

FAIZAH ZAKARIA

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2019- **Assistant Professor**, History Division, School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2018-19 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands
- 2017-18 **Research Fellow**, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, USA

EDUCATION

Yale University

- 2018 PhD, History, with Certificate in College Teaching Preparation
- 2014 MPhil., History, with distinction
- 2013 M.A., History

National University of Singapore

- 2011 M.A., Southeast Asian Studies
- 2003 B.Sc., Mathematics, second major in English Language, with honors

National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University

- 2004 Postgraduate Diploma in Education, with Credit.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental history, religious history (animism, Islam, Christianity in Southeast Asia), indigenous movements, environmental justice, mass violence, forced migration
Geographic specialization: Maritime Southeast Asia, Southeast Asian uplands

LANGUAGES

Malay and Bahasa Indonesia (native proficiency). Proficient in reading Jawi script.
Dutch, French, German (reading)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

Awards

- 2019 Shortlist, Indonesia and Malay World Young Scholar Prize.
- 2019 Shortlist, International Consortium of Asian Studies (ICAS) Book Prize, for best PhD dissertation in the humanities category. Won a reading accolade for 'most captivating and accessible work for a non-specialist audience.'
- 2018 Arthur and Mary Wright Prize awarded for outstanding dissertation in a field of history outside US and Europe at Yale University.
- 2017 Association of Asian Studies ITLSC Student Paper Prize, best graduate student paper presented at the AAS conference in the area of Indonesian studies.
- 2017 Honorable mention, National Arts Council Golden Point Award, a national literary fiction competition in Singapore (in Malay language category)
- 2011 Benjamin Batson Gold Medal, National University of Singapore, for best M.A. student in Southeast Asian Studies
- 1997 Prime Minister's Book Prize, Government of Singapore, 1997 for top bilingual performance in national examinations

Grants

- 2020 Academic Research Funding (AcRF) Tier 1 Grant of SGD \$31,215 (USD\$ 23,100), Ministry of Education, Singapore
- 2020 Faculty Start-Up Grant of SGD \$29,913 (USD\$ 22,170), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2016 Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant, of USD \$1000, American Historical Association, USA
- 2015 Center for Southeast Asian Studies Summer Grant, of USD \$2000 annually for three years 2013, 2015 and 2016, Yale University, USA
- 2014 Macmillan Center International Dissertation Research Grant, of USD \$15,000, Henry Luce Foundation, Yale University, USA
- 2014 Summer School Scholarship, tuition waiver, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK
- 2013 Center for European Studies Language Studies Grant, of USD \$1000, Yale University USA
- 2012 Charles Kao Fund Summer Research Grant, of USD \$3000, Council for East Asian Studies, Yale University, 2012

Fellowships

- 2020 Visiting Research Fellowship, Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), The Netherlands (postponed due to Covid-19).
- 2019 IAS Research Fellowship, International Institute of Asian Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands
- 2017 HASS International PhD Scholarship, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2016 Louis E. Voorheis Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Yale University, USA
- 2014 Tan Ean Kiam Scholarship for the Humanities, Tan Kah Kee Foundation, Singapore
- 2012 Edith Wile Lowman Fellowship, Yale University, USA
- 2000 Public Service Commission Local Merit Scholarship, (awarded for a four-year term) Government of Singapore, Singapore

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Spiritual Anthropocene: Ecology of Conversions in Maritime Southeast Asian Uplands. Under contract with University of Washington Press, full manuscript submitted, anticipated publication 2021.

Refereed Research Articles

- 2018 "Qingzhen from the Perspective of the Other: Consumption and Muslim Boundary-Making in Republican China, 1920-1949," *Journal of Islamic and Muslim Studies*, 3(2): 21-38
- 2017 "Traditional Malay Medicine in Singapore: A Gramscian Perspective," *Indonesia and the Malay World*, 45(131):127-144 (with Humairah Zainal)
- 2012 "Detentions in Mass Violence: Policy and Practice in Indonesia 1965 – 1968," *Critical Asian Studies*, 44(3): 441-466 (with Douglas Kammen)
- 2010 "A Multicultural Space in a Global Cityscape: The Neighborhood Coffee Shop," *Global Studies Journal*, 3(3): 191-204

