paper theorizes Han Chinese racism in Malaysia. The Chinese in Malaysia exist as a minority group within a country where they have been marginalized by Malay political parties, and excluded from the benefits of affirmative action policies. Theorizing Han Chinese racism in this context requires conceptualizing racism as a phenomenon which can be perpetuated by a minoritized group which is itself the target of racialized violence. This paper explores how the racialized social system can be utilized as a framework for theorizing Han Chinese racism in Malaysia. This posits that Malay and Chinese Malaysians engage in racial contestation based on social and material rewards along ethnic lines, and racial ideologies are utilized to rationalize, justify or contest the distribution of these rewards. It is argued that Chinese Malaysians were historically able to engage in this contestation through the development of independent Chinese systems of authority, while challenging British colonialism and the Malay ruling class in strategic ways. Furthermore, through analyzing racism at a 'global' as well as national level, it is argued that Han Chinese racial ideology in Singapore and China can influence the development of Malaysian Chinese racial ideology, despite their position as an ethnic minority.

Paper 3. Fallen Leaf Narrative in Digital Platform: Malaysian Chinese in China's Cyberspace

Ziran Zhao (PhD candidate at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia).

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Malaysian Chinese are an important part of the worldwide Chinese community after the precipitate of spatio-temporal cultural practices. With the rising sage and expansion of digital platforms in China, the identity of Malaysian Chinese is being reinterpreted during the migration of their habitat from physical space to cyberspace. In the emerging Chinese-language platform Little Red Book, a large number of Malaysian Chinese share their daily lives in Malaysia's cultural milieu, shaping their integration with China's cyberspace of discourse, and reintegrating the two discourse spaces into one. How do Malaysian Chinese perform themselves on Chinese platform media? How are their identities shaped and transformed in the digital space? Applying the theoretical resources of the *Communication Theory of Identity*, this paper conducted in-depth interviews with 12 Malaysian Chinese Internet celebrities who are active in Little Red Book, finding that Little Red Book has reunited the Malaysian Chinese community as a tribe with a unique identity in the cyber Chinese community, and they also use the "fallen leaf narrative" to confirm their construction of identity and to resist the traditional "root narrative".

Panel 41. Identity and Politics

Paper 1. How Can We Discuss the Concept of “Community” from the Perspective of Anthropology – a Case Study of Catholic Karen in Northern Thailand

Nanase Kido (PhD candidate, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University, Japan). Email: ebnj04@outlook.jp

This paper considers the current situation of the concept of “Community,” which has been discussed in the anthropological field. According to Hirai (2012) and Tanabe (2010), “Community” emerges through the practices of participants and forms by the influence of interior/exterior power relationships and reorganization of knowledge, not but cultural/ethnic boundaries. Hirai calls “Community as practices” about this new community theory. If we take this argument as the premise of the community theory, what can we say about the community formed by the relationship between evangelists (Fathers and Sisters) who practice their religion while moving from one congregational community to another and believers? My research target is Karen people who believe in Catholicism in the Village M of Chiang Mai prefecture, Thailand. Since many Karen people, as highlanders, believe in ancestral rites, Catholic Karen is an ethnic/religious minority group but of special status in Thailand in the field of a community-based movement called “*Watthanatam Chumchon*” (Community Schol) [Chattip 1993]. Which means, that evangelists contribute to not only sustaining the Catholic Karen community through religious practices but also leading autonomous community school movements by constructing congregational networks. Based on that situation, I will discuss the possibility of community theory which has been discussed in the anthropological field, referring to the result of my fieldwork that was conducted in 2022.

Paper 2. Life experience of funeral services entrepreneur in the Northern Thailand

Waraporn Ruangsri (Associate Professor at the Department of History, Chiang Mai University, Thailand). Email: waraporn.r@cmu.ac.th

This article aims to research the life experience of funeral services entrepreneurs as actors in understanding the dynamic of Northern Thailand's rural society. The other objective is observing a frontier capitalism context through a life experience. The research methods are microhistory, oral history, and document research. The preliminary results of the study found that the life experience of funeral services entrepreneurs has changed and adapted following capitalism most of the time, such as creating the methods for a business and making a wide variety of networks. Moreover, the research also explores the role of gender through managing financial accounts and doing skilled crafts, particularly the social relationships in various situations during the funeral ceremonies.

Paper 3. Listen to the Nation! Sound politics and the making sense of imagine community in Malaysia

Sorayut Aiemueayut (Lecturer at the Department of Media, Arts, and Design, Chiang Mai University, Thailand). Email: sorayut27@gmail.com

The sensuous impact of sound production and auditory perception has become a site for the contestation of cultural meaning attached to the ideology. In this article, I investigate the friction between the public listening and noise in Malaysia in the two contexts; first, the economic and political modernisation that's recognised as the version of modern Islamic nationalism and second,

the global flows of labour. With the echoing from Schafer's Schizophonia, I found that Malaysia attempts to align Islam more closely with the Muslim majority. The sermon audition and *Azan* – a call for praying has been identified as essential to cultivating the citizenry of willing listeners and representing the nation by the electronically reproduced sound. On the other hand, Malaysia has the various sound that rise along the road of national development, especially the sound from a construction site surrounded the urban space. This acoustic sound is excluded as noise by the public recognition and has embodied the foreign workers as the outsider. In this sense, listening is how people relate to each other for making up the community/imagine community as well as the exclusion through the sonic conscience. The significance in this study is the ways of hearing the politics in the making sense of nation through sound, whereas the noise has become the alien even though its origin or the foreign workers is the sources of nation-building.

Panel 42. International Relations and Security

Paper 1. Agency from Asymmetry? Nested Asymmetries and Small States' Strategies in the cases of post-independence Laos and Singapore

To Minh Son (Research Assistant at the Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme, School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University). Email: minhson.to@ntu.edu.sg

Growing interest in and scholarship on small states in recent decades have contributed to our understanding of how states' agency can still be exercised despite hostile international environments and relative material deprivation. The proliferation of small states studies, however, primarily extends the list of small states' diverse behaviors but has not settled longstanding definitional debates on the nature of small states and causes of their behaviors. This article attempts to broach these questions by comparing the survival strategies of two markedly different states, Laos and Singapore, through an extension of Tom Long's relational approach to states' 'smallness' as constituted by asymmetry. Specifically, it investigates how Laos and Singapore managed their agency and autonomy despite what this article refers to as 'nested asymmetries' – complex arrangements of layered asymmetries between small states, competing regional neighbors (Malaysia-Indonesia for Singapore, China-Vietnam-Thailand for Laos), and global great powers (China-Soviet Union, and US-China). It argues that these two states seek to weaponize their vulnerability and minimize hostilities between larger competitors, thereby making conflicts undesirable and contributing to the existing peaceful external environment. By examining their survival strategies, this article also contributes to the broader debate within international relations on agency vs. structure.

Paper 2: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) "Single Draft" negotiating text: A solution for the South China Sea issue?

Foster Gultom (former Ambassador, former Secretary to the Director General of ASEAN Cooperation / Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Indonesia). Email: fgulty09@hotmail.com

Founded in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has successfully reduced tensions in the region through cooperation, promoting peace and prosperity. ASEAN is a strictly intergovernmental organisation in which decisions are based on consensus. However, this approach has made it difficult for the ASEAN to accommodate huge disparities among its member. ASEAN finds it difficult to position itself, for example, in the contentious South China Sea issue. Beijing's expansive claims in the strategically important South China Sea, overlapping with five Southeast Asian countries (the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia) are particularly divisive. China has built military infrastructure on the disputed islands, harassed trawlers who passed, and endangered offshore oil and gas prospecting. To solve the issue, in 2018, ASEAN proposed a 'Single Draft' negotiating text. However, final is still a long way off, as crucial questions such as the geographical scope of the code of conduct, its binding or non-binding nature, and the applicability of international law (e.g. the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea) have yet to be settled. "Might this ASEAN proposal be a solution for the South China Sea issue?" is the question of this manuscript which was prepared based on literature and in-depth interviews with representatives of the five ASEAN countries involved in the dispute.

Paper 3. In the Merlion's circle: the making sense of air travel as a soft power tool in Singapore's foreign policy

Russell Yap (Research Assistant at the National University of Singapore's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health). Email: russyap@nus.edu.sg

Undoubtedly, air travel and airports are ubiquitous with modern and advanced societies in the contemporary age. In Southeast Asia, although most if not all members of the region have functioning airports of regional and/or international standing, the disparity between the quality and functionality of the airport varies drastically. Situating itself with Singapore as the starting point, the central research question that this paper aims to answer is: Can Singapore utilise its position as an air travel hub in Asia as a tool to advance its soft power objectives? I argue that Singapore's position as a growing and leading air travel hub in Asia can be harnessed as a tool to advance its exercising of soft power for two broad and complementary reasons. First, it provides the country with an opportunity to be a broker in international affairs by positioning itself as an attractive destination for the conduct of business and politics in a safe environment. Second, the country's international reputation of being a success story in international aviation as a revered one in the region and beyond, allows Singapore to raise awareness and knowledge of its existence in the international arena through the increased dependency and reliance of its airports as a hub of connections between ideas and resources.

