

Title:

"Framing the local past: place and historical narrative in East Indonesia and Timor-Leste"

Convenors:

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Summary:

The small-scale societies of eastern Indonesia and Timor-Leste rarely make it to the textbooks in Indonesian or Southeast Asian history which prefer to focus on larger polities.

Nevertheless, in spite of their often traumatic colonial and postcolonial experience, these societies often have quite distinct views of their historical identity as encoded in oral narratives of origins, migrations, rice and irrigation, relations to other groups, and political-ritual structure.

This panel will explore the historical dynamism of place, and look at the way that local people "curate" their regional or local histories. With comparative perspectives in mind, we invite panel participants to take up the idea of oral narratives and associated places and objects as historical "archives", which highlight the ways in which local people encode, communicate, and negotiate their past, present and future. In fleshing out these idiosyncratic attachments to and understandings of place, we also invite papers that consider how these historical understandings intersect with and/or refashion other more nationally focused agendas and globalizing processes.

The panel brings together a range of scholars from the fields of history, anthropology, human geography, and political science, thus bringing an interdisciplinary approach to the study of place, voices and claims, and the local past.

Double session, 6 presenters, 2 discussants

Susana Barnes, Monash University

"History and the shaping of politico-ritual relations in the domain of Ina Ama Beli Daralari"

Douglas Kammen, National University of Singapore,

"Place and Demographic Change in Portuguese Timor: Four Shocks"

Andrew McWilliam Australian National University

"Fortified Histories and Stone Archives in Timor-Leste"

Lisa Palmer, University of Melbourne

"Water Histories"

Susanne Rodemeier, Independent researcher

"'Nature' will never stop to protect its human inhabitants"

Emilie Wellfelt, University of Cologne

"Historyscapes: handling indigenous history in eastern Indonesia"

Discussants:

Judith Bovensiepen, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Kent,
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