

Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) invites you to our seminar:

## 'Autonomous Histories, Indigenous Voices: South Sulawesi History Between 1200 to 1600 and its Oral and Written Traditions.'



By: Dr Stephen Druce

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
2:30 pm  
IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

### Speaker's Profile

Stephen Druce obtained his PhD in Southeast Asian history from the Centre for South-East Asian Studies at Hull University. He is currently Graduate Programme Leader at the Academy of Brunei Studies, having previously taught at several UK universities and in Indonesia. His main research interests include the origins and development of complex society in Island Southeast Asia and the transmission and transformation of Southeast Asian oral historical traditions and their interactions with the written register. Current research focuses on the development of complex society along the northwest coast of Borneo from the ninth century and highland-lowland relationships in South Sulawesi.

He is author of *The lands west of the lakes; A history of the Ajattappareng kingdoms of South Sulawesi, 1200 to 1600 CE* (KITLV Press, 2009) and a number of journal articles and book chapters focusing on premodern Island Southeast Asia and South Sulawesi historical literature.

### Abstract

The seminar's main themes are based on the speaker's forthcoming book: *Sebuah sejarah Sulawesi Selatan dan tradisi lisan dan tulisan, abad ke-13 hingga ke-17* (in press, KITLV Press and Penerbit Ombak). The first part will focus on various aspects of South Sulawesi oral and written traditions of a historical nature, including the well-known South Sulawesi chronicles, which are not characteristic (as historians have argued) but exceptional in the corpus of indigenous South Sulawesi historical sources.

The second part looks at the period from 1200-1600 CE, which saw a radical transformation from simple chiefdoms to kingdoms (in archaeological terminology, complex chiefdoms) across lowland South Sulawesi, a region that lay outside the 'classical' Indicized parts of Southeast Asia. The rise of these kingdoms was stimulated and economically supported by trade in prestige goods with other parts of island Southeast Asia, yet the development of these kingdoms was determined by indigenous, rather than imported, political and cultural precepts. In order to understand this progression to political complexity, a range of sources and methods are needed, including oral, textual, archaeological, linguistic and geographical information and analysis