

CONTESTING INDONESIA SEMINAR SERIES



Max Lane

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National University of Singapore

Chair: Toby Carroll
Research Fellow, Centre on Asia and Globalisation, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Date: Thursday, 22 January 2009

Time: 12.15 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Room 3-1, Level 3
Manasseh Meyer
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772

This is a brown bag seminar and you are most welcome to bring your own packed lunch

Indonesia's 2009 Election Campaign and What it Reveals: Looming Crisis of National Leadership and Governance

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Max Lane is a Visiting Fellow at the Department of Malay Studies, NUS. Prior to this he held positions as a Research Fellow at the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University and lecturer in Indonesian Studies at the University of Sydney. His career has included work in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (including a posting to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta), and the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade in the Australian Parliament. He is also well-known for his translations of the Indonesian novelist Pramoedya Ananta Toer and his journalism on Indonesia and East Timor.

His latest book is *Unfinished Nation: Indonesia Before and After Suharto* (Verso, 2008). He is currently working on a follow-up book related to nation-building, the exercise of political power by states of unfinished nations and social struggle in Indonesia, drawing on the ideas of a range of Indonesian political thinkers.

SYNOPSIS

The early days of election campaigning are revealing a deep alienation between the majority of the public and the political parties that will be standing in the elections. This alienation is sensed by the political party leaderships who express increasing concern about a possible high GOLPUT (boycott) of the election. Why is it that despite the participation of 44 parties in the elections, no party appears to have won significant popularity? Is this connected to failures in the democratisation process and the practice of governance? What are the scenarios for this alienation to be manifested in election results and what are their implications for the Presidential elections to follow and for national politics? If there is a deepening alienation with parliamentary politics, what are the prospects for a resurgence in activity in extra-parliamentary politics? From where might new national leadership come?

This seminar is part of the Contesting Indonesia series organised by the Centre on Asia and Globalisation, at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. The series provides an opportunity for scholars and practitioners within the region to present their take on the world's third largest democracy. It runs from October 2 2008 into early 2009. For more information on the series please contact spymle@nus.edu.sg or visit <http://www.spp.nus.edu.sg/CAG/home.aspx>