

ISA BOOK PRESENTATION

**Ungleichheit und Egalität. Die Sozialstruktur der vorkolonialen
Toba-Batak Samosirs (Sumatra) im Vergleich zu Gesellschaften
am Festland Südostasiens**

**The Social Structure of the Pre-colonial Toba-Batak of Samosir (Sumatra) in
Comparison to Societies of Mainland Southeast Asia**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Helmut Lukas

Friday, 7th of October 2011, 5.00 p.m. [s.t.]

Centre for Studies in Asian Cultures and Social Anthropology
Seminar room 1, A-1030 Wien, Apostelgasse 23

The present analysis is an attempt to reconstruct the pre-colonial social structure of the Toba-Batak society (Samosir peninsula, Sumatra). The pre-colonial Toba-Batak economy was not a distinct and independent sphere, as kinship relationships (lineage organization and asymmetrical alliance structure) functioned simultaneously as relations of production, thus providing the framework for the integration of the Toba-Batak society as a whole. Similarly it is impossible to discern a separate political sphere or exclusive political institutions in the pre-colonial Toba-Batak society. Rather, it is the kinship, and besides that, the religious relations that functioned as political relations. Owing to the dominant role of kinship in pre-colonial Toba-Batak society there was no room for the development of a state organization. Therefore the development of the institution of the sacral leaders was an attempt to establish authority with reference to a power source beyond the realm of kinship. Inasmuch as kinship still continued to play a dominant role in Toba-Batak society, the political authority of the sacral leaders was limited by the kinship organization. In part II of the book the social structure of the Toba-Batak is compared to several ethnic groups of Mainland Southeast Asia (Jarai, Rhadé, Cham, Khmu, Lao etc.).

Schedule

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| 5:00-5:45 p.m. | Introduction
Dr. Florian Schwarz (Speaker of the CSACSA at the AAS)
H.E. Mr. I Gusti Agung Wesaka (Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia)
Assoc.Prof. Dr. Helmut Lukas (author) |
| 5:45-6:15 p.m. | Performances
Kshe Buon Cello music (Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek)
Pencak Silat performance
Indonesian dance |
| 6:15-7:00 p.m. | Drinks & Indonesian and Persian snacks* |

* Indonesian snacks kindly provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia