



**AAS**<sup>20</sup> MARCH 22-25  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1 MARRIOTT  
8 WARDMAN PARK

## SOUTHEAST ASIA SESSIONS

Full Session Information will post in January.

**Friday, March 23, 2018 | 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

### **145. Beyond Borders: Global Perspectives on Early Communist Movements in the Malay World**

*Sponsored by:* not applicable

*Organizer* | **Rianne Subijanto** | Baruch College, City University of New York

*Session Abstract:*

This panel seeks out global perspectives on the history of the early communist movements in the Malay world, encompassing Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia. Following the 1917 Russian revolutions, this region witnessed the emergence of modern, popular, and radical anti-colonial movements under the influence of international communism. While these movements were global and international from the start, existing historiography has examined them within the confines of conventional borders—spatially within the borders of colonial states and temporally following traditional historical timelines. Employing new sources, this interdisciplinary and transnational panel discusses recent findings and new approaches to the history of these movements that will help us move beyond these borders.

To facilitate a discussion on the empirical and theoretical implications of global approaches to the study of communism in the region, co-panelists will engage with each other's findings and frameworks. Subijanto's paper discusses the role of seamen in the Indonesian communist movement, revealing mediating practices of global exchanges and connections before and after the 1926/7 revolts. Stutje explores the political activities of Indonesian students in Europe after the revolts and their influence on the European anti-imperialist movement. Belogurova explains the role of the Malayan Communist Youth League in Chinese schools in Singapore in the early 1930s in the context of the educational policy of the Guomindang, the Chinese Nationalist party. Taking the lens of identity politics, Xie unearths issues of convergence and conflicts between communists from Indonesia and China in influencing the organization of the communist party in British Malaya.

*Area of Study:* Southeast Asia

*Discipline(s):* History Communications