



ARI NEWS

A newsletter of the Asia Research Institute, NUS

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Asian Metacentre receives Wellcome Trust grant

The Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis was recently awarded a grant worth S\$1,377,370 by The Wellcome Trust (UK) for a study titled "Transnational Migration in SE Asia and the Health of Children Left Behind". The research team will be led by Principal Investigator Professor Brenda Yeoh, National University of Singapore, and Co-Principal Investigator Professor Elspeth Graham from University of St Andrews. Members of the team include Professor Paul Boyle (University of St Andrews), Associate Professor Chee Heng Leng (Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore) as well as Associate Professor Wong Mee Lian (Department of Community, Occupational and Family Medicine, National University of Singapore). The four country collaborators on this project are Dr Sukamdi, Center for Population and Policy Studies, Indonesia; Dr Maruja Asis, Philippines; Dr Aree Jampaklay, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand and Dr Dang N. Anh, Institute of Sociology, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam.

The team at University of St Andrews was concurrently awarded a separate grant worth £196,438 (around S\$589,314) for research assistance, expenses and equipment incurred in the United Kingdom for this study.

The proposal for this study evolved from discussions at three international workshops (Asian Transnational Families, The Impacts of Migration on the Left Behind in Asia and Population and Development in Asia: Critical Issues for a Sustainable Future) organised by the Asian MetaCentre, National University of Singapore, and from preliminary research by the two UK-based investigators while Visiting Fellows at NUS. The workshops identified migration as a major driver of health outcomes. Most past research has focused on the health of migrants themselves, including their role as vectors for disease spread. Complex transnational migration flows assume a structural role in Asian economies and societies, but little is known about the

multi-dimensional impacts on left-behind families. A recent WHO report concentrates on the 'brain drain' of health professionals in its section on 'health implications for those left behind'. It is not yet known whether left-behind children are more vulnerable to poor health outcomes, nor in what way, when and under what circumstances they benefit and/or suffer from the absence of parents. This study thus seeks to fill this significant gap in existing knowledge.

The study will examine the health and welfare outcomes, in four South-East Asian countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) for children under 12 years of age left behind when their father and/or mother became a transnational migrant. Primary cross-sectional data will be collected from both migrant and non-migrant households across sampled communities and will include anthropometric measurements, validated health measures (e.g. SDQ) and wellbeing measures. Multivariate techniques (logistic or multinomial regression) will be used to build a series of models incorporating contextual and individual independent variables and will be designed to test five important hypotheses. In sum, these formalize expectations that the health and well-being of left-behind children is positively associated with father's absence, and (for physical health) with mother's absence under certain conditions, but (for mental health/well-being) negatively associated with mother's absence.

Selected qualitative interviews will provide in-depth insight into issues raised and aid the interpretation of quantitative findings. The key goals of this study are to: 1) establish systematic associations between parental absence and child health/well-being; 2) provide a basis for future longitudinal analysis on an under-researched topic; 3) contribute to an evidence base for policy development.

This study, to be conducted over three years, will commence officially in January 2007. In total, the Asian MetaCentre has been awarded over S\$5 million by The Wellcome Trust.

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR – PROFESSOR ANTHONY REID



Profs Reid and Miksic with the Aceh Governor, in the historic 'pendopo' where colonial governors received their guests

Aceh Reborn

Forty years ago I wrote a dissertation about the loss of Aceh's independence in the nineteenth century, without having been able to go there. In the era of konfrontasi going anywhere in Indonesia was not easy. But from 1967 I began to visit Aceh regularly for my research, watching what appeared to be its gradual 'normalisation' as a province of Indonesia after decades of violence culminating in the destruction of the left in 1965-6. The economic technocrats who dominated the province under Suharto, providing most of its governors in the 1970s and '80s, appeared to be able to deliver better roads and infrastructure, gradually reducing its isolation and discomfort within Indonesia. Nevertheless the tensions deriving from the military crackdown on the independence movement became apparent after 1989.

The years since the fall of Suharto in 1998 have been traumatic, to say the least. Democratisation and the referendum in East Timor brought dreams of independence and demilitarisation. A rising tide of violence was interrupted by a negotiated cessation of hostilities in December 2002, and then another attempt at a military solution by the Army the following May. The terrible earthquake and tsunami of December 2004 came at a time when Aceh was under stern military control, with foreign contacts limited to an absolute minimum. Hence while SBY's decision to allow the international community to come to Aceh's aid was essential by any reckoning, it was done in a generous spirit which implied the possibility of a wholly new beginning, in which Indonesia and the international community might work together to fulfil Aceh's potential in peace. Confirming this spirit, the peace agreement of August 2005, between the Indonesian Government and the Aceh independence movement (GAM) allowed for the fullest self-government for Aceh within Indonesia, including Aceh's right to conduct direct communication with the world outside.

The unprecedented international response to the tsunami has brought thousands of aid workers to Aceh, from Indonesia and around the world. They are due to depart by 2009, when the reconstruction process will be complete. The Aceh Monitoring Mission of European and ASEAN peace observers should be gone before the end of this year. Where then Aceh? Will the self-government ideal that brought the peace be able to survive if Aceh becomes again a closed and frustrated backwater?

In the hope of retaining international interest and involvement in the long term, the Reconstruction Agency for Aceh and Nias (BRR) has asked ARI to organise an international

conference in February 2007. This will assemble potential international experts and stakeholders to assess the progress made and plot the road ahead. It is hoped that support will thereby be mobilised for a long-term Research Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies, which will retain and expand international interest in Aceh. ARI will be one of the bodies around the world, along with KITLV in the Netherlands, EFEO in France, and ANU's College of Asia and the Pacific in Australia, seeking to ensure that the scholarly world retains an interest in Aceh through this new Centre.

