

NEWS

UK Southeast Asianists

Durham University has appointed **Dr Margaret Coldiron (Reading University)** to a research post with the Classics Department as of 1 September for the AHRC-funded project on 'The Body and the Mask in Ancient Theatre Space' which will entail (among other things) working with master performers from Asian traditional genres using reconstructed Greek and Roman masks and sophisticated motion-capture 3-D imaging at the KCL Centre for Computing in the Humanities. She was also elected vice-president and conference planner for the Association for Asian Performance (AAP) at the annual conference in Chicago in August. She will be organising the 2007 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, scheduled for July 2007 (see Call for papers) and would like to encourage Aseasuk members whose work is in performance to submit papers.

Margaret was in Bali in June and July with Gamelan Lila Cita to perform at the 28th annual Pesta Kesenian Bali, a month-long festival of Balinese arts held at the Taman Budaya Arts Centre in Denpasar. The group's work was enthusiastically received with very favourable notices in the *Bali Post* and went on to give performances at Geriya Olah Kreativitas Seni (GEOKS) in Singapadu and at Sanggar Cendana in Batubulan in a concert programme shared with their Balinese hosts, Gamelan Cendana. While in Bali she also pursued further research into tantric iconography and practice and its links to Balinese masked performance

Margaret presented the following papers

between summer 2005 and 2006: 'Transnationalism and the traditional performer' at the AAP conference in San Francisco, July 2005; 'The interface between theatre, ritual and film' at a conference on Theatrical Masks and Rituals of Transformation, Centro Incontri Umani Ascona, Switzerland, October 2005; in Chicago in August 2006: '*Sidha Karya* as a tantric clown?', AAP conference, and 'Tantric iconography in Asian masked performance', Association for Theatre in Higher Education conference; and 'The interpretation of Balinese masks' at the 2006 ASEASUK conference, St Antony's College, Oxford in September.

The PACSEA Foundation of Switzerland has appointed **Janice Stargardt** to a Professorial Research Fellowship in the Historical Archaeology & Geography of Asia. She will continue to be based in the Department of Geography and Sidney Sussex College, **Cambridge**.

The research interest of **Dr Nick White (Liverpool John Moores University)** is in British business in post-colonial Indonesia, trade unions in late-colonial Malaya, and Liverpool and the end of empire (especially in East and Southeast Asia). Nick presented the following papers this year: 'Liverpool and empire' at the Imperial History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, February 2006; 'Liverpool shipping and the end of empire: The Ocean Group in East and Southeast Asia, c. 1945-c. 1973' at the 3rd Annual Conference of the Centre for Liverpool and Merseyside Studies, Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool, April 2006; and the following two at the International Economic History Congress,

University of Helsinki in August 2006: 'Surviving Sukarno: British firms and economic nationalism in post-colonial Indonesia, c. 1950-c.1967', and 'Taming the trade union tiger? Colonial labour policy in 1950s Malaya'.

Prof Bob Taylor (independent scholar) has been awarded a Leverhulme Emeritus Professor one-year fellowship to conduct research for a project entitled 'General Ne Win and the making of Myanmar'.

Research continues for **Dr Matthew Cohen (Royal Holloway)** on the representation of Java and Bali on international stages in the first half of the 20th century. He presented one episode of this research, on the French mezzo soprano Eva Gauthier, at the panel on Visuality and Performativity co-organised with Alessandra Lopez y Royo at the ASEASUK conference in Oxford in September.

Matthew has recently been doing a lot of work in the field of puppetry over the past few months. He organised a PALATINE symposium on teaching puppetry in higher education in London in April and a panel on puppetry and human rights at the Performance Studies International conference in London in June. He was also successful in his application with the Punch and Judy College of Professors to the AHRC for a PhD studentship in the area of Contemporary Punch and Judy. The student appointed to this post, Martin Reeve, has already begun research under his supervision. Matthew has also recently been appointed to the editorial board of the online magazine *Animations Online* (<http://www.puppetcentre.org.uk/animationsonline/index.html>) and has been writing about puppetry

in the UK. He has also been consulting on a Festival of Muslim Puppetry to be held in Birmingham in the spring of 2007.

Matthew's book, *The Komedi Stamboel*, published by Ohio University Press was launched at the Pasar Malam Besar, The Hague, on 29 May 2006. This year, he has presented the following three papers: in May, 'Itinerant Indies: Performing Java and Bali on international stages, 1899-1952', University of Wales, Aberystwyth; in June, 'Tell a lie and find a troth: Puppetry, dissimulated performance and human rights', Performance Studies International #12 Conference, London; and in September, 'Hybridity, exoticism, orientalism: Itinerant performers of Java and Bali' at the recent ASEASUK conference sponsored by the Asian Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford University.

Prof Bob Barnes (Oxford University) is researching documentation Pertaining to the political history of Nusa Tenggara Timur in the Nationaal Archief and the KITLV, the Netherlands. He was also Affiliated Fellow of the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden in July 2006. He gave a paper entitled, 'On sense and reference in Eastern Indonesian personal names: finding space for a sociology of naming' at the conference on Naming in Asia: Local Identities and Global Change, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore in February 2006.

Dr Simone Wesner and **Professor Michael Hitchcock (London Metropolitan University)** received a grant from the British Academy's Committee for South-East Asian Studies to conduct research in Dresden and

Bali on the formative years of the artist Walter Spies. Spies was at school in Dresden before World War I and returned there to join the artists' colony after his release from internment in Russia. Working with I Nyoman Darma Putra, they have completed their first paper on how Spies' experiences in Dresden informed his approach to Balinese arts.

Drs Clive and Jan Wisseman Christie, who were formerly at the University of Hull have retired. Their email is now: c.j.christie@btinternet.com

Centre for South East Asian Studies, SOAS
Dr Rachel Harrison is concluding, in conjunction with Peter A. Jackson (ANU) a four-year research project on 'The Ambiguous Allure of the West and the Making of Thai Identities'. A co-edited volume from the project is currently under consideration by Cornell University Press (Southeast Asia Program). In relation to the research project Rachel is also working on a book entitled 'Roots of Comparison: Thai Literature and the West'.

Dr Konstantinos Retsikas presented a paper on 'Being and place: ancestors, movement, and personhood in East Java, Indonesia' at the Centre's seminar programme in April 2006.

Dr Elizabeth Moore was on a research trip to Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) July-August 2006. She delivered the following papers: 'Man and the environment: the first millennium AD landscape of Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar' at Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in Archaeology in June

in Bangkok, and 'Bricks, walls and the first millennium AD landscape of Burma (Myanmar)' at the 11th International Conference of the European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists (EurASEAA, Bougon, France, in September.

Prof William Gervase Clarence-Smith's research is on early modern cotton textiles in South Asia and 'Syrians' in the Philippines in the 19th and 20th century. In September 2006, he paid a brief visit to National Archives II, College Park (MD). In June 2006 William co-organised a workshop at SOAS on 'Sodomy and other sexual practices in East and Southeast Asian history' at SOAS in June 2006 (see conference reviews) where he also presented the paper, 'From paederasty to female circumcision: Islam and sex practices in Southeast Asia'. Other papers that he has delivered this year include two in May: 'Scientific and technological interchanges between the Islamic world and Europe, c.1450-c.1800' for a conference on 'Europe's economic relations with the Islamic world, 13th to 18th centuries', Istituto Datini, Prato, Italy, and "'White" slaves in Christian Europe and the Americas c1500-1850', for the Commonwealth and Overseas History Seminar, King's College, Cambridge; one in June on 'The global consumption of hot beverages, c1500 to c1880', for a workshop 'Food and globalization: transnational perspectives on consumption, markets and politics in the 19th and 20th centuries', New Hall, Cambridge; one in July on 'Hadhramaut and the Indian Ocean', for a workshop on 'Indian Ocean Cultures in Contact', Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London; in August on 'Technological and scientific change in early modern Islam, c. 1450-c. 1850', for the Islam and Economic

Performance panel at the International Economic History Congress, Helsinki, and 'Religions and the abolition of slavery: a comparative approach,' for the Global Economic History Network (GEHN) conference on 'Culture and Economic Performance', Washington DC, in September 2006.

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

Dr Tim Huxley, Corresponding Director IISS-Asia and Senior Fellow for Asia-Pacific Security at the IISS was in Southeast Asia during late April and early May. In Manila, he paid calls on Philippine Secretary of National Defense, Avelino Cruz Jr and Lieutenant-General Generoso Santos Senga, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and visited the National Defense College and the Office of Strategic and Special Studies. In Bangkok, he met with senior officers in the Ministry of Defence and Supreme Command Headquarters. He was heavily involved in organising the fifth annual IISS Shangri-La Dialogue (Asia Security Summit), which was held in Singapore in early June. At the Dialogue, he acted as rapporteur for a break-out group on 'Advancing Maritime Security Cooperation'. In late June, Tim spoke on 'Responses to terrorism in Southeast Asia' at the Nottingham University conference on 'Contrasting Responses to the US War on Terrorism'. In early July, he was in Rome to present a paper entitled 'Indonesia in 2030: Will it exist?' at a roundtable in the series on 'The World in 2030' organised by the Italian armed forces' Centro Militare di Studi Strategici. Later in July and in August, he

was in Singapore, working from the IISS-Asia office, and gave a presentation on the Shangri-La Dialogue in the National University of Singapore Department of Political Science seminar series. In early September, he spoke on 'The major powers and Southeast Asia' at a conference on Asian security at the UK Joint Command and Staff College, Shrivenham. At the annual IISS Global Security Review conference in Geneva in early September, Tim chaired the break-out group on maritime security. In mid-September, he spoke on 'Five years of the Shangri-La Dialogue' at the First Berlin Conference on Asian Security, which focused on the theme of 'Security Regionalism in the Asia-Pacific', and also participated in the subsequent meeting of the Berlin Group on Asian Security in his capacity as a member of the Steering Committee. Soon afterwards, he was in Newport, Rhode Island to present a paper on 'Modernising Southeast Asia's maritime forces' at a conference on 'The Asian Century? Common Challenges, Emerging Strategies', hosted by the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina University. At the end of September, with IISS Maritime Analyst Jason Alderwick, he jointly presented a paper on 'Southeast Asian navies: Adapting to new maritime security challenges' at the Defence IQ conference 'Offshore Patrol Vessels 2006' in London. Tim continues to write extensively on Southeast Asian topics for IISS publications and to edit the Adelphi Paper monograph series on global security issues. Recent Adelphi Papers have included no 381, *Myanmar's foreign policy: Domestic influences and international implications* by Jürgen Haacke.

PhDs

The following candidates have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations: **University of Hull: Megumi Uchino** on 'Songket of Palembang: socio-cultural and economic change in a South Sumatran textile tradition' (supervisor: Prof VT King); **Jonathan Bennett** on 'The regulation of tourism business activity in the transitional Vietnamese economy' (supervisor: Dr M Parnwell); **Stephen Druce**, 'The lands west of the lakes: the history of Ajatappareng, South Sulawesi, AD 1200 to 1600' (supervisor: Dr Ian Caldwell); **Dinar Boontharm**, 'The Sultanate of Banten, AD 1750-1808' (supervisor: Dr Ian Caldwell); **University of Leeds: Oliver M Hensengerth**, 'Regionalism and foreign policy: China-Vietnam relations and institution-building in the Greater Mekong subregion' (supervisors: Dr J Dosch and Dr M Parnwell); **SOAS University of London: Sarah Hicks** on 'Syair Selindung Delima in the comparative context: some gender problems in traditional Malay poetry' (supervisor: Prof V Braginsky).

