Improvisational Islam: Indonesian Youths in a Time of Possibility

Thursday, February 22nd 4:00-5:30 PM
IU Bloomington, GISB Room 2134

Nur Amali Ibrahim, assistant professor of Religious Studies and International Studies at IU, will discuss his book manuscript in progress. This book is about novel and unexpected ways of being Muslim, where religious dispositions are achieved through techniques that have little or no precedent in classical Islamic texts or concepts. To cultivate piety, young Indonesians are drawing from accounting, auditing, self-help, and other methods originating from the business world, as well as reading Islamic scriptures alongside the western human sciences, from John Locke’s treatises to the writings of Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Clifford Geertz. The Indonesian case study, which occurs in a heightened and volatile political context, brings into sharper relief processes that are happening in ordinary Muslim life everywhere. In the contemporary political discourse where Muslims are often portrayed as uncompromising and adversarial to the West and where bans and walls are deemed necessary to keep them out, this story about flexible and creative Muslims is an important one to tell.

Hosted by the IU CSRES Islam in the Global Sphere seminar series