Seminar 4: Islam, secularism and liberal democracy in Indonesia and the rise of extremism and launch of ‘Knowing Indonesia: Intersections of Self, Discipline and Nation’.

Speaker: Professor Greg Barton

Date: Tuesday, 16 October, 2012
Time: 6pm (for 6.30pm start)
Venue: H1.16, Ground Floor, Building H, Monash University Caulfield campus
900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East VIC 3145
* The Caulfield Railway Station is adjacent to the campus. The No. 3 tram from Swanston Street will take you directly to the campus. Visit www.monash.edu.au/pubs/maps/2-Caulfieldcolour.pdf for a detailed map of the campus
Some light Indonesian refreshments will be served upon arrival followed by the seminar and book launch
RSVP: Tuesday 9 October
Eric Cheng Telephone: 03 9903 4616 or email: eric.cheng@monash.edu
*This event is free but RSVP is essential for catering purposes

In this, the final in our new series of seminars on Indonesia, the region and peace studies related themes, Professor Greg Barton, Herb Feith Research Professor for the Study of Indonesia in the Faculty of Arts at Monash will speak about Islam, secularism and liberal democracy in Indonesia and the rise of extremism.

Greg is the Herb Feith Research Professor for the Study of Indonesia in the Faculty of Arts at Monash. He is based in the Politics stream in the School of Political and Social Inquiry. He is acting Director of the Centre for Islam and the Modern World (CIMOW), Deputy UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific, and is active in the Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC). For the past twenty years, Greg has been active in inter-faith dialogue initiatives and has a deep commitment to building understanding of Islam and Muslim society. The central axis of his research interests is the way in which religious thought, individual believers and religious communities respond to modernity and to the modern nation state. He also has a strong general interest in comparative international politics.

Over the past two decades Greg has undertaken extensive research on Indonesian politics and society, especially of the role of Islam as both a constructive and a disruptive force. Since 2004 he has made a comparative study of progressive Islamic thought in Turkey and Indonesia and is hoping to extend this comparative study to India.

Knowing Indonesia: Intersections of Self, Discipline and Nation
Edited by Jemma Purdey

This is the first book in almost two decades to bring together scholars of Indonesia from the Australian academy in a single volume to reflect on and engage in a deep critique of their field. This is a timely contribution. The importance of Indonesia to Australia has never been more acute and it is essential that we have the tools for interpreting and understanding our nearest neighbour. Investigation of debates within the field of Indonesian studies will help us interpret better the perceptions and politics informing our study. As is befitting the multi-disciplinary nature of Indonesian studies, the book brings together leading political scientists, historians and anthropologists to give their unique perspectives and analysis of this field in the Australian academy and elsewhere in the West. This approach results in some divergent views on the fundamental questions of how Indonesia should be studied and the uses of Indonesia knowledge for activism, and presents new ideas about how we might pursue our work in the future.