CONFERENCE REVIEWS

23rd ASEASUK conference

St Antony's College
University of Oxford
15-17 September 2006

The conference sponsored by the Asian Studies Centre, St Antony's College opened with an evening reception attended by some 50 participants from Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia and North America. On Saturday night, Sekar Enggal performed two sets of pieces from the classical repertoire of Tembang Sunda (Sundanese Song, also known as Cianjuran). This form of chamber music is associated with elite (*kaum menak*) culture of the Sundanese highlands. Pieces are usually scored for one or two *kecap* (zithers), *suling* (bamboo flute) or *rebab* (spiked fiddle) and voice. The musicians at this performance were Simon Cook, Dr Barley Norton and Dr Rachel Swindells. An informal mood prevailed.

Also on the performance programme were Balinese dances by Melanie Knowles, a Bahamas-born dancer who lives in the UK and is a member of the dance troupe Lila Bhawa. Knowles performed two modern Balinese dances, Cendrawasih (Bird of Paradise) and Jayaprana.

The conference ended with the AGM on Sunday. Aseasuk thanks Fiona Kerlogue, Ben Murtagh, Juliet Bedford, Nicholas Farrelly, Ruth Barnes and Matthew Cohen for organising the conference. The next Aseasuk conference will be in 2008.

Emerging scholars panel

Convenor: Dr Ben Murtagh (SOAS)

The panel was opened by **Nicholas Farrelly**, Oxford University, with his 'Anthropological reflections on ethnic affinity and the trans-Asia highway through the eastern Himalaya'. Focusing on Burma's Kachin State, he examined competing conceptualisations of 'community', 'nation' and 'society' against the backdrop of the ongoing re-construction and refurbishment of the Ledo and Burma Roads that link India to China via Burma. The paper centred on four juxtaposed themes, 'Burmaland', 'Kachinland', 'Jadeland' and 'Overland'. In this context Farrelly argued that 'development' of the 'Trans-Asia Highway' has become an elite, entrepreneurial project straddling borders in an unstable post-conflict setting.

The panel moved geographically south for **Becky Shaaf's** paper 'Balancing wellbeing through community groups' which explored individual and community behaviour within a context of rapid change in Thailand. Shaaf (Bath University) outlined a theoretical framework for considering wellbeing and presented data she had collected in Khon Kaen, Northeast Thailand. She illustrated that participation in community groups was influenced by variables including gender, age, wealth and location. Acting collectively enabled individuals to achieve personal gains that could not have been realised otherwise (in material, cognitive and relational terms) and fostered a sense of community that was complemented by Government policy concerning participation and microfinance.

Albert Salamanca (Durham University)

claimed that his PhD research is driven by an interest to 'understand a vegetable, the households involved in its production, the livelihoods that frame their relationships and the social and spatial context in which they all circulate'. His paper, compared the production of *Ipomoea Aquatica* (water convolvulus or morning glory) in Bangkok, Hanoi and Phnom Penh. He questioned what social, historical and geographical processes are inscribed in this 'lowly vegetable' that can inform and invigorate our understanding of Southeast Asian urbanism. Salamanca concluded that households involved with its production reflect the opportunities, tensions and ambiguities of peri-urbanisation in the region and reflected the plurality of occupations, notions of the rural and urban, and future perceptions of family well-being including occupational choices for children.

Phan Trung Hien (University of the West of the England) took the panel to Vietnam for a comprehensive examination of the 'Safeguards for land users in compulsory acquisition of land (CAL) in Vietnam'. He emphasised the difference between 'public land ownership' and 'land-use rights' and explained the various procedural stages of CAL, a process that has not (as yet!) been written into Vietnamese law. Hien asserted that in principle, individuals must move off the land to be acquired before their objections will be dealt with. That this practice is so protracted is one reason why compensation in CAL is so important. Hien concluded that laws must be issued dealing with CAL so that individuals concerned may have the right to fair compensation, even if no land is eventually taken, the right to re-settle in appropriate re-settlement

areas and the right to get appropriate financial or other assistance.

Staying in Vietnam, **Rowana Agajanian** (Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College) suggested that whilst British, American and German World War II documentaries have and continue to fascinate historians, studies concerning the Vietnam War documentary appear inadequate. Her research covers a large number of international film documentaries produced during the war from nine different countries including the USA, North Vietnam and South Vietnam. In her paper 'Telling stories: the Vietnam War Documentary 1965-1974', Agajanian offered some interesting preliminary findings in terms of generic categorisation and also suggested that Vietnam War documentary may challenge current ideas concerning objectivity and what constitutes a 'good' or 'bad' documentary. She illustrated her presentation by screening four short examples from pro- and anti-war, government and independent documentaries: *Why Vietnam?* (USA, 1965), *The Anderson Platoon* (Fr/ USA, 1968), *Struggle For Life* (South Vietnam, National Liberation Front, 1968), and *Hearts and Minds* (USA, 1974).

The remaining two papers presented on Saturday focused on Thailand. **Jana Igunma** (British Library) gave a detailed account of her research on King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) who reigned 1910-1925 in her paper entitled 'Vajiravudh and the words: alphabetisation, book production and the ethos of modernisation in Thailand 1910-1925'. Vajiravudh attended Sandhurst Royal Military College and Oxford University where he read history, administration and

law before returning to Thailand to study Buddhism, and Pali and Sanskrit languages. He was the first Thai king to be educated abroad and Igunma illustrated how his time in England had considerable bearing on his reign that was characterised by support of nationalism as well as the ethos of modernisation. She traced his love for the literary and theatrical arts and his championing of the printing press and reading in general. Igunma also introduced us to her impressive documentation of Vajiravudh's work at the British Library (accessible through the Library's website), and listed the many pseudonyms under which the King wrote including Baron V. d'Ayuthya, Marcus Virginius, Dilton Marsh and Professor Diamond!

By contrast, **Tam Krongkwan Traitongyoo** (Leeds University) focused on contemporary Thailand in her paper 'The management of irregular migration in Thailand: implications for the notions of Thainess, identity and citizenship'. She questioned how the concept of 'Thainess' was reflected in Thai migration policies and evaluated the economic cooperation and integration strategies of the Greater Mekong sub-region in relation to Thai management of irregular migrants. She presented Thailand's image of homogeneity as an imagined representation in which Thainess is used as an element of cultural and political strategy to maintain national security thereby causing racial segregation and preventing assimilation. She suggested that ethnic relations and cultural discourse of Thainess in relation to irregular migration management needs to be re-thought to create a long-term immigration policy that incorporates assimilation and rights to citizenship.

Sunday morning dawned bright and early with **Thum Pingtjin** (Oxford University) discussing 'Social transformations and trade unions in Singapore, 1956-63'. Following the political developments of Singapore in the post-war era, particularly linked to the People's Action Party, he analysed the emergence of trade unions in the country. Thum traced the social functions of the trade unions and their role in the creation of class solidarity. Of great interest was his examination of the elements of Chinese and Indian heritage that were inspirational to the trade unions during this period.

Dorothea Schaefer (SOAS) then presented an overview of 'Indonesian exile writing'. The media was controlled under Suharto and official censorship led to a considerable ban of books and writers. She described how many Indonesian authors became political exiles due to the events of 1965 and continue to form a special group within the Indonesian expatriate community. A number of these writers published literary works in exile through certain publishing outlets, foundations, magazines and on the internet. The views they express are diverse, and Schaefer highlighted several themes that she has identified in the texts of exile writing during her research. These include the writer's own experience of life in exile, Indonesian politics and unifying events for the exile community, and are presented in poetry, prose and in memoirs. She illustrated these themes with examples of work by Sobron Adit, Zainal Afiif, Soepriyadi Tomodihardojo and Agam Wispi amongst others.

Claudia Merli (Uppsala University, Sweden) gave a paper 'Female and male

"circumcisions" in Satun: private and public arenas in Muslim Southern Thailand' with some quite graphic video footage! She examined patterns of change in male circumcision focusing on notions of public view and participation and contrasted this Muslim rite with other local rituals, specifically Buddhist ordination as monks. Merli continued to discuss some 'new' elements that have been incorporated into circumcision that she highlighted as signs of 'modernity' including aspects of biomedicine and the involvement of political authorities. She also touched on the gender dimension and questioned why female circumcision has not changed as much as male circumcision, generally and in Satun specifically.

The final paper of the panel, 'Jungle forts and leprosy: the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia', was given by **Juliet Bedford** (Oxford University). Bedford's research is concerned with the provision of medicine and healthcare services from the Government sector to the Orang Asli. She discussed why and how the British Colonial Administration introduced biomedicine into Orang Asli localities and highlighted aspects of the contemporary medical service that remains based upon a network established during The Emergency period (1948-1960). Bedford framed her paper with a discussion of social identity and presented a case study of Hansen's Disease (leprosy), a disease that is considered to have been eliminated in Malaysia (by WHO standards) despite its continued prevalence among the Orang Asli population.

The 'Emerging scholars' panel was very successful. The papers covered a huge range

of issues and most countries of the region were touched upon. That the panellists came from diverse academic backgrounds and were at different stages of their research contributed to some lively and stimulating discussions. It was a great opportunity to meet other young scholars working on Southeast Asia, and the delegates were most grateful to Ben Murtagh for his considerate convening. We hope that ASEASUK will continue to facilitate a similar panel at subsequent conferences.

Juliet Bedford 

Art and artefact

Convenor: Dr Ruth Barnes (Ashmolean Museum)

The panel offered six papers. **Fiona Kerlogue** (Horniman Museum) started off the day by giving an overview of the Southeast Asian collections brought together and displayed in the Horniman Museum, from its beginnings in 1891 as part of Horniman's private collections, to their presentation in the purpose-built museum in Forest Hill, South London up to 1925. The collections are not comprehensive in either geographic spread or function, and they mostly still await detailed cataloguing and identification, but it is obvious that there are items of interest to the regional specialist. The collection of musical instruments is probably the strongest part, not surprisingly, as this was Horniman's special interest. **Margaret Coldiron** (Reading and Durham universities) followed with a lucid paper on the interpretation of Balinese dance masks, presenting first the basic division of characters into *keras* and *manis*, 'strong' and 'gentle, sweet', and *kasar* and

halus – 'coarse' and 'refined'. She then gave a detailed analysis of the enigmatic figure Sidha Karya, who embodies purity, the spiritual, and supernatural power, in concept and representation possibly showing Tantric influences. Managing the supernatural, for personal and communal well-being and protection, was also the topic of **Susan Conway's** talk about the re-emergence of shamanism currently to be observed among the Shan of Burma. Although not condoned by conventional Buddhist practices, magic formulas, the interpretation of horoscopes and the protective use of tattoos are having a revival at a time of political and cultural instability.

A second paper also focused on Burma, although on a religious practice of the past. **Ralph Isaacs** discussed tablet-woven tapes (*sazigyo*) with inscriptions and small images of animals, humans, and mythological beings, formerly used to bind manuscripts offered at Buddhist temples to gain merit. He showed that the religious writing was formulaic, but it was personalised by adding the names of the donors and, sometimes, that of the weaver and even the price of weaving the tape. The last two papers presented material from Indochina: **Annabel Vallard** (University of Paris) from Laos, and **Michael Hitchcock** (London Metropolitan University) from Vietnam. Both had textiles as their focus, and both looked at production for a non-indigenous market. Annabel Vallard followed the production and transformation of Laotian weavings, originally made for a local market and now reinvented as art in an international context, and the subject of museum exhibitions. Michael Hitchcock also spoke about a revival of high-quality

Vietnamese embroidery made in the town of Hai Duong, but in this case as part of an international project funded by the European Union. The aim was to open new merchant venues locally and bring customers in, rather than to export internationally, as has happened for the Laotian textiles.

