

CONTESTING INDONESIA SEMINAR SERIES



Ian Wilson

Research Fellow, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University

Chair: Toby Carroll
Research Fellow, Centre on Asia and Globalisation, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Date: Thursday, 6 November 2008

Time: 12.15 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Room 3-1, Level 3
Manasseh Meyer
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772

This is a brown bag seminar and you are most welcome to bring your own packed lunch

Racket Regimes and Democracy: The Politics of Protection in Jakarta

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ian Wilson is a Research Fellow at the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University. He has done extensive fieldwork on ethnic, religious and criminal gangs in Jakarta. He has published in academic journals such as *Critical Asian Studies* and *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* and is the author of *Racket Regimes; Protection, Violence and Democracy in Post-New Order Indonesia* (forthcoming, Routledge Press).

SYNOPSIS

In Indonesia violent entrepreneurs have been ubiquitous and conspicuous social and political actors throughout history, albeit in a variety of regional variations and manifestations. This seminar focuses upon one particular manifestation – the racketeer – and will chart the shifting nature of protection rackets in post-New Order Jakarta. It will be contended that in the ten years since the fall of the New Order regime, protection rackets operating under a variety of guises have reorganised and consolidated themselves in ways that make it increasingly difficult to disentangle the ‘legal’ from the ‘illegal’. Going beyond criminality and blurring the lines between formal and informal authority, these new racketeering formations have both become an important means through which street-level power is exercised and intersect with some of the defining features of the post-New Order political landscape; political decentralisation, identity politics and the opening up of markets.

This seminar is part of the Contesting Indonesia series organised by the Centre on Asia and Globalisation, at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. The series provides an opportunity for scholars and practitioners within the region to present their take on the world's third largest democracy. It runs from October 2 2008 into early 2009. For more information on the series please contact spymle@nus.edu.sg or visit <http://www.spp.nus.edu.sg/CAG/home.aspx>