

Bio:

Professor Frank Dhont holds the position of Associate Professor in the Department of History at National Cheng Kung University, having previously served as a Senior Lecturer in FASS-IAS at the University of Brunei Darussalam. Professor Dhont earned his Ph.D. in History from Yale University, specializing in the history of Indonesia and Southeast Asia. He also holds an MHum in history from Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia, as well as an MA in Indonesian from Lund University in Sweden.

Professor Dhont's area of expertise lies in the study of Indonesia, and he is regularly involved in multidisciplinary initiatives. Professor Dhont's research interests are vast and include the reactions of both indigenous rulers and ordinary people to colonialism in the Netherlands Indies and the Japanese occupation of Indonesia. He has also conducted extensive research on the history of both World Wars in Asia and the spread of ideologies such as nationalism and Islam, particularly in the context of colonial empires in Southeast Asia.

Professor Dhont is the founder and chair of the International Indonesia Forum and has published extensively on his research interests. Professor Dhont's expertise is highly valued in the academic community, we feel privileged to have him as a guest lecturer at our Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations, Jagiellonian University.

**Title:**

Indonesia as a Major Southeast Asian Nation of the 20th Century: Challenges and Strength.

Abstract:

Indonesia as a nation began as a visionary concept in the Dutch colonial possessions of the Netherlands Indies decades before the national independence of 1945. What followed was a long and painful, ongoing integration process to bring all these different people and cultures living in this shared space into one nation-state. The lecture will highlight for various time periods the major challenges and difficulties faced by the Indonesians and the ways these were addressed. The lecture will address specifically: the concept of an Indonesian nation as envisioned by prominent Indonesian thinkers and challenged by the Dutch colonial authorities; the difficulties but also opportunities during the Japanese occupation of World War II; the struggle that followed the

declaration of independence of 1945; the era of president Sukarno and the non-aligned movement; the 1965 massacre and rise of Suharto; the fall of Suharto after the 1997 Asian financial crisis and Indonesia in the present democratic era. Through these key moments the process of Indonesia's growth during the 20th century into a major Southeast Asian nation can be explained and understood.

Books

Frank Dhont (ed.), *Indonesian Creativity, Ingenuity, and Innovation in a World in Transition* (Tainan: NCKU Multicultural Research Center, 2020), 199pp.

Maslin Jukim, Janet Marles, Frank Dhont, *Kisah-Kisah Dalam Kenangan: Stories Through Memories* (Brunei Darussalam: Syarikat Haji Mukim/Jukin bin Haji Lamit & Anak-Anak, 2017), 59pp.

Frank Dhont, Tracy Wright Webster and Rommel A. Curaming, eds., *Between the Mountain and the Sea: Positioning Indonesia* (Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press, 2013), 476 pp.

Rommel A. Curaming and Frank Dhont, eds., *Education in Indonesia: Perspectives, Politics and Practices* (Yogyakarta: FIS Press, 2012), 279 pp.

Thomas J. Connors, Frank Dhont, Mason Hoadley and Adam Dean Tyson, eds., *Social Justice and Rule of Law: Addressing the Growth of a Pluralist Indonesian Democracy* (Semarang: Diponegoro University Press, 2011), 514 pp.

Frank Dhont, Kevin Ko, Thomas J. Connors and Mason Hoadley, eds., *Pancasila's Contemporary Appeal: Re-Legitimizing Indonesia's Founding Ethos* (Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma University Press, 2010), 380 pp.

Frank Dhont, Kevin Fogg and Mason Hoadley, eds., *Indonesian Identity: Towards an Inclusive Democratic Indonesian Society: Bridging the Gap between State Uniformity and Multicultural Identity Patterns* (Yogyakarta: AtmaJaya University Press, 2009), 411 pp.

Frank Dhont, *Nasionalisme Baru intelektual Indonesia Tahun 1920-an* (Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press, 2005), 130 pp.

Articles and book chapters

- 2023/4? Frank Dhont "In Japanese Military Service: Indonesians and Taiwanese in Southeast Asia during World War II" in the Bulletin of Taiwan Historical Research, NTNU (forthcoming).
- 2023 Frank Dhont "Identifying Indonesia: Pancasila and the Roots of Indonesian Identity" in TJSEAS: Taiwan Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, Vol. 18, No. 2, November 2023, (5-31).
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- 2023 Dagm Alemayehu Tegegn and Frank Dhont, "The downhill journey of the Java sugar economy in the Netherlands Indies (later Indonesia) from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century" in *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, Volume 10, No. 1, June 2023.
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- 2021 Frank Dhont, "From Prominent 17th Century Colonial Dutch Settlements to Modern Indonesian Urban Centers? The Different Destinies of Banten, Ambon, Jakarta, Malacca and their Cultural Heritage." in *Journal of East-Asian Urban History*, Vol 3, No.1, June 2021 (121-138).
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- 2020 Frank Dhont, "Islamic and Christian Acculturation in the Central Moluccas during the Early Modern Era" in Nabil Chang-Kuan Lin (ed.), *Commerce, Knowledge, and Faith: Islamization of the Modern Indonesian and Han-speaking Muslim Ummahs* (Tainan: NCKU Multicultural Research Center, 2020, 103-113.
- 2019 Frank Dhont, "Integrating the Moluccan People in Indonesia: A History of Conflict and Adaptation." in Nabil Chang-Kuan Lin, (ed.) *Exploring Religio-cultural Pluralism in Southeast Asia: Intercommunication, Localization, Syncretisation and Conflict*. (Tainan: NCKU Multicultural Research Center, 2019), 205-226.
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