

Credentials

PhD, University of Wisconsin

Research Interests

- Indonesian-Malay Language
- Southeast Asian Culture & Literature
- Indonesian Theatre & Literature
- Southeast Asian Cinema
- Graphic Narratives from and About Asia and Asians
- World History, Globalization, Cosmopolitanism
- Human Rights and the Arts

Biography

I took my PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin. The subject of my thesis was The Appropriation of Bertolt Brecht's ideas of theatre in Grassroots Theatre Movements in Indonesia and the Philippines.

My current projects involve a study of the theater and drama work of party-affiliated cultural groups during Indonesia's Soekarno era (1950-65), and an examination of the connections between cosmopolitanism and commitment to nation in recent Indonesian fiction, film, performance, and graphic narratives. I have also translated and published the work of several Indonesian writers-poetry by Saraswati Sunindyo, Nurhidayat Poso, and Afrizal Malna; plays and short stories by Putu Wijaya; short stories, plays, and essays by Seno Gumira Ajidarma; and most recently, six plays by a variety of writers for the three-volume *The Lontar Anthology of Indonesian Drama*.

I am interested in the way art and culture are intertwined with social and political discourses and contexts, and am particularly drawn to the creative responses culture can make to oppressive social conditions, as well as the ways it engages with, resists, or attempts to adapt to globalization and the now dominant neo-liberal economic ideology.