



ARI NEWS



Professor Tommy Koh introducing Professor Jomo

Beyond Miracle and Debacle in East Asia

Professor Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, delivered a public lecture entitled "Growth, Crisis and Recovery in East Asia: Capital, Markets and Government – a Heterodox Perspective" on 24 November 2004. This ARI lecture was opened by Professor Chua Beng Huat, and chaired by Professor Tommy Koh, Chairman of ARI's international advisory board. The lecture was attended by over 200 people and challenged conventional views of the roles of law, culture and the state in economic transformation. It also threw critical light on some of the key principles and concepts informing current policy-making, such as economic liberalization, privatization, 'corporate governance' and 'social capital'.

Professor Jomo began the lecture by summarizing the three main theories advanced to explain East Asian economic success, which emphasize respectively market forces, state economic planning, and a combination of the two. The World Bank's 1993 *East Asian Miracle* study took the last of these positions, but also suggested that the rest of the developing world had more to learn from Southeast Asia, where industrial policy as such had not played a central role in economic growth, as opposed to

Northeast Asia, where state industrial interventions had been crucial.

Professor Jomo is often wrongly credited for having predicted the Asian Currency Crisis because he published a dissenting book entitled *Southeast Asia's Misunderstood Miracle* the day before the crisis broke in Bangkok in July 1997. He had not meant that book as a predictor of the oncoming crisis; the focus was rather the World Bank's exaggerated interpretation of Southeast Asia's achievement (at least in comparison with Northeast Asia) and how it underestimated the importance of state economic planning to the East Asian achievement as a whole.

Touching on the points made in his book, Jomo went on to compare Northeast Asia's miracle and Southeast Asia's more modest success. One important contrast was that whereas foreign direct investment was less than two percent of gross domestic capital formation in Northeast Asia, in Southeast Asia it was far more significant. This helps to explain why no significant industrial entrepreneurial class emerged in Southeast Asia. Massive capital inflows associated with financial liberalisation are often presumed to have desirable

consequences for economic growth. However, there is little empirical basis for this assumption. By their nature, short-term inflows rarely contribute to real capital formation, investment and growth. Indeed, financial liberalisation and the rise of 'finance capital' have contributed to some of the most serious economic problems of recent times, including the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis. The recovery from that crisis was strongest in South Korea. Southeast Asian recovery started later, and was stronger in Malaysia than in Thailand and Indonesia.

However, the trends of foreign direct investment have now changed. In the 1990s, more than 80 percent of foreign direct investment in Southeast Asia consisted of mergers and acquisitions. Today, most foreign investment in East Asia goes to China, where contrary to conventional wisdom even state-owned enterprises have become extremely competitive. The Chinese state enterprise Bao Steel, for example, is now the most efficient steel producer in the world.

How these trends will affect the region will be a question that will cause much academic speculation and debate, and Jomo called for better comprehension of the past and present in order to help prepare for the future. To achieve this, and to create the conditions for continued, sustainable economic development as well as greater justice in the region, more critical, original, and creative thinking will be required.

Interview with PROF JOMO



What made you leave academia for the public sector?

Push and pull factors. I had long been urging friends to try to work to strengthen the UN to help governments reject the 'There Is No Alternative' mentality promoted by some of the powerful in the West. But I did not think of joining myself until things got very bad for me at work. I agree with Kissinger that while academic politics involve vicious methods, the stakes are petty. Hence, I decided to opt out, rather than fight — much to the disappointment of my friends.

I was mainly interested in work in which I felt I could make a difference and did not really seek out the job I now have, as I did not have government support. I had nominated a friend for it, but she decided not to go for it, and that is when I became a candidate.

Is cooperation among Asian countries possible with Japan, Korea and now China being the dominant economies?

I think it is not only possible, but necessary, for the same reason that the European Union will count for much more as it integrates, but this must be a co-operation sensitive to diversity,

rather than one which seeks to deny the unevenness in the region.

What do you hope to accomplish in your tenure as Assistant Secretary-General of the UN?

Well, I will have to learn very quickly to begin with. Unlike most of my colleagues, who have spent time in national or international bureaucracies or governments, I have much to learn about the system, what can and cannot be done, and so on.

As you know, the UN has been under siege for some time. The world has also changed, and the current configuration of international power is incompatible with international democracy, equality or justice. There is a lot of pressure to further diminish the UN's work on economic and social affairs. We must work hard to convince the General Assembly and the world of the importance of the work the UN does, especially in these areas. But more than that, we will have to be pro-active to provide the scope for international leadership in these areas. There is no world government, but international cooperation is increasingly urgent to address a growing variety of global challenges. The UN

Secretariat must provide the relevant guidance and even leadership in this area.

Let's talk about economic issues in Asia. Has China taken foreign investment away from ASEAN countries?

Well, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the world has gone down since the late 1990s. In the 1990s, more than 80% of FDI in the world consisted of mergers and acquisitions (M&As), more As than Ms in the South, actually. In the region, China's share has gone up from less than 40% to about 70%, so the perception is that China has taken away FDI from the others, but I would argue that it is not so straightforward.

Should Asian development models become the norm-setters for the developing world?

The miracles in the region should be reminders that there are alternatives, and to expose and reject the neo-liberal myths of the Washington Consensus or its new variations. Asia offers many lessons to others, but we must be modest, and not think that we have all the answers to all the problems in the world. Even though lessons from elsewhere can be important, successful development strategies must fully appreciate and build on local conditions. Even transplants must grow deep roots to be strong. Can we honestly say that Asian investments or technology are inherently better across the board? We must reject Asian or any other type of chauvinism, whether Christian, Confucian, Hindu or Muslim. We must be proud without being arrogant or haughty, and presuming to know all.

Is the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between China and ASEAN a South-South win-win case?

We have to get away from this silly recent infatuation with FTAs. The Bush Administration started pushing them through Bob Zoellick, the US Trade Representative and possibly next World Bank President. Some in the US claim it was meant to push others to sign up to the WTO's multilateral agreements. Some governments try to use it as a signalling device to advertise special offers, etc. and to try to lock in the other partner. Most FTAs have relatively little on trade issues *per se*, as they usually involve relatively open economies. Instead, FTAs are more often about special investment incentives and strengthening intellectual property rights (IPRs) — a type of monopoly, contrary to FTAs' free trade pretensions.

China wisely declined to have an FTA exclusively with Singapore, and asked for one with ASEAN instead. Thus, while the US has a friend in Singapore, China gained nine others in the region by signaling that it would not do a deal keeping others out.

However, a variety of regional economic cooperation arrangements is possible, and we should be looking to explore the implications and desirability of such arrangements, rather than think narrowly only in terms of FTAs.

A Sombre Word from the Director

Our planet shook on the morning after Christmas Day. After nearly two centuries' buildup of pressure on one of the great faultlines of our region, the floor of the Indian Ocean finally lurched 15 metres eastward, thrusting under the rugged Sumatran frontier of the tectonic plate on which we sit. It was the biggest earthquake anywhere in the world for 40 years; by far the biggest on the Andaman-Sumatra fault since 1833.

We all know the terrible consequences: first the quake caused havoc in nearby Aceh, then a series of giant waves swept across the Pacific, killing probably 200,000 people in Sumatra, 38,000 in Sri Lanka and more than 20,000 in another nine countries around the Indian Ocean. Since those enjoying the beaches of South Thailand and Sri Lanka came from all over the world, this became the first truly global natural catastrophe of our times, affecting especially Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia. The humanitarian response was even more global. For a moment, the world felt as one.

