in social media. These youths are the active users of social media in Indonesia. Hence, they are the most directly impacted by current sectarian trends. As a result, the tech-savvy youth see civic crowdfunding as the practice of gotong-rotyong in an increasingly digitalised Indonesia. By this practice, they aim to unite Indonesians in social activities regardless of their religious affiliations. This development indicates a ‘post-Islamist’ trend in Indonesia as also observed by Bayat (2013) in other Muslim majority countries. This paper thus provides an insight that, despite pervasive Islamic conservatism in Indonesia, an opposite trend which seeks the joint engagement of Muslims living in a religiously plural society is growing in parallel.

Keywords: civic crowdfunding, conservative turn, inter-faith engagement, post-Islamism, youth

Mediating Piety: Hadhrami Religious Authority in a Changing Indonesia

Coordinators: Ismail Fajrie Alatas (New York University) & Martin Slama (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

The panel is concerned with the role of the Hadhrami community in mediating Islam in contemporary Indonesia. For centuries, scholars and preachers of Hadhrami descent have been influential figures in the religious life of Indonesian Muslims. In the late colonial and post-colonial periods, internal divisions as well as external contestations from other Muslim actors and communities have led to an unprecedented fragmentation of Hadhrami religious authority and their Islamic institutions. Against this historical backdrop, the panel investigates more recent developments of Hadhrami religiosity in its relation to Indonesia’s transforming Islamic field. In particular, it considers expressions of Islamic piety embedded in everyday practices, as well as the use of social media and new communication technologies. It asks how Islamic authority is mediated today by Indonesian Hadhramis within their community and in Indonesia’s wider public. How do Hadhrami Islamic figures reposition themselves in relation to Indonesia’s dynamic mediascape? To which new forms of Islamic sociality do they (have to) adapt, to become or remain influential among Indonesia’s younger generations of Muslims? How do they balance offline and online presence? How do they deal with the transformations of scholar/preacher-follower relationships that one can observe in Indonesia today? What role do they play in the changing fields of Islamic finance and charity work? The panel welcomes contributions that can relate to these or to similar questions concerned with Islamic authority and religiosity among Hadhramis in contemporary Indonesia.

Mediating Authority: A Hadrami Sufi Shaykh in Multiple Media

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This paper examines the intersection between the career of a Sufi Shaykh and the media. It focuses on Indonesia’s most influential contemporary Sufi scholar of Hadrami-descent, Habib Luthfi bin Yahya (b. 1947), particularly on his engagement with different media forms over the course of his career. Habib Luthfi began as a Sufi Shaykh and a mobile preacher who provide religious guidance to rural Javanese communities. Many of his audience has joined his tariqa (Sufi order/brotherhood) to become formal disciples. In 2003, a newly established bimonthly Islamic magazine, AlKisah, introduced a Q&A rubric dedicated to Sufism and requested Habib Luthfi to