Refereed Review Essays

- 2020 "Why Study Southeast Asian Medicine?" *Asian Medicine*, Dec (forthcoming)
- 2020 "Decolonizing Extinction – A Review Roundtable," *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, June (forthcoming)
- 2019 "Religion, Mass Violence and Illiberal Regimes: Recent Research on the Rohingya in Myanmar," *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 38(1): 21-32
- 2018 "Indonesia's Mass Killings of 1965 – 66: Retrospective and Requiem," *Critical Asian Studies*, 50(4): 634-639

Book Chapters

- 2021 "Camphor, Celluloid and Post-human Imperialism: The Dutch East Indies and Colonial Taiwan in Comparative Perspective," chapter accepted for edited volume *The Wood Age in Asia*, ed. Bradley C. Davis, Brian Lander, John S. Lee and Ian M. Miller. (forthcoming University of Washington Press).
- 2013 "An Empire State of the Mind: *Malayu* Imaginings of *Rum* and the Early Modern Ottoman Empire," in *Between the Mountain and the Sea: Positioning Indonesia*, edited by Frank Dhont, Tracy Wright Webster and Rommel A. Curaming, (Yogyakarta: Gadjah Madah University Press), 1-26

Manuscripts Under Submission/Preparation

- "A Mantra for Elephants: Religion and Animal Colonialisms in the Malay Peninsula,"
[under review at *Comparative Studies in Society and History*]
- "Birth, Life and Afterlife of an Indonesian Graveyard: Trans-urban Environmental Rule and Its Discontents," [under review at *Journal of Social History*]
- "Citizen to Indigenous: *Adat* and the Environmentalism of the Poor in Indonesia"
[under revision]

“The Wild and the Rewilding: Asian Elephants and the Rhetoric of Invasion”
[under preparation for a special issue of *Environment and History* on Invasive Ecologies]

“Volcanism in the Eastern Indian Ocean,” in *The Cambridge History of the Indian Ocean Volume II*,
ed. Seema Alavi, Sunil Amrith and Eric Tagliacozzo
[invited contribution under contract with Cambridge University Press]

Book Reviews

- 2020 ‘Michael Charney and Kathryn Wellem ed., Warring Societies of Pre-Colonial Southeast Asia,’ In *H-Net Southeast Asia* [online]
- 2020 ‘Nur Amali Ibrahim, Improvisational Islam: Indonesian Youth in a Time of Possibility.’ In *Contemporary Islam*, 14:1, pp. 93-6.
- 2019 ‘Rod Giblett, Environmental Humanities and Theologies: Ecoculture, Literature and the Bible,’ in *Reading Religion*, [online journal for American Association for Religion].
- 2018 ‘J. Martinez & A.Vickers, The Pearl Frontier: Indonesian Labor and Indigenous Encounters in Australia’s Northern Trading Network,’ *Southeast Asian Studies*, 7(1): 124-27
- 2016 ‘Donna J. Amoroso, Traditionalism and the Ascendancy of the Malay Ruling Class in Colonial Malaya.’ In *Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia*. 4(2): 424 – 426
- 2016 ‘Karel Steenbrink, Catholics in Independent Indonesia: 1945 to 2010. In *New Books Asia* [online review website for International Institute for Asian Studies].
- 2015 ‘Tania Murray Li, Land’s End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier. In *Southeast Asian Studies*. 4(3): 626 - 629
- 2014 ‘G. Dora Dore, J.H Ku and K.D Jackson ed. Incomplete Democracies in the Asia Pacific.’ In *Yale Journal of International Affairs*, 10(1): 53 - 54
- 2014 ‘Abdul Wahid, From Revenue Farming to State Monopoly: The Political Economy of Taxation in Colonial Indonesia, Java c. 1816 to 1942. In *Dissertations Review* [online]

Public History and Other Publications

- 2020 *Fatwas of Singapore: Volume 2- Inheritance and Financial Planning*, Singapore: MUIS Press Books, (forthcoming)
- 2020 “Cov-Eid: Aidilfitri di Zaman Pandemik,” *Sekata*, July 2020. (In Malay)
- 2020 “What Grows in a Graveyard,” *Environmental History Now*, July 2020.
- 2020 “Cov-Eid Images as Event and Archive,” *CoronAsur*, Asia Research Institute Blog on Religion and the Pandemic, May 2020.
- 2018 "The Toba Super Catastrophe and the Environmental History of a Future," *Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Nalanda-Srivijaya Center Highlights*, September 2018
- 2018 "Trailing the Anthropocene in the Footsteps of Claire Holt," *Cornell Southeast Asia Program Bulletin*, August 2018
- 2017 “Impian Jannah,” *National Arts Council Golden Point Awards*, Oct 2017 (In Malay)
- 2017 *Fatwas of Singapore: Volume 1- Science, Medicine and Health*, Singapore: MUIS Press Books, (with Nazirudin Nasir and Raihanah Halid)
- 2014 "Religion and Public Policy in Southeast Asia," *Yale MacMillan Center Bulletin*, Spring 2017
- 2010 Encyclopedia entries for *Singapore Infopedia*, National Library Board
- 2010 “Little Guilin,” Poem in *The Straits Times*, National Day Supplement