The intelligence agencies of many countries had been telling their citizens not to go to Indonesia this Christmas; they feared not tsunamis but terrorists. Appearing to mock the puny attempts of humans to kill and brutalise each other, nature wrought its havoc especially in areas of civil conflict – Sri Lanka with its Tamil-Sinhalese wars, South Thailand with its revived Muslim-Buddhist violence, and especially Aceh with its long-standing movement for independence from Indonesia.

Aceh was once known as a powerful sultanate and provider of pepper to the world.

But for the past two centuries it has claimed the world's attention only by its suffering. 100,000 of its people may have died in its long war against incorporation into Netherlands India in 1873-1913; more than 5,000 in its rebellion of 1953-62, and more than 10,000 in the next round of rebellion and repression, 1976-98. Since the Army began its latest attempt at a military solution, in May of 2003, it has claimed to have killed more than 2,000 of the 'enemy', though nobody knows how many thousands more civilians have died. Even after both sides separately declared a cease-fire in January following the tsunami, the Army Commander boasted that his men were still killing their antagonists at the rate of 100 a week.

Will peace eventually come to Aceh through a negotiated agreement that obliges both armed forces to stop the violence and disarm, under international supervision, which is much more thinkable after the tsunami than before? Will it come, as some in Jakarta hope, through the international community's channelling its massive aid effort through the Indonesian government and military, providing them with leverage they could never command before? Or will it not come at all, in our lifetimes? The last is tragically the most likely, unless the international community and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's government demonstrate unprecedented skill, vision and persistence on

behalf of this long-suffering people.

None of us could remain untouched by the personal suffering unleashed by this global spasm. Singapore, physically protected by its neighbours from the region's earthquakes, eruptions, typhoons and floods, responded as a model neighbour should to their crisis. Without grandstanding, without compromising their spontaneous compassion with political and economic calculations, Singapore's soldiers and civilian volunteers quietly rescued thousands in Meulaboh and Banda Aceh. Those of us who only gave from our pockets are deeply grateful to these brave souls, who gave Singapore new maturity as a regional citizen with heart.

Like so many around the world, we in ARI too had personal reasons to grieve. Post-doctoral Fellow Nir Avieli and his family were lucky to escape with their lives, if nothing else, in Sri Lanka, as was recent Visiting Fellow Indralal de Silva's family. Others were close to disaster in Phuket. But our Acehnese colleague of last year, historian M. Isa Sulaiman, shared the stark fate of thousands of his fellow-citizens in Banda Aceh – "missing, presumed dead". His tragic loss will personalise this dreadful tragedy for us, and focus our efforts to help Aceh towards reconstruction in peace.

Anthony Reid,
Director, ARI

In Memoriam M. Isa Sulaiman 1951-2004



For many in ARI and among Indonesianists at NUS, the loss of Pak Isa brought the tsunami tragically close to home. A Visiting Fellow at ARI between March and July 2004, he also co-convoked the April 2004 conference on 'The Historical Background to the Aceh Problem'. He was back home in his pleasant house near the ocean when the waves struck on 26 December. He sent the family upstairs when the first wave hit, but went outside to check, only to be taken by the second, truly giant, wave. Like tens of thousands of others, he has not been seen since.

Mohammad Isa Sulaiman was born and raised in remote Southern Aceh, from a modest

background. Although his intelligence and industry brought him a scholarship to Paris, for his PhD with Denys Lombard, and many other distinctions, he never lost his strong sympathy for the apparently marginal and the marginalized. Perhaps because he had been required to write his doctorate in French, his English was never of the quality to make him a feature of the international circuit. Instead, he continued teaching in Aceh and became the indispensable and reliable chronicler of his country's tortured history.

He will be remembered especially for his two published books – *Sejarah Aceh: Sebuah*

Gugatan terhadap Tradisi [Aceh History: a challenge to tradition – 1997] and *Aceh Merdeka: Ideologi, Kepemimpinan dan Gerakan* [Free Aceh: ideology, leadership and movement, 2000]. They are models of balance and professionalism. We all remember his quiet dignity and helpfulness to all who came to him. In remembering him, we remember his devastated people, and resolve to do what we can to help them rebuild.

Research Team Leader

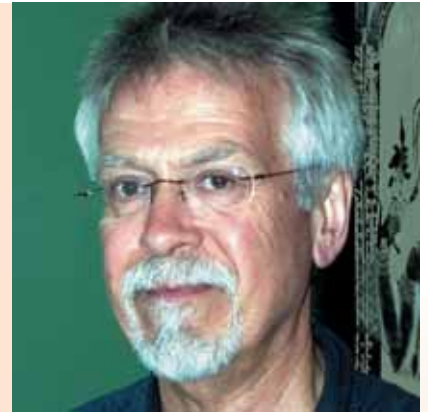
Professor Bryan Turner

Research Team Leader, Religion and Globalization Cluster

Prof Turner has come to ARI from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge.

Over the next six years he will direct research on globalization and religion, concentrating on such issues as religious conflict and the modern state, religious authority and electronic information, religion, consumerism and youth cultures, human rights and religion, the human body, medical change and religious cosmologies.

These research foci will be explored through various religious systems. The general aim is to develop a comprehensive overview of the impact of globalization on religions, and the consequences of religion for global processes. He intends to complete three volumes for Cambridge University Press on religion and globalization. He is also attached to the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS.



Dr Veerabhadra Srinivas Singavarapu, Visiting Research Fellow, Cultural Studies in Asia Cluster



Dr S V Srinivas is a Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore. He has published articles on commonwealth literature, Indian cinema and fan clubs of South Indian film stars. An important focus of his work has been the public nature of film reception of cinema in India and the political significance of film exhibition and consumption. At ARI he will be working on a book-length study of the circulation of Hong Kong action film in India and the questions it raises for film theory.

Research Fellows

Dr Bassam Tibi, Visiting Research Fellow, Religion and Globalisation Cluster



Dr Tibi is Professor of International Relations and Director, Department of International Relations, University of Göttingen, Germany. He has had a prestigious career path and has earned various awards. He is an expert on Islam and the Middle East. Among his most recent publications are *Conflict and War in the Middle East*, *The Challenge of Fundamentalism*, *Political Islam and the New World Disorder* and *Islam between Culture and Politics*. He is also co-author of the new 2004 edition of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Government and Politics*.

Whilst at ARI he will be working on *Authority and Political Order: Contemporary Jihadism and the Quest for Democratic Peace in Islam's Predicament with Modernity*.

Dr Charles J-H MacDonald, Visiting Research Fellow, Religion and Globalisation Cluster



Dr MacDonald is a French anthropologist and Southeast Asianist. He holds a PhD and a Doctorat d'Etat from the Sorbonne and has done extensive periods of fieldwork in the Philippines, Indonesia and South Central Vietnam. He is a senior research fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and is attached to the Université de la Méditerranée in Marseille.

His current interests are the anthropology of suicide, Christianization in Asia, naming practices, and the implications of phenomenological psychology for anthropological theory. He has written several articles on these topics and has finished a book on suicide to be published shortly.

