

Understanding Asia: Bridging Margins

Making Local Knowledge Move – Case Studies from Indonesia

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16:00 – 18:00 c.t.
Zoom event

During the 19th and 20th century, knowledge deriving from the “North” (or “the West”) has occupied a hegemonic position in global knowledge production. Theories and methods developed there frequently served to be ‘tested’ in the regions of the Global South. In order to avoid such one-way streets, critics demand to decentre and diversify knowledge production. Studies of the ‘local’ in Indonesia and Malaysia cater to decentring and diversification. They convey the value-added of attending to local experiences, environments, conditions, and frameworks for the development and transformation of theories and methods. The lecture shares some reflections on the epistemic value of local knowledge, illustrated by empirical examples. They may motivate a more substantial study of knowledge travel from periphery to centre.

Claudia Derichs, PhD is professor of Transregional Southeast Asian Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany. She has studied Japanese and Arabic in Bonn, Tokyo and Cairo and holds a PhD in Japanology (1994, University of Bonn, Germany). She is a member of various editorial boards, advisory boards, selection and evaluation committees, and was awarded a Heisenberg scholarship by the German Science Foundation. Her research covers political transition in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, as well as gender and development politics in Asia and the Middle East. She specializes in transregional studies and works towards new orientations in Area Studies.