



# Workshop: Integrating Human Rights into Teaching and Research Practices

Monday 2 September 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**  
—  
Sydney Southeast  
Asia Centre

# Program

Seminar Room 427, Old Teachers College, The University of Sydney

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Details</b>
09.30am	<i>Registration and morning tea</i>	
09.45am	<b>Welcome and overview</b>	<b>Prof Michele Ford</b> <i>Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</i>
09.50am	<b>Session One: Keynote Address</b> Teaching and advocacy: Human rights in Southeast Asia	<b>Prof Tim Soutphommasane</b> <i>School of Social and Political Sciences</i>
10.20am	<b>Session Two: Panel Discussion</b> How I teach about human rights	<b>Chair: Dr Susan Banki</b> <i>Department of Sociology and Social Policy</i> • <b>Prof Megan Mackenzie</b> <i>School of Social and Political Sciences</i> • <b>Dr Aaron Opdyke</b> <i>School of Civil Engineering</i> • <b>Dr Andres Rodriguez</b> <i>Department of History</i>
11.00am	<b>Session Three: Group Discussion</b> Embedding human rights within your teaching practice	<b>Facilitator: Dr Susan Banki</b> <i>Department of Sociology and Social Policy</i>
12.00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30pm	<b>Session Four: Panel Discussion</b> A rights-based approach to research?	<b>Chair: Dr Benjamin Thompson</b> <i>Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</i> • <b>Dr Petr Matous</b> <i>School of Civil Engineering</i> • <b>Dr Natali Pearson</b> <i>Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</i> • <b>Dr Aim Sinpeng</b> <i>Department of Government and International Relations</i>
2.30pm	<b>Session Five: Group Discussion</b> The challenges of conducting rights- based research in Southeast Asia	<b>Facilitator: Prof Michele Ford</b> <i>Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</i>
3.30pm	Brainstorm (ASEAN Forum 2020: Human Rights focus) and wrap-up	<b>Facilitator: Dr Natali Pearson</b> <i>Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</i>
4.00pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	

# Biographies



## Dr Susan Banki

Susan Banki's research interests lie in the political, institutional, and legal contexts that explain the roots of and solutions to international human rights violations. In particular, she is interested in the ways that questions of sovereignty, citizenship/membership and humanitarian principles have shaped our understanding of and reactions to various transnational phenomena, such as the international human rights regime, international migration and the provision of international aid. Susan's focus is in the Asia-Pacific region, where she has conducted extensive field research in Thailand, Nepal, Bangladesh and Japan on refugee/migrant protection, statelessness and border control. She is currently investigating the local, regional and international mechanisms (and the interactions between them) that serve as potential levers for change.



## Professor Michele Ford

Michele Ford is Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre. Her research focuses on Southeast Asian labour movements, labour migration and trade union aid. Michele's work has been supported by a number of Australian Research Council Discovery Project grants related to these and other topics. She has also been involved in extensive consultancy work for the International Labour Organisation, the international labour movement and the Australian Government.

# Biographies



## Professor Megan MacKenzie

Megan MacKenzie's research bridges feminist international relations, critical security studies and development studies. Her book, *Female Soldiers in Sierra Leone: Sex, Security, and Post-Conflict Development* examines women's participation in the 11-year civil war in Sierra Leone and the challenges and insecurities they faced during the post-conflict reintegration process. Megan is also working on a collaborative project focused on the impacts of transitional justice mechanisms. In particular, the project looks at the long-term effects of the truth and reconciliation commission in Sierra Leone and the extent to which it achieved its lofty objectives.



## Dr Petr Matous

Petr Matous is a senior lecturer in the University of Sydney's School of Civil Engineering, and the Associate Dean for Indigenous Strategy and Services in the Faculty of Engineering. He is also an active member of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's Executive Committee. His research investigates how social networks affect ordinary people's access to resources, such as clean drinking water in Manila. Petr graduated with a PhD from the University of Tokyo in 2007, and received the University of Tokyo's President Award.

# Biographies



## Dr Aaron Opdyke

Aaron Opdyke is a Lecturer in Humanitarian Engineering in the School of Civil Engineering. His research seeks to improve international humanitarian responses to better assist developing communities to recover in the aftermath of disaster and conflict, with a particular focus on safe and equitable shelter. In 2018, Aaron received a SSEAC Conference Grant and a SSEAC Partnership Grant to support his research on informal sheltering practices and adaptive urban resilience processes in the Philippines.



