

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS (2003)

THE “TREASONOUS” HISTORY OF FILIPINO HISTORIOGRAPHY: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PEDRO PATERNO, 1858-1911

Dr Portia Reyes
Visiting Fellow, Southeast Asian Studies Programme

Tuesday, 13 May 2003, 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

In the late 19th century, “Indios”/ “Meztizo-Intsik”/ “Ilustrados” began to actively participate in writing history vis-à-vis their colonial masters' variant. The foundations of Filipino historiography were thus laid. Within this Propaganda Movement, the great triumvirate of del Pilar, Lopez-Jaena, and Rizal pioneered the anti-colonial liwanag-dilim-liwanag (light-darkness-light) periodization of the country's historical narrative. However, except for a brief excursion into historiography (Rizal's Annotations, 1889), none of them composed a history book. This task was left to Pedro Paterno, a minor propagandist-colleague. Among his 36 major publications were a 7-volume general history and a 3-volume critical history --more than 3000 pages of analyses and interpretations. While struggling with identity questions himself, Paterno grappled with both explanation (erklären) and understanding (verstehen) of the historico-cultural Filipino Dasein with reference to mother Spain. His writings exemplified a mastery of language and impressive exploratory and investigative capabilities. They also provided clues to this near schizophrenic personality: the split intellectual loyalties of an ilustrado. As in the works of Rizal or of De los Reyes, Paterno's pieces embodied the times' complex intellectual, dialogical world. But Paterno is remembered, not as an able historian, but as a “traitor”. The intermediary role he played between the revolutionary forces and the Spanish colonial government during the 1897 Pact of Biac-na-Bato negotiations won him this infamous title. Accordingly, this political label has stymied efforts to take his complex personhood seriously. Reminiscent of the colonizers' stereotyping of the colonized, this naming consigns a 19th century intellectual to a political event.

My study challenges such a compartmentalization within antagonistic nationalist exposés. I interrogate Pedro Paterno, the scholar. What passions and motivations drew him to history? How did he conceive the Filipino nation and national identity? Crucially, to what extent can we fit his historiography within the nationalist category? Hence, my paper delves into a “treasonous” history-writing. It plots a multifaceted ilustrado as an integral part of a Filipino historiography and ultimately confronts the question relevant to the discipline's universal practice: the role of an historian in a nationalist project.

THE SPEAKER

Dr. Portia Reyes is a Visiting Teaching Fellow at the Southeast Asian Studies Programme. She finished her MA in 1996 while teaching at the Department of History, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines-Diliman. Under the auspices of the German Academic Exchange Services (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst), Portia worked on her Ph.D. from 1997 to 2002 at the Universitaet Bremen. Her research areas include Philippine historiography, comparative culture studies, and thought history.

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF TRADE POLICY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND

Mr. Ferdinand Uko
Ph.D. Candidate, Southeast Asian Studies Programme, NUS

Wednesday, 16 April 2003, 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

The 1950-2000 economic performance of the Philippines and Thailand showed that the former had initially the advantage in most development indicators over the latter. Given this advantage, the Philippines was seen as more likely to take-off economically compared to Thailand. But within a span of two decades, the relative economic positions of both countries were reversed and since then Thailand pulled ahead of the Philippines. This proposed research study aims to explain this phenomenon taking the differences in trade policies shaped through the dynamic interactions of interest groups and the government as the main point of comparative analysis. It seeks to address four main questions: (1) Why was the notion of 'appropriate' trade policies of successful interest groups in Thailand relatively more effective in bringing about economic growth and development than the notion of 'appropriate' trade policies of successful interest groups in the Philippines? On a country level, why were some interest groups successful while others were not? (2) Why were import-competing interests, on the whole, more successful in the trade policy game than export interests? (3) Why did protectionist pressures rise at some times and fall in others? To what extent did external events influence this pattern? (4) Why did the politicians, administrators, or judicial bodies choose (inefficient) trade policies? This study will be carried out using the grounded theory strategy of inquiry. The findings will be valuable in understanding the implications of the actions of economic and political agents on national development.

THE SPEAKER

Ferdinand Uko is a Ph.D. student at the Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore. He received his MA (Econ) – Development Administration and Management from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, in 1998. This paper is his proposed doctoral research project.

