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**Dr Jürgen Rüländ** is professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and the speaker of the university's Southeast Asia Program. His research interests include (inter)regionalism, ASEAN, the democratization of international organizations, global governance and international relations in the Asia-Pacific region. He is the author of "The Indonesian Way. ASEAN, Europeanization, and Foreign Policy Debates in a New Democracy," Stanford University Press and "ASEAN as an Actor in International Fora. Reality, Potential and Constraints," Cambridge University Press (with Paruedee Nguitragool).

# The Indonesian Way. ASEAN, Europeanization, and Foreign Policy Debates in a New Democracy

### Abstract

The presentation examines the construction of ideas on regionalism in Indonesia, the largest member country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Theoretically, it draws from Acharya's concept of "constitutive localization" which it develops further. It offers an alternative explanation to studies which argue that as a result of mimetic behavior, social learning, and cost-benefit calculations, regional organizations across the world become increasingly similar. While this may be the case in terms of rhetoric and organizational structure, it is not necessarily the case at a normative level. The Indonesian case shows that even though foreign policy stakeholders have increasingly championed European ideas of regional integration after the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997/1998, they have skilfully amalgamated them with older local worldviews through framing, grafting, and pruning. European ideas of regional integration thereby served to modernize and relegitimize a foreign policy agenda which seeks to establish Indonesia as a regional leader with ambitions to play a major role in global politics.

**19 March 2018  
(Monday)  
4:00-5:30pm**

**B5-417, AC1**

**Yeung Kin Man Academic Building**

**All are welcome**

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