## Dr Natali Pearson

Natali Pearson is Curriculum Coordinator at the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre. Natali is co-editor of *Perspectives on the Past* at *New Mandala* and a regular contributor to *The Conversation*. She received her PhD in Museum and Heritage Studies from the University of Sydney, and also holds a Master of Museum Studies, a Master of Arts (Strategy and Policy) and a Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies) in History and Indonesian Studies. She has worked at the Asia Society's galleries in New York and Hong Kong, and as a consultant to the Asia Society Arts & Museum Summit. She is an alumni of the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies and the Asialink Leaders Program. Her research focuses on the protection, management and interpretation of underwater cultural heritage in Southeast Asia.

# Biographies



## Dr Andres Rodriguez

Andres Rodriguez is a Lecturer in Modern Chinese History. His research has focused on political and social movements in China's southwest borderlands during World War Two. He is currently examining early post-war political movements of ethnic minorities across China, Myanmar, and India as part of a larger framework of 'frontier reconstruction' and decolonisation across the region.



## Dr Aim Sinpeng

Aim Sinpeng is a Lecturer in Comparative Politics. An award-winning educator, her research interests centre on the relationships between digital media, political participation and political regimes in Southeast Asia. Aim is particularly interested in the role of social media in shaping state-society relations and inducing political and social change. Together with Dr Fiona Martin, Aim was recently awarded funding by Facebook to help the social media giant understand how better to regulate hate speech online in the Asia-Pacific region. Her other scholarly works examine popular movements against democracy in democratising states, particularly in Thailand. Aim is the co-founder of the Sydney Cyber Security Network and has served as the Expert Contributor for Varieties of Democracy and Bertelsmann Transformation Index, which measure degrees and types of democracy.

# Biographies



## Professor Tim Soutphommasane

Tim Soutphommasane is Professor of Practice (Sociology and Political Theory). He is a political theorist and human rights advocate. From 2013 to 2018 he was Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner. His thinking on patriotism, multiculturalism and national identity has been influential in debates in Australia and Britain. In February 2019, Tim published his latest book with Melbourne University Publishing, *On Hate*, which discusses the troubling rise of nationalist populism and the return of race politics .



## Dr Benjamin Thompson

Benjamin Thompson is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre. His research investigates current financing strategies for environmental management, including Payments for Ecosystem Services, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Impact Investing. Benjamin attained his PhD from the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore, and also holds an MSc from Imperial College London. Prior to his PhD, he spent two years as a research coordinator with the Zoological Society of London in Bangladesh and the Island Conservation Society in the Seychelles.

# Additional events

(Attendance is optional but encouraged.)

## Book Launch | *Race, Islam and Power: Ethnic and Religious Violence in Post-Suharto Indonesia*, by Andreas Harsono

Andreas Harsono is one of the most knowledgeable, experienced, high-profile and courageous of reporters and commentators on contemporary Indonesian society. *Race, Islam and Power: Ethnic and Religious Violence in Post-Suharto Indonesia* - the result of Harsono's fifteen year project to document how, in post-Suharto Indonesia, race and religion have come to be increasingly prevalent within the nation's politics.

From its westernmost island of Sabang to its easternmost city of Merauke in West Papua, from Miangas Island in the north, near the Philippines border, to Ndana Island, close to the coast of Australia, Harsono reveals the particular cultural identities and localised political dynamics of this internally complex and riven nation.

**Time:** 12.30pm-1.30pm

**Venue:** Quad History Room S223

## Public Talk | *Human Rights in Cambodia: A Long History of Abuse*, with Elaine Pearson from Human Rights Watch Australia

Cambodia's infamous history is fraught with human rights abuses. Yet its recent history has not been without stains either. The ruling Cambodian People's Party maintains power through violence, politically motivated prosecutions, repressive laws, and corruption. Prime Minister Hun Sen, in power since 1985, oversees one-party rule in the National Assembly and intensified its onslaught on the political opposition, civil society groups, and independent media in the lead-up to the national elections in July 2018. Human Rights Watch has documented a continuing decline of political and civil rights in Cambodia, even one year after the elections. As the United Nations Human Rights Council prepares to discuss a Cambodia resolution in early September, join Elaine Pearson, to reflect upon the current human rights situation in Cambodia.

**Time:** 5.30pm-6.30pm

**Venue:** Quad History Room S223







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