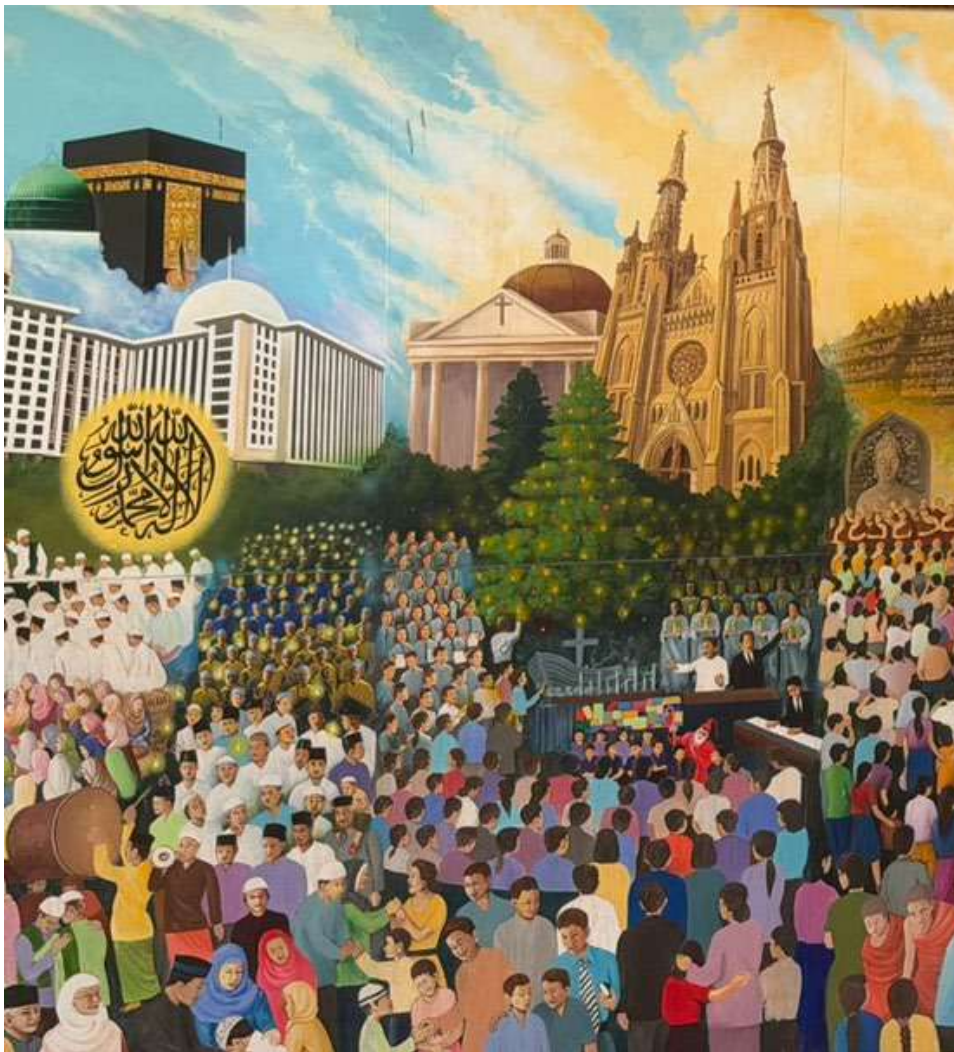




Islamic diversity in Indonesia



Conference booklet

18-19 September 2026

In person (Coombs
Lecture Theatre, ANU)
and online

ANU Indonesia Project

About the Indonesia Update

The Indonesia Update is the largest annual conference on Indonesian society outside Indonesia and dates to 1983. Held each September, it is organised by the ANU Indonesia Project in collaboration with the ANU Department of Political and Social Change. This year marks the 43rd annual Indonesia Update conference.

The 2026 Indonesia Update is supported by the ANU Indonesia Institute and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). This year's Indonesia Update is included in the 2026 IMMERSIA festival, bringing languages, traditions and contemporary voices from across Asia and the Pacific to the ANU Community, hosted by the ANU School of Culture, History & Language.

The ANU Indonesia Project wishes to thank the ANU and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their substantial and continuing support.

About the ANU Indonesia Project

The ANU Indonesia Project is a leading international centre of research and graduate training on the economy and society of Indonesia. Since its inception in 1965 by H.W. Arndt, the ANU Indonesia Project has been at the forefront of Indonesian studies in Australia and internationally. The ANU Indonesia Project is part of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. Through producing and disseminating high-quality research, hosting public dialogues, institutional capacity building and institutional networking, the ANU Indonesia Project aims to build stronger, research based public policies in Indonesia, particularly in the areas of economic development, social development, regional development, gender, human capital, poverty, governance, and environment. Furthermore, our activities aim to ensure the next generation of Indonesian researchers are nurtured and fostered.

Islamic diversity in Indonesia

Evidence of Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, is often celebrated as a model of peaceful coexistence. But this image is increasingly being questioned as Indonesia experiences the effects of the conservative turn emerging in domestic politics globally. Rising identity politics, online vilification of minorities, increasing levels of authoritarian governance and economic inequality are creating challenges to diversity both within Islamic society and the wider population.

The 2026 Indonesia Update will explore the relationship between Islam and diversity in today's Indonesia through a wide lens aimed at four themes. 'Embracing Differences' will look at Indonesian concepts of diversity that underpin everyday coexistence. 'Insisting on Difference' will examine Islamic positions that identify danger and harm in difference, along with their effects for minority rights, educational choices and national policy. 'Institutions' will explore how organisations respond to and shape difference in civil society, the bureaucracy, politics and the private sector. 'Mediating Difference' will investigate digital culture, youth engagement, group relations, and the varying understandings of diversity promoted and debated in the media. The conference will acknowledge that Islam in Indonesia is both a platform for an ethics of inclusion and a site for its contestation and will ask what this means for the country's future.