The following sections explain three areas in which ARI is helping in the rehabilitation of Aceh and the assessment of one of the largest international disaster relief efforts ever seen. These areas mesh with the research activities of several colleagues in ARI and NUS more broadly. Michael Feener is investigating the ways in which Islamic Law is implemented in Aceh and elsewhere in the region; Patrick Daly is pursuing his interests both in heritage recovery and in early settlement patterns; Barbara Nowak, with support from World Vision International, is assessing the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes; John Miksic and (former ARI Visiting Fellow) Ed McKinnon are extending what we know of Aceh's proto-history in association with Acehnese colleagues; my own current research analyses the evolution of Southeast Asian identities, of which Aceh's is an important case study.

First International Conference of Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies 24 - 26 February 2007; Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Aceh has passed the mid-point of the reconstruction phase that followed the Tsunami of December 2004, and is 18 months on from the MoU that ended its long war. It is timely to take stock of what the world has learned from Aceh, and Aceh from the world, during these processes. This will be the first international conference to bring together both experts on Acehnese society and history, and those who have been intensively concerned with post-tsunami developments. Conscious of Aceh's historic role as Indonesia's point of intersection with the Indian Ocean world, the Conference will play particular attention to the factors that linked Aceh to these two worlds, including disaster relief and peace-making.

This conference is sponsored by the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Executing Agency for Aceh and Nias (BRR) and the Asia Research Institute, National University of

Singapore. The papers of the conference will form the basis of a path-breaking book, to be published in both English and Indonesian.

The three-day conference will contain the following panels:

1. Seismology, geology and environmental impact
2. History of Aceh and the Indian Ocean world
3. Language, culture and society
4. Post-tsunami relief, reconstruction and disaster mitigation and development
5. Conflict resolution, peace-making and democratisation issues
6. Islam, law and society

The Academic organization is in the hands of a team led by Professor Anthony Reid, Director, Asia Research Institute.

Expressions of interest to attend the conference should be addressed to Ms Alyson Rozells (ariaar@nus.edu.sg) for International participants or Mr Sidik Permana (sidik.permana@brr.go.id) for Indonesian participants.

For more information, log on to <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/conf2007/acehconf-feb2007.htm>

Proposed International Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies

The International Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies (ICAIOS) aims to serve as the institutional foundation to maintain a permanent international scholarly presence in Aceh, facilitating ongoing research on both this region, and broader thematic issues that can be fruitfully examined in the context of contemporary Aceh. Furthermore, the Centre will provide a valuable resource for the Acehnese intellectual community.

ICAIOS aims to host research projects and individual scholars in Aceh, and provide essential academic infrastructure. It will use its resources to develop and maintain a quality library, website and database on Acehnese society, culture and history, in cooperation with local educational and cultural institutions. Other functions of the Centre will include:

- Acting as a link between Aceh and international scholarly organizations by sponsoring visits, exhibitions, and lectures
- Holding regular conferences, and ensuring publication of the outcomes either electronically or in book form
- Training Acehnese personnel in research methods
- Placing Acehnese students abroad



Effects of the tsunami



Profs Tony Reid with the Director of Aceh Museum, Drs Nurdin, briefing bulldozer driver on the need to preserve heritage

Implementation Plan

The Centre will be managed by international and local research staff appointed and supervised by an International Board. In the formative stage, the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore, in cooperation with the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency for Aceh and Nias (BRR) is inviting support from academic institutions, NGOs and foundations to ensure that ICAIOS realizes its potential and becomes a permanent part of Aceh's cultural, scientific and intellectual landscape.

ICAIOS will be launched at an international conference in February 2007, at which scholars and potential patrons are invited to discuss the agenda of the Centre, and give further definition, momentum, and support to its various research initiatives.

For further information please contact: ariaaceh@nus.edu.sg or log onto the web-site at <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/aceh.htm>

ARI-WorldVision collaboration

Together with World Vision, one of the world's largest Christian relief and development organizations, ARI has established a research project focusing on the former's post-tsunami programmes in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Research Fellow Barbara Nowak has been recruited from New Zealand to lead this research (see New ARI Members on page 6).

Capitalizing on their respective strengths – ARI's focus on the social sciences and World Vision's experience from its field operations – the collaboration is expected to produce learning papers on post-tsunami programme themes that include the following: conflict sensitivity, HIV/AIDS awareness, shelter programmes, gender, advocacy, ICT, creation of child-friendly spaces, land tenure, human rights, and public records issues. Such papers, while undoubtedly valuable to World Vision's internal learning processes, are also expected to foster exploration of insights gleaned from various post-tsunami efforts beyond World Vision's sphere.

RECENT ARI EVENTS

Conference on 'Of Asian Origin': Rethinking Tourism in Contemporary Asia & Graduate Workshop on Questions of Methodology: Researching Tourism in Asia

Held from the 5 – 9 September, the conference set out to re-think tourism in contemporary Asia, and challenged participants to look at familiar spaces but shed familiar assumptions and question stereotypes. Bringing together over 60 panelists from 15 countries and various disciplines, the conference managed to generate conversations across genres and national boundaries.



