

Islam in the Contemporary Court of Yogyakarta

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Abstract

The presentation will cover relational dynamics between the Sultanate of Yogyakarta (Kraton) and the Islamic communities in Yogyakarta related to upcoming succession, especially around the issue of female candidate. During the first introduction of Islam in Indonesia, the Javanese courts had played central role, not only to facilitate the spread of Islam but also to become a cornerstone of Islamic symbol. All Javanese kings bear the title of *"kalifatullah"*, representation of Allah in the world. However, the Sultanate's role in spreading Islamic has been replaced by Islamic organisations since the early 20th century. Since then, the Islam of Kraton which has been fruitful with Javanese mysticism has taken a different path with both traditionalist and modernist Islam. Islam in Kraton has also been used to build political legitimacy which has great influence from local mystical figures. In current development, Islam in Kraton has been seen as contradict to the Islamic teaching of one God and leave Kraton no alliance with Islamic organisations. When the Kraton faces succession problem due to lack of male offspring, the Islamic communities, both traditionalist and modernist, condemned Sultan Hamengkubuwono X's decision to replace the title of *"kalifatullah"* and to choose his eldest daughter as his successor. I argue that the use of Islam and Javanese mysticism to build Kraton's political legitimacy has hinders Kraton to adjust to people understanding of Islam and therefore has placed Kraton insignificant in the Islamic development. The Kraton has no choice but to continue its stand on Islam- Javanese-mysticism. Consequently, it has created distance to many Islamic community in term of Islamic teachings.

Bio

Bayu Dardias is a lecturer at the Department of Politics and Government, UGM, Yogyakarta. He completed his Master of Public Policy at ANU in 2009, MA at the UIN Yogyakarta-McGill in 2007 and BA in politics from UGM in 2002. Bayu PhD project focuses on the politics of aristocracy in post-authoritarian Indonesia. Since 1998, aristocrats have resurfaced in politics, and through traditional support, they have gained key positions in modern political institutions. His thesis concentrates on aristocrats in Gowa, Ternate, Gianyar, Yogyakarta and Palembang.