



Negotiating Tradition and Modernity through Southeast Asian Puppetry

By Jennifer Goodlander
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with the Mathers Museum of World Cultures

Wednesday, 13 January 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Abstract

How does puppetry link tradition and modernity in Southeast Asia? In Southeast Asia puppetry is one of the oldest performance genres and is linked to religion, politics, and popular entertainment. UNESCO has designated traditional puppetry in several Southeast Asian nations to be "Intangible Cultural Heritages" adding to its economic and political relevance, but complicating issues of ownership, preservation vs. innovation, and transmission. Museums are preserving practices from the past even as artists are expanding genres, contexts, and methods to explore the relevancies of art and culture to a global Southeast Asia. This lecture focuses on puppetry in Cambodia, Thailand, and Indonesia to complicate ideas of art and performance, tradition and modernity within Southeast Asia as practices of dynamic culture and identity.

Speaker's Profile



Jennifer Goodlander is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance at Indiana University and Consulting Curator with the Mathers Museum of World Cultures. Her research explores intersections of tradition and modernity as expressed in Southeast Asian puppetry. She has published articles in *TDR*, *Theatre Research International*, *Asian Theatre Journal*, and in several edited collections. Her book, *Women in the Shadows: Gender, Puppets, and the Power of Tradition in Bali* will be published by Ohio University Press in 2016.