NARRATIVES OF PLACE AND SELF: THE CONSUMPTION OF 'BALI' BY JAPANESE FEMALE TOURISTS

Dr. Mika Toyota
Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS

Wednesday, 9 April 2003, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

Tourist settings provide interesting sites of post-modern consumption, as they involve the whole process by which images of places are socio-culturally produced and consumed both by local people and by tourists. As argued by Miller (1987), Strinati (1995), Clammer (1997), M. Ashkenazi & J. Clammer (2000), consumption today cannot simply be understood as a process of subordination but has to be seen as a means of asserting and reforming social identities. In other words, the formation process of identities can no longer be reduced simply to a number of identifiable static characteristics, but is increasingly wrapped up in consuming activities, including the consumption of places, images and pastimes. Travel becomes an important means of pursuing a particular taste, lifestyle and social identity.

In this paper, I intend to examine an arena of negotiation, where Bali images are re-produced in Japanese tourist literature and the ways in which these images are consumed by female Japanese tourists in their actual tourist experiences, in particular, at the contact zone between

Japanese female tourists and Indonesian local guides. I argue that tourist images and experiences are not shaped just by the tourist industry but also by tourists who as active agents interpret and negotiate the pre-established collections of signs constructed by the industry. While tourist literature may provide the 'truth maker' (MacCannell 1976) in understanding the way in which tourists connect and select their memories of their 'authentic' experiences, in their dynamic negotiation processes the boundary between the producers and the consumers becomes blurred. This study will focus on a specific social group of Japanese tourists - young, unmarried females, in their 20s and 30s - one of the most powerful and influential consumer groups within Japan. According to official statistics in the year 2001, 17.82 million Japanese travelled abroad, of whom 4.15 million were young female tourists. The paper will be placed within the current social context of the sharp rising rate of non-marriage among educated Japanese women.

THE SPEAKER

Dr. Mika Toyota is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian MetaCentre, Asia Research Institute, NUS. She obtained her undergraduate degree in sociology from Sophia University, Tokyo, and her Masters (1993) and Doctorate (1999) in Southeast Asian Studies from Hull University, UK. She published 9 chapters in edited books and 3 articles in refereed journals in English and Japanese. Her publications include 'The effects of Tourism Development on an Akha Community: a Chiang Rai Village Case Study' in Michael Parnwell (ed.) *Uneven Development in Thailand*. (Avebury: Ashgate, 1996) and 'Tourism, Development and Gender' in *Introduction to Southeast Asian Studies* (Tokyo: Mekong, 1998 in Japanese) and 'Consuming Images: Japanese tourists in Bali' in Kevin Meethan, Alison Anderson and Steve Miles (eds.) *Narratives of Place and Self: Consumption and Representation in Tourism* (2003 forthcoming).

USING THE ARCHIVE OF YOGYAKARTA

Professor Mason C. Hoadley
Professor of Southeast Asian History & Indonesian
Department of East Asian Languages
Lund University, Sweden

Wednesday, 19 March 2003, 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

The paper uses the published version of *The Archive of Yogyakarta* (P. Carey and M. Hoadley, OUP, 2000) as the starting point for discussion of Javanese society during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. More specifically, it aims at demonstrating how the contents of the long-known but seldom utilized archival material taken by the British Expeditionary forces from the palace of the Sultan Yogyakarta in 1811 can be utilized to reconstruct a picture of Javanese institutions from the products of its own administration. As part of work in progress aimed at reconstructing socioeconomic relations (*Financing the Realm*, in preparation) and tracing developments within Javanese legal institutions (*The Rule of Law in Java/Indonesia*, 2004), the paper's conclusions are more provocative than polished. With regard to socioeconomic relations royal appointments tend to confirm existing titles, powers, and control of economic resources than bequeath fiefs by Sultan or Susuhunan. Not surprisingly, the message of the presentation is a call for more basic archival research in original sources in order to ascertain the functioning of local institutions so radically altered by subsequent European activities.

THE SPEAKER

Mason C. Hoadley is a Professor of Southeast Asian History and Indonesian at the Department of East Asian Languages, Lund University, Sweden.

