Proposal for a roundtable for EuroSEAS 2024

**The Indonesian Discourse on Islam and Humanism: From Theology to Politics?**

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Roundtable Participants:

Rüdiger Lohlker (University of Vienna)

Katharina Ivanyi (University of Vienna)

Inaya Rohmaniyah (State Islamic University Yogyakarta)

Noorhaidi Hasan (Indonesian International Islamic University)

Syafiq Hasyim (Indonesian International Islamic University)

Hilman Latief (Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs)

The Indonesian public discourse on the Islam-humanism nexus is currently experiencing a revival after key advocates of an Islamic humanism ─ or humanist Islam ─ like Abdurrahman Wahid or Ahmad Syafi´i Maarif, have passed away. Nahdlatul Ulama in particular has started to strategically promote the concept, for instance through its youth wing Ansor and the Fikih Peradaban (Islamic Jurisprudence for Civilization) movement, both nationally and internationally. Ansor published its declaration on humanitarian Islam in 2017 in several languages and the first international Fikih Peradaban conference was held in 2023 to build an international alliance of Muslims in support of the United Nations Charter and its humanist values. While the humanist nature of Islam is a personal conviction of many Indonesian Muslims, the pro-humanism narrative also functions as a strategic political discursive tool to counter Islamist movements in the archipelago and internationally brand Indonesia as home of an inclusive, peaceful, and progressive Islam.

This roundtable discusses the (re)emerging trend of an Indonesian Islamic humanism and critically interrogates its concrete political impact, especially against the backdrop of the outcome of the Indonesian election in 2024. The starting point for the roundtable debate is the timely **edited volume by Rüdiger Lohlker and Katharina Ivanyi „Humanitarian Islam: Reflecting on an Islamic Concept“ (Brill, 2023)**, which contains many references to Indonesia. The two editors will introduce their volume, its aim and rationale, to the audience, followed by feedback and comments by the other roundtable participants who all have closely read the book.

Beyond directly commenting on the volume, the roundtable participants will address a wide range of issues concerning the Indonesian discourse on Islam and humanism. These include a conceptual disentanglement of the three oftentimes interchangeably used terms „Islamic humanism“, „humanist Islam“, and „humanitarian Islam“. Furthermore, they discuss whether a specific Indonesian take on Islamic humanism is identifiable, which actors and strategies are involved in promoting the concept and whether humanism manifests in Indonesian Islamic jurisprudence and politics. After the participants´ statements, we open the floor for a lively discussion with the audience.