Paper 4. Subnational Diplomacy in Malaysia: The Case of Sarawak

Syed Nizamuddin (Khazanah-Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies Scholar). Email: syednizamuddin89@gmail.com

The study is a riveting exploration into how Sarawak, a Malaysian state with a distinct identity, navigates the intricate web of subnational diplomacy, reshaping regional dynamics and asserting its global influence. Unpacking the intricacies of building a post-colonial imagined community; this research unveils the future challenges and prospects of subnational geopolitical player in the region. The steady trend towards recognising the agency of subnational entities also augurs greater role for subnational entities in the future of international politics.

Panel 43. Education

Paper 1. What happens when the mother tongue is *not* used as medium of instruction in Indonesian schools?

Hywel Coleman (Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of Education, University of Leeds, UK). Email: H.Coleman@leeds.ac.uk

David Fero (Lecturer in Communication Studies at the State Christian Institute of Higher Education in Tarutung, North Sumatra).

Faisal Madani (Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Jakarta)

This paper is a report on on-going research into medium of instruction policy in Indonesian schools. It is now widely acknowledged that there are major benefits in using the language with which children are most familiar as the medium of instruction in schools: children participate more actively, their comprehension and skills develop more rapidly, and their sense of identity is consolidated. But Indonesia, with more than 700 languages, still insists that only Bahasa Indonesia, the national language, may be used as the medium of instruction. What impact does this policy have? Our research has drawn on data from two sources: the Indonesian Census of 2020 and the results of OECD's international evaluations of the literacy, numeracy and understanding of science (PISA) among 15 year old Indonesians. So far, against expectations, the data have not shown any relationship between use of the home language and levels of literacy, numeracy and understanding of science. In the current iteration of the research we are working closely with the Indonesian National Statistics Agency (which manages the National Census) and with the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research & Technology (which implements PISA on behalf of OECD). We suspect that the root of the problem may lie in the sampling of PISA participants. If this is the case, major questions will arise about the validity of PISA findings for Indonesia and, subsequently, about PISA as a basis on which to design national education policy.

Paper 2: Bridging TVET with DUDI: Strengthening the role of government

Reni Suwarso (Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Indonesia). Email: Reni.suwarso@gmail.com

The government's role is very important in bridging the gap between Vocational Education (or known as 'Technical, Vocational Education and Training', TVET) and the Business and Industrial World (DUDI). The government is expected to play a more active role because it has the responsibility to provide its citizens with a decent life through education and decent employment. There are three main problems in bridging the gap between Vocational Education and DUDI, namely: 1) the character of vocational education which is work-based learning (WBL) is not well understood; 2) weak inter and intra government communication and coordination and 3) there is distrust between government, industry and VOCATIONAL schools. "How to solve this problem?" There are three recommendations submitted. First, increase outreach and strengthen explanatory campaigns related to VOCATIONAL education. Second, strengthening the connecting institutions (hubs) of various stakeholders. Third, the Minister of Education (EdWG), Minister of Manpower (EWG), Minister of Industry and Minister of Trade issued a statement to strengthen collaboration between government, industry and VOCATIONAL schools. These recommendations were prepared based on research conducted in South Sulawesi in 2020-2022 through demographic profiling, a legal and policy analysis, funded by Australia-Indonesia Center.

Panel 44. Social Sciences

Paper 1. From mundane to meaningful: a sociology of the everyday in Brunei Darussalam

Paul J. Carnegie (Associate Professor of Political Science at the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam). Email: paul.carnegie@ubd.edu.bn

If we acknowledge that the habitus of everyday life is simultaneously constrained and resistant of more powerful structures, institutions and interests, we come to realise that the ‘ordinariness’ of everyday life can serve to mask extraordinary levels of adaptability, fortitude and resourcefulness. The following paper outlines a sociology of the everyday and its utility for developing our understanding of the ways in which people and communities in contemporary Brunei Darussalam perceive, interpret and negotiate their lived experience. It considers the new angles of vision and scale that such an approach may offer on the nuance and ambiguity of day-to-day reality. The paper contends that positioning the mundane and everyday as loci of investigation can assist in decoding complex aspects of continuity, negotiation, and transformation often overlooked by mainstream inquiry. In doing so, it seeks to stimulate critical reflection on positionality, hierarchies of knowledge production, cultural diversity, and the ways in which we approach the social science study of Brunei.

Paper 2. Reflexivity: embodying constructivist grounded theory in praxis

Theresa Symons (PhD candidate, Monash University Malaysia). Email: theresa.symons@monash.edu

The paper aims to highlight the researcher’s insights and reflections when actively engaging in the reflexivity process within the Constructivist Grounded Theory (CGT) as a methodological approach in the qualitative research project entitled “Going beyond the spiritual, ecological and social divides: Tracking relational system change in moving from the needs-based to the rights-based approach for Good Shepherd Sisters in Asia.” The researcher reflects on the importance of creating trust and credibility for the participants to feel valued and respected. Reflexivity, within the principles of CGT, embraces subjectivity as an asset rather than a hindrance in qualitative research. This early-stage PhD researcher is engaged in a dynamic and iterative dialogue by embodying Reflexivity, with 30 Good Shepherd sisters and lay partners from Indonesia, Italy, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the US. Reflexivity, as a technique, acknowledges that the researcher's subjectivity and personal experiences inherently shape the research process. Through active listening, the researcher strives to be fully present, acknowledging her own biases, values, and assumptions that may influence the data interpretation. Cognizant that she was part of the Good Shepherd organisation for 16 years before becoming a full-time PhD student, the paper draws awareness to her own cognitive and emotional journey as a person who is invested in the Good Shepherd mission and the outcome of the research that may contribute to institutional transformation.

Paper 3. Incorporating gender dimensions in indigenous rights education: the case of Lumad schools in the Philippines

Giselle Miole (PhD candidate at Waseda University, Japan). Email: glmiole@fuji.waseda.jp

Indigenous rights education (IRE) is proposed as a practice that infuses indigenous knowledge and human rights education. However, it remains limited to addressing ecology and place-based education. There is a lack of academic discussion on how educators can practice IRE that includes gender dimensions into the curriculum. The Lumad communities in the Philippines are also known

for being led by the first and pioneering female chieftain, Bai Bibyaon. In this study, I draw on the case of Lumad schools in the Philippines and their practices of IRE that have incorporated gender dimensions into their curriculum. These include discussions on women's rights and their right to freedom of expression and be informed on their sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions (SOGIE). I conducted an ethnographic study through participant-observation and a series of semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with the students, teachers, and curriculum developers to capture the learning outcomes and how the schools were able to teach them. The study reveals that the inclusion of Freirean critical pedagogy and decolonial program of Lumad schools, the National, Scientific, and Mass-oriented framework, enabled the inclusion of gender dimensions into their curriculum. The Lumad schools also proactively includes both male and female audiences to the discussion on women's rights and SOGIE. There is a need to broaden IRE through the inclusion of gender dimensions.

Panel 45. Health and Communications

Paper 1. Into the Known Unknown: A Study of Thailand's Pandemic Preparedness and Border Surveillance in the Time of COVID-19

Khathaleeya Liamdee (Researcher at the Mekong Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand). Email: Khathaleeya.L@chula.ac.th

Border surveillance has always been a priority for state authorities' control over human and nonhuman mobilities. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the "known unknown microbes" disrupted everyday practices of cross-border mobility through the announcement of border closure and stricter health screening procedures across the globe. The efforts to contain the spread of the disease took over a year to eventually resume international travel. As qualitative research, this paper is based on the ethnographic fieldworks to the international border passes of Thailand and in-depth interviews with multiple stakeholders. The study frames the analysis by using the literature of border studies, focusing on the permeability of border, in relation to the studies of pandemic preparedness and responses to the emerging infectious diseases. In other words, it aims to bridge social studies of healthcare systems and cross-border mobility to understand what COVID-19 pandemic means for Thailand's national policies on pandemic preparedness. Examining Thailand's national responses between 2020 to 2022, this paper demonstrates the set of border control and disease surveillance practices to understand the state's logic of rigid geographic notions of space and biosecurity which are not enough for efficient pandemic preparedness and not necessarily meant to protect every vulnerable group. Understanding the state's responses to control mutable viruses across space and time is the key to evaluating and redeveloping biosecurity measures for a fairer and more transparent border controlling and patrolling without stigmatizing and other certain groups of people.

