

# CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES



*Fall 2022 Newsletter*





## About the Center

CSEAS seeks to promote a broader and deeper understanding of Southeast Asia, its people, histories, practices, and languages. Founded in 1961, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at the International Institute is one of the oldest centers in the U.S. devoted to the study of the region. CSEAS supports the teaching of several languages less commonly taught, critical to areas of national need, and increasingly important in today's workforce. From its inception, the Center has been committed to creating a supportive environment where scholars, educators, students, and community members engage in dialogue related to Southeast Asia and interact with peoples of the region.

We support students in the field with resources for study, research, service, and employment. We are especially pleased to support PhD students' field research related to dissertations. Some of our awards include the Judith Becker Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research on Southeast Asia, the Thai Studies Awards for Undergraduate and Graduate Research, SEA Language Scholarships, and Fulbright and FLAS Fellowships. We also support faculty research grants and bring scholars based in Southeast Asia to the University of Michigan.

## Letter from the Director

**Hello CSEAS faculty, students, staff, and affiliates!** I'm Mike McGovern, Professor of Anthropology, and the Interim Director of the Center for this academic year. I'm delighted to have an opportunity to serve all of you and the Center, which has supported my research in Myanmar over the past six years.

We ended the summer with some very tough news; first the departure of CSEAS Director Laura Rozek, and then the news that we were not selected to renew our FLAS or Title VI grants. These two grants fund the majority of the Center's activities, so we are now working overtime to patch in other sources of funds to make up the difference. Happily, we had enough left over FLAS money to cover our FLAS recipients for the upcoming academic year. The College and the International Institute are also committed to supporting the Center, so our programs should continue as planned during this academic year.

If you have ever donated to the Center's Strategic Fund, but have not yet done so this year, we would be most grateful for your gift this year, which will allow us to continue supporting the intellectual life of the Center, local Southeast Asian communities, and our student and faculty researchers. We are in the final stages of negotiating several large gifts from CSEAS alumni that will make a major impact in our financial situation. We hope you will consider joining them!

Alongside this difficult news, there are some really exciting developments this year for the Center. Many faculty and students have been able to resume travel to the region, in many cases for the first time since 2019. Our superb PhD students, in particular, are no longer "stuck" in a limbo where they were unable to conduct research, but did not yet have the materials to begin writing dissertations.

On August 26th, we welcomed our new cohort of Southeast Asia-focused Master's students in the MIRS (Masters in International and Regional Studies) program. Shimon Likhtman and Donna Hoang plan to do work in Cambodia, Ian Kennedy plans to

work in Indonesia, and Ruizhe Zhang in Malaysia.

One of our faculty members, Webb Keane, of the anthropology department, was named a Distinguished University Professor over the summer. We will keep you posted with information about his inaugural address.

In November, we were also delighted to receive a generous gift of nearly \$90,000 (5 million Philippine Pesos) from the government of the Philippines, represented by General Consul Susana Paez of the Chicago Consulate. That money will support research, teaching, and programming in the Philippines. It has allowed us to offer a course in Filipino Rondalla and Kulingtang music this semester. Next semester these funds will allow us to bring Professor Ambeth Ocampo, a world-renowned historian and public intellectual, who will teach two courses to our undergraduate and graduate students. Meanwhile he himself will be conducting research in our library collection of Philippine material, unparalleled in North America.

Lastly, we have a fabulous series of speakers, films, and of course our gamelan performances slated for the year. They began on September 2nd with our own U-M alumna, Professor Miriam Stark. She is an archaeologist working in Cambodia and the Director of the Center for the Study of Southeast Asia at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. We continued with a well-attended potluck reception on September 16th. Other talks have focused on policies on the aging in Cambodia, the biographies of Muslim teachers in Indonesia. The Rondalla and Kulintang concert took place on December 8th in the Keene Theater (East Campus), while the Gamelan Kyai Telaga Madu concert was on December 9th in Hankinson Rehearsal Hall. The Gamelan Recital also featured the debut of Gamelan Madu Biru.

