



ZMO-Kolloquium 2013

Thursday, March 21st, 2013, 6 pm

Cosmopolis and the Vernacular in Southeast Asian Islam

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Lecture by Prof. Anthony Reid

The conversion of Southeast Asia to Islam is usually told in terms of foreign arrivals, interventions and successes, or (by reaction) of a relatively seamless gradualism – Ricklefs' "Six Centuries of Islamization" (1979). This lecture will argue rather for a distinct rhythm of interaction between a more globalizing impulse (cosmopolis) and a localizing reaction (the vernacular). Sheldon Pollock (2006) suggestively used this contrast to explain the expansion of a Sanskrit/Indicized world in the first centuries CE, while Ronit Ricci (2011) recently borrowed the idea for Islam. I will expand the idea in longer diachronic terms, and focus particularly on the contrast between the long 16th and the long 18th century phases. Whether we are currently experiencing another phase of Cosmopolis may be a focus for discussion.

Anthony Reid is a Southeast Asian historian, once again based as emeritus Professor at the Australian National University, where he also served as Professor of Southeast Asian History for many years before 1999. In between he was founding Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at UCLA (1999-2002) and of the Asia Research Institute at NUS, Singapore (2002-7). He is a fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin during the 2012/13 year. Best known for *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce* (2 vols, 1988-93), his more recent books include *Imperial Alchemy: Nationalism and political identity in Southeast Asia* (2010); *To Nation by Revolution: Indonesia in the 20th Century* (2011); and as (co-)editor *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, vol. 3 (2011); and *Indonesia Rising: The Repositioning of Asia's Third Giant* (2012).

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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