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人文社會科學院



Seminar

The 2014 Indonesian Elections and the politics of Post Post-Suharto: a class analysis

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Singapore
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Date: **6 October 2014 (Monday)**
Time: **6 pm – 7:30 pm**
Venue: **Y5-203, AC1, City University of Hong Kong**

Abstract

In the 2 or 3 months leading to the Indonesian presidential election, all polls showed front-runner Joko Widodo's substantial lead had diminished. This seminar argues that the well-financed "black campaign" against Widodo had this impact primarily because his campaign failed to respond aggressively to two major issues. The first is the link between foreign involvement in the Indonesian economy and widespread poverty. The second is the threat to democratic rights and a return to New Order-style politics represented by his rival, Prabowo Subianto. The seminar will consider the argument that these weaknesses were more detrimental to Widodo's campaign than any perceived strengths on the part of Prabowo.

The election campaign divided the Indonesian elite and public, and the division will not disappear despite Widodo winning the election. What is behind this divide, and are there other potential divisions?

Short Bio

Max Lane is a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore and a lecturer in Politics and International Studies at Victoria University, Melbourne. Max Lane writes on Indonesian politics, history, society and literature. He is author of *Unfinished Nation: Indonesia before and after Suharto* (Verso, 2008), *Catastrophe in Indonesia* (Seagull/Uni of Chicago, 2010) *Decentralisation and its Discontents: Class, Political Agency and National Perspective in Indonesian politics*, (ISEAS, 2014). He has translated Indonesian literature by Rendra and Pramoedya Ananta Toer (including *This Earth of Mankind* and its sequels, published by Penguin). All his major writings have been translated into Indonesian. He lectures regularly at Gajah Mada University and Yogyakarta State University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In 2013 he will publish two new books in Indonesian: *Indonesia Tidak Hadir di Bumi Manusia* (a book on the works of Pramoedya Ananta Toer) and *Sastera dan Politik: Praxis Aktivisme Seni Rendra, 1970-78* (a book on the writings of Rendra). A new Indonesian language edition, with three new chapters, of *Unfinished Nation: Indonesia before and after Suharto*, appeared in August, 2014. Max Lane was the founding editor of the magazine *INSIDE INDONESIA* in the 1980s and in the 1990s National Coordinator of Action in Solidarity with Indonesia and East Timor. He has worked in the ministry of foreign affairs, the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia and the Australian parliament. Apart from writing on Indonesia he has also published articles and a monograph on Philippines politics.

All are welcome.
Language: English

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