## IAS Wednesday Seminar Series Abstract

Title: Disturbing the Rice Pot: Market Modelling Criminal Enterprise

Speaker: Nafis Muhammad Hanif Date of Seminar: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Venue: IAS Meeting Room** 

While the paper precedes empirical case-studies of doing crime business, it is informed by the experience of studying criminal enterprise in Southeast Asia. A particular interest is to model the variables that interact with and are influenced by legalist regulation (1) to advance crime business and (2) to pressure the incorporation of illegal corporate strategies within legitimate enterprise models. The conceptual parallel between *legalist* and legal regulation exists insofar as the regulatory power of the social control agents, institutions and bureaucratic processes in both contexts is derived from their legal standing. In the service provision sense, *legalist regulatory practices* refer to the discretionary granting and/or withdrawal of opportunities, authorisation, favours, privileges and other market access variables. The deviant dimension of legalist regulation involves the abuse of public power for private profit by legally authorised regulators who hold positions in legitimate socio-political apparatuses. and are in our case-studies, by extension candidates for elected office. These variables intervene at all points of legitimate and criminal enterprises, and influence crucial market dynamics and structure affecting both legitimate and illegitimate business. The emphasis of the resultant model is on how legalist regulation inclines particular business sectors towards criminality as a mode of adaptation, as well as the market towards crime business profit and sustainability. In this regard, market positioning through cross-over facilitation and consumer preferencing through normalisation will be central analytical reflections.

## **NAFIS MUHAMMAD HANIF**

## **BRIEF BIO**

Nafis Hanif is currently a University of Sydney International Scholar and simultaneously a John O'Brien scholar at the University of Sydney, School of Law. Since 2005, she has been undertaking research in the field of law, economics, sociology, criminology and political economy in the Southeast Asian context, all vital areas of modern globalised scholarship. She completed her Master's degree at the National University of Singapore, where she carried out study into an area of gang-related criminality in which she was constantly exposed to the front-line of difficult data-collection. This pattern was to carry over into her doctoral research on the organisation of the businesses of digital media piracy and human smuggling in Malaysia and Singapore. In addition to the incredible data set, this work employs a programme of analysis which takes knowledge of crime business to new heights. The modelling and theorising of the work tackles a dimension of market analysis which has held back a truly realistic and informed appreciation of crime business in existing literature. Her work enables a new and invigorated policy approach to the regulation of Asian crime business, in enterprises where women and children are most vulnerable. Among her recent papers include 'Taking Crime out of Crime Business' (International Journal of Crime, Law and Justice, 2012), 'International conventions and the failure of a transnational approach to controlling Asian crime business' (International Criminal Law Review, 2012) and 'Conversations with a Crime Boss: Doing Asian Criminal Business' (Sydney Law School Research Paper, 2011). Nafis' contributions in advancing the field of criminology in Southeast Asia and to the academic life of her adopted university have been to such a degree that her achievements in this context were recognised in the award conferred on her by the New South Wales National Council for Women at the Australia Day Awards 2011, a prestigious and

coveted recognition of women's achievements and contributions to society. Her award was sponsored by Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers. Presently, Nafis is serving as Principal Researcher on a grant awarded by the Singapore Management University to research the impact of political and commercial corruption for legitimate and illegitimate markets in Malaysia.