



**THE LOST GENERATION:  
Chinese-Indonesians in the New Order Era**

**Tuesday, September 21 • 7:30 p.m. • Aimee Dawis**

WELCOME RECEPTION  
AT 6:30 P.M.  
PLEASE JOIN US!

Chinese Indonesians born after 1966, during the New Order Era, grew up in a restrictive media environment with Chinese language and culture curtailed, all Chinese-language schools closed, public use of Chinese characters prohibited, and imported Chinese-language publications banned. In a richly illustrated lecture Dr. Aimee Dawis examines how this “lost” generation forged and maintained a collective memory about their culture and identity. Some found space to seek and/or practice aspects of their Chinese culture by privately watching Chinese films/series. These media provided a common cultural reference that allowed them to connect to a “mythic homeland”. In listening to their stories, Dr. Aimee further discovered their “*kalah dan salah*” (always losing and being in the wrong) mentality whereby they consider themselves to be truly Indonesian, but are still discriminated against in times of political upheavals and on a daily basis. They therefore also look to these media with a longing to live in an environment where their safety may be assured and their Chinese identity is unquestioned.

**(Tuesday, September 28 – NO LECTURE)**

**INSIDE SUHARTO'S LAST DAYS AS PRESIDENT**

**Tuesday, October 5 • 7:30 p.m. • Jeremy Wagstaff**

Journalist Jeremy Wagstaff will discuss the seven days leading up to President's Suharto's downfall on May 22, 1998. He will take you from May 15, the day Suharto returned from a trip abroad to find a capital gutted by the worst street rebellion of his rule, to the moments after he resigned less than a week later. This talk will shed light on the history of this country, which is only now emerging from years of obscurity. Learn more about the main characters of this drama and a few of the unsung heroes who helped prevent wider bloodshed. Included will be some anecdotes and insights about Javanese politics and how personal and cultural rivalries threatened to take Indonesia over the edge. Jeremy Wagstaff will also touch on the process of piecing things together, the difficulties of reconstructing historic events where no written evidence exists, and his obsession with trying to tell a story he believes is central to understanding Indonesia.

**BAMBOO, BALI AND BEYOND:  
Is Bamboo the Timber of the Future?**

**Tuesday, October 12 • 7:30 p.m. • John Hardy**

How bamboo, likely the world's most versatile and sustainable plant, is grown and used is the story that the Canadian-born John Hardy will tell. In 2007 from his rustic retreat along the Sayan Ridge in Bali's bucolic center, John began the Meranggi Project to create possibilities for bamboo's extensive use as timber. He began by showing villagers how many giant black petung bamboo clumps are needed to pay for a child's education and then for a house for the next generation. Since it takes only about 6 years from seedling to production, he envisions bamboo moving from a 3rd class to a 1st class building material within our lifetimes. Beautiful, sturdy bamboo can grow

almost anywhere and be crafted into furniture, houses and other structures that can sway with earthquakes. In words and with images John Hardy will share his dreams and document how bamboo grown in Bali can contribute to the future of Indonesia and beyond.

**rites of passage throughout Indonesia**

**Tuesday, October 19 • 7:30 p.m. • Juliana Roe**

*Birth is not the beginning...death is not the end.* Tradition, harmony and balance – three concepts that continue to influence Indonesian culture even in today's atmosphere of rapidly increasing technology and high rise buildings – are clearly discernible in the rites and rituals from Sumatra through Papua that are featured in this lecture. The Indonesian people have created a multitude of cultural artefacts that are integral to, as well as enhance, these ceremonies. Though such rites and rituals are less prevalent now than they once were, the artefacts have become desirable and valuable collectors' items. The Museum Nasional is a treasure trove of such artefacts, and images from the Museum's collection will be highlighted in this richly illustrated lecture.

**H<sub>2</sub>O: Changing and Challenging the Indonesian Archipelago**

**Tuesday, October 26 • 7:30 p.m. • Tom Fraser**

What happens when the sea shore comes to our very door step or is shifted 300 kilometers away, or countries build dams, denying downstream countries access to rivers they have relied on since pre-history? Tom Fraser, a peripatetic oilfield geologist, will examine how water plays a key role in our dynamic planet and the impact of changing sea levels on the human condition with emphasis on Indonesia.

During the 40,000 years that humans have lived in South East Asia, coastlines have dramatically changed. What used to be a wide expanse of relatively low relief habitable land, such as the land bridge between Java and Borneo, is now open sea. Water can still bring sudden change. Life-giving waters become an instant source of death as tidal waves or tsunamis crash into certain areas of Indonesia. Come aboard for an aqueous voyage with Tom through time and the area we currently call the Indonesian archipelago.

**JAKARTA 1990 – 2010: Eyewitness, Ken Pattern**

**Tuesday, November 2 • 7:30 p.m. • Ken Pattern**

Intriguing, enthralling, frustrating and dynamic are but a few of the words used to describe Jakarta. For well known Canadian artist, Ken Pattern, it has served as an inspiration and he has devotedly documented Indonesia's capital for the past 20 years. In this lecture you will be able to view Jakarta through his keen artistic eyes and to travel with him to the *kampung* areas, alley ways, and riverbanks of Jakarta that are home to millions of residents as well as to witness the growth of the ever expanding business districts. Through his art and photographs Ken Pattern will provide a historic and poignant perspective of the dramatic changes that have occurred in recent times. With typical sensitivity he will share stories of the people behind his intricate images and the impact on the lives of some who experienced the changes. You will not look at Jakarta in the same way again.