

Artists/Activists – enacting environmentalism through the performing arts in Indonesia

Convenor: Dr Laura Noszlopy (University of Birmingham, UK), L.Noszlopy@bham.ac.uk

Single session: Dr Marianna Lis (Poland) + 3 other panelists from Indonesia and Europe tbc ,

Discussant: Maria Tri Sulistyani - Ria (Papermoon Puppet Theatre, Indonesia) – to be confirmed, pending availability of funding

Panel abstract

Indonesia has one of the world's highest rates of climate change denial, and environmental science hardly features in the national curriculum. Yet the archipelago is already facing major environmental challenges with rising sea levels and temperatures, extreme weather events, changes to agricultural patterns, and widespread pollution. Young people especially are seeking urgent change.

This panel explores how contemporary Indonesian performing artists have taken up the mantle of environmental education, raising awareness, and suggesting mitigation strategies through music, theatre, performance arts, and community workshops. These artist-activists take on a unique role, employing innovative and imaginative techniques, narratives, and media to reach audiences that may not have access to conventional environmental education and may also be losing the habit of watching live performance as web-based entertainment and information becomes the norm.

We invite any combination of artists, scholars and environmental activists and educators to join this panel conversation. We are particularly keen to discuss how this type of work has had real impact on Indonesian peoples' relationship with the environment they inhabit.

Profiles:

Laura Noszlopy has worked for many years on the cultural politics of modern Indonesia, with a particular focus on performing arts. She received her PhD in sociocultural anthropology from University of East Anglia in 2002. She was co-editor with M.I. Cohen of *Contemporary Southeast Asian Performance: Transnational Perspectives* (Cambridge Scholars, 2010), and has published many journal articles. She was project manager and postdoctoral researcher on the 'Enabling wayang to contribute to environmental discourse' collaborative research project (funded by the British Council and Newton Fund Institutional Links grant) at Royal Holloway University of London between 2019 and 2020. As part of this project she managed the production of an Indonesian language sourcebook for artists, activists and educators *Wayang sebagai Media Ekologi: Buku Pintar pada Masa Perubahan Iklim* (KUNCI, 2020). She is currently working on Covid-19 projects at Birmingham Law School, but continues her work on environmentalism and the arts in parallel.

Marianna Lis received her PhD in theatre studies in the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw in 2017. In 2019 she published her first book, *Wayang. Javanese Shadow Puppet Theatre* summarizing 9 years of her research on contemporary wayang in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She was a postdoctoral researcher on the 'Enabling wayang to contribute to environmental discourse' collaborative research project (2019-2020, funded by the British Council and Newton Fund Institutional Links grant), and she continues her research on contemporary wayang, theatre and music in post-traditional Indonesia.