

PROGRAMME

9.45am – 10.00am	Registration
10.00am – 10.15am	Opening Remarks: Dr. Md Khaldun Munip Abd Malek Senior Research Fellow, KITA
10.15am – 11.15am	Talk by: Dr. Rommel A. Curaming Universiti Brunei Darussalam Power and Knowledge in Southeast Asia: State and Scholars in Indonesia and the Philippines
11.15am – 12.00pm	Q&A and End

About KITA Discourse Series

KITA Discourse Series provides a platform for interested scholars and graduate students to present his or her ideas on any social issues pertaining to ethnicity which may be subsequently published in UKM Ethnic Studies Paper Series. For further information, please email rachelchansuetkay@ukm.edu.my.



KITA Discourse Series 8/2019

A Book Talk

Power and Knowledge in Southeast Asia: State and Scholars in Indonesia and the Philippines

Speaker:

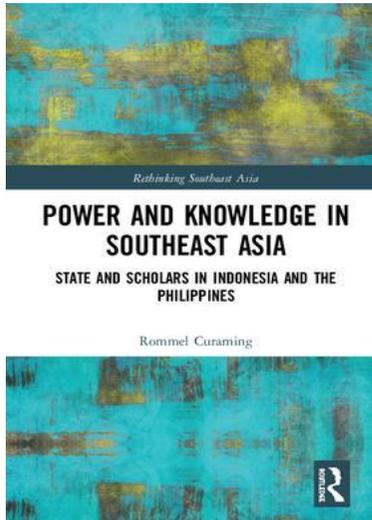
Rommel A. Curaming, PhD
Senior Assistant Professor

History and International Studies Programme
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

13 December 2019 (Friday)
10.00 am

KITA Meeting Room
Level 4, Kolej Keris Mas,
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

A SUMMARY



This book analyzes comparatively the dynamics of the state-scholar relations during the Marcos and Suharto years in the Philippines and Indonesia as evident in two official history-writing projects: Marcos's Tadhana project and Suharto regime's Sejarah Nasional Indonesia (SNI). It demonstrates a nuanced characterization of the relationship between scholars and state operatives. Rather than the usual approach that regards scholars in such a project as manipulated or co-opted, they are shown in this book as, among other possibilities, possessing and exercising their own power that even the most powerful dictators do not have, and which they need or desire. Instead of taking such projects as aberration, which is in line with the popular liberalist critique of “intellectual prostitution” or “treason of intellectuals”, this book argues instead that the participation of scholars in these projects merely formalizes and renders explicit the transactional encounters happening on daily basis between knowledge of any ideological disposition, type or level of accuracy, on the one hand, and their respective consumers, on the other. The logistics of power relations in these transactions vary considerably but the underlying logic is fundamentally the same. The implications are singularly important: the widely held liberal assumption that good, rigorous scholarship is corrective or antithetical to the political needs to be re-thought as it unwittingly undermines the very progressive vision upon which much of critical and well-meaning scholarship is built.

PRESENTER'S PROFILE



Dr. Rommel A. Curaming is Senior Assistant Professor at the History and International Studies Programme of the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He completed PhD in Southeast Asian Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). Before joining UBD, he was a postdoctoral fellow at La Trobe University and National University of Singapore (NUS). The thematic areas of his research interests vary (comparative history and historiography, knowledge politics, state-scholar relations, memory of violence, heritage-making, fast food and transnational identity, Filipino Malayness, history theory, decolonial/postcolonial theory) but they cohere around the mechanics of the hidden politics of good intentions and the (supposedly) non-political, as evident in knowledge production and consumption in/on Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia and the Philippines. He published in journals such as *Critical Asian Studies*, *South East Asia Research*, *Time and Society*, *Philippine Studies*, among others. His latest publication is *Power and Knowledge in Southeast Asia: State and Scholars in Indonesia and the Philippines* (Routledge, 2019).

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