While staying at ARI he will be mainly concerned with the preparation of a conference on personal names in Asia to be held at the Asia Research Institute in 2006.

Dr David Henley, Visiting Research Fellow



Dr Henley writes on the history and historical geography of Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia. He obtained his doctorate from the Australian National University in 1992, and has worked since 1993 as a researcher at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden. During his stay at ARI he will be investigating the history of credit relations in Indonesian societies and economies since 1600, with special emphasis on the characteristic combination of high interest rates, credit hunger and debt bondage which was prevalent in the archipelago until recent times. He will also help to organize a workshop at ARI on the subject of microcredit in Southeast Asia.

Dr Wu Xiao An, Visiting Research Fellow, Southeast Asia-China Interactions Cluster



Dr Wu is currently an Associate Professor of History and Southeast Asian Studies, Peking University. He taught at Xiamen University (1991-3) and was awarded fellowships at the University of Amsterdam (1993-9), Yale University (1998), the National University of Singapore (2000-1) and Kyoto University (2002). His research interests include the modern history of Southeast Asia and the Chinese overseas. During his one-year visiting fellowship at ARI, he is preparing a manuscript for publication by focusing on one specific Chinese family, tentatively entitled *A Chinese Diaspora Between South China and Southeast Asia, 1857-1960*. He is the author of *Chinese Business in the Making of a Malay State, 1882-1941*

Dr Greg Barton, Visiting Research Fellow, Religion and Globalisation Cluster



Dr Barton is an Associate Professor in politics at Deakin University, where he teaches courses on Political Leadership, Global Islamic Politics, and Society and Culture in Contemporary Asia. His 1995 PhD

Dr Nicola Piper, Senior Research Fellow, Asian Migration Cluster



Dr Piper holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Sheffield in the UK and has had previous appointments with the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (Copenhagen) and the Australian National University (Canberra).

Her research interests broadly revolve around aspects of inclusion and exclusion of migrant workers, with an empirical focus on Asia and Europe. She is the author of the book *Racism, Nationalism and Citizenship* (1998), co-editor of the volumes *Women and Work in Globalising Asia* (2002), *Wife or Worker? Asian Marriage and Migration, Transnational Activism in Asia – Problems of power and democracy*, as well as various journal articles. Her current project is on the topics of political organisation of migrant labour and transnational activism to promote the rights of migrants.

thesis at Monash University examined the development of liberal Islamic thought in Indonesia. In the decade since then he has continued to research and publish extensively on the influence of Islamic and Islamist thought in Indonesia and Malaysia, its contribution to the development of civil society and politics, and the emergence of Jihadi terrorism.

Whilst visiting ARI in 2005 he is working on two other book projects: *Islamic Liberalism in Indonesia* and *Islam's Other Nation: a fresh look at Indonesia*. At ARI, he will be contributing to ARI's international conference on Islamic Legitimacy in Asia.

Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr Kim Hee-Sun, Postdoctoral Fellow, Cultural Studies in Asia Cluster



Dr Kim is an ethnomusicologist specializing in the music of Korea, particularly on new traditional music and its current practice in South Korea. She recently obtained her PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and obtained her BA and MA in music from Seoul National University

Her dissertation, entitled "Kayagúm Shin'gok: Composition, Performance, and Representation of New Kayagúm Music in Contemporary South Korea," focuses on kayagúm shin'gok, newly composed music for the kayagúm, a 12-stringed long board zither. The work examines the relationship between music, performance and representation of new music in contemporary Korea.

Her research interests include musical change, performance practice, music and identity, composers in the modern Asian context, cultural studies, tradition and modernity, and music and nationalism. At ARI, she hopes to complete a book manuscript based on her doctoral research.

Dr Francis Lim Kek Gee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Religion and Globalisation Studies Cluster



Dr Lim has recently completed his PhD in Anthropology and Sociology at The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. His thesis is an ethnographic study of the imagination and the pursuit of the 'good life' in a Tibetan-speaking community in the Langtang region of Nepal, and the ways in which this impinges upon local cultural and political change. At ARI, apart from turning his thesis into a book and a series of journal articles, Francis will conduct research on the emerging Christian communities in the Himalayan regions of Tibet and Nepal. His research interests include modernity, globalization and religion, tourism, politics of development, and the anthropology of HIV/AIDS.

**Dr Timothy Winter,
Postdoctoral Fellow
Southeast Asian
Archaeology Cluster and
Cultural Studies in Asia
Cluster**



Dr Winter joins ARI after nine months of British Academy-funded post-doctoral fieldwork in Cambodia. During his stay at the Institute, Tim will prepare a number of publications examining the politics of culture within Cambodia today, and the role tourism plays in moulding an emergent post-conflict heritage industry around the World Heritage Site of Angkor. Building on his previous publications and a PhD conducted at the University of Manchester, Tim is preparing a monograph on Angkor that examines heritage and tourism within a framework of globalisation, post-conflict reconstruction and post-colonial relations. Together with Dr Leakthina Chau Ollier, he is co-editing a collection entitled *Expressions of Cambodia: the politics of tradition, identity and change*. In late 2004 Tim has also curated an exhibition in Siem Reap on a century of Angkor ephemera with Dr Penny Edwards (ANU).

**Dr Jacob Ramsay,
Postdoctoral Fellow,
Religion and Globalisation
Studies Cluster**



Dr Ramsay recently finished his doctorate at the Australian National University and is looking forward to contributing to ARI through his work on Catholicism in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

His dissertation, entitled "Missionaries, Priests and Mandarins: Catholicism and the Nguyen in Vietnam's South, 1820-1868", focused on the experiences of Vietnamese Catholics in the three decades before the French invasion of Cochinchina. Drawing on the private archives of the Missions Étrangères de Paris and the Nguyen dynastic chronicles, he examined the roots of court violence towards Catholics in order to throw light on the spread of social and political instability in Vietnam in this crucial period. During his stay at ARI he will be preparing his thesis for publication. He also aims to further explore the relationship between the spread of French Catholic interests in mid-nineteenth century Vietnam and the rise of new political identities in the early modern era.

**Dr Md Mizanur Rahman,
Postdoctoral Fellow, Asian
Migration Cluster**



Dr Rahman obtained his PhD in 2004 from the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore with a thesis on Bangladeshi labor migration to Singapore. His PhD dissertation focused on the rationalities of the migrants and their families, their interpretations of the benefits of migration, the situation abroad and the social contexts these interpretations are embedded in. Before joining ARI, Dr Rahman worked for two migration-related projects: 'Ethnicity, Migration, and the Nation-State in Southeast Asia' at the National University of Singapore and a Ford Foundation project on "Population Movement in South Asia and Non-Traditional Security Issues" at the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, University of Dhaka.

Dr Rahman is looking forward to contributing to ARI through his PhD work and a new project on remittances. During his stay at ARI, Dr Rahman will be preparing his thesis for publication and will also work on a project on "Social Organization of Remittance: A Study of Migrant Workers' Remittance Transfer from East and Southeast to South Asia".

**Dr Shen Hsiu-hua,
Postdoctoral Fellow,
Changing Family in Asia
Cluster**



Dr Shen is a sociologist with research interests in political sociology, gender and sexuality, globalization, and qualitative research methods. She obtained her doctorate in 2003 from the University of Kansas. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard in 2003/4. Her dissertation is an ethnographic study of the daily interactions between Taiwanese business people and Chinese nationals in coastal China. It examines how the increasing Taiwan/China economic integration has created a transnational space for constructing boundaries and hierarchies and for generating the integration and disintegration of people across the two societies as a result of their various class, political, gender, and sexual interests.

