Speakers and chairmen biographies

Java in Jerusalem: New Directions in the Study of Javanese Literature and Culture

June 17 - June 19, 2019

George Quinn

George Quinn (born Te Kuiti, New Zealand 1943) is the retired Head of the Southeast Asia Centre at the Australian National University. He is currently an Honorary Professor at the ANU and a member of the university’s Emeritus Faculty. George holds a PhD from Sydney University (1984) and a BA from Indonesia’s Gadjah Mada University (1974). His main publications are The Novel in Javanese (1992), The Learners Dictionary of Today’s Indonesian (2001), The Indonesian Way (with Ulrich Kozok, 2012) see http://indonesianway.com, and Bandit Saints of Java (2019). George’s main research interests are Javanese literature in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and popular religion in Java, especially the practice of local pilgrimage to the tombs of Muslim saints. Currently he is working on the translation into English of an anthology of short fiction in Javanese, plus a follow-up volume to Bandit Saints of Java which examines the veneration of female saints in Java. George is married with one son and two grandchildren. He lives in Canberra, Australia.
Ronit Ricci

Ronit Ricci is Associate Professor of Asian studies and comparative religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Since 2013 she has been working to develop the field of Indonesian Studies in Israel.

Her research interests include Islamic literary cultures in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and south India, Javanese and Malay manuscript literatures, the history of exile in colonial Asia, and translation studies. She is the author of *Islam Translated: Literature, Conversion, and the Arabic Cosmopolis of South and Southeast Asia* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), and *Banishment and Belonging: Exile and Diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon* (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press). She is also editor of *Exile in Colonial Asia: Kings, Convicts, Commemoration* (University of Hawaii Press, 2016), and co-editor of *Translation in Asia: Theories, Practices, Histories* (St. Jerome, 2011) and *Contentious Belonging: The Place of Minorities in Indonesia* (ISEAS, 2019).

Els Bogaerts

Els Bogaerts specialized in Indonesian and Javanese performance, literature and media studies. A member of the research group New Directions in the Study of Javanese Literature at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies (Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2018-2019), she has explored the Serat Nitik Sultan Agung. She lectured at Leiden University, and co-ordinated the research programme 'Indonesia across Orders; The reorganisation of Indonesian society, 1930-1960’ at the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, and several other academic programmes. Culture is her main focus of attention, in the context of decolonization, cultural encounters, performance and media studies. Her monograph entitled Producing the local: Javanese performance on Indonesian television is forthcoming.

Verena Meyer

Verena Meyer is a PhD Candidate in Islamic Studies at the Department of Religion, Columbia University. Before joining Columbia, she received an M.St. at the University of Oxford in the Study of Religion. In her research, she focuses on narratives and memory in the self-understanding and representation of traditionalist and modernist Muslims in Java and how differences between these distinct orientations are contested and boundaries are negotiated and re-drawn. Her research
is both textual and ethnographic. On the textual side, she explores ascetic discipline, intellectual lineage, and direct transmission of mystical knowledge in Javanese literature through the lens of the figure of Sunan Kalijaga, one of the nine saints who brought Islam to Java. On the ethnographic side, she explores the questions of transmission and the negotiation of multiple epistemologies in communities organized around the memory of respected teachers in Yogyakarta, specifically the reformer Ahmad Dahlan, founder of Muhammadiya, and the traditionalist kyai Mbah Munawwir, founder of the largest pesantren complex in Yogyakarta. Issues of transmission and negotiating multiple epistemologies also feature in forthcoming publications on the poetry of Hamzah Fansuri and Nurcholish Majid’s concept of Neo-Sufism.

Nancy Florida
Nancy Florida is a historian of colonial and postcolonial Indonesia whose work concerns Javanese and Indonesian history, historiography, and literary studies; Islam in Indonesia; and mass violence and trauma. She is a professor of Javanese and Indonesian Studies at the University of Michigan, where she served as Director of the University’s Islamic Studies Program 2010-2012. Her current project at the Israel Institute for Advanced concerns the metaphysical poetry of an early nineteenth-century Sufi sage from the Javanese palace of Surakarta. In all her work, Florida is dedicated to dialogic engagement with Indonesian subjects, living and dead. To help make this possible, both for herself and for others, she has spent many years of her life excavating the forgotten writings of a variety of Javanese men and women, writings that had hitherto lain unread, secreted away in the manuscript archives of Java. Her most recent book, Javanese Literature in Surakarta Manuscripts, Vol. 3 (2012), is the third of three volumes detailing the contents of some 700,000 pages of Javanese manuscripts stored in three royal archives in Surakarta, Indonesia. Her aim has been and is to take the Javanese writings inscribed in these manuscripts seriously, which for her means engaging them not just for what they say, but also for what they can do. Her book, Writing the Past, Inscribing the Future: History as Prophecy in Colonial Java (Duke University Press, 1995), for example, is a densely textured study of a history of Islamizing sixteenth-century Java that was composed by a nineteenth-century royal exile to effect, she argues, a radically different direction for the Javanese future. More recent publications include “Syattāriyya Sufi Scents in the Literary World of the Surakarta Palace in Nineteenth-Century Java,” in Buddhist and Islamic Orders in

