

ISLAM AND PUBLIC CULTURE IN INDONESIA

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Office Hours: Mon, 13:15-15:15; Rm 104

WINTER 2015-16

Tuesdays, 11 - 13:00 ct.
Werkstattgebäude,
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Indonesia is often described as the world's largest Muslim-majority country. But where do we find Islam in contemporary Indonesia? And how is it best approached as a topic of anthropological enquiry? Is it to be sought in the mosques and Qur'anic schools of rural Java? Or perhaps in the transnational networks that link Indonesia with the wider Islamic world? Alternatively should we look to the local ballot box and the work of Islamic civil society groups? Or to popular Islamic programming on television and in the cinema, and in the vibrant discussions taking place through social media? This course examines the relationship between Islam and public culture with an eye to questions of broader theoretical import. Issues of piety, ethics and bodily comportment will be examined vis-à-vis public debates on such topics as Islamic attire, educational reform, economics, polygamy and pornography. In addition to readings from the current scholarship, the course will examine materials (in translation) from the Indonesian press, television and film, as well as social media.



Semar formed from Qur'anic verse, al Ikhlas

Course Requirements

- Read the syllabus.
- Complete and careful reading/viewing of all required course material. All reading materials are available on the Moodle website.
- Regular attendance and active participation in seminar discussion.
- A written paper of 12 to 15 pages on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. You are encouraged to choose a topic pertaining to one of the weekly themes. Further details will be distributed in class. General guidelines are available online at www.eth.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/studieninformationen_en.html
- All work must be completed on time; no extensions will be granted for this course, except on grounds of major life disruption.
- Bring pen or pencil and paper to every session for taking notes and other in-class work.
- Laptops, tablets & cellphones are not to be used in class. Class sessions are carefully designed to develop critical thinking skills. Screens interfere with this process. Exceptions will be made for learning disabilities or special needs evidenced by doctor's note.

Background Reading

A series of short articles has been provided on the Moodle site for those new to the study of Indonesia and/or Islam. Although not absolutely required, these readings are strongly recommended as preparation for the course.

- Chapter on 'Indonesia' in Fealy, G. & V. Hooker (2006) *Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia; A Contemporary Sourcebook*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Pages 39-50.
- Excerpts from Esposito, J.L. (1998) *Islam; The Straight Path*. Oxford: OUP.
- Excerpts from Brown, C. (2003) *A Short History of Indonesia; The Unlikely Nation*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

Some Guiding Questions for Your Reading

These questions are meant to help you link the particular concerns of a given author with the wider issues addressed on the course. Please return to them regularly.

- How has Islam figured in the study of Indonesian culture and society? And how has Indonesia figured in the study of Islam?
- Given its multiple and differently mediated iterations, what critical framework is best suited to the study of Islam in contemporary Indonesia?
- To what questions and problems has Islam provided answers for contemporary Indonesians? And through what institutions and practices have these answers been pursued?
- To what extent are the received categories of political economy and cultural interpretation equipped to address contemporary articulations of Islam and public culture in Indonesia?
- What political, or 'normative', projects are carried forward by enquiry in the human sciences? And how do they relate to the projects embodied in public articulations of Islam?

Course Overview

No.	Date (Tues)	Session Topic
1	October 13	Introduction: The Idea of Islam in the Study of Indonesia
2	October 20	The Disappearance of Pluralism?
3	October 27	Countercurrents: Of Paranormals and Pop Preachers
4	November 3	Pesantren and the Education of Desire
5	November 10	"Woman with a Turban" (<i>Perempuan Berkalung Sorban</i>)
6	November 17	Islamic Media and Consumerism
7	November 24	"Verses of Love" (<i>Ayat-Ayat Cinta</i>)
8	December 1	Polygamy: Words, Wars and Awards
9	December 8	Mistik Synthesis: Televising Ghosts, Jinn and Kyai
10	December 15	Dangdut: Religion, Music and the Idea of 'The People'
11	December 22	Power/Representation: Islam and Party Politics
— Winter Holidays (24 December 2015 to 06 January 2016) —		
12	January 5	Islamic Finance as Kritik der politischen Ökonomie
13	January 12	Thugs, Terrorists and Fatwas, Oh My!
14	January 19	On The Importance of Being Liberal
15	January 26	The Idea of Indonesia in the Study of Islam
16	February 2	Student Consultations on Paper Topics

