



Populism and Democracy in Indonesia

Faculty of Arts
Asia Institute

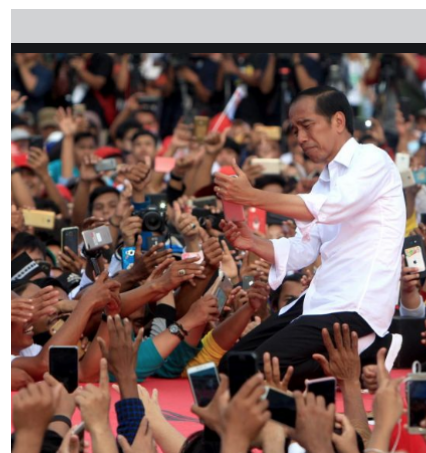
Public Event

A public lecture exploring modern Indonesian democracy

Dr Otto Gusti Madung
Catholic Institute of Philosophy, Ledalero, Flores, Indonesia

Populism generally expresses the conflict between the majority of the people who are “out of power” versus the small but powerful elite. The competition is a response to the perpetuating social divisiveness between the minority elite and the marginalized majority. Hence, populism can be described as a social and political protest of the citizens against the failures of elitist and pro-establishment oriented representative democracy. In this case, democracy tends to leave the people behind who are the primary goal of the democracy itself. This paper poses some criticism of the practices of liberal democracy transformed into a consensus machine and in this way ignores the dissensual or conflictual aspect of the democracy. From the point of view of dissensual democracy, populism can appear as a social

transformative force that brings back the democracy to its original meaning as an expression of the people’s sovereignty. However, this can only be realized in a pluralistic milieu and populism can be transformed into an antagonistic democracy. This lecture thus seeks to answer two key inter-related questions: Can the practices of populism in Indonesia be an alternative and antagonistic power to the practices of Indonesian democracy coopted by the predatory oligarchy? What should be done in order to transform populist ideas into the new democratic institutions independent from the domination of the oligarchic political parties inherited by the New Order regime?



Event Details

Date:
28 November 2019

Time:
3-4pm

Venue:
PAR Old Arts 225 South Theatre,
UoM Parkville

Enquiries:
Dr Justin Wejak:
justinw@unimelb.edu.au

Bookings:
asia-institute@unimelb.edu.au