Very best,

**MIKE**



## Inaugural Gosling-Lim Fellow Announced

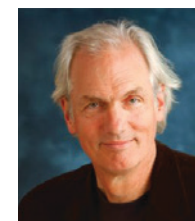
**D**r. Realisa Darathea Masardi of Universitas Gajah Mada was announced as the inaugural Gosling-Lim Fellow in Southeast Asian Studies. During the course of the fellowship, Dr. Masardi will be based at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. While in Ann Arbor, she will be working on a manuscript project Independent Refugee Youth in Waiting: Social Navigations while in Transit in Indonesia which examines the social navigations of refugee youth traveling from various parts of the world as they maneuver numerous uncertainties in Indonesia. Focusing on a diverse group of asylum seekers from Myanmar to Somalia, Dr. Masardi explores the many ways in which these young refugees "exercise active waiting while transiting in Indonesia."

The Gosling-Lim Postdoctoral Fellow in Southeast Asian Studies was made possible thanks to a generous gift from L.A. Peter Gosling and Linda Yuen-Ching Lim to the Association of Asian Studies. This fellowship is focused on capability-building in Southeast Asian Studies among scholars who are Southeast Asian nationals based in Southeast Asia and at Southeast Asian institutions. Its goal is to enable such scholars to concentrate



on publishing their dissertation research, and/or embark on new post-dissertation research, without the distraction of having to teach, consult, or shoulder administrative burdens, and with the opportunity to expand their scholarly networks and expertise.

The intent is that fellowship recipients will develop their careers in the region, helping to advance the field of Southeast Asian Studies within the region. According to Pete Gosling and Linda Lim: "We are pleased that the fellowship attracted many competitive applicants from across the region, and look forward to its continuation and growing impact in the years ahead."



### WEBB KEANE NAMED DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Webb Keane was one of five U-M professors honored as Distinguished University Professors for their outstanding teaching and service.

He was appointed by the Board of Regents as George Herbert Mead

Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology. His previous title was the George Herbert Mead Collegiate Professor of Anthropology and professor of anthropology in LSA.

### Highlights

**Anocha Aribarg** was promoted to professor of marketing, with tenure, in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

**Daniel A. Birchok**, associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, in the College of Arts and Sciences at the UM-Flint campus.

**John Ciociari** was promoted to Professor of Public Policy, with tenure, in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

**Allen Hicken** was a visiting professor at Singapore Management University.

**Alyssa Paredes** was promoted to Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

**Dan Slater** was announced as the James Orin Murfin Professor of Political Science. He also recently published a new book with Professor Joseph Wong of the University of Toronto, *From Development to Democracy: The Transformation of Modern Asia, with Princeton University Press*.

**Scott Stonington** was promoted to Associate Professor in Anthropology, with tenure in the College of Literature.

**Joline Ann Uichanco**, associate professor of business, with tenure, developed a new Model to predict relief distribution for hurricanes in the Philippines.



# Spotlights on MIRS Scholars

By Moniek van Rheenen

**S**yamsul Bahri obtained his Masters in International and Regional Studies (MIRS) with a focus on Southeast Asian Studies in May 2022. His thesis, “Minority Governments and the Promise of Order: a Study of Indonesian Politics under Flames and



Ashes, 1945–1947,” examines the professional background of political elites in Indonesian parliament and cabinets from 1945 to 1957. This thesis connects political sociology and game theory literature to explain why in the first two years after the declaration of independence from colonialism, Indonesian government cabinets were mainly occupied by non-partisan professionals—also known as technocrats—while the presence of parties was minor. The existence of technocrats, however, tends to be insignificant in the cabinets

that were formed from 1947 onward. Syamsul argues that the presence of chaos, due to the anti-colonial wars, and the promise of Sjahrir—the first Indonesian prime minister—for enacting political order, had given birth to the minority governments with unanimous consent from most of the parties in the parliament. Nevertheless, the failure to accomplish that promise brought the Sjahrir’s minority cabinets down in 1947 and yielded the type of cabinets that consisted of over-majority parties in parliament, which has characterized Indonesian politics up to this day. This fall, Syamsul will continue his education at U-M and pursue his doctoral degree in political science.

**C**ongratulations to **Trevor Orginski** on receiving a Boren Fellowship! Trevor is a second-year masters student in the interdisciplinary International and Regional Studies (MIRS) program pursuing a dual degree in Southeast Asian Studies and Public Policy. After completing his current summer internship with the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the U.S. Department of State in August, Trevor will travel to Bangkok, Thailand, to



study the Thai language at Chulalongkorn University. In addition to his language studies, Trevor will simultaneously intern at an international NGO with a focus on human rights and democracy. After completing his nine-month fellowship period, Trevor will return to Ann Arbor for another two years to complete his dual masters before embarking on his federal service requirement

post-graduation. For his service, he hopes to work with either the Department of State or USAID and is excited to explore the option of building his career in the federal government, while also considering other career opportunities centered on human rights or development. Trevor is grateful for the guidance and encouragement he has received from his peers, mentors, and faculty at U-M who supported him in obtaining the fellowship!