CLASS SCHEDULE

1) Course Introduction: The Idea of Islam in the Study of Indonesia

Tuesday, October 13

In this introductory session we'll consider the place of Islam in the history of scholarship on Indonesia. We will focus in particular on the question as to whether Islam is best understood as a 'thin veneer' covering over older animist and Hindu-Buddhist sensibilities, or if, alternatively, we should see Indonesia as falling within the spectrum of 'normative' and 'mystical' practices more widely characteristic of the Islamic world. Having reviewed prominent participants in the discussion we will reflect on the ways this line of questioning may limit our engagement with the practices that have historically constituted Islam in Indonesia. This will open the way to develop a new set of themes and questions that will occupy us for the remainder of the semester.

2) The Disappearance of Pluralism?

Tuesday, October 20

Required Reading

- Hefner, R.W. (2011) 'Where Have all the *Abangan* Gone? Religionization and the Decline of Non-Standard Islam in Indonesia'. In Madinier, R. and M. Picard (eds.) *The Politics of Religion in Indonesia: Syncretism, Orthodoxy, and Religious Contention in Java and Bali*. Pages 71-91. London and New York: Contemporary Southeast Asia Series, Routledge.

Further Reading:

- van Bruinessen, M. (2011) 'What Happened to the Smiling Face of Indonesian Islam? Muslim Intellectualism and the Conservative Turn in Post-Suharto Indonesia', RSIS Working Paper No. 222, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore, 6 January. <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/rsis-pubs/WP222.pdf>
- Menchik, J. (2007) 'Illiberal But Not Intolerant'. *Inside Indonesia*. 90. www.insideindonesia.org/illiberal-but-not-intolerant
- Ricklefs, M.C. (2012) *Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java: A Political, Social, Cultural and Religious History, c. 1930 to Present*. Singapore: NUS Press.

3) Countercurrents: Of Paranormals and Pop Preachers

Tuesday, October 27

Required Reading

- Hoesterey, J.B. (2012) 'Prophetic Cosmopolitanism: Islam, Pop Psychology, and Civic Virtue in Indonesia'. *City & Society*. 24(1): 38-61.
- Schlehe, J. (2015) 'Cosmopolitanism in the Modern Mystical World of Java'. Occasional Paper. Number 24. *Southeast Asian Studies, University of Freiburg, Occasional Paper Series*. <https://www.southeastasianstudies.uni-freiburg.de/Content/files/occasional-paper-series/op-schlehe-may-2015>

Further Reading:

- Beatty, A. (2012) 'Return to the Field'. *Anthropology of This Century*. Issue 4. aotcpres.com/articles/return-field/
- van Doorn-Harder, N. & K. de Jong (2001) 'The Pilgrimage to Tembayat: Tradition and Revival in Indonesian Islam'. *Tradition and Revival in Indonesian Islam*. 91: 325-53.
- van Bruinessen, M. (2013) 'Postscript: The Survival of Liberal and Progressive Muslim Thought in Indonesia'. *Contemporary Developments in Indonesian Islam: Explaining the 'Conservative Turn'*. Singapore: ISEAS.

A Note in Passing

By this point in the course we will have tracked the emergence of two sets of debates: (i) one among scholars as to the state of Islam in Indonesia, and (ii) another among Indonesian Muslims as to the nature of Islam and its proper place in contemporary politics and society. As we shall see, there is considerable overlap between these two sets of debates, and it is important to note that they each embody both historical and constructive (i.e., 'normative') aspirations.