During her stay at the ARI, Hsiu-hua will revisit her research sites in China to update her research and will complete her book manuscript based on her dissertation research. She will also continue to work on journal submissions. In addition, she would like to expand her knowledge of Southeast Asia.

Call for Abstracts

Submission Date (2005)	Conference
31 March	Naming in Asia: Local Identities and Global Change (23-24 Feb 2006)
6 April	Asian Expansions: The Historical Processes of Polity Expansion in Asia (12-13 May 2006)
30 April	Rationalising China's Place in Asia, 1800 to 2005 (3-4 August 2006)
1 October	Burma Studies Conference 2006: Communities of Interpretation (13-15 July 2006)

Please Visit the ARI website for details.

Dr Chi-Nien Chung is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Management and Organization at NUS Business School.



Dr Chung received his PhD in sociology from Stanford University in 2000. He has published in the *Journal of Management Studies*, *Developing Economies*, *International Sociology*, and *Organization Studies*. He currently studies business groups in East Asia, with a focus on how institutional changes mediate the relationships among strategy, structure and performance.

Dr Michael Ewing-Chow is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law.



Dr Chow teaches World Trade Law and Company Law at the Faculty of Law. He will be doing research regarding Asian perspectives on international trade, particularly focusing on the proliferation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in Asia. He has been involved in the negotiations for the Singapore FTAs as a consultant for the Ministry of Trade and Industry. As a lawyer, he has largely concentrated on the legal and economic effects of trade liberalisation, but he is also interested in understanding how trade affects Asian values and cultures and invites anyone with views on this subject to drop in on him.

Assistant Professors

Dr Hendrik Meyer-Ohle is an assistant professor in the Department of Japanese Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.



After receiving his PhD in 1994 from Marburg University (Germany), Dr Meyer-Ohle worked for five years as a research associate for the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo before joining NUS in December 1999. His research and teaching interests relate to the Japanese economy and business, with a special focus on the retailing and the service sector, as well as activities of Japanese multinational corporations in Asia. During his time at ARI he will write up the results of his current research project, which looks at perceptions of Japanese employees in regard to changes in human resources management.

Administration & Research Assistants

Mr Dominic Bose is the Institute Manager, ARI



Mr Bose acquired his BA in Communications Studies and History from Murdoch University in 1994, and is currently enrolled in a Masters in Education through RMIT, Melbourne. He has spent the past decade rising up the ranks of Informatics Holdings Ltd in Singapore, ending his time there as executive director for two of the Informatics units which offered degree programs (Thames) and distance learning opportunities (IGCOL). He brings to ARI abundant experience in business, public relations and personnel management in the higher education sector.

Mr Ng Kian Boon, Research Assistant, Changing Family in Asia Cluster



Mr Ng is currently a Business Administration PhD candidate at the University of South Australia. His PhD thesis will focus on how students from the People's Republic of China utilise institutions of higher learning in Singapore as a mechanism for two-stage migration to First World countries.

A financier by training, Mr Ng holds an MA in Asia Pacific Studies (with Distinction) from the University of Leeds, and also has MSc degrees in information management (Lancaster) and international marketing (Strathclyde). His research interests include the causes of the Asian currency crisis and the use of intellectual property as brand equity substitutes in consumer products.

Ms Jiang Yang, Research Assistant, Southeast Asia-China Interactions Cluster



Ms Yang obtained her B.A. in International Politics at the University of International Relations, Beijing, and her Master of Social Sciences at the Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore. Her responsibilities include assisting the research of the Director and Research Cluster of Southeast Asia - China Interactions. She also helps with the Working Paper Series. She presented a paper at the Biennial Conference of Australian Asian Studies Association in 2004 in Canberra and wrote a chapter "The Politics of ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement" in the book *Transformations: A Region in the Making* (Manila, Far East University, 2004).

Ms Sulianti Binte Mustapa, Technical Support Officer



Ms Sulianti graduated from Ngee Ann Polytechnic in 1995 with a Diploma in Electrical Engineering. She has worked in Sun Microsystems for 4 years supporting internal staff in the Asia Pacific Region. Prior to that, she was in the Singapore Police Force for 3 years as a System Administrator managing the Netscape web servers and involved in web programming. She will be handling all IT technical support requests in ARI, and will assist in the development of ARI's upcoming Asia Research Portal.

ARI Recognition

Prof Jomo Kwame Sundaram has been appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, as Assistant Secretary-General on Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Prof Charles MacDonald has been promoted to the rank of "Directeur de recherche de 1ère classe" at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and also appointed as board member to the Comité National of the CNRS. The CNRS undertakes more than 50 percent of the pure scientific research in France.

ARI is proud to announce that the **Southeast Asian Archaeology Cluster** has been awarded the following grants:

- S\$48,085 from Orchard Maritime Services Pte Ltd., Singapore, for a preliminary survey in the Batang Hari area of Jambi province in 2005. This is the first step in activating a five-year programme for the proposed Indonesian Regional Archaeology Field School Project.
- S\$10,000 from the Lee Foundation for the development of a digital database for Southeast Asian art and archaeology.

Dr Bin Yang's manuscript, "Between Winds and Clouds: The Making of Yunnan (Second Century BCE-Twentieth Century CE)," has been awarded the Gutenberg-e Prize by the American Historical Association. The paper was prepared while Dr Yang was at ARI under the 2003 dissertation writing-up fellowship.

Prof Chua Beng Huat gave a keynote address on 9 December 2004 at the International Sociological Association, Urban Research Group conference held at the School of Design and Environment, NUS. The address was entitled "Universal Homeownership, Housing Market and Social Welfare".

Prof Gavin Jones gave the keynote address at the Philippines Population Association Scientific Meeting and General Assembly at De La Salle University, Manila, on 5 February 2005. His address was entitled "Urbanization, megacities and urban planning issues: Philippines in an Asian context".

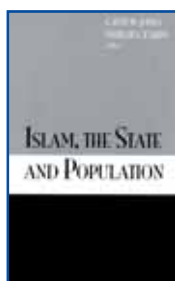


MoU between ARI and EFEO

ARI's first Memorandum of Understanding took effect on 1 January 2005, with the École Française d'Extrême-Orient. As the longest-serving Asia-based research institute for Asian cultures (established in 1898 in Saigon and then Hanoi), this is a fitting partner for ARI. Best-known for its restoration of the Angkor monuments, EFEO continues to have a strong research presence in India and most countries of Southeast and East Asia. Pictured is its Museum Louis Finot in Hanoi (1933), now the National Museum of Vietnam.

A ceremony will be held later in the year to solemnise this relationship.

NEW BOOKS BY ARI MEMBERS



Gavin W. Jones & Mehtab S. Karim (editors)
Islam, the State and Population

Hurst & Company, London, 2005, 286 pp.



Greg Barton
Indonesia's Struggle: Jemaah Islamiyah and the Soul of Islam

UNSW Press, Sydney, 2004, 118 pp



Xiang Biao
Translated by Jim Weldon
Transcending Boundaries

Brill, Leiden, 2005, 198 pp.
This book was written while the author was at ARI.