Day 1. Friday 18 September

9.00–9.10 am	Opening Address • Gordon de Brouwer (Chancellor, ANU)
9.10–10.25 am	Political Update • Navhat 'Nava' Nuraniyah (Macquarie University), <i>The unpopular populist: Prabowo's unconsolidated authoritarianism</i> • Discussant: Dirk Tomsa (La Trobe University) • Chair: Marcus Mietzner (ANU)
10.25–10.45 am	Tea Break
10.45 am–12.00 pm	Economic Update • Jenny Gordon (ANU) and Firman Witoelar (ANU), <i>Indonesia in the global economy: are recent institutional changes making it more or less resilient to external shocks?</i> • Discussant: Dyah 'Prita' Pritadrajati (Lowy Institute) • Chair: Ray Marcelo (Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
12.00–1.00 pm	Lunch
1.00 –1.50 pm	Session 1: Keynote 1 • Greg Fealy (ANU), <i>How Islamic is Indonesia?</i> • Chair: Sharon Bessell (ANU)
1.50–2.50 pm	Session 2: Embracing Difference • Fatimah Husein (UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta), <i>Religious authority in Indonesia: Rethinking the 'Habib Palsu' controversy within the Bā'Alawī</i> • Ismatu Ropi (UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta) and Farid F. Saenong (Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia) (co-presenting), <i>Religious freedom, managed pluralism and the Prabowo administration</i> • Chair: Andini Pramono (ANU)
2.50–3.10 pm	Tea Break
3.10 –4.10 pm	Session 3: Insisting on Difference • Reza Idria (UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh), <i>Shari'atization and Its discontents: contestation & the politics of governance in Aceh</i> • Rabiatul Adawiah (Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri -STAIN Majene and Monash University), <i>Humour, power, and tolerance in digital interfaith dialogue</i> • Chair: Edward Aspinall (ANU)
4.10–5.10 pm	Session 4: Regulating Difference • Atun Wardatun (Universitas Islam Negeri Mataram), <i>Marriage at the crossroads: Faith, Adat, and the state in Eastern Indonesia</i> • Zainal Bagir (Universitas Gadjah Mada), <i>The Making of contemporary Kepercayaan: Recent shifts in Indonesian governance of religion and their implications</i> • Chair: Sana Jaffrey (ANU)

Day 2. Saturday 19 September

9.00–10.30 am	Session 5: Institutions • Sutan Emir Hidayat (KNEKS and Universitas Gunadarma), <i>The Indonesian path of Islamic economy and finance: Contested governance and uneven implementation</i> • Sally White (ANU), <i>Patriarchy and Muslim women's representation in Indonesia</i> • Wahyuddin Halim (UIN Alauddin Makassar), <i>Negotiating diversity: Institutional pathways to organisational cohesion in Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah</i> • Chair: Eve Warburton (ANU)
10.30–10.50 am	Tea Break
10.50 am–12.20 pm	Session 6: Mediating Difference • Andina Dwifatma (Universitas Katolik Indonesia Atma Jaya), <i>What tolerance means for young Muslim communities in Indonesia</i> • Abdurrosyid (UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta), <i>Resistance to English language teaching in Indonesian Islamic education</i> • Sherly Annavita (Indonesian youth commentator, public speaker and digital communicator), <i>When diversity becomes content: Indonesian Muslim youth, social media, and the gap between exposure and encounter</i> • Chair: Rini Astuti (ANU)
12.20–1.05 pm	Session 7: Keynote 2 • Alwi Shihab (Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs 1999-2001, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare 2004-2005), <i>Indonesia and the global geopolitics of Muslim-majority countries</i> • Chair: Kathy Robinson (ANU)
1.05 –1.10 pm	2027 Conference Preview
1.10 –1.15 pm	Concluding Remarks

Opening address



Gordon de Brouwer

Chancellor, The Australian National University

Dr Gordon de Brouwer AO PSM FIPAA is the 14th Chancellor of The Australian National University and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2026 for distinguished service to public administration, public policy and reform, diversity, environmental conservation and education. He brings around 40 years of experience in public policy, governance, institutional leadership and reform. From 2022 to 2026, he served as Australian Public Service Commissioner and Secretary for Public Sector Reform, leading efforts to strengthen capability, integrity and workforce management across the Australian Public Service. Previously, he was Secretary of the Department of the Environment and Energy and held senior roles across the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia. An ANU alumnus, Dr de Brouwer completed his PhD in Economics at ANU in 1996 and has since held several academic and governance roles at the University, including Professor of Economics and, since May 2026, Honorary Professor.

Political Update: The unpopular populist: Prabowo's unconsolidated authoritarianism

Political Update Navhat Nuraniyah

Two years into Prabowo Subianto's presidency, Indonesia is facing the most serious threats to its democratic and development gains since Reformasi. The V-Dem democracy index has downgraded Indonesia's status further from electoral democracy to electoral autocracy. International media headlines throughout 2026 have highlighted Prabowo's erratic economic policies, excessive fiscal spending, and statist tendencies affecting investors' confidence. Casting himself as "protector of the weak", Prabowo has rolled out populist programs such as a free nutritious meal program and village cooperatives. Far from being popular, the programs' personalistic and militaristic implementation has fostered resentment. While most elites still fear him and comply, his approval rating and electability have dropped faster than any elected president's in post-Suharto era. Protest activity has swelled as public satisfaction with the government's democratic and economic performance has fallen. How did a president who won by a landslide and still commands a supermajority lose public trust so spectacularly? The presentation analyses how autocratisation is deepening under Prabowo through personalisation, recentralisation, and remilitarisation. The result is an unconsolidated authoritarianism: a state where institutions are gutted and coercive capacity expanded, without producing a stable basis of control. In this system, turf wars between the state's coercive institutions have begun to replace inter-party competition as the most prominent form of political conflict.



Nava Nuraniyah

Macquarie University

Navhat 'Nava' Nuraniyah is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of International Studies, Macquarie University, and a Sessional Lecturer at the Department of Political and Social Change, Bell School, Australian National University. Her research interests span political Islam, conflict, and democracy in Southeast Asia and foreign influence operations in the Indo-Pacific. She obtained her PhD from Bell School ANU, with a thesis on Islamist mobilisation amid state repression in Indonesia. She was previously an analyst at the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC), specialising in conflict and violent extremism in Southeast Asia. Prior to that, she was an Associate Research Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her research has been published in academic journals such as *Terrorism and Political Violence* and *Asian Policy* as well as international media, including *The New York Times* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



Political Update Discussant

Dirk Tomsa

Department of Politics, Media and Philosophy, La Trobe University

Dirk Tomsa is an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics, Media and Philosophy at La Trobe University. His main research interests focus on Indonesian and comparative Southeast Asian politics, especially in the areas of democratization and democratic decline, electoral and party politics, social movements and environmental activism. He is the author of *Politics in Contemporary Indonesia: Institutional Change, Policy Challenges and Democratic Decline* (with Ken Setiawan, Routledge 2022) as well as numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia* and *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*. Since 2024, he has been the editor-in-chief of the *Asian Studies Review*, the flagship journal of the Asian Studies Association of Australia.

Indonesia in the global economy: are recent institutional changes making it more or less resilient to external shocks?

Economic Update Jenny Gordon and Firman Witoelar

Indonesia's external environment has become considerably more challenging. The US-Iran war has caused shocks through oil, commodity prices, altered terms of trade, and complicated the fiscal and balance of payments outlook at the time when Indonesia is undergoing significant institutional changes. The Economic Update assesses whether recent institutional changes are making Indonesia resilient to external and internal shocks, and through which channels. We look at the direct impacts of the war on growth, inflation, fiscal pressures and capital flows, then use an analytical framework organized around four channels of resilience: self-sufficiency, strategic partnerships, economic depth, and institutional capacity, recognizing that macroeconomic and financial stability have been a key factor in attracting and retaining foreign investment, and that loss of this reputation undermines resilience. Using this framework, we examine recent changes across financial institutions, industry policy and economic governance, including the establishment and expanding mandate of Danantara, revisions to the financial sector law, shifts in capital market governance, and Indonesia's engagement with regional economic cooperation frameworks.