Considering that I cannot claim that much advanced planning on my part went into the overall composition of the panel, it was striking how well the papers complemented each other. Mainland Southeast Asia was dominantly represented, and one may have wished for a better geographic balance. But this was more than compensated for by the new material presented, and by the informal atmosphere which led to lively discussions.

Ruth Barnes 

Indonesian/Malay manuscripts

Convenor: Dr Annabel Teh Gallop (British Library)

The panel brought together old faces and new in what is a highlight of the year for researchers working on Indonesian and Malay manuscripts. Participants reported on their work on a diverse range of topics and from a variety of perspectives, including the theological, legal, historical, philological, literary and codicological.

Rushdan Jailani (Exeter University) began proceedings with a paper on what he characterised as a work of “speculative Sufism,” the *Shara Syair Ikan Tongkol*, by the sixteenth-century Acehese Sufi Shamsuddin al-Samatrani. Rushdan gave an account of the doctrine of the seven

grades of being so central to Acehese Sufism of the period. Also addressing the question of Sufism but concerned with the spread of the texts rather than their exegesis, **Vladimir Braginsky** (SOAS) used a method perhaps more familiar from RAE assessments – the citation count – to determine whether Hamzah Fansuri and his works had indeed been well known in the Malay world.

Legal texts were the subject of the next two papers, with **Uli Kozok** (University of Hawai’i) discussing the differences between the two legal codes contained in a fourteenth-century Sumatran manuscript. One dates to the fourteenth century while the other is an eighteenth-century copy, with certain significant additions. Uli concluded that the later code represented ‘Islamised’ rather than ‘Islamic’ law. **Svetlana Tkhov** (Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences) discussed the possibility of using the Malay legal texts as historical sources, arguing that they are particularly valuable for providing the information about the lower classes of Malay society that is otherwise absent from the written records.

The use of texts as historical sources was also the concern of **Willem van der Molen** (Leiden University) and **Daruis Lidin** (Malaysian Military Academy, UTM). Willem provided a sensitive and nuanced explication of a highly significant letter in the history of the Java War, through which Diponegoro conveyed to the Dutch commanders his willingness to accept their terms for peace. By reference to aspects of Javanese linguistic and political culture, Willem showed how the high-handed tone

of the letter could be reconciled with its content. Daruis' discovery and edition of the memoirs of Halimi Ibrahim, a forced labourer on the Japanese 'death railway' during the Second World War, is a remarkable Malay addition to the war memoir genre.

Questions of philology and language were foregrounded in the papers delivered by **Roger Tol** (KITLV, Jakarta), **Russell Jones** (SOAS) and **Ampuan Haji Brahim Haji Tengah** (Universiti Brunei Darussalam). Roger put paid to one of the more absurdist images of the *Sejarah Melayu*, that of the sultan's soldiers forming a 'barricade of shins' to ward off the swordfish attack, by showing that 'betis' ('shin') is better read as 'bitis' (a kind of wood). Russell's list of words found in traditional Malay texts was aimed at preventing just such errors of interpretation on the part of the unwary translator. His observations regarding the inchoative and conative functions of Malay verbs also shed light on some of the difficulties faced by those working with traditional texts. Ampuan Haji Brahim's description of *Syair Rejang*, and especially his recording of several verses of the syair, was a welcome reminder of the performative and social aspects of 'traditional' texts, as well as their continued popularity in the present day.

Jan van der Putten (National University of Singapore) and **Mulaika Hijjas** (SOAS) used traditional texts to discuss issues of sexuality and gender in the nineteenth-century Malay world. Asking why Malay erotica is rather under-represented in the major manuscript collections, Jan discussed several sexually explicit manuscripts from

Penyengat within the larger context of Islamic attitudes towards sexuality. Mulaika dealt with a Malay didactic tale concerned with the limits of a wife's duty towards her husband, comparing it with a Javanese version of the same story as well as another Malay version which concluded with a distinctly unorthodox *hadith*.

Annabel Gallop (British Library) addressed manuscripts as objects of material culture, showing how an understanding of the conventions of Malay and Indonesian manuscript traditions, as well as a discerning eye, are essential to assessing the authenticity of a manuscript. At the same time, she cautioned that 'problematic' manuscripts nevertheless have their own particular worth, not least that they are indicative of a creative cottage industry of book production in Java and Patani in recent decades.

Mulaika Hijjas 

Visuality and performativity panel
Convenors: Dr Matthew Cohen (Royal Holloway) and Dr Alessandra Lopez y Royo (Roehampton University)


The general idea, with this panel, was to engage in discussion about the creative imagining of Southeast Asian cultures through performance and its visual representation. A number of questions were explored, ranging from the visualisation of the performing body, the relationship of the visual with the performative, the relationship of performance and visual culture in the image – making of groups and nations, issues of self-representation through performers' manipulation of the

visual image and the relationship of performance with visual technologies.

Nora Taylor (Smithsonian Institute) presented the first paper of the session and examined how contemporary Vietnamese performance art remains tied to village performance practices and is a vehicle for political dissent. **Felicia Hughes-Freeland** (University of Wales, Swansea) argued that shared knowledge based on social identity makes 'seeing' dance a matter of embodied participation and that dance discourses convert the physical image into transcendent disembodiment. **Alessandra Lopez y Royo** discussed Indonesian dance and its photographic representation and how this affects the live production of dance performance, emphasising the active use of photography by performers for self-representation. **Matthew Isaac Cohen** spoke on 20th century itinerant exotic performers of Java and Bali such as Mata Hari and their use of Java and Bali as signs to articulate anti-modernism. **Jonathan Black** (Kingston University) discussed the work of figure sculptor Dora Gordine and the Orientalist thrust of her work, informed by her trips to the East and her fascination with dancers such as Ram Gopal and Balinese dancers **Wankwan Polachan** (Bangkok University) discussed the stylisation of the body through costuming in Thai traditional Likay performance contrasting this with the deportment and costuming styles of contemporary TV soaps, reconnecting Thai aesthetics with Buddhist ideas of impermanence. Finally, **Jan Mrazek** (National University of Singapore) discussed the visuality and visibility of televised *wayang* and the changes engendered by television in the relation

between the visual and the verbal in its performance.

The papers seemed to resonate with each other, often ending at a point which was then cleverly picked up by the next presenter and expanded upon. The lively discussion engendered by each paper contributed to the success of the session. We are seriously thinking of bringing out an edited collection of the papers, including material that was not presented at the conference but which would add to the weight of the volume. Anyone interested in contributing please drop me an email at a.lopez@roehampton.ac.uk.

Alessandra Lopez y Royo 

Sodomy and other sex practices in East and Southeast Asian history

SOAS workshop

29 June 2006

Convenors: William G. Clarence-Smith (SOAS) and Raquel A.G. Reyes (SOAS)

This panel brought together five highly stimulating papers that addressed the topic from a range of approaches and drew upon a diverse array of primary sources. All the papers focused on the early modern period, a common temporal point of departure which enabled panel members to highlight comparisons between different regions.

The panel was divided into two sessions. The first session, chaired by **Linda Newson**, discussed papers on sodomy and sexual practices in early modern China (**Vivienne**

Lo), Japan (**Timon Screech**) and early colonial Philippines (**Raquel Reyes**). The second session, chaired by **David Smyth**, discussed sexual practices in Islamic Southeast Asia (**William Clarence-Smith**) and sodomy and bestiality in the Indonesian archipelago (**Peter Boomgaard**). An audience composed of academics and non-academics ensured the discussions that followed were illuminating as well as high spirited.

Vivienne Lo delivered a richly illustrated paper that examined the connections between food, sex, health and the medicalisation of pleasure in pre-modern China. Drawing on a variety of imperial and local sources, which included recently excavated Han texts, Lo described the importance of 'sexual cultivation' or sexual intercourse in the promotion of health, touching on the practice of anal sex between men and young women for the preservation of female virginity, and discourses of sexual restraint and excess, in particular the idea of ejaculation as loss of essence and potency. Raquel Reyes' paper on penile insertions in early-modern Southeast Asia picked up on two issues raised by the preceding paper – the question of sources and the pleasures obtained by the penetrated. Lo and Screech respectively showed in their presentations how the historical study of sexual practices in China and Japan was especially rewarding given the abundance of primary and indigenous source material. Concentrating on the Philippines, Raquel Reyes, in contrast, drew attention both to the distinct lack of sources on the subject and to the problems in dealing with foreign accounts of indigenous sexual practices. She pointed out that much of the mystery

surrounding the use of penile appendages, penile incisions and insertions in early colonial Philippines, could be attributed to the paucity of indigenous evidence, as well as the often biased and condemnatory view of many colonial reports and observations obtained largely from foreign travel writings and colonial missionary accounts. What thus emerged from the available data, Reyes showed, was a very fragmentary picture of indigenous sex practices, open to much speculation and guesswork. In her broad comparative survey of the penis rings and their use in the region, Reyes fielded questions relating to the procedures of penile surgery, how the potentially lethal penis rings were actually used and why they disappeared so swiftly. Her paper also considered the purported function of Philippine penis rings and surgery as givers of female sexual pleasure against a range of other reasons – as part of a *rites de passage*, as symbols of potency and courage, power or magic, as a measure to prevent homosexual sodomy, and in connection with local concepts of the sexualised body, sexual pleasure, manliness, and morality.

The issue of shame, cultural proscription and taboo was fitfully explored in different ways by Timon Screech and William Clarence-Smith in each of their exploratory papers. Screech investigated a fascinating story of sodomy involving the eldest son of a Japanese shogun, scandal and disinheritance in 17th century Japan, while William Clarence-Smith discussed a range of sex practices – paederasty, 'female genital cutting' and homosexual sodomy in relation to the influence of Islam. Drawing on a range of sources, both papers highlighted the ways in which sexual cases were

reported: often treated with immense embarrassment and usually censored. As both papers showed, powerful preventative and disciplinary measures – from strong religious injunctions against any form of body mutilation to social ostracism for the penetrated – were severely enforced. Finally, Peter Boomgaard's paper on sodomy, bestiality and incest did much to emphasise the types and severity of punishments that were meted out on those deemed immoral or known to have sexually transgressed. Focusing on the island of Java, Boomgaard discussed cases of both Europeans and non-Europeans condemned to die by drowning, by the Dutch authorities for a variety of 'sins against nature', but mainly sodomy. Interestingly, the paper also noted that similar punishments were applied by indigenous people for incest.

Most of the papers were impressively illustrated with extraordinary images. Lively discussions and questions were interspersed throughout the sessions, which succeeded in showing how the study of sex and sexuality in Southeast Asian history can be highly provocative and engaging.