Yumi Sugahara
Yumi Sugahara is Associate Professor, Graduate School of Languages and Culture, Osaka University in Osaka. She obtained her Ph.D. degree at the Graduate School of Area and Culture Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2002. She works on Islamic history in Indonesia, especially Java. Recently, she and Willem van der Molen edited Transformation of religions as reflected in Javanese texts (Tokyo: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 2018). And she is now coordinator of ILCAA Joint Research Project “Transformation of Religions Reflected in Javanese and Other Texts from Southeast Asia: The Roles and Strategies of States in the Process of Islamization” (2019~2022) in Tokyo. http://www.aa.tufs.ac.jp/en/projects/jrp/jrp255

Annabel Teh Gallop
Annabel Teh Gallop is Head of the Southeast Asia section at the British Library. Her research interests are in Malay manuscripts, letters, documents and seals, and the art of the Islamic book in Southeast Asias. Her Ph.D. (SOAS, London, 2002) was on Malay seal inscriptions: a study in Islamic epigraphy from Southeast Asia, and her catalogue of over two thousand Malay seals will be published in 2019 by NUS Press as Malay Seals from the Islamic World of Southeast Asia: Content, Form, Context, Catalogue. Other publications include Lasting Impressions: seals from the Islamic world (with Venetia Porter) (Kuala Lumpur, 2012); ‘The art of the Qur’an in Java’, Suhuf (2012); The legacy of the Malay letter (London, 1994); and Golden Letters: Writing Traditions of Indonesia (with Bernard Arps) (London, 1991). She was co-director of a British Academy-funded research project (2009-2012), Islam, trade and politics across the Indian Ocean, investigating Ottoman links with Southeast Asia, and in March 2019 completed a project to digitise 75 Javanese manuscripts from the court library of Yogyakarta now held in the British Library.
**John Paterson**

John Paterson is a consultant specialising in knowledge services with more than 20-years’ experience working independently and for multilateral development organisations in collaboration with related government agencies. During his 10-year tenure with the United Nations Development Programme in Indonesia, John oversaw the development and operations of knowledge services related to disaster recovery and environmental management.

John graduated from Melbourne University in 1983 with a degree in Asian Studies. He received scholarships to study in Indonesia and at the Australian National University, and a graduate scholarship for a PhD program from Monash University. While he did not complete this program, his research and interest in knowledge management resulted in the establishment of a foundation for the preservation of Javanese language and literature in Central Java in 1997.

This foundation (sastra.org), which continues to expand and contribute to the study of Javanese, represents a culmination of John's consultancy career and commitment to development programs. He continues to provide technical assistance to government and non-government institutions in Indonesia while managing and supporting this foundation. Currently, John is exploring options for the foundation's future and is working with local universities and governments on a plan to establish a centre for language and culture.

**Willem van der Molen**

Willem van der Molen is Professor of Philology and Old Javanese at Universitas Indonesia, Depok. In 2018 he retired as a researcher from the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde in Leiden. He published a history of Javanese literature and an introduction to Old Javanese. His present research, at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, focuses on the early nineteenth-century Panji Paniba. He can be reached at info@willemvandermolen.nl.

**Esrih Bakker**

Esrih Bakker is a self-funded PhD-candidate at the Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS) at Leiden University in The Netherlands, where she recently started her research project on the Javanese text Serat Rama, under the supervision of professor Ben Arps and professor Willem van der Molen. Esrih’s interests lie in Javanese literature and its socio-cultural contexts. She is also
interested in how digital technologies can be applied to the study of Javanese texts. Esrih holds an MA in Indonesian Studies (where she took the track in Javanese Studies with a specialization in Philology) and a BA in Southeast Asian Studies, both from Leiden University. Esrih has, in the past, worked at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) and the linguistics department of Leiden University, and she currently works at the same university as a coordinator of the Pre-University Classes, a programme designed to introduce high school students to the university and the academic world.

Marc Benamou
Marc Benamou is an ethnomusicologist specializing in Javanese gamelan music and tembang (traditional Javanese sung poetry), with a secondary research interest in the saxophone-ensemble tradition (orquesta típica) of central Peru. Together with Rahayu Supanggah, he has produced and annotated a four-CD set of Javanese gamelan music, Gamelan de Solo (Inédit, 2006), which received the coup de coeur prize by the Académie Charles Cros for best recording in the mémoires vivantes category. He is the author of numerous articles on Javanese aesthetics, as well as the book Räsâ: Affect and Intuition in Javanese Musical Aesthetics (Oxford University Press, 2010). For the past several years he has been directing a team project, funded by the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, to digitize, transcribe, index, and translate song texts on hundreds of commercial recordings of central Javanese gamelan music, which will result in an online database and a published anthology. He is professor of music at Earlham College, in Indiana, where he has taught since 2001. In the gamelan world, he is known primarily as a singer, and has performed gamelan music in Java, France, Tunisia, Belgium, the U.K., Canada, and throughout the U.S.