Jenny Gordon

The Australian National University

Dr Jenny Gordon is an Honorary Professor for the Centre for Social Research (POLIS) at The Australian National University, a Nonresident Fellow at the Lowy Institute, and a Non-Executive Director at Natural Capital and Climate (NCCEconomics), part of the Alluvium Group. Jenny chairs the Advisory Committee for the Centre for Population Ageing Research and is on research committees with the Australian Public Policy Institute and the Centre for Policy Development. Jenny recently completed 6 years on the Advisory Council at the Asian Development Bank Institute.

Jenny was the Chief Economist at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) from 2019 to 2021. From 2018-2019 Jenny was Chief Economist at Nous Group, assisting them in developing their economics practice. From 2008-2017, Jenny was the Principal Adviser (Research) and First Assistant Secretary at the Productivity Commission. Prior to the Commission, Jenny was a partner at the Centre for International Economics.

Jenny started her professional career at the Reserve Bank of Australia. She has a PhD in Economics and a Master of Arts from Harvard University, and a Master and Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from Macquarie University.



Firman Witoelar

The Australian National University

Firman Witoelar is an Associate Professor in the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, where he is part of the ANU Indonesia Project and Lead Editor of the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies. He holds a PhD in Economics from Michigan State University and was a Rockefeller Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University's Economic Growth Center. His research is in the broad area of development economics, focusing on labour, population, and health economics, and employs a range of empirical methods, including randomized field experiments, publishing in leading journals including the Journal of the European Economic Association, The Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Development Economics, World Development, and Economic Development and Cultural Change. He holds an appointment as an affiliated professor at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Economic Update Discussant

Dyah Pritadrajati

LOWY Institute

Dr Dyah 'Prita' Pritadrajati is a Research Fellow at the Lowy Institute's Indo-Pacific Development Centre. Her work focuses on gender, labour markets, demographic change, and social policy across the Indo-Pacific, with a particular interest in how evidence can inform more effective, inclusive, and forward-looking public policy.

Drawing on experience across research and policy, Dr Pritadrajati works on issues including women's economic participation, childcare, informality, social protection, education, and migration. Her research spans Southeast Asia and the Pacific, particularly Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and the Pacific Islands, and has been published in international journals including Labour Economics, Journal of Development Studies, and Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies

How Islamic is Indonesia?

Session 1 Keynote address

Greg Fealy

The answer to this question might seem obvious: that Indonesia is a deeply Islamic country. Global religiosity surveys consistently place it at the top of their indexes, and it resounds in the status of having the largest Muslim population of any nation. A fretful international media often reports on Indonesia's Islamisation, seeing this as not only producing a more devout society but a more conservative and intolerant one as well. Such information appears to make the case for Indonesia's Islamicity overwhelming.

A closer look at Indonesian politics, economy and culture, however, gives reason to question the extent, or at least the nature, of Islam's influence. Politics has been a recurring realm of failure for Islamic parties since independence. Although about 87% of the country self-declare as Muslim, never more than half have voted for Islamic parties and in recent elections it is less than a third. The constitution is religiously neutral, and the number of overtly Islamic laws is relatively low. Indonesia also has a relatively small Islamic economy, with sharia-complaint banks making up just 7% of the total banking sector. This is despite the National Ulama Council ruling that conventional interest-bearing banking – which most Muslims use – was strictly haram. One might infer from this that adherence to an Islamic identity or law is looser than commonly assumed.

A pivotal issue in assessing Islamic-ness is to ask what sort of role Islam should play. For some, Islam must be formally present, reflected in the constitution and statutes, as well as in political and economic behaviour. For others, Islam should be about values and moral guidance – something that shapes private, rather than public, lives. It is this latter, less tangible, dimension and how to measure it, which has drawn the most academic debate of late. I will argue for the centrality of Islam as an identity marker for Indonesia but also contend that religious life remains diffuse and more loosely tethered to orthodox practices than much contemporary scholarship holds.



Greg Fealy

The Australian National University

Greg Fealy is an Emeritus Professor of Indonesian politics in the Department of Political and Social Change at The Australian National University. He gained his PhD from Monash University in 1998 and has spent more than three decades specialising in the study of Indonesian politics and particularly Islamic parties and movements. He has published extensively on these subjects, including four authored or co-authored books, six co-edited books and many scholarly and media articles. From 1997 to 1999 he was an Indonesia analyst at the Office of National Assessments. He has been a visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and the Indonesian International Islamic University (UIII) in Jakarta. He was chair of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australia-Indonesia Institute from 2017 to 2024. He received the Medal of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2022 for his services to Australia-Indonesia relations and higher education.

Religious authority in Indonesia: Rethinking the '*Habib Palsu*' controversy within the Ba'Alawi

Session 2

Fatimah Husein

Embracing Difference

This paper examines an emerging contestation surrounding Indonesian Bā 'Alawī (literally “the children of Bā 'Alawī”)’s religious authority and lineage. It focuses on the existence of the public debates over the phenomenon of “*habib palsu*” (fake habib) whose lineage authenticity is questioned. For many centuries, the legitimacy of this lineage was rarely challenged and was taken for granted. It has been maintained and transmitted through the teachings of Tharīqah 'Alawiyyah, a Sufi (Islamic mysticism) order established by Muhammad b. 'Alī 'Alawī. However, the recent *nasab* (lineage) controversy, particularly involving Imaduddin Utsman Al-Bantani in 2023, has forced the Bā 'Alawī organization, Rābiṭah al-'Alawiyyah of Indonesia, to defend this lineage that is central to their identity.

This paper extends the analysis to include concerns from internal 'Alawiyyin regarding this challenge, particularly because some of these Habibs utilize their genealogical titles not only to affirm their lineage but also to attain social status within the community. This practice is seen as tarnishing their esteemed record, which is regarded as commendable due to their ability to combine genealogical merit, moral integrity, and religious knowledge.



Fatimah Husein

Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

Fatimah Husein is a Professor of Philosophy of Religion at the Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga in Yogyakarta. She obtained her Ph.D in Indonesian/Islamic Studies from The University of Melbourne. Her current teaching and research focus on Inter-religious Dialogue, the intersection of Islam and social media, and more recently, the role of diasporic Hadhrami female preachers in Indonesia. Additionally, she has participated in various research projects in collaboration with both Indonesian and international academics. Her recent publications include “Ba ‘Alawi Women and the Development of Hadrami Studies in Indonesia,” published in *Studia Islamika* (2025); “Preserving and Transmitting the Teachings of the *Thariqah ‘Alawiyyah*: Diasporic Ba ‘Alawi Female Preachers in Contemporary Indonesia,” featured in *Journal of Indian Ocean and World Studies* (2021); and “Negotiating Salafism: Women Prayer Groups and their Preachers in Indonesia’s Islamic Digital Mediascapes,” which appeared in *CyberOrient Journal* (2021).

