



# University of Washington Southeast Asia Center News

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## 'Liberal Islam' and Social Justice in Indonesia

### A SEATTLE HUMANITIES FORUM

University of Washington, Seattle

April 11-12, 2002

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Still reeling from the Asian economic crisis that led to the fall of its repressive 32 year 'New Order' government, what is called the 'Age of Reform' in Indonesia has been short-lived. While in the past four years, Indonesia has experienced a renaissance in political and artistic expression, waves of legal reform and decentralization, and liberation of the long-suffering East Timor, it has also experienced ecologically disastrous fires across the country, deadly ethnic and sectarian violence in Maluku, Sulawesi, and Kalimantan, independence movements in West Irian and Aceh, and a revival of the military. Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous nation and has the largest Islamic population of any country. Accused by Singapore and the U.S. of being a likely center for al-Qaida organizing in Southeast Asia, Indonesia has been thrust into the political spotlight. Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's popular first president Sukarno, is the third President to rule the country since 1998, and Indonesia's stance on America's War on Terror remains as problematic for President Megawati as it is for President Bush.

The University of Washington has an especially strong contingent of Indonesia specialists on its faculty. For our April program '**Liberal Islam' and Social Justice in Indonesia**, scholars, artists, and activists from Indonesia come together with their counterparts in the U.S. to present a program to educate students, faculty, and community members on the art, religion, law, politics, and ecology of Indonesia today. Our program focuses on the movement in Indonesia known as 'Liberal Islam', issues of social justice from the liberation of East Timor to military violence in Aceh, environmental justice and the critique of development, questions of law, censorship and literature, and the lively theatrical traditions that use allegory and humor to criticize the government in various ways.

The conference is organized around four roundtables centering on the themes: 'Liberal Islam' and its Critics; Violence in the Age of *Reformasi*; Social Justice, Nature, and the Post-Development Order; and Language, Theater, and the Media. The event includes a Walker-Ames lectureship by Goenawan Mohamad, Indonesia's foremost journalist, writer, and human rights activist, as well as one of the supporters of the Liberal Islam movement, and an introduction of Goenawan Mohamad by Professor Emeritus Daniel Lev, America's leading expert on human rights, politics, and Islam in Southeast Asia.

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# 'Liberal Islam' and Social Justice in Indonesia Cont.

On Friday evening, there will be a two hour performance of Javanese shadow theatre and dance. In Java today these performances remain extremely popular and, while they retain traditional elements and the general structure of classical puppetry, they often incorporate new puppets from Jurassic Park dinosaurs to George Bush and Saddam Hussein, and in various ways they interact with the world of television and other contemporary entertainments.

The performance will feature Cornish College's Gamelan Pacifica playing on Javanese gamelan instruments. Jan Mrazek, our Czech wayang puppeteer from the UW Department of Art History, will use a large number of puppets made by one of Java's best puppet-makers, as well as new puppets created especially for the performance by University of Washington art students. These new puppets will include, for example, the Space Needle in lieu of the classical

'tree of life' puppet, an accordion-like Seattle Metro bus, a Chinese dragon with electric eyes, the 'Husky' Garuda (a garuda is a mythical eagle, the mount of the god Vishnu, and the symbol of Indonesia), Bill Gates fighting with a giant Apple, Ichiro, Dracula, Mickey Mouse, aliens, a celebrity pop singer, puppets made by a Native American artist with traditional Northwestern designs, and much more.

*Organized by the University of Washington Southeast Asia Center, with generous funding from the Simpson Center for the Humanities, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Walker Ames Lectureship, the Jackson School of International Studies, the Middle East Center, the Society and Justice Program, the Departments of Anthropology and History, and the Surabaya Seattle Sister City Association*

## Program

### Thursday Evening, April 11

7:30-9:00pm: **Walker Ames Lecture**  
**'Liberal Islam' and Social Justice in Indonesia**  
*Goenawan Mohamad, Independent Journalist and Human Rights Activist*  
*Introduction of Goenawan Mohamad: Professor Emeritus Daniel Lev (UW Pol Sci)*  
Kane Hall, Room 210

