

Yale Indonesia Forum



The Yale Indonesia Forum (YIF) is an interdisciplinary group that aims to serve members of the Yale community with a common interest in Indonesia and Indonesian affairs. While YIF actively seeks to raise awareness on Indonesia and its related issues on-campus through various activities, its main focus is to bring together faculty, students, and outside experts to present and discuss scholarship relating to Indonesia in the sub-national, regional, and global context. The group encourages presentations of works-in-progress by students and faculty, and welcomes outside speakers on Indonesia as well. The disciplinary focus is broad; topics of interest include the arts and humanities, social sciences, and current events and policy studies.

From agriculture to tourism: drivers for freshwater scarcity and inequity in Bali

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Bali appears to be a water-rich island, dotted with flooded rice terraces, mountain springs, lakes and high annual rainfall. However, the water table has dropped over 50 meters in some areas in less than 10 years and 60% of watersheds are drying and at risk of drying up in the future. While rice farming used to be the main industry and water-consuming activity on the island, tourism has now taken this position and there is growing concern over the mismanagement of Bali's water resources for tourism purposes. The aim of this presentation is to outline the consequences of a shift from agriculture to tourism on water management practices and consumption habits. To identify these drivers for scarcity and inequity, I present ethnographic data and a political ecology analysis of the consequences of mass tourism to Bali's freshwater resources on the example of Canggu, North Kuta. I find that a shift in power relations impacts water management practices by enabling uncontrolled extraction and favouring wealthy large-scale water consumers. Understanding the anthropogenic drivers for environmental change and degradation is intended to contribute towards the sustainable management of Bali's natural resources.

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Luce Hall, Room 202, 4:00 P.M.

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E-mail seas@yale.edu to be added to list-serve for announcements.