Sor-hoon Tan (editor)
Challenging Citizenship: Cultural Identity in a Global Age

Ashgate, Aldershot, 2005, 200pp.
This book was written while the author was at ARI.

ARI Working Paper Series 2004

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/pub/wps2004.htm>

- No. 30 Military Campaigns against Yunnan:
A Global Analysis
Bin Yang
- No. 31 The Zheng He Voyages:
A Reassessment
Geoff Wade
- No. 32 Origins of Malay Muslim
"Separatism" in Southern Thailand
Thanet Aphornsuvan
- No. 33 Symptoms of ill health and health
seeking behaviour of Sri Lankan
mothers during the puerperium
W. Indralal De Silva

- No. 34 Speaking the Truth: Speech on
Television in New Order Indonesia
Jennifer Lindsay
- No. 35 Views of Disability in the U.S.
and Singapore
**Lois M. Verbrugge, Kalyani K.
Mehta, and Ellen Wagenfeld-
Heintz**
- No. 36 The Ottomans in Southeast Asia
Anthony Reid

APPOINTMENTS AT ARI

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/appointments.htm>

Joint Appointments at ARI-FASS

Three appointments are currently advertised, all jointly supported by ARI and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at NUS. Two tenure-track positions are described below. The third is a fixed term Visiting Fellowship in Religious Studies. Details of all are found at www.ari.nus.edu.sg/appointments.

JOINT APPOINTMENT IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC SOCIETIES, NUS

Applications are invited for a tenure-track joint appointment in contemporary Islamic societies in Asia, between the Asia Research Institute (ARI) and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at the National University of Singapore, at the level of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor. The appointee would hold a research appointment in ARI, and would also teach at least one course per annum in a relevant department in the Faculty. FASS units interested in contemporary Islamic societies include, but are not limited to, Sociology, Political Science, Geography, History, Philosophy, and the Programmes in Southeast Asian Studies and South Asian Studies. There are also relevant faculty minors in Religious Studies and Gender Studies. Closes on 30 April 2005.

JOINT APPOINTMENT IN HEALTH STUDIES, NUS

Applications are invited for Assistant Professor or Associate Professor: joint appointment in health studies between the Asia Research Institute and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore. This will be a tenure-track joint appointment in Health Studies in an Asian context. The appointee would hold a research appointment in ARI, and would also teach one course per annum in a relevant department in the Faculty. Departments interested in health studies include, but are not limited to, Sociology, Economics, Geography, History and Social Work and Psychology. Closes on 8 April 2005.

JOINT APPOINTMENT IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES, NUS

The Faculty of Arts and Social Science and Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore invite applications for a one or two-year Visiting Fellowship beginning July 2005. This position has both teaching and research roles. Its teaching component supports an undergraduate minor in Religious Studies in the faculty. The research component is participation in the Religion and Globalization cluster, convened by Professor Bryan Turner of the Asia Research Institute. Applicants should be able to fill both roles, having a PhD in any related field, a commitment to undergraduate teaching, and promise of research publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Mar 2005 - June 2005)

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events.htm>

25–26 April	Conference on Political Legitimacy in Islamic Asia
26 April	New Cambridge History of Islam
29–30 April	Conference on Asia's Hou Hsia Hsien: Cinema, Culture and History
16–18 May	Workshop on Conservation for/by Whom? Social Controversies and Cultural Contestations regarding National Parks in the "Malay Archipelago"
25–27 May	Graduate Students Workshop: States of Transgression: Strategies of Domination, Accommodation and Resistance Across Asia
27 May	ARI Lecture by Professor James Scott
1–3 June	ASIALEX 2005 Singapore – Words in Asian Cultural Contexts
7–8 June	Conference on Casting Faiths: The Construction of Religion in East and Southeast Asia
1–3 Aug	Centennial Conference- Asian Horizons: Cities, States and Societies
20 Sept	Asian Trends 2005–Asian Migrations: Sojourning, Displacement, Homecoming and Other Travels

Postgraduate Research Students' Work in Progress: Gender Studies in Asia: Peoples, Politics and Power 23–24 September 2004

This workshop, organised by Maila Stevens, Brenda Yeoh and Mark Ravinder Frost, brought together a very lively group of postgraduates. With eighty applications from students around the world for the twenty places available, our final choice was predictably difficult, aiming to balance regions and interests. The workshop showed just how dynamic the study of gender in Asia has become, both within 'home disciplines' and within dedicated Women's and Gender Studies programs.

Presenters engaged in a vigorous manner with recent bodies of critical theory and research in gender studies globally. Grounding their discussions in a series of enticing papers, they explored the gender dimensions of social change in the region. Several papers looked at aspects of identities, femininities and masculinities, while the others included treatment of fatherhoods, gendered labour, gendered rule and cultural politics, artistic sexualisation, infidelity, sex trafficking in global context, the growth of gay identities and feminisms.

Overcoming Passions: A Conference on Race, Religion and the Coming Community in Malaysian Literature

11–12 October 2004

Organised by David Lim (ARI) and Gabriel Wu (Chinese Studies Department, NUS) for ARI's Cultural Studies Cluster, Overcoming Passions brought together over thirty scholars, intellectuals and writers of Malaysian literature, broadly defined to include canonical and popular texts written in English, Mandarin and Malay. The aim of the conference was to uncover and promote new scholarship in literature that challenges commonsense understanding of race, religion and community, and to open up new ways of conceiving Malaysia's radical possibilities.

The keynote address was delivered by prominent race theorist, David Theo Goldberg.

Paper presenters included Malaysian writers Beth Yahp and Uthaya Sankar, as well as scholars from Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Canada, Australia, the US and the UK. Among the issues discussed were: Where is Malaysia heading and what is the shape of its coming national community? On what terms and on whose terms should this coming community be brought to fruition? In this imaginary formation, what is the place of race and religion as objects of passionate identification? Also, what is the place of ethnic majorities and minorities? Selected papers from the conference will be published as an edited anthology in 2006.

Northeast Asia in Maritime Perspective: A Dialogue with Southeast Asia Okinawa, Japan

29–30 October 2004

Okinawa/Ryukyu sits astride one of Asia's oldest maritime highways. It has long witnessed movement across the seas by Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, Taiwanese, Siamese, Vietnamese and Europeans. In October 2004, the island chain also played host to scholars who came from Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and around the globe, to investigate "Northeast Asia in Maritime Perspective." This conference was the inaugural collaboration between the Asia Research Institute and the 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program <Interface

Humanities> of Osaka University.

Recent revisionist scholarship on the societies of Northeast Asia – particularly China, Japan, Korea and Ryukyu – has suggested that maritime trade was one of the primary stimuli in the rise and demise of states and societies between the 14th and the 17th centuries.

The Okinawa conference examined the validity of these claims in a dialogue with scholars of Southeast Asia, the historical studies of which have in many cases been trade-centred. It focused on the common trends and experiences of Northeast Asian polities and societies similar to the way in which Southeast Asianists have examined the "Age of Commerce" in that region.

The Okinawa conference promoted dialogue between two research traditions that have long been isolated, despite mutual concerns. This was a beginning in fostering an ongoing dialogue between Northeast Asian historical studies and Southeast Asian historical studies. Both will benefit tremendously from such a dialogue in their efforts to better understand the maritime history of their region.