By coming to different conclusions regarding the validity and applicability of existing debates within the literature, the conference avoided falling in to the trap of essentializing Asia as somewhere and something that is fundamentally 'different'. More fruitfully, the conference asked what analytical themes need to be called into question. Using Asia as the empirical starting point, how are the conceptual categories of heritage, the tourist, authenticity, modernity or performance articulated? As one of the speakers indicated, such questions and dilemmas can sustain decades of research. In harmony, however, the papers called for Asia to become a context from which theory emerges.

The conference also addressed the question of scale. Lying between local and regionalized accounts were studies which reflected upon how nation-states are responding to the changing nature of tourism in Asia. Closely related to the issue of scale is the problem of defining Asia's borders and boundaries. The degree to which Australia and New Zealand are part of 'the region' are important questions that were asked. Demarcating boundaries was also an issue posed by papers which dealt with tourism going online, and Asia becomes a cyber-continent, a borderless geography where space is seamless and invisible.

And why use the expression 'of Asian origin'? Presentations on diaspora in Europe and North America showed why Asian tourism needs to be approached with a geographical elasticity. Are Sikhs, for example, who live in the UK or Italy and holiday in the Punjab, returnees or tourists? And why should those that fled Macau over a number of decades now be at the heart of the city's tourism planning? These were interesting questions that were posed.

Often tourism is defined by mutual processes of 'othering' between the host and guest. Encountering the 'other' at once both divides and brings the parties together. A number of papers given drew attention to how intra-regional and domestic tourism demands a more critical reading of what, or who, constitutes the 'other' in Asia today. For example,

papers which spoke about Doi Moi policies and Post-Suharto reforms which created the wealth and political space for both Vietnamese and Indonesians to become increasingly mobile. In de-stabilizing the assumptions of who is the consumer, these domestic consumers have emerged as the 'other', out of place tourists within tour operator and state policies oriented towards a prototypical, idealized western guest.

By exploring the relationship between media and tourism, some papers presented brought Asia to the fore in ongoing debates concerning how tourist bodies are drawn into new social relations that are being played out in both material and non-material spaces.

While working at very different scales, the papers presented considered how we extrapolate, and how we speak of trends, or patterns. In the 1970s and 80s tourist typologies were popular points of focus, but such approaches came to be seen as static and empirically untenable. Surely to pursue the 'Asian tourist' as a conceptual category would be a return to an analytical stasis and intransigence? Clearly the boundaries between recognizing 'traits' or 'characteristics' and reductive typologies are thin and often unclear. Both in its conception and implementation this conference embraced such risks in the spirit of probing new ground, and crossing intellectual boundaries.

The graduate workshop, held 2 days prior to the conference, was co-organized with the University of Otago and brought together graduate students at different points in their graduate careers as well as from various fieldwork sites across Asia. There was a stimulating sharing of thoughts and trials faced in the process of doing tourism research in Asia, much of the discussion revolving around the interconnected issues of positionality, epistemology, ethics and access. While it was acknowledged that there had been very useful questions asked, the workshop concluded that the task of arriving at productive answers would require more sustained interrogation.

RECENT ARI EVENTS

Conference on international marriage, rights and the state in Southeast and East Asia & Workshop on Muslim-non-Muslim marriage, rights and the state in Southeast Asia 21-23 September 2006

The Changing Family in Asia Research Cluster organized a three-day event around the theme of marriage, rights and the state, from 21 to 23 September 2006. Both the two day conference and the workshop on the third day were about marriages that cross boundaries – in the case of international marriage, boundaries of nation states that determine citizenship rights and access to services; and in the case of Muslim-non-Muslim marriage, boundaries of religious jurisprudence that determine religious freedom and identity.

The conference opened with a keynote address by Bryan Turner. His paper focused on citizenship. Conceptualising citizenship as based on a set of processes for the distribution of entitlements, he drew attention to the justification of these entitlements as based on the principles of contributions to society based on work, war, or reproduction; on the last of these, he raised the complex issues of sexual rights as constituting some emerging form of sexual citizenship.

The first panel in the conference was designed to address the broader issues of international marriage. The paper, 'A history of sex and the state in Southeast Asia', was an interrogation of the terms 'international' and 'marriage' in 'international marriage', and brought to the fore interesting questions of legitimacy and state sanction in relation to intimate relationships in the history of the region. This was followed by a paper which provided an overview of the rising trends in international marriage in East and Southeast Asian countries in the last decade or so, surveyed the literature on the factors contributing to this rising trend, and identified the crucial gaps requiring further research. Finally, a paper on international marriage and issues of citizenship in Japan raised questions on state control of families, focusing on the anomalies presented by a rigid state system in an era of rapid globalization.

Four subsequent panels focused on specific countries or communities. The second panel dealt with state interventions in international marriages in Indonesia, South Korea and Taiwan, while the two papers in the third panel presented the situation of couples in Filipino-Korean intermarriages in Korea, and of Indonesian women in Bintan who are married to Singaporean husbands who travel back and forth.

The papers in the two panels on the second day of the conference extended the discussion on institutional barriers and legal perspectives. One paper highlighted the role played by non-governmental organisations in working for legal change in Indonesia; another with marriages between Japanese women and American military personnel in Okinawa, highlighting the barriers faced by the women



when seeking their rights upon dissolution of their marriages. Two papers on Singapore ignited some heated discussion on the ways in which state ideology, over and above the legal institutions, manages to exercise control over the family, while a paper on family law in Taiwan provided a comparative case for the Singapore situation.

Overall, the papers presented and the discussion that took place in the panels of the conference ranged over most if not all the salient issues of international marriages today.

