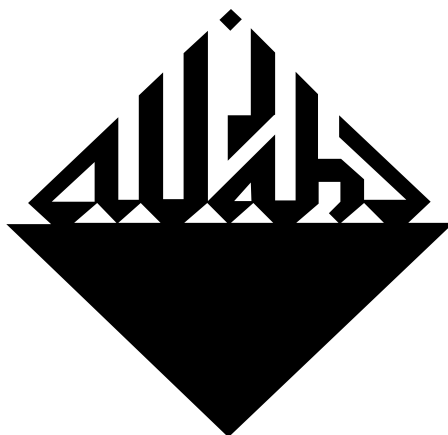


STUDIA ISLAMIKA

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BUDDHISM IN MUSLIM INDONESIA

Karel Steenbrink

THE MISSING MINISTER OF RELIGION AND THE PSII: A CONTEXTUAL BIOGRAPHY OF K.H. AHMAD AZHARY

Kevin W. Fogg

KITAB BERLADANG: A PORTRAIT OF HYBRID ISLAM IN WEST KALIMANTAN

Faizal Amin

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A Textual Approach to Understanding Nusantara Muslims

Oman Fathurahman

The Islamic Manuscripts Unit (ILMU) at Pusat Pengkajian Islam dan Masyarakat (PPIM, Center for the Study of Islam and Society) at Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN, State Islamic University) Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta, in co-operation with the Masyarakat Pernaskahan Nusantara (Manassa, Indonesian Association for Nusantara Manuscripts), held a short course program on the methodology of philological research with the topic 'Accumulating Various Perspectives: A Textual Approach to Understanding Nusantara Muslims'. This program, funded by the Directorate of Islamic Higher Education at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, took place from July–September 2012 at UIN Jakarta.

Since the introduction of the philology course in the Islamic higher educational institutions (PTAI) in the early 1990s, especially in the Faculty of Adab and Humanities at UIN Jakarta, the awareness of the importance of Islamic manuscripts for Indonesian Islamic studies among PTAI's scholars has been increasing. This trend, to a certain extent, is evident in the workshops that have been hosted by PTAI as a way to extend philological studies for understanding Indonesian

Islam. This development has been encouraged by the willingness of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, which has paved the way for strengthening the studies of Islamic manuscripts in Nusantara through socialisation programs such as seminars and conferences.

Nevertheless, if we are to compare the philology course to other subjects in the PTAI's curriculum, it is evident that the resources — lecturers and researchers — are still lacking. Even in the regions such as Aceh, West Sumatra, South Kalimantan, Riau, and East Java, which are known as origins of Islamic manuscripts, the situation remains the same. This can be seen from, among other measures, the low level of philological works either published as a book or published by scientific journals. Given the proficiency of PTAI's staff in Arabic — the main script and language of classical Islamic literature — they are well placed to conduct philological studies of Islam in Indonesia.

The short course in methodology of philological studies was one of the programs to help overcome the problems. Its aim was ultimately to empower PTAI's lecturers and researchers in the theory and methodology of philological research in the study of Islam and Muslim communities in Nusantara. This grant program aimed to strengthen PTAI scholars' ability to carry out philological research.

Recent research into Islamic manuscripts, concerning inventories and the cataloging of those that are held, has shown that there are various categories of Islamic knowledge available, including Qu'ranic exegesis (*tafsīr*), *ḥadīth*, Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*), Islamic mysticism (*taṣawwuf*), Islamic theology (*kalām*), and so on. Due to the great number of Islamic manuscripts, it can be expected that the study of Islamic manuscripts, correlating to the study of Indonesian Islam more generally, will become a topic of increasing academic interest. This continues a wider trend among local and international researchers. The British Library of London, for example, has supported the preservation of Nusantara manuscripts by restoring and digitalizing them. In another example, Leipzig University of Germany has been actively cooperating with local institutions in several regions of Indonesia to develop a digital library for manuscripts. Researchers across the world will be able to access this library freely. Also, the University of Cologne in Germany has opened a distinctive course on 'Indonesian Philology and Islamic Studies'.

Due to this increasing focus, ILMU at PPIM has, in cooperation

with Manassa, conducted a short-course program on the methodology of philological research. Twenty-five PTAI lecturers from around Indonesia attended this program. Its aim was to share theories and methodologies in philological research, strengthen the studies of Islamic manuscripts on Nusantara, and empower PTAI's lecturers and researchers to apply a philological approach in Indonesian Islamic studies. Also, it was hoped that the participants would become better equipped with the necessary skills to publish their works in scientific journals in Indonesia and abroad.

