Austronesian research seminar

Co-organized by Elsa Clavé, Adonis Elumbre, Jan van der Putten (UHH), Andrea Malaya Ragragio, Myfel Paluga (University of the Philippines-Mindanao/Leiden University) and Ramon Guillermo (University of the Philippines-Diliman).

The permanent seminar of the Austronesian studies program at University of Hamburg is intended to be a space of exchange for graduate students, junior, and confirmed researchers working on the Austronesian speaking world – namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Pacific islands (Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia), and Madagascar – and adopting a broad regional and/or temporal perspective when considering ancient and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena.

Using the Austronesian speaking world as frame of inquiry, we emphasize:

- The importance to consider the circulation and exchange, and other modes of materio-symbolic transfers, in a region exceeding the borders of traditional area studies (Southeast Asia, South Asia, Pacific, Africa)
- The role of oceans and seas, and highlands, in the history and the cultures of the region
- The complex form of relation, rather than the sharp and simple oppositions between maritime Southeast Asia and non-coastal regions

Keen on pushing further last semester’s interest on colonial-period and 19th century classifications and modes of categorization (in colonial dynamics and knowledge production, in the codification of Austronesian languages and grammars, and in 19th century Western Malayo-Polynesian ‘traditional political authority’), the present line-up of lectures will focus on “Austronesian” religions, cosmologies, and philosophies—their enduring logics and ontologies—in more recent times, in the twentieth century up to the present one.

Centering on the question of durabilites and continuing viabilities of local social forms and ideas – in a context of perpetual contact and exchange with others – we will ask whether recent scholarly production on the mentioned themes can offer conceptual resources and models for present-day global and socio-ecological challenges in the region.
Contacts:

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The seminar will meet once to twice a month, following a hybrid format.

To access the readings:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GogDqNtiwxJK8uWscIbYo0CXIU6aUCDP?usp=sharing

To join the seminar:

https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/69233494963?pwd=QTRPWHFvSlMzTm9EcktlNGtBaWdjQT09

Meeting-ID: 692 3349 4963
Code: 84960431

Program:

17.10.22
Concepts of soul and the afterlife in pre- and non-predominantly Christianized Philippines—Views from archaeological, historical and ethnological reconstructions
Dr. Victor Paz, Professor of Archaeology, ArchaSchool of Archaeology (SoA), University of the Philippines, Diliman, Prof. Dr. Zeus Salazar, Dr. Carmen Peñalosa, Bagong Kasaysayan/Bahay Saliksikan ng Kasaysayan (BAKAS)
Respondent: Hector Guazon, Department of Anthropology, University of the Philippines, Diliman.

21.11.22
Tracing Sundanese Religion: Between Ethnography and Philology
Dr. Aditia Gunawan, DHARMA Project/National Library of Indonesia

05.12.22
The Song from the land of three bloods. Toraja ritual space and socio-cosmic social organization.
Dr. Dana Rappoport, Anthropologist, Centre Asie du Sud-est (CASE), French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris

19.12.22
Sulawesian Concepts: Urban Spatial Concepts in Makassar
Prof. Dr. Christoph Antweiler, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, Institut for Oriental and Asian Studies Institut für Orient- und Asienwissenschaften (IOA), Abteilung Südostasienwissenschaft, Universität Bonn
09.01.23
*Death Ritual and Funeral Rites in Ifugao, Cordillera*

**Dr. Leah Enkiwe-Abayao**, Professor of History and Dean of College of Social Sciences, University of the Philippines Baguio.

16.01.23
*"Pused te Tana" (Navel of the Earth): Land Memory and the Erumanen ne Menuvu Identity*

**Dr. Mary Jane Rodriguez-Tatel**, Associate Professor of Philippine Studies, College of Arts and Letters, University of the Philippines Diliman.