## Judith Becker Award Winners

*We are delighted to celebrate the research of both our 2021 and 2022 co-winners of the Judith Becker Award for their exemplary graduate papers.*

The 2022 winners were **Jasmine An** (PhD candidate, English & Women’s and Gender Studies) and **Khanh Linh Trinh** (PhD student, Asian Languages and Cultures).

**Jasmine An** is a poet, Rackham Predoctoral Fellow recipient, and current Visiting Researcher at Chiang Mai University’s Center for Humanities Innovation in Thailand. Jasmine’s paper, “‘the blue ink runs out’: the Aesthetics of Opacity in Southeast Asian Diasporic Poetry”

**Khanh Linh Trinh** (Doctoral student in Asian Languages and Culture) “Dining at the Horizon - Cultivating Modern Vietnamese Table through The Legacy of the Operation Passage to Freedom”

The 2021 Judith Becker Award winners were **Chantal Croteau** (PhD in Department of Anthropology), “Contentious Histories: Intercommunal Relations and Phang Nga’s Multiple Pasts” and **Lisa Decenteceo** (PhD in Ethnomusicology), “From Being to Becoming: Protests, Festivals, and Musical Mediations of Igorot Self-Representation.”



## 2021 First Year Language Scholarship

**FILIPINO**

Jessica Azucena  
Frances-Denise Alcantara Fajardo

**BAHASA INDONESIA**

Tyler Rongxuan Chen

**THAI**

Austin Killam  
Say Meh  
Iris Derry

**VIETNAMESE**

Ngan Vo

## 2022 ALC Outstanding Language Award Recipients

**FILIPINO**

Kate Sullivan

**BAHASA INDONESIA**

Patrick Halim

**THAI**

Jacob Longmeyer

**VIETNAMESE**

Christina Thieu

# LIBRARY UPDATE

By Susan Go

In January 2022, the Southeast Asia Unit received thirty boxes of books from our participation with the Library of Congress, Jakarta. These titles were published in 2019-2020 and are now cataloged and accessible. Unit activities were centered **not** only in cataloging these titles but also getting to know the new Library cataloging tools called ALMA. The new platform is so powerful that all activities (acquisitions, data gathering, linking to different databases, etc.) are centered in this ALMA. Our staff has updated Thai titles to include Thai characters for better accessibility; correction of diacritical marks for Vietnamese titles, and updating new subject headings to old records.

Our staff remained the same with **Sujira Prahoonyong** as our lead cataloger for Thai, Lao, and Burmese. **Lien Dang**, who has become a full-time employee, does our Vietnamese cataloging; **Hery Budiman** and **Isyraf Eiman bin Mohamad Nasir** are the Indonesian and Malay informants. I do the Philippine and Timor-Leste titles. All of the staff are now conversant with ALMA, and I applaud their success in learning the new tool. To familiarize ourselves with ALMA we all have to attend numerous webinars and have practice runs of different scenarios.

I attended webinars about Southeast Asia from Australia, Norway, and the Netherlands and Singapore. The wonders of zoom!!!

Part of the Humanities Collaborative Project: ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippines program invited Filipinx artists to come to U-M and use its Philippine Collections. Bentley Historical Collections, the Museum of Anthropology, Special Research Collections of the Library and Clements Library were invited to share their collections. Besides the already digitized Worcester Collection, I showed the artists and participants of the project what we have collected from the different periods of Philippine history. The strongest collection are the photo collections and postcards during the period of 1898–1905 mainly from American soldiers and administrators. The gap that is strongly felt is during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines where the newspaper collection printed in the Philippines is fragile for the participants to see and handle.

