



Politics in Action:

Mapping Southeast Asia's Political Landscape

Thursday 9 May 2024

Lecture Theatre 351, Education Building, Manning Road
The University of Sydney

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Sydney Southeast
Asia Centre

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

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, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore 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. The presentations are aimed at a broad audience and will appeal to academics and non-academics alike. These discussions hold significant value, especially for those engaged in various endeavours across one or more Southeast Asian nations.

All videos recorded as part of Politics in Action 2024 will be livestreamed on our [Facebook](#) page and made available after the event on our [YouTube channel](#). Find all the links on the [Politics in Action webpage](#).



Program

Thursday 9 May 2024, 12pm – 4:30pm

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Time (AEST)	Topic	Presenter	Institution
11:30	<i>Registration</i>		
12:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Prof Gregory Fox	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
12:05	Indonesia	Ms Navhat Nuraniyah	Australian National University
12:35	Myanmar	Dr Moe Thuzar	ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
13:05	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00	Vietnam	Mr Layton Pike	RMIT University
14:30	Laos	Dr Kesone Kanhalikham	National University of Laos
15:00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
15:30	Singapore	Prof Kenneth Tan	Hong Kong Baptist University
16:00	Malaysia	Prof Azizuddin bin Mohd Sani	Universiti Utara Malaysia
16:30	<i>End of event</i>		

Indonesia

Ms Navhat Nuraniyah

Australian National University



Navhat (Nava) Nuraniyah is a PhD scholar at the Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University. Her doctoral research focuses on how Islamist opposition groups in Indonesia respond to political repression and its broader implications for democratic decline. She was previously an analyst at the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC), where she researched extensively on violent extremism, communal conflict and Islamist activism in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Prior to that, she was a researcher at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She has been published in academic journals and media such as *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *The New York Times*, and *Sydney Morning Herald*.

[LinkedIn](#)

Myanmar

Dr Moe Thuzar

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies



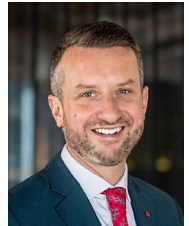
Moe Thuzar is a Senior Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, where she coordinates its Myanmar Studies Programme. From 2008 to 2019 she was the lead researcher in the ISEAS ASEAN Studies Centre. Prior to joining ISEAS, Dr Thuzar spent ten years at the ASEAN Secretariat, where she headed the Human Development Unit from 2004 to 2007. A former diplomat, she researched Burma's foreign policy implementation (1948–88) for her PhD at the National University of Singapore. She was a Fox International Fellow (2019–2020) at Yale University's MacMillan Center during her PhD candidacy. Her research interests include Myanmar's foreign policy, ASEAN integration impacts and issues (socio-cultural areas) and ASEAN's dialogue relations. Among many other publications, she has also contributed to several compendia and edited volumes on ASEAN and on Myanmar.

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Vietnam

Mr Layton Pike

RMIT University



Layton Pike has been Executive Director, International at RMIT University since December 2022, overseeing the university's global strategy and partnerships in the Asia Pacific region. Previously he was the Chief Global Adviser and Director Global Strategy at RMIT where he played a key role in enhancing the institution's international engagement. Mr Pike co-founded the Australia Vietnam Policy Institute in 2022, a pioneering public policy hub fostering collaboration and impact in the Australia-Vietnam relationship. His expertise spans policy, development cooperation and legal affairs, supported by his legal qualifications and memberships in advisory boards. He also contributes to the University of Melbourne and the Australia Vietnam Young Leadership Dialogue.

[LinkedIn](#)

Laos

Dr Kesone Kanhalikham

National University of Laos



Kesone Kanhalikham is the Deputy Head of Division of the National University of Laos Council, Office of Post-graduate Studies, National University of Laos. She is also a lecturer in the International Development Studies Master program. Her primary areas of interest are development studies in urbanisation in Laos, urban-geography, livelihood adaptation, resilience and urban-environment, and the regionalisation of development in the Mekong sub-region. She has researched on urbanisation, foreign direct investment and the Laos-China Railway, and has promoted the intersection between social science and development. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from the National University of Laos, and a doctorate in social science from Chiang Mai University.

Singapore

Professor Kenneth Paul Tan

Hong Kong Baptist University



Kenneth Paul Tan is a tenured Professor of Politics, Film and Cultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. He teaches courses at the Academy of Film and Department of Government and International Studies, and conducts interdisciplinary research at the School of Communication, Global Communication and Power Research Cluster, and Smart Society Lab. His most recent books include *Asia in the Old and New Cold Wars: Ideologies, Narratives, and Lived Experiences* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2023), *Movies to Save Our World: Imagining Poverty, Inequality and Environmental Destruction in the 21st Century* (Penguin, 2022) and *Singapore's First Year of COVID-19: Public Health, Immigration, the Neoliberal State, and Authoritarian Populism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) He was the founding chair of the Asian Film Archive's Board of Directors and the chair of the Board of Directors of theatre company, The Necessary Stage.

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Malaysia

Professor Azizuddin bin Mohd Sani

Universiti Utara Malaysia



Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani is a Professor of Politics and International Relations in the School of International Studies at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). He is currently Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Internationalisation at UUM. Previously he was a Visiting Fellow for the Yusof Ishak Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, and Visiting Professor at the National Institute of Development and Administration (NIDA), Bangkok, Thailand. He has published widely on democratisation, political expression and Malaysian politics, and has conducted public advocacy through international and local Malaysian media. He is a columnist for *Berita Harian* (Malay newspaper) and *Sin Chew Jit Poh* (Mandarin newspaper).

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