4) Pesantren and the Education of Desire

Tuesday, November 3

Required Reading

- Lukens-Bull, R. (2005) *A Peaceful Jihad: Negotiating Identity and Modernity in Muslim Java*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapters 1-2.
- Ahmad Nuril Huda (2014) 'Cinematic Santri'. *The Newsletter*. 68: 27.

Further Reading:

- Dhofier, Z. (1999) *The Pesantren Tradition: A Study of the Role of the Kyai in the Maintenance of the Traditional Ideology of Islam in Java*. Tempe, AZ: Arizona State University Press.
- Hefner, R.W. & M.Q. Zaman, eds. (2007) *Schooling Islam: The Culture and Politics of Modern Muslim Education*. Princeton: PUP.
- Woodward, M. (2010) 'Muslim Education, Celebrating Islam and Having Fun As Counter-Radicalization Strategies in Indonesia'. *Perspectives on Terrorism*. 4(4): <http://terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/114/html>

5) "Woman with a Turban" (Perempuan Berkalung Sorban)

Tuesday, November 10

Required Viewing & Reading

- Film: *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban*.
- Hoesterey, J. & M. Clark (2012) 'Film Islami: Gender, Piety and Pop Culture in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia'. *Asian Studies Review*. 36(2): 207-26.

Further Reading:

- Heryanto, A. (2014) *Identity and Pleasure: The Politics of Indonesian Screen Culture*. Singapore: NUS Press.

- Imanda, T. 'Independent Versus Mainstream Islamic Cinema in Indonesia; Religion Using the Market or Vice Versa?' In Baumgartel, T. (ed) *Southeast Asian Independent Cinema*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Sen, K. (1996) *Indonesian Cinema: Framing the New Order*. London: Zed Books.

6) Islamic Media and Consumerism

Tuesday, November 17

Required Reading

- Heryanto, A. (2011) 'Upgraded Piety and Pleasure: The New Middle Class and Islam in Indonesian Popular Culture'. In Weintraub, A.N., (ed.) *Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Jones, C. (2010) 'Materializing Piety: Gendered Anxieties about Faithful Consumption in Contemporary Urban Indonesia'. *American Ethnologist*. 37(4): 617-37.

Further Reading:

- Widodo, A. (2008) 'Writing for God: Piety and Consumption in Popular Islam'. *Inside Indonesia* 93: , <http://www.insideindonesia.org/content/view/full/1121/47/>
- Fealy, G. (2008) 'Consuming Islam: Commodified Religion and Aspirational Pietism in Contemporary Indonesia'. In Fealy, G. & S. White (eds.) *Expressing Islam: Religious Life and Politics in Indonesia*. Pages 15–39. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
- Barkin, G. (2014) 'Commercial Islam in Indonesia: How Television Producers Mediate Religiosity Among National Audiences'. *International Journal of Asian Studies*. 11(1): 1–24.

7) Ayat-Ayat Cinta ("Verses of Love")

Tuesday, November 24

In-class viewing of Indonesian box office hit, *Ayat-Ayat Cinta*.

Required Reading

- Hatley, B.L. (2009) 'Love, Religion and Social Difference: Two Films about Polygamy and Indonesian Society'. In: *Asian Hot Shots: Indonesian Cinema*. Schuren Verlag GmbH, Marburg, Germany, pp. 46-63.

Further Reading:

- Smith-Hefner, Nancy J. (2005) 'The New Muslim Romance: Changing Patterns of Courtship and Marriage Among Educated Javanese Youth'. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*. 36(3): 441–59.
- Heryanto, A. (2010) 'Pop Islam in Indonesia'. *Asian Currents: The Asian Studies Association of Australia's e-bulletin*. February. <http://asaa.asn.au/publications/ac/2010/asian-currents-10-02.html#5b>
- Paramaditha, I. (2010) 'Passing and Conversion Narratives: *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* and Muslim Performativity in Contemporary Indonesia'. *Asian Cinema*. 21(2): 69-91.