OPEN PANEL DISCUSSION ON THAILANG-INDOCHINA RELATIONS AND THE JAN 29 ANTI-THAI RIOT IN PHNOM PENH

Dr Ashley Carruthers, Dr Bruce Lockhart,
Dr Vatthana Pholsena, Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto and Dr Niti Pawakapan

Wednesday, 5 March 2003, 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

When the anti-Thai riot took place in Phnom Penh on 29 January 2003, the Thai Prime Minister responded quickly and, as some Thai media saw it, almost declared war against Cambodia. The riot cost Thailand billions of baht of damages, but the leaders of both countries won massive popularities from their peoples. The panellists, including historian, anthropologists and political scientists, will discuss on the riot, history and politics of Thailand-Indochina relationships. This panel, however, is open to the audience for exchanging opinions and comments.

PROBLEMS OF SUBSTANTIAL DEMOCRATISATION IN INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND INDIA: APPROACHES AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Professor Olle Törnquist
University of Oslo, Norway

Thursday, 27 February 2003, 2.00 - 3.30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

The paper discusses the contemporary problems of democratisation in Indonesia, the Philippines and India in comparative perspective, on the basis of concrete empirical analysis, and on the basis of a critique of current approaches. The assumption of most West and U.N third world politics is that human rights- based democratisation is a precondition for pro-poor development. But what are the problems of democratisation in the South? And even more important: what are the challenges and options for popular efforts at more substantial democracy to promote pro-poor development? The author will present approaches, early results and policy conclusions from a series of case studies addressing those questions over a period of ten years. The studies have been conducted in the different contexts of the Philippines, Indonesia, and the Indian state of Kerala. Among the conclusions are that democratisation has been of poor quality, narrow in scope and has not emphasised citizens' capacity. Democracy has thus not made much sense even to its supporters and their constituencies. Pro-democrats have usually focused on rights and civil society and to some extent citizen's capacity but have neglected elections and governance. They have not been able to transform actions, including in civil society, into political influence, beyond specific and brief periods. This is related to insufficient links between civil and political as well as central and local work and the dominance of single issues. General support for the crafting of 'instant democracies' (including human rights and civil societies) should thus be redirected to specific support for efforts to link civil and political work that may transcend single issues at the central and local levels.

THE SPEAKER

Olle Törnquist is a Professor of Political Science and Development Research at the University of Oslo, Norway. Among his number publications are *What's Wrong with Marxism: On Peasants and Workers in India and Indonesia* (Manohar, 1991); *People's rights: social movements and the state in the third world* (co-editor Sage, 1997); and *Democratization in the Third World: concrete cases in comparative and theoretical perspective* (co-editor; St Martins Press, 1998).

LOCATING KEN AROK AND KEN DEDES IN THE INDONESIAN IMAGINATION

Novita Dewi
PhD Candidate, Southeast Asian Studies Programme

Wednesday, 19 February 2003, 3.30-5.00 pm

ABSTRACT

Ken Arok the founder of Rajasa Dynasty in the thirteenth century Java and his consort Ken Dedes hardly figure in official history due to Arok's obscure background and the couple's villainous coup. This paper looks into the portrayals of these characters and their implications in history, literature and popular culture in Indonesia. Several questions are raised here. First, how do Ken Arok and Ken Dedes appear in Indonesian history and why do such representations emerge? Second, what can be culled from the proliferation of their images in literature and popular artifacts? Third, what do past events make of the present postcolonial Indonesia?

The chronicle Pararaton records Ken Arok's story and the rise of the Singasari and Majapahit kingdoms. The oscillation between 'historical' and 'mythical' aspects of the Pararaton, however, has created problems for historians interpreting this classical manuscript. This study challenges the view that Ken Arok and Ken Dedes, who figured in ideological contestations at that time and in subsequent periods, are but poets' inventions. Among such contestations include the competition between Hinduism and Buddhism -hence the coming of Islam in later period since the Singasari and Majapahit rulers held differing ideas about sovereignty. These can be regarded as palimpsests of Indonesian history, which have continued to give shape and colour to Indonesian cultural and political life to date. Intertwined with them are numerous and nebulous historical narratives of Ken Arok and Ken Dedes. Such texts can be treated as referential and meaningful when examined through the specific cultural, religious and political environments that produced them. This paper argues that the way knowledge about the past – in this case, the story of Ken Arok and Ken Dedes – is constructed can provide us with important clues about popular mindsets and ideological contestations in Indonesia.