### Friday, April 12

8:00-8:30am: **Coffee/tea and Pastries**  
Student Union Building (HUB), Room 309

8:30-8:45: **Welcome**  
*Laurie Sears (UW History)*

8:45-10:15: **Roundtable I**  
**'Liberal Islam' and its Critics**  
*Discussants: Robin Bush (UW Pol Sci PhC); Andi Bakti (U Vic, Pacific and Asian Studies); Mohamad Ihsan Alief (Ohio U. Ph.C); Goenawan Mohamad (Independent Journalist and Human Rights Activist)*

10:15-10:30: **Break**

10:30-12:00: **Roundtable II**  
**Violence in the Age of Reformasi**  
*Discussants: Tossi Santoso (Radio Netherlands); Peter Lape*

*(UW Anthro); Loren Ryter (UW Pol Sci, Ph.C); Jamie Davidson (UW Pol Sci, Ph.C); Mary Callahan (UW Pol Sci)*

12:00pm-2:00: **Lunch**

2:00-3:30: **Roundtable III**  
**Social Justice, Nature, and the Post-Development Order**

*Discussants: Suraya Afiff (Berkeley ESPM, Ph.C); Celia Lowe (UW Anthro); Patrick Christie (UW Marine Affairs); Chris Brown (UW Anthro, Ph.C.); Wolfgang Linser (former Indonesian Ministry of Finance HIID Advisor)*

3:30-3:45: **Break**

3:45-5:00: **Roundtable IV**  
**Language, Theater, and the Media**

*Discussants: Jan Mrazek (UW Art History); Jeff Dreyfuss (UW A L&L); Laurie Sears (UW History)*

5:30-7:30: **Dinner**

8:00-10:00: **Shadow Theater and Dance Performance**  
UW Faculty Club  
**Arjuna Becomes a Professor: the Great War Between Good and Evil**  
*Nunuk Sri Rahayu and Jan Mrazek (UW Art History), Gamelan Pacifica (Cornish College)*

# Interview with Charles Hirschman

Charles Hirschman is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington and one of the leading scholars in the field of Southeast Asian Studies. Beginning his work on Southeast Asia in the 1960s, he still pursues his research interests in the region. For his endeavors in Southeast Asia and other areas such as the United States, Hirschman was chosen as a Boeing International Professor in 1999.

After earning his BA from in 1965 from Miami University, Ohio, Professor Hirschman joined the Peace Corps and worked on rural community development in Baling, Malaysia. After completing his service with the Peace Corps, Hirschman entered the Department of Sociology graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He conducted fieldwork on ethnicity and racial equality in Malaysia and received his PhD in 1972.

Hirschman began his teaching career at Duke University in the Department of Sociology in 1972. He

also taught at Cornell in the sociology and Asian Studies departments from 1983-87. In 1987 he began teaching at University of Washington.

Professor Hirschman's research interests include demography and ecology; immigration and ethnicity; and social stratification and mobility. His work in these areas extends beyond Southeast Asia, including the United States. Hirschman's research in Southeast Asia began with race and ethnic equality issues and social stratification in Malaysia. In the 1980s he focused on family and fertility in Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia.

In the past ten years, Hirschman has been conducting research in Vietnam collecting data and conducting sample survey projects. He has trained several Vietnamese demographers who are now his collaborators in his present research. The research he is

*Cont. of page 7*

## Khmer Student Association (KhSA)

The Khmer Student Association (KhSA) of UW has been very active on campus and in the community during the last couple of years. Inspired by a visit from Loung Ung, author of *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*, Lianna Ly and Phatry Pan with the help of other KhSA members organized a candlelight vigil held in UW's Red Square on April 17, 2000 to commemorate the deaths of two million Cambodians during the Khmer Rouge regime. The news program "Nightline" featured the vigil and interviewed some of the KhSA students.



Khmer Language Class 2001

The candlelight vigil also spurred interest in learning more about Khmer language and culture. The students organized a beginning Khmer language class that began in Winter Quarter 2001. Orn Phin and Satom Chhim, UW seniors, volunteered to teach the class. Orn Phin continues to teach two classes, beginning and advanced. Students pay a small fee to the instructors to cover costs.