8) Polygamy: Words, Wars and Awards

Tuesday, December 1

Required Reading

- Nurmilla, N. (2005) 'Polygamy and Chickens'. *Inside Indonesia*. www.insideindonesia.org/polygamy-and-chickens
- Brenner, S. (2011) 'Holy Matrimony? The Print Politics of Polygamy in Indonesia'. In Weintraub, A.N., (ed.) *Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia*. London and New York: Routledge. Pages 212-34.

Further Reading:

- Nurmila, N. (2009) *Women Islam and Everyday Life Renegotiating Polygamy in Indonesia*. London & New York: Routledge. Pages 39-77.
- Rinaldo, R. (2013) *Mobilizing Piety: Islam and Feminism in Indonesia*. Oxford: OUP.
- Hoesterey, J.B. (2011) 'Marketing Morality: The Rise, Fall and Rebranding of Aa Gym'. In Weintraub, A.N. (ed.) *Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia*. London & New York: Routledge.

9) Mistik Synthesis: Televising Ghosts, Jinn and Kyai

Tuesday, December 8

Required Reading

- van Heeren, K. (2006) 'Return of the Kyai: Representations of Horror, Commerce, and Censorship in Post-Suharto Indonesian Film and Television'. *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*. 8(2): 211-26.
- Arps, B. & K. van Heeren (2007) 'Ghosthunting and Vulgar News: Popular Realities on Recent Indonesian Television'. In Schulte Nordholt, H. and I. Hoogenboom (eds.) *Indonesian Transitions*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.

Further Reading:

- Hobart, M. (2006) 'Entertaining Illusions: How Indonesian Élites Imagine Reality TV Affects the Masses'. *Asian Journal of Communication*. 16(4): 393-410.
- Anwar, J.E.H. (2002) 'New Directors enter film industry with horror movies', *The Jakarta Post*. *Jakarta Post Online*. www.thejakartapost.com/news/2002/12/21/new-directors-enter-film-industry-with-horror-movies.html
- van Heeren, K. (2012) *Contemporary Indonesian Film; Spirits of Reform and Ghosts from the Past*. Leiden: KITLV Press.

10) Dangdut: Music and the Idea of 'The People'

Tuesday, December 15

Required Viewing & Reading

- Dangdut video clips on Moodle.
- Weintraub, A. (2006) 'Dangdut Soul: Who are 'the People' in Indonesian Popular Music?' *Asian Journal of Communication*. 16(4): 411-31.
- Weintraub, A. (2008) "'Dance Drills, Faith Spills": Islam, Body Politics, and Popular Music in Post-Suharto Indonesia'. *Popular Music*. 27(3): 367-92.

Further Reading:

- Rasmussen, A. (2010) *Women, the Recited Qur'an, and Islamic Music in Indonesia*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Harnish, D.D. & A.K. Rasmussen, eds. (2011) *Divine Inspirations; Music and Islam in Indonesia*. Oxford, New York, etc.: Oxford University Press.
- Sutton, R. A. (2011) 'Music, Islam and the Commercial Media in Contemporary Indonesia'. In Weintraub, A.N. (ed.) *Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia*. London & New York: Routledge.

11) Power/Representation: Islam and Party Politics

Tuesday, December 22

Required Reading

- Noorhaidi Hasan (2012) 'Islamic Party, Electoral Politics and Da'wah Mobilization Among Youth; The Prosperous Justice Party in Indonesia'. *Journal of Indonesian Islam*. 6(1): 17-47.
- Pepinsky, T.B. (2014) 'Political Islam and the Limits of the Indonesian Model'. *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*. 10(1): 105-21.