Paper 2. Archiving COVID-19 heritage in Ho Chi Minh City

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Rachel Tough (Principal Investigator of the Archiving COVID-19 Heritage in Ho Chi Minh City project, and a PhD candidate at the University of East Anglia). Email: rachel.tough@uea.ac.uk*

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted almost every facet of our world, prompting a variety of material responses in societies across the globe. Our project "Archiving COVID-19 Heritage in Ho Chi Minh City" funded by an Arts and Humanities Research Council/Global Challenges Research Fund UK grant under the Imagining Futures programme has witnessed and documented COVID-19 materiality. During four months of fieldwork in Ho Chi Minh City in late 2022, we captured images, conducted interviews and created sketches of items such as posters, signage, murals, graffiti, discarded personal protective equipment, disinfection paraphernalia, and barricades. We are now working with local collaborators to create a digital archive of this COVID-19 heritage in a dedicated website and exhibition. In Vietnam, opportunities to debate difficult aspects of the recent past may be restricted and controlled in official media and may not fully represent the experience of everyday life. By creating a fully accessible online archive, we aimed to develop an innovative mode of archival practice that accommodates diverse community experiences of pandemic and creates a forum for diverse voices to debate how the extraordinary pandemic period is remembered. In this presentation, we share testimony from project participants and discuss the methodology we have used – a mixed methods approach incorporating ethnographic, archaeological and arts-based

methods - to create an 'archive from below' and engage non-academic audiences. We demonstrate the power of community archiving in supporting citizens to make sense of cataclysmic events on their own terms, away from official narratives.

Paper 3. Generation Z and Astrology-related content consumption on Social Media

Thien Tu 'Tyler' Tran (Faculty of PR and Communications, Van Lang University, Vietnam). Email: tranthientu585@gmail.com

Astrology has gained significant popularity, both internationally and in Vietnam, as a prevailing trend in content consumption on social networks. The increasing interest in astrology among Generation Z has prompted researchers to delve into understanding the factors behind this phenomenon. Recognizing the significance of this topic, the study aims to identify the significant factors that resonate with Generation Z and influence their engagement with astrology-related content. The study conducts a survey involving young individuals from Generation Z in Vietnam, specifically targeting participants who regularly follow astrology-related content on social networks. The research investigates a range of factors that may contribute to Generation Z's content consumption behavior. These factors include entertainment, social connection, self-discovery, empowerment & guidance, influencers, types of content, visual, and tone & mood. By employing a linear regression model, the researchers tested the relationships between the identified factors and the consumption of astrology-related content. The result reveals that seven out of eight hypotheses were supported, indicating a substantial impact of entertainment, social connection, self-discovery, empowerment and guidance, influencers, types of content, and tone and mood on Generation Z's content consumption behavior. Based on the findings, the paper draws several conclusions regarding the motivations and factors that drive Generation Z's engagement with astrology-related content on social media platforms. Additionally, the study offers practical implications for content creators and marketers seeking to effectively engage with this demographic. By tailoring their content strategies to align with the identified motivations and factors, professionals in this field can enhance their approach and better resonate with Generation Z, thus increasing audience engagement.

Panel 46. From Nature to Biodiversity: New Directions in Southeast Asian Studies (Part I)

Chair: Anthony D. Medrano

Discussant: Yosef Djakababa

Southeast Asian natures are home to a unique range of flora, fauna, habitats, and ecosystems. They are sites too of “exceptionally high” levels of endemism (biota found only in a single place) and endangerment (biota threatened with extirpation or extinction). This tangled state of being adds to the scientific value of the region’s nature areas, but it also amplifies their cultural and conservation importance. Recognizing Southeast Asia’s growing place within the broader networks of environmental protection, ASEAN established a heritage parks program in 1984. Today, this program includes 55 nature areas that speak to the breadth and depth of Southeast Asian biodiversity—from underwater worlds to volcanic craters. Seeding a new direction for the field of Southeast Asian studies, this panel explores the storied ecologies of the region’s mountains, forests, and straits. In doing so, it reveals histories and heritages that not only echo the state origins of Southeast Asia’s protected ecosystems, but also exceed and extend beyond them. We show, for example, how the life and legacy of scientists, fishers, gardeners, and cultivators—as well as their diverse networks—intersected with the very natures that became parks or reserves. From Singapore’s bees to Java’s trees, and from Sundanese manuscripts to Filipino botanists, this panel opens up new archives and spaces for linking culture and history to science and ecology and for explaining why these linkages are central to rethinking—and recasting—the study of Southeast Asia in the age of biodiversity.

Paper 1. Botany, Conservation, and Imperialism at Gede and Pangerango Twin Mountains, 1830-1900

Luthfi Adam (*Monash University Indonesia*). Email: luthfi.adam@monash.edu

Located 86 kilometers from Jakarta, Gede and Pangerango National Park played multiple roles in contemporary Indonesian society. For amateur mountain climbers, the park offers comfortable trails toward the summit of Mount Gede and Pangerango. For the wider public, various attractions such as waterfalls, botanic gardens, and tea plantation panoramas are available in the lower area. Meanwhile, for scientists, the park is one of the main venues for biological research, providing a "living laboratory" for botanical studies in montane and submontane regions. In fact, Gede and Pangerango was the Dutch East Indies' first nature reserve for botanical studies. The establishment of Gede Pangerango Nature Reserve in 1889 is a story of the transformation of human treatment of mountains: from the Sundanese perspective, which valued mountains as sacred places, to the colonists' utilitarian perspectives that treated mountains as resources. In the mountainous regions of Gede and Pangerango, ranging from 900 meters to 3000 meters above sea level, the Dutch established various economic and scientific sites, including five testing gardens, one botanic garden, a botanical laboratory, a vast nature reserve, tea plantations, a cinchona garden, and pleasure resorts. Therefore, the history of Gede and Pangerango offers an opportunity to contemplate the relationship between science and empire, ecology and colonialism, and conservation and the economy.

Paper 2. The Eruption that Activated: Knowledge Production and Reproduction about Mount Galunggung Since 1822

Gani A. Jaelani (Universitas Padjadjaran). Email: gani.jaelani@unpad.ac.id

This presentation is an attempt to discuss the knowledge production related to Mount Galunggung, one of an active volcanoes situated in Garut region, West Java, Indonesia. Before its major eruption in 1822, Galunggung never lived as a volcano in people's memory. It was, however, a sacred entity as mentioned in the fifteenth century's Sundanese Amanat Galunggung manuscript. Even though scientists interpreted that the mount had been active before, no inhabitant recalled any eruption. The shocking and serious damage from the eruption has made Galunggung an object of scientific study from colonial to post-colonial times. Foreign scientists and local people have produced and reproduced knowledge about Galunggung that it has become a main subject of its own. Through reading local texts, oral traditions, and reports from scientists, this presentation will map knowledge about this mountain produced through an intersection of various actors, particularly in its relationship between humans and nature.

Paper 3. Seeds for Sisters' Islands Marine Park: Biodiversity Discoveries in the Straits of Singapore

Zeehan Jaafar (National University of Singapore). Email: jaafarz@nus.edu.sg

Nature parks are areas that conserve and celebrate the rich biodiversities therein. The inception of many nature parks often begins with a proposal for their protection. The assembly of areal 3 information on biodiversity and culture ensues, derived from academic works accumulated over decades or centuries. The Sisters' Island Marine Park is a relatively 'young' protected area, having been gazetted only in 2014. The marine park comprises two islands—Pulau Subar Laut and Pulau Subar Darat—and bound by the coasts of these islands as well as western shorelines of Pulau Tekukor and St. John's Island. Spanning 40ha within the Straits of Singapore, this park sits squarely in one of the busiest shipping channels globally. Since her independence, the coastal and marine areas in Singapore have undergone dramatic transformations, as a result of expanding port capacities and nation-building efforts. This paper discusses the decision to protect a small area within a metropolitan urban marine environment. The compelling data to support its preservation stems from works by naturalists, scientists, and historians, from the 19th century to today. The diversity of biological organisms within the territorial waters of Singapore have been enumerated and named for centuries. Ecological processes of these component biodiversity have been the foci for more recent discoveries. This paper examines the novel biodiversity discoveries past and present that seeds the proposal to fruition.