As the Librarian for Southeast Asia I attended the AAS conference in Hawaii. In this conference I not only led library meetings– Southeast Asia Microform Program (SEAM) with the Center for Research in Chicago (CRL) and the Committee for Technical Services under the Committee on Research Materials for Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA). For SEAM, we are now embarking on a digitization project for Southeast Asian newspapers as well as preserving through microfilming old materials from SEA. For CORMOSEA technical services we tackled representation of Khmer language with the possibility of creating a Khmer language transliteration system. Matt Schlesher, a PHD Anthropology candidate, made us aware of the disservice to Burmese language publication by doing only transliteration cataloging. The Library has addressed this matter by using ALMA to have old records have the Burmese characters added on. We now have 260 Burmese titles with Burmese characters. I also reconnected with my colleagues over lunch or dinner discussing what new trends they are adapting to the collection, and the new funding avenue. Aside from the library, I also attended panels on Southeast Asia where our alums presented in person. Time differences made it difficult to attend panels that are held via zoom meetings.

On the homefront, **Dr. Tom Hudak** (U-M alumni) continues to send us Ahom and Lue titles that enhance our Thai Gedney Collection. With these titles Dr. Hudak spent efforts to access these titles through his linguistics connections. **Dr. L.A. Peter Gosling** and **Dr. Linda Lim** continue supporting our collection through various donations.

## LIBRARY STAFF PICKS

The selected titles below are selected by our Library staff. For clarification purposes the unit selects and acquires English and European titles on Southeast Asia but we do not catalog nor handle these titles. Please visit our website for full listing of new Southeast Asian titles in the U-M Library.

### CAMBODIAN BOOKS

**Câp bī rapap Khmaer Krahm̄ thāl ‘uppatihetu hampālī : vatta sanṇaṇ cancāti Cām nau knung yugsṇṇāy sakal bhārunīyakamm** / author: ‘Eng Kukthāy. Published by Majjhamaṇḍal ‘Eksār Kambujā in 2014. On Cham identity in relation to this minority’s history, society and culture in Cambodia.

**Saddānukram sanṭānbākya knung bhāsā Khmaer daṇnoep = Glossary of relative word in modern Khmer language** / author: Jhin Sīhā. Published by Lim & Leak in 2018.

### EAST TIMOR BOOKS

**Kursu báziku iha lingústika** / author: Adérito José Guterres Correia. Published by Instituto Nacional de Linguística, Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa’e in 2018. Linguistics of Tetum language in Timor Leste.

**Olhares que falam...** / photographer: Brigitte Lopez & Otilia Paula Silva. Published by Dmuse Amuse in 2018. Photograph of Timor Leste.

### THAI BOOKS

**Rūṅg ‘Anamnikāi nai Sayām = Phật giáo An Nam tông tại Thái Lan [เรื่องอนันตกายในสยาม]** / author: Phīōichomphū Yāmaphēwan [พลอยชมพู ยามะเพ็ญ]. Published by Krom Sinlapākūṭh in 2022. History of Anam Nikaya Sangha, a Mahayana Sangkha sect in Thailand.

**Deities and divas : queer ritual specialists in Myanmar, Thailand and beyond** / editor: Peter A. Jackson and Benjamin Baumann. Published by NIAS Press in 2022.

**Sātsanā phī tai changūam Khao Phra Sumṭh [ศาสนาผีใต้เขมรสุเมอ] / author: Siriphot Laomānācharoēn [ศิริพจน์ เหล่ามานะเจริญ]. Published by Samnakphim Nātāhæk in 2022. On local beliefs and religion of the Thai people.**

### LAO BOOKS

**Laotian pages : a classic account of travel in upper, middle and lower Laos** / author: Alfred Raquez ; edited and translated by William L. Gibson and Paul Bruthiaux. Published by NIAS Press in 2019.

**Lao postcards by La Pagode, L. L. (Louis Levy), F. N. (Fernand Nathan), and others** / author: Diethard Ande. Published by White Lotus Press in 2022.

### INDONESIAN BOOKS

**Kebakaran lahan gambut : dari asap sampai kanalisasi** / author, Muhammad Noor. Published by Gajah Mada University Press in 2019. On peatland fires and management in Indonesia.

**Democratic transition and constitutional justice : post reformasi constitutional adjudication in Indonesia** / author: Iwan Satriawan and Khairil Azmin Mokhtar. Published by IUUM Press in 2020.

**Buku Tenun : kagunan Jawa = Buku Tenun : karya budaya Jawi** / author: Raden Ayu Aisah Bintang Kadir. Published by Balai Pustaka in 2019. Javanese traditional weaving culture in Indonesia.

