

Bukan tempat relaks sahaja: Coffee-shops in Colonial Singapore as Domains of Contentious Publics

By Dr. Khairudin Aljunied
National University of Singapore.

Wednesday, 11th March 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Abstract

The role of places such as coffee-shops in the life and transformation of publics and public spheres in colonial Southeast Asia has received little attention from scholars of the humanities and social sciences. Using Singapore to address this gap in scholarship, this article offers a conceptual lens with which to view coffee shops in Southeast Asia. I argue that coffee shops in Singapore and in the region were 'domains of contentious publics', shaped and affected by the shifting constellations of their time. These were places in which two distinctive publics were to emerge ('lobby' and 'grapevine'), each of which helped to expand the limits of the colonial public sphere in an age of decolonization.

Speaker's Profile



Dr. Khairudin Aljunied (PhD SOAS, London) is an associate professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. He is the author and editor of several books, among the recent ones are *Colonialism Violence and Muslims in Southeast Asia: The Maria Hertogh Controversy and its Aftermath* (London: Routledge, 2009) and *Radicals: Resistance and Protest in Colonial Malaya* (Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2015). His forthcoming book is entitled *Muslim Cosmopolitanism: Southeast Asian Islam in Comparative Perspective* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017). His works have also appeared in journals such as *Critical Asian Studies*, *The Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *Southeast Asia Research*, *Social History*, *Journal of Historical Sociology*, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, *Interventions: Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, *Journal of Social History (Oxford)*, *History Workshop Journal (Oxford)* and *The Public Historian* (University California Press, forthcoming in August 2015). He specializes on the history of Islam in Southeast Asia, covering topics such as Muslim networks, social movements, intellectual currents and minorities within and beyond the region.