Panel 47. From Nature to Biodiversity: New Directions in Southeast Asian Studies (Part II)

Chair: Anthony D. Medrano

Discussant: Yosef Djakababa

Southeast Asian natures are home to a unique range of flora, fauna, habitats, and ecosystems. They are sites too of “exceptionally high” levels of endemism (biota found only in a single place) and endangerment (biota threatened with extirpation or extinction). This tangled state of being adds to the scientific value of the region’s nature areas, but it also amplifies their cultural and conservation importance. Recognizing Southeast Asia’s growing place within the broader networks of environmental protection, ASEAN established a heritage parks program in 1984. Today, this program includes 55 nature areas that speak to the breadth and depth of Southeast Asian biodiversity—from underwater worlds to volcanic craters. Seeding a new direction for the field of Southeast Asian studies, this panel explores the storied ecologies of the region’s mountains, forests, and straits. In doing so, it reveals histories and heritages that not only echo the state origins of Southeast Asia’s protected ecosystems, but also exceed and extend beyond them. We show, for example, how the life and legacy of scientists, fishers, gardeners, and cultivators—as well as their diverse networks—intersected with the very natures that became parks or reserves. From Singapore’s bees to Java’s trees, and from Sundanese manuscripts to Filipino botanists, this panel opens up new archives and spaces for linking culture and history to science and ecology and for explaining why these linkages are central to rethinking—and recasting—the study of Southeast Asia in the age of biodiversity.

Paper 1. On terubuk: histories of culture and ecology in the Melaka Straits

Anthony D. Medrano (Assistant Professor, Yale-NUS College, Singapore). Email: anthony.medrano@yale-nus.edu.sg

In 1996, the National Museum of Singapore (NMS) received a remarkable donation: 477 natural history drawings known as the Farquhar collection. Commissioned by the British Resident William Farquhar (1774-1839), who served in Melaka from 1795 to 1818, the collection documents the flora and fauna of the Melaka Straits at the turn of the nineteenth century. Two unknown Chinese artists who lived in the port city realized the illustrations. Malay scribes also played a part in the making of the Farquhar collection, providing and inking—in Jawi and Romanized scripts—the local names of the plants and animals drawn. From Melaka, the Farquhar collection traveled to Singapore before arriving in London at the Royal Asiatic Society in 1827. In 1993, Singaporean Goh Geok Khim purchased the collection at an auction, thereby setting in motion its final voyage—the voyage home to the lands and waters from which it was made and known. This paper uses one of Farquhar’s fishes, the terubuk (longtail shad, *Tenulosa macrura* Bleeker, 1852), to center a history of the Straits of Melaka in vernacular terms. From stories of ecology and biology to tales of economic value and cultural life, the essay follows this endemic fish (and its prized telur or roe) across sources, languages, and centuries, showing how we can repurpose Farquhar’s visual archive to recover the multispecies worlds and environmental histories embedded within scientific illustrations while revealing too new horizons for Southeast Asian Studies in the age of biodiversity.

Paper 2. From Mehan to Makiling: Botanical Gardens and the Rise of a Philippine National Park

Ruel V. Pagunsan (University of the Philippines Diliman). Email: rvpagunsan@up.edu.ph

The Jardin Botanico de Manila, built in 1858, was ruined during the U.S. colonial occupation in 1899. It was later revived, through the Manila city government and colonial engineer John Mehan, but its design was reduced to recreational and sanitation purposes. A visiting botanist observed the “melancholy dwindling” of the garden as it was occupied by the army and used as a garrison for its supplies. In 1920, the Mount Makiling National Botanical Garden (MNBG) was established in the 4 state-protected forest reserve in Laguna. The garden was regarded as an important endeavor to create a state of “nature” that would become a representative of the Philippine environment. This paper examines twentieth-century discourses on the necessity of botanical gardens in Philippine nation-building projects. The first part of the paper interrogates various proposals to create a national botanical garden within the country’s capital. The second part discusses the formation of MNBG and the ecological attributes of the forest reserve that transformed it as an ideal place for botanical research. In 1933, Makiling was declared as the first National Park in the country. In historicizing the idea of a national botanical garden, the paper attempts to show how constituted and reconstituted ecologies provide an agenda for nature-based heritage-making projects of the nation.

Paper 3. Community science enhances modelled bee distributions in a tropical Asian city

Eunice Jingmei Tan (National University of Singapore). Email: eunice.tan@nus.edu.sg

Bees and the ecosystem services they provide are vital to urban ecosystems, but little is understood about their distributions, particularly in the Asian tropics. This is largely due to taxonomic impediment and limited inventorying, monitoring, and digitization of occurrence records. While expert collections (EC) are demonstrably insufficient by themselves as a data source to model and understand bee distributions, the boom of community science (CS) in urban areas provides an untapped opportunity to learn about bee distributions within our cities. We used CS observations in combination with EC observations to model the distribution of bees in Singapore, a small tropical city-state in Southeast Asia. We successfully modelled 37 bee species, where model statistics improved for 23 species upon the incorporation of CS observations. This is the first study to combine both EC and CS observations to map and model the occurrences of tropical Asian bee species for a highly urbanised region at such fine resolution. Our results suggest that urban landscapes with impervious surfaces and higher temperatures are less suitable for bee species, and such findings can be used to advise the management of urban landscapes to optimise the diversity of bee pollinators and other organisms. Future studies to understand biodiversity distributions should further engage and incorporate community science efforts.

Panel 48. Urban Politics

Paper 1. Escaping the Primate Cities: Study from Capital Shifting Planning in Southeast Asia, Cases of Putrajaya, Nay Pyi Taw, and Nusantara

*Mochamad Alvin Dwiana Qobulsyah (Department of International Relations, Universitas Binus).
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Southeast Asia is the home of numerous primate cities: Bangkok, Manila, Jakarta, Vientiane, Yangon, and Kuala Lumpur. However, the last two mentioned administrative capitals have already shifted in the last three decades to Nay Pyi Taw and Putrajaya, respectively, as newly built capital cities to disseminate the tardiness of Myanmar and Malaysia's previous capitals. In 2019, Indonesia also followed this move to shift the capital from Jakarta to Eastern Kalimantan that still ongoing despite the pandemic situation. This research compares three capital shifts in Southeast Asia, limited only in its planning stage. The timeframe limitation follows different stages of capital shifting in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Myanmar. In comparison, Malaysia and Myanmar have already finished the shifting, while Indonesia is currently confirming its desired new capital location. This research tries to scrutinize and focus the research on state capital shifting on a regional basis that the Southeast Asia interestingly provides more than one accomplished state's capital shifting in a single region. The focus will be adjusted on when and how this capital shifting project was initiated, which institutions and stakeholders are responsible for the project, how long the project planned to be completed, initial pros and cons in public discourses, how big the budget allocated, from where sources the budget come from, and how the states choose the new capital sites.

Paper 2. Cityness and urban métis in Jakarta – Making the city-of-uncertainty work

Nurman Nowak (PhD candidate, Goettingen Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology (GISCA) of the Georg-August-University Goettingen, Germany). Email: nurman.nowak@uni-goettingen.de

Jakarta in its capacity of a megacity is shaped by torrential flows of things experienced as a constant presence of uncertainty, the interplay of unpredictability, incomplete knowledge and associated affects. In this paper I introduce the concept of urban métis, constructed based on ethnographic accounts from the streets of Kota Tua, Jakarta, where neoliberal 'revitalization' threatens livelihoods of the local informal economy experienced there as a source of uncertainty. This concept, a redefinition of Scott's métis (1998), captures conducts and logics that enables urbanites to re-shape urban uncertainty by transforming its destructive and inhibiting capacities to (potential) transformative and productive trajectories of maneuvering to make the city work for their needs. While urban métis was discovered and constructed among mainly poor urbanites in so called informal contexts, I argue that its conducts and logics transcends the juxtaposition of rich and poor, formal and informal which echoes Abdoumalig Simone's conceptualization of cityness and urban majority (2010). As such, it provokes new enquiries on the issues of urban social inequality and provides for new ways and perspectives to understand city-making in Jakarta and beyond.

Paper 3. “Green urbanism” under environmental authoritarianism in Vietnam: discourses and practices of urban planning in Ha Long City

Thi Mai Thoa TRAN (PhD candidate at the Université du Québec au Montréal, Canada). Email: thoa.trantm@gmail.com

There is a global scramble to build “green/sustainable cities”, especially in Asian countries which are said to be particularly vulnerable to impacts of environmental pollution and climate change. Vietnam is not an anomaly to these trends. However, the country is also unique due to its “environmental authoritarianism” as the government pursues environmental and climatic policies more out of economic and political motivations rather than pure ecological concerns. In my paper, I will reflect on the case of Ha Long, a middle-sized city in Vietnam which has figured the “sustainable development” on top of its urban development agenda. Traditionally rooted in polluting mining industry for over 100 years, since 2012, the city has undertaken a shift in its development paradigm with a “brown-to-green transition”. This new paradigm of “green growth” has involved tremendous efforts of urban planning at the service of tourism sector as Ha Long also aims to become a “green city”. I will argue that the “green urbanism” that the city has been pursuing is a green-washed version of urban entrepreneurialism. It puts less focus on solving environmental challenges than with re-engineering urban landscape in the service of capital accumulation and economic competitiveness. As a result, the economic miracle the city has achieved over the past decade owns much to sweeping ecological damage done to the local environment. The case of Ha Long City is revealing to us about the discourses and practices of building sustainable cities in Global South cities, and especially under authoritarian regimes in Southeast Asia.

