

Yale Indonesia Forum

Council on Southeast Asia Studies



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.

An open dialogue: Cross cultural encounters while studying, researching, and/or teaching in Africa, Malaysia and Indonesia

Professor Emeritus Dustin Cowell

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Accompanying the arrival of Islam in southeast Asia over six centuries ago, Arabic has come to play an important role in the cultural life of the region. A number of the languages of the region have adopted the Arabic alphabet as a replacement of older writing systems, languages of the Malay language family being a prime example. With the colonization of the Malay peninsula and the islands now comprising the lands of Brunei, East Malaysia, and the whole of Indonesia, this script has been gradually replaced for the most part by the Roman script, though the Arabic script is still used in Southern Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Whatever the case, Arabic remains an important cultural language within Muslim communities in the region in the daily practice of Islam and in the study of Islamic law and theology. It has also left its mark within the everyday vocabulary of both Malay and Indonesian, and most particularly within religious texts, both Islamic and Christian. The speaker will share his experiences of living in both Malaysia and Indonesia while both teaching and lecturing about Arabic language and literature.

Professor Emeritus Dustin Cowell of the Department of African Cultural Studies and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of the University of Wisconsin-Madison has studied and conducted research on Arabic in Egypt, Tunisia, and Mauritania, and has had experience in the administration of an advanced Arabic language program in Egypt and of programs in advanced Malay and Indonesian in Malaysia and Indonesia, respectively.

Tuesday, September 25, 2018
11.40 A.M. - 1.00 P.M. , YK220 Room 003, 220 York Street

See / Bookmark <https://cseas.yale.edu/programevents/yale-indonesia-forum> for schedule updates, additional information, and contacts. E-mail seas@yale.edu to be added to list-serve for announcements.