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East Asian Economy and Society



**Tomas Petru**

# The Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism in Maritime Southeast Asia: Socio-Political and Security Implications?

- Open for Public Attendance without prior Registration -

**Thursday, 1 December 2016, 6:00 – 7:00pm**

Seminar room OAW (2I-O1-05), Hof 2, AAKH Campus

Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam have seen a substantial socio-cultural shift in the form of the rise of religious fundamentalism in last three decades. The current situation in the individual countries is variegated but we also discern shared patterns affecting the latest development thereof, starting from the Saudi-sponsored *dakwah* movement, pushing for more orthodoxy, to the spread of “global Islam” to governmental co-optation of the *ulama* (Islamic scholars) and introduction of *Shari'a*-based legislation. The combined result of these factors is not only a rise in personal piety but also discriminative legal instruments, which justify vigilante actions against non-Sunni Muslims and non-Muslims that often result in violence, abrogation of human rights and generally a growth of inter-faith intolerance and tension, in countries previously renowned as pluralist and religiously tolerant. Consequently, religion has become highly politicized in these Muslim-majority nations, which are currently facing high politicization of religion and, on the whole, deepening societal cleavages.



TOMÁŠ PETRŮ, Ph.D. (1974) is affiliated as Research Fellow with the Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, Czechia. Previously, he founded the Department of Asian Studies at Metropolitan University Prague (MUP), which he headed from 2009 until 2014. He is also Assistant Professor of Indonesian Studies at Charles University. Most recently, he edited “Graffiti, Converts and Vigilantes: Islam outside the Mainstream in Maritime Southeast Asia” (Caesarpress 2015). In his research, Dr Petru focuses on the interaction of politics, society and religion in the wider realm of Maritime Southeast Asia. In addition to his interest in more contemporary socio-political processes in Indonesia, Malaysia and recently also the Philippines, he has a passion for ethnohistory of this region.