Yale Indonesia Forum and Cornell Indonesian Association

14TH NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ON INDONESIA
Venue: A53 Watson Center, 60 Sachem Street

SCHEDULE

8:00 - 9:00 am  Registration and continental breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 am  Opening Remarks by the Chair of the Council on Southeast Asia Studies,
Dr. Michael Dove, Yale University

9:15 – 11:00 am  First Panel – Rethinking Indonesian Women: Then and Now
Moderator: TBC

Monogamy as Colonial Modernity: Patriarchal Ambivalence and Peranakan Chinese Racial Identity in Late Colonial Java (1910s-1930s)
Guo-Quan Seng (National University of Singapore/Cornell University)

Highly Skilled Low-Skilled Workers: Questioning the Image of Indonesian Female Domestic Workers in Singapore
Anna-Lena Brosell (University of Hamburg)

Comparative Studies Three Women Organization Post Reformasi in Indonesia: A Case Study of KAPAL Perempuan, Rahima, and Mi-tra Perempuan
Yulianti Muthmainnah (University of Prof. Dr. Hamka)

State Ibuism in Post-Reformasi Indonesia? Gendered Selves in State-Led Development
Tanya Jakimow (University of New South Wales/Brown University)

11:00 - 11:15 pm  Coffee/Tea and Indonesian Traditional Snacks
11:15 - 1:00 pm  Keynote with Dr. Saskia E. Wieringa, University of Amsterdam

From Kartini to the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection

Raden Adjeng Karini was one of the great women pioneers around the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. She has been hailed as Indonesia’s first feminist. But she was more than that - one of the first nationalist writers, and concerned with social justice. Her memory has been appropriated by successive generations of political leaders and feminists alike. In this lecture I will trace that memory, and chart the development of the women’s movement since its inception. Starting with the pre-liberation women’s movement, I will discuss how issues such as women’s rights and sexuality were conceptualized by successive and competing waves of women’s organizations. In the pre-1965 period the focus will be on Gerwani versus religious and more rightwing organizations. In the New Order I will analyse ‘busy housewife’ ideology. The last part of this lecture will be on the post-Reformasi period. First hopes for a women’s rights agenda were raised by a progressive Minister. At present the Ministry is a very conservative institution, characterized by a focus on religiously-inspired ‘gender harmony’ based on the ‘happy family’ (keluarga sakinah). As the Ministry is also tasked with LGBT issues I will close with an analysis of the present wave of homophobia, which marks a revealing moment in the road towards a conservative neo salafist society.

1:00 - 2:00 pm  Lunch Break (Indonesian menu)

2:00 - 3:30 pm  Second Panel – Women, Leadership, and National Policy

Moderator: TBC

The 2014 Experience of Female Candidates in Local Election of Aceh, Indonesia

Elizarni (Ohio University)

Swinging Like a State: The Development of the Indonesian State’s Gender Policies and Their Relations with International Organizations

Sabina Satriyani Puspita (Northwestern University)

Lead Like a Woman: Effectiveness of Women’s Leadership Behaviors and Practices in Higher Education Leadership and Administration in Indonesia

Jennifer Fulmer Wien (Indonesia University of Education)

3:30 - 3:45 pm  Break (Coffee/Tea and Indonesian Traditional Snacks)

3:45 - 4:45 pm  Special Session on Benedict Anderson

4:45 - 5:00 pm  Announcement, Concluding Remarks, and Closing
Monogamy as Colonial Modernity: Patriarchal Ambivalence and Peranakan Chinese Racial Identity in Late Colonial Java (1910s-1930s)
Guo-Quan Seng (National University of Singapore/Cornell University)

This paper examines the ambiguous creole Chinese reception of love marriage during the 1910s and their response to the colonial Europeanization of Chinese “family law” in 1919. The 1919 law prohibited the commonly accepted practice of polygamy without granting Chinese subjects full racial-legal equality with Europeans. In their quest to attain legal-racial parity with Europeans, the Dutch-educated Chinese elite tried to assimilate the new concept of love marriage within a vision of the father-led Confucianist “rumah tangga.” Contemporary creole Chinese men struggled with patriarchal and racial anxieties about freed women’s “immorality” and the cultural heritage of the native (grand-)mother.

Highly Skilled Low-skilled Workers: Questioning the Image of Indonesian Female Domestic Workers in Singapore
Anna-Lena Brosell (University of Hamburg)

Since the end of the last decade there have been important changes for Indonesian domestic workers in Singapore with regard to off-days and the availability educational institutions such as the Open University. The presentation will discuss how these changes became a source of female empowerment for a small, but growing number of Indonesian domestic workers in Singapore. It will also question the image of domestic workers in Singapore and Indonesia as well as the effects it can have on the women.

Comparative Studies Three Women Organization Post Reformasi in Indonesia: A Case Study of KAPAL Perempuan, Rahima, and Mitra Perempuan
Yulianti Muthmainnah (University of Prof. Dr. Hamka)

Since reformasi occurred in 1998, at least I found three women’s organizations which consistently support, fight, and struggle for gender equality. It’s KAPAL Perempuan (http://www.kapalperempuan.org/), which focus on alternative education and pluralism for women, Rahima (http://www.rahima.or.id/) which take gender and Islam as a common struggle, and Mitra Perempuan (http://perempuan.or.id/) as a women’s crisis center and legal aid. This research will explore about factors that encouraged the emergence of these women’s organizations to build women’s movement; the actors; the political processes that are working to influence and determine the priorities issues; and the system of regeneration and sustainability these organizations.

State Ibuism in Post-Reformasi Indonesia? Gendered Selves in State-led Development in Medan
Tanya Jakimow (University of New South Wales/Brown University)

This paper examines the ways women’s processes of self-formation are indicative (or not) of new possibilities for gendered selves in the post-reformasi period in Indonesia. I focus on the development arena to reveal how shifts in state rhetoric from top-down guidance based on a patriarchal familial model, to inclusive development based on empowerment, has transformed what I call the ‘topography for self’. By examining how involvement in state-led development enables women to occupy and negotiate subject positions, and undergo new affective and embodied experiences, I aim to reveal the possibilities that their involvement holds for new self-imaginings and self-actualizations.
SECOND PANEL

WOMEN, LEADERSHIP, AND NATIONAL POLICY

Moderator: TBC

The 2014 Experience of Female Candidates in Local Election of Aceh, Indonesia

Elizarni (Ohio University)

This presentation focuses on the lessons learnt through women’s involvement in the 2014 local and state legislative election in Aceh. These experiences will be drawn from Acehnese female candidates’ campaigns for local and state political office during 2013-2014. She will analyze factors that may hinder women’s participation in local politics despite the fact that an affirmative action policy has been implemented and present strategies that could be used to strengthen education, training and advocacy for women’s involvement in politics.

Swinging Like a State: The Development of the Indonesian State’s Gender Policies and Their Relations with International Organizations

Sabina Satriyani Puspita (Northwestern University)

In this study, high school English teachers in Semarang (N=30) completed a questionnaire on several valued aspects of character education and then five of them were interviewed. There was consensus that academic learning was never intended to be the sole purpose of education. The teachers acknowledged the importance of building relationships with students and colleagues, but they rarely invited parents to involve in their classrooms. Discussion was perceived as one of the most effective strategies while student volunteerism or service learning was regarded as a less common practice there.

Lead Like a Woman: Effectiveness of Women’s Leadership Behaviors and Practices in Higher Education Leadership and Administration in Indonesia

Jennifer Fulmer Wien (Indonesia University of Education)

Following the outstanding example of Raden Ayu Kartini, women leaders throughout Indonesia have proven to embody effective behaviors and practices in higher education leadership and administration in order to further the advancement of education for women. Through the investigation of these leadership behaviors and practices, this research revealed the effectiveness of women leaders in higher education, discovering how their influences make an essential impact upon their individual leadership effectiveness, as well as, organizational productivity. Yet in order to achieve organizational productivity, women leaders in higher education administration must have leadership training and mentoring programs to develop their leadership effectiveness and promote organizational productivity.