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ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

TRANSNATIONAL ISLAM, KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN POST-SUHARTO INDONESIA

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Over the last decades, Indonesia has seen the growing impact of Saudi transnational proselytization and religious funding. Owing to the generous support by Saudi Arabia, da'wa (proselytization) activities focusing on promoting Salafism proliferated, followed by the establishment of Salafi foundations and madrasas as such in many parts of Indonesia's provinces. In so doing, the Salafis succeeded in establishing an exclusivist current of Islamic activism and assert religious authority in certain Islamic circles. The impact of the Saudi campaign has reached school and university education as well through the production of Salafi literature that widely spread among students. This paper explores practices and cultures of religious knowledge production and religious education in Indonesia amidst the expansion of radicalism and extremism associated with Wahhabism. More specifically, I will be looking at how issues of intolerance and anti-pluralism are reflected in the literature and curriculum used at school and university education teaching Islam. I will also examine the role played by Salafi preachers and authorities both in producing the literature and in contextualizing and appropriating the Salafi messages into the school and university education.



Noorhaidi Hasan is professor of Islam and politics at State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Kalijaga of Yogyakarta where he also directs the Post-graduate Studies Programme. His research interests include Salafism, identity politics, religious diversity, popular culture, and youth. Having completed his BA in Islamic law from UIN Sunan Kalijaga (1994), he obtained his MA from Leiden University (1999), his MPhil from the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (2000), and his PhD from Utrecht University (2005). His latest publications include "Funky Teenagers Love God: Islam and Youth Activism in Post-Suharto Indonesia", in Adeline Masquelier and Benjamin F. Soares, eds., Muslim Youth and the 9/11 Generation. School for Advanced Research Press, 2016; "Salafism in Indonesia: Transnational Islam, Violent Activism, and Cultural Resistance", in Robert Hefner, ed., Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Indonesia. Routledge, 2018.