The students also began the Khmer Cultural and Education Scholarship that will allow Khmer American UW students to pursue self-proposed projects about Khmer culture or heritage. Applications are limited to UW students of Khmer descent. The deadline for applications is April 19, 2002. For more information, contact Lianna Ly at lkly@u.washington.edu or Linda Ando, the KhSA advisor, at riziki@u.washington.edu.

The membership of KhSA consists of approximately 150 active and non-active members (193 are on the list-serve). Many of the members volunteer with at-risk youth with their studies in the Seattle area. KhSA also organized the Cambodian New Year celebration last year with the assistance of FamCam, an organization of families with adopted Cambodian children, and will be hosting this New Year celebration on April 6, 2002. The New Year Festival and Cultural Show will be held at Kane Hall 130 and will feature dancing, cultural displays, and skits. Please contact KhSA at khmer@u.washington.edu for more information.

## Student News

**Joseph Hannah** (Geography) has been awarded two fellowships to pursue studies in Vietnam: the Chester Fritz Award for one quarter of study and/or research and the Blakemore Freeman Fellowships for Advanced Asian Language for up to one year language study. Hannah plans to begin implementing the awards in Winter Quarter 2003.

**Terence Lee** joined the Department of Political Science doctoral program in the winter quarter, on leave from the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies (IDSS), where he has been a research and teaching associate for the last five years. Prior to joining IDSS, he was a research officer in the Singapore Ministry of Defense. Lee completed his Baccalaureate in political science and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and he holds a MS in strategic studies from the Nanyang Technological University. He has published articles on Indonesian domestic politics, and his current research interests include international politics of Southeast Asia and Indone-

sia's domestic politics, defense and foreign policies, and civil-military relations.



Pat McCormick with author Daw Nu Nu Yiy at her home in Rangoon

**Patrick McCormick** is a second-year graduate student in political science and comes from Northern Illinois University where he earned a Master's degree.

## Why Most Coastal Environmental Management Processes in Southeast Asia Are Not Sustained

Several Southeast Asia faculty and students are currently involved in a multidisciplinary research project in Indonesia and the Philippines investigating the factors that influence sustainability in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). Patrick Christie, of the School of Marine Affairs, is the principal investigator on a \$643,000 grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation examining the question of how to sustain coastal management efforts after a funding agency ends its project support.

ICM is an iterative planning process directed towards balancing economic development in coastal communities with environmental sustainability in nearshore marine and terrestrial environments. Considerable interest surrounds ICM in Southeast Asia as Indonesia and the Philippines are considered a center for marine biodiversity and most Southeast Asians live near coastlines and rely on sea products for food and other aspects of livelihood. In the Philippines, it has been estimated that approximately \$25 million is spent annually to support ICM. Main financial sources are loans or grants from external sources.

The current project is comparative in nature and research in the Philippines is nearing completion while the Indonesia segment of the project will begin this summer. Christie, who served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines, is leading an interdisciplinary team of researchers from the Universities of Washington, Rhode Island, and Hawaii, and with Silliman University in Dumaguete, Philippines, and the Agricultural Institute of Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia. There are several Filipino, Indonesian, and American co-PIs on the project, who are each responsible for studying economic, social, legal, institutional and biological dimensions of ICM sustainability.

UW anthropology professor Celia Lowe is one of the co-PIs on the project and is currently looking at the question of enforcement in ICM in Indonesia and to explore the way coercion interferes with the possibility for sustainability and environmental justice in marine conservation. Leila Sievanen, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology, is also studying state institutions in relation to ICM in the Philippines as part of her dissertation research. Christie, with

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## 8th International Conference on Thai Studies

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies was held in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand on 9-12 January 2002, hosted by Ramkhamhaeng University and Rajabhat Institute Nakhon Phanom. This international conference occurs every three years as a forum for Thai and non-Thai scholars to share the latest research on Thailand and other Tai groups in Southeast Asia. This year's conference highlighted northeast Thailand/Laos and Isan Studies. UW's Charles Keyes (Anthropology) gave a keynote address entitled, "Migrants and Protestors: Villagers and 'Development' in Northeast Thailand." Other keynote speakers included David Wyatt, Srisak Vallibhotma, and Yoneo Ishii. Dance and musical troupes from Nakhon Phanom entertained at the conference's opening reception. Other social activities included visits to That Phanom, the most revered Buddhist site in northeast Thailand. Since the conference al-



8TH International Conference on Thai Studies 2002

ternates from being hosted in Thailand and non-Thai institutions, the next conference will be held outside of Thailand. Northern Illinois University will host the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies in 2005.