The workshop on the third day was specifically focused on marriage between Muslims and non-Muslims. Much of the discussion in the first session was focused on issues arising in Indonesia and Malaysia, the two Muslim majority countries in the region. In both countries, different legal and court systems govern marriages for Muslims and non-Muslims; but while the current debates in Indonesia centre around the permissibility of marriages between Muslims and non-Muslims, in Malaysia, where these marriages cannot be legally sanctioned, the controversy is over religious conversion and individual religious freedom.

In the second session, three papers were presented on specific cases; the first on the consequences to entitlements and rights when a partner in an existing civil marriage converts into Islam in Malaysia, the second on religious and ethnic identity in cases of religious conversion for marriage in Minangkabau society in Sumatra, and the third on inter-faith marriages among Muslims in Southern Thailand. The three papers in the third session were further in-depth expositions of the recent changes and debates in Indonesia. In the final session, papers on recent legal cases in Malaysia, on the legal changes in Indonesia, and on the Singapore situation, provoked further discussion of significant issues from a cross-country comparative perspective.

It is hoped that the issues presented in the papers and the in-depth discussion that ensued will initiate further systematic study of this highly controversial subject.

NEW ARI MEMBERS

Dr Noboru Ishikawa commenced an 11-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (Southeast Asia-China Interactions cluster) on 1 August 2006. Noboru is Associate Professor of Social Anthropology at the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. He obtained his PhD in Anthropology from the Graduate Centre, City University of New York and is the author of a range of articles on the borderlands and riverine societies of Borneo (Sarawak and West Kalimantan), nation and identity, transnationalism, and political economy of the Malay world. His publications include *Dislocating Nation-States: Globalization in Asia and Africa* (2005) and *Between Frontiers: Nation and Identity in a Southeast Asian Borderland* (forthcoming). While at ARI, he intends to work on several projects dealing with Japanese-Chinese transnational corporate networks in Southeast Asia and commodity chains between Southeast and East Asia.



Dr Tran Thi Que Ha commenced a one year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Cities cluster in ARI on 7 August 2006. She has had an interest in architectural history and traditional architecture since she was a student at the Architecture Department, National University of Civil Engineering, Hanoi, Vietnam. She obtained her MA at Showa Woman University in Japan in 1999 and PhD at Tokyo Metropolitan University in 2005. An architect by training, she specializes in architectural history, traditional architecture and heritage conservation. She has participated at some international projects for conservation traditional timber houses and village in Vietnam and published several papers in the *Journal of Architecture in Japan*. During her stay in ARI, she plans to complete a book manuscript based on her doctoral research as well as work on her new research project on adapting Vietnamese traditional architectural features for designing and urban planning of new housing estates.



Dr Noorhaidi Hasan commenced a one year appointment as Postdoctoral Fellow (Religion and Globalisation cluster) on 4 September 2006. Noorhaidi is a scholar of political Islam whose research interests include various manifestations of political Islam in contemporary Indonesia and other Muslim-populated countries in Southeast



Asia. Having completed his BA in Islamic law from the State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, he was appointed a teaching staff at the same university. He obtained MA from Leiden University (1999), MPhil from the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (2000), and PhD from Utrecht University (2005). Besides delivering lectures in a dozen academic institutions and presenting papers in various academic forums in Indonesia and abroad, he has taught political Islam in the State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta and the State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. In addition, he has regularly published papers in refereed journals and short articles in newspapers and newsletters. He has also published a book, *Laskar Jihad: Islam, Militancy and the Quest for Identity in Post-New Order Indonesia* (Ithaca, New York: Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 2006), which was derived from his dissertation awarded cum laude.

Dr Barbara Sue Nowak commenced a two year appointment as Senior Research Fellow (Changing Family Cluster/World Vision Project) on 7 September 2006. Barbara comes to ARI by way of the Institute of Development Studies at Massey University in New Zealand. Trained as an anthropologist at the State University of New York at Buffalo (MA 1975, PhD 1987), Barbara has been doing research among Hma' Btsisi', an Orang Asli "indigenous" community in Peninsular Malaysia since 1980. In particular, her work focuses around issues of gender relations, kinship, family and household, land tenure and work among Btsisi'. As a consequence of her research with Btsisi' she has recently become involved in a cross-national study examining the local socio-economic and environmental impact of the oil palm industry; at both the small holder as well as multi-national producer level. She was Massey University's representative on the New Zealand Natural Hazards Cluster team which went to Aceh following the Boxing Day tsunami. The team's mandate was to explore ways the NZ community might assist in Aceh's reconstruction. This has led to her working with UNESCO to explore methods for improving disaster preparedness education in Indonesia. It is this work which brings her to ARI. While here, she will be working with World Vision to produce a number of working papers examining their projects in post-tsunami Asia.



NEW ARI MEMBERS

Dr Maznah Mohamed

commenced a one year appointment as Visiting (Senior) Research Fellow (Changing Family cluster) on 2 October 2006. Maznah received her PhD from the University of Malaya, M.A from Stanford University, California and her B.A from Macalester College, Minnesota. She was formerly with the School of Social Sciences, University of Science Malaysia and has held positions as the Deputy Dean of Social Sciences and Director of the Women's Development Research Centre. Her major research interests are in the fields of Malay, Gender and Islamic Studies. Her publications include, *The Malay Handloom Weavers: A Study of the Rise and Decline of Traditional Manufacture* (ISEAS, 1996); *Risking Malaysia: Culture, Politics and Identity* (co-edited, Penerbit UKM, 2001) and *Feminism and the Women's Movement in Malaysia* (co-authored, Routledge, 2006). She has also published articles on Malaysian politics, Islam, democracy and human rights. While at ARI she will research and write on the changing political-economy and history of the Malay family, while relating this to the issues of contested nationalisms, cultural fragmentation and institutionalized religiosity in contemporary society.