Religious freedom, managed pluralism and the Prabowo administration

Session 2

Ismatu Ropi and Farid F. Saenong

Embracing Difference

This presentation offers an analysis of religious freedom and life in Indonesia during the first two years of President Prabowo's administration. It departs from a striking paradox of unprecedented 86.7 percent in public satisfaction with interfaith harmony (2025), and more than 200 documented violations of religious freedom in the same period. The central argument is that the Prabowo government has invested heavily in the symbolic and discursive performance of tolerance while simultaneously consolidating legal and bureaucratic structures that risk deepening a structural deterioration of civil liberties. The analysis situates these developments within Indonesia's constitutional architecture of Pancasila and its enduring model of managed religious pluralism and then examine two critical domains: the expansion of the blasphemy regime through the new Penal Code and its extended risks for minority faiths, and the whiter religious moderation project. The presentation demonstrates that, despite the administration's progressive emphasis on *moderasi beragama* (religious moderation), the legal and institutional trajectory under Prabowo marks a significant regression in substantive civil liberties. It exposes a profound disjuncture between rhetorical commitments and the everyday realities faced by minorities. The presentation concludes by identifying priority areas for scholarly and diplomatic engagement, including the implementation of the new Penal Code, and the digital governance of sectarian narratives.



Ismatu Ropi

Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta

Ismatu Ropi is an Indonesian academia specializing in Religious Studies, with expertise in religion–state relations, the regulation of religion, Islam and civil society, and religious freedom in Indonesia. He earned his Ph.D. in 2012 from The Australian National University (ANU), where his dissertation, *The Politics of Regulating Religion: State, Civil Society and the Quest for Religious Freedom in Modern Indonesia*, received the Ann Bates Prize 2012 for the best dissertation in Indonesian Studies.

He holds a Master of Arts from McGill University, Canada (1998), and a Doktorandus degree from IAIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta (1993). He was appointed Professor of Comparative Religion at UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta in 2022 and currently serves as Dean of the Faculty of Ushuluddin (2023–2027). From 2019 to 2023, he was Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Islam and Society (PPIM).

His research focuses on religious theories, new religious movements, state–religion relations in Indonesia, and heresiology. He has authored *Fragile Relations: Muslims and Christians in Modern Indonesia* (2000) and *Religion and Regulation in Indonesia* (2016), and published widely on religious moderation, religious freedom, and Islamic literature in Indonesia.



Farid F. Saenong

Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia

Farid is currently a permanent member of the Faculty of Islamic Studies at the Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia (UIII) in Depok-Indonesia. Previously, he also taught at The Australian National University and Victoria University of Wellington (VUW). He has PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra after finishing his MA in Islamic studies from the University of Manchester UK and Islamologie from Universiteit Leiden. His academic interests and publications cover but not limited to classical and contemporary Islamic studies, anthropology of Muslim society, Qur'an and Hadith studies, religion and ecology, deradicalization studies, religion and gender studies, religion and digital culture, and Indonesian studies. He has published his books, peer-review journal papers, book chapters, encyclopedia lemmatas, and other popular articles. He also works as Coordinating Special Adviser to the Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs, as well as Director of the Centre of Islam and Global Challenge (IGC) at the UIII.

Shari'atization and Its discontents: Contestation and the politics of governance in Aceh

Session 3

Reza Idria

Insisting on Difference

Drawing on recent ethnographic fieldwork in Aceh, my work examines how Shari'a is practiced, negotiated, and contested in everyday life more than two decades after its formal implementation. Initially introduced as a framework of moral regulation — one that drew criticism from various segments of Acehnese society and international observers — Shari'a has gradually been rearticulated toward broader socio-economic agendas. This shift is evident in recent government efforts to promote Islamic banking and halal tourism as key pillars of regional development. I argue that contemporary Shari'a implementation in Aceh is marked by a persistent tension between its role as a moral and identity-defining order and its instrumentalization as a strategy for economic development. This tension is not confined to institutions but is lived in diverse and often ambivalent ways by ordinary citizens as they navigate the demands of piety on the one hand and aspirations for mobility, prosperity, and openness on the other. By foregrounding these everyday negotiations, my work conceptualizes the discontents of Shari'atization as a constellation of frictions, contradictions, and critical reflections that both shape and limit the possibilities of Shari'a in governing Aceh's social and economic futures.



Reza Idria

Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh

Dr Reza Idria is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Deputy Dean of Student Affairs at the Faculty of Social and Government Sciences (FISIP), State Islamic University Ar-Raniry, Banda Aceh, Indonesia. He holds an MA in Islamic Studies from Leiden University and a PhD in Social Anthropology from Harvard University. His research focuses on Islam, law, and society in Southeast Asia, with particular attention to Aceh. He was the Lee Kong Chian NUS–Stanford Distinguished Fellow (2022–2023) and is currently a Fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University (2026). Since 2023, he has served as Executive Director of the International Center for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies (ICAIOS).

Humour, power, and tolerance in digital interfaith dialogue

Session 3

Rabiatul Adawiah

Insisting on Difference

Although interfaith tensions in Indonesia have existed since the pre-independence period, large-scale conflict intensified in the post-New Order era, producing distant patterns of public interaction across religious groups. Discussing religion is also often perceived as “serious” which reinforces the association between religious discourse and formal communicative style. Thus, public interfaith interactions have long been characterised by distance and formality, as reflected in earlier interfaith dialogues.

However, social media has reshaped these dynamics by creating new spaces for more playful and youth-driven forms of dialogue. Focusing on the YouTube program LOGIN, which features young hosts and guests from diverse faiths, this study examines how interfaith relations and sensitive issues are navigated in digital spaces. Data were collected from selected episode transcripts and comment sections to explore how the interaction is produced and perceived.

The analysis reveals that LOGIN’s brand is characterised by discussions of interfaith relation in which gentle and affectionate mockery is prominent. This communicative style, which was previously considered unusual and risky, can generate more egalitarian engagement. In this context, humour functions not only as entertainment but also as a tool for negotiating power in majority-minority relations and fostering familiarity and solidarity. Moreover, the examination of the comment sections shows public acceptance toward this new norm of interfaith practices.



Rabiatul Adawiah

STAIN Majene and Monash University

Rabiatul Adawiah is a lecturer in the Department of Islamic Education and Teacher Training at STAIN Majene, West Sulawesi. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics at the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics (LLCL), Monash University. Her doctoral research investigates how (im)politeness and moderate identity are constructed in Indonesian digital interfaith dialogue and how social media encourages more egalitarian ways of interacting across religious groups and shapes ideas of religious moderation. She graduated with a Master degree from Hasanuddin University, where she studied modality in political debates. This shows her research interest in linguistic dimensions of social discourse. Beside her current project, she also works as a research assistant on a collaborative project between several Australian universities that investigates Korean semiotics in Indonesian social media.

