

## **Mediating and Mediatizing Political and Religious Authorities**

**Conveners: Merlyna Lim (Carleton University) & Saskia Schäfer (Humboldt University Berlin)**

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### **Double session panel**

In the past decades, religion has become more publicly visible in many parts of the world, including in Southeast Asia, and has gained its currency in various political and cultural agendas. This visibility, in part, is accommodated by the workings of various media. Politics and religion—in strategies, practices, and discourses—have become increasingly mediated and mediatized. How do politicians and religious authorities employ different media to generate followership in an increasingly competitive and individualized environment? How have religious authorities influenced political processes? What role have media played in episodes of identity politics and populist moral outrage? How have social movements and religious actors circumvented common structures of political participation through digital media, and thereby highlighted and also enhanced the weaknesses of the former? This panel addresses the relationship between religious and political authorities with a focus on media. Putting empirical and theoretical contributions from various countries in Southeast Asia into conversation with one another, the panel aims to illuminate the complex, layered, and nuanced relationship between politics, religion, and media in the region.

The panel is multidisciplinary and welcomes theoretical contributions as well as case studies from across Southeast Asia. As of November 2018, we have already had three interested contributors for case studies from Indonesia and Malaysia and plan to diversify the range of cases to other Southeast Asian countries via a Call for Papers. Because of the breadth of the topic, we propose a double panel. We plan to circulate papers among the participants ahead of the panel in order to discuss the possibility of publishing some of the contributions in a special issue.