## Student News continued from page 4

His Master's here will focus on the Mon ethnic group and ethnic conflict in Burma. His research interests are ethnicity/inter-ethnic relations, nationalism and its gendered nature, identity, political "culture", dictatorships, and Southeast Asian connections with northeast India. He is fluent in Japanese, Burmese, and Mon. Other languages he is currently studying include Indonesian and Thai in order to enable him to conduct comparative research in the region. FLAS fellowships have assisted him in studying some of these languages. McCormick has translated some Burmese short stories, including "Thadun," in *Virtual Lotuses: Modern Fiction of Southeast Asia* (ed. Teri Yamada), Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000. He also writes fiction in Burmese.

**Yoshi Nishizaki**, a political science doctoral student, has been awarded an Australian National University (ANU) Doctoral Fellowship. The award will support both fieldwork in Thailand and write-up of his dissertation on politics in Suphanburi Province, Thailand, at ANU.

**Phatry Pan**, a senior in the Southeast Asia program, is an active member and officer of the Khmer Student Association. Since arriving at UW, he has organized the first Candlelight Vigil in April 2000, to commemorate the lives lost in Cambodia in the last thirty years; helped to establish a Khmer language course at the University of Washington; and assisted in the creation of a Khmer cultural and educational scholarship. In his spare time, Pan volunteers at SafeFutures Youth Center, tutoring at-risk minority youth, and is director of public relations of KhmerConnection, the largest Cambodian web community group. He is also the owner and moderator of the Washington State Cambodian Community (WSCC), an online news and discussion website on Cambodian affairs.

# Faculty News

**Mary Callahan** (Political Science, Jackson School of International Studies) just returned from a trip to Burma, Indonesia, and Thailand. Callahan was busy conducting interviews and collecting research materials for her forthcoming book *Back to the Barracks*.

**Christoph Giebel** (History) has a book contract with the University of Washington Press. The book, tentatively titled "Imagined Ancestries: Historical Engineering in Viet Nam: The case of Ton Duc Thang," is expected to be out in 2003.

**Wiworn "Som" Kesavatana-Dohrs** (Asian Languages and Literature) has a forthcoming publication with Silkworm Books (Chiang Mai, Thailand), *Everyday Thai: Thai for Beginners*. Using the communicative method, the new Thai textbook is geared for beginning level students and is divided into thirty topics. It aims at developing all areas of language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) at a survival level. Each lesson/topic is divided into six parts: vocabulary, sentence patterns, grammar notes, drills, cultural notes, and suggested activities and games. There is also an accompanying teacher's manual that structures homework, activities, and quizzes. *Everyday Thai* was developed during the twelve years Aj. Som has taught Thai at UW and has been piloted in her classes.

**Jan Mrazek** (Art History) received support from the Blakemore Foundation to compile slides on Southeast Asian Art for the Department of Art History Library. Professor Mrazek is also teaching three new courses in the spring quarter: ART H 309 Topics in Art History: Southeast Asian Textiles, an undergraduate course; a graduate seminar, ART H 509A Seminar in Special Topics in Art History: Collecting, Display, and Museumification of Southeast Asian Art; and DANCE 234 World Dance and Culture: Introduction to Javanese Dance and Culture, co-taught with his wife Nunuk Sri Rahayu.

