

Call for Papers

International Symposium of Humanity Studies

Literary Culture and the Culture of Literacy

The Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada in commemorating its 72th anniversary, will be hosting an international symposium this August 2018. The symposium titled “Literary Culture and the Culture of Literacy in Indonesia” will broadly examine the reading and writing traditions of Indonesia and its historical development. It will look into the developments of literary cultures in its traditional, colonial, post-colonial and recent digital forms. It will also look into the major works published by Indonesians and non-Indonesians that have affected the discourse of particular subjects and themes, producing particular historiographical discourses that affected the overall Indonesian literary culture. The symposium thus aims to take stock of the present day traditions of literary cultures and discourses and the development of an Indonesian humanities that have developed for centuries but which have undergone significant changes especially in the post-colonial period. In particular, we would like to emphasize a reading into the contribution of the rise of faculties of humanities in Indonesian history. How has the rise of the university system and the sciences of the humanities affected the Indonesian literary culture and the culture of literacy of the wider Indonesian population? The Faculty of Cultural Sciences which had formerly been called as the Humanities Faculty was the first faculty of Indonesia’s first postcolonial University; Universitas Gadjah Mada, established during the revolutionary period of 1946 when Yogyakarta became the capital of the Republic.

The development of Indonesia’s literary culture has surely affected the culture of literacy of Indonesia, yet how and in what way remains a mystery. Understanding the conditions of the literary culture require also understanding how the wider society consume that literary culture. Thus, the symposium aims at understanding not just the production side of the literacy culture, but also the way in which it is engaged and consumed by the wider society throughout Indonesia’s history. The general popular idea is that Indonesians don’t read and that this has been exacerbated by the spread of social media with its new, strategies of information consumption. Yet, at the same time, Indonesia’s literary world is booming with new authors and greater production of academic works, literary works and

cultural works and its engagement with the outside world has also improved with more publication and translation of works by young Indonesian academics, novelists and other cultural producers. By looking at both the development of Indonesia’s literary culture and its culture of literacy, the conference hopes to give a long lasting contribution of defining not only the current state of the art for Indonesian humanities, but also provide stronger paths both to its root traditions and its possible future developments.

There are four sub-themes that are to be explored in the symposium, which are as follows;

Historical

The first is a historical approach toward understanding Indonesia’s literary culture and its culture of literacy. It looks at how major political and social changes in Indonesian history has affected its cultural traditions and practices, from the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial period up to the present time. This historical outlook looks at possible periodization in the changing literary culture of the nation and the kinds of institutions that affected the culture of literacy amongst the Indonesian population. How has the literacy for Indonesian culture been developed and cultivated during these periods? What kinds of major tomes on history, culture and the arts were read during these periods and how were they read and by whom? How did major works affected both the way Indonesian consumed the discourse on their history and culture? For instance, the great works of science, history and anthropology by Dutch Indologists and their effect on the literary culture amongst the Indonesian population, the works of novelists, artists and other cultural producers and their relationship with the culture of literacy. The changing strategies of discourse consumption from traditional performance to the written paper, the expansion of the school system and popular literacy, the changing landscape of literary consumption resulting from technological changes from the radio, television to the present digital age and the history of the book itself and its relationship with the wider Indonesian audience in all its manifestations; the academic tomes and quarterlies, the self-help manual, the novels and comic books and so forth.

Literary

The literary theme explores the development and present condition of Indonesian literary culture and its receptivity by the wider Indonesian population. Since the 1990s, there have been greater interest in the consumption of novels, comics and other products of literature by the general populace stemming from increasing availability of translated cultural products in a globalized world. Yet, there has been a noticeable shift in the taste and strategies of consumption of literature that also affects the literary culture of the nation as a whole. The expansion of popular culture and its variants in the form of the low brow popular novel, the comic books and *mangas*, the rise of digital literature and the consumption of blog-posts and forum postings show the increasingly changing environment of Indonesia’s culture of literacy and how it is affecting its literary culture. How has critical literary analysis developed in Indonesian humanities department dealt with the increase in cultural production? What kinds of values that are being transmitted with these new popular consumption of literary works? What has been the effect of the internet and the digitalization of private lives in the culture of literacy in Indonesia? How has long established literary traditions transformed so as to live on in this changing world?

Linguistic

The theme on linguistic explores also this changing world of literary culture from a linguistic perspective, especially in looking at how popular and digital literary culture are creating new forms of linguistic strategies. It looks at how traditional literary culture from Indonesian history has affected speech patterns, morphology, syntax, semantics and other linguistic aspects of the Indonesian language. How the colonial and postcolonial state formalized and normalized a form of standardized Bahasa Indonesia, yet also how Indonesian people through their literary culture and its culture of literacy changed this formal Bahasa Indonesia into their own language, borrowing other languages of the archipelago, creating new forms and popularizing them through novels, radio shows, soap operas and internet postings. How should we take stock of the

Themes

Literary Culture and the Culture of Literacy in Indonesia

Venue & Date

Faculty of Cultural Sciences,
Universitas Gadjah Mada
Yogyakarta |
August 15th-16th 2018

Research Area

Linguistic, Literature, History,
Archaeology, Anthropology, Cross
Cultural Studies

Abstract and Paper Submission

Abstract (250 words) should include a title, name of author, institutional affiliation, email address and a brief personal biography (150 words).

Selected authors will be expected to submit a full paper of maximum 6,000 words.

Important Dates

Abstract Deadline (online):

March, 30th 2018

Full Paper Deadline (online):

June 22nd 2018

Non-presenter Registration:

June 1st - 30th 2018*

**For registration, participants are welcomed to contact us.*

Contact Us

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increasing changing forms of the Indonesian language and how has the different mediums of literary culture as a result of the technological revolution in information technology since the 20th century? What has been the response of the linguistic departments in Indonesia in responding to these changes in the language? What kinds of changes can we expect in an environment that is prone to constant change and whether the digital language forms represent a linguistically different language in comparison to the written and spoken language of Bahasa Indonesia?

Values of Culture and Arts

The last theme wants to explore how the art world has affected Indonesian literary culture and its culture of literacy. The humanities departments often forget how important and entwined the arts are

with literature and history. In fact, the relationship between artists and novelists, historians and other cultural specialists have been strong and productive. Yet, it hasn't received the attention that it should have afforded. The theme explores this relationship and how artists have interpreted the culture of Indonesia through reading the works of literary specialists, historians, anthropologists and others in their work. The production of the imaginaries of Indonesia depend, to some extent, on the interpretation of the artists and these imaginaries have a strong role in building our identities. Exploring this aesthetic and intellectual connection is an important part in building our understanding of the present condition of Indonesia's literary culture and the role of the humanities in forming what it means to be Indonesian in the present day.