

[パネル 3A]

Seaways, People, and Goods on the Edge of Polities:  
Decolonizing Maritime Studies in Indonesia

About the Panel

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The panel commemorates Prof. Adrian B. Lopian's work, the pioneer and most distinguished scholar of maritime studies in Indonesia. Prof. Lopian coined the concept of "sea-system" to study maritime worlds as interconnected ecological, political, and sociocultural networks. To understand how the sea-system emerges and shapes the maritime worlds, he urges us to examine spatial connections constituted by interlocking ecological systems, people movements, and traded goods. Maritime studies tends to pay more attention to major commodities (such as spice) or bigger social polities (such as kingdom) and overlooks connections that take place through myriad seaways with their complex social interactions and assembled worldviews.

This panel explores the maritime networks that emerge and are maintained on the edge of major commodities or social polities. Erwiza Erman's paper follows the diamond trade networks to show how traders have managed to avoid Dutch's control by taking benefit of kinship and ethnic connections. Kazufumi Nagatsu examines the Bajau people to trace the social and political interactions that give rise to the social category of "sea people." His paper shows that ethnic categorization in the maritime world sometimes takes place in the realm where major social polities pay less attention. Dedi S. Adhuri's paper talks about the trade networks of anchovy and life reef fish to investigate the social and cultural dynamics of marine resource exchanges beyond the privileged commodities of spices and silk. Therefore, all papers in this panel resorts to and at the same time extends Lopian's call for maritime studies to give more attention to the less traveled seaways, outcast social groups, and forgotten commodities. Taken together as a framework, the panel offers a critical perspective to interrogate maritime studies' long-term enchantment with exotic commodities and European political actors. In so doing, the panel pays a small tribute to Lopian's effort to decolonize maritime studies in Indonesia.

[パネル 3A\_1]

The Diamond Trading Network from Martapura and Landak:  
Kinship, Trust, and Ethnicity (16-19th Century)

Abstract

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Trade is about things, but things can only become tradable commodities because people desire them and are willing to sacrifice other things in order to acquire the desired objects. The study of trade networks of a particular commodity usually revolves around producers, capital owners, labors, collectors, transporters, buyers and consumers. Meanwhile, economic historians are more interested in the trajectory of commodity volumes, values and its contribution to regional, national and world trade and also to economic growth. However, the trade of commodity that flows from one city to another is not only shaped by economic considerations and political contracts, but is also influenced by elements of kinship, trust, friendship and ethnicity that have been lasting for generations. By examining the trajectory of diamond trading network from Martapura and Landak, the two oldest diamond-producing regions in the world after Golconda, India, this article focuses on kinship ties, trust and ethnicity to discuss the failure of the politics of monopoly of the diamond trade that the Dutch government sought to imposed in the regions.

[パネル 3A\_2]

The Sea Peoples' Arts of not Being Governed:  
Genealogy of the Bajau and its Political Settings in Nusantara

Abstract

Kazufumi Nagatsu  
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This presentation explores the ethnogenesis of a creole group of “sea peoples” and its political settings in the Southeast Asian maritime world in general, and in Nusantara or Indonesian Archipelago in particular. Narifumi Tachimoto, a scholar of global humanities, identified three prototypical natures of sea peoples in the maritime world: 1) diasporic settlement, 2) the commoditization of natural resources, and 3) network-centered social relations. Referring to his understanding, this presentation tries to depict part of the prototypical patterns of the ethnogenesis of the sea peoples and the related political settings in the maritime world. It focuses on the Bajau which have historically constituted one of the most distinctive maritime peoples in Nusantara.

The specific purposes of the presentation are to 1) trace the brief histories of the ethnogenesis of the Bajau as a creole sea people, and 2) examine their interactions with external authorities to depict the political settings whereby such an ethnogenesis has repeatedly occurred. In order to understand the characteristics of the settings, this study reviews the concept of a “frontier” in light of the discussions on the “frontier society” in Southeast Asian studies.

[パネル 3A\_3]

The Socio-cultural Loads of Anchovy and Grouper International Trade:  
Drawing the Invisible Maritime Networks

Abstract

Dedi Supriadi Adhuri  
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The current discourse on global connections or maritime networks focuses its attention more on the historical time and major commodities such as silk, spice and, cotton. In this regard, we have the silk routes, the spice routes, and the cotton routes, each pioneered by China, Indonesia dan India respectively. This paper will take the discourse to a different turn by talking about global or at least regional maritime connections of our contemporary time triggered by perishable small pelagic, and reef fish, the anchovy and grouper. The increasing demand for anchovy and life reef fish in the Chinese majority populated countries, on the one hand, and the fact that local resources are limited, on the other hand, have simulated the search for anchovy and life reef fish in other countries close and far away. This has given birth to specific regional and global networks. While on the demand side, the network is associated with eating culture, on the producer side, anchovy, and grouper are connected to traditional marine tenure and local politics. Thus, the network does not only contain economic exchanges but is also loaded by culture and politics. In talking about this issue, the paper will refer to anchovy and life reef fisheries in the Kei Islands, southeastern Maluku. The cases will demonstrate how the maritime connections have stimulated local social dynamics in terms of communal marine tenure and local leadership.