Panel 49. Elections and Activism

Paper 1. The Winning of Move Forward Party: Elites' Reconciliation in 2023 General Elections, Thailand

Phiramon Choenkhwan (Lecturer at the School of Political Science and Public Administration, Walailak University, Thailand). Email: malamayyy@gmail.com

The 2019 general election in Thailand was a time of ideological contestation between the progressive force and conservative force. However, the 2023 election result brings an unexpected success of Move Forward Party – which dramatically threaten those conservative and military supported elements in Thailand's political arena. This work-in-progress paper tries to demonstrate that the reconciliation of elites, included Pheu Thai party, military, and monarchy – as a rapid reaction against Move Forward's victory – intensify a separation among various political camps in Thailand. The *big deal* between Pheu Thai and incumbent power holders was predicted, as the party was reluctant to answer *would they tie their hands with two uncles?* referring to General Prayuth Chan-o-cha and General Prawit Wongsuwan – prime minister candidates of United Thai Nation and Palang Pracharat parties respectively. As a result, ideological contestation among all actors was worsened, especially for voters in both Pheu Thai and Move Forward parties. The ideological contestation during the period of 2019 general election highlights fragments between authoritarian supporters and pro-democratic forces, but the line between the progressive force and center right support was obscured. However, the 2023 election result in ideological ruptures among previous pro-democratic forces, especially Pheu Thai and Move Forward voters.

Paper 2. The Emergence of Youthquake in Thailand and Myanmar

Maytapat Pararaman (Lecturer at the School of Political Science and Public Administration, Walailak University, Thailand). Email: maytapat.p@gmail.com

As I started writing this work in 2021, it was time my Thai and Myanmar university 'friends' were jailed and threatened after their political participation. The failure of the election system in Thailand and Myanmar triggered the youthquake online and on-street against military rule. It emerged with a new actor, a high school student, not only a university one like in the Cold War. This change is why this paper defines the protest in 2020 as the 'youthquake'. Employed by Alexander Wendt's collective identity formation, it found that the Umbrella Revolution played a key story in intersubjectivity. The belike-water and leaderless strategy of Hong Kong are role models Thai and Myanmar youth always idealised, resulting in the realisation of the potential of young people. Second, it argues that the youth is a new actor in International Relations of Southeast Asia. The Milk Tea Alliance's emergence is the first time young people in modern Southeast Asia constituted a collective identity, showing the Thai and Myanmar youth's homogeneity in fighting. The research explains they defined a better future as their purpose since the global economic recession from COVID-19 is the common fate they faced. The slogan, "You messed with the wrong generation", became a political statement, binding the youth from two countries to a 'We' in the same fate. Thus, "Youthquake is what youth in Thailand and Myanmar make of it online and onsite" is what I conclude and propose to understand how our ideas shape our emergence in our generation.

Paper 3. ASEAN's Volatile Stance on Coup D'états in Post-Cold War Southeast Asia and the Principle of Constitutional Government

Gibran Mahesa Drajat (PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University). Email: gmdrajat@gmail.com

The norm of constitutional government has been incorporated into one of the many principles of ASEAN through its charter that came into effect in 2008. This principle was preceded by a provision in an earlier document of ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action where member states choose not to condone “unconstitutional and undemocratic changes of government” of one another. While the catalyst to constitutional government within ASEAN multilateralism can be traced back to the postponement of Cambodia’s membership into the organization in light of 1997 coup, ASEAN’s collective response to the two succeeding coup d’états in Southeast Asia has weakened the intergovernmental adherence to constitutional government. In the aftermath of 2014 coup in Thailand, ASEAN opted not to take further response to NCPO takeover of Yingluck Shinawatra’s caretaker government. The ongoing civil war that was triggered by the 2021 coup in Myanmar has made it difficult for ASEAN to ensure that peace and stability can be preserved in Southeast Asia while simultaneously upholding its credibility as a central player in the Indo-Pacific. By taking into account ASEAN’s collective response to 2014 Thai coup and 2021 Myanmar coup, it is found that the principle of constitutional government is enforced selectively by ASEAN. This creates a challenge for ASEAN to transform itself into a regional community that upholds the sovereignty of its member states through democratic means. In order for ASEAN to fully incorporate the norm of constitutional government into its organizational objectives, it needs to continuously forge a consensus-building whenever there is a coup d’état in its regional surroundings.

Panel 50. Political Economy

Paper 1. Financial Subordination in Indonesia and its Effects on the Real Economy

Louis O'Sullivan (PhD candidate, University of Leeds). Email: bnlos@leeds.ac.uk

Only recently has work focused on the asymmetric costs that financial globalisation imposes on developing countries. A key literature to emerge has been the subordinate financialisation framework which argues that capital flows are particularly volatile due to the international currency hierarchy. Developing countries have to manage this volatility to maintain inflows and exchange rate stability through costly policies such as high interest rates and reserve accumulation. Using interviews and descriptive statistics, this paper argues that several of the key features of subordinate financialisation are present in Indonesia. However, more attention needs to be paid to the role of capital inflows in different developing economies to understand the way and extent to which monetary policy is subordinated to attracting them in different developing countries. Through a comparison of Indonesia with Malaysia, the paper argues the key distinction is that in commodity exporters with a volatile current account, portfolio inflows play a key role in sustaining aggregate demand and currency appreciation is not heavily opposed. Meanwhile, in manufacturing exporters with a more stable current account surplus, portfolio inflows are less important to sustaining aggregate demand and currency depreciation is favoured. This distinction is reflected in the features of subordinate financialisation in each country: high interest rates and moderate reserve accumulation in Indonesia, moderate interest rates and extreme reserve accumulation in Malaysia. Finally, the paper explores the sectoral impacts of these policies in Indonesia and how they may reproduce its volatile current account position by impeding manufacturing growth.

Paper 2. Keep the car running: oil dependency, mobility and transport in Southeast Asia

Maisarah Abdul Kadir (Associate Programme Officer for Bioenergy, End-Use Sectors and Roadmaps at the International Renewable Energy Agency). Email: mkadir@irena.org

Across all the large megacities in Southeast Asia, traffic congestion is the norm and is increasingly getting worse. Oil demand in road transport continues to rise, and alongside millions of vehicles being added to the road each year. This results not only worsening air pollution, but affects other aspects such as health, mobility, and quality of life. The study aims to analyse historical energy demand in road transport in Southeast Asia – and projecting how it will evolve in the future, looking into the different factors such as choice of vehicles, motorization rates, and national policies on road transport (i.e oil subsidies). It will look into published data on energy demand and road transport, examine national policies and plans related to transport – which are then analyzed to estimate its future energy demand by 2050 and its emissions - comparing them with announced national emissions reduction targets to align with the Paris Agreement. The research aims to expand the literature on energy demand in specifically in road transport in Southeast Asia, bridging energy analysis, national plans, and everyday lived experience. The findings from the study are expected to inform policymakers, analysts, energy practitioners, research institutions and academia, providing them an overview of energy & road transport in Southeast Asia.

Paper 3. Government Ownership of Banks: Diversifying of Potential Products and Production Inputs to Subsidize Agriculture

Kosal Nith (Data Support Officer at the Centre for Development Economics and Trade, Cambodian Development and Research Institute). Email: nithkosal@gmail.com

Government ownership of banks has a significant role in addressing market failures, improving social welfare and economic development. This study explores and identifies the potential products and production inputs in agriculture that public banks should subsidize. In this paper, the author investigates statistical properties of the two-step generalized method of moments (GMM) estimator to analyze the direct and indirect consumption of inputs in agricultural production in national-level data for 32 crop products and 14 livestock products from Cambodia during the 1989–2018 period. Many specifications have statistical significance and negative competent production growth. These results suggest that the proposed subsidies should clearly define the types of specialty products by local producers and their potential markets, both local and international. This paper investigates some policy options for government ownership of banks to improve agriculture by supporting potential crop and livestock producers. Nevertheless, the support and its policy implications should adapt to new climate change and emergency events for the long-run sustainable development of the sector. The study also suggests that future research should consider studying micro-data for specific types of products and regions.

