

Biological Futures: Securing Life in the Indonesian H5N1 Outbreak

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Based upon multi-sited fieldwork in the worlds of Indonesian microbiology, security, and agriculture, this talk explores the term biosecurity as it manifest in the H5N1 Influenza outbreak in Southeast Asia in the 2000's. A term that has gained importance only in the past decade or slightly more, "biosecurity" describes recent political and technical practices of securing life. When lively matter gets taken up within frameworks of security, human and animal bodies, narratives, and politics get re-scripted through fears and concerns for biological vulnerability. Biosecurity has been imagined and articulated most prominently in relation to issues of bioterror and biodefense, novel disease emergence, food safety, and invasive species. With the H5N1 event in Indonesia, concepts and practices of biological security interfaced with the materiality of the outbreak reformatting the particularities of what would count as security and for whom.

Celia Lowe is Associate Professor of Anthropology and International Studies at the University of Washington. She works in Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia, and her main interest is in the travels of biological and other forms of scientific knowledge between EuroAmerica and Southeast Asia. Her first book, *Wild Profusion: Biodiversity Conservation in an Indonesian Archipelago*, published by Princeton in 2006, examined the role of Indonesian conservation biology in the creation of a new national park. She is currently working on a book on the recent H5N1 avian influenza outbreak in Indonesia and is interested in the way new forms of biosecurity and risk were in play in relation to the disease. In addition to this work, she studies practices of scholarly collaboration in the social sciences between US-based and Southeast Asian scholars. Lowe has also consulted with the Ford Foundation and the Asian University for Women in this field.

Wednesday, October 7

12:00 Noon

Room 203, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue