



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Indonesian Youth: Faith and Environmental Activism

Islam and Politics in Contemporary Asia and the Middle East research cluster of the Asia Institute & Australian Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies

Public Event



Pam Nilan, Newcastle University, Australia

This seminar showcases work from a large-scale project on youth and environmentalism in Indonesia. It looks specifically at the engagement of some Indonesian university students with environmental activism through the lens of their understanding of Islam. In environmentalist discourse, Islamic scholars in Indonesia frequently draw on selected verses of the Qur'an that engage the role of human beings as God's appointed khalifa (Lieutenants/caretakers) on earth. This means not just rights to use products of the natural world, but responsibilities (eg ibadah) for looking after nature. This seminar explores how some devout youthful Muslim activists in Indonesia have

articulated their engagement with the environmental cause. It will include in-depth examination of examples of pious environmental engagement from recent data.

Pam Nilan is Professor of Sociology at Newcastle University, Australia. She has been researching youth in Indonesia since 1995. She is the author of five books and a number of scholarly journal articles on youth. Her most recent article focuses on Indonesian youth perceptions of environmental struggle in the Palembang smoke haze, published in the journal *Indonesia and the Malay World*. For the last two years she has also been studying youth in far-right groups in Australia.

## Event details

Thursday, 11 April 2019

Time:  
1:00pm - 2:00pm

Venue:  
Room 321, Level 3,  
Sidney Myer Asia Centre  
The University of Melbourne  
Parkville VIC 3010

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Booking:  
Not required