Paper 4. Street Vendors among Student Housing: Lessons Learned from Ratchathewi District

Bagus Fadhilah Apriadi (MA student, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand). Email: bagusfa09@gmail.com

This research paper examines the impact of studentification, a specific type of gentrification associated with students' presence, on street vendors' livelihoods in Soi Phetchaburi 7, Ratchathewi District, Bangkok. This study uncovers the nuanced dynamics at play in this context through a comprehensive review of relevant literature encompassing physical, social, cultural, and economic aspects of studentification and interviews conducted with three street vendors. The findings of this research demonstrate that street vendors in this area are not unpleasantly affected by studentification; instead, they maintain a positive perception of the university students' presence. Additionally, the research provides insights into the perspective of the Muslim community regarding interacting with university students, shedding light on their attitudes and behaviours. The study reveals that the influx of university students positively influences street vendors' profits, improving living and economic prospects. These results challenge the prevailing negative discourse surrounding studentification and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of student presence's implications on street vendors' livelihoods. Overall, this research contributes to the existing body of knowledge on studentification and highlights the specific dynamics of this area, emphasising the positive effects on street vendors' livelihoods within the context of university students.

Panel 51. Social Media, Data and Communication

Paper 1. Data sovereignty meets international commitments: The case of Indonesia

Muhammad Ilham Nugroho (PhD candidate, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia). Email:

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Data localization has become one of the most contentious trade issues in the last decade. Simply understood as an act of restricting the international data flow and requiring public and private entities to store any data within the domestic data centers, most developed countries object to this measure as the localization is deemed not conducive to economic growth and only undermines individual privacy. Meanwhile, localization policy has been implemented by many Global South countries in order to have a stronger sovereignty grip over data. Indonesia implemented the measure back in 2012 to safeguard its data sovereignty in the face of data colonialism and surveillance capitalism mainly from US companies. However, as Indonesia is increasingly involved in many international cooperations and trade agreements in which the prohibition of data localization has been the common consensus, the notion of data sovereignty held by Indonesian policymakers is now receiving an enormous challenge. This article seeks to understand how Indonesia reappropriates the idea of data sovereignty by examining the country's efforts to strike a balance between keeping sovereignty in place and liberalizing the data flow as part of international commitments. By using the perspective of data securitization by Seoane (2021), from which he initially formulated from Wilson's (2015) resource nationalism, Indonesia successfully compromises those two seem to be conflicting ideas by situating the adequate level of data protection as a precondition to international data flow. Equal participation among interest groups during the formulation process was a key factor.

Paper 2. Sovereign in the Digital Realm: Indonesia's Platform Governance under Ministry of Communication and Information Regulation No. 10 of 2021

Mirna Rahmadina Gumati (National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia). Email:

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The considerable authority and impact held by digital platforms have given rise to diverse understandings regarding the optimal degree of sovereignty in governing these platforms. While upholding digital sovereignty remains essential for countering external influences, which encompass private enterprises like digital platforms, it also has the potential to provide governments with significant control over their own citizens. An illustration of this can be seen in Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Information (MOCI) Regulation No. 10 of 2021, also known as MR 10/2021, which addresses the management of Electronic System Organizers in the Private Sector. This regulation obliges digital platforms to enlist their services on a government portal, resulting in opportunity for authorities to gain access to electronic data and/or systems for the purpose of supervision and criminal law enforcement. Moreover, it empowers authorities to request the removal of content and to facilitate access restrictions for non-compliance. Through a thematic analysis of various YouTube videos and an interview with representative from the MoCI, this study seeks to reveal how the government's interpretation of digital sovereignty impacts Indonesia's digital society. The findings suggest that while the government perceives digital sovereignty as being about actors' accountability in digital governance, the state's interpretation of sovereignty in the

digital realm remains confined to territoriality, emphasizing state authority and power. This becomes apparent from the discoveries of this research, which emphasize three main issues associated with MR 10/2021: surpassing the authorized scope of power, utilizing ambiguous clauses prone to subjective interpretation, and lacking a process for content owners or service providers to challenge blocks imposed on them.

Paper 3. Repression, Resistance & Revolution: The Politics of International Queer Communication

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Following recent revivals of gender and sexuality issues in broader mainstream news and in response to what Tang and Wijaya (2022) called for a greater engagement of queer issues in Southeast Asia, this paper aims to answer one question. The research question posited is: Is social media a democratising force for the understanding of queer politics in Southeast Asia given its fusion of elements of source, channel and destination? Drawing from the journalistic models of communication posited by Shannon and Weaver (1947) as well as Westley and MacLean (1957), I argue that social media in the realm of queer politics can function as a democratising force for two major societies in Southeast Asia, namely Singapore and Malaysia because of three reasons that I identify in this paper. First, it blurs and redefines traditional media relations between civil society and the state by altering the way information is disseminated and communicated across modalities. Second, it provides an opportunity for the expansion of shared experiences and narratives that connect different groups in society. Finally, closely related to the first point, queer social media communication bypasses the need for traditional gatekeeping by the government, dissolving the monopoly of information any government may have and affording individuals the opportunity to exchange information at their will. This creates a media space where elements of source, channel and destination are merged as a by-product of the queering process in these two societies. •

Disciplines: Gender Studies/Anthropology/Queer Studies

Panel 52. Politics and Rights

Paper 1. Challenges of legal protection for community whistleblowers on corruption in Indonesia

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Public participation in reporting corruption practices is very significant for eradicating corruption. Community whistleblowers of corruption are still vulnerable to intimidation and repercussions. Although there are regulations related to basic protection for whistleblowers of corruption crimes, the extent of implementing legal protection for community whistleblowers still needs to be studied. This research analyses the problem of legal protection for community whistleblowers in corruption. This qualitative study uses empirical normative research with primary and secondary data through interviews and desk review. This study finds that the problematic implementation of legal protection for community whistleblowers is the internal regulation and culture in the police institution that has not supported corruption enforcement and the gap in knowledge of police officers related to legal rules that guarantee protection for whistleblowers. There are counterattacks by the perpetrators of corruption in the form of reporting the whistle-blower to the police with allegations of defamation. The impact is it implies disclosing evidence owned by the whistleblower. Perpetrators who have power and strength can be very influential in defamation reporting to be processed by the police. In addition, the 'in good faith' concept has not been discussed in regulation. Moreover, no sanctions are regulated and given to perpetrators who interfere with the corruption reporting process.

Paper 2. Bringing the recognition: the Local acknowledgment for Indonesia's adat communities

Tine Suartina (Society and Culture Research Center, BRIN). Email: t.suartina@hotmail.com

Aligned to the global indigenous movement and political shifts in the Reform era, there were resurgences in customary (adat) community's policy in Indonesia, including enforcements of acknowledgment in the region and provincial levels to underpin adat communities. Initially, this mechanism will lead to a promising turn in improving communities' social justice and welfare that was oppressed during the New Order era. Practically, not only the recognition becomes a basic community's formal acknowledgment but also develops into a mandatory requirement to pursue advancement such as adat forest claim, and formalising adat village. This qualitative paper employs politics of law and socio-legal approaches in discussing dynamic process to gain the recognitions along with their double-edged consequences. Taking experiences from Lebak region, a conducive environment exemplified by good awareness on communities' existence is not necessarily a sole guarantee to stipulate the recognition. Rather, an active relationship between the government and communities, and contributing presences of communities' representatives as legislatures and executives are equally pivotal as determining factors in bolstering political process to promulgate the acknowledgment. Indubitably, communities and supporting groups such as NGOs or concerned parties must work persistently to push the proposals. Besides that, the openness in local and governance levels, good political will, and networking also play significant roles. A critical examination on current recognitions is essential to understand whether those acknowledgments have been purposed for the communities and inclusivity or reversely resulted them merely as a one-time regime's political strategy and a temporary part in Indonesia's politics of recognition.

Paper 3. Mother of the State: Between State, Dreams, and their Beloved Husband

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Women's organizations formed by the state in Indonesia are burdening and limiting their movement in everyday life. Women must carry a double burden; serving the country and serving their husbands. Indirectly, this also implements an ideology called "State Ibuism". "State Ibuism" as a gender ideology, formed by the New Order regime defined women as complements and companions to their husbands, as creators of the nation, as mothers and educators of children, as housekeepers, and as a member of Indonesian society. The Persit (the term for a soldier's wife) that I met complained about how tired being a military wife was and got a lot of duties from her organization. She was entrusted with state duties such as the socialization of Pancasila (Indonesian state philosophy) values. Organizations such as Persit are a vehicle for the state to deliver its values and ideology by defining the ideal female role according to the state. Through my observations, the burden placed on Persit means that the dreams they have cannot be realized. This is the question that is the focus of the main research: how do women who are members of state-formed organizations negotiate dreams that they cannot achieve? I interviewed and observed women who were members of state-formed organizations such as Persit. I also recorded symbols of women's character formation that were desired by the state, such as statues and slogans that were scattered throughout the city to see how this philosophy was passed down from the state to the grassroots.