### BURMESE BOOKS

**Bobogyi: a Burmese spiritual figure** / authors: Bénédicte Brac de la Perrière, Christophe Munier-Gaillard ; preface by Donald M. Stadtner. Published by River Books in 2019.

**Education amid renunciation : the movement of young Ta’ang girls from conflict areas to Mandalay’s nunneries** / author: Zin Mar Oo. Published by Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSDD), Chiang Mai University, in 2022.

**Mran’ mā’ Dīmulkarecī Kū’ proi’ mhu Phrac’ cafi’ Sum’ sap’ Chve’ nve’ Pvai / Prafi’ thoī’ cu Sammata Mran’ mā Nuiñ’ nām to’ ‘A cui’ ra, Pran’ krā’ re’ Van’ kī’ Thāna / Published by Pran’ krā’ re’ Van’ kī’ Thāna in 2018. Proceedings of the conference on the democratic transition in Burma, 2017.**

### PHILIPPINES BOOKS

**Debaçle : the Aquino Regime’s Scarborough Fiasco and the South China Sea Arbitration deception** / author: Rigoberto D. Tiglao. Published by Akropolis Publishing in 2022.

**Doing philosophy in the Philippines : the Thomasian collection. Volume 1 (1924–1949)** / editor, Alfredo P. Co. Published by University of Santo Tomas Publishing House in 2020.

**Islamic identity, postcoloniality, and educational policy: schooling and ethno-religious conflict in the Southern Philippines** / author, Jeffrey Ayala Milligan. Published by De La Salle University Publishing House in 2020.

### MALAYSIAN BOOKS

**Keris indah : koleksi diraja keris Nusantara : Duli Yang Malaha Mulia Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj = Exquisite keris : a royal collection of archipelago kerises of His Royal Highness Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj** / author: Abdul Mua’ti @ Zamri Ahmad. Published by Penerbit Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2020.

**Islamic law in Malaysia : issues, developments and challenges** / author: Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil and Mohammad Hashim Kamali. Published by IAIS Malaysia in 2018.

### SINGAPORE BOOKS

**Cinkappūrt Tamīlar irunūruvar = Singapore Tamils 200. [சிங்கப்பூர்த் தமிழர் இரந்தூற்றுவர் = Singapore Tamils 200]** / Published by Cinkappūrt Tamīl Iḷaiyar Maṅṅam in 2019. On Tamils in Singapore.

**Christian circulations: global Christianity and the local church in Penang and Singapore, 1819–2000** / author: Jean DeBernardi. Published by NUS Press in 2020.

### VIETNAMESE BOOKS

**Trăm năm phở Việt** / authors: Trịnh Quang Dũng, Trịnh Quang Long. Published by Nhà xuất bản Phụ nữ in 2020. History of noodle soups - Phở in Vietnam.

**Việt sử nói gì? : theo bước chân khảo sát truyền thuyết, phá học, dòng họ** / author, Đinh Công Vĩ. Published by Nhà xuất bản Phụ nữ in 2020. Historiography and genealogy in Vietnam.

**Việt Nam hôm nay và ngày mai** / published by Nhà xuất bản Đà Nẵng in 2020. Politics and government, economic policy and social conditions in Vietnam.





Pictured left to right Consul Melvin C. Almonte, Brodie Remington, Professor Mike McGovern, Dean of LSA Anne Curzan, Consul General J. Susana V. Paez, Interim Dean of Libraries Donna Hayward, SEA Librarian Fe Susan Go, U-M Vice President for Development Tom Baird, and Consul Ryan Francis D. Gener.

## University of Michigan receives a 5 million Philippine Peso Philippine Studies Gift

A 5 Million Philippine Peso gift (\$91,000.00) from the Republic of the Philippines will be dedicated to enhancing the Philippine Studies program at the University of Michigan, i.e., funding course offerings, community lectures, and research support for faculty and students working in the Philippines.

On November 22, 2022, at a formal signing ceremony, the representatives from the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago led by Consul General Susana V. Paez, along with Consuls Ryan Francis D. Gener and Melvin C. Almonte presented the gift to the University of Michigan officials from University Development, Tom Baird (vice president); College of Literature Science and the Arts (LSA), Anne Curzan (dean), University Library, Donna Hayward (dean), and Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Mike McGovern (director).

