

World religion and local tradition - Zoltán Szombathy's lecture

2019/02/20

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The February event of the fourth season of the lecture series entitled “Orientalists in NSZL” focuses on Indonesia research. The February speaker will be Arabist Zoltán Szombathy, Head of the Department of Semitic and Arabic Studies at the Faculty of Humanities of Eötvös Loránd University, expert in Southeast Asian and Black African Islam.



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Zoltán Szombathy: *World religion and local tradition: Islamic syncretism in an Indonesian Muslim community*

An interesting duality can be observed in scientific research related to Islamic religion: written heritage has mostly been studied by traditional orientalists, while research in the daily religious practice of local communities is the field of primarily anthropologists and ethnographers. Based on the example of two small Muslim ethnic groups, Saluan and Banggai, living on the east coast of the Isle of Celebes and on the surrounding islands, the lecture will present how the impact of Islam transformed local animist religious traditions. The lecture is based partly on the speaker's own anthropological field work, and partly on the analysis of medieval Arabic religious law texts. Thereby, the lecturer also highlights the major role that medieval written Muslim tradition can play in shaping the culture of a local community.

Date: Wednesday February 20, 2019, 5 p.m.

Venue: National Széchényi Library, Wing "F" of Buda Royal Palace, 4-5-6 Szent György Square, H-1014 Budapest

You can attend the event free of charge.

[Facebook event](#) [3]

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