Further Reading:

- Hefner, R.W. (2000) *Civil Islam: Muslims and Democratization in Indonesia*. Princeton: PUP.
- Bubandt, N. (2014) "'An Embarrassment of Spirits": Spirits, Hauntology, and Democracy in Indonesia'. *Paideuma*. 60: 115–38.
- Mietzner, M. (2009) *Military Politics, Islam, and the State in Indonesia: From Turbulent Transition to Democratic Consolidation*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Winter Holidays (24 December 2015 to 06 January 2016)

12) Islamic Finance as Kritik der politischen Ökonomie

Tuesday, January 5

Required Reading

- Warde, I. (2000) *Islamic Finance in the Global Economy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. Chapter 1, pages 5-31.
- Rudnycky, D. (n.d.) 'Homo Economicus and Homo Islamicus, Revisited: Islamic Finance and the Limits of Economic Reason'. *8th International Conference on Islamic Economics and Finance*. <http://conference.qfis.edu.qa/app/media/254>

Further Reading:

- Pepinsky, T.B. (2009) 'Islamic Finance in Multicultural Indonesia'. In *Towards an Inclusive Democratic Indonesian Society*. Dhont, F., K.W. Fogg & M.C. Hoadley. eds. Yogyakarta: Atma Jaya University Press. Pages 55-82.
- Umar Juoro (2008) 'The Development of Islamic Banking in the Post-Crisis Indonesian Economy'. In Fealy, G. & S. White (eds) *Expressing Islam: Religious Life and Politics in Indonesia*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
- Retsikas, K. (2014) 'Reconceptualising Zakat in Indonesia: Worship, Philanthropy and Rights'. *Indonesia and the Malay World*. 42(124): 337-57.

13) Thugs, Terrorists and Fatwas, Oh My!

Tuesday, January 12

Required Reading

- Suryakusuma, J. (2008) 'Indonesia's "Islamofascists" - Zero Tolerance for Bullies and Thugs'. *Straits Times* (12 June 2008). https://web.archive.org/web/20120302193816/http://app.mfa.gov.sg/pr/read_content.asp?View,10330
- Henky Widjaja (2012) 'Convenient Thugs'. *Inside Indonesia*. 109 (July-Sept): www.insideindonesia.org/convenient-thugs
- Wilson, I.D. (2008) "'As Long as it's Halal': Islamic Preman in Jakarta. In Fealy, G. & S. White (eds.) *Expressing Islam: Religious Life and Politics in Indonesia*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Pages 192-210.

Further Reading:

- Sirry, M. (2013) 'Fatwas and Their Controversy: The Case of the Council of Indonesian Ulama (MUI)'. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*. 44(1): 100-117.
- Noohaidi Hasan (2006) *Laskar Jihad: Islam, Militancy and the Quest for Identity in Post-New Order Indonesia*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Southeast Asia Program.
- Fox, R. (2006) 'Strong and Weak Media? On the Representation of "Terorisme" in Contemporary Indonesia'. *Modern Asian Studies*. 40(4): 993-1052.
- Sidel, J. (2006) *Riots, Pogroms, Jihad: Religious Violence in Indonesia*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

14) On The Importance of Being Liberal

Tuesday, January 19

Required Reading

- Ali, M. (2005) 'The Rise of the Liberal Islam Network (JIL)'. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*. 22(1): 1-27.
- Hartono Ahmad Jaiz (2012) 'The Danger of Liberal Islam: Apostasy with an Islamic Label' ('Bahaya Islam Liberal, Pemurtadan Berlabel Islam') www.voa-islam.com/read/liberalism/2012/11/30/22090/bahaya-islam-liberalpemurtadan-berlabel-islam/%23sthash.qFOwbmLE.dpuf#sthash.BOOwygI0.dpbs

Further Reading:

- Menchik, J. (2007) 'Illiberal But Not Intolerant'. *Inside Indonesia*. 90 (Oct-Dec) www.insideindonesia.org/illiberal-but-not-intolerant
- Kurzman, C. (1998) *Liberal Islam: A Sourcebook*. Oxford & New York: OUP.

- Ali, M. (2012) 'Southeast Asia, Islamic Liberalism in'. Oxford Islamic Studies Online. http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/opr/t343/e0040?_hi=0&_pos=1

15) The Idea of Indonesia in the Study of Islam

Tuesday, January 26

Reading TBA

16) Student Consultations on Paper Topics

Tuesday, February 2

NB: Appointments will be arranged ahead of time.