- Vivienne Lo (Wellcome Centre)
Sex, sodomy and feasting the senses in pre-modern China
- Raquel Reyes (SOAS)
Penis pins and penis rings: pain, pleasure and penile insertions in early colonial Philippines
- Timon Screech (SOAS)
Man-boy eroticism in early modern Japan
- William G. Clarence-Smith (SOAS)
From paederasty to female circumcision: Islam and sex practices in Southeast Asia

- Peter Boomgaard (KITLV)
Sins against nature: sodomy, bestiality and incest in the early modern Indonesian archipelago

Raquel Reyes 

**11th European Association of Southeast
Asian Archaeologists (EurASEAA)
international conference**
Bougon, France
25-30 September 2006

Every two years, since its formation in 1986, the EurASEAA has held a conference somewhere in Europe. The Association is a loose one, without formal membership, comprising those archaeologists, epigraphers, art historians and early historians with an interest in Southeast Asia, who meet at these biennial conferences to present the results of their work in Southeast Asia and neighbouring areas of South and East Asia, and to discuss issues of mutual interest. Those attending the conferences are drawn not only from Europe and Southeast Asia, but also from South and East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, making the conferences the major international forum for the exchange of information and ideas relating to early Southeast Asia.

This year's conference organised by Dr Jean-Pierre Pautreau, and hosted by Dr Elaine Lacroix, the curator of the Musée de Tumulus of Bougon, an important megalithic site in the heart of the department of Deux-Sèvres. Financial and

practical support were also provided by the county tourism office, the CNRS, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Culture and Communication, the Poitou-Charentes Regional Council, the municipality of Poitou and the National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research.

Due to the rather remote and rural site of this conference, the number attending – about 75 – was somewhat smaller than at most of the conferences. However, the range and quality of papers given was high, and they presented work carried out in Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, East Timor, as well as India, Taiwan and southern China. The topics addressed included more on Burma and on the Palaeolithic in Southeast Asia than in the past. Other panels covered palaeo-anthropology of insular Southeast Asia; palaeo-ecology of mainland Southeast Asia; the Hoabinhian and Neolithic; the rise of social complexity; early polities and states; exchange patterns: the archaeology of exchange in the Thai-Malay peninsula; Cham archaeology and art; Angkor and the Khmer territories; art history of early mainland and insular Southeast Asia; archaeometry; conservation; technologies and craft specialization; and funeral archaeology. Poster sessions complemented the formal papers.

A selection of the papers presented will be published by the EurASEAA 2006 committee (email: euraseaa2006@club-internet.fr).

The first volume of papers from the EurASSEA 2004 conference is now available. The volume, entitled *Uncovering Southeast Asia's Past*, edited by Elisabeth A. Bacus, Ian

C. Glover and Vincent C. Piggott (ISBN 9971-69-351-8), has been published by Singapore University Press. Enquiries to: Singapore University Press, AS3-01-02. 3, Arts Link, Singapore; or check the website www.nus.edu.sg/npu or for information on regional distributors email: nusbooks@nus.edu.sg.

Jan Wisseman Christie 

Wales

Tourism in Asia
Leeds Metropolitan University
10-12 June 2006

One of the largest conferences on tourism in Asia ever to be held in Europe, this meeting brought together some of the world's leading scholars, practitioners and industry representatives to consider new trends in Asian tourism and their management, development and research implications. The conference was co-hosted by Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds. At the core of the conference were many of the contributors to a new volume on Southeast Asian tourism edited by Michael Hitchcock, Victor King and Michael Parnwell (*Tourism in South-East Asia: Revisited*, University of Hawai'i Press and NIAS Press, 2007), which is a return to some of the themes and issues that were raised in their path-breaking 1993 publication. The British Academy Committee for South-East Asian Studies very kindly sponsored the participation of these contributors at the Leeds conference.


The conference provided a platform for new research on tourism in Asia seen from a wide variety of perspectives (business, history and heritage, culture, development, environment, management, education, methodology, etc) and, for perhaps the first time, covering all parts of Asia, including many emerging markets (Mongolia, Tibet, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Pakistan, Nepal, Kyrgyz Republic) and looking at strong growth trends such as the increasing volume of Chinese, Japanese, Taiwanese, Korean and Indian tourists visiting Southeast Asia, and the expansion of tourism in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

The strong growth in Asian outbound and domestic tourism requires a shift in the conceptualisation and analysis of tourism trends, behaviour, cultures, impacts and policy implications, away from the predominantly Western viewpoints on Western tourists that have tended to take centre stage. Thus, key themes in the conference were domestic and intra-regional travel and regional cooperation in tourism promotion and management, and how governments, NGOs and the tourism industry itself have responded to emerging and changing markets, the proliferation of specialised forms of travel and tourism (ecological, medical, religious, shopping, retirement, theme tourism etc.), and some of the challenges the industry has faced in recent years (terrorism, natural disasters, political instability, etc).

The conference was structured in seven panels, and each of the three days of the meeting was opened with a keynote lecture by some of the leading analysts in the field. Professor Geoff Wall (University of

Waterloo, Canada) introduced 'The Asian regional market: collaboration and flows'; Professor Shinji Yamashita (University of Tokyo) spoke on 'Southeast Asian tourism from a Japanese perspective'; and Professor Trevor Sofield (University of Queensland and Mekong Tourism Development Project) introduced the 'Tourism strategy for the Greater Mekong Sub-region and the role of tourism in transition economies: Cambodia and Vietnam'. In total, 57 papers were presented at the conference, which was attended by almost 100 participants. Dr Janet Cochrane, the conference convenor, is presently working on two edited volumes which will showcase many of the papers that were presented at the conference.

Some of the issues and conclusions to emerge from the conference included: the need for clearer and stronger conceptual, empirical and analytical tools to help us cope with the massive diversification, differentiation and deterritorialisation that has taken place in Asian tourism, and Southeast Asian tourism in particular, over the last decade or so; the fragility, vulnerability and fickleness of the Asian tourism product, and the need to find ways of managing and mitigating this; and the growth of collaborations and partnerships in the field of tourism promotion and management, in pursuit of synergies, efficiencies, complementarities and sustainability.

Michael J.G. Parnwell 

University of Leeds

**Southeast Asian Library Group (SEALG)
Annual Meeting 2006
Berlin
29 - 30 September 2006**

The meeting was organised in co-operation with D. Hartmut-Ortwin Feistel, Head of the Oriental Department of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Participants came from institutions in Berlin, London, Hull, Moscow, Copenhagen, and Leiden.

The following papers were presented:

- Jana Igunma (British Library, London)
Co-operation between SEALG and CORMOSEA
- Rahadi Karni (Leiden)
List of SEA Libraries
- Hartmut-Ortwin Feistel
(Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
The Union Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts in Germany
- Sergei Kukushkin (Russian State Library, Moscow)
Online cataloguing of SEAsian materials at the Russian State Library
- Nicholas Martland (SOAS)
The state of (Southeast Asian) area studies in UK higher education
- Geoffrey Roper (Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London)
Muslim Civilisations abstracts
- Per Hansen and Erik R. Skaaning (NIAS, Copenhagen)
Access to Asia Knowledge Portal

News from the Board of Members

Margaret Nicholson was elected Secretary of the SEALG. She is also treasurer of SEALG. Jana Igunma remains Chairperson of the SEALG.

Excursion and library visit

The participants of the Annual Meeting used the opportunity to visit the Museum of Indian Art in Berlin-Dahlem. The museum houses one of the most important worldwide collections of art from the Indo-Asian cultural area, from the 4th millennium BC to the present. This extensive geographic region covers India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Tibet and Xinjiang in the People's Republic of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, as well as the Indonesian islands. Of special interest for us as librarians were the manuscripts from Southeast Asia and from the Turfan Collection.

A guided tour through the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, building Potsdamer Strasse, was a highlight of this year's meeting. Hartmut-Ortwin Feistel provided a detailed introduction of the library's history and the building in particular, but also revealed some problems of modern library design and architecture.

The next SEALG Annual Meeting will take place in Naples, in co-operation with the 2007 EUROSEAS conference.

Jana Igunma 

CALL FOR PAPERS

Britain and the Malay world
Royal Asiatic Society, London
17 - 18 May 2007

With 2007 marking 50 years since Malaysia gained its independence from Britain, this seminar will provide a space to discuss and reassess the impact of Britain and the colonial experience on the Malay world. This seminar expects to draw 20 scholars from Britain, Malaysia and the wider world with a particular focus on literature, cinema, history and the humanities generally. The seminar will include papers from keynote speakers Professor Tony Stockwell and Professor Ulrich Kratz.

The organisers invite proposals and are especially interested in panels and papers that engage with the following topics:

- British collectors of Malay manuscripts and artefacts.
- Malay manuscripts in British collections
- The impact of British scholars on Malay studies.
- Visions of Britain in pre- and post-independence literature of the Malay world.
- Travel writing: Malays on the British, the British on the Malays
- Malay cinematic images of Britain and the British
- The Malay world through the British cinematic lens
- British involvement in the Malay world; new perspectives

Please send expressions of interest in the first instance, and abstracts of around 200

words to: Ben Murtagh (bm10@soas.ac.uk)
by 30 November 2006 at the latest.

Association for Asian Performance (AAP)
7th Annual AAP Conference
New Orleans
25 July 2007

The Association for Asian Performance (AAP) invites submissions for its one-day conference, hosted at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, preceding the annual ATHE (*Association for Theatre in Higher Education*) Conference.

Proposals are invited for papers, panels, workshops, and roundtable discussions. The deadline for proposals is 30 April 2007.

- Proposals for individual papers should include a brief abstract. Presentations should be limited to 20 minutes to allow time for questions and discussion. Visual materials (slides, video) are strongly encouraged.
- Panels should be composed of three paper presenters and one discussant or four paper presenters. Proposals for panels should provide a brief statement that explains the session as a whole and the proposed subject of each paper.
- Roundtables offer an opportunity for participants to discuss a specific theme, issue, or significant recent publication. A maximum of six active participants is recommended. While a roundtable proposal will not be as detailed as a panel proposal, it should explain fully the session's purpose, themes or issues, and scope.
- Proposals for workshops by performance practitioner(s) with expertise

in specific Asian performance traditions are welcomed, particularly workshops that overlap with a panel theme or paper presentation. Workshop proposals should include an abstract explaining methods and goals. Workshops should be designed to run no longer than 80 minutes.

Suggestions for innovative alternatives to the panels, individual papers, and roundtables described above are encouraged. Proposals should be emailed to the conference organiser, Margaret Coldiron, at jiggs@blueyonder.co.uk

If help is needed to locate other scholars for participation in a panel or roundtable, please submit a preliminary description of your proposal before 1 March so that AAP can post it on its website. Alternatively, you can post your suggestions for a panel there directly by logging on to the site at: <http://www.yavanika.org/aaponline/> The deadline for submission of all proposals is 30 April 2007. All presenters are expected to join AAP. Membership is \$40 per year (\$25 for students) and includes a subscription to the *Asian Theatre Journal*.