Panel 53. PhD Roundtable (Part I)

Paper 1. The politics of the Catholics and the Protestants as religious minorities in Indonesia

Angga Indraswara (PhD candidate, Government Department at the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK). Email: A.Indraswara@lse.ac.uk

The paper examines the causal mechanisms that enabled a network of Catholic political operatives in Muslim-majority Indonesia to exert considerable influence over domestic politics and foreign policy from 1967 to 1988. During these two decades, Catholics were well overrepresented in the parliament, ministerial posts, and the bureaucracy. Their think tank, the CSIS, also held significant sway over Indonesia's domestic politics and foreign policy. All these culminated in the appointment of General Murdani as Commander of the Armed Forces in 1983. Despite being a religious minority, the Catholic General Murdani was the second in command after Suharto himself. The paper argues that the Catholic success in Indonesia in this period was a path-dependent process that generated increasing returns for both Suharto's military regime and the Catholics. Initially, the Catholic and military alliance was a contingency necessitated by the power struggle against the Communists. Once Suharto was in power, the Catholic operatives and their military allies transformed their initially circumstantial partnership into institutionalised mechanisms of consolidating power and exercising influence. For the military, the Catholics were a skilful ally whose small numbers meant they could not threaten the Army's ambitions to dominate Indonesia. For the Catholics, the military provided access to the corridors of power that would otherwise be closed to religious minorities. Once their partnership became formalised with the creation of Golkar and the CSIS in 1971, their alliance became almost irreversible. It continued to yield results for both parties until Suharto abandoned them and turned to Islamic political forces.

Paper 2. Shaping refugee governance in Malaysia: intersections between law, politics, and activism

Ratu Ayu Asih Kusuma Putri (PhD candidate at Melbourne Law School). Email: ratuayuasihk@student.unimelb.edu.au

Recent years have seen increased attention to the roles of refugee-led organisations (RLOs) as key providers of aid and protection in various settings around the world. Particularly in the absence of laws for protection, refugees are often prompted to mobilise and establish a locally-led protection mechanism, whether it is independently or through partnerships with the UNHCR and NGOs. Yet due to their non-citizen status, RLOs' emergence and activities are contingent upon opportunities and barriers set by the government. Using an illustrated case of Malaysia, this study examines refugee activism through the lens of legal, institutional, and socio-political contexts and how these contexts shape precarious conditions for the refugees and, at the same time, allow them a space to mobilise and mitigate these conditions. Malaysia is a strong example of refugee-hosting country in Southeast Asia that 'tolerates' refugee mobilisation, indicated by a large number of RLOs operating in the country, which is unique given the country's purportedly harsh immigration regime. I argue that the law, policies and practices concerning refugees and refugee activism per se in Malaysia must be viewed in the context of the country's construal of rights to migrants and its domestic political dynamics.

Paper 3. Interim Jakarta Governor: The New Form of Clientelism?

*Rizqi Bachtiar (PhD candidate, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, UK).
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This paper analyses the centralised appointment of Interim Jakarta Governor to gain political benefits for Indonesia's 2024 elections. A year ago, the central government has decided to appoint Heru Budi Hartono, a member of the Presidential Office, as an interim governor to replace Anies Baswedan's position. As the logical epicentre of politics in Indonesia, the appointment can be considered as a highly political, considering that the ruling party lost in the latest Jakarta gubernatorial elections. The appointment was made amid indications that the interim governor holds different policy preferences compared to Anies Baswedan and enjoys direct support from the presidential palace. Furthermore, President Joko Widodo has also chosen to relocate the capital city from Jakarta to a new location in the East Kalimantan province, with the implementation set to commence in August 2024. Whether this decision is motivated by technocratic considerations or an intention to shift political tensions elsewhere, it is noteworthy that the move coincides with the 2024 simultaneous elections. As mentioned by Aspinall and Berenschot (2019) on the uniqueness of clientelism in Indonesia, the appointment has given a rise on the discussion on the new form of clientelism in Indonesia. The 'contingent exchange' (Stokes et al. 2013) is not directly related to the voters' preferences. Instead, political transactions can occur between ruling party and the interim governor as a strategy to secure their policy preferences as well as being the first spot of the 2024 presidential election.

Paper 4. Learning space: pathways to health belief and behaviours of ethnic Yrou in southern Laos

Thippaphone (Kee) Xayavong (PhD candidate under the EUTOPIA co-tutelle program with the University of Warwick, UK and Cergy Paris Université, France). Email: thippaphone37@gmail.com

My PhD thesis, *Learning Space: Pathways to Health Belief and Behaviours* is an interdisciplinary research project that aims to study the health beliefs and health-seeking behaviours of the ethnic Yrou in southern Laos. The goal is to understand how health is perceived by the people and how they navigate their syncretic health-seeking behaviours in the context of modernization and development. For ethnic communities, their understanding of what can cause illness, while broader, often conflicts with the etiology of biomedicine. Social and cultural factors, such as their relationship with the land, morality, and social cohesion, are rooted in people's health beliefs and influence their healthcare decision-making. These cultural traits, which are common across the world, are fundamentally rejected by the biomedical approach that guides our global health interventions. However, my research with Yrou communities in southern Laos suggests that the perception of Yrou people on health issues today is not separate from their cosmological views and is not alienated from biomedical perspectives. While disease can harm health, the continuation of their living heritage, called *riid*, is also crucial for maintaining and preserving good health. This evolving understanding of health among the Yrou is critically important in expanding our knowledge of how development and modernity impact and change certain Yrou customary practices in contemporary times.

Paper 5. Can ethnic “microconflicts” starting from 1955 help explain the collapse of the government of the South and the birth of a united Vietnam in 1975?

Khang Do (PhD candidate at the University of Leeds, UK). Email: hykdo@leeds.ac.uk

My project attempts to explore the extent to which “microconflicts” starting from 1955 and precipitated by ethnic minority groups explain the collapse of the government of the South and the birth of united Vietnam in 1975. That is, I argue that the microconflicts instigated by ethnic minority groups within the southern territory of Vietnam were a direct consequence of the policies implemented by the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) government. The project emphasizes that these policies implemented under the First Republic (1955-1963), initially presented as integral to a “nation-building” endeavour, were later regarded as “assimilationist” policies that exhibited hostility towards ethnic minority communities primarily residing in the Central Highlands and Mekong Delta regions. As there is a limited number of literature in History focusing on the roles of ethnic minority groups during the war, my research is to fill in that gap. It is unique in a way that it draws primarily on sources housed in the Vietnam National Archive II and III (VNA-II and VNA-III), especially its enormous and still largely untapped trove of Vietnamese-language documents on ethnic minority under the republic. These two archives built by and for the postcolonial state store central, regional, and local reports dating from 1920 [VNA-II which is specifically for housing materials of the South Vietnamese government] and 1954 [VNA-III which is specifically for housing materials of the DRV]. Placing emphasis on archival research at the VNA-II and VNA-III, the project also posits that the RVN's endeavour to incorporate and rally support from ethnic minority groups against the infiltration efforts of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) ultimately proved futile, culminating in their defeat in 1975.

Paper 6. School-Going-Aged Refugees: Which Education Model Works Best for Malaysia?

Norani Abu Bakar (PhD candidate, Universiti Malaya). Email: norani.abubakar@aya.yale.edu

UNHCR reported that 44% of school-going-age (SGA) refugees in Malaysia are attending primary education and only 16% are attending secondary education. This number is much lower than the global refugee SGA enrolment rate of 68 and 37 percent, and the country's outstanding 2021 results of 99.8 and 97.8 percent completion rate of lower and upper secondary education respectively. With refugees' prolonged stay in Malaysia, providing quality and equitable education is fundamental for enhancing refugees' well-being and Malaysia's flourishing. Hence, a framework that can meet the educational needs of refugee and Malaysian students must be thoroughly developed. A comparison between different models needs to be first carried out to serve this purpose. This secondary research conducted a rigorous systematic literature review on peer-reviewed-literatures and grey literature on different education models for SGA refugees. The countries understudied are Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh, whose majority refugee population is from Myanmar. The findings are compared with the education models of Turkey and Jordan, Syrian majority refugee host countries. The result underpinned no one size fits all solutions, and that different models may be applicable at a different implementation stage.