THE SPEAKER

Novita Dewi is PhD student at the Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore. She received an MA (Honours) degree from the School of English at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia, in 1998. This paper is part of her doctoral research project.

THE RISE OF DAYAKNESS: LOCAL POLITICS AND “SELLING” DAYAK CULTURE

Dr Yekti Maunati
Director, Research Center for Regional Resources, Indonesian Institute of Science, Indonesia

Wednesday, 5 February 2003, 3.30 – 5 p.m.

ABSTRACT

The term 'Dayak' is most commonly used to refer to the non-Muslim, non-Malay natives of the island of Borneo. For centuries, the Dayak have been political subordinates of local, national and colonial powers. The images of the Dayak as 'backward' and 'primitive' have worked to exclude them from political power and to justify their economic marginalisation. Recently, we witness a turning point for the Dayak at the local power level, which in turn affects the Dayak identity. A window of opportunity was opened to elite Dayak to increase their bargaining position in local politics following the fall of the New Order government in 1998 with the installation of a new Governor in 1998 and the debut of regional autonomy in January 2001. These changes brought a new dimension to the public construction of Dayak identity, one which sought to emphasise the Dayak as educated and as the appropriate political representatives of their community. Although

political feature is an important influence in the construction of Dayak identity, it is by no means the sole arena in which it is negotiated and renegotiated. At the same time, economic forces through the commodification of Dayak culture, such as in the construction of an authentic 'traditional' Dayak village as a tourist destination, has not led to the demise of Dayak identity but has acted to strengthen it, creating new forms of identity. This paper not only discusses how the elite group of Dayak responded to the above situation, but also how ordinary villagers of 'Dayak cultural village' actively participated in the process of the construction of Dayak identity. It is based on fieldworks in East Kalimantan from November, 1997, to August, 1998, and in the West Kutai district (a newly established district in East Kalimantan) in June and September, 2002.

THE SPEAKER

Dr. Yekti Maunati is the Director of the Research Center for Regional Resources at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (PSDR-LIPI), Jakarta, Indonesia. She graduated from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, in 2001. Her dissertation is on "Contesting Dayak Identity: Commodification and the Cultural Politics of Identity in East Kalimantan". Her recent empirical research is on "The (re)construction of 'Pan Dayak' identity in Kalimantan and Sarawak". Dr. Yekti Maunati is currently visiting the Southeast Asian Studies Programme under the Meyer Fellowship.

OF LADY WHITE BLOOD AND QUEEN SURIYOTHA: CONFIGURATIONS AND RECONFIGURATIONS OF POWER IN THAILAND

Jaime Biron Polo, PhD
Philippine Visiting Scholar, Asia Research Institute, NUS

Wednesday, 22 January 2003, 3.30 to 5pm

ABSTRACT

The presentation concerns itself with the realm of symbolic practices, particularly, the semiotic aspects of "Thai power" which inevitably interface with social lines, specifically, gender, ethnic/regional and class lines constituting Thai daily life. More specifically, it interrogates the cinematic Thai narrative "Queen Suriyothai" as cultural technology of power, how it constitutes and characterizes the structure of daily life experiences, and its discursive, affective construction of the "Thai nation". It likewise explores the Suriyothai narrative, a regime of power, as a spatiality of identity which can serve as a popular base for re-configurations of power.

THE SPEAKER

Dr. Jaime Biron Polo comes from the University of the Philippines (Diliman). He is currently a Fellow of Pulse Asia, Inc., at the Philippine Social Science Center, Diliman. From August 2001-April 2002, he was Philippine Fellow (under the sponsorship of the Asia Scholarship Foundation or ASF) at the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. In Thailand, he undertook his field work for a research project on Thai conceptualizations of power titled "Interfaces Between Southeast Asian Traditions and Cyber Spaces: Thai Concepts of Power". He is now on a three-month attachment with the Asian Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore, also under the sponsorship of ASF.