CSEAS is thankful for all of the time and energy by Librarian for Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands, Fe Susan Go,

in leading this endeavor. Both the International Institute's Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the University of Michigan Library are recipients of the gift.

The University of Michigan, alongside New York University, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) — University College of London in the United Kingdom, York University in Canada, and Humboldt University in Germany received gifts supporting Philippine Studies supported by the office of Senator Pro Tempore Loren Legarda.

CSEAS Director Mike McGovern introduced the event and the importance of this gift to the Philippine Studies at the University of Michigan.

“We have a rich history of Philippine Studies here at U-M, and the additional support being provided by the Philippine government will enable us to enhance our curriculum while, importantly, conserving important collections in our libraries,” said McGovern.

Consul General Paez reiterated the importance of building a community amongst Filipinos in



Consul General J. Susana V. Paez (left) and U-M Vice President for Development Tom Baird signing the Deed of Donation for PHL Studies Program.

the Midwest and the endowment's intention to promote a greater understanding of Philippine history, culture, and society among students and other stakeholders.

Dean Curzan and Dean Hayward also gave remarks about the importance of this gift and their excitement of its implementation.

“This generous gift will allow the center to pursue a number of opportunities to promote Philippine Studies at the University of Michigan. Those opportunities include



The Philippine Consulate General of Chicago with Philippine Fulbright LLM graduate student Andrea Leycano and Librarian Fe Susan Go in front of U-M School of Law's William W. Cook Legal Research Library.

support for performing arts, a visiting scholar to teach Philippine history and culture, support for research or Filipino language studies, a Philippine studies workshop, and a Philippine studies lecture, in addition to the opportunities that will be available to the Library. And we get to pursue all of these wonderful activities in this academic year” said Dean Curzan.

The event culminated with a signing of the gift with Vice President Tom Baird and Consul General Paez.

Through the generosity of this gift, CSEAS is happy to announce that it will be bringing Ambeth Ocampo, a Filipino public historian, academic, cultural administrator, journalist, author, and independent curator, to teach two courses on the Philippines for the winter 2023 semester.

# GIVE TO CSEAS

Making a gift to U-M CSEAS supports the programs and research projects that reveal the complexity and uniqueness of Southeast Asia today. It also supports the work of our world-class faculty and students who collaborate in providing new understandings of this increasingly important region.

To help in any way, make a donation to the CSEAS Strategic Fund.

**Your gift helps. Any amount helps.**

For example:

**An \$100 gift** supports a U-M student's registration to present their research at an academic conference

**A \$500 gift** creates a Southeast Asia-specific curriculum module for Michigan K-14 classrooms

**An \$1,000 gift** supports bringing a national expert on Southeast Asia to present to our students, faculty, and community members at our CSEAS Lecture Series



# CSEAS Lecture Series

Lectures can be viewed on U-M CSEAS' YouTube channel

## FALL 2021

SEPTEMBER 13

### How Governments Declare Disasters: Thoughts from Southeast Asia

A. Michael Stern, Foreign Service Officer, USAID

OCTOBER 8

### Lost Worlds Film Screenings and Discussion with the Director

Kalyanee Mam, Award-winning Director and Filmmaker

OCTOBER 15

### The 1918 Influenza Pandemic in Indonesia and Comparisons with the Ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic

Siddharth Chandra, Michigan State University

OCTOBER 25

### The Past, Present, and Future of LGBT Activism in Singapore: A Roundtable on Pink Dot

Alfian Sa'at, Michelle Lazar, Robert Phillips, Pavan Mano, Adi Saleem Bharat

NOVEMBER 5

### Is the Philippines Asia's Banana Republic? Vertical Disintegration After Empire

Alyssa Paredes, LSA Collegiate Fellow, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

NOVEMBER 19

### Nhu Quynh's Stardom: The (Re)making of Womanhood on Screen, Creative Labor, and the Contemporary Vietnamese Film Industry

Qui-Ha Hoang Nguyen, Yale University MacMillan Center for Southeast Asian Studies

DECEMBER 3

### The Role of Strategic Ignorance in Indonesian Agrarian Development

Jenny Goldstein, Assistant Professor, Cornell University

## WINTER 2022

JANUARY 21

### Roundtable: The Place of Waste in Southeast Asia

PANELISTS: David R. Biggs, University of California Riverside; Von Hernandez, Break Free From Plastic; Tammara Soma, Simon Fraser University; Leah Zani, Oakland, California; Alyssa Paredes (moderator), University of Michigan