Independence and after in Southeast Asia: Old and new interpretations

Penang, Malaysia
14–15 August 2007

Deadline for abstracts: 15 January 2007;
deadline for working papers: 1 June 2007

Further information contact:
Conference Secretariat
Second International Conference (2APRU)
Asia-Pacific Research Unit (APRU)

School of Humanities
Universiti Sains Malaysia
11800 Penang
Malaysia
Email: shakila@usm.my (Dr Shakila Abdul Manan);
website: www.usm.my/APRU/index.html

History of medicine in Southeast Asia (HOMSEA): Treating diseases and epidemics in Southeast Asia over the centuries

Penang, Malaysia
9-10 January 2008

Organised by the Asia-Pacific Research Unit (APRU), School of Humanities, Universiti Sains Malaysia this conference intends to explore how the inhabitants of Southeast Asia faced the ravages of innumerable diseases and epidemics over the ages. Adopting a liberal time frame (prehistoric to modern times), participants are encouraged to trace the development of medical and religious responses to diseases and the devastation of epidemics. Further lines of thought are offered for deliberation, viz. How did the peoples fight off diseases that might spell their extinction?; What did communities do to prevent the spread of certain illnesses?; Were European colonial administrations more successful in disease containment than indigenous authorities? Deadline for abstracts: 1 May 2007
Deadline for working papers: 15 November 2007

Further information email Dr Shakila Abdul Manan (Secretary), Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia:
shakila@usm.my
Website: www.usm.my/APRU/index.html

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, SOAS

Seminars on Thursdays G51 main building
17.00-19.00 except where otherwise
indicated. All welcome and bookings not
required. Centre website:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/cseas/>

Further information: Justin Watkins
(jw2@soas.ac.uk) or Jane Savory
(js64@soas.ac.uk)

Saturday, 28 Oct 06; 14.00-16.00

- Roundtable discussion on the political situation in Thailand under CEO Thaksin
Senator Kraisak Choonhavan (Chairman of Thai Senate Foreign Affairs Committee) and Sondhi Limthongkun (owner of Manager Newspaper Group)

12 October 2006

- Susan Conway (CSEAS Research Associate, SOAS)
Eating the horses: 19th-century tribute relations in the Shan States

19 October 2006

- Matthew Cohen (Senior Lecturer, Department of Drama and Theatre, Royal Holloway)
The itinerant Indies or 'Java to Jazz'

20 October 2006; Khalili Lecture Theatre, Main Building, SOAS

- Professor Donald Stadtner
The Hindu element in Burmese Theravada court rituals

2 November 2006

- John Sidel (Sir Patrick Gillam Professor of International and Comparative Politics, LSE)
Speaking about his new book *Riots, pogroms, jihad: religious violence in*

Indonesia (Cornell University Press, 2006)

16 November 2006

- Michael Charney (Department of History, SOAS)
Buddhist literati and new information technology in 19th-century Burma

23 November 2006

- Andrew Huxley (SOAS)
Burma since the underwater coup of 2002: in search of Public Law

7 December 2006

- Atsuko Naono (SOAS)
The evasive inoculators: smallpox and the subversion of the colonial vaccination establishment in colonial Burma

14 December 2006

- Johan Fischer (Goldsmiths)
Dreaming of diaspora and the halal hub: The global halal market in London

Southeast Asian Studies seminars, Asian Studies Centre, St Antony's College, University of Oxford

Wednesdays at the Deakin Room, Founder's Building, 17.00 to 18.30. All are welcome.

Please check for programme updates at: www.sant.ox.ac.uk/areastudies/asianlectures.html

Email: asian@sant.ox.ac.uk or

tel: 01865-274559

11 October 2006

- Andrew Walker (Australian National University)
The festival, the abbot and the son of the Buddha: modern Thai community in Chiang Mai province

8 November 2006

- Carlo Bonura (University of Puget Sound)

Muslim politics without the political?
An examination of anthropologies of
Muslim civil society in Southeast Asia

22 November 2006

- Dr Caroline Hughes (University of Birmingham)
Transnational networks and political contention in Cambodia

**First International Conference of Aceh and
Indian Ocean Studies**

Bandar Aceh, Indonesia
24 February 2007

This will be the first international conference to bring together both experts on Acehese 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 geographical, historical, commercial and religious factors that linked Aceh to these two worlds. As the effects of the tsunami were felt around the Indian Ocean littoral, comparative analyses of both disaster relief and peace-making in this region will be welcomed.

This conference is sponsored by the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Executing Agency for Aceh and Nias (BRR) and the Asia Research Institute, NUS, Singapore.

The conference will contain the following panels:

- Seismology, geology and environmental impact
- History of Aceh and the Indian Ocean world

- Language, culture and society
- Post-tsunami relief, reconstruction and disaster mitigation
- Conflict resolution, peace-making and democratisation issues
- Islam, law and society

For further information see website at
http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=539

**Graduate Student Conference on
Vietnamese Studies**

University of California, Berkeley
9 – 10 February 2007

Contact information:

Vietnam Studies Graduate Student
Conference

Center for Southeast Asia Studies, UC
Berkeley

2223 Fulton Street, No. 617

Berkeley, CA 94720 - 2318

Tel: (510) 642-3609; Fax: (510) 643-7062

E-mail:

<mailto:cseas@berkeley.edu>>cseas@berkeley.edu

**Grappling with Independence: Burmese
Culture, Media, and Daily Life in the**

U Nu Period, 1948-1962

SOAS workshop

September 2007

For further information contact:

Dr Michael W. Charney

Department of History, SOAS

Thornhaugh Street/Russell Square

London WC1H 0XG

Email: mc62@soas.ac.uk

**Syncretism in South and Southeast Asia:
adoption and adaptation**

Mahidol University
Bangkok
24-27 May 2007

For further information and online pre-
registration contact:

Dr Sophana Srichampa
Chair, Organising Committee
2nd SSEASR Conference 2007
www.sseasr.org
Email: conf2007@sseasr.org or
sseasr@gmail.com

Euroseas

University of Naples
12-15 September 2007

For more information contact conference
convenor:

Dr Pietro P. Masina, Euroseas Secretary
Department of Social Sciences,
University of Naples 'The Oriental'
Largo S. Giovanni Maggiore 30
80134 Naples, Italy
Tel: +39 081 6909436
Fax: +39 081 6909442
Email: pietro@ruc.dk

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MYANMAR LITERATURE PROJECT



Starting with an investigation into the NAGANI BOOK CLUB

Summary

The project connects two aims.

- It intends to document and analyse the role of **Burmese/Myanmar literature as a medium between the world and the county's society** from the beginning of the 20th century until today.
- It seeks **to establish a network of people who are concerned about Burma's/Myanmar's intellectual and literary life past, present and future** both inside and outside of present day Myanmar.

1 The Book Club

The *Nagani* (Red Dragon) **Book Club** was founded in 1937 in Rangoon by some Burmans after the model of Victor Gollancz' Left Book Club. The most prominent of them was Thakin Nu, who later became the first Prime Minister of independent Burma. The purpose of the Club was to print books in the Burmese language containing the essence of the contemporary international literature, history, economics, politics and science at a low price. Till 1941, the club published more than 70 (or some 100, if the books published by the co-founder of Nagani Tun Aye are included) books, issued a newsletter and was popularised by a still popular song that was sung by a film star. The club was closely linked with mostly young Burman nationalists, particularly from the *Thakin*-movement. The *Thakins* formed the core of the Burmese army and the political body that achieved Burma's independence in 1948.

The *Nagani* Book Club linked the Burmese independence movements with the contemporary international 'world of knowledge'. It was dedicated to serve the purpose of establishing a cultural and political revolution in Burma that benefited the masses of the Burmese population.

2 The State of Research

Independent Burma has been isolated from the international world for a long period of time. This fact has affected research on Burma badly – both on the national and the international level – including the study of the *Nagani* Book Club. The Club has not yet been the subject of thorough research despite the fact that most books dealing with modern Burma stress the importance of the Club as a centre that provided the Burmese revolutionaries with food for thought. Filling this gap

may shed some light upon the antecedents of independent Burma's particular role in the family of nations.

The *Nagani* Book Club was founded at a crucial period of Burma's struggle for independence between the introduction of a constitution for Burma as a distinct part of the British Empire separated from British India, which came into effect in April 1937, and the outbreak of the war in Europe in September 1939. The establishment of the Club lies on the intersection of two lines of tradition. With the foundation of the Club, the demand for abolishing and replacing the British "slave education" was taken up, a demand that formed a red thread of Burma's independence movements since the end of the 19th century. On the other hand, the Club by familiarising its readers with current international developments, knowledge and literature placed Burma into an international context and took up the demand of the British administrators that the Burmese had to be educated and Burma had to be modernised as a prerequisite to the country's independence. Thus, it can be expected that the study of the *Nagani* Book Club, its origins, its impact on the making of independent Burma and its role as a symbol of Burma's struggle for independence until today will contribute to a better understanding of Burma's political culture before and after the re-gaining of independence in 1948.

3 The Project's History

The project was implemented in January 2005 with the financial assistance of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation. People inside and outside Myanmar were asked to write book reports on the books published by Nagani with the intention to publish them in English. The response was great. Up to today, some 120 reports on more than 65 books published (out of a total number of 100) have been submitted by 60 contributors. More reports are promised. That opens the prospect of getting a satisfactory overview about the publications of the Club as well as an insight into the way Burmese people concerned with the intellectual and literary heritage of the countries are reporting on the publications and interpreting as well as assessing the legacy of the Book Club.

At the Burma Studies Conference in Singapore (13-15 July 2006) the project together with some first reflections of the role of literature for the development of Burmese society was presented by participants in the project from Myanmar.

4 Publications

Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Passau (situated in Southern Germany) publishes a series of working papers containing the reports as well as related material and contributions on the role of literature in the process of nation building in Burma/Myanmar. It is intended to publish each book report together with a short commentary written by an "interested outsider" and other material on the reception history of the books and their respective topic in order to make clear that the project aims at an international dialogue on Burma's past as well as the prospects of Myanmar's future.

Five volumes of working papers are currently available.

No. 10:1, An Introduction into the Nagani Book Club

No. 10:2, Material on Thein Pe, *Biography of Saya Lun* and *Royal Advisers*

No. 10:3, Material on Ba Hein, *The World of Capitalists*

No. 10:4, Material on Thein Pe, *Student Boycotters* (Two Volumes)

No. 10:5, Material on Ba Khaing, *Political History of Burma*

These are **accessible** through the website of the University of Passau.

<http://www.iseap.de/content/view/89/>

and – as printouts – from the Myanmar Book Centre in Yangon:

<http://www.myanmarbook.com>

The **next set of papers** will cover material on Nu's book *Gandalarit* on his travel to China in late 1939, two books written by Ba Hein and Aung San on 'World War and Burma', Mogyo's translation of a book on the Philippine national hero José Rizal and the papers presented at the panel, *Interpreting Interpretations of Burma's Intellectual and Literary Heritage*, at the 2006 *Burma Studies Conference* in Singapore.

5 A Call for Participants

The project's success depended and still depends on the readiness of people to take interest and participate in it. Some books still need to be reviewed, many book reports have to be translated from Burmese into English and a lot of reports have to be commented upon.

Anybody interested in the subject is invited to **participate in the project** by

- writing **comments and reviews** on the contents of the volumes already published;
- contributing **essays** on Burmese/Myanmar literature as a medium between the international world and Burmese society;
- providing **material**, which sheds more light on the Nagani Book Club, its context and impact on Burmese intellectual and literary life;
- offering **assistance** as translator, commentator, or assistant editor.

