



# Southeast Asia Research Group

## Statement in Support of Professor Robert Cribb

May 23, 2016

As members of the Executive Board and Advisory Board of the Southeast Asia Research Group (<http://seareg.org>), we wish to express our dismay at the Australian National University's recent decision to fire Professor Robert Cribb. Professor Cribb is one of the leading scholars of Indonesian history anywhere in the world. His service to the field of Indonesian studies is acknowledged by colleagues across the humanities and social sciences, both in Australia and abroad. His guidance, mentorship, and intellectual curiosity have been inspirational for many early-career scholars.

As social scientists whose research interests include Southeast Asia, we recognize Professor Cribb's many contributions to scholarship on the region. ANU has for decades been a premier institution for Southeast Asian studies, and has served as a guiding light for scholars in North America and the rest of the world for its deep expertise and broad engagement with this critical world region. We urge the Australian National University to reconsider the "restructuring" of the School of Culture, History, and Language, which has led to the decision to fire Professor Cribb and other scholars of Asia and the Pacific. This decision will likely destroy one of the best academic units at ANU, with major implications for the ANU's ability to remain a leading academic institution in Australia.

Signed,

Allen Hicken, University of Michigan  
Amy Liu, University of Texas  
Eddy Malesky, Duke University  
Tom Pepinsky, Cornell University  
Dan Slater, University of Chicago  
Jeremy Menchik, Boston University  
Sarah Shair-Rosenfield, Arizona State University  
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