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# A JIHAD UNDER JAPAN

4th JESHO Lecture on Asian History by  
**MICHAEL LAFFAN**  
Princeton University

## The Institute of Iranian Studies

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## CONVENOR

Paolo Sartori, Institute of Iranian Studies, Editor-in-Chief of JESHO  
Hollandstrasse 11-13, 1020 Vienna  
T: +43 1 51581-6516  
[paolo.sartori@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:paolo.sartori@oeaw.ac.at)

# PROGRAM

## JESHO LECTURE SERIES ON ASIAN HISTORY

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## FOURTH JESHO LECTURE ON ASIAN HISTORY

6.00 pm *Welcome and Opening*

**Oliver Jens Schmitt** | Austrian Academy of Sciences  
President of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences

*Introduction*

**Paolo Sartori** | Austrian Academy of Sciences

*A Jihad under Japan*

**Michael Laffan** | Princeton University

**Abstract** In this lecture I wish to make sense of the apparent contradiction of calls for jihad under the auspices of the Japanese empire during its occupation of Java from March of 1942 to September of 1945.

Why were Indonesian religious figures and national heroes such as K.H. Mas Mansoer (d. 1946) so visibly supportive of the military administration? And why is this so seldom remembered? As I hope to explain, Japan had both figured in the modernist Muslim imagination for decades, while advocates of southern expansion had thought about how to mobilise national sentiment by downplaying the ultimate vision for a Greater East Asia without an independent Indonesia even as they stressed the defence of homeland. Certainly, how this collaboration played out and was then elided in the national story is worth rethinking, particularly in terms of the imagining of a "Malay" world, and I would stress that Indonesia – as the intersection of pan-Islamic and pan-Asian imaginaries – should figure more prominently in studies of Japanese policies regarding Islam in Asia or yet anti-Westernism.

**Michael Laffan** is professor of history at Princeton University, where he teaches on the history of Southeast Asia and Islam across the Indian Ocean. A native of Canberra, Australia, he is the author of *Islamic Nationhood and Colonial Indonesia* (Routledge 2003) and *The Makings of Indonesian Islam* (Princeton, 2011), and more recently the editor of *Belonging Across the Bay of Bengal* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017). His current project, *Unsettled Loyalties*, is an intersectional history of imperialism as it impacted on Indian Ocean Muslim networks, focussing on the implications of the migrations of Malay and Arabic speakers from the 1770s to the all-too-recent past.

7.30 pm RECEPTION