

## Editorial

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ASEAS 15(1) launches the first issue of the Journal under its new title, *Advances in Southeast Asian Studies*. Since its inaugural issue, which was published 15 years ago in 2008, ASEAS has promoted the emancipation of knowledge and thematic pluralism in Southeast Asian Studies through an open-access and free of paywalls publishing system (Gerstl & Schweitzer, 2008). Issued by the *Society for South-East Asian Studies* (SEAS), based in Vienna, ASEAS initially published in German (and English), and primarily attracted submissions from German-speaking scholars based in Austria and Germany who worked on Southeast Asia from different disciplinary angles. Over the years, the authorship and readership of ASEAS has transformed significantly and now represents a truly global audience. Indexed in Scopus under the general social sciences since 2015, ASEAS is now ranked in additional subject categories, reflecting the journal's interdisciplinary orientation within the social sciences (Table 1). ASEAS continues to critically discuss and examine a variety of issues in the fields of cultural and social anthropology, communication, development, geography, cultural studies, regional studies, politics, and tourism, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. We thus believe that the new journal name *Advances in Southeast Asian Studies* provides a more apt description of the contributions in ASEAS.

Category	Rank	Percentile
Social Sciences – Anthropology	#67/443	84 <sup>th</sup>
Social Sciences – Communication	#135/467	71 <sup>st</sup>
Social Sciences – General Social Science	#80/264	69 <sup>th</sup>
Social Sciences – Development	#111/287	61 <sup>st</sup>
Social Sciences – Geography, Planning and Development	#295/747	60 <sup>th</sup>
Business, Management and Accounting – Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Management	#80/137	41 <sup>st</sup>

**Table 1.** ASEAS Scopus CiteScore categories and ranking 2021. (<https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100405571>)

ASEAS 15(1) features a thematically open collection of contributions covering legal issues, historical discourses, and contemporary developments in the region. Drawn from various perspectives, the contributions scrutinize legal regulations, such as on the placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers and on

agricultural land appropriation in Vietnam, provide gendered analysis on knowledge production, and examine prospects of poverty alleviation of low-income households in Indonesia and remote fishing communities in the Philippines.

Annisa Ayuningtyas and Mailinda Eka Yuniza investigate the constitutional justification of the latest law on the protection of Indonesian migrant workers, Law 18/2017. This legislation allows the state to intervene in the management of Indonesian migrant workers' remittances. While emphasizing that the Indonesian Constitution is an economic constitution, the authors indicate that there is insufficient constitutional basis for the state intervention in the allocation of human resources. Hence, their main argument is that government intervention in the management of remittances is *not* constitutionally justified. As the authors indicate, additional tension arises in relation to the private nature of migrant workers' remittances and their significance as a component of national income. By making constitutional and administrative laws their main object of discussion, the authors not only evade general skepticism regarding the justification of the government's intervention, but also contribute to other studies of migrant workers' remittances by employing a constitutional and administrative legal perspective. The strength of the paper lies in the analysis and interpretation of different legal documents on the placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers abroad.

In the background of numerous studies pointing at the positive effects of conditional cash transfers (CCTs), Agus Heruanto Hadna and Media Wahyudi Askar analyze the impact of CCTs on low-income households in Indonesia through a case study based on some of the poorest districts of Yogyakarta. They focus on the Family Hope Program (*Program Keluarga Harapan* [PKH]), which had been shown to positively impact per capita expenditures. By assessing households' consumption expenditures, the authors discover that the current CCT design in Indonesia benefits recipients disproportionately resulting in further inequality among households situated in the lowest section of the wealth ladder. Their examination of the distribution of consumption expenditures casts new insights into why CCTs do not automatically reduce poverty.

