

China Research Seminar Series

Neighbours

Chinese-Language Images of Indonesia in the Early Cold War



Lee Man Fong, *Bali Life*, 1962-64. Image: MutualArt.

Dr Josh Stenberg

(University of Sydney)

2pm, 20 Oct (Thursday), 2022 (in-person seminar)

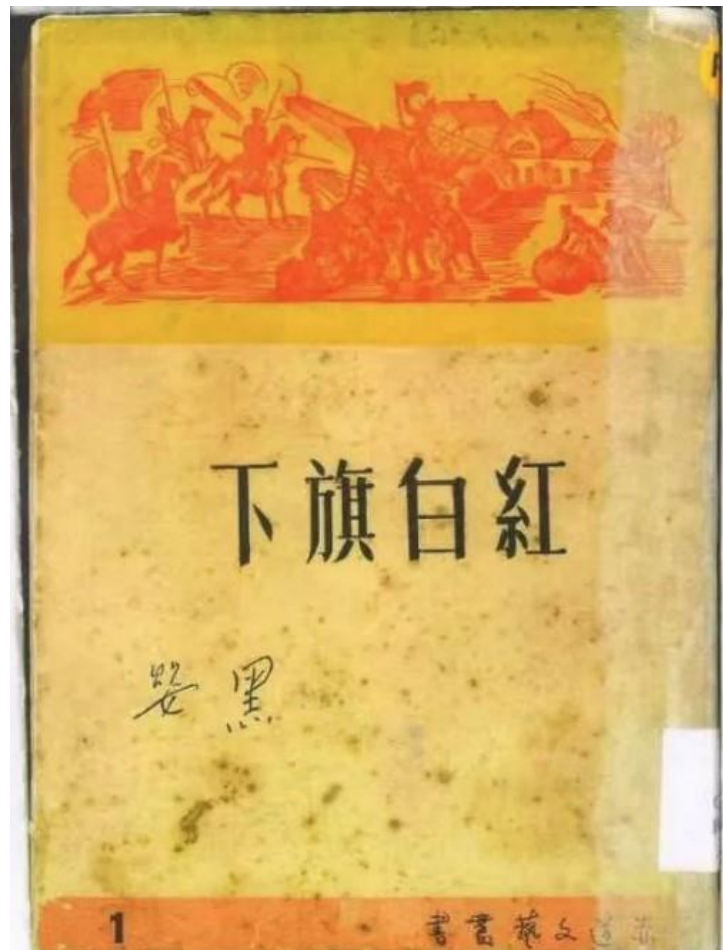
Room LG18 (Law Faculty, Sidgwick Site) (note venue change)

Abstract

In the early Cold War, Chinese-language writers in Indonesia and in the PRC began to turn their attention to Indonesia, not least because of Bandung Conference (1955). The Jakarta-Beijing axis, though far from untroubled, created a narrative of anti-imperialistic solidarity for both young republics. Reportage and touristic writing in Chinese in the 1950s about Indonesia generated a new image for the archipelago in Sinophone letters, distinct from the exoticism and emerging leftism of the 1930s and earlier urgent wartime reporting. Popular song and translation of Indonesian literature also contributed to the impression of an allied archipelago, bound to stand by the PRC in a perilous international environment.

Speaker

Josh Stenberg is a Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Sydney, specialising in Chinese literature and translation, with a Southeast Asian focus. He holds an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Award and is presently a fellow at International Institute for Asian Studies. Recent publications include the monographs *Liyuanxi - Chinese 'Pear Garden' Theatre* (2022) and *Minority Stages: Sino-Indonesian Performance and Public Display* (2019).



Hei Ying: *Under the Red-and-White Flag*, 1951. Image: Kongfz.com