Roundtable: "Southeast Asia in Political Science: Theory, Region, and Qualitative Methods"

16 November 2004

The discipline of political science is perennially driven by debates over the nature of knowledge and the meaning of science. Today, these debates are manifest in the rational choice controversy and in the long-standing quantitative-qualitative dispute. While these debates are important for assessing the value of research communities, they are also deeply contentious in their implications for the existence and viability of particular research programs. This roundtable addressed these questions within the context of Southeast Asian politics.

The discussion revolved around the relationship among theory, methodology, and area studies. Has Southeast Asian studies contributed to theory in political science? Has qualitative methodology as practiced by Southeast Asianists advanced knowledge accumulation? How relevant are these debates for scholars in Southeast Asia who are more focused on policy matters? The Roundtable was chaired by Professor K S Jomo.

On the Threshold of Modernity: Fifty years of Regime Change in Insular Southeast Asia, 1780-1830

25 January 2005

On this occasion Professor Leonard Blussé of Leiden University drew his audience's attention to a crucial period in Southeast Asian history, a period which he believes should be the object of further study by an international team of historians in the years to come. His talk, in fact, was intended partly as a feeler put out to assess whether there is enthusiasm for participation in such a project among historians in Singapore, who, as he sees it, should be in the vanguard of the planned research. Professor Blussé acknowledged that in proposing a research project entitled *On the threshold of modernity*, he risks appearing out of tune with our own



postmodern age. Nevertheless, it is in the period 1780-1830 that the origins of the present-day political situation in maritime Southeast Asia can be said to lie. These fifty years witnessed the demise of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) shortly after the fourth Anglo-Dutch war (1780-84), together with no fewer than four major changes in the way European powers attempted to exploit their possessions in the area. The most obvious outcomes of this turbulent piece of history were the establishment of Singapore as a free transit port and the delimitation of separate British and Dutch spheres of influence that ultimately became the nation-states of Malaysia and Indonesia respectively.

The *On the threshold of modernity* project would transgress these modern borders by taking an integral look at the whole of the maritime region comprising present-day Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. Due attention would also be given to the roles which Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Americans played in this region two centuries ago. Until recently, the writings of Nicholas Tarling, David Bassett and John Bastin, based mainly on thorough examination of British archive records, seemed to be safe beacons for historians studying the expansion of British power in the Southeast Asian archipelago. Now, however, parts of these narratives have been called into question by a number of writers, including Jim Warren on the Sulu Zone, Reinout Vos on the VOC, Diana Lewis on the Straits of Melaka, and the contributors to the volumes edited by Tony Reid, *The last stand of Asian autonomies*, and Femme Gaastra together with Professor Blussé himself, *The eighteenth century as a category of Asian history*. In different ways, these studies have all brought the autonomous history of Southeast Asia to the fore. The Reid

volume even questions conventional narratives of modernization and Westernization by identifying a counter-current, or undertow, toward the reassertion of traditional polities and values.

Yet it cannot be denied that the two great events that marked the demise of the *ancien régime* and the birth of modern society in the West toward the end of the eighteenth century, the French and industrial revolutions, also had profound impacts in insular Southeast Asia. The industrial revolution, for instance, transformed Asia's trade with Europe from an exchange of goods for bullion into an exchange of goods for commodities. Within maritime Asia the same period saw the rise of the China market and a scramble by all the peoples living around the South China Sea and the Bay of Bengal to connect to this aorta of trade. In his planned project, Professor Blussé aims to examine the various ways in which four successive colonial regimes in the Indonesian archipelago attempted to grasp the opportunities thrown up by this and other economic changes in the period 1780-1830.

Recent Seminars & Workshops

Public Seminar on "Changing Indonesian Childhoods: A Three-Generation Study in a Javanese Village"

By **Dr Ben White**
(International Centre for Child & Youth Studies, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)
18 October 2004

This seminar discussed the changes in the lives of children and young people and, in particular, 'the prolongation of childhood': the postponement of adult status and responsibilities through longer school enrolment, rising age at first marriage and later entry into (full-time) employment. While many signs of material improvement were obvious, rural development efforts had generated little or no new rural employment opportunities attractive to secondary-school leavers. Using oral history and two detailed time-allocation studies, Dr White traced changes in child work over a period of roughly three generations (through interviews in 1972-3 and 1999-2000). Paradoxically, as children's needs for a greater and more sophisticated variety of consumer goods grow, they are increasingly isolated from the kinds of activities which might have earned them some money to pay for them, and increasingly dependent on their parents for these needs. These shifts raise many interesting questions, including the necessity of children's work, the quest for education despite the lack of good job prospects, and school enrolment as a growing form of obligatory work or postponement of 'real' work.

Public Seminar on "The Right to be Properly Researched: Ethics, Participation and Triangulation in Research on the Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children"

By **Dr Judith Ennew** (Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge)
20 October 2004

The right to be properly researched is implicit in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, not only in the much misunderstood 'participation' articles, but also in various provisions for standards of professional competence, for protection against the production of poor data and for protection against exploitation through inappropriate dissemination of information. Yet, even major international agencies continue to use information from inadequate statistics, unscientific data-collection methods and deficient analytical approaches as the basis of

policy and programming for children. So-called 'participatory' research with children tends to be long on feel-good data collection methods and short on ethical considerations, scientific rigour and adequate analysis. Using the example of developing a regional research protocol for Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, the seminar demonstrated the principles of children-centred, participatory data collection and analysis, challenging some myths about child research and offering practical, ethical and scientific alternatives.

International Workshop on "Population Dynamics and Infectious Disease in Asia"

27-29 October 2004, Singapore

Infectious diseases remain important in Asia. Lethal new infections, such as HIV, SARS, avian influenza and Nipah virus have emerged. Some infections, including dengue, Japanese B encephalitis and meningococcal meningitis, have re-emerged or spread further than before.

Plague, influenza and cholera, problems present since antiquity, still pose an epidemic threat. Although large areas have been freed from the old infections, pockets of transmission persist for malaria, schistosomiasis, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases.

This workshop covered an array of problems, but certain topics were of outstanding importance when considering population dynamics and infectious diseases in Asia:

First, the importance of place, expressed through landscape and culture. Place determined the risk of infection and also modified the response; second, alteration of the landscape for economic development with local, national, regional and global effects; third, human mobility across the landscape, driven by



Development Analysis

spiritual faith, involuntary displacement, and the forces of economic development, including both poverty and affluence; fourth, the cumulated legacy of previous changes in place, with human movement reflecting ties from the past, introduced infections often resulting from the same forces; finally, the all important effect of poverty, as this is driving millions of people to change their place, and exposing them to risks they cannot resist and for which the local place- and culture-based health systems are currently inadequate.

Training Workshop on "Advanced Demographic Techniques"

20 September – 22 October 2004, College of Population Studies, Bangkok, Thailand

The second APN Training Workshop, entitled "Advanced Demographic Techniques", was held in Bangkok at the College of Population Studies (CPS) from 20 September to 22 October 2004. This 5-week training workshop comprised an intensive hands-on course that covered both demographic and population-related methods, and the ways these methods could be applied to solve typical tasks of demographic analysis using basic and advanced spreadsheet techniques (Excel 2000/2002). Dr. Sergei Scherbov from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna, Austria, was the main instructor of the workshop, while Dr. Napaporn Chayovan from CPS was responsible for organizing and coordinating the training content of the workshop.