For more information, please contact:

Dr Hans-Bernd Zöllner
Universities of Passau and Hamburg
Phone: +49-40-8317961
Email: habezett@t-online.de

BOOK REVIEWS



BRUNO MANSER

Tagebücher aus dem Regenwald [Notebooks from the rainforest]

Basel: Christoph Merian Verlag for the Bruno Manser Foundation, 2004. 16 notebooks bound as 4 vols.
ISBN 3-85616-233-X; €64

In bringing these notebooks to publication, the foundation bearing the name of Bruno Manser has completed a demanding new stage of its commitment to preserving his name and the cause to which he dedicated 16 years of his adult life – and which probably caused his death. The usual English translation for *Tagebuecher* is diaries but that is not an apt description of the work under review. There are strikingly few dated entries; instead all 16 notebooks contain closely observed ethnographic descriptions of the Penan individuals and their lives that he came to know, and of the weapons, tools, creatures and plants of their world in the rainforests of Sarawak. Supporting them are further jottings and coloured drawings – some combining beauty, veracity and emotional force to a rare degree – while inserted among them from notebook 9, 1986 onwards, are his pained, bitter, ironic and outraged accounts of the numerous confrontations between the Penan, the logging companies, the Sarawak officials, local and state, and finally with the federal government in Kuala Lumpur.

The strength of these notebooks is that they comprise the first-hand observations of a European who, in the 1980s, mastered the knowledge and life-skills of the Penan sufficiently to survive (sometimes alone) for *six years* as a nomadic hunter-gatherer among the beauties and menaces of this complex environment. He writes not only as observer but also as someone who knows what it is to be very hungry, to shoot a monkey with a poisoned dart just before darkness sets in, to hear it fall but be unable to find it in the endless rain and dense undergrowth. Their weakness is that there is no system – Manser was academically untrained (he mistakenly called the Penan ‘Punan’ for the first six months he was with them) but immensely brave, persistent and interested in everything. He wrote about and drew the topics – giving birth, how to plait rattan bracelets, how to wind the male and female loincloths, death rituals – as they held his attention, with no analytical attempts to group them into related subjects. There are also numerous magnificent but uncaptioned animal portraits, especially of monkeys, occupying a whole notebook page while the text surrounding them deals with something quite unrelated. His editors have devoted themselves to deciphering Manser’s handwritten texts (not always easy to judge by the many facsimile pages). They scrupulously record in the margin the notebook and page number of the original, but they have provided neither a Table of Contents nor an Index. So it is a time-consuming process to find Manser’s entries on specific topics. Researchers using these valuable notebooks will find themselves signposting topics scattered over the four volumes with post-its of different colours. A few language problems should be noted:

although Manser mainly wrote in literary German, there are many places where words and phrases have a different meaning in Swiss German, and there are some places where he uses Basel dialect. He also uses his own abbreviations for diameter, male and female; he consistently but idiosyncratically misuses apostrophes and occasionally misspells words. Alongside his achievements and the physical conditions under which he lived, wrote and drew, these features may puzzle the reader initially but are insignificant.


It will help the reader to situate the contents of these volumes if I briefly summarise the life of Manser. Born in 1954 into an urban working class family in Basel, he came in the middle of six children. From the age of 12 his dream was to be free and live with people as close as possible to nature in a great forest far away from the wasteful, materialistic urban society that he abhorred. This is a dream shared by many 12-year-olds. Though not exceptionally intelligent or educated, Manser was a very exceptional man in his single-minded dedication to that dream for the rest of his life, and to the people whom he saw as incorporating it. The next ten years in Switzerland were his journeyman years when he worked in a range of manual jobs. In 1984, he set off for Southeast Asia, spending a short time in Thailand before arriving in Borneo and making contact with the forest dwellers.

Out of the c. 12,000 Penan at that time, Manser set out to live with and be accepted by the some 300 families who still lived a nomadic existence in the Sarawak rainforest entirely by hunting and gathering. There he served a second, infinitely more demanding

and dangerous apprenticeship in the service of his dream. Manser's notebooks show no critical awareness of himself and his values in the extraordinary society and environment he impressionistically records. In his description of birth, for instance, he naïvely records himself as looking under the tattered sarong covering the woman's genitals to see what stage the long process had reached, only to be shooed away, and darting forward to pick up the newborn child when it fell through the birthing stool onto the earth. Scandalised male relatives again reprimanded him and turned their backs on the serial taboo-breaker. But the tone of his short notes gradually suggests adjustment, acceptance and growing survival skills: the force of his dream carried him through hunger, leeches, fevers. He lived it for some two years until, in 1986, the forest and with it the livelihoods of his group of Penans was threatened by logging companies and officialdom. By helping the Penan resist, Manser was increasingly seen by the Sarawak, and eventually the Kuala Lumpur authorities as *the* trouble-maker without whom the resistance of the Penan would be easily overcome. Manser's notebooks leave no doubt about the bitterness and resoluteness of the Penan. While foreign journalists too focused on the 'white savage's' role in the confrontations, Manser tried to rise above such trivialisation to mobilise public support in the battle against the double destruction hanging over the Borneo rainforest and its people. His notebooks end in 1989.

In 1990 Manser returned to Switzerland to continue the struggle from there. This is the stage of the institutionalisation of his dream with the Manser Foundation as well as with

sympathisers in other organisations (such as WWF, Al Gore, the UN among many others). He tried very hard to change the policies of the Swiss Federal Government on the import of tropical woods. He undertook many actions (including stunts) to this end the most famous being his hunger strike outside the Federal Parliament in Bern in 1993. Manser took only water for 60 days [!] and was close to death on breaking off. The willpower and dream that sustained him through his second apprenticeship had lost nothing of their force. He did not change Swiss Federal policy but by the end of his hunger strike, Bruno Manser, the Penan and the Borneo rainforest were etched on the public conscience of Switzerland. In the 1990s Manser frequently went back to 'his' people in Borneo, always illegally, trekking in from Brunei or Kalimantan, always mindful that their tragedy was a world-wide one shared by all forest dwellers facing capitalist degradation of their forests. His last journey was from Kalimantan in 2000. Near the border he wrote a last postcard, sent with a returning companion to his partner, Charlotte Belet, signed with a self-portrait thumbing his nose. No bad epitaph for a brave man with a powerful dream.

Janice Stargardt 
Cambridge University

ADRIAN VICKERS

A history of modern Indonesia

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
 2005. xiv + 291 pp. ISBN 0-521-54262-6
 £14.99 pb, 0-521-83493-7 £40 hb.

<http://www.cambridge.org>

Adrian Vickers' direct and engaged study of Indonesia from 1900 to the present is a work of extraordinary synthesis, drawing upon years of research, reading, discussion, teaching and learning about Indonesian culture and society. Vickers gives an account of the conception and history of the nation, but rather than constructing a grand narrative of politicians and power-brokers, Vickers proceeds by deftly capturing the mood of a series of eras through patient explication of the dominant values, convictions and passions that drive Indonesian people during different periods. The book is constructed as a dialogue with the late novelist, historian and cultural activist Pramoedya Ananta Toer (1925-2006). Pramoedya's experience and reflections on the movement from colonialism to revolution, independence, guided democracy under President Sukarno, military rule under President Soeharto and the 'crisis' of 1997 to the present are dealt with as emblematic of the structures of feeling of his time. Pramoedya's father is brought in to explain the drive for educational reform in the late colonial period. His own participation in the revolutionary struggle against the Dutch and his move from the town of Blora to the metropole of Jakarta represent the experience of many other Javanese men. Pramoedya's post-independence activism

and dedication to the charismatic Sukarno, and his imprisonment, censorship and underground notoriety under Soeharto speak directly to the different tenors of these two periods. Pramoedya's frustrations with the growth of participatory democracy in Indonesia after the fall of Soeharto are likewise shared with many, although as Vickers points out 'Pramoedya's desire for a national liberation seems as nostalgic as Suharto's harking back to aristocratic Javanese tradition' (209).

The book has three great strengths. The first is that it is extraordinarily well structured and paced. The first three chapters concern the experience of the Dutch in Indonesia and the logic and implementation of colonial rule, life in the countryside in a period of rapid change and the birth and growth of nationalism and resistance to colonialism in the cities. A chapter on the Japanese occupation and revolution is followed by a brilliant chapter on 'living in the atomic age' in the 1950s which uses the five principles of the state ideology of Pancasila as an organisational conceit to discuss religion, democracy, internationalism, economics and nationalism. Then follow chapters on the violent transition to the New Order, 'terror and development' during the New Order and an attempt to take stock of the complex forces that drive Indonesians and the nation today.


The second major strength is the way that Vickers skillfully interweaves biography and first person accounts into his history, quoting not only Pramoedya and other 'key figures' (each of whom is provided with capsule biographies in a useful appendix) but also many subaltern voices. Thus we

hear how a Balinese dancer remembers the confusion of different sorts of money during the early days of Independence (101), the way a *ludruk* actor used his theatre to 'educate society' during the early 1960s (155), the complaints of a garment factory worker in the 1990s (192). Vickers also deploys his literary training to deal with the films and novels of Tirta Adhi Suryo, Usmar Ismail and Ayu Utami as primary sources wrestling with dominant concerns of the day.

The third strength of the book is that it provides a first-rate guide to current themes in modern Indonesian historiography. While there are signs of significant original research that went into the making of this book, much of it is dependent on Vickers' adept integration of published sources in English and Indonesian. I found myself making frequent notes of books and articles I want to read or reread.

I have two minor criticisms. The first is that in the attempt to appeal to a broad readership the author occasionally neglects the specialist by not including the original Indonesian for periodical titles or social movements. It is sometimes possible to back-translate, but not always. The second is that the book's final chapter, written during the early days of Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono's presidency in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, feels somewhat sketchy and overly contentious. This is perhaps to be expected: many issues related to national identity are very unsettled and confusing today. It is to be hoped that the publisher will allow new editions to appear in the future to allow for periodic updating.

This is a superb study to be assigned to classes on modern Southeast Asia, read by experts in the field as a refresher on Indonesia and used as a point of scholarly reference on the experience of the last century for Indonesia and Indonesians.

Matthew Isaac Cohen 
Royal Holloway

DUNCAN McCARGO (ed).
Rethinking Vietnam
London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon,
2004, 256 pages. ISBN: 0415316219 (hb), £80.
ISBN: 041533585X, (pb), £20.99

In the mid-1980s, Vietnam began to transform itself into a market-oriented economy, by embarking on a programme of modernisation and industrialisation. The economic success that ensued has brought about a comprehensive reduction in poverty levels and raised the life expectancy of Vietnamese citizens. Recent economic growth, though not as spectacular as that of neighbouring China, continues unabated. However, as the contributors of this volume rightly imply, much could still go wrong. For instance, despite the spectacular increase in Vietnam's GDP per capita that resulted from the *doi moi* market-oriented reforms, there is now large-scale underemployment – mostly in rural areas, but also in the towns – suggesting that the economy is functioning below its potential. Moreover, the relatively high population density and the significant proportion of the workforce still engaged in agriculture, combined with the absence of unemployment benefits, poses a very real

risk of social instability, should the gap between the urban and rural areas widen.

Duncan McCargo, the volume's editor, states that the aim of the book is 'to "rethink" Vietnam, by moving beyond the scholarship of admiration, asking awkward questions about Vietnam's politics, economy, society and international relations' (p. 2). Answers to these questions come from several disciplines, and the volume includes contributions from various overseas academics specialising in Vietnam, as well as some emerging Vietnamese scholars.

The book's main strength is in its perceptive identification of the domestic forces – mostly primary – that are influencing the direction of change and reform in Vietnam. It asks some pertinent questions, and addresses them thoroughly and persuasively. Furthermore, it does not simply applaud the achievements of the country, but offers a more balanced analysis by casting doubt on the extent to which particular policies have truly made an impact. However, as is often the case in edited books, there is little connection and cross-referencing between the volume's sixteen contributions, and the chapter by Martin Gainsborough, which could serve as a conclusion, is misplaced at the beginning of the collection.

