

Dear readers –

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2009 issue of **EXPLORATIONS** graduate student journal of Southeast Asian studies. The following pages touch on a diverse array of topics, from Muslim dolls to a dark period between those darker in Cambodia's history to linguistic code-switching in Malay to the sea people who call Southeast Asian waters home. Equally diverse are the authors and editors who contributed to this issue, a committed group of burgeoning Southeast Asianists hailing from countries around the globe. In a long list of people to thank, they certainly are the first who come to mind. Their dedication and patience in bringing this journal to print are greatly appreciated. We are equally obliged to Kelli Swazey and Margaret Bodemer, the past editors of **EXPLORATIONS**, for entrusting us with the journal. Their foresight and organization allowed us to step directly into the operation of what was already a well-oiled machine. Dr. Barbara Andaya and Dr. Liam Kelley provided indispensable faculty support, and we also thank the University of Hawai'i's Center for Southeast Asian Studies for sharing their resources, their office, and the assistance of their very talented Outreach Coordinator Paul Rausch. Christian Razukas is the man behind the layout magic, and his many sleepless nights will not be soon forgotten. We also thank the University of Hawai'i's Student Activity and Program Fee Board (SAPFB) whose generous support made the print version of this journal possible. In many ways, this issue represents the changing face of Southeast Asian scholarship – from the disciplinary diversity of the topics explored, to the identities, nationalities, and research interests of the explorers themselves. Enjoy.

Editors,

Rachel Hoerman and Deanna Ramsay

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The principal mission of **EXPLORATIONS** is to offer a forum for graduate students to present research relating to Southeast Asia. This forum introduces the work of graduate students studying Southeast Asia to others in the field, encourages the publishing of scholarship by those from Southeast Asia about the region and fosters a sense of community among those interested in Southeast Asia from around the globe. **EXPLORATIONS** embraces the diversity of academic interests and scholastic expertise of its authors, and hopes to encourage discussion both within and across disciplines in topics concerning Southeast Asia.

The views expressed in **EXPLORATIONS** are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editorial board. If you are interested in submitting your work to **EXPLORATIONS**, have questions or comments or are interested in participating in the production of **EXPLORATIONS**, please contact the editors at: explore@hawaii.edu, or **EXPLORATIONS** c/o CSEAS, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 1890 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822 USA.

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