

CSEAS-ARI Joint Workshop

on

Reassessing Ritual in Southeast Asian Studies

Sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University
("Southeast Asian Studies for Sustainable Humanosphere" Research Program and the
JSPS Asian Core Program "Asian Connections")

and

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
(Religion & Globalization Research Cluster)

25-26 February 2013

Inamori Memorial Hall, CSEAS, Kyoto University

(Access: http://www.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/about/access_en.html)

Ritual and its importance in Southeast Asian cultures has long been a source of comment, stretching from the accounts of early Arab, Chinese and European travelers, to colonial officials and anthropologists. Academic discussions of ritual in the twentieth century were, however, often framed as a manifestation of local idiosyncrasy and of historical legacies that were fading in the face of accelerating modernization. Such views were often implicitly or explicitly informed by the particular historical experiences of post-Reformation Western Christianity, and this perspective served to turn much of the research focus on religion in Southeast Asia toward broader social movements for rationalizing religious reform. More recently, however, scholars working across diverse disciplines in the humanities in social sciences are developing new explorations of the ways in which ritual practice can serve to reconfigure human relationships even in the face of powerful trajectories of secularizing modernity. This workshop aims to build upon these broader conversations to rethink the ways in which the study of ritual might come to inform new research in Southeast Asian Studies.

PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 25, MONDAY

WELCOME REMARKS

10:30-10:35 Hiromu Shimizu, Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

10:35-11:00 Prasenjit Duara, Director, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

OPENING REMARKS

11:00-11:30 R. Michael Feener, "Reassessing Ritual in Southeast Asian Studies."

SESSION 1 Ritual and Secularization

11:30-12:30

Francis, Lim Khok Gee, "The Death of Civil Society and the Life of Ritual."

Daniel PS Goh, "Changing Urbanisms and the Ritual Ecology of Waterloo Street, Singapore."

12:30-14:00 LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 2 Bodies in Ritual

14:00-15:00

Janet Hoskins, "Trance Dancers or Interlocutors of the Immortals? : Vietnamese Spirit Mediums in Global Perspective."

Yasuko Yoshimoto, "Possession Ritual in Contemporary Society: Religion and Modernity amongst the Cham Vietnamese."

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SESSION 3 Christian Rituals in Context

15:15-16:45

Mario Lopez, "Filipino Religiosity in Japanese Hinterlands: Appraising the Symbolic Meaning of Catholicism in the Lives of Filipina Residents in Japan."

Julius Bautista, "Performing the Way of the Cross: Rituals of Self-Mortification in the Catholic Philippines."

Tatsuki Kataoka, "God Coercion and God Worship of the Lahu Christians in Northern Thai Hills."

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SESSION 4 Islamic Rituals in the Peripheries

17:00-18:00

Sehat Ihsan Shadiqin, "Peutroen Aneuk: the Ritual of the Infants First Time of Getting out in Aceh-Kluet Community, Indonesia."

Ryoko Nishii, "De-subjectification and Re-subjectification in/by Rituals: Muslim-Buddhist Relationships in a Southern Thai Village."

DINNER

FEBRUARY 26, TUESDAY

SESSION 5 Buddhist Rituals, Materiality, Place and Power

9:30-11:00

John Clifford Holt, "When the King Came to Town: Powers at the Periphery in Upcountry Sri Lanka."

Yoko Hayami, "Building Pagodas, Following Buddhist Saints in Sacred Land across the Thai-Myanmar Border."

Justin McDaniel, "Ritual and Art in Thai Buddhism"

FINAL DISCUSSION SESSION

11:00-12:00