



Shaping Asia

Decolonising Knowledge Positioned Conversations

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4 pm (CEST)

Zoom event

The invention of Southeast Asia (including Indonesia) as an area studies discipline coincided with the Cold War and the US-American expansion and hegemony in the Asia-Pacific. Thus, area studies can be defined as an imperial invention. This history dictated how the area has been understood and studied in European and US academia, i.e. through nationalism, Islam, development.

This roundtable conversation (30 minutes) concerns the following issues: (1) the politics of knowledge production and circulation: who can and who does construct (which) knowledge, through what means, what for, from what perspective? (2) how are colonial legacies being reproduced and/or disrupted in the universities' representational and hiring politics? (3) How to undo/unlearn colonialism through academic practices? These questions will be discussed from our diverse and decentering epistemic positions. We open the floor for plenary discussion (30 minutes).

Veronika Kusumaryati is a political and media anthropologist working in West Papua, a self-identifying term referring to Indonesia's easternmost and marginal provinces of Papua and West Papua. She is interested in the question of colonialism, postcolonialism and decolonization, especially through the examination of state forms, indigenous sovereignty, and racism. She holds a PhD from the department of anthropology at Harvard with a secondary field in film and visual studies. With Ernst Karel, she produced a documentary entitled "Expedition Content" (2020) which has been screened at the 2020 Berlin international Film Festival. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Edmund A. School for Foreign Service, Georgetown University.

Thomas Stodulka is Junior Professor for Social, Cultural, and Psychological Anthropology at FU Berlin. His work focuses on affect, emotion, childhood, education, mental health, datafication, and methods. He conducted long-term fieldwork with street-related communities in Indonesia and he has co-directed various international network projects on affect and emotion, big data, epistemology, mental health, ethnographic methods, and public anthropology. He is the co-founder of the European Network for Psychological Anthropology (ENPA) and co-editor of journals and book series.

Ferdiansyah Thajib is a researcher whose lifework is situated at the intersections of theory and praxis, with specific interests in queer modes of endurance and forms of affective entanglements in everyday life. He completed his doctoral study at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin. He is a member of KUNCI, a transdisciplinary research collective in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which since 1999 has been experimenting with modes of producing and sharing knowledge through studying together.

Zoom registration link: <https://uni-bielefeld.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvfuqpqjojGtOkSs7FzmyLU3MGczNI0IDJ>