In response to studies that point at gender disparities in terms of knowledge production in the disciplinary fields of political sciences and international relations in Western contexts, Ella Prihatini and Wendy Prajuli scrutinize the publication and authorship patterns in international relations journals published in Indonesia, exploring similar tendencies in a non-Western context. In Indonesia, as the authors indicate, the space of women's professorship in the discipline of international relations is marginal, with only two women holding a professorship in about 70 international relations departments in 2021. By analyzing bibliographic data of 783 published journal articles, the authors find that men outnumber women in terms of publishing. They also discover a certain level of gender bias in co-authorship, which additionally limits women's performance. Indonesian women scholars share with their male colleagues a high interest in themes such as security, military, and governance, which indicates that certain sub-fields of the discipline would stimulate a mixed-gendered co-authorship, but also render existing competition stronger.

In the last current research contribution with a focus on Indonesia, Muhammad Yuanda Zara takes us back to the foundation of the Indonesian state, more concretely

to the period between 1945 and 1947, and the incorporation of Indo-Europeans as ‘new citizens’ into an ‘indigenous state’. By employing a historical discourse analysis, Zara explores how Indonesian nationalists publicly imagined, framed, and persuaded Indo-Europeans of their place in the emerging nation. The author shows a systematic attempt to ‘attract’ Indo-Europeans to become part of an Indonesian multicultural nation, which stands in stark contrast to earlier studies emphasizing acts of violence by the native militia towards Indo-Europeans during the Dutch-Indonesian war. The author interprets the attempt of Indonesian nationalists to integrate Indo-Europeans in the new state in the light of their aspirations to construct an Indonesian identity that spans the multi-ethnic archipelago. Convincing support for this argument comes from the extensive review of public documents, including newspaper articles and opinions, but also propaganda booklets, such as the one issued by one of Indonesia’s founding leaders and first prime minister, Sutan Sjahrir.

Still in archipelagic Southeast Asia, Brooke A. Porter, Mark B. Orams, Michael Lück and Enrico Maria Andreini present a qualitative exploration of gleaning by-products in tourism supply chains in remote Filipino fishing communities. Combining their respective expertise in conservation, development, and tourism, the authors indicate potential opportunities for small-scale revenues from the sale of discarded shells in four remote fishing communities sharing certain levels of poverty. By adopting supply chain theory and qualitative interviews as a method of inquiry, the authors investigate the post-consumption use of shells and discover gaps in the supply chain that impede the transition of ‘waste’ shells into souvenir products that have become part of consumptive tourism in many coastal destinations. In line with earlier publications focusing on community-based tourism, local businesses, and sustainable development (Trupp & Dolezal, 2020), this article discusses its findings in the light of tourism development and poverty alleviation through souvenir production.

Moving to mainland Southeast Asia, Tran Tuan Nguyen and Gábor Hegedűs scrutinize land appropriation in Vietnam under the Land Law 2013 by investigating the project of VSIP, situated in the province of Nghe An, through a survey of officials and affected land users. A review of the legal system of land laws in Vietnam since 1986 is complemented with farmers’ opinions in one particular commune. The authors, hence, juxtapose legal regulations on agricultural land appropriation and their implementation to acquire agricultural land-use rights from the perspective of the affected households, showing that it is mostly the indirectly affected households that utter a dissatisfaction with the procedures of land acquisition. The government, however, has no satisfying compensation for households with adjacent farmland, leaving conditions of inequality between directly and indirectly affected families unsettled.

In an interview with Suhono Harso Supangkat – professor of information technologies at the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and leader of the Smart City and Community Innovation Center – Arif Budy Pratama questions the notion of the ‘smart city’ and its apparent equivalence with the operation of information technologies to solve urban problems. Being involved in the Indonesian Government’s project to develop smart cities since 2007, Supangkat explains top-down propensity towards information technologies while stressing the importance of ‘smart’ resource management to improve urban quality of life and sustainability.

In the last section of this issue, William N. Holden contributes a timely review of Vicente L. Rafael's recently published monograph, *The Sovereign Trickster: Death and Laughter in the Age of Duterte* (2022), as the Philippines sees the exit of President Rodrigo R. Duterte as this Editorial is being written. In his critical review, Holden points to the strength of Rafael's work in his explanation of Duterte's war on drugs by looking at the relationship between life and death – two concepts that run as a red thread throughout the book.

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