



## Positions

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Singapore Management University  
School of Social Science  
Associate Professor of Political Science (2023-present)  
Assistant Professor of Political Science (2014-2023)

Columbia University  
Institute of Religion, Culture, and Public Life  
Visiting Research Scholar (2012-2013)

## Education

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Ph.D. in Political Science (2014)  
George Washington University  
Major in comparative politics, minor in international relations  
Dissertation Committee: Henry Hale (advisor), Nathan Brown, Eric Lawrence,  
William Liddle, and Susan Sell.

Masters in Pacific & International Affairs (2005)  
UC San Diego, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies  
*Career Track: International Politics & Southeast Asia*

B.A. in Communications with honors (1994)  
Dublin City University, Ireland

## Publications

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### Books

2024. Bonding, Bridging, and Bypassing: Understanding Ethnic Politics in Diverse Societies. (Oxford University Press). *Publication date is February 16th. The book is based on my dissertation which won the "Best Field Work" award from the American Political Science Association in 2015.*

2025. A New Wave of Youth and Student Activism in Asia. *An edited volume with coeditors, Edward Aspinall and Meredith Weiss. Michigan University Press have expressed strong interest in publishing it. We expect to publish it late 2024 or 2025.*

### **Journal Articles**

Ethnic Politics and Coalition Formation: Evidence from Indonesia (with Edward Aspinall), *Going Under Review*.

2022. Ethnic Campaign Appeals: To bond, bridge, or bypass? *Political Communication*, 40(1), 92-114. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2022.2132331>

2022. Visualizing Politics in Indonesia: The Design and Distribution of Election Posters, *International Journal of Communication*, 16(2022), 4187–4209. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/18797/3876>

2022. Islamic Political Parties and Election Campaigns in Indonesia (with Jeremy Menchik). *Party Politics*, 29(4), 622-635. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688221091656>

2021. Media in a Time of Crisis: Newspaper Coverage of Covid-19 in East Asia. *Journalism Studies* 22 (13), 1853-1873. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2021.1971106>

2018. Is All Politics Local? Determinants of Local and National Election Campaigns. *Comparative Political Studies* 51(14), 1899–1934. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001041401877435>

2018. Candidate-Centric Systems and the Politicization of Ethnicity: Evidence From Indonesia. *Democratization* 25(7), 1190–1209. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2018.1461207>

### **Book Reviews and Online Publications**

2021. Demanding Images: Democracy, Mediation, and the Image-Event in Indonesia. By Karen Strassler. Durham: Duke University Press, 2020. Pp 368 Bibliography, Footnotes. *Pacific Affairs*, 94(2). <https://pacificaffairs.ubc.ca/book-reviews/demanding-images-democracy-mediation-and-the-image-event-in-indonesia-by-karen-strassler/>

2020. Indonesia - Indonesia: Twenty years of democracy By Jamie S. Davidson Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Pp. 76. Bibliography, Footnotes. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 51 (3): 459-497. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022463420000569>

2020. September 30. “Why have candidates in Indonesian elections increasingly been rallying ethnic and religious support?” *The Conversation Indonesia*. <https://theconversation.com/why-have-candidates-in-indonesian-elections-increasingly-been-rallying-ethnic-and-religious-support-145102>

2019, June 7. “What an Election Poster Can Tell Us about Thai Election Campaigns.” *Thai Data Points*. <https://www.thaidatapoints.com/post/what-an-election-poster-can-tell-us-about-thai-election-campaigns>

### **Working Papers**

Youth Activism and Protest in Indonesia—a special issue for a journal with coeditors Edward Aspinall and Yatun Sastramidjaja.

Press Coverage and the Legitimization of Protest in Hong Kong and Myanmar

The Personalization of Politics in Thailand: What 30,000 Election Posters Can Tell Us

## Grants, Awards, & Fellowships

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Young Southeast Asia Fellow, Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG-East) First Annual Meeting, 12-14 December, Fulbright University Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. (2017).

PI for Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 grant (#16-C242-SMU-008) for the project "The Personalization of Politics in Southeast Asia" for period 1/10/2016-31/3/2019. (SG\$20,876).

PI for Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 grant (#C242/MSS15S011) for project "Targeted Campaign Messages and Electoral Mobilization in Thailand" for period 1/9/2015-31/8/2016. (SG\$11,836).

"Best Field Work" Award from the American Political Science Association for my dissertation, "Appealing to the Masses: Understanding Ethnic Politics and Elections in Indonesia" (2015).

Indonesia and East Timor Studies Committee winner of best graduate paper at the AAS annual conference, Honolulu (2011).

Matsushita International Foundation field research grant (2009-11).

Sigur Center for Asian Studies field research grant (2009).

Fulbright language program grant (2009).

US Indonesia Society language program fellowship (2008).

Department of Education and the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute foreign language and area studies fellowship (Declined) (2008).

Sigur Center for Asian Studies field research grant (2008).

The Institute for Global and International Studies graduate fellow (2007-08).

George Washington University, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Ph.D fellowship (2005-09).

UC San Diego tuition grant (2004-05).

UC San Diego field research grant (2004).

Various graphic design and new media design awards (1998-03).

## Invited Talks, Workshops, and Roundtables

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Organized a workshop, entitled "A New Wave of Youth and Student Activism in Asia" for a volume I am editing. In attendance were 8 chapter authors from Asia, the US, and Europe; 5 discussants, and my coeditors, Edward Aspinall and Meredith Weiss. SMU, Singapore, October 2-3, 2023.

Invited speaker at launch of "Twenty Years of Democracy" by Jamie Davidson. The National Library, Singapore, April 11, 2019.

Participant at the workshop “Elites, Masses and Representation: Designing a Cross-national Study for Southeast Asia” Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. January 23-24 2019.

Invited discussant at a book workshop for “Making Identity Count in Asia” edited by Ted Hopf. ARI, NUS, January 10, 2019.

Organized (with Jacob Ricks) a The Politics of Identity in Thailand Workshop. Presented some material on the personalization of politics in Thailand. SMU, January 11-12 2018.

Invited participation at the workshop “Civil Islam revisited, Indonesia and beyond,” presented a paper, “Personal votes and the politicization of religion: Evidence from Indonesia’s democratic transition.” ARI, NUS, Singapore, October 23, 2017.

Chaired “Public Forum on US Elections,” SMU, Singapore (2016).

Invited participant at “Trust in Southeast Asia Workshop,” SMU, Singapore, (2016).

Invited participant at the Patronage, Clientelism, and Electoral Dynamics Workshop in Bali, Indonesia, (2012).

Invited speaker, presented “Electoral Campaigning and the Politicization of Identity,” Inter-departmental Seminar series, ANU, Australia, (2011).

Invited participant at the Indonesian Graduate Student Workshop on Indonesian Studies. Presented “Inevitable Victory: Electoral Media Campaigns in Ambon, Maluku,” ANU, Australia, (2011).

Invited speaker, presented “Politics of Identity In Indonesia: Results from Political Campaign Advertisements” Co-authored with Jeremy Menchik. CSIS, Jakarta, Indonesia, (2010).

Invited participant at the Democracy and Identity in Asia Workshop. Presented “Democracy, Decentralization & Ethnic Politics: Electoral Campaigning in Indonesia, 1955-2010,” Toronto University, Canada, (2010).

## Conferences

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“Ethnic politics and coalition formation: Evidence from local elections in Indonesia.” (with Edward Aspinall), presented at EuroSEAS, Oxford University, (2017)

“Targeted Campaign Messages and Electoral Mobilization in Thailand,” presented at AAS-in-Asia, Kyoto, Japan (2016).

“Campaigning Through the Press: Democratization & Elections in Indonesia,” presented at:

- Asian Studies Conference Japan, (2016)
- International Political Science Association (IPSA), Poznan, Poland, (2016).

“The Effect of the 'Personal Vote' on Ethnic Politics,” presented at the APSA annual conference, Chicago, (2013).

“Personal Charisma and Electoral Campaigning in Local Indonesian Elections,” presented at the AAS annual Conference, San Diego, (2013).

“Measuring the Politicization of Identity,” prepared for the APSA annual conference, New Orleans, (2012). (Conference canceled)

“Local Election Campaigning in Maluku, Java, and North Sumatra,” presented at the Graduate Conference on Indonesia, UCLA, (2012).

“Populism & Contestation: Thailand’s 2011 Election,” presented at AAS annual conference, Toronto, Canada, (2012).

“Politics of Identity In Indonesia: Results from Political Campaign Advertisements”  
Winner of Best Graduate Paper from the Indonesia and East Timor Studies Committee.  
Co-authored with Jeremy Menchik. Presented at:

- CSIS invited talk, Jakarta, Indonesia, (2010)
- AAS annual conference, Honolulu, (2011)
- APSA annual conference, Seattle, (2011)

“A History of Violence: Militia Groups in Indonesia,” presented at the International Graduate Conference on Asia Pacific, East-West Center, Hawaii, (2008).

“Recommendations for Cambodian Electoral Reform,” presented at the Executive Office of the Cambodian Government. Phnom Penh, Cambodia, (2004)

## Teaching

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Singapore Management University (2014-present)  
Introduction to Politics and Policy Studies  
Mass Media & Public Opinion Research  
Elections and Media

George Washington University (TA) (2005-2012)  
International Political Economy  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
International Affairs

Open-i Interactive (1998 – 2002)  
Lecturer in New Media Design

## Thesis Supervision

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(2024) Yong Jia Ying, “Pathways to Political Participation: Women and Civil Society in Malaysia,” Senior Thesis (Served as co-examiner)

(2022) Elijah Lai, “Understanding Attitudes towards COVID-19 Vaccinations in Singapore,” Senior Thesis (Served as supervisor). Elijah won the Best Senior Thesis award in Social Science at SMU.

(2021) Hong Yi Tay, “The Silent Epoch,” Senior Thesis (Served as co-examiner).

(2019) Bryan Ang, “Political Legitimacy and SkillsFuture: A Political Economy Analysis of the Political Legitimacy of Singapore’s Higher Education System,” (Served as co-examiner).

## Professional

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### **Consultant, Cambodian Government (2004)**

Worked with the chairman of Cambodia’s cabinet. Researched, wrote and presented reports on conflict, democracy, and electoral reform in Cambodia.

**Independent Design Consultant (2002 - 2003)**

Provided consultancy and design services for Amnesty International, Nickelodeon, and other corporate clients.

**Design Director, Nickelodeon Online (1997 - 2002)**

Oversaw creative input at Nickelodeon from in-house and contract designers, and international design firms. Managed a team of 5 full-time designers and numerous freelancer designers. Directed a total redesign of the Nickjr.com and Nickelodeon's e-commerce website. Won numerous national and international awards.

**Graphic Designer, Apunix (1995 - 1997)**

Designed brochures, multimedia kiosks, and training videos for Sun Microsystems, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sony and the City of San Diego.

Languages

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Indonesian (Advanced Fluency)

Software

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<b>Design, Web, and Presentation</b>	<b>Statistics, Programming, and Content Analysis</b>	<b>Database and Photo Archiving</b>
Illustrator Photoshop	Stata R Html & CSS MaxQDA NVivo ATLAS.ti Fiji Javascript	Lightroom Filemaker Extensis Portfolio