Ms Chong Mei Peen

assumed the role of a human resource officer for ARI on 11 September 2006. She has a Bachelors Degree in Arts & Social Science from the National University of Singapore and is currently pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management at the Singapore Institute of Management.



APPOINTMENTS

(Senior) Visiting Fellowships and Postdoctoral Fellowships

Applications are invited for (Senior) Visiting Fellowships and Postdoctoral Fellowships for commencement between July 2007 and June 2008.

The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers from both the Asian region and the world, to bring to completion an important program of research in the social sciences and humanities. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. "Asia" as a research field is defined loosely in terms of the region in which Singapore is positioned. Up to three months of a 12-month fellowship can be spent conducting fieldwork in the Asian region.

The closing date for applications is **31 January 2007**.

Visiting (Senior) Fellowships (under ARI Sabbatical Leave Scheme)

The positions are intended for researchers who would like to devote the sabbatical term from their home institutions in conducting work in ARI, NUS. The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers on Asian topics. The positions will be allocated to one of the ARI research clusters.

The closing date for applications is **30 November 2006**.

ASEAN Research Scholars

Applications are invited from ASEAN citizens enrolled for a fulltime advanced degree at a university in an ASEAN country (except Singapore). These fellowships are offered to students working in the Humanities and Social Sciences on Asian topics, and will allow the recipients to be based at NUS for an 'in residence fellowship' for a period of three months. Scholars will be expected to commence on 1 May 2007, and to make a presentation on their work at the Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies in July.

The closing date for the application of this fellowship is **1 December 2006**.

Details of all these positions are available at:
http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/article_view.asp?id=6
Or email: joinari@nus.edu.sg

ARI RECOGNITION AND NEW BOOKS

Professor Anthony Reid gave a Public Lecture, 'Is there a Batak History?' at the Museum Dahlem, Grosser Vortragsraum on 22 September 2006 in the context of the International Conference on 'Archaeology and Ethnohistory in the Highlands of Sumatra', Frei Universiteit, Berlin.

Dr Tran Thi Que Ha was made a member of the Architectural Institute of Japan.

Dr Johannes Widodo was made member of the International editorial board, ASEAN Journal on Hospitality and Tourism (International Refereed Journal), Bandung, Indonesia.

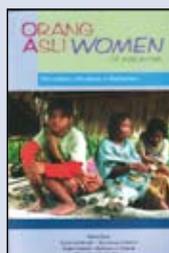
Congratulations to **Professor Gavin Jones** on the birth of a baby girl, Stephanie!



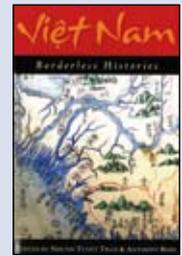
Rethinking Thailand's Southern Violence
Duncan McCargo (contributing editor)
Singapore: Singapore University Press
2006



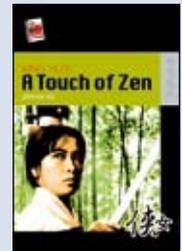
Orang Asli Women of Malaysia: perceptions, situations and aspirations
Adela Baer, Karen Endicott, Rosemary Gianno, Signe Howell, **Barbara S Nowak** and Cornelia van der Sluys
Suang Jaya: Centre for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC)
2006



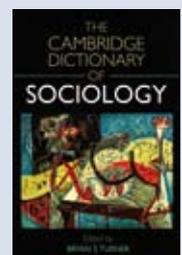
Viet Nam: Borderless Histories
Nhung Tuyet Tran and Anthony Reid (editors)
Madison: University of Wisconsin Press
2006
(Nhung was a visiting fellow at ARI in 2006)



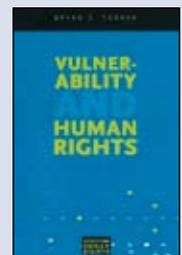
A Touch of Zen
Stephen Teo
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press
2006



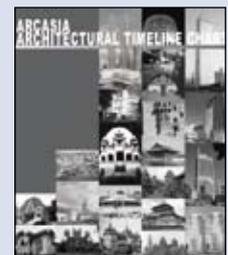
The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology
Bryan S Turner (editor)
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
2006



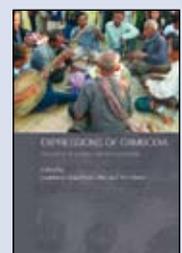
Vulnerability and Human Rights
Bryan S Turner
University Park, PA: Penn State University Press
2006



ARCASIA Architectural Timeline Chart
Johannes Widodo & Y D Reyes (editors)
Manila: Architects Regional Council Asia and the University of Santo Thomas Publishing House
2006



Expressions of Cambodia: the politics of tradition, identity and change
Leakthina Chau-Peck Ollier & **Tim Winter** (contributing editor)
London: Routledge
2006
(Work on this book was completed while Tim was a postdoctoral fellow at ARI)



Working and Mothering in Asia: Images, Ideologies and Identities
Theresa W. Devasahayam and Brenda S.A. Yeoh (editors)
Singapore/Denmark: Singapore University Press/NIAS
2006
(Theresa was a postdoctoral fellow at ARI where work on this book was completed)