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Presentations

- 2020 (Invited lecture) "The Plantationocene in Southeast Asia," Online guest lecture at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) with Christian Lentz.
- 2020 (Keynote) "World History and the 'Seduction of Quantification – A View from Southeast Asia,'" 14th Graduate Student Forum, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Jul 24.
- 2020 "Wild and Rewild: The Asian Elephant and the Rhetoric of Invasion," Workshop on Invasive Ecologies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Feb 20
- 2019 "Religion and Animal Modernity in Malaya," Lecture, International Institute of Asian Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands, Mar 17
- 2019 "The Colonization of Elephants in Malaya," Seminar in Global and Imperial History, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, Feb 8 (sponsored)
- 2019 "Camphor, Celluloid and Colonial-Indigenous Encounters: Dutch East Indies and Colonial Taiwan in Comparative Perspective," Seminar in the International History of East Asia, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, Feb 4 (sponsored)
- 2018 "The Toba Super-catastrophe as the History of a Future," Ronald and Janette Gatty Lecture Series, Cornell University, Oct 18.
- 2018 "Spiritual Anthropocene: Rethinking Religious and Environmental Change in the Malay World during the Long 19th Century." Workshop on Southeast Asian Natures, University of California (Riverside), Mar 14 (sponsored)

Papers Presented

- 2020 "Krakatau's 'Vibrating String': Energy Anxieties in the Anthropocene," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston (canceled due to Covid-19)
- 2019 "Healing Elephants in Malaya and Burma," History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Utrecht, the Netherlands, July 27.
- 2018 "Spirit Mediums and the Harvesting of Camphor," Conference on 'The Wood Age in Comparative Perspective,' Yale University, Sep 21-24
- 2018 "Mapping Millenarianism in the Sumatran Uplands," Association of Asian Studies Conference in Asia, New Delhi, Jul 4-7
- 2018 "Rural-Urban Dynamics in the Making of a Sumatran Forest Periphery," Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington DC, Mar 22-25
- 2018 "Charismatic Mega-fauna and the Concept of Wellness in Nineteenth Century Malayan Manuscripts," American Society for Environmental History Conference, Riverside CA, Mar 19-21
- 2017 "Genealogy as Historical Right in the Bataklands and its Malayan Diaspora," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Mar 16-19
- 2017 "Migrating Remedies and Healing the Malay Body in 1930s British Malaya," Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Feb 21

- 2015 "From Mining to Healing: Chinese Traditional Medicine and the Malay Family in the 1930s," Symposium on Regulating Intimacy, Indiana University, Bloomington, Sep 2015
- 2015 "Stories We Tell Ourselves: Writing a History of Batak Peoples from Narrative Sources," European Association for Southeast Asian Studies Conference, Vienna, Austria, Aug 3
- 2014 "Consumption and Muslim Boundaries in Republican China, 1920-1949," Symposium on Expanding East Asia, McGill University, Apr 20-21
- 2014 "New Questions and Sources in Southeast Asian Environmental History," 15th Cornell Southeast Asia Program Conference, Cornell University, Feb 23-24
- 2013 "*Malayu* Imaginings of Rum and the Early Modern Ottoman Empire," Graduate conference on New Research in Southeast Asian History, Yale University, 13 Oct
- 2013 "Lived Experiences around the Slopes of Mount Merapi, 1814 to 2010," 10th Northeastern Conference on Indonesia, Yale University, Mar 30
- 2012 "Empire State of the Mind: *Rumm* in 17th Century Aceh and Malacca," 5th International Indonesia Forum, Gadjah Madah University, Jul 17-21
- 2012 "Between Killings and Detentions in the Aftermath of *Gerakan 30 September*," 8th Northeastern Conference on Indonesia, Yale University, Mar 27