Marriage at the crossroads: Faith, *adat*, and the state in Eastern Indonesia

Session 4

Atun Wardatun (presenting author)
and Mohammad Abdun Nasir

Regulating Difference

This paper examines how Islamic law, *adat* (customary law), and state law interact in Muslim family law in West Nusa Tenggara. It challenges the idea that these legal systems are separate or hierarchical. Instead, it shows that they interact in overlapping and practical ways in shaping everyday legal decisions among Muslims, highlighting the adaptive potential of legal pluralism and underscoring its complexities. Drawing on ethnography of Sasak Muslim marriages in Lombok and Bimanese Muslim marriages in Sumbawa, the paper shows that Islamic law operates alongside *adat* and state law in flexible and overlapping ways. These three orders provide multiple forums for legal shopping across three domains examined here: unregistered marriages, matrimonial payments, and interfaith unions. Rather than existing in conflict, they are often negotiated, combined, and strategically used in practice. This paper contributes to reframing legal pluralism by highlighting how the coexistence of *adat*, Islam, and state law is textual, *adat*-based, and judicial. Legal certainty, therefore, should not mean centering state procedure and eliminating legal shopping by imposing one authority's hegemony. Embracing this complex interplay of legal systems can lead to more inclusive and context-sensitive approaches to justice in plural societies.



Atun Wardatun

Universitas Islam Negeri Mataram

Atun Wardatun has dedicated over two decades to UIN Mataram, where she connects Islamic Family Law and Gender Studies with real-world social impact. Her academic journey is marked by prestigious international honors, including a Fulbright scholarship for her Master's at the University of Northern Iowa and an Australia Leadership Awards scholarship for her PhD at Western Sydney University. Notably, she also received the Allison Sudrajat Award, a distinction given to scholars with exceptional leadership potential.

Her research on marriage payments and women's agency is widely recognized, with articles appearing in high-impact publications like the *Journal of Contemporary Islam* and book chapter by Brill. Beyond her writing, Atun is a hands-on mentor. Having 10 years' experience as an ELTA (English Language Training Assistance) Master Trainer, she helps aspiring scholars secure international opportunities, while her leadership at the La Rimpu (Sekolah Rintisan Perempuan untuk Perubahan) Foundation focuses on women's empowerment and peace-building. By blending her roles as a researcher and activist, she continues to advocate for social cohesion and justice in Indonesia.

The making of contemporary *Kepercayaan*: Recent shifts in Indonesian governance of religion and their implications

Session 4

Zainal Bagir (presenting author) and Fiqh Verdian

Regulating Difference

The paradigm of Indonesian governance of religion, which acknowledges the plurality of religions but is discriminatory at the same time, has been resistant to change, yet it is not fully stable. This is especially evident in the issue of state recognition of religion. Since the early years of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, *agama* had referred exclusively to the world religions administered by the Ministry; in 2017, a Constitutional Court's decision recognized *kepercayaan* (lit. belief), which had been severely marginalized, as different from but equal to *agama* for civil administrative purposes. We argue that while the decision has not fully eroded the discriminatory elements of the paradigm of religious governance, it has carried important implications for the daily lives of citizens affiliated with *kepercayaan*. We will show how, in the past few years, the decision has driven a series of important administrative, legal, and structural changes in governmental bodies. These include the inclusion of *kepercayaan* in the civil administration system, which affects access to rights such as marriage, education, and health services; the establishment of a university department for *kepercayaan* education; and potential legal protection under the new 2023 Criminal Code. Even though recent structural reforms of ministries during the Prabowo presidency have reversed some of those changes, this case shows that even when the paradigm of religious governance has not changed fundamentally, the fulfillment of citizens' rights may be improved significantly.



Zainal Bagir

Universitas Gadjah Mada

Zainal Abidin Bagir is based at the Interreligious Studies Program at the Graduate School of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM). His two main interests are freedom of religion or belief and religion and ecology. His recent projects with Robert W. Hefner have resulted in a book, *Indonesian Pluralities: Islam, Citizenship and Democracy* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2021), and a series of seven documentary films with the same title, co-produced with Watchdoc Documentary and the Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies at UGM (2019-2024). The most recent book he co-authored (2025) was on articles related to religion/belief in the new Indonesian Criminal Code (Rajawali Press, 2025). On religion and ecology, he co-edited (with Michael Northcott and Frans Wijzen) a book titled *Varieties of Religion and Ecology: Dispatches from Indonesia* (LIT Verlag, 2021) and recently completed an empirical survey on the human-nature relationship (with Frans Wijzen and Samsul Maarif).

The Indonesian path of Islamic economy and finance: Contested governance and uneven implementation

Session 5 Sutan Emir Hidayat (presenting author), Adam Hervanda, Ishmah Qurratu'ain, Adelina Zuleika

Institutions

The Indonesian path of Islamic economy and finance development demonstrates distinctive characteristics, as it is developed through a comprehensive ecosystem approach within the framework of a non-theocratic democratic state, a pluralistic society, and a decentralized system of government. Law No. 59 of 2024 concerning the National Long-Term Development Plan, the Presidential Aspirations (Asta Cita), and Presidential Regulation No. 12 of 2025 concerning the National Medium-Term Development Plan emphasize that Islamic economy and finance are part of the national development directions to strengthen the national economy toward a Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. The policy directions are then cascaded to both provincial and municipal levels.

This paper aims to analyze the ecosystem-based approach to develop Islamic economy and finance in the Republic and how it shapes collaboration between authorities, stakeholders, communities, and economic inclusion in a pluralistic society. This study employs a qualitative approach using content and document analysis of laws and regulations, development planning documents, official government records, institutional documents and intergovernmental correspondence.

The study identifies two key challenges in increasing the contribution of the Islamic economy and finance to strengthen the economy: the prevailing perception of the Islamic economy as a religious affair rather than an economic development agenda, and the structural barriers that continue to constraint the growth of Islamic finance. In response, Indonesia develops an integrated and inclusive ecosystem approach that leverage its distinctive strength including the halal real sector and Islamic social finance, while positioning Islamic finance as an enabler component of the broader ecosystem. The findings further highlight that Indonesia's pluralism, tradition of tolerance, economic pragmatism and the inclusive political leadership, play crucial role in enabling this strategic approach. The study concludes that Indonesia offers an alternative-innovative model for Islamic economic and financial governance which combines collaborative-inclusive development, multi-level coordination, and economic rationality within a pluralistic society and a non-theocratic state.



Sutan Emir Hidayat

National Committee for Islamic Economy and Finance (KNEKS) and Gunadarma University

Associate Professor Dr. Sutan Emir Hidayat is Director of Sharia Supporting Ecosystem Infrastructure at Indonesia's National Committee for Islamic Economy and Finance (KNEKS) and an Associate Professor at Gunadarma University. Previously Dean of the School of Business at the University College of Bahrain, he is a widely recognised expert in Islamic economics and finance, named by IsFIN's Islamica 500 among the Top 50 individuals shaping the global Islamic economy in 2015 and 2020. In addition, he serves as the Secretary General of Indonesian Association of Islamic Economists (IAEI) and a consultant in Islamic economy and finance for the World Bank Group, where he conducted training for members of parliament and executive officials of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Furthermore, he served as a consultant to the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), contributing to the revision of the CIPA BRE module and the development of its examination questions—demonstrating his commitment to elevating international certification standards in the sector.

Patriarchy and Muslim women's representation in Indonesia

Session 5

Sally White

Institutions

After over 25 years of Reformasi, what do we know about diversity in the parliament in the world's largest Islamic democracy? More specifically, what can we say about the participation of Muslim women in the national and local parliaments? Does being Muslim enhance or limit a woman's chances at the ballot box? In this paper, I first examine hindrances to, and opportunities for, Muslim women's political representation. Against a background of entrenched patriarchal norms favouring men's participation in the public sphere, pervasive clientelism privileging those with money and networks, and an electoral system influenced by ideology but also highly personalised, I examine how Muslim women win office and the strategies they use to connect with constituents. Second, I ask which Muslim women achieve office and what interests they represent. Across Indonesia, we see very different expressions of Islamic identity and practice. To what extent do the Muslim women elected at the national and local level reflect this diversity and bring to legislatures the types of experiences and backgrounds that can enrich public discourse and inform policy, especially with regard to improving the lives of Indonesian women?



Sally White

The Australian National University

Sally White is a Research Fellow in the Department of Social and Political Change in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs. Her main research interests include the history and politics of gender and Islam in Indonesia, and women's political representation in Indonesia. She is currently working on an ARC-funded project on Representation in Indonesia with Professor Edward Aspinall and Dr Eve Warburton.

Negotiating diversity: Institutional pathways to organisational cohesion in NU and Muhammadiyah

Session 5 Wahyuddin Halim (presenting author)
and Nadirsyah Hosen

Institutions

Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah are often described as the twin pillars of Indonesian Islam. While both organisations are frequently portrayed as unified and homogeneous, closer examination reveals considerable internal diversity and continuing debates over religious authority, organisational identity, and political orientation.

This paper offers a comparative analysis of how diversity is negotiated within the two organisations in contemporary Indonesia. It focuses on three interrelated dimensions: internal diversity, including regional variation, theological orientations, and generational differences; organisational authority, reflected in the dispersal of authority beyond formal structures and the gap between national leaders and grassroots communities; and political contestation, illustrated by two recent developments: the contrasting responses to the Jokowi administration's mining concession policy and the leadership contest within NU ahead of its forthcoming Mukhtamar.

The paper argues that ideological flexibility is central to the long-term survival of both organisations. Rather than seeking complete internal uniformity, both NU and Muhammadiyah have maintained a shared core while allowing room for disagreement and adaptation. In Muhammadiyah, this core lies in a common reformist ethos. In NU, it is grounded in a traditionalist grammar of adaptability expressed through the principles of *tawassuth*, *tasamuh*, *i'tidal*, and *tawazun*.

The strength of both organisations lies not in the absence of internal differences but in their ability to accommodate diversity without losing institutional cohesion. Their endurance owes less to organisational rigidity than to this continuing capacity to negotiate changing religious, institutional, and political realities while preserving a shared sense of purpose.



Wahyuddin Halim

Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar

Wahyuddin Halim is Professor of Anthropology of Religion at the State Islamic University (UIN) Alauddin Makassar, Indonesia, where he has taught for three decades. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the Australian National University (2015), an M.A. in Religious Studies from Temple University, Philadelphia, USA (2005), an M.A. in International Development Studies from Dalhousie University, Canada (2001), and a B.A. (sarjana) in Islamic Theology and Philosophy from Alauddin State Institute of Islamic Studies, Makassar, Indonesia. He has published widely in international peer-reviewed journals, including *Studia Islamika*, *Indonesia and the Malay World*, *RIMA*, *American Ethnologist*, *Suvannabhumi*, *Religion & Social Communication*, as well as eleven monographs and twenty five book chapters. He has presented at conferences across Australia, Europe, East Asia, and the United States. His research centres on Islamic authority, pesantren tradition and networks, Muslim organisations dynamics, the intersection of religion, culture, and society in Eastern Indonesia, and religion and social media.

What tolerance means for young Muslim communities in Indonesia

Session 6

Andina Dwifatma

Mediating Difference

The use of social media platforms for expressing religious identity offers two key benefits for young Indonesian Muslims: first, it encourages creative forms of religious expression; second, it fosters a two-way dialogue about religion, contrasting with more traditional forms such as sermons from Islamic scholars, where audiences are more passive listeners. This research focuses on Islamic YouTube web series, short episodes similar to television series that are distributed freely via platforms like YouTube and TikTok, created by young Muslim communities across Indonesian cities. In addition to producing and distributing content, web series creators also engage audiences through screenings combined with religious gatherings, meet-and-greets, seminars, classes, and merchandise sales. This approach fosters closer relationships than traditional cinemas typically establish with their audiences. For both creators and audiences, the question of ‘what it means to be Muslims’ is constantly interpreted and negotiated, both online and offline. Based on textual analysis, in-depth interviews, and observations, this paper shows that Islamic diversity among young urban Muslims is shaped through three key dimensions: tolerance towards religious difference, acceptance of diverse gender expressions, and flexibility in gender roles and stereotypes, provided these do not conflict with their perceived “core values” of Islam.



Andina Dwifatma

Atma Jaya Catholic University

Andina Dwifatma, Ph.D. is a lecturer at the School of Communication, Atma Jaya Catholic University, Indonesia. She received her doctoral degree in Media Anthropology from Monash University in 2025, with a full sponsorship from Herb Feith Ph.D. Scholarship. Working with communities of Islamic web series creators and audience, Andina's thesis focuses on how the commodification of Islam in YouTube web series contributes in shaping contemporary Islam in Indonesia, particularly for Muslim women. Her research interests include media studies, cultural studies, digital Islam, and politics in everyday life. Andina also has a life in creative writing. Her first novel, *Semusim, dan Semusim Lagi* ("A Season, and Then Another") won the Jakarta Arts Council Novel Competition in 2012. Her second novel, *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* ("Quieter Than a Whisper"), was selected as *Tempo Magazine's* Prose Book of the Year in 2021. She also serves as a research affiliate at the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics (LLCL) at Monash University.

Resistance to English language teaching in Indonesian Islamic education

Session 6

Abdurrosyid

Mediating
Difference

English Language Teaching (ELT) has become a central priority within Indonesia's national educational system, including in Islamic schools and *pesantren* (Islamic boarding schools). In Islamic pedagogical circles, there is concern that English is having negative effects upon the traditions and values of Islamic education. This paper analyses efforts undertaken by some Islamic education institutions to resist the rise of (ELT) drawing on empirical research with two Muslim educational communities in the East Java Province. The study demonstrates that the resistance to ELT takes diverse forms ranging from direct rejection to more strategic and negotiated adaptation. This paper also analyses how English is perceived not simply as a language, but also as a vehicle for cultural values associated with Westernisation and globalisation. The paper further examines how language learning produces forms of fragmentation within Islamic education and how such fragmentation reflects wider processes of boundary-making within Indonesian Islam. By highlighting these dynamics, the paper shows how debates over ELT become sites where questions of morality, authority, and cultural continuity are actively negotiated.



