

5th ANNUAL YALE INDONESIA FORUM CONFERENCE

April 3, 2010

Negotiating the Archive: Archival Knowledge in Indonesia

How can we critically negotiate the archive, as both a built space containing material documents and as a site of the imaginary? Despite his imprisonment on Buru Island in 1965, Pramoedya Ananta Toer continued writing, drawing from his memories of the state archives in order to historically inform his work. While relying on memories of the archive, Pramoedya simultaneously recognized the limitations of both the archive and the textual artifact as sites and ways of knowing Indonesia. In *House of Glass* he reminds his readers that documents should not be divorced from their contexts of production, and he critiques the "colonial experts" who frequent the archive believing that "documents are more reliable . . . than the mouths of their authors" (As cited in Stoler 2008:19).

Pramoedya's experience on Buru Island and his critique of the archive both highlight the theme of the 2009 Yale Indonesia Forum workshop: the archive and archival knowledge in Indonesia. How did Dutch colonial formation and control of the archive privilege particular ways of seeing or experiencing what we today call Indonesia? How should today's scholars of Indonesia engage with colonial-era documents held within the archive? Lastly, with an eye to Pramoedya's critique of the over-reliance on material 'documents,' how can we problematize 'the document' and processes of 'documentation' that constitute the archive? These are several points of discussion that we hope to raise at this year's workshop. This topic is of interest to students and scholars from a wide variety of academic disciplines. The workshop is free and open to the public.
(conference schedule forthcoming)

Conference Program

Saturday, April 3

Room 202, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut

10.30 - Registration and Coffee

11.00 - 5.00 Workshop

Keynote Speakers:

Rudolf Mrázek is Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He is the author of several books, including *A Certain Age: Colonial Jakarta through the Memories of Its Intellectuals*; *Engineers of Happy Land: Technology and Nationalism in a Colony*; *Sjahir: Politics and Exile in Indonesia, 1906-1966*; and *Bali: The Split Gate to Heaven*.

>>click here to download paper: "**Sometimes Voices**"

Sumarsam is an Adjunct Professor of Music at Wesleyan University, teaching performance, history, and theory of gamelan. He is the author of numerous articles on gamelan and wayang. His book *Gamelan: Cultural Interaction and Musical Development in Central Java* was published by the University of Chicago Press in 1995. As gamelan player and a keen amateur *dhalang* of Javanese wayang kulit, he performs, conducts workshops, and lectures throughout the US and other continents.