



# Politics in Action: Updates from Southeast Asia

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

18 May 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

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# Program

10am – 5pm

Friday, 18 May 2018

Education Lecture Theatre 351, Education Building, University of Sydney

Time	Topic	Presenter	Institution
9.45 – 10.00	<i>Arrival for 10am start</i>		
10.00 – 10.10	Welcome	Dr Elisabeth Kramer	University of Sydney
10.10 – 11.00	Keynote address	Professor Garry Rodan	Murdoch University
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Morning tea</i>		
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Session 1</b>		
	Philippines	Associate Professor Jayeel Cornelio	Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
	Cambodia	Dr Lee Morgenbesser	Griffith University
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>		

# Program

Time	Topic	Presenter	Institution
14.00– 15.00	<b>Session 2</b>		
	Indonesia	Dr Charlotte Setijadi	ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore
	Malaysia	Associate Professor Bridget Welsh	John Cabot University, Italy
15.00– 15.30	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
15.30 – 16.30	<b>Session 3</b>		
	Laos	Dr Keith Barney	Australian National University
	Myanmar	Dr Su Mon Thazin Aung	Institute for Strategy and Policy, Myanmar
16.30 – 17.00	Wrap-up	Dr Melissa Crouch	University of New South Wales



Image by Nikki Edwards

# Keynote

**Professor Garry Rodan,**  
*Director of the Asia Research Centre*  
**Murdoch University**



Garry Rodan is Professor of Politics & International Studies and Director of the Asia Research Centre at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia. His thematic research interest is in the relationship between capitalist development and political regime directions in Southeast Asia. Garry is the author of *Participation without Democracy: Containing Conflicts in Southeast Asia* (Cornell University Press, 2018), *Transparency and Authoritarian Rule in Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2004), *The Political Economy of Singapore's Industrialization* (Macmillan 1989), and co-author (with Caroline Hughes) of *The Politics of Accountability in Southeast Asia* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

**Website:** [garryrodan.wordpress.com/](http://garryrodan.wordpress.com/)

# Philippines

**Associate Professor Jayeel Cornelio**  
*Director of Development Studies Program*  
Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines



Jayeel Cornelio is Associate Professor and the Director of the Development Studies Program at the Ateneo de Manila University. He is currently based as a visiting professor at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

A sociologist, Jayeel conducts research in the areas of youth, religion, and disaster in Southeast Asia. With Nicole Curato (Canberra) and Filomin Gutierrez (University of the Philippines), his current work is on community responses to the war on drugs. He is the author of *Being Catholic in the Contemporary Philippines: Young People Reinterpreting Religion* (2016) and lead editor of *the Routledge International Handbook of Religion in Global Society* (forthcoming). In 2017 the National Academy of Science and Technology named him one of the eight Outstanding Young Scientists of the Philippines.

**Website** [ateneo.academia.edu/JayeelCornelio](http://ateneo.academia.edu/JayeelCornelio)

**Twitter** @jayeel\_cornelio

# Cambodia

**Dr Lee Morgenbesser**  
*School of Government and International Relations*  
Griffith University



Lee Morgenbesser is a lecturer with the School of Government and International Relations at Griffith University and recipient of a Discovery Early Career Research Award from the Australian Research Council (2018-2020). His most recent book is *Behind the Façade: Elections under Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia* (New York: SUNY Press, 2016) and he is currently writing a book entitled *The Rise of Sophisticated Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia* (New York: Cambridge University Press, under contract). Lee's research areas are authoritarianism, dictators, democratization, flawed elections and Southeast Asian politics.

**Website** [www.leemorgenbesser.com/](http://www.leemorgenbesser.com/)

**Twitter** @LMorgenbesser



Image by Nikki Edwards

## Indonesia

### Dr Charlotte Setijadi

Visiting Fellow

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore



Charlotte Setijadi is a Visiting Fellow in the Indonesian Studies Programme, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. She researches identity politics in Indonesia, and she also writes about China's soft-power efforts in Southeast Asia. Charlotte received her PhD in Anthropology from La Trobe University and she has a forthcoming book titled *Memories of Unbelonging: Collective Trauma and Chinese Identity Politics in Indonesia* (under contract with University of Hawaii Press).

