



THE LEIDEN SOUTHEAST ASIA SEMINAR

We kindly invite you to attend the following seminar:

Engineering Islam: From Faith in Development to Developing Faith in Indonesia By Daromir Rudnyckj, Assistant Professor, University of Victoria, Canada

This paper describes how Islam is being mobilized to facilitate the neoliberal reform of state-owned enterprises planned for privatization. Based on 18 months of ethnographic research, most of which took place at state-owned Krakatau Steel in Cilegon, Banten, I show how what Indonesians call "spiritual reform" is mobilized to address the crisis posed by the end of faith in development. Faith in development refers to state-directed development and the post-colonial project of nationalist modernization and industrialization. The paper describes how spiritual reformers interpret the Qur'an, Islamic history, and Muslim religious practices to make Islam compatible with principles for corporate success found in human resources management texts, self-help manuals, and life-coaching sessions. In elaborately narrated and vividly illustrated PowerPoint presentations the prophet Muhammad is represented as an "ideal CEO" and the five pillars of Islam are reinterpreted as directives for business success. I conclude that this assemblage of the twilight of nationalist development, religious resurgence, and transnational economic integration provides insight into an alternative means to understand and analyze globalization. Whereas most social scientists treat globalization as either a space, an era, a culture, or a system, this new approach focuses the actual practice of globalization.

Daromir Rudnyckj is an anthropologist. His research focuses on modernity, religion, globalization, development, and the state in Southeast Asia. His forthcoming book, *Spiritual Economies: Islam and the Afterlife of Development*, examines contemporary projects of "spiritual reform" that take economic development as a religious problem.

Date: Thursday 12 November 2009
Time: 15.30 – 17.00 h
Venue: KITLV, Room 138, Reuvensplaats 2, 2311 BE, Leiden
Information: Yayah Siegers (kitlv@kitlv.nl) / 071-527 2295)

The Leiden Southeast Asia Seminar is a cooperation of the KITLV, IIAS, VVI and the Departments of Languages and Cultures of Indonesia and of Cultural Anthropology & Development Sociology, Leiden University