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Anthropology
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Religious Authority and Local Governance in Eastern Indonesia - An Abode of Islam



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4:00-5:30 pm, AP 330, 19 Russell St.**

Governance is not simply a matter of statecraft nor societal norms, but a complicated and wide array of social practices and structures. In this paper I argue that it is necessary to see governance as a nuanced concept that needs to be read as a combination of institutions, rules and actors often constituted within a set of dynamic social, religious and political processes. In short, governance is a matter of law and lore intertwined. This lecture discusses my forthcoming book that investigates the world's largest Muslim majority state, Indonesia, and its local governance landscape. By providing a detailed account of local communities and religious authority on the eastern Indonesian island of Lombok I argue for a fabric of governance that intertwines a series of complex socio-political arrangements on the island. This lecture will interrogate Lombok's carefully woven fabric of governance through an ethnographic study of an Islamic boarding school, Darul Falah, and the community surrounding it. Through this nuanced lens of inquiry, with a careful eye to the historical trajectories on this island, I am able to examine the political and religious forces that are guiding social regulation and political affairs.

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