



Politics in Action: Updates from Southeast Asia

Friday 6 May 2022

Lecture Theatre 1050, Abercrombie Business School
The University of Sydney

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The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is forging Australia's relationship with one of the world's fastest growing regions by educating students and building new partnerships with academics and governments based on research excellence.

With more than 400 academics across all faculties and schools working on and in Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world.

Event proceedings

In this public forum, invited experts will provide an analysis of the current political situation in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam, and discuss the broader implications of events in these countries for our region.

Each of our country-specialists will present for up to 20 minutes, followed by a short Q&A session. They are instructed to pitch their talk to an interested, but not necessarily academic, audience so the talks are able to be enjoyed by a wide range of people. These talks should be particularly valuable to non-political scientists working in one or more Southeast Asian countries.

All videos recorded as part of Politics in Action 2022 will be made available for public viewing on our [Facebook page](#) and our [YouTube channel](#). Find all the links on the [Politics in Action webpage](#).



Program

Friday 6 May 2022, 10am – 3pm

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Time (AET)	Topic	Presenter	Institution
10:00	<i>Registration and morning tea</i>		
10:30	Welcome and opening remarks	Prof Michele Ford	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
10:35	Malaysia	Dr Azmil Tayeb	Universiti Sains Malaysia
11:00	Lao PDR	Dr Andrea Haefner	Griffith University
11:30	Timor-Leste	Professor Michael Leach	Swinburne University
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
13:15	The Philippines	A/Prof Maria Elize H. Mendoza	University of the Philippines Diliman
13:45	Vietnam	Nguyen Khac Giang	Victoria University
14:15	Indonesia	Dr Ken Setiawan	The University of Melbourne
14:45	Wrap-up and concluding remarks	Prof Michele Ford	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
14:50	<i>End of event</i>		

Indonesia

Dr Ken Setiawan

The Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne



Dr Ken Setiawan is Lecturer in Indonesian and Asian Studies at the University of Melbourne's Asia Institute. She is also an Associate at the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society (CILIS) at the Melbourne Law School. Ken's research interests include globalisation and human rights, as well as historical violence and transitional justice. Her current research projects focus on civil society, gender and decoloniality. She has widely published on the politics of human rights in Indonesia. Her most recent book, co-authored with Dirk Tomsa, is *Politics in Contemporary Indonesia: Institutional Change, Policy Challenges and Democratic Decline* (Routledge, 2022).

Laos

Dr Andrea Haefner

Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University



Dr Andrea Haefner is a Lecturer at the Griffith Asia Institute and has over 15 years of experience working with academia, government, and international organisations across Australia, Germany, and Southeast Asia, especially the Mekong region where she lived and worked for four years in Laos. Andrea's research focuses on transboundary river basin, geopolitics, and governing civil society in the Mekong region. Besides publishing several peer-reviewed articles, Andrea's book on *Negotiating for Water Resources - Bridging Transboundary River Basins* was published with Routledge in 2016. Besides focusing on impact research and policy relevance, Andrea also works on several projects on the ground and regularly leads capacity building programs. In 2021, Andrea received the ABDC Award for Innovation and Excellence in International Education.

Malaysia

Dr Azmil Tayeb

Universiti Sains Malaysia



Dr Azmil Tayeb is a political scientist who has done extensive research on political Islam, social movements and local government politics, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia. He is the author of *Islamic Education in Indonesia and Malaysia: Shaping Minds, Saving Souls* (Routledge, 2018). He received his PhD from the Australian National University.

Twitter: @AzmilTayeb

The Philippines

Assistant Professor Maria Elize H. Mendoza

University of the Philippines Diliman



Maria Elize H. Mendoza is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman. She obtained her BA (magna cum laude) and MA degrees in Political Science under the BA-MA (Honors) Program of the Department of Political Science. She has taught an introductory course to Philippine politics, a course on Philippine local politics, and a course on social, economic, and political thought. Her research interests include Philippine local politics, electoral politics, and the politics of social media.

Timor-Leste

Professor Michael Leach

Swinburne University



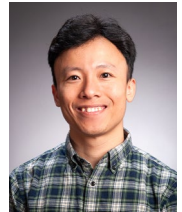
Michael Leach is a Professor in Politics and International Relations in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. He has written and researched widely on the politics of Timor-Leste and is a regular public commentator on the topic. He is also a co-founder of the international area studies network, the [Timor-Leste Studies Association](#).

Twitter: @MP_Leach

Vietnam

Nguyen Khac Giang

Victoria University of Wellington



Nguyen Khac Giang is a PhD candidate at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He was formerly Head of the Political Research Unit of the Hanoi-based Vietnam Institute for Economic and Policy Research (VEPR). His academic work appears in, among others, the Asian Journal of Political Science, the Constitutional Political Economy, and the Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies. He also writes extensively for major Vietnamese and English news outlets, including the VnExpress, Saigon Times, the Diplomat, and the East Asia Forum. He is a frequent commentator on political developments in Vietnam and has been featured in the Economist, Financial Times, Reuters, BBC, AP, and other international news media.

Twitter: @khacgiang





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