The editor has divided the thirteen essays in this volume into four parts, the first of which covers Vietnamese politics and political change, following the *doi-moi* reforms. Chris Dixon discusses the nature of the relationship between Vietnamese society and state, suggesting that the country might,

in due course, adopt a 'less authoritarian, less centralised and a more responsive version of the Singaporean single-party system' (p. 26), although this viewpoint overlooks the fact that Vietnam is a much more corrupt and inefficient country than Singapore. Sophie Quinn-Judge sheds new light on the history of the Vietnamese Communist Party, while Martin Gainsborough discusses the way in which the Vietnamese state is reinventing itself in order to cope with changing circumstances. Finally, Claudia Zingerli examines the process of democratisation in peripheral mountain communities, observing that this has been hampered by the lack of active support at grassroots level.

In the first of three essays in the second part – the section concerned with economics – Ari Kokko examines the structural reforms undertaken by the government after the 1996 Party Congress. This is followed by Gerard Clarke's analysis of the social challenges that come with reform. The rapid economic growth, explains Clarke, derives from the redeployment of inefficient rice farmers into more productive pursuits such as growing coffee, farming shrimps and working in textile plants or shoe factories. Finally, in a discussion of Vietnam's rural transformation, Tran Thi Thu Trang examines how some rural households have taken advantage of new opportunities and diversified their production.

The problematic nature of educational and health reforms undertaken in Vietnam is the common theme of the four interesting essays in the volume's third section. Jonathan London examines changes, based on quasi-egalitarian principles, in the state

education and health systems. Doan Hue Dung makes an adroit connection with London's essay in discussing the problematic centralism of Vietnamese education, and the absence of institutional autonomy in the educational system. In a study of local associations working on HIV/AIDS, Marie-Eve Blanc notes that the emergence of such groups is deeply dividing the Vietnamese society, where AIDS is seen by many as a disease of the capitalist world. And in a refreshing essay on young graduates in Hanoi, Phuong An Nguyen considers the effect of the country's feudal past, its socialist ideology, and today's market economy, all of which impact upon young people pursuing success in contemporary Vietnam.

The final section deals with foreign relations. Nick Freeman and Curt Nestor give an informative account of the ebb and flow of foreign direct investment, which has been instrumental for economic development, while Jörn Dosch and Ta Minh Tuan discuss the most recent changes in Vietnam's foreign policy in general, and examine at some length relations with ASEAN since Vietnam's accession in the mid-1990s.

On the whole the book is challenging and well worth reading, and the various authors provide some valuable insights for policy makers, foreign donors, academics, and students of Vietnamese economy, society and culture. The writing is accessible, and never highly technical, and so the volume may appeal to a wide range of readers. However, given its length and multidisciplinary coverage, readers will probably make a choice and focus on their

area of interest. The stimulating introduction, Parts II and III, and the concluding contribution by Jörn Dosch and Ta Minh Tuan, are particularly recommended.

Dimitrios Konstadakopulos 

University of the West of England, Bristol

TERENCE CHONG

Modernization trends in Southeast Asia
Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2005. Southeast Asia Background Series no. 9. viii + 72 pp.
ISBN 981-230-316-2. S\$14/US\$9.90 (hb)

As part of its public outreach objective to promote 'a better awareness among the general public about trends and developments in Southeast Asia' the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore publishes a series entitled 'Southeast Asia Background'. This latest publication in the series is a very useful addition to it. It is a slim volume, easy to read, written in a straightforward, non-technical language, no footnotes (thank goodness), with a brief, selected bibliography and with 'in focus' boxed material on such topics as 'Education and cultural capital', 'Ethnicity and national culture', 'World religions in Southeast Asia', 'Who are the middle class?' and 'Mass consumption'.

Terence Chong, a sociologist with interests in globalization, social class, civil society and the sociology of culture, has addressed a very large subject in just over 70 pages. His definition of modernization is a


standard, perhaps even 'traditional' one; for him it comprises 'the industrial progress of society' and 'the material transition of a developing society to a developed one' (p.5), whilst 'modernity' refers to the 'intellectual and cultural features' of the society (p.7). Obviously Chong has had to be very selective, though he does manage to address some of the major issues within processes of modernization, including education and the development of human capital, citizenship and ethnicity in the context of globalization, religion and politics, social class and specifically the emerging middle class, and mass consumption. He starts his brief and rapid excursion by saying 'Diversity and change are the only constants in Southeast Asia' (p.1). He illustrates the diversity of experiences by using examples from across the region, although he might have drawn rather more on materials from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, which have more recently embraced the wider market and the wider world. I was also a little surprised that he did not address gender issues or youth sub-cultures in the region, or the nature of urbanization and such matters as factory employment. Given his selection of themes, he also focuses much more on 'the urban' than 'the rural'. But of course, in indicating omissions, I am asking for a bigger book, which is not, I suppose, in the spirit of this popular series.

To assist the reader in contextualising our understanding of the rapid changes which have taken place in the region during the past 30 years or so, Chong might also have made reference, in brief and simplified form, to some of the recent debates about modernity and post-modernity and perhaps some of the criticisms of the concept of

modernization and the tendency to use dual or dichotomous categories to depict the movement from 'tradition' to modernity'.

In the concluding chapter there is an interesting discussion of the possibility of the emergence of a distinctively Southeast Asian modernity. Chong looks for this first of all in the region's 'globally oriented economic outlook' and its 'outward-looking' character, and then in national identities and national cultures, followed by a consideration of Southeast Asia's 'strong consumerist' culture and the likelihood that 'goods and products will be infused with local values and meanings', and finally the eclectic mix of political ideologies within the region, with less emphasis on human rights issues (pp. 66-68). I have my doubts about the possibility of a distinctive, self-generating modernity in the era of globalization. The four areas which Chong identifies do not, to my mind, suggest a novel Southeast Asian experience, despite the localization of the global, though it is an interesting question to pose, address and debate.

Overall this is a very useful popular introduction to the subject, and nicely written. I liked the chapters on religion and the middle class in particular. Apart from reaching the general public it is also a book from which an undergraduate audience could derive some benefit in that it alerts them in a summary and interesting fashion to some crucial processes and consequences of change in the region.

VT King 
University of Leeds

CURRENT POSTGRADUATE DIRECTORY (UK)

This is a current dissertation list and the information covers institution, candidate's name, topic, discipline, supervisor/s and year of registration.

University of Bath

Schaaf, Rebecca

'Considering the relationship between individual, group and community well-being. A study of the complexity of collective action in a village in NE Thailand'
Economics & International Development (PhD)

Dr JA McGregor; Dr S Johnson

Registration: 2003

Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College

Agajanian, Rowana

'Vietnam War documentaries'
Film History / Film Theory (PhD)

Dr Colette Balmain

Registration: 2005

University of Cambridge

Cook, Joanna

'Gender and identity among Thai Buddhist nuns'

Social Anthropology (MPhil)

Dr Sue Benson & Prof Dame Marilyn Strathern

Registration: 2001

Gallagher, Rory

'Liminal encounters HIV / AIDS and geographies of male and transgender tourist-oriented sexwork in Phuket, Thailand and Bali, Indonesia'

Geography (DPhil)

Dr Gerry Kearns & Dr Philip Howell

Registration: 2003

Ladwig, Patrice
'Exchange relations of Buddhist laymen and monks among the Lao'
Social Anthropology (PhD)
Dr James Laidlaw
Registration: 2002

Sumrit, Arpaporn
'Filling (other's) rice bowl: the impact of rice trade liberalisation on rural women in Vietnam'
Land Economy (PhD)
Dr Shalaija Fennell
Registration: 2004

University of Durham

Huijsmans, Roy
'Teenage labour migrants from Laos and Thailand and the Thai labour market'
Geography
Dr Rachel Pain and Prof Jonathan Rigg
Registration: 2006

Lestrelin, Guillaume
'Natural resource management and livelihoods in Laos'
Geography (PhD)
Prof Jonathan Rigg and Dr Harriet Bulkeley
Registration: 2003

Limkriengkrai, Jitsuda
'Handicrafts and rural development in northern Thailand'
Geography
Dr Marcus Power and Prof Jonathan Rigg
Registration: 2006

Muzaini, Hamzah
'Postcolonial landscapes and the memorialization of the Second World War In Malaysia'
Geography
Dr Mike Crang & Prof Jonathan Rigg
Registration: 2004

Salamanca, Albert
'Aquatic food production systems in peri-urban areas of Southeast Asia'
Geography (PhD)
Supervisor: Prof Jonathan Rigg
Registration: 2003

University of East Anglia

Smith, Tim
'Anglo-American policy towards French Indochina 1943-50'
History (PhD)
Prof John Charmley
Registration: 2002

University of Exeter

Mohd Rushdan. Jailani
'A study of Shamsuddin al-Sumatrai (d.1630) as – Sufi's teachings of the relationship between God, Universe and Man, based on a selection of his Sufi works'
Religion (PhD)
Dr Sajjad Rizvi
Registration: October 2003

Reeve, Sandra
'Eco-somatics: towards an ecological approach to performance training (one source being Suprpto Suryodarmo, movement artist, Solo, Central Java, Indonesia)'
Performance Practice as Research (PhD)
Prof Phillip Zarrilli
Registration: 2004

University of Huddersfield

Robinson, Alex

'ICTs and development in Indonesia: information, markets and livelihood security'

Development studies (PhD)

Dr J Meaton & Dr A Dixon

Registration: 2003

University of Hull

Abdullah, Azrai bin

'The changing role of the state in the economic transformation of Perak, Malaysia, 1874-2000'

Southeast Asian Studies (PhD)

Prof VT King

Registration: 2001

Ro Soong Chul

'British decolonisation and the minorities of Burma'

Southeast Asian Studies (PhD)

Dr Clive Christie

Registration: 2001

Srikham, Watcharee

'Social change, tourism and the Hmong in Sa Pa, Vietnam'

Southeast Asian Studies (PhD)

Prof VT King

Registration: 1999

University of Kent at Canterbury

Hoffstaedter, Gerhard

'Muslim Malay identity formation and articulation'

Anthropology (PhD)

Prof Roger Just & Prof CW Watson

Registration: 2004

Platten, Simon

'The cultural dynamics of germplasm exchange in Menado, eastern Indonesia'

Environmental Anthropology (PhD)

Prof R Ellen

Registration: 1999

Porodong, Paul

'Swidden cultivation and social change amongst the Rungus of Sabah (Malaysia)'

Anthropology (PhD)

Prof R Ellen

Registration: 2002

University of Leeds

Camarena Perez, Alberto

'Prospects for the formation of a pluralistic security community between China and ASEAN'

East Asian Studies (PhD)

Dr Joern Dosch & Dr Christopher Dent

Registration: 2002

Haji Abu Bakar, Nani Suryani

'Brunei's Political Development between 1966 and 1984: Challenges and Difficulties over its Survival'

East Asian Studies (PhD)

Dr Joern Dosch & Dr Ian Caldwell

Registration: 2003

Kwong, Caleb

'Rural microfinance in China and Indonesia'

Economics/ Development Studies

Dr Flemming Christiansen

Registration: 2001

Mohd Ali, Muhammad Asri,

'Political parties in Malaysia'

East Asian Studies (PhD)

Dr Joern Dosch & Prof VT King

Registration: 2005

Naruemon Thabchumpon
'Participatory democracy and Thailand's
forum of the poor'
Politics (PhD)
Prof D McCargo
Registration: 2000