Opan Safari
Opan Safari obtained his PhD from the Faculty of Cultural Studies at Padjadjaran University in 2016. He has worked as a teacher and art curator and is currently a Lecturer in philology at Sheikh Nurdjati Islamic Institute in Cirebon, Indonesia.
Bernard Arps
Bernard Arps's work is transdisciplinary, straddling the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Geographically and culturally his research centers on Indonesia and the Malay world, with a core interest in Java and its diasporas. He teaches about Southeast Asia at large. What fascinates him above all is worldmaking by means of performance, media, and language, especially in encounters between Islam and other religious and artistic traditions. Currently Professor of Indonesian and Javanese Language and Culture at Leiden University in the Netherlands, he has held visiting positions inter alia at the Australian National University, the University of Michigan, the Asia Research Institute (ARI) and the Department of Malay Studies, both at the National University of Singapore, and at Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS) in Solo, Indonesia. Bernard Arps's most recent book is _Tall tree, nest of the wind: the Javanese shadow-play Dewa Ruci performed by Ki Anom Soeroto; a study in performance philology_ (Singapore: NUS Press, 2016).

Anthony Day
Educated at Harvard College (1967) and Cornell University (1981), Tony has been a Peace Corps volunteer on the island of Mindoro, the Philippines (1967-69), a lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Sydney (1978-98), and an adjunct professor and lecturer at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Wesleyan University, and Yale-NUS College, Singapore. He has been a consultant for the Ford Foundation in Java (1990-97), a Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University (2004), a Fellow at the National Humanities Research Center, Research Triangle Park, USA (2004-5), and a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Nalanda-Srivijaya Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore (2015-16). His publications include Fluid Iron: State Formation in Southeast Asia (2002) and several co-edited collections of essays on modern Indonesian and Southeast Asian literature and art. He is interested in comparative literature, with a focus on understanding Javanese and Indonesian literary texts in Southeast Asian as well as wider global contexts. He lives in Graz Austria with his wife Sarah and his dog Milo.
Edwin Wieringa

Edwin P. Wieringa is Professor of Indonesian Philology with special reference to Islamic cultures at the University of Cologne. He holds an MA and a PhD in Indonesian philology from Leiden University. He was Von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Münster in 1997-8, visiting professor at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) in the winter term of 2015-6; Brill Fellow with the Scaliger Institute at Leiden University Library in July 2016 and the first recipient of the Ben and Nafsiah Mboi Fellowship at the University Library of Atma Jaya in Jakarta in August-September 2018. His special interests are literary and religious practices in traditional and modern insular Southeast Asia.

Judith Bosnak

Judith E. Bosnak is senior lecturer Indonesian Languages and Cultures at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies of Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. She studied Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia and Oceania at Leiden University in the Netherlands, at Universitas Sebelas Maret in Surakarta and at Universitas Gajah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Since 1998 she has provided courses on Indonesian language acquisition as well as intercultural training and consultancy for business professionals and diplomats. In 2006 she obtained her PhD in Linguistic and Literary Studies at Leiden University, with a thesis on Javanese performing arts. Her post-doctoral research project dwelled on artistic representation of Indonesian disasters for which she carried out fieldwork in the cities Yogyakarta and Surabaya. Meanwhile she relocated to Mexico where she worked as an independent scholar and lectured on Southeast Asian travel literature at El Colegio de México, Mexico City. Her recent research interests include the cultural history of the Netherlands Indies, nineteenth century travel writing and cultural politics of disaster in Indonesia. Together with Frans Koot she is volume editor (translator and annotator) of the forthcoming Hakluyt Society/Routledge publication The Javanese Travels of Purwalelana.

Yigal Bronner

Yigal Bronner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He teaches and writes about Sanskrit poetry and poetic theory and South Asian intellectual history. He is the author of Extreme Poetry: The South Asian Movement of Simultaneous Narration (Columbia University Press, 2010) and many articles, including ones on
poets and thinkers from the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent and the historiographical tradition of Kashmir in the far north. He is also the coauthor or coeditor of several other books, including *Innovations and Turning Points: Toward a History of Kāvya Literature* (with David Shulman and Gary Tubb; Oxford University Press, 2014).

**Mirjam Lücking**

Mirjam Lücking is an anthropologist, working on Islam in Indonesia and on transnational connections between Indonesia and the Middle East. For her PhD (University of Freiburg, Germany) she researched how Indonesians relate to the ‘Arab World,’ looking at the examples of pilgrimage and labor migration from Indonesia to the Arabian Peninsula. Currently, she is working on Muslim and Christian pilgrimage tourism from Indonesia to Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

She is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a member of the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. In October she will join the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew University.

**Danielle Chen**

Danielle Chen is an MA student at the Asian Studies department, The Hebrew University. She is majoring in Sanskrit literature and poetics and is especially interested in Kashmiri poetics from the middle ages. Her MA thesis focused on Abhinavagupta's theory of aesthetics, and his notion of cāmatkara, the greatest aesthetic delight. In October she will start her PhD in The Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Hebrew University and will research the forms of transmission of literary models between Sanskrit and Old Javanese.