





**Religious and Culture Drivers and Responses to Political Dynamics in Southeast Asia**

November 08, 2019

at Pace University

**Conference Schedule**

**8:30-9:00: Registration and Breakfast**

**9:00: Welcome Remarks**

**9:15-10:45 Panel 1**

Chair: Joseph Lee, Pace University

Joshua Gedacht, Department of History, Rowan University.

“Ahmadiyah and Pan-Islamism in Late Colonial Aceh, 1925-1940”

Verena Meyer, Islamic Studies, Department of Religion, Columbia University.

“Remembering to Counter Islamism: Indonesia’s Modernists and the Struggle for Moderate Islam”

Bilal Shakir, McGill University.

“Power and Piety from Makkah to Multan and Medan: transnational Islamic Linkages and Islamic Revivalism in Pakistan and Indonesia (1947-2019)

**11:00am-12:15 Film Screening: *Exiled***

**12:15-1:30 Lunch**

**1:30-3:00pm Panel 2**

Chair: James David Reich, Pace University

Christopher Ankersen, NYU Center for Global Affairs.

“Culture in Action: The Case of Contemporary Thai Politics”

John Gershman, NYU Wagner School of Public Affairs.

“’These Bishops that you guys have, kill them. They are useless fools. All they do is criticize.’ Duterte, repression, and religious organizations.”

William B. Noseworthy, Department of History, McNeese State University

“Bonds of Loyalty and Bonds of Royalty: The Positions and Responses of Cham Muslim Communities in the Case of Cambodian Elections”

Idzuafi Hadi Kamilan, Parliamentary Research Officer at Research Department, Parliament of Malaysia “Reformasi Parlimen": Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy in Malaysia after 60 years. ”

Coffee Break

**3:10-4:50 Panel 3**

Chair: Amy Freedman, Pace University

Alexander R. Arifianto, PhD , RSIS, NTU Singapore

“From Identity Politics to New Sectarianization? Political Islam and the 2019 Indonesian Election”

Danielle N. Lussier, Department of Political Science, Grinnell College

“From Pulpit to Protest: Religious Practice and Political Participation in Indonesia”

Ioana Emy Matesan, Wesleyan University, Government Department

“Piety, Loyalty and Adaptability: PKS and the Negotiation of Religious Identity”

Susy Tekunan, Universitas Palita Harapan

Siti Nurjanah, Women and Youth Development Institute

“Indonesia’s 2019 Elections: Women’s Role in Radicalizing the Base with Religious Prejudice”

 Wrap Up and Next Steps

**Meet the Panelists**

**Christopher Ankersen** is Clinical Associate Professor at the Center for Global Affairs, where he teaches in the Transnational Security concentration. Prior to joining NYU, Christopher worked for the United Nations, where he served in Bangkok, Thailand (2012-2017) and at the UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2010-2012). Dr. Ankersen is a member of the Regional Consultative Group for Asia and the Pacific on Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Relief; a Senior Research Fellow at the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG), Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, Thailand; and a Senior Fellow at the Canadian International Council. Dr. Ankersen is co-founder of the NYU Project on Armed Forces and Society. His research interests include civil military relations, strategic studies, international security, and crisis/disaster response. Christopher Ankersen holds a BA (Hons) in International Politics and History from Royal Roads Military College (Canada) and an MSc and PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

**Alexander R. Arifianto** (Ph.D., political science, Arizona State University) is a Research Fellow with the Indonesia Programme, Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) – Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research interest is political Islam and Islamic movements in Indonesia, particularly Nahdlatul Ulama, Muhammadiyah, and new Islamist movements such as Hizb ut-Tahrir Indonesia (HTI). His articles have appeared in refereed journals such as Trans-National and Regional Studies of Southeast Asia (TRaNS), Asian Security, Asian Politics and Policy, Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, and Journal of Southeast Asian Economies (formerly ASEAN Economic Bulletin). In addition, he also has published policy-oriented articles related to Indonesian politics in online magazines and blogs such as The Diplomat, The Conversation, New Mandala, and elsewhere.