ASIAN METACENTRE FOR POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

Recent Conference

Asia Pacific Childhoods Conference: "New Concepts and Networks for Asia-Pacific Child Researchers"
17 - 20 July 2006
National University of Singapore

The study of children is particularly important in countries experiencing rapid change, where new and emerging needs of children may be poorly understood by adults and welfare agencies. In the Asia-Pacific Region there have been many problem-oriented conferences on children (concentrating for example on street children or child trafficking) but there has not until now been a conference devoted to the academic study of children and childhood in the region. The Asia-Pacific Childhoods Conference, reviving the successful model of 'ethnography of childhood' workshops held in Britain, Canada and Zimbabwe in the 1980s, aimed to contribute to the emergence of a network of researchers, producing and sharing ideas and information about Asia-Pacific childhoods across disciplinary and theory/practice divides, which reflect the diversity of cultures and contexts in the region.

The 'ethnography of childhood' model allows a focus not only on the results of research but also on issues of child-centred and child-friendly methods of research with children, while breaking away from purely Euro-American models and research data which have tended to dominate the theorising of childhood.

The conference, on the National University of Singapore campus, was jointly hosted by many collaborating

Departments of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as well as the Asia Research Institute and the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis. The organizers are also grateful to the following organizations for their generous contributions: British Academy; Children's Geographies; Como Foundation; Institute of Social Studies, The Hague; Lee Foundation; Oak Foundation; SEASREP Foundation; UNAIDS Regional Support Team Asia Pacific; UNICEF East Asian and Pacific Regional Office; UNICEF Pacific; University of Manitoba; University of Wales, Swansea and Wenner Gren Foundation.

Besides plenary sessions on cross-cutting themes of particular regional importance (including research methods, education and HIV/AIDS) four specialist symposia focused on Change and Continuity in Asia-Pacific Childhoods; The Everyday Lives of Children; Children, Citizenship and Policy; and Violence and Children. The sessions combined contributions from both junior and senior researchers (the most senior, Dr. Anne Wee in fact was 80 years old). The discussions highlighted the many blind spots in academic and professional perceptions of the situations and relations in which children are involved, and the major policy gaps and implementation failures which often arise from the lack of recognition of children's realities. Participants re-affirmed the potentials of child-focused ethnography and of children's often unrecognised potential, through meaningful partnerships, to undertake research and influence policy themselves.

For more information on the conference and follow-ups, please visit the website at www.knowingchildren.org/conference/nus

Recent Publication

Research Paper Series No. 21 (August 2006)
A Case Study of British Media Discourses of the Indian Ocean Tsunami: The December 2006 Coverage
Tracey L. Skelton

Abstract

This working paper provides a discourse analysis of the ways in which a prominent British newspaper, The Guardian, represented the Indian Ocean Tsunami during the last five days of December 2004. The paper explores the ways in which discourses of tropicality, development and vulnerability as proposed by Greg Bankoff, provide a framework for 'reading' the Guardian texts. It critically interrogates the role of geography, the constructions of 'others', and how technocratic and interventionist approaches to natural hazards are presented as the most appropriate Western action. The paper demonstrates the visual mapping of the world as donors and recipients and critically engages with the ramifications of such persistent representations. The paper closes with a lament about the ways in which the Guardian missed an opportunity to challenge Western stereotypes of people and places and thereby, at an incredibly difficult time for the countries affected, failed to contribute positively to wider debates about social justice, development and social change.

New Appointment

The Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS), invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellow to work on a research project entitled **"Transnational Migration in SE Asia and the Health of Children Left Behind"**. The successful candidate is expected to start work in January 2007, or at latest, within the first quarter of 2007. Applications should reach us by **1 December 2006**.

Please refer to <http://www.populationasia.org/Vacancies.htm> for more information.

FORTHCOMING ARI EVENTS

WORKSHOP INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 20 – 21 November 2006

Over the last decade and a half, international migration has become an increasingly recognized feature of contemporary development discourse in countries across the world. The most visible evidence and measure of development in source countries connected to migration are the remittances. The interest in remittances has centered upon their volume and their contribution to national and local development mainly through investments in 'productive activities'. There are however, other, social dimensions of development, which have not yet been given sufficient attention. The meaning of 'social development' as it pertains to issues of work, social welfare, health, education, respect for human rights and democratization of human relations requires more in-depth exploration, empirically as well as theoretically. In this context, the workshop will also explore the linkages between migration policy and social policy.

ARI LECTURE THE SOCIAL LIFE OF OPIUM IN CHINA DR ZHENG YANGWEN 29 November 2006, The National Library

Recreational smoking was foreign to China, as was opium itself - like tea to England. How and when, then, did opium smoking come to lodge itself within the sophisticated Chinese consumer culture? The lecture will trace opium's transformation over a period of 500 years and reflect on how the Chinese people of different classes and regions redefined a foreign way of leisure and developed a complex culture of consumption around its use.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CHRISTIANITY AND THE STATE IN ASIA: COMPLICITY AND CONFLICT 10 – 12 January 2007

Christianity boasts one of the largest and most rapidly growing religious followings in Asia. The end of the Cold War and the subsequent Asian economic liberalisation has encouraged both the flourishing of Christian evangelism and the rising prominence of Christianity in the public sphere. This conference seeks to bring Christianity in Asia into sharper focus by exploring local and regional experiences and perceptions of the faith today. The manner in which Christians

in contemporary Asia – in communities and as individuals – negotiate their positions within the state will be used as a key to understanding expressions of Christianity in the region. Two key questions would define the conference agenda: In an increasingly globalised world, what does it mean to be Christian in contemporary Asia? And, what social and political position does Christianity occupy in a regional perspective?