The workshop was attended by 18 junior scientists, researchers and PhD students, as well as 5 observers, from fields related to population studies. Over the five-week period, participants attended intensive lessons on demographic analysis and computer applications using advanced Excel techniques, which were reinforced by practical sessions and computer exercises. They were introduced to methods of population analysis within specific topics and also visited several important population-related offices in Thailand, such as the Bureau of Registration Administration and National Statistical Office. Finally, participants had to complete challenging assignments requiring them to demonstrate what they had learnt from the workshop.

Generally, participants gave positive feedback about the workshop and were largely satisfied with the structure and content of the workshop, instructors and field visits.

Forthcoming Events

International Workshop on "The Impacts of Migration on the 'Left-Behind' in Asia"

10-11 March 2005, Hanoi, Vietnam

Co-organised by

Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Asia Research Institute & Institute for Social Development Studies, Vietnam

While much work has already been done on the impact of migration on receiving countries and on migrants themselves, less attention has been paid to the effects of migration on sending communities as well as the family members "left behind" by migrants. The focus of this workshop is on the impact of migration on the health and well-being of the non-migrants "left-behind" in the context of Asia, taking into account that those who are left-behind may simultaneously have many things to gain as well as lose from migration.

Papers on the following topics will be presented:

- The impact of migration on specific "left-behind" groups
- The impact of migration on the "left-behind" at the household and community levels
- Migration and demographic effects

More details at (<http://www.populationasia.org/Events.htm>). Please contact Ms Verene Koh (popnasia@nus.edu.sg) for additional information.

Invitation to Apply

Training Workshop on "Interactions of Population Dynamics and Environmental Changes: Research on the Health Consequences"

August 2005, Bangkok, Thailand

This training workshop will examine the health impacts of population and environmental changes, as well as appropriate methodologies for research on this theme. The main goal of the workshop will be for participants working in teams of 2 to 3 persons to develop high-quality research proposals on the topic of "Health Consequences of Population Changes" for research funding consideration.

Interested applicants are invited to apply for the workshop by submitting an "Expression of Interest (EOI)" to:

Associate Professor Vipan Prachuabmoh
College of Population Studies
Chulalongkorn University
Payathai Rd, Bangkok 10330
Thailand
Fax: +66 (0) 2 255 1649
Email: Vipan.P@Chula.ac.th

The deadline for submission of EOIs is 1st March 2005. More details on the workshop and submission procedures can be found on the website at <http://www.populationasia.org/Events.htm>

What are the major foci of your work while here at ARI?

I am using the opportunity provided by the fellowship at ARI – a rare and marvellous opportunity incidentally, for which I am extremely grateful – mainly to complete a book on Malaysia. The book has been in the making in one sense or another for a very long time now – since I first went there with my partner, Maila Stivens, to do anthropological research in the mid 1970s. Since that time we have been involved – both separately and together – in a number of research projects on a variety of different, if related, themes. In my case these have covered such issues as: the socio-economic organization of peasant agriculture; the lives of new middle class Malays in Seremban, Kuala Lumpur and Penang; urbanization; tourism and heritage; political culture; popular culture; and the politics of culture, race and identity.

It might be said that the shifting focus of the research has been a response on the part of an anthropologist of the Malays to the transformations in his ‘object of study’, generated in turn by the far-reaching social transformations in Malaysian society that took place in the wake of the Kuala Lumpur riots of 1969, the implementation of the so-called New Economic Policy, and, subsequently, the radical modernization instigated during the Prime Ministership of Mahathir Mohammad. In these decades we saw “our” village disappear before our very eyes, as its residents and their children gradually abandoned rice cultivation, fruit harvesting and rubber tapping, many moving more or less permanently into towns and cities in the process.

Yet, in this time ‘Malayness’ has not disappeared. In fact, the period has been marked by a heightened sense of Malay distinctiveness and, of course, by what some have described as a “resurgence” of Islamic observance and the markers of an Islamic identity among Malay Muslims. In such circumstances Malay “culture” has become a rather different kind of phenomenon than culture as it had been conceived in classical anthropology. What it has become, how it can be studied, and its significance in producing some understanding of modern Malaysian society are more or less what my research and writing has been about.

The book I am working on this year takes up what might be called the other side of this history of the Malays, by looking not at the end of “traditional” Malay village culture, but at its origins. From the beginning, both Maila and I



Interview with Joel Kahn

were of the view that what we were witnessing was not the end of tradition, as it were, but rather a shift from one trajectory of modernization to another. And it is an earlier trajectory of modernization, one that resulted in the formation of the (only apparently traditional) Malay kampung that I have been investigating. In the course of this work it has become increasingly evident to me that the Malays – understood as a distinctive ethnic group within the modern Malaysian nation – were, to use a term I have employed in another context, constituted, economically, politically and culturally out of a process of modernization that has its origins in the late 19th century.

This is not to say that there were no Malays before empire – only that Malayness meant something very different in earlier historical periods. Nor am I suggesting that somehow the category “Malay” was in any straightforward sense a product of colonialism. But what I am saying is that ideas about Malay ethnic or racial distinctiveness and, importantly, many of the actual ways of life associated with the “traditional” Malay kampung are modern historical phenomena, rather than survivals from some timeless traditional past. Specifically I would argue that they were the product of nationalist discourse, and nation building projects that began with the imposition of modern forms of colonial rule towards the end of the 19th century.

Identifying these processes of “nationalisation” and precisely what resulted from them requires at the same time a recovery of alternatives to the nationalist narrative, of histories that might have been (and might still

become). Much of my work this year has been devoted to one such alternative – the narrative of what has variously been called Melayu Raya, Greater Indonesia, Nusantara or Watan Jawa. In this narrative Malays are and have been imagined not as a single, discrete ethnic/racial group occupying “traditional” kampung spaces within the modern Malaysian nation, but as participants in a much wider transnational ecumene in which mobility, commercial dynamism and religious reform were the driving forces. Certainly, at the turn of the twentieth century this alternative narrative of Malay peoplehood was as plausible as the nationalist one. The questions that have motivated me have been: how did this alternative narrative lose its hold, what made the nationalist narrative of Malayness increasingly plausible to ordinary Malays, and what should we make of the indications that such a narrative may be regaining popularity in the present?

That, in any case, is how I currently see the project. I have drafted a book manuscript – provisionally titled *The Other Malay: Islam, Nation, and Cosmopolitan Practice in (Pen)insular Southeast Asia*. But a lot of work remains to pull it all together.



Public Lecture by **Merle Ricklefs**

In late 2004, we could have observed a bicentenary in Indonesia – except that this was one no one either noticed or, if they did, wanted to highlight. This was the bicentenary of attempts to reform Indonesian societies into something more Islamic using violence and bloodshed, a process begun in 1803-4 by the Padri reformers of West Sumatra. Thus, the threat of religiously inspired violence in Indonesia is not something new. But it is also true that Islam is not intrinsic to this violence and terrorism. Nor are violence and terrorism intrinsic to Islam.

