

**ZMO-EUME-Colloquium**Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm**Venue:**Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
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Senatsverwaltung  
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Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi

**Annual Theme: The City and its Margins****Monday, May 12th, 2014, 5 pm****From Margin to Centre: Muslim Gated Communities and the Spatial Formation of Muslim Middle Class in Contemporary Indonesia**Lecture by **Dr Wai Weng Hew**

In the last few years, there are increasing numbers of Muslim gated communities (Perumahan Muslim) surrounding Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia. Situated at the edge of city, these Muslim-only housing complexes claim themselves offering a 'modern, green and Islamic' living atmosphere to young middle-class Muslim families.

In this talk, I argue that Muslim gated communities are a spatial formation of the identities and aspirations of the urban Muslim middle classes. On the one hand, they distinct themselves from 'non-Muslim' gated communities with 'Islamic' features. On the other hand, they separate themselves from existing Muslim living places with 'modern' characters. Through the production and deployment of such Muslim clusters, both developers and residents aim to promote an 'Islamic way of modern living'.

Based on interviews with developers and residents, as well as ethnographic fieldwork, this paper explores how the discourse of fear of urban diversity (e.g. challenges from 'secular lifestyle' and 'Christian missionary') and the search for a secure community (e.g. free from crimes and floods) justify religion and class-based exclusion strategies. By choosing to buy into a fenced community, some Muslims find a place where they can secure themselves religiously and socially.

**Hew, Wai Weng** is Research Fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin and working on a research entitled, "Sites of Inclusion and Exclusion: New Muslims Places in Urban Malaysia and Indonesia". He graduated from the Australian National University, where he submitted his PhD thesis, "Negotiating Ethnicity and Religiosity: Chinese Muslim Identities in Post-New Order Indonesia". He was also a postdoctoral fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden.