

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

- 02.30 p.m. Introduction & welcoming remarks by Moderator:
Dr. Mohd. Shaiful Ramze Endut,
Research Fellow & GMSN Co-Coordinator
- 02.35 p.m. Presentation of discourse:

A revisionalist take on the role of Shaykh
Muhammad Sa'id al-Linggi and his spreading of the
Aḥmadiyya-Idrisiyya Ṭarīqa in the Malay World
during the early twentieth century – Dr. Christopher
M. Joll
- 03.35 p.m. Q & A session
- 04.00 p.m. Closing

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 the UKM Ethnic Studies Paper Series. For further information on KITA publications including UKM Ethnic Studies Paper Series and the Journal of Ethnic & Diversity Studies (JOEDS), please contact the Editor via email at rachelchansuetkay@ukm.edu.my or visit KITA website at <https://www.ukm.my/kita/resource-centre/>.

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KITA DISCOURSE SERIES 5/2025

A revisionalist take on the role of Shaykh Muhammad Sa'id al-Linggi and his spreading of the Aḥmadiyya-Idrisiyya Ṭarīqa in the Malay World during the early twentieth century

Presenter:

Dr. Christopher M. Joll

Research Associate

Religious Studies Program

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

21st October 2025 (Tuesday)

02.30 p.m. – 0.400 p.m.

KITA Meeting Room

Level 4, Administration Building

Kolej Keris Mas

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Bangi, Selangor

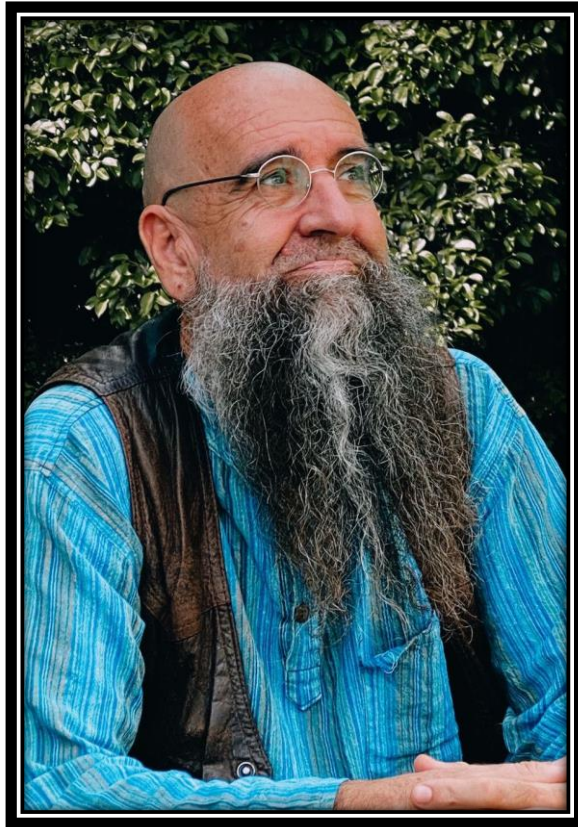
This seminar will be broadcasted online via:

Zoom & KITA Facebook Live

ABSTRACT

The pivotal role of Shaykh Muḥammad Sa'id al-Linggi (1875–1926) in spreading the Aḥmadiyya-Idrisiyya in Kelantan and Negeri Sembilan over the early-twentieth century might be well known, but this presentation focuses upon aspects of his career missed by others. These incrementally came into focus while working on a compendium of Malay 'ulama connected the Meccan-based Patani School of Malay 'ulama connected to the former Malay Kerajaan of Patani (in present-day South Thailand). I present reasons for conceiving Shaykh Muḥammad Sa'id al-Linggi as a member of this mobile and culturally cosmopolitan Patani Malay diaspora. In addition to his maternal grandmother being one of Shaykh Dā'ūd bin 'Abd Allāh al-Faṭānī's (1769–1847) sisters, he spent ten years in Patani between 1882 and 1892. Furthermore, five of these were spent studying with the famous Shaykh Zayn al-'Ābidīn bin Muḥammad al-Faṭānī, or Tuan Minal (1820–1913). Reconsidering the career of this murshid presents an opportunity to reimagine the importance of the Aḥmadiyya-Idrisiyya in Mecca during the late-nineteenth century, during which other Malay 'ulama from the east coast of Siamese-Malay Peninsula were inducted into this ṭarīqa. I present reasons for arguing that his decision to relocate from Mecca to Kelantan—rather than Patani—in the early twentieth century was related to the arrest (in 1902) of Patani's last Sultan that led to another exodus of Malay 'Ulama from Patani to Kelantan, Kedah—and Mecca. I conclude with a note about a lesser-known chapter of Shaykh Muḥammad Sa'id al-Linggi's legacy. This is connected with his having spread the Aḥmadiyya-Idrisiyya to one of the many Malay communities in Central Thailand around the former Siamese capital of Ayutthaya, at the end his career. This represents a timely reminder about Malay elements in Central Thailand's cultural geography.

PRESENTER'S PROFILE



Dr. Christopher M. Joll is a New Zealand religious anthropologist and historian, who has spent most of the last two decades studying Thailand's scattered between Central Thailand and the Malaysian border. He is the author of *Muslim Merit-making in Thailand's Far-south* (Springer, 2011). In addition to being a research fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Muslim Studies at Chulalongkorn University's Institute of Asian Studies, he supervises a cohort of post-graduate students at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Institute of Ethnic Studies.

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