**Amy Freedman** is department chair and professor of political science at Pace University, NYC. She is also a senior research scholar at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University. She earned her MA and PhD at New York University. Dr. Freedman’s work looks at Southeast Asia; with a particular focus on Indonesia and Malaysia. Her most recent book is Nontraditional Security Threats in Southeast Asia – Co-Authored with Ann Marie Murphy. She is a co-editor of Asian Security and the author of numerous journal articles relating to political economy questions, minority politics, and questions about political Islam. Her work appears in Journal of Civil Society, Religion and Politics, World Affairs, and elsewhere.

**Joshua Gedacht** is Visiting Assistant Professor of Islamic World History at Rowan University in New Jersey.  Before arriving at Rowan, he worked for several years in Asia as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and as Assistant Professor at the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. His research examines colonial era war-making, Muslim networks, and the reconfiguration of religious connections extending from Southeast Asia through the Indian Ocean world and onward to the Middle East. His current book project, Islam, Colonial Warfare, and Coercive Cosmopolitanism in Island Southeast Asia, considers the ways in which imperial conquest engendered paradoxical dynamics of exclusion and inclusion, disconnection and reconnection. He has also published a 2018 co-edited volume Challenging Cosmopolitanism: Coercion, Mobility, and Displacement in Islamic Asia.   Dr. Gedacht has also organized several international conferences and workshops on the themes of Muslim modernities and Islamic cosmopolitanism.

**John Gershman** is a Clinical Professor of Public Service and a co-founding member of the New York Southeast Asia Network Previously he was the Director of the Global Affairs Program at the [International Relations Center](http://www.irc-online.org) and the Co-Director of [Foreign Policy in Focus](http://www.fpif.org), a progressive think tank on U.S. foreign policy and international affairs. He has worked at a series of nonprofit think tanks since the early 1990s, including the [Institute for Food and Development Policy](http://www.foodfirst.org) and [Partners in Health](http://www.pih.org). His research, writing, and advocacy work has focused on issues of food security, U.S. foreign policy in East and Southeast Asia, the politics of international financial institutions and multilateralism, the political economy of natural resource management in Ghana and the Philippines, the politics of sanitation, and rights-based approaches to development.

**Idzuafi Hadi Kamilan** graduated from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in 2008 with a Bachelor of Law (Hons), and earned a Master of Law (LL.M) at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in 2010. He pursued fellowship programs at the Parliament of India (2014),  Iowa State Senate Republican Research Office, USA (2015), and the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (2017). His research interests are in constitutional law, parliamentary practise and procedure. He is currently a Parliamentary Research Officer at Research Department, Parliament of Malaysia. Currently, he is Fulbright Visiting Scholar at University at Albany, New York for 6 months to work on his research on Parliamentary Reform: A case study of Malaysia.

**Danielle N. Lussier** is an associate professor of political science at Grinnell College. Her research focuses on democratization, political participation, and religion and politics, with geographic expertise on post-communist Eurasia and Indonesia. She earned her BA in Russian and East European Studies from Wesleyan University and MA and PhD in political science from the University of California, Berkeley. Lussier is the author of Constraining Elites in Russia and Indonesia: Political Participation and Regime Survival (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in Muslim Societies (with Mohammed Ayoob, University of Michigan Press, forthcoming 2020). Her work has also been published in Journal of Democracy, Religion & Politics, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Problems of Post-Communism, Post-Soviet Affairs, and Slavic Review. She is currently working on a book project that examines the relationship between religious practice and political participation among Muslims and Christians in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

**Ioana Emy Matesan** is Assistant Professor of Government and Tutor in the College of Social Studies at Wesleyan University. Her research focuses on contentious politics and Islamist movements, with a particular interest in Middle East politics, democratization, and political violence. Her book project explores why Islamist groups adopt or abandon violent tactics, with a focus on Egypt and Indonesia. She also works on the impact of inclusion and exclusion on Islamist tactics, the possibility of negotiating with armed Islamist groups, how armed non-state actors respond to mistakes, and Hamas and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Her articles have appeared in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Terrorism and Political Violence, Journal of Strategic Security, Nations and Nationalism*, and are forthcoming in *Journal of Global Security Studies* and *International Negotiations.* Matesan holds a BA in Political Science and Economics from Monmouth College, a Master’s degree in Political Science from Arizona State University, and a PhD in Political Science from Syracuse University.