The 19th century Dutch regime in Indonesia feared international Islamic conspiracies, but they were different from today's. Then, the colonial rulers feared mainly the Naqshabandiyya Sufi tarekat, whereas today we fear al-Qaidah and like-minded groups. We often read about how such groups are inspired to Holy War (jihad), in the most extreme case to suicide bombings, by specific Islamic doctrines. We should perhaps remember, however, that suicide bombing is a technique first developed by the Tamil Tigers, who of course have nothing to do with Islam.

The series of bombings by Islamic zealots in Indonesia over the last 20 years has been devastating and distressing. The most deadly so far has been the Bali bombings of October 2002, the latest the attack on the Australian Embassy of September 2004. This is not an encouraging history. We must never trivialize – or underestimate – the seriousness of the terrorist threat in Indonesia. Yet, that is only part of the story.

Despite this history, Indonesia is a nation of real promise for a better age: a better age for its citizens, a better age for its neighbours, perhaps even a better age for the Islamic world in general.

against them. Information about the existence of extremist violent terrorists in Indonesia was sufficient to persuade all but the most unreasonable observers that (1) they existed and (2) they were extremely dangerous.

Thus, middle class interest in radicalism had been killed by arbitrary violence. Ordinary Indonesians – the majority Muslim community – also saw themselves threatened by extremism. The institutions of moderate, tolerant Islam were mobilized and firmly rooted.

The elections of 2004 also seem to me to support this view. By this time, the ongoing intensification of religion in Indonesia – for Muslims a stage of the 800-year history of Islamization – made it almost impossible to say whether a given party should be thought to be Islamic or secular in orientation, except for a few with explicitly religious platforms and identities. Among the latter, the Prosperous Justice Party (Partai Keadilan Sejahtera) did surprisingly well in the elections. But its success seems to reflect, not support for religious politics, but rejection of the corrupt politicking of the old parties and a wish for more justice and an end to corruption.

Now, where does all of this leave us in our search for balanced judgment? We have to bear in mind some fundamentals: competition for political power in Indonesia is complex, fought out at multiple levels of government across a nation that is the largest archipelago on the earth, in a context of on-going democratization and on-going Islamization of the society.

In such a society, with weak rule of law, widespread criminality, low levels of administrative competence, endemic corruption and a significant presence of extremist, terrorist groups, Islam (and enhancing religiosity in general) may be the principal 'social glue' that keeps that society together, peaceful and governable, and perhaps makes it more moral, more honest and more just. There remain significant voices of unreason and intolerance in Indonesia. But the forces of tolerant, liberal, pluralistic Islam are strongly institutionalized, well led, the source of some of the most progressive thinking in the Islamic world, able to operate free of official repression and widely supported by the populace, and have been strengthened by the extremists' use of violence – which has driven the populace at large and especially the middle class away from extremist views.

Since about the year 2000, and particularly since the al-Qaidah attacks in the United States of 11 September 2001 and the Bali bombs of 2002, the major Islamic organizations of Indonesia – led by the massive organizations Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, which together have something like 70 million members and followers – have overcome some of the differences that divided them in order to resist the extremists. The Bali bombs and the Jakarta Marriott Hotel bombing of August 2003 were attacks not just on Western targets, but also on the lifestyles and interests of the Indonesian middle class and did much to attenuate whatever sympathy there may have been amongst that class for religious extremism.

In the wake of such bombings, in my judgment, the radical, extremist Islamic movements had no prospect of winning political power in Indonesia. The institutions of the state – police, military, intelligence – were mobilized

While social science has neglected the role of religion in globalisation, ARI is uniquely placed to make major contributions to this research topic. While fundamentalism will be a key empirical topic of the new research cluster, we need to develop sophisticated analytical approaches to social and religious change to guide research, such as S.N. Eisenstadt's theory of "multiple modernities". Fundamentalism, political religion, religious liberalism and secularism are aspects of these modernities. Religion is crucial to: debates concerning identity and self-determination; the nation state, diasporic politics and multiculturalism; liberalism, democracy and migration; globalization and the new media; and the body and "life technologies". The theoretical questions are: how are sacred cultures and spaces changing in a global world, and how does religion relate to power, the body and technology? More specifically, research clusters can be organised around: the relations between political sovereignty, authority and the sacred; the impact of new technologies (informational, military and medical) on religious institutions and consciousness; the global commodification of religious practices and the rise of spiritual markets; and the emergence of new religious cosmologies relating to genetics, human rights and eschatology.

Politics and Religion

This topic, which can be summarised as "religion and violence", will explore diverse conflicts and connections between religions and states in Asia and beyond as an aspect of global religious change. Contemporary research on religious radicalism has examined the impact of higher education, rapid economic development and failed political expectations on religious ideologies and radical politics, and there are important research opportunities in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia for a project on security, political radicalism, youth cultures and the state. One analytical theme will focus on authority, legitimacy and sovereignty in relation to the Net. Research will explore the role of information technology in the organisation of "political religion". How do religion and politics interrelate in diasporic, multicultural settings? Globalisation produces greater social complexity, such as legal pluralism, multiculturalism and religious diaspora. Modern developments in China, Japan and South Korea offer important research opportunities under this heading.

Technology and Religion

Communication technology and network society are clearly central to global religious movements. While cassettes and email have been significant

in worldwide fundamentalist movements, the Net has been influential in preserving social and cultural connections among minorities, diasporic communities and societies of origin. The Internet has become significant in religious education and missions in the world religions, but it is also corrosive of traditional authority.

The Internet, which is devolved, local and flexible, permits the growth of alternative religious cultures, and supports local, heterodox charismatic leaders. How can traditional, text-based and oral authority and pedagogy survive in a post-print society?

A Research Programme for the Cluster on Religion and Globalisation in Asian Context

— BRYAN TURNER



Religion and the Body

We can create a thematic research topic around the human body, religious world-views and medical technologies. How are religious authorities responding to the challenge of new medical techniques in reproduction, cloning and regenerative medicine? How are religious leaders responding to the global challenge to reproduction and family forms that are implicit in new reproductive technology? There will be opportunities to create joint research projects with medical science on genetics, ethics, religion and social change. There is an emerging socio-medical literature on the impact of stem cell research and regenerative medicine on life expectancy which is centered upon the rhetorical question: can we live forever? How will religions respond to these global medical inventions and the new markets for regenerative medicine?

Consumer Cultures and Hybrid Religiosity

There are important connections between cultural hybridisation, religious cosmologies, consumerism and politics in urban youth cultures in global cities. Ethnographic research suggests that young people can simultaneously combine secular education, modern consumer culture, fundamentalism and secular life styles. Globalisation is producing new 'spiritual

markets' in the interaction between traditional religious forms, youth cultures and consumerism. A comparative sociology of urban religious cultures will study the flow of religious objects in 'religio-scapes'. How are these religious flows orchestrated in relation to transnational religion and politics?

Personal Research Agenda

I am writing a three-volume study of religion for Cambridge University Press to be completed in 2009. These volumes are an attempt to examine religions historically and globally from the rise of nation states to the era of globalism. I shall organise my empirical research agenda around these three volumes over the next six years. Volume One is the intellectual development of the sociology of religion (1750-2000). Volume Two examines religion in the period of economic and social modernisation (1600 to 1950), and Volume Three studies religion and globalisation (1850-2000). I shall continue to edit three journals (*Citizenship Studies*, *Body & Society*, and *Journal of Classical Sociology*), which can become part of ARI's research culture, providing opportunities to publish work on religion and rights, body and religion, and sociological theory.