Panel 54. PhD Roundtable (Part II)

Paper 1. Concept of Independence in Chairil's Poem "Diponegoro"

He Junde (PhD candidate in the Comparative Asian Studies Programme at the National University of Singapore). Email: he.junde@u.nus.edu

"Diponegoro" stands as one of Chairil Anwar's most remarkable poems, published during the Japan's occupation in Indonesia. The poem celebrates Diponegoro, a national hero in Indonesia. Indonesian scholar Arief Budiman delves into the major themes, the poet's emotions, and his concept of life through sequence analysis. Additionally, Chinese scholar Liang Liji explores the intersection of the poem's narratives and the social context, emphasizing how the portrayal of a national hero contributes to understanding of Chairil's attitude toward the Japanese occupation. In this paper, I explore how Chairil's values and characteristics intertwine with the social context during the Japan's occupation, using "Diponegoro" as a primary example. This is illustrated by drawing on both Budiman and Liang's analyses. Budiman examines Chairil's values throughout his life largely divorced from social settings. On the other hand, Liang meticulously scrutinizes the Japan's occupation as the backdrop with less focus on Chairil's individual traits. These two perspectives, when taken together, reveal that analyzing "Diponegoro" necessitates taking both personality and social context into account. This paper argues that the essential concept that Chairil seeks to express in "Diponegoro", is the concept of independence, which is crucial to both Diponegoro and Chairil. The pursuit of independence peaks in the social milieu of Indonesia under Japanese occupation, where Chairil desires to be free from any constraints and vehemently opposes any form of authority, let alone the Japanese. In this regard, Chairil depicts a national hero yearning for independence, mirroring his own desire for independence as well.

Paper 2. Interdependency embodiment: Fieldwork tale from Muay Thai apprenticeship

Arjin Thongyuukong (PhD candidate at the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, Loughborough University, UK). Email: A.Thongyuukong@lboro.ac.uk

Muay Thai is one of the most significant sports in Thailand. The network of Muay Thai consists of people of various social classes, from the national politicians to the rural poor, primarily boxers. Nowadays, after along decline, the Muay Thai industry faces a significant transformation, which I term "the gentrification of Muay Thai". Simultaneously, Thailand has recently been in a critical changing period, manifested in the long political conflict, which reflects social structure changes in various ways. Therefore, considering the transformation of the "culture of Muay Thai" provides the lucrative question of the structural change of Thailand, especially class relations. According to the particular training system of Muay Thai, most boxers live in the boxing camp throughout their career; so, there are not only training and fighting but also their everyday life in the camp, such as the schedule and strict rules that are based on the hierarchical relationship, that the culture of Muay Thai is embedded. Thus, I propose that the particular context of Muay Thai can be understood by considering the nurture techniques embodied in the body usage, including training, fighting, and interdependency relationship in their "camp life". The presentation is the fieldwork tale from my participant observation as an apprentice boxer living at a Muay Thai camp in Bangkok for two months. Employing the concept of embodiment and sportsnets applied by figurational sociology, I argue that not only physical training but also interdependence, especially hierarchical, relationships are internalized into boxers' bodies.

Paper 3. Coffee growers in Northern Thailand: socio-cultural perspectives

Lina Kukytė (PhD candidate in Ethnology at the Faculty of Humanities, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania). Email: lina.kukyte@vdu.lt

Today Thailand is the 20th largest coffee producing country in the world. Although coffee cultivation as an industry has existed for several hundred years, cultivation of coffee in Thailand did not begin until the 70s when King of Thailand established the Royal Project Foundation to empower communities in Northern Thailand, a mountainous region bordering Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, where the cultivation of rice and poppy fields for the production of opium has been one of the main sources of livelihood since the 19th century. The object of the research is the socio-cultural perspectives of coffee growers in Northern Thailand in the context of the relationship between man and nature, sustainability and sustainable development, revealed through the narratives of the coffee growers (well-informed informants), their personal experiences and stories. Research problem: how the increasing popularity and growing demand for quality coffee is changing the relationship with nature and sociocultural perspectives of coffee growers in Northern Thailand? The object of the proposed paper is scholarly analysis and debate on coffee growers in Northern Thailand. The aim is to write a historiography of academic research that has been done on the topic in the past. In order to achieve the goal, 3 tasks have been set up: 1) to point out influential books and papers that exemplified, shaped, or revolutionized the field of study; 2) to find out the scholars who have been the most effective in changing the scope of the debate; 3) to describe the current trends in the field of study.

Paper 4. "Is this getting too graphic?" Translating Sex-Related Language in Teenlit and Young Adult Novels from English to Indonesian (2005-2022)

Lidya Pawestri Ayuningtyas (PhD candidate, University of Western Australia). Email: lidya.ayuningtyas@research.uwa.edu.au

This research investigates the translation of sex-related language and content, including vocabulary and scenes, in teenlit (teenage literature) and young adult novels (YA) from English to Indonesian. Focusing on the period between 2005 and 2022, the study will analyze the translations of six YA novels about sexual assault and rape as case studies to understand the challenges and strategies employed by translators. This study will take into account the expected audiences (teenage, young adult, and general readerships) and their relation to the translation strategies used for each categorization. The study compares the portrayal of sex in translated and non-translated teenlit and YA novels in Indonesia dealing with a similar topic. The findings of this research will test whether the translation of sex-related language in teenlit and YA novels has been toned down (sanitized), over-sexualized, or maintained to have the same impact. Qualitative approach by combining textual and descriptive analysis and quantitative approach are employed in this study. The study will contribute to Indonesia's teenlit and YA literary landscape, the understanding of translation practices, and will provide insights for translators dealing with taboo topics such as explicit or graphic sex-related language and scenes, specifically in the context of teenlit and YA novels.

Paper 5. Making nature, making place: biodiversity conservation, ecotourism and indigenous livelihoods in and around Ulu Temburong National Park, Brunei Darussalam

Napak Serirak (PhD candidate at the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam). Email: 21h6501@ubd.edu.bn

The creation of 'protected areas' fundamentally changes how local people see, use and relate to their surroundings. The purpose of the study is to interrogate how local people, through their indigenous livelihoods, make 'nature' and, inseparably, 'place'. This research aims to analyse how local knowledge of the more-than-human landscape is used, produced, and represented in the livelihoods of communities located beside Ulu Temburong National Park, Brunei Darussalam. Ulu Temburong National Park and its surrounds is suitable for this study because it is situated at the nexus of biodiversity research, conservation and ecotourism, which have been, more or less, studied separately. In this location the local residents play pivotal yet subordinate roles in all three areas. The local people, mostly Iban but also Murut (Lun Bawang) and Bisaya, are arguably understudied and underrepresented in Brunei. Their settlement locations rendered them most vulnerable to the livelihood changes resulted from the creation of national park. Research methods will include historical, textual research, participant observation and interviews. One intended aspect of experiential participant observation is to closely shadow local people in their work environments. Research participants will be identified based on their knowledge, expertise and work experience which includes scientific research assistants, forestry department officers, tourist guides, boat crews and park rangers. Upon completion, I propose this study can contribute to the debates on conservation and development nexus as well as Borneo Studies and Southeast Asian Studies, particularly on the impact of 'protected areas' upon the transformation of local ecological knowledge and indigenous livelihoods.

Paper 6. "New Chinese Painting" and the Chinese in Southeast Asia: Research on Gao Jianfu's 1930 Exhibition in Singapore

Zeyu Ji (PhD candidate at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China). Email: zeyujqz@outlook.com

In December 1930, a journey through Southeast Asia was undertaken by Gao Jianfu, who is renowned as the pioneer of "New Chinese Painting" and the Founder of the Lingnan School of Painting within China. During his travels, art exhibitions were held in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur by Gao. The exhibitions demonstrated Gao Jianfu's vision of "the fusion between East and West" in art. Immense admiration for both the exhibitions and their underlying concept was garnered from the Chinese community, thereby creating a vivid contrast with the artistic environment in Canton, China. Beyond the Chinese diaspora, the exhibitions also captured the attention of Westerners living in Malaya. The varying critical perspectives highlighted the disparities in aesthetic judgments among different cultural backgrounds. This paper delves into the intricacies of Gao Jianfu's exhibition strategies and their profound influence on the Chinese community of Singapore. Drawing from Chinese and Southeast Asian newspapers, as well as Gao Jianfu's personal correspondence, this paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the exhibitions and aims to explore the nuanced context of art appreciation within the Southeast Asian Chinese diaspora.



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On behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK, we hope to see you again at the next conference in 2025!

Adam Tyson

Chair, Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK

Associate Professor, University of Leeds

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