Mass Media, Politics and Social Change in Southeast Asia

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Southeast Asia has been one of the most dynamic regions in the developing world. Economic change in the region has been accompanied by many other attributes of modernization, including the widespread availability of education, modern transportation, and the mass media during the post-Independence era. In the political aspect, some of the countries in the region have also experienced democratization process from the authoritarian regimes into the democratic ones. This panel will discuss about the current state of mass media in South East Asia and how it reflects the dynamics of the region, such as: how the mass media reflect the regime’s change and the democratization process in the area, the representation of the minority and marginalized group, the process of Islamization, and the re-framing of anti-communism campaign and other issues. The discussion will cover not only to "conventional media" such as newspaper, TV, books, and film, but also social media, such as blogs, twitter, you tube and Facebook.

Panel

Chair: Wijayanto (Leiden University)

1. Media and the preservation of trauma: The 1965 tragedy after 50 years
   Dyah Pitaloka, (National University of Singapore)

2. Political participation through Hip-hop Performances: an Indonesian context
   Mubarika Nugraeni, (Leiden University)

3. Post, Like, Comment, Share: The Critical Role of New Social Media in the Post-Texting Philippine Society
   Hadje Cresencio Sadje, (Groningen University)

Abstracts

1. Media and the preservation of trauma: The 1965 tragedy after 50 years
   Dyah Pitaloka, (National University of Singapore)

Each individual of the survivors of 1965 mass killings keep on struggling for a space of resilience, media which supposed to be the source of resilient and facilitate the reconciliation fails them in so many ways. The September 1965 tragedy marked its 50 years on 2015, and throughout the years the voices of the survivors and their descendants had been excluded from the public spaces. Studies of violence and its aftermath have repeatedly shown that traumatic experiences may lead to radical shifts in processes of speaking, meaning-making, remembering and living with memory (Brison 2003, Das, 1997). This study investigates the narratives brought by media in Indonesia in voicing the memory of the atrocities and humanity issues faced by the victims of Indonesia communist purge after 50 years. Data were gathered from news (both on-line and printed) being published since January 2015 that correlates to the 1965 event and any discussion that brought the 1965 issue to the public. Study found that the narratives of violence do trickle into mainstream discourse, preserving the symbols and selected memories about the threat of communism and its
members.
(Keywords: media, media discourse, narratives of violence, selected memories, resilient.)

2. Political participation through Hip-hop Performances: an Indonesian context Mubarika D.F. Nugraheni, (Leiden University)

The use of music in political campaigns in Indonesia is not new. However, political campaigns using hip-hop music has never happened in Indonesia until the General Election 2014. In the midst of immense political activity and excitement of the presidential campaigns in Indonesia, two members of the hip-hop crew from Yogyakarta, Jogja Hip-hop Foundation, Kill The DJ and Balance, created a momentous song, “Bersatu Padu Coblos Nomer Dua” (Hand in hand to vote number two). The distribution of the song and the way it was received, through social media, television, video and live performance created various ways of communication between the artists and the audiences different to previous campaigns. The social media allows those who can access the song to respond immediately, allowing an important process of political participation. The data for this research was gathered through participation observation at live performances, videos on You Tube, websites and SoundCloud. There has been very few written work on hip-hop music in Indonesia and how it is used as medium of political participation. Therefore, this study aims to contribute towards it.
(Key words: political participation, hip-hop performance, general election, Indonesia)

3. Post, Like, Comment, Share: The Critical Role of New Social Media in the Post-Texting Philippine Society Hadje Cresencio Sadje, (Groningen University)

In the post-texting Philippine society, social media is a mixed blessing. A mixed blessing in the sense that it not only gives Filipino the opportunities to further his/her capabilities and to advance their common interest but also to protest, silent, destroy and marginalize other interests. This paper finds that the new social media creates a public space or a platform for political campaign, tool for exposing corruption, public awareness of disaster management and to serve as relief operation drive. This paper will discuss the following points. First, the coming 2016 national election in the Philippines: facebook, tweeter, and instagram become a political platform for the Filipino political candidates. In short, new social media are used to influence, indorse, criticize, and become a site for celebritication of the Philippine politics to shape public voting behavior. Second, the new social media serve a public space for Filipino exposing and fighting the corruption from the national to local government offices in the Philippines. Lastly, the new social media become an important means for public awareness a relief operation drive during the catastrophe of Typhoon Ketsana (Ondy) and Haiyan (Yolanda).
(Keywords: Celebritication, Facebook, Public Sphere, Social Media)