

ISLAMIC THIRD WORLDISM

The important role Southeast Asian reformers played in formulating twentieth-century Islamic and Islamist discourse remains largely unacknowledged. This workshop re-emphasizes the significance of an early twentieth-century ideological network which emerged from Southeast Asia, propagating what amounted to an Islam-informed Third Worldism across the globe. In particular, Southeast Asian cities including Jakarta and Singapore emerged as nodes of global networks of reform-minded Islamic scholars, Sufis, ideologues, and Islamists who were striving to implement a socio-political ideological incarnation of Islam.

This workshop pays particular attention to the content of multilingual publications (and self-avowed 'propaganda organs') that disseminated a corpus of ideas we might gloss as "Islamic Third Worldism". Through articles on the need for an authentic Islamic modernity, the urgency for legitimate Islamic authority, and the need for Islamic self-assertion, these publications claimed to promote a vision of a 'real' Islam that was distinguishable from the 'nominal' Islam performed by Muslims past and present.

Calling upon audiences to practice real Islam, Islamic Third Worldists condemned secular ideologies for constraining Islamic self-assertion and promoting capitalist exploitation, class warfare, dictatorship, fascism, despotism, imperialism, and nationalism. Southeast Asia's Islamic Third Worldists also promoted what amounted to an 'Islamic International', going beyond a loose sense of co-membership in the ummah. They advocated for scholars, jurists, theologians, Sufis, Islamic modernists, Islamists, even across the Sunni and Shi'a confessional divide, to transcend their theological divisions and unite as a bloc. The purpose of said bloc was to propagate real Islam as the universal ideology for modernity, one that could rival the globe-straddling allure of Eurocentric ideologies like capitalism, parliamentary democracy, and communism.

The workshop will serve as the first one to engage this subject of Islamic Third Worldism, with a focus on Southeast Asia.

PANEL 1

JUNE 15, 0830H - 1230H EST

John T. Sidel (LSE), *The Makings, Unmakings, and Remakings of Islam and Third Worldism, 1870-2020*

Chiara Formichi (Cornell), *Negotiating Legitimacy Through Texts: The Case of Indonesia's Shi'a Muslims*

Kevin W. Fogg (UNC Chapel Hill), *Islamic Third Worldism and Indonesian Mass Islamic Organizations*

Simon Wolfgang-Fuchs (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg), *Searching for Friends Across Asia: Secret Documents, Iran, and the Export of the Revolution in 1983*

Ali Raza (LUMS), *Pan-Islamism and Communism in Colonial India*

PANEL 2

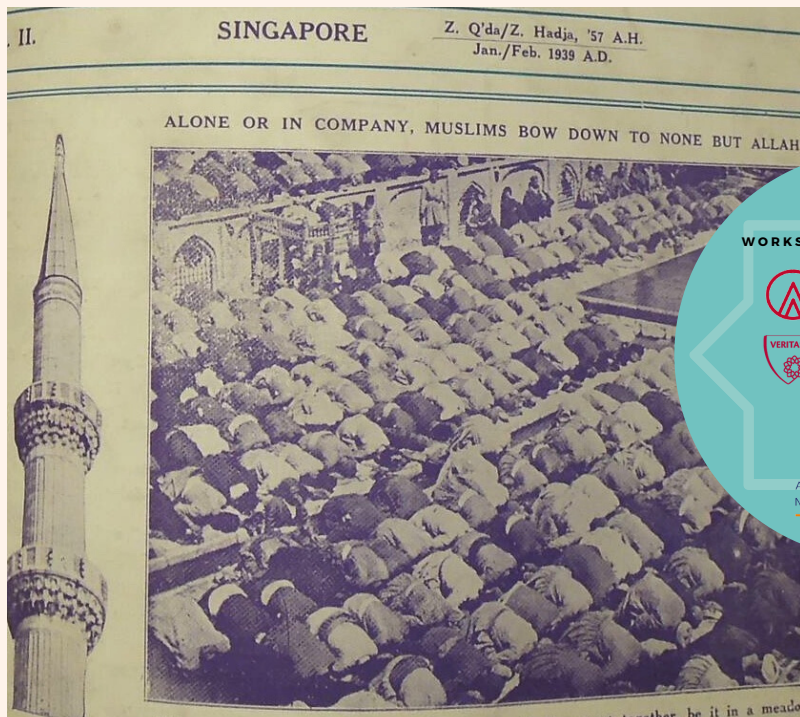
JUNE 16, 0830H - 1200H EST

Rianne Subijanto (CUNY Baruch College), *Kommunisma dan Islamisma: Interpreting Islam from Without*

Layli Uddin (KCL), *Mao-Lana of Asia: Bhashani and Subaltern Islamic Socialism, c. 1960s*

Teren Sevea (HDS), *Sufis, Salafis and Socialists: (Re)Connecting Ports of Islamic Third Worldism*

Lin Hongxuan (NUS), *Afterlives of the Third World in Indonesian Progressive Islamic Discourse*



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