Populist Politics in Southeast Asia: Indonesia in Comparative Perspective

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John A. Burns Hall, Room 3012 (3rd floor)

The rise of populism around the world has captured global attention. This presentation explores the emergence of populist politics in Southeast Asia. Exploring the experiences of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, Kimura argues that in addition to global- and national-level explanations, local politics and power also help explain the ways in which populism manifested itself in these places. Ultimately, it suggests a more nuanced understanding of the global populist trend.

Ehito Kimura is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. His research interests lie at the nexus of political change and Southeast Asian politics. His first book "Provincial Proliferation: Territorial Politics in Post-Suharto Indonesia" (Routledge 2012) explores the changing dynamics of territoriality after the fall of authoritarianism and the rise of democracy and decentralization in Indonesia. More recently, he has been researching and writing about transitional justice in the region as well as the emergence of populism as a mode of political mobilization.