Affiliate Professor (Asian Languages and Literature) **Tom Gething** will be the field director of the Advanced Study of Thai (AST) program this summer on the campus of Chiang Mai University. An eight-week, intensive language course taught entirely by CMU faculty members, the program received a new round of funding from the U.S. Department of Education as a result of an application from Gething,

with the assistance of SEAC Assistant Director **Sara Van Fleet**, who is the PI for the grant. Administrative support for AST is provided by **Marj McKinley**, SEAC Program Coordinator.

## New SEAC Faculty Affiliates

**Patrick Christie** (PhD, Michigan, 1999) is a Research Assistant Professor in the School of Marine Affairs. His research interests include integrated coastal management, community-based environmental management, and marine protected areas in insular Southeast Asia. For more information on his research, please see the article on page 4.

**Tuen-yu Lau** (PhD, Michigan State University, 1991) is the founding director of the professional digital media master's program at the University, focussing on content creation, management and policy. An expert in international media management, Lau's dual career in academia and industry spans 20 plus years, including professorships and research conducted at universities including Stanford, UCLA, Purdue, and Hong Kong, as well as senior management positions at leading media and I.T. companies in Asia.

**Randall C. Kyes** (PhD, Georgia, 1989) is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and a primatologist conducting research in Indonesia. He is also director of the Indonesian Field Study Program (IFSP), an interdisciplinary program designed to provide educational, training, and research opportunities for students interested in the animal sciences. These opportunities are provided through a formal agreement established between the IFSP and the Pusat Studi Satwa Primata (PSSP, Primate Research Center) at the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB, Bogor Agricultural University) in Bogor, Indonesia. For more information on the project, visit <http://www.rprc.washington.edu/ifsp/>

## Visiting Faculty

Janet Sturgeon is a visiting scholar in the Department of Anthropology from November 2001- August 2002. With a doctorate in forestry and environmental studies from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, her research interests include ethnic minorities such as the Akha in Thailand and China, and resource and land use issues. You can contact her at: [sturgeon@u.washington.edu](mailto:sturgeon@u.washington.edu).

## Charles Hirschman cont.

currently working on is about Vietnamese family structure and its transition into the market economy.

Hirschman speaks Malay and Indonesian, which he began to learn back in his Peace Corps days. For the past ten years, he has been studying Vietnamese and takes the Vietnamese language courses offered at UW with instructor Kim Nguyen. He likes learning language, and it is his goal to become fluent in Vietnamese, as he believes it is important to learn the language of a society in order to understand the culture of a society. It is difficult to sustain any in-depth research without language.

Students that are currently under Hirschman's supervision in Southeast Asian Studies include two Vietnamese students: Nguyen Lan Phuong and Le Thanh Sang. Phuong is almost finished with her dissertation on education in Vietnam, and Sang just finished his Masters on urbanization and migration in Vietnam. Other students are Kim Korinek, who is finishing her dissertation on women's economic roles in Vietnam, and Bussarawan Teerawichitchaianan,

who has looked at divorce in Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Bussarawan was awarded a SSRC fellowship in 2002 and will go to Vietnam to continue her work on the topic.

Two more recent students are Maya Magarati, who is interested in infant mortality in Vietnam, and Lynne Taguchi, who is a first-year student in the Sociology graduate program.

Some of the courses focusing on Southeast Asia that Hirschman teaches are Contemporary Southeast Asia and Demographic Issues in Asia: Vietnamese Society In Transition. For more information on his courses and his research, please visit his website at:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/charles/>



A tourist guide trainee studies the Defence Services, Mary Callahan, 2002.

## Coastal Management Project cont. from page 4

others, is investigating the biological impacts of ICM on coastal ecosystems and whether impacts, or the lack thereof, influence stakeholders' motivation to participate in management processes. Several master-level School of Marine Affairs students are also involved in the fieldwork and will be transforming the research findings into educational materials.

As externally funded projects have generally been the main proponents and implementers of ICM within developing countries, the potential for unsustainability of institutions and policies as projects are terminated is high. Christie and his co-researchers hope to contribute to future success of ICM endeavors. To advance this goal, the research results will be converted into both academic and educational materials for ICM practitioners and students. More information is available at the project's website, [http://www2.mozcom.com/~icm\\_proj/](http://www2.mozcom.com/~icm_proj/).

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