Nga, Janice
'Political economy of collective action: youth
organisations' participation in Malaysian
development'
East Asian Studies (PhD)
Prof VT King & Dr Mike Parnwell
Registration: 2004

Singh, Jatswan
'The power of human rights:international
norms and regime behaviour in Myanmar'
Dr Joern Dosch & Dr Mike Parnwell
Registration: 2003

Tan, Michelle
'Corruption and education reform in
Thailand'
Politics (PhD)
Prof Duncan McCargo
Registration: 2004

Tyson, Adam
'Adat and decentralisation in South
Sulawesi'
Politics (PhD)
Prof Duncan McCargo and Dr Gordon
Crawford
Registration: 2004

Vu Le Thai Hoang
'The Indochinese countries after the Cold
War: "New Cooperation" for survival'
East Asian Studies (PhD)
Dr Joern Dosch & Dr Caroline Rose
Registration: 2004

Zainol, Salina
'The history of South Sulawesi c1860-1905'
East Asian Studies (PhD)
Dr Ian Caldwell & Prof VT King
Registration: 2005

**University of London:
Goldsmiths College**

Frost, Nicola
'Responses to religious violence in Maluku,
Eastern Indonesia'
Anthropology (PhD)
Dr John Hutnyk
Registration: 2000

**University of London:
King's College**

Kim Soyeun
'Japanese ODA and Philippine
environmental projects'
Geography (PhD)
Dr Raymond Bryant
Registration: 2002

Lee, Otto Jeng-di
'Managing coastal resources in the
Philippines: the role of actors in
policy interventions'
Geography (MPhil/PhD)
Dr Raymond Bryant
Registration: 1996

**University of London:
London School of Economics & Political
Science**

Baker, Jacqueline
'Police reform in Indonesia'
Government (PhD)
Professor John T. Sidel/Dr Fenella Cannell
Registration: 2005

Brickell, Katherine

'Gender relations in the Khmer home: post-conflict perspectives'

Geography (PhD)

Prof Sylvia Chant

Registration: 2003

Giehmann, Florent YC

'Prayer, supernaturalism, and power in the ritual practices of Javanese Islam, Central Java, Indonesia'

Social Anthropology (PhD)

Prof. Maurice Bloch & Dr Fenella Cannell

Registration: 2000

Lertchoosakul, Kanokrat

'The transformation of the Left Movement in contemporary politics: the 70s leftist student activists in the democratisation of Thailand'

Comparative Politics (PhD)

Prof John Sidel

Registration: 2005

Ngo Thi Minh

'Gains and losses from decollectivisation in Vietnam: land redistribution, agricultural growth and rural poverty (1992-1998)'

Development Studies (PhD)

Prof Michael Lipton & Dr Markus Goldstein

Registration: 1999

Smith, Claire Q

'Local politics and government in post-conflict areas, focusing on Eastern Indonesia'

Development Studies (PhD)

Dr James Putzel & Prof John Sidel

Registration: 2004

Zucker, Eve Monique

'Difficult lives: A Khmer highland community after 30 years of war and

genocide'

Anthropology (PhD)

Prof Charles Stafford & Prof Maurice Bloch

Registration: 2000

University of London:

Queen Mary

Khan, Sher Banu A.L.

'Rule behind the silk curtain: a study of the queens in Aceh 1641-1699'

History (PhD)

Prof Felipe Fernández-Armesto

Registration: 2004

University of London

Royal Holloway

Aris A. Yaacob

'*Wayang kulit* and object theatre'

Theatre Studies (PhD)

Dr Matthew Isaac Cohen

Registration: 2006

University of London:

School of Oriental and African Studies

Aljunied, Syed M. Khairudin

'Islam in Singapore 1945-59'

History (PhD)

Prof William G Clarence-Smith

Registration: 2005

Apte, Savita

'The Bombay Progressives'

Art & Archaeology (PhD)

Dr Elizabeth Moore

Registration: 2003

Bahar, Ida Baizura

'The shifting paradigm of Malayness'

Literature (PhD)

Prof Ulrich Kratz

Registration: 2002

Bernadini, Elena

'Installation Art in India'
Art & Archaeology (PhD)
Dr Elizabeth Moore
Registration: 2003

Bilby, Sarah

Javanese shadow play music: the gara-gara
Music (PhD)
Dr David Hughes
Registration: 2000

Brown, Julian

The art of ancient Champa: a 20th century
creation'
Art History (PhD)
Dr Elizabeth Moore
Registration: 2003

Button, Christopher

'Tibeto-Burman languages of Western
Burma'
Linguistics (PhD)
Dr Justin Watkins
Registration: 2004

Calo, Ambra

'Bronze drums of Yunnan and Southeast
Asia: an analysis of the motifs'
Art & Archaeology (PhD)
Dr Elizabeth Moore & Dr Wang Tao
Registration: 2002

Chaisinthop, Nattaka

'Democracy and the middle-class in
Thailand'
Anthropology
Dr K. Retsikas
Registration: 2006

Formichi, Chiara

'Middle Eastern influences on Islamic political
movements in Indonesia since 1945'
History
Prof W. G. Clarence-Smith
Registration: 2006

De Silva, Maureen

'Filipino immigration into Sabah 1880s-1963'
History (PhD)
Prof William G Clarence-Smith
Registration: 2005

DeWald, Erich

'The development of tourism in Annam
(Central Vietnam) during the 1920s and
1930s'
History (PhD)
Prof William G Clarence-Smith
Registration: 2004

Feangfu, Janit

'The Thaification of westernness: Thai
literature during the Cold War era'
Literature
Dr Rachel Harrison
Registration: 2006

Fujioka, Rika

'State-civil society interactions from
governance perspectives: case of Thailand'
Development Studies (PhD)
Dr Jens Lerche
Registration: 2002

Garsten, Nicola

'The family as a metaphor. Literature in
English in Singapore'
Literature (PhD)
Dr Rachel Harrison and Prof Ulrich Kratz
Registration: 2002

Glass, John
'Contemporary painting in Myanmar
(Burma)'
Art History (PhD)
Dr Elizabeth Moore
Registration: 1999

Gray, Nicholas
'Improvisation in Balinese gender wayang
music'
Music (PhD)
Dr David Hughes
Registration: 1999

Hijjas, Mulaika
'Desire in disguise: three syairs from Riau'
Literature (PhD)
Prof Vladimir Braginsky
Registration: 2003

Kent, Michael
'Islamic revival (dakwah) in Malaysia'
Politics (PhD)
Dr Charles Tripp
Registration: 1997

Kwek, Ivan
'Producing television, re-visioning
Singapore Malays: an ethnography in
television production practices'
Anthropology / Media (PhD)
Dr Mark Hobart
Registration: 1999

Jurilla, May
'The history of the book in the Philippines'
Literature (PhD)
Dr David Smyth
Registration: 2003

Murphy, Stephen
'Sema stones: first millennium AD
transitions in mainland Southeast Asia'
Art History (PhD)
Dr Elizabeth Moore
Registration: 2006

Nguyen Ngan T
'Cambodia-Vietnam post-Cold War
relations'
Politics (PhD)
Supervisor: Dr Stephen Heder
Registration: 2002

Pairaudeau, Natasha
'Tamils in colonial Cochinchina'
History (PhD)
Prof William G Clarence-Smith
Registration: 2003

Sakai, Maki
'Images of the mother in Vietnamese poetry'
Literature (MPhil/PhD)
Dr Dana Healy
Registration: 2002

Schaefer, Dorothea
'The return of Indonesian exile writing -
writing in exile during the New Order
(1965-1998) and its return after 1998. A
literary analysis of texts written and
published by banned authors in exile and
1998 in Indonesia'
Literature (PhD)
Prof Ulrich Kratz
Registration: 2004 (part-time)

Sharif, Harlina

'Malay mosque architecture: origins and influences'

Art History (PhD)

Dr Elizabeth Moore

Registration: 2006

Sharrock, Peter

'The Buddhist pantheon of the B ayon of Angkor: an historical and art historical reconstruction of the B ayon temple and its religious and political roots'

Art History (PhD)

Dr Elizabeth Moore

Registration: 2002

So-Hartmann, Helga

'Grammar of Daai Chin'

Linguistics (MPhil/PhD)

Dr Justin Watkins

Registration: 2001

Tainturier, Francois

'Mandalay: the formation of modernity in pre-colonial Burma'

Art History (PhD)

Dr Elizabeth Moore

Registration: 2006

Wakeling, Kate

Balinese music and the global imagination

Music (PhD)

Dr David Hughes

Registration: 2005

Ward, Sin e ad

'Kammawaca ordination manuscripts of Burma'

Art History (MPhil/PhD)

Dr Elizabeth Moore

Registration: 2005 (part-time)

Warder, Vu Hong Lien

'End of detente between Dai Viet and Champa in the 14th century'

History (PhD)

Prof William G Clarence-Smith

Registration: 2004

Wongratanapitak, Paphutsorn

'Thai classical music in contemporary contexts'

Music (PhD)

Dr David Hughes

Registration: 2003

Yahya, Farouk

'Illustrations and illumination in Southeast Asian Islamic devotional manuscripts'

Art History (PhD)

Dr Anna Contadini

Registration: 2006

University of London:

University College

Chang Kuang-jen

'Maritime trade and social changes in late prehistoric Philippines'

Archaeology / ethnohistory (MPhil)

Dr Elisabeth A Bacus

Registration: 1997

London Metropolitan University

Saunders, Kim

'Arts policy in Singapore: ASEAN's arts hub'

Tourism (PhD)

Prof Michael Hitchcock

Registration: 1998

University of Manchester

Tanaka, Hiroko

'Public sector reform and its impact on poverty reduction in Thailand'

Development Administration &
Management (PhD)

Dr Joe Mullen

Registration: 2000

London School of Theology

Oliver-Dee, Sean

'To what extent were the medieval and early modern caliphs the "leaders of the Muslim world"? A survey of Caliphal 'Firman' to South and Southeast Asian rulers and their responses'

Islamic Studies/History (PhD)

Prof Peter G. Riddell

Registration: 2005

University of Oxford

Bedford. Katharina Juliet

'A cosmopolitan medical system? The impact of biomedicine on the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia

Social Anthropology (DPhil)

Prof RH Barnes

Registration: 2002

Riyad Mustafa

'Communal identities and situated cultural practice as processes of urban transnationalism: Case of Muslims in Bangkok'

Social Anthropology (DPhil)

Prof RH Barnes

Registration: 1999

Thum Pingtjin

'Social transformation and trade unions in Singapore, 1945-63'

History (DPhil)

Dr John Darwin & Dr Peter Carey

Registration: 2005

University of Surrey

Wantanee Suntikul

'The role of political transition in tourism development: the example of Vietnam'

Tourism (PhD)

Prof Richard Butler & Prof David Airey

Registration: 2002

University of Wales (Swansea)

Beech, Alex

'Indigenous peoples and the state in Southeast Asia'

Development Studies (MPhil)

Dr Gerard Clarke & Dr Felicia Hughes-Freeland

Registration: 2002

McCarthy, Liam

'Securitization and Southeast Asia' Politics (PhD)

Dr Alan Collins

Registration: 2001

Miles, Glenn

'Child abuse in Cambodia'

Childcare studies (PhD/part-time)

Dr Nigel Thomas & Dr Felicia Hughes-Freeland

Registration: 1999