

## THE NALANDA-SRIWIJAYA LECTURE SERIES

### Asian Nationalism, Asian Globalism: The Historian's Contemporary Responsibility

Date: Monday, 8 June 2009  
Time: 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm  
Venue: Seminar Room II, ISEAS

#### About the Speaker

**Professor Anthony Reid**  
Research Leader  
Asia Research Institute  
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Anthony Reid is a Southeast Asian Historian, based until June 2009 at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, of which he was founding Director (2002-7). Before that he was founding Director of the Center for SE Asian Studies at UCLA (1999-2002), and earlier at the Australian National University to which he returns in 2009 as Emeritus Professor. His more recent books include *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680* (2 vols. 1988-93); *Charting the Shape of Early Modern Southeast Asia* (1999); *An Indonesian Frontier: Acehnese and other histories of Sumatra* (2004), *Imperial Alchemy: Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia* (2009), and (as co-editor) *Negotiating Asymmetry: China's Place in Asia* (2009).

#### About the Seminar

Modern History was born and developed in the era of nationalism. Ashis Nandy has argued that the modern nation-state and modern history arose together, and served each other, effectively marginalising or silencing in our history-writing the peoples who pre-dated or fell outside the state. Historians of earlier periods, like Sima Qian (c. 145–86 BC) or Herodotus (c. 484 BC– 425 BC), though today claimed as ancestor-figures by the historians of China and Europe respectively, in fact believed they were writing universally. Putting them in the box of "China" or "Greece" is the modern bias of people who think in nation-states; they themselves were recording all that they knew about the world as they understood it. Today we live in a world aware that it has moved beyond national boundaries, and can no longer afford the parochialisms of nationalist history. Historians had a large role in leading modern thought into a nationalist direction; but they have not so far played a comparable role in leading beyond it. This lecture will consider some Southeast Asian lineages of both nationalist and trans-nationalist history, in an attempt to understand better where the profession may, or should, be heading.

*ISEAS is pleased to invite you to the Lecture..*