Chair/Discussant

- 2020 "Why Asian Environmental History Matters," Roundtable Discussant, Yale-NUS College, 20 Feb (canceled due to Covid-19)
- 2019 "Human Rights, Social Protection and Social Policy in Asia," International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS), 17 July
- 2018 "Jokonomics Across the Archipelago: Lived Economies of Indonesia," 18th Northeast Conference on Indonesia, Cornell University
- 2017 "Religion and Public Policy in Southeast Asia," Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies and Yale Council for Southeast Asian Studies Symposium
- 2016 "Women's Eyes on All Issues: On Indonesia," Yale Indonesia Forum-Cornell Indonesia Association Conference
- 2016 "Environmental Rule in Vietnam and Beyond," Yale Program in Agrarian Studies Colloquium
- 2014 "Re-imagining Indonesia: Ideals, Actions, Challenges," Yale Indonesia Forum Spring Workshop, Yale University
- 2012 "Colonial Migration and the Origins of Governance: Theory and Evidence from Java," Macmillan Center Comparative Politics Workshop, Yale University

CAMPUS/DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2017 "Sacred Ecologies of the North Sumatran Highlands," Yale Environmental Humanities Symposium, May 2

July 2020

- 2017 "ASEAN - Past, Present and Prospects," guest lecture in J. Melvin's class on 'Southeast Asia: The Making of a Region,' Yale University, Apr 14
- 2016 "Landscapes and Conversions during the Padri Wars in Sumatra, 1803-1840." Yale Program in Agrarian Studies, Spring Series Colloquia, May 5

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses at Nanyang Technological University, 2019 - present

- The Islamicate World (currently teaching)
- History of the Malay World: Past Histories, Present Identities (teaching in Fall 2020)
- Climate and Society in Historical Perspective (teaching in Fall 2020)
- Agrarian Societies in the Global South (under development)
- Asian Medicine in Singapore (under development with Michael Stanley-Baker)

Teaching Fellow at Yale University, 2013 - 2017

- World Finance: From Mesopotamia to Present
- History of China since 1550
- Political Islam: From Past to Present
- Southeast Asia since 1800
- The Colonial Period in US History

St. Andrew's Junior College, 2004 - 2010

- H1, H2 Mathematics: Lecturer and Tutor
- H3 Mathematics: Specialized in the tutoring of Combinatorics
- Project Work: Supervising Tutor, Staff Training, acting Subject Head
- Recipient of Outstanding Contribution to School Team Award in 2008 and 2009.
- Interact Club teacher-in-charge and National Education Committee member.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

History Division, Nanyang Technological University

Final Year Project (FYP) Co-coordinator, History Program, NTU (2020)
Outreach Committee Member, NTU (2020-21)
Undergraduate FYP supervisor, History Program, NTU
Calvin Lam (AY 2019-2020)

Academic Service outside the University

Manuscript Referee for:

Asian Studies Review (2020); *Environmental History* (2020); *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (2019); *Current Anthropology* (2019); *Environment and History* (2018); *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* (2014)

International Consortium of Asian Studies (ICAS), Book Prize Committee Member (2020-21)

Podcast host for New Books Network Environmental Studies channel

Interviews (to date) with - Timothy Barnard; Sher Banu Khan; Jerome Whittington; Carlo Caduff; Kevin Fogg

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University

- 2016 Graduate Coordinator, Yale Program in Agrarian Studies
- 2013 Graduate Coordinator, Yale Indonesia Forum
- 2013 Representative, Graduate Student Assembly, Yale Grad School of Arts and Sciences

Events Organized

- 2019 Global Academic Freedom Space, co-organizer, parallel event at International Consortium of Asian Studies (ICAS) annual conference, Leiden, July 21-24
- 2019 “Environmental Histories of the Malay World: The Legacy of Peter Boomgaard,” International Consortium of Asian Studies (ICAS) annual conference, July 21-24
- 2016 "Contemplating the Rise of Asian Cities," Yale Inter-Asia Initiative Symposium, (series of workshops over three months from February to May)
- 2015 "Pig Out: Hogs and Humans in Global and Historical Context." Conference Co-organizer for Yale Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University, Oct 3-5
- 2014 "Reimagining Indonesia: Ideals, Actions and Challenges," 11th Northeastern Conference for junior scholars, Yale University, April, 21
- 2013 “Social Dynamics of Sustainable Development in Indonesia.” Yale University, Workshop Co-organizer, April 14.

