

Term of Reference

70 Years of Indonesian Humanities and its Latest Trends

24 February 2016

Background

Throughout much of post-Independence period, the Faculty of Cultural Sciences have contributed and participated in the development of Indonesian humanities. Many of the basis of present day Indonesian academic field in the humanities were developed by pioneers working at the faculty in UGM. Significant changes and development have occurred in the seventy year span of the study of Indonesian humanities. Yet one of the most important and fascinating shift have yet to be reflected upon in a significant manner. This is the change resulting from the end of the New Order and the rise of a Post-New Order Indonesia. Some 18 odd years have since passed and the shift from a state-dominated society into a democracy with wider participation from society have seen tremendous changes that challenged the cultural, societal and institutional notions that were once guarded jealously by the state and its intellectual elites. The post New Order society is one that lacked a dominant paradigm and whose institutional authorities in many fields, including the position of the intellectuals in universities, are challenged.

In the field of history, archaeology, literature and others in the humanities, various competing paradigms and narratives thrive in the competitive and popular consumption of models and interpretation that reflect the multicultural and ideologically varied society of present day Indonesia. Interpretation based on such differing ideologies as romantic nationalism, Islamist revisionism and others have since claimed a stake on the public discourse in the field of humanities. Since the late New Order period, the Indonesian academia itself has seen changes resulting from the introduction of new philosophical and methodological approaches that blossomed in the post New Order period. After being preoccupied with development and under paradigms that did not challenge the national ideology, postmodern, postcolonial and feminist approaches, among others, have shifted the idea that academia is to promote national development toward the idea of liberal emancipation. Yet, to what extent this promise of emancipation as part of the post-New Order change have manifested itself is not fully understood. At the same time the rise of competing paradigms challenge the values that are held dear by Indonesian academia, including the importance of the rigorous application of methods and methodologies that promote the nearest approximation of the truth.

Within this context of ever changing environment, these public lectures held by the Faculty of Cultural Sciences intend to reflect on the opportunities, challenges, failures and successes that the post-New Order Indonesian humanities have since underwent. In doing so, it also intend to look into the future role of the Indonesian humanities in a democratic, multicultural society. The lack of a solid foundation to the role of present day Indonesian humanities within the wider community threatens the academic venture into either irrelevance or manipulation. By bringing together esteemed international and national academics and intellectuals who have throughout their long career observed its development, our understanding of the position of

Indonesian humanity studies in both a national and international context can be better understood. Their reflection on the state of the humanities is a tremendously important contribution not only to the faculty, but to the wider Indonesian academic community. Such a venture would also bring to light our understanding of the post-New Order, present day Indonesian society. The problems and challenges of Indonesian society is reflected through the problems and challenges that the academic humanities community here face. The forebears of the faculty were significant players in offering solutions and participated in the development of post-Independence Indonesian society in the 1950s and 1960s. It is the intention of the present academic community of the faculty to continue that tradition and participate in developing a healthy, democratic society for all Indonesian.

Date and Venue

Date : 24 February 2016

Venue : Auditorium Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Gadjah Mada
Jl. Nusantara 1, Bulaksumur, Yogyakarta, 55281

Organization

This first day seminar is public lecture – open for public – which will delivered by two prominent international speakers who will give their view on the development of Indonesian humanities studies and the challenge they face in the future. The speakers are required to give their evaluation on the development of Indonesian humanities studies and the prospects they can offer to the present and future challenges of Indonesian society.

So, these public lectures will be organized as follow:

- 08.30 – 09.00 Opening ceremonies
 - welcome speech from the Dean
 - 09.00 – 10.30 Session I
 Speaker: Prof. Dr. Anthony Reid (ANU)
 Moderator: Dr. Sri Margana, M.Phil. (Dept of History)
 - 10.30 – 11.00 Coffe Break
 - 11.00 – 12.30 Session II
 Speaker: Prof. Chua Beng Huat (NUS)
 Moderator: Dr. Suzie Handajani, MA (Dept of Anthropology)
 - 12.30 – 12.45 Closing
- MC : Dr. Laksmi Savitri (tbc)
- Audiens : - FIB's Faculty members
 - Students & Public

Yogyakarta, 20 December 2015