FEBRUARY 11

### Music and Incitement to Violence: Anti-Muslim Hate Music in Burma/Myanmar

Heather MacLachlan, Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Interim Director of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Dayton

MARCH 18

### Pedagogies of Transfemininity in the Spanish Colonial Philippines 1589-1864

Jaya Jacobo, Assistant Professor of Gender, Equality, and Diversity, Institute of Education, Coventry University

MARCH 4

### Racial Capitalism and Interspecies Empire in Colonial Myanmar

Jonathan Saha, Associate Professor of South Asian History, Department of History, University of Durham

APRIL 15

### From Informal to Digital Spaces: How to Shape the Lived Experience of Networked Transformations in Southeast Asia?

Hue-Tam Jamme, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University



## Gamelan

Under the direction of Steven Laronga, the U-M Gamelan Ensemble, Kayi Telaga Madu (Venerable Lake of Honey) had two recitals. The December 2021 recital marked the return of in person performance for the gamelan, while the April 2022 Recital featured guest performances by two guest dancers, Zoe McLaughlin (Michigan State University) and Professor Christina Sunardi (University of Washington).

We hope you will join Kayi Telaga Madu for performances in December 2022 and April 2023 under incoming Gamelan Ensemble Director, Gavin Ryan.

CSEAS partnered with the Michigan Theater to screen two documentaries with discussion on the film offered by U-M scholars. The first was *The Donut King* which told the story of Cambodian refugee Ted Ngoy's rise as an American donut entrepreneur with commentary and discussion led by professor Melissa Borja. And the second was *Bitter Honey* an Indonesia documentary on polygamy in Bali with commentary and discussion by U-M doctoral candidate Moniek van Rheenen.

CSEAS also co-sponsored two film screenings with the Global Islamic Studies Center: the Indonesian paranormal suspense film *Impetigore* and the Malaysian zombie comedy flick *KL24: Zombies*.

## Donuts & Honey: Film Screenings at the Michigan Theater

By Ellen Putney Moore, Director of Marketing and Community Partnerships, Michigan Theater Foundation

During the past Spring semester, CSEAS partnered with the historic State Theater in downtown Ann Arbor to present two significant films focused on the Southeast Asian experience. The first of these films was the documentary *The Donut King*, directed by Alice Gu, which focused on Cambodian refugee Ted Ngoy who built a multi-million-dollar empire baking America's favorite pastry. *The Donut King* is also about how the American Dream is handed down and evolves from one generation to the next and includes the current generation of Cambodian donut shop owners and the ways they have been inspired by, and diverged from, their parents before them. DJ's Bakery, a local Ann Arbor donut shop owned by proteges of Ngoy, provided homemade donuts for viewers to enjoy during the film.

Dr. Melissa Borja, an Assistant Professor in the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program at the University of Michigan, attended the screening and led a fascinating post-film discussion about the history of the Cambodian refugee situation in America, particularly in the 1970's during the Cambodian genocide, and the influence of these refugees not only on America, but on the cuisine in these areas where refugees resettled. Audience members asked a variety of questions, from the role of religious organizations in resettlement to specific inquiries into Ted Ngoy's business and family life.



The second of these films was *Bitter Honey*, a documentary focused on polygamy in Bali, which illustrates how kinship organization, gendered systems of power, social norms, and spiritual beliefs infuse and inform the romantic relationships and domestic affairs of families in Indonesia. In a society where women have very little voice, *Bitter Honey* draws attention to their struggle and aims to trigger a wider conversation about contemporary polygamy and women's rights in Indonesia.

The post-film discussion was led by Moniek van Rheenen, a Doctoral Candidate in Linguistic Anthropology at the University of Michigan. Moniek began her discussion with the notable themes of the film, including Bali and its appeal to Westerners, the high domestic violence rate, and the role of the relationships discussed in the film. Audience members had many questions not only about polygamy and its role in modern-day Indonesia, but also about the filmmaker's process and their seemingly unfettered access to the individuals featured. A discussion about the younger Indonesian generations and their views of polygamy also occurred.

Both films were well-attended, indicating a great local interest in not only Southeast Asian culture, but also in discussing this culture further with the brilliant academics at the University of Michigan Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

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