Islam, Law, and the State in the Philippines: The Mindanao Conflict

Dr Kerstin Steiner

Tuesday 7 August 2018: 6pm for 6.20pm – 7.00pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Islam plays a pivotal political role in Southeast Asian countries, whether in the Muslim majority countries or the Muslim minority countries such as the Philippines.

The Muslim-majority island of Mindanao has historically experienced high levels of religious based extremist behaviour and violence, with recent escalation.

Previous government policies on the Moros (Muslims were known as ‘Moros’ or Moors by the Spanish) have taken many different forms, from armed intervention; failed attempts at integration; peace negotiations; and various largely unsatisfactory attempts at political and religious accommodation. They have also included mediation by a range of international actors.

How has the state reacted to requests to enforce Islamic law by leaders of the Philippines minority Muslim communities? What are the possibilities of ending this ongoing conflict?

AIIA Victoria invites you to hear firsthand from Dr Kerstin Steiner as she shares the experience of her recent research trip to Mindanao.

Dr Kerstin Steiner is Associate Professor and Director (International) at the Law School at La Trobe University. She is also a Senior Associate at the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society and Associate at the Asian Law Centre at the University of Melbourne, as well as an Advisory Board Member of the Philippine International Studies Organization. She specialises in Southeast Asian legal studies researching at the intersection of law, politics, economics and society, especially with regard to Islam. Her international visiting positions include the Centre for Socio-legal Studies at Oxford University, and she is currently co-researching an ARC Discovery Project ‘Islam, Law and the State in the Philippines’. Her notable works include Islam, Law and the State in Southeast Asia: Transdisciplinary Perspectives.

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