To achieve these goals, the curriculum had two aspects. The first related directly to the studies of manuscripts, covering topics such as philology, codicology, and paleography. The second correlated social scientific approaches to Islamic studies, and was directed specifically toward Indonesian and Southeast Asian Islamic studies. Besides these two main aspects, there were also other supportive materials covering, for example, methods for writing scientific works and also for searching digital references. These activities were expected to equip participants with the skills to formulate research question, carry out philological research, and write their research findings as scientific works.

The speakers who delivered the short course were from established institutions in the field of philological studies, namely the Faculty of Humanities at Universitas Indonesia (University of Indonesia) and Manassa. Manassa is the only association dedicated to Nusantara manuscripts. Established in 1996, it is composed of senior scholars such as Prof. Dr. Achadiati Ikram, Prof. Dr. Titik Pudjiastuti, Tommy Christomy, Ph.D, Dr. Mujizah, Munawar Holil, M. Hum, and two manuscript holders from the Palace of Kesultanan (Sultan's Palace) in Cirebon, Elang Hilman and Dr. Makrifat Iman.

This program also invited speakers from the School of Graduate Studies and PPIM at UIN, Jakarta. These experts in Indonesian and Southeast Asian Islamic studies included Prof. Dr. Azyumardi Azra, Prof. Dr. Dede Rosyada, Prof. Dr. Mulyadhi Kartanegara, Dr. Oman Fathurahman, Dr. Jamhari, Dr. Jajat Burhanudin, Dr. Fuad Jabali, Dr. Saiful Umam, Jajang Jahroni, MA., and M. Adib Misbachul Islam.

In addition, the 25 participants produced their own research papers as part of the program. The program's committee selected three of those as 'outstanding articles'. The winning articles were: '*Kitab Berladang: The Portrait of Hybrid Islam of Dayak Muslim in West Kalimantan*', by

Faizal Amin from Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negara (State College of Islamic Studies, STAIN), Pontianak; '*Kinanti [Tutur Teu Kacatur Batur]: Sundanese Islamic Mysticism of Haji Hasan Mustapa (1852–1930)*', by Jajang A. Rohmana from Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam (College of Islamic Studies, STAI), Miftahul Huda, Subang; and '*Al-Ḥaḳīqah al-Muwāfaqah li al-Sharī'ah: The Reconciliation of Tasawuf and Syari'at in Nusantara in the 16th Century*', by Iin Suryaningsih from STAI Al-Muhajirin, Purwakarta.

Hopefully, the program will help us meet the need to learn about the abundance of Nusantara manuscripts, which, in turn, will help us better understand Islam in Indonesia. The 25 articles that resulted from the program provide a good example of how to strengthen the ability of PTAI's lecturers and researchers in studying Islamic manuscripts and, through this, enhance PTAI's human resources.

Oman Fathurahman, *Faculty of Arts and Humanities; Center for the Study of Islam and Society (PPIM), Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University (UIN) Jakarta.*

Guidelines

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S*tudia Islamika*, published three times a year since 1994, is a bilingual journal (English and Arabic) that specializes in Indonesian and Southeast Asian Islamic Studies. The aim is to provide readers with a better understanding of Indonesia and Southeast Asia's Muslim history and present developments through the publication of articles, research reports, and book reviews from Indonesian and international scholars alike.

Submission is open to both Indonesian and non-Indonesian writers. Articles will be assessed for publication by the journal's Board of Editors and will be peer-reviewed by a blind reviewer. Only previously unpublished work should be submitted. Articles should be between approximately 10,000-15,000 words. All submission must include a 150-words abstract and 5 keywords.

Submitted papers must conform to the following guidelines: citation of references and bibliography use Harvard referencing system; references with detail and additional information could use footnotes or endnotes using MLA style; transliteration system for Arabic has to refer to Library of Congress (LC) guideline. All submission should be sent to studia.islamika@uinjkt.ac.id.

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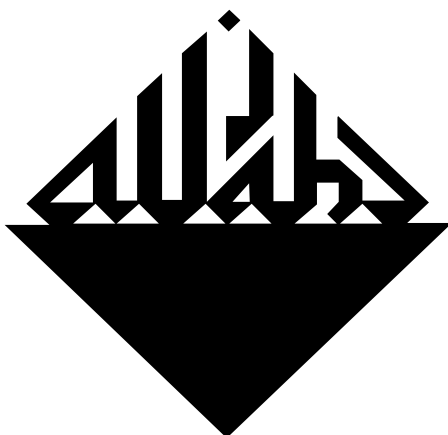
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