**Verena Meyer** is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Religion at Columbia University. Before joining Columbia, she received an M.St. in the Study of Religion at Oxford University and studied Philosophy and Southeast Asian Studies at Universität Passau. Trained in Islamic Studies and specializing in Islam in Indonesia, her research focuses on the ways in which traditionalist and modernist Javanese Muslims construct and maintain their group identities through memory practices of authoritative founding figures and by appropriating canonical texts in Arabic, Indonesian, and Javanese. She studies traditionalist and modernist ideologies as sites where multiple epistemologies intersect and asks how conflicts between incommensurable epistemologies are understood, managed, and deployed. In addition to her ethnographic work on contemporary Islam, she has also explored themes of coherence and paradox as modes of theological articulation in classical Malay and Javanese poetry and their reception of the Arabic philosophical tradition.

**William (“Billy”) Noseworthy** is an Assistant Professor of Asian History at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. After completing his dissertation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Southeast Asian History, he has been at work on his current book project, tentatively titled Gods of the Soil: The Continuous Creolizations of Cham Communities in Southeast Asia. His research and writing have been supported by programs affiliated with the Mellon Foundation, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers-Center for Khmer Studies, and the Social Science Research Council, as well as the University of Wisconsin and the University of Louisiana systems. Inspired by interdisciplinary collaborative research projects with colleagues in Southeast Asian Studies, his publications include a co-authored article on the role of Vietnamese labor on rubber plantations in southern Laos in the Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, an article on the history of transmission and formulation of Hip Hop movements in the transpacific region in Transfers: Journal of Mobility Studies, and a book chapter on Vietnam’s deliberations on Biển Đông (the ‘Eastern Sea’ or ‘the South China Sea’) in China & Southeast Asia in the Xi Jinping Era (eds. Lim & Cibulka, Lexington Books, 2019).

**Siti Nurjanah** is the Director of the Women and Youth Development Institute of Indonesia (WYDII) and a Resident Scholar at Women’s Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, United States.  With more than ten years of experience in research and programs design on women rights advocacy, she works closely with women at the grassroots, activists, local representatives, members of political parties, and youth in Indonesia. She has ample experiences in research on women's political participation, women's empowerment in Islamic organizations, and school textbooks’ analysis on gender and multiculturalism. Presently, with The Asian Moslem Action Network (AMAN) Indonesia is setting up a Working Group on “Women and the Efforts to Prevent Extremism” in East and Central Java.

**James D. Reich** studies the religious and literary traditions of pre-modern South Asia, focusing on works in Sanskrit. He received a PhD in religious studies from Harvard University in in 2016. He came to Pace University in 2017 after spending one year as a Faculty Fellow at NYU.

**Bilal Shakir** is a doctoral student in Political Science at McGill University where he is specializing in Comparative Politics and International Relations under the supervision of Professor Erik Kuhonta. His research interests include the history and politics of religion, political parties and social movements in emerging democracies, especially those of South Asia and Southeast Asia. Bilal serves as the Program Coordinator for the McGill Southeast Asia Research Program. Before commencing his doctoral studies, Bilal worked as a researcher at Texas A & M University Qatar (TAMUQ) during the 2015-2016 academic year. Bilal received his Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) degree with honors from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in Qatar (SFS-Q) in 2015.

**Susy Tekunan** is a full-time lecturer of International Relations at the Universitas Pelita Harapan (UPH) in Tangerang, Indonesia. Prior to (UPH) she worked as an international journalist at the Voice of America in Washington DC covering humanitarian and political issues for multimedia publication including TV, radio and the internet. She holds an MBA from Radford University in Virginia and a Master of Art in Political Science from New York University in New York. Her research interest is on China and the U.S. international politics issues, ASEAN and Indonesian politics.