WORKSHOP MOMENTS IN THE MAKING OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN ISLAM 5 – 6 February 2007

Whether the start date is taken from the tombs found in present-day Aceh, or from the moment that Muslim traders found themselves in the region, Islam has an undeniably long history in Southeast Asia. Arguably, it has played a formative role in the creation of several of the region's nation-states, and the many polities that preceded them. An established literature describes that a history exists, in both European and Asian languages, yet it is time to take stock of that body of knowledge to see if there is a broad consensus regarding what the key moments have been in the making of Southeast Asian Islam. For while there are some historical events - whether of conversion, doctrinal debates, or anti-colonial rebellions - it may not be the case that all will agree that they have been of long-term significance or deserve treatment as historical 'facts'. This workshop will therefore aim to initiate a conversation with locally based experts in Southeast Asia to determine a broad outline for a history of the moments that matter.

WORKSHOP ON MOBILE CITY SINGAPORE 1-2 March 2007

Spanning Singapore's history as a colonial entrepot to its present as a 'cosmopolising' global city, 'Singapore stories' are frequently tales of departure and arrival. This workshop will explore various dimensions of migration and this global city-state from multidisciplinary perspectives. It will examine the historical and contemporary experiences of immigrants and sojourners in Singapore and overseas Singaporeans as well as the redefinitions of city and state spaces that multiple crossings of national boundaries have entailed. Contributions will address various themes like: Histories of migration and migration research in Singapore; changes in migration policies and trends over time; those who leave and those who stay; the way migrants negotiate 'home' and 'away'; their experiences of citizenship; the way the economic, political and socio-cultural consequences of migration are negotiated, and so on.

THE ARI INTERVIEW – PROFESSOR DUNCAN McCARGO



DUNCAN MCCARGO is Professor of Southeast Asian Politics at the University of Leeds, U.K. At ARI, he is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Religion and Globalisation Cluster. At ARI, he is working on a book (to be published by Cornell University Press) about religion and political conflict in Patani, Southern Thailand.. Aside from delivering numerous seminars around NUS, Professor McCargo's insight is frequently solicited by the local and foreign media in relation to the recent coup in Thailand. In a recent interview with The Chronicle of Higher Education, it was suggested to Professor McCargo that the coup had confirmed the arguments he made in a 2005 article. Part of his response gives us some insight into how he sees his scholarly mandate: "Look, I'm an awkward character from the north of England. My job in life is to study things related to Thailand and say things that other people don't want to say or don't want to hear. I come out with these irritating, contentious; annoying things. And that's my job. It would be nice if all of these irritating, contentious, and annoying things I said turned out to be totally untrue." In this ARI interview, Dr Julius Bautista, also of the Religion and Globalisation Cluster learns more:

JB: Earlier in your career you were a de facto journalist at the now defunct Thai newspaper Siam Post. How has this experience influenced your scholarship in general and your decision to focus on a conflict zone such as Patani in particular?

I was never really a journalist, but I became very engrossed in participant observation research on the political role of the Thai language press, and worked with Siam Post closely on a couple of stories while I was conducting a year's fieldwork in Bangkok a decade ago. My time doing intensive, hands-on fieldwork about the Thai press whetted my appetite for a further year of fieldwork in Pattani, which I've just finished. There's something very compelling about inserting yourself into a very complex and alien political situation in a foreign country, and spending months and months trying to understand it – the excitement, the challenges and the ups-and-downs of these fieldwork experiences are really what I live for.

JB: Research in conflict zones are often contingent upon the story one tells about oneself and one's agenda, particularly in situations where it might be hard to keep an inconspicuous profile. As a Western researcher, how do you 'fit in' in Patani? How would you describe your research methodology in general?

In Patani I was never inconspicuous – there are probably only a dozen westerners living in the whole province of 600,000 people. There's a violent political conflict going on there, in which around 1700 people have been killed since January 2004.

Locals got to know my car and my routine – the supermarket staff used to remind me if I forgot to pick up my bread, and I would constantly meet people who would address me as 'ajarn'(an honorific term for lecturers and teachers); they all knew me as someone affiliated with the Prince of Songkla University campus, even though I had never spoken to them previously. My stay in Pattani was made possible by the amazing generosity of my academic colleagues and friends there. I made no attempt to conceal myself or my identity; indeed, I went to great pains to tell everyone what I was doing in the region and to be known as an academic researcher. For this purpose, I gave out over 800 name cards during the year.

In the end, westerners or other outsiders can probably do this sort of research slightly more easily than, say, Buddhist Thais from Bangkok, who tend to be identified with the state. For the most part, I was not seen as a party to the conflict, and so found it relatively easy to establish a rapport with almost everyone I met. But I don't doubt that people on all sides of the conflict were keeping a weather eye on my activities. If you are overly-anxious – let alone paranoid – you just can't operate in a place like Pattani. You need to exercise just the right amount of healthy caution.

JB: What are the main differences between national-level versus local-level politics in Thailand? Is it fair to say that in spite of the media interest in the former, you seem more concerned about the latter at least as a research topic?