RELATED SKILLS and TRAINING

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

- 2019 Museums and Environmental Humanities Masterclass, University of Stavanger.
- 2016-17 Climate Change and History Research Initiative Paleo-climate Workshop, Princeton University.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- 2017 GIS Fundamentals Workshop, Yale Center for Science and Social Sciences Information
- 2015 Network Analysis using GEPHI Workshop, American Historical Association

LANGUAGE STUDY

- 2017 Summer Program in German for Reading, Yale University.
- 2014 Jawi and Malay Manuscript Tradition, School of Oriental and African Studies (London)
- 2013 Summer Program in Modern Dutch Reading, Columbia University and University of Amsterdam

PAST RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research Assistant, to Office of Mufti, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS), Singapore. May to Aug 2015. Researched on the socio-historical context of fatwa-making in Singapore from 1968 as part of the Fatwa Rulings Documentation Project. Findings will be published in five volumes, starting from 2017.

Research Assistant, to Dr. Ziv Eisenberg, History of Science and Medicine, Yale University
Oct 2013 to Jan 2014. Transcribed a corpus of letters for his research on pregnancies and stress
in wartime.

Research Writer, for National Library Board, Singapore, Jun 2010 to May 2011. Researched and
wrote a series of articles for their online encyclopedia.

Education Research, for St. Andrew's JC Mathematics Department, Action Research Team,
Jan 2006 to Jun 2007. Conducted an action research project on web-based software in teaching
vectors and presented the findings in a pedagogy conference.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Association of Asian Studies (since 2013)
American Historical Association (since 2014)
American Society for Environmental History (since 2016)
European Society for Environmental History (since 2017)
World History Association (since 2017)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Writing Partner, Yale College Writing Center.
Sep 2015 to May 2017. Worked with disabled students as well as those who learned
English as a second language.
Publications Assistant, Yale Council for Southeast Asian Studies Publications Press
Dec 2012 to Dec 2017. In charge of sales and inventory.
Intern for Singapore Press Holdings, *Berita Harian*
June 2002. Reported on mosque activities and community events in Malay
Intern for Association of Muslim Professionals
June 2001. Transcribed data to design social service programs
Census Officer, Singapore Department of Statistics
Dec 1999 to Feb 2000. Collected and collated census data

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (selected)

Yale New Haven Hospital Free Clinic, Education, 2017
New Haven Reads (Literacy Program), Volunteer, 2011 to 2014.
Team Seagrass (Singapore National Parks Board), 2007 to 2009.
Interact Club/Rotary Club, Teacher-in-Charge at SAJC, 2007-2009
Overseas Community Involvement Program with Khmer Heir Association, Cambodia, 2008
Children's Cancer Foundation, 2004 to 2006.

REFERENCES

1. Benedict F. Kiernan (Dissertation Director)
A. Whitney Griswold Professor of History, Professor of International & Area Studies
(Macmillan Center), Yale University
Address: Hall of Graduate Studies 305, 320 York Street, New Haven CT06520
Contact: 203-432-2870/ben.kiernan@yale.edu
2. Alan Mikhail (Dissertation Committee Member)
Professor of History, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Yale University
Address: Hall of Graduate Studies 238, 320 York Street, New Haven CT06520
Contact: 203-432-1353/alan.mikhail@yale.edu
3. Michael R. Dove (Dissertation Committee Member)
Margaret K. Musser Professor of Social Ecology, Yale School of Forestry and
Environmental Studies
Address: 134-36, Kroon Hall, 195 Prospect Street, New Haven CT06520
Contact: 203-532-8467, michael.dove@yale.edu
4. Julia A. Stephens (Teaching reference)
Assistant Professor of History, Rutgers University
Address: 002G Van Dyck Hall, 10 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ08901
Contact: 848-932-8262/julia.stephens@rutgers.edu
5. James C. Scott (Dissertation Committee Member)
Sterling Prof Political Science; Acting Director Agrarian Studies; Professor School of
Forestry & Environmental Studies
Address: 115 Prospect St, New Haven, CT 06511
Contact: 203-432-9833/ james.scott@yale.edu
6. Peter C. Perdue (Dissertation Committee Member)
Professor of History, Yale University
Address: Rosenkranz Hall 242, 125 Prospect Street, New Haven CT06520
Contact: 203-432-6145/peter.c.perdue@yale.edu
7. Douglas A. Kammen (M.A. Project Supervisor)
Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
Address: 10 Kent Ridge Crescent, AS3 06-03, Singapore 119260
Contact: +65-65166865/seadak@nus.edu.sg