Abdurrosyid

Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta

Abdurrosyid is a linguistics lecturer at UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta and an active Islamic preacher in Westall Mosque Clayton. He was awarded his PhD at Monash University in 2025. Abdurrosyid's research focuses on an international language (English) vs. a religious language (Arabic) policy embroidered in the national education system as well as the responses of Islamic education institutions and their ideological underpinnings towards such policy.

When diversity becomes content: Indonesia Muslim youth, social media and the gap between exposure and encounter

Session 6

Sherly Annavita

Mediating Difference

Indonesian Muslim youth are among the most digitally connected generations in the country's history. Through social media, they encounter a wide range of perspectives, from interfaith cooperation to polarizing debates about religious difference. Religious difference has rarely been more visible. Yet visibility alone does not necessarily produce deeper understanding.

Drawing on my experience as a Muslim content creator, public speaker, and media commentator working with youth across Indonesia, this paper asks why exposure to religious diversity in digital spaces does not always lead to meaningful engagement across difference. I argue that social media often turns diversity into content—something to be viewed and shared—rather than something encountered in everyday life. I distinguish between exposure and encounter: exposure refers to repeated contact with representations of difference online, whereas encounter requires listening, dialogue, and engagement with disagreement and ambiguity. The challenge today is therefore not the absence of voices, but the lack of meaningful listening amid an abundance of information.

The 2024 visit of Pope Francis to Indonesia illustrates this distinction. Although interreligious moments circulated widely across digital platforms, they often remained symbolic rather than fostering sustained dialogue or everyday engagement. By distinguishing between exposure and encounter, this paper contributes to discussions of youth, digital religion, and interreligious engagement in contemporary Indonesia. Ultimately, the question is not whether youth are exposed to diversity, but whether digital life enables them to truly encounter it.



Sherly Annavita

Indonesian youth commentator, public speaker and digital communicator

Sherly Annavita Rahmi is an Indonesian youth commentator, public speaker, and digital communicator whose work focuses on youth engagement, public discourse, communication, and social change. She regularly speaks at universities, schools, government institutions, and public forums across Indonesia, facilitating conversations on democracy, leadership, civic participation, digital citizenship, and social cohesion.

Through her presence in both traditional and digital media, Sherly has become a prominent voice among Indonesia's younger generation. Her work explores how young people navigate identity, diversity, and public life in an increasingly interconnected and information-rich society. Drawing on extensive engagement with youth audiences across different regions of Indonesia, she is particularly interested in the relationship between social media, public dialogue, and social trust.

Her current research interests include youth perspectives on religious diversity, digital public spheres, intergroup dialogue, and the role of communication in fostering meaningful engagement across social and cultural differences action.

Indonesia and the global geopolitics of Muslim-majority countries

Session 7

Alwi Shihab

Keynote address

This presentation examines Indonesia's position within the evolving geopolitical landscape of Muslim-majority countries, focusing on its engagement with the Muslim world and its role in addressing contemporary global challenges. It explores Indonesia's diplomatic relationships with Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East and beyond, with particular attention to its contributions to peacebuilding, international cooperation, and efforts to address religious extremism, while highlighting Indonesia's evolving role in global affairs.



Alwi Shihab

Indonesia Minister of Foreign Affairs 1999-2001 and Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare 2004-2005

Professor Alwi Shihab is an Indonesian scholar, diplomat, and public intellectual whose career spans interfaith dialogue, Islamic studies, international relations, and public service. Educated at Al-Azhar University and Ain Shams University in Cairo, he later earned his PhD in Religion from Temple University in the United States and undertook postdoctoral study at Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University. He also taught Islamic Studies and Sufism at Hartford Seminary (Hartford International University for Religion and Peace) and Harvard University.

In Indonesia, Prof. Alwi Shihab served as Minister of Foreign Affairs under President Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur) from 1999 to 2001, where he played a key role in Indonesia's relations with the Middle East and the West. He later served as Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare under President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (2004–2005). He also served as the President's Special Envoy to the Middle East and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), first from 2005 to 2009 during President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's presidency, and again from 2015 to 2019 under President Joko Widodo. He has subsequently continued to advise Indonesian leaders and contribute to Indonesia's engagement with the Muslim world. A prolific author on Islam, pluralism, religious diversity, and Sufism, he remains an influential voice on Indonesia's place in the Muslim world, its relationship with the West, and the wider international community.

Convenors



Eva Nisa

The Australian National University

Associate Professor Eva Nisa is an anthropologist, Islamic studies scholar, and ARC DECRA Fellow at ANU. Her work sits at the forefront of the anthropology of Islam, exploring the intersections of religion, gender, economy, youth, and digital life.

Trained in Qur'anic Sciences at Al-Azhar University (Cairo), she brings rare depth to the study of Muslim societies. Her academic path spans Leiden University (MA), ANU (PhD), and postdocs at the University of Hamburg and the University of Amsterdam. She is the author of *Face-veiled Women in Contemporary Indonesia* and has published over sixty scholarly works. Since joining ANU in 2019, after teaching at Victoria University of Wellington, she has received the ANU CAP Award for Teaching Excellence and held a guest professorship at the University of Vienna. Her research is widely cited and featured in leading global media, including The New York Times, BBC, and Al Jazeera, and she was profiled in *Womankind Magazine*, distributed in 27 countries, for her contributions to gender and Islam. She serves as Vice President of the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA).

Convenors



Julian Millie

Monash University

Julian Millie is Professor of Indonesian studies at Monash University. His research is about the social and political meanings of Islamic practice in Indonesia. Since obtaining his doctorate from Leiden University in 2005, he has completed several research projects about Islamic practices such as preaching, pedagogy and intercession, doing his ethnographic work primarily amongst the Muslim populations of West Java. He works with academics from universities in West Java including the Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University and Pasundan University. His most recent major works are a special issue of *Religion, State and Society* entitled *Islamic Bureaucracies: New Frontiers for Public Religion* (2025, with Banu Senay) and the collected volume *'The 'Crossed-Out God' in the Asia-Pacific: Religious Efficacy of Public Spheres'* (2023, Palgrave MacMillan). Julian was appointed Professor of Indonesian studies at Monash in 2020. In 2021 he was accepted into the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Chairs



Marcus Mietzner
The Australian National University

Marcus Mietzner is a Professor in the Department of Political & Social Change, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, in the College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU.



Ray Marcelo
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ray Marcelo is the First Assistant Secretary of the Southeast Asia Maritime Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). He is responsible for policy across the political, economic and development relationships with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Timor-Leste.