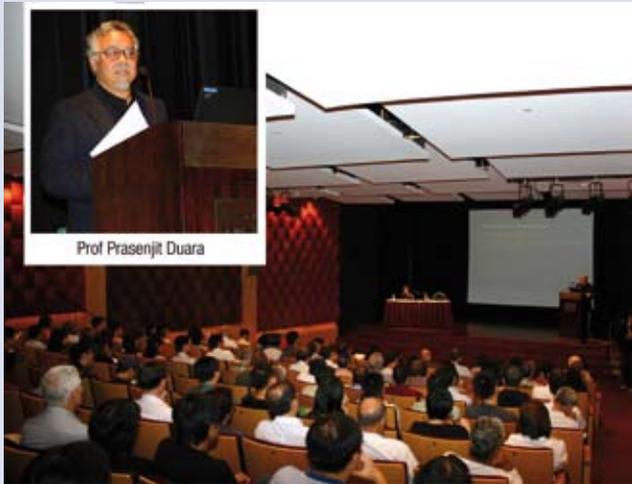
I have done a lot of work on national-level Thai politics in the past, and people tend to expect me to continue working on issues such as the Thaksin government, the 19 September 2006 military coup, and ongoing projects of 'political reform'. I can certainly still do this sort of work, but actually my core interests have moved on to questions about how power is organized in areas such as Northeast Thailand and in the deep South of the country. Throughout my year in Pattani, people kept asking me to attend to seminars in Bangkok to discuss or learn about what was happening in the South, but I generally refused, in the belief that I had a primary duty to stay in the region, and should not let the endless temptations and machinations of Bangkok politics and academia divert me from my core research agenda.

JB: ARI is often praised as a 'hub' which offers an interdisciplinary environment conducive to research. What is your view of how scholarship is fostered and propelled at the institute?

ARI is a great place for me to be at the moment; I'm in the delightfully privileged position of being able to focus almost entirely on my own research, and also to meet and exchange ideas with a very dynamic scholarly community. I've also been lucky enough to have been asked to speak about my research to lots of audiences at NUS, and elsewhere in and around Singapore. However, I would still like to see more scholars from other Southeast Asian countries spending time at ARI. The most interesting and creative people are not necessarily in well-known universities in capital cities, and will not always apply to ARI of their own accord; in some cases, they need to be actively tracked down. Ideally, those people should also be linked to an affiliated department at NUS so that students and academic colleagues in the Faculty would benefit more from their presence.

ARI Public Lecture by Professor Prasenjit Duara Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.

Distinguished Visiting Professor, ARI Religion & Citizenship in East Asia



The Ngee Ann Auditorium at the Asian Civilizations Museum was packed on the evening of 16 August for a public lecture given by distinguished visiting professor Prasenjit Duara, Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago. The lecture constitutes a part of ARI's public outreach and service to the greater Singapore and regional community by providing up-to-date analyses and assessments of contemporary issues and long-term trends that are relevant and important not only to decision makers but also to concerned citizens who seek to be informed about regional and world events.

Professor Duara's paper was entitled "Religion and Citizenship in East Asia". It examines the question of why religion is foregrounded in the knowledge of certain societies but in others (most notably China) it emerges as largely irrelevant to developments, particularly to modern history. Professor Duara presented his paper with a supplementary text of slides, giving a visual display of how religion and citizenship are manifested. Religion is often channeled into different institutions and practices which are described as secular. Examples of this kind of "secular" religious forces offered by Professor Duara include the Confucian religion movement, the New Life movement of the KMT (Kuomintang), and the adaptation of popular redemptive societies in China such as the Yiguandao and the recent Falungong. Political ideas are infused into religions and this is key to understanding the interplay between the religious and the secular, especially in China. Professor Duara is particularly concerned with the circulation of "global models of religious citizenship" and the simultaneous re-formulation of

the consciousness of citizens and religious subjects. East Asian societies began to create their own new distinctions between ritual, religion, superstition and the secular, reacting to the perceived or alleged claims of Christianity (itself undergoing re-formulation) as the spiritual ideology of the modern era.

Dividing his lecture into two parts, Professor Duara gave illuminating insights into the way that religion seeped into the secular business of politics in China, in the first part, touching upon the examples he offered. In the second part, Professor Duara described how the traffic between religion and secular citizenship began to transmute in Southeast Asia, discussing the case of the Chinese Peranakans of the Dutch East Indies during the first part of the twentieth century. The Indies Peranakans created distinctive "creole cultures" affecting the evolution of identity and religious practices. In the Indies, religion represented a desideratum of a modern community as well as the problem of national and civilizational identity. Professor Duara held up the new Confucian movement that developed in Indonesia among the Peranakans as a model of the creation of a religion and a moral system that could serve as a guide and a source of improvement in the social lives of the Peranakan community. However, the Confucian movement was seen as a challenge to the Christianity of the Dutch colonizers and to Islam which claimed to represent the majority of the population. Islam also had competitive claims to civilization particularly when monotheism and anti-idolatry were assumed to be the norms of civilized religion.

In his conclusion, Professor Duara stated that the quest for the unity of the moral and the political continues to express itself in different ways despite the failures of the Confucian religion movement and its various transformations into secular movements such as the New Life in China and the Peranakan experience in Indonesia. More recently in China, the new Confucian movement has interested the PRC government which is seeking alternatives to the communist ideology (for instance, China has developed the Confucius Institute which it is setting up abroad to resemble the Goethe or Cervantes Institute). The impulses, needs and yearnings of redemptive societies, be it the Falungong or the Yiguandao, have resurfaced in contemporary Chinese society, ultimately running afoul of the state when they enter the public sphere. Professor Duara concludes that there exist other means to channel the impulse for transcendence, as the liberalization of the Taiwanese polity after 1986 and the role of redemptive societies in Southeast Asia show.