**Website** [charlottesetijadi.com/](http://charlottesetijadi.com/)

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## Malaysia

### Associate Professor Bridget Welsh

Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of Asian Outreach

John Cabot University, Italy



Bridget Welsh is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Director of Asian Outreach at John Cabot University in Rome. She specialises in Southeast Asian politics, with a particular focus on Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore. Bridget has edited/written numerous books and over fifty chapters and academic articles. Her latest book is *Regime Resilience in Malaysia and Singapore* (edited with Greg Lopez). Her research reflects a keen interest in democracy and governance in East Asia, especially Southeast Asia. She is a member of the Asian Barometer Survey Southeast Asia team, and is currently directing the survey projects in Malaysia and Myanmar.

**Website** [bridgetwelsh.com/](http://bridgetwelsh.com/)

## Myanmar

### Dr Su Mon Thazin Aung

Director of Training and Capacity Building  
Institute for Strategy and Policy, Myanmar



Su Mon Thazin Aung is Director of Training and Capacity-Building at the Institute for Strategy and Policy, Myanmar. She also works as a Consultant at the Asian Foundation in Myanmar on governance and policymaking project. Su holds a PhD in Politics and Governance Studies from the University of Hong Kong. She also earned a M.Sc in International Political Economy from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and an MBA from the University of Newcastle, Australia. Her current research interests encompass elite politics and policy studies during democratic transition, particularly in relation to ethnic conflicts, resources extraction, media reform and labour policies primarily in Myanmar and Southeast Asia. Su has published several scholarly articles and book chapters in academic publications including *Routledge*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *ISEAS*, and *World Scientific*. Her commentaries on contemporary Myanmar's politics also appear on the *Foreign Policy*, and *East Asia Forum*.

**Website** [ispmyanmar.com/author/su-mon-thazin-aung/](http://ispmyanmar.com/author/su-mon-thazin-aung/)

## Laos

### Dr Keith Barney

Lecturer, Resources, Environment, and Development Group  
The Australian National University



Keith Barney (PhD Geography, York University, Toronto, 2011) has been engaged in research on the politics of resource governance and agrarian-environmental change in Lao PDR since 2003. His current work (with the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research), focuses on public policies for a sustainable forestry sector in Laos. With colleagues at the ANU and the University of Sydney, Keith is getting underway with an Australia Research Council-sponsored project on changing nature-society relations connected to hydropower development in the Mekong Region. Keith is also a co-editor, along with Dr Simon Creak, of a 2018 special issue being published in *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, focused on "Party-State Governance and Rule in Laos."

**Website** [crawford.anu.edu.au/people/academic/keith-barney](http://crawford.anu.edu.au/people/academic/keith-barney)

**Twitter** @DrKeithBarney

## Closing remarks

**Dr Melissa Crouch,**  
*Senior Lecturer Law Faculty*  
University of New South Wales



Melissa Crouch is a Senior Lecturer at the Law Faculty, the University of New South Wales, Sydney. Her research contributes to the field of Asian Legal Studies, with a focus on Comparative Constitutional Law; Law and Development; and Law and Religion. Her research has a particular focus on Southeast Asia, where she has conducted extensive socio-legal field research. She is currently sole Chief Investigator on an ARC Discovery Grant on "Constitutional Change in Authoritarian Regimes" (2018-2021).

Melissa is the author of *Law and Religion in Indonesia: Conflict and the Courts in West Java* (Routledge, 2014). She is the editor of three major volumes on Myanmar, has published in a range of peer-reviewed journals and has a forthcoming article in the *International Journal of Constitutional Law* on Myanmar's Constitutional Tribunal (2018). She is currently working on a book manuscript on *The Constitution of Myanmar: A Contextual Analysis*. Melissa leads the UNSW Law Southeast Asia engagement strategy, and is the Myanmar Academic Lead for the UNSW Institute for Global Development.

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