Sharon Bessell
The Australian National University

Sharon Bessell is a Professor of Public Policy & Director of the Children's Policy Centre at the Crawford School of Public Policy. She is the director of the Children's Policy Centre and co-host of Policy Forum Pod.



Andini Pramono
The Australian National University

Andini Pramono is an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) with a PhD in public health, health policy, and infant and young child feeding. Her PhD thesis examined the implementation of baby friendly hospital initiatives and ten steps to successful breastfeeding in Australia and Indonesia.



Edward Aspinall
The Australian National University

Edward Aspinall is a Professor in and Head of the Department of Political and Social Change, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University. He researches politics in Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia, with interests in democratisation, ethnicity, and clientelism, among other topics.

Chairs



Sana Jaffrey
The Australian National University

Sana Jaffrey is a Research Fellow at the Australian National University's Department of Political and Social Change and a non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She is a scholar of political violence and state-building with over 15 years of research experience in Indonesia.



Eve Warburton
The Australian National University

Eve Warburton is a research fellow at the Department of Political and Social Change in the ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs. Her research is concerned broadly with problems of representation and governance in young and developing democracies, with a focus on Southeast Asia and Indonesia in particular.



Rini Astuti
The Australian National University

Rini Astuti is a Senior Lecturer at the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. Rini's research focuses on operationalizing social science theory in studies of climate, energy transition, and environmental change, drawing upon human geography, political ecology, STS, and development studies, and is grounded empirically in Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia.



Kathryn Robinson
The Australian National University

Kathryn (Kathy) Robinson is an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. Her primary research focus has centred on Indonesia, where she has delved into various social issues, including gender relations, the transition of youth into adulthood, marriage migration, mining, and everyday Islam.

Conference information

Conference website

<https://bit.ly/IndonesiaUpdate43>



Recordings and presentation materials

All sessions are recorded and will be made available on the ANU Indonesia Project YouTube Channel.

Conference proceedings

A book based on this conference will be published next year. Announcement about this will be made through the ANU Indonesia Project's websites, mailing list and social media.

Certificate of Attendance

Certificate of Attendance for this conference is available upon request post-conference. Please email us at indonesia.project@anu.edu.au with your registration name and affiliation.

Enquiries

Please direct all enquiries to indonesia.project@anu.edu.au.

Guest Wifi

Username: indonesiaupdate

Password: indonesiaupdate2026

Conference Location

Coombs Lecture Theatre Fellows Rd, Acton
ACT 2601

Registration

Pre-registration is required:
<https://bit.ly/Update43Inperson>

We might be able to accommodate a limited number of walk-ins on the day. Please see the registration desk.

Breaks and latecomers

Sessions will run on time, please return to the theatre when requested or when you hear the gong. If you wish to come in late, please use the rear entrance

Friday Prayer

The Indonesia Update will hold the Friday prayer on 18 September 2026 in the Coombs Extension Building, LT1.04, from 12.00 pm to 12:30 pm. KH. Dr Farid F. Saenong will deliver the Khutbah and be the Imam. Wudhu can be performed in the toilet beside LT1.04.

Friday Night Social dinner

Pre-ordered halal food set-menu will be provided from 6.00pm in the University House, ANU

Saturday Social Lunch

Pre-ordered Indonesian-style lunch box will be provided from 1.15pm in the Coombs Tea Room.

Online participation

Livestream through Zoom, registration required:
<https://bit.ly/IndoUpdate43Online>

Sign Language and Bahasa Indonesia Interpretation

Indonesian sign language and Indonesian translation is available during the conference via the livestream feed only.

About the Indonesia Update conference and book series

The Indonesia Update has been conducted annually since 1983. It is organised by the ANU Indonesia Project, in the Crawford School of Public Policy. It receives support from ANU's Department of Political and Social Change, the ANU Indonesia Institute and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Update conferences are designed to provide comprehensive overviews of developments in Indonesia, and to present wide-ranging discussions on a theme of particular interest each year. They cater to an audience that includes government officials, academics, teachers, members of business and non-government organisations, students, and the general public. Each Update is structured to encourage discussion and questions from the audience, with an expert group of speakers from Indonesia, Australia and elsewhere assembled every year.

The Update proceedings appear in the Indonesia Update series. Since 1994, the ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute, in Singapore, has published the proceedings in collaboration with The Australian National University.

A full list of the Indonesia Updates is available on our blog:
www.indonesiaproject.net

Indonesia Update 2025. **Navigating climate change in Indonesia: Mitigation and adaptation pathways**

Convenors: Budy P. Resosudarmo, The Australian National University; Daju Resosudarmo, The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2024. **How Jokowi changed Indonesia**

Convenors: Sana Jafrey, The Australian National University; Eve Warburton, The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2023. **Governing urban Indonesia**

Convenors: Edward Aspinall, The Australian National University; Amalinda Savirani, Universitas Gadjah Mada

Indonesia Update 2022. **Gender equality and diversity in Indonesia: identifying progress and challenges**

Convenors: Angie Bexley, The Australian National University; Sarah Dong, The Australian National University; and Diahhadi Setyonaluri, Universitas Indonesia

Economic dimensions of COVID-19 in Indonesia: responding to the crisis

Convenors: Blane Lewis, The Australian National University; Firman Witoelar, The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2019. **From stagnation to regression? Indonesian democracy after twenty years**

Convenors: Thomas Power, The Australian National University; Eve Warburton The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2018. **Contentious belonging: the place of minorities in Indonesia**

Convenors: Greg Fealy, The Australian National University; Ronit Ricci, The Australian National University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Indonesia Update 2017. **Indonesia in the new world: globalisation, nationalism and sovereignty**

Convenors: M Chatib Basri, Universitas Indonesia; Mari Pangestu, Universitas Indonesia; Arianto Patunru, The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2016. **Digital Indonesia: challenges and opportunities of the digital revolution**

Convenors: Ross Tapsell, The Australian National University; Edwin Jurriens, The University of Melbourne

Indonesia Update 2015. **Land and development in Indonesia: searching for the people's sovereignty**

Convenors: Kathryn Robinson, The Australian National University; John McCarthy, The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2014. **The Yudhoyono years: an assessment**

Convenors: Edward Aspinall, The Australian National University; Marcus Mietzner, The Australian National University; Dirk Tomsa, La Trobe University

Indonesia Update 2013. **Regional dynamics in a decentralised Indonesia**

Convenor: Hal Hill, The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2012. **The state of education**

Convenors: Daniel Suryadarma, The Australian National University; Gavin Jones, National University of Singapore

Indonesia Update 2011. **Indonesia's place in the world**

Convenor: Anthony Reid, The Australian National University

Indonesia Update 2010. **Employment, living standards and poverty in contemporary Indonesia**

Convenors: Chris Manning, The Australian National University; Sudarno Sumarto, The SMERU Research Institute



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The Australian National University acknowledges, celebrates and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

Cover image: Ministry of Religious Affairs Indonesia / Mokodompit

Media: Photograph