

Issue 5, October 31, 2016



## News

### **Lecture: Differences in PISA-Science scores among OECD Countries: Rethinking Teaching, Learning, Ontology, and Self**

**Dr. Hikaru Komatsu**

**Kyoto University**

**Wednesday, November 9, 10 – 11AM, Coor 246**

Dr. Hikaru Komatsu of Kyoto University will be giving a public lecture on PISA scores in OECD countries on Wednesday, November 9. Large variations in mean PISA scores are widely recognized but unexplained to date. Dr. Komatsu's work reveals a pedagogical factor strongly correlated with the mean PISA-Science score among OECD countries. Dr. Komatsu is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Kyoto University and a member of the Hakubi Project. Dr. Komatsu's lecture is sponsored by the Center for Advanced Studies in Global Education.

### **Singapore and Malaysia: Study Politics Abroad**

ASU political science faculty members Drs. Sarah Shair-Rosenfield and Reed Wood will be leading a study abroad program for undergraduates to Singapore and Malaysia in the summer of 2017. The program counts for six credits in political science, and costs \$6,385 – the fee covers most costs incurred. For more information go to: [https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ViewProgram&Program\\_ID=10002](https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10002)

## **Dr. James Rush Lectures at UC Berkeley on Hamka**

History professor James Rush recently gave an invited lecture at the University of California, Berkeley, entitled “‘I Aim to be Hamka of Indonesia’: A Protean Writer’s Life and Dreams in 20th Century Southeast Asia.” Dr. Rush’s lecture explored how Islam and nationalism came together in the life and ideas of Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah (1908-1981), better known as Hamka, a prolific, ambitious, and largely self-taught master of modern Indonesian prose. This year, the University of Wisconsin Press published Dr. Rush’s book on Hamka, *Hamka’s Great Story: A Master Writer’s Vision of Islam for Modern Indonesia*.

## **Dr. Sheldon Simon Interviewed on Vietnam-Philippine Relations**

Political science professor Sheldon Simon was interviewed by Viet Nam Express on Philippine President Duterte’s visit to Vietnam and how security relations between the two countries affects disputes in the South China Sea. The Vietnamese-language story can be found here: <http://vnexpress.net/tin-tuc/the-gioi/phan-tich/ong-duterte-co-the-muon-cung-viet-nam-ngan-trung-quoc-quan-su-hoa-bien-dong-3475220.html>.

## **Ethnographies of Islam in China – Call for Papers**

The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London is inviting papers for a conference on the benefits and challenges of fieldwork-based ethnographic research in China. A peer-reviewed, edited volume arising from the conference is planned. For more information go to <http://www.soundislamchina.org/?p=1543>.

## **Global Asias 4 Conference – Call for Papers**

Penn State’s Department of Asian Studies announces Global Asias 4, a biennial conference hosted to complement the work of its journal *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*. *Verge* covers Asia and its diasporas, East to West, across and around the Pacific, from a variety of humanistic perspectives in order to develop comparative analyses that recognize Asia’s place(s) in the development of global culture and history. They are inviting proposals for the conference, to be held March 31-April 1, 2017. For more information, including panel themes, go to <http://asian.la.psu.edu/news-alumni/global-asias-4-conference-call-for-papers>.

## **Blakemore Freeman Asian Language Fellowships Available**

Graduate students interested in a one-year, intensive language study program in China, Japan, Korea, Thai, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia or Burma may apply for a Blakemore Freeman fellowship for funding. Applicants must be US citizens and at an advanced level in their language of study. The deadline is late December, and more information can be found at <http://www.blakemorefoundation.org/language.html>