

# SOJOURN

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In Memory of Professor Josef Silverstein iv  
(1922–2021)

## Articles

- |  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
| The Intramuros of Anak Dalita,<br>the Looban of Manila Noir  | Geronimo Cristobal and<br>Talitha Espiritu | 387 |
| Subversive Tears? Tsujihara Minoru’s<br>Military Song “Carrying My Comrade’s<br>Ashes” and the Submerged Memories of<br>the Japanese Occupation of Singapore | Eriko Ogihara-Schuck                       | 417 |
| Manners as Cultural Capital in 1950s<br>Thailand: A Study of Three Cultural<br>Artefacts from the Writings of Santa T.<br>Komolabutra                        | Juthamas Tangsantikul                      | 448 |
| Local Perspectives and International<br>Regions in the Making: Timor-Leste as a<br>Case Study  | Nadine Lobner and Paulo<br>Castro Seixas   | 477 |
| Muslim Intellectuals in Thailand:<br>Exercises in Reform and Moderation  | Raymond Scupin                             | 503 |

## SOJOURN Symposium

- On Tides of Empire: Religion, Development and Environment in Cambodia* by Courtney Work Guido Sprenger, Krisna Uk and Courtney Work 531

## Book Reviews

- The Complete Lives of Camp People: Colonialism, Fascism, Concentrated Modernity*, by Rudolf Mràzek Danilyn Rutherford 550
- The King's Chinese: From Barber to Banker, the Story of Yeap Chor Ee and the Straits Chinese*, by Daryl Yeap Ernest C.T. Chew 552
- Christian Circulations: Global Christianity and the Local Church in Penang and Singapore, 1819–2000*, by Jean DeBernardi Jayeel Cornelio 555
- One or Two Words: Language and Politics in the Toraja Highlands of Indonesia*, by Aurora Donzelli Edwin B.P. de Jong 558
- The Republic of Vietnam, 1955–1975: Vietnamese Perspectives on Nation Building*, edited by Tuong Vu and Sean Fear Dang Nguyen 561
- Demanding Images: Democracy, Mediation, and the Image-Event in Indonesia*, by Karen Strassler Felicia Hughes-Freeland 564
- Sonic City: Making Rock Music and Urban Life in Singapore*, by Steve Ferzacca Jim Sykes 567
- Mekong Dreaming: Life and Death along a Changing River*, by Andrew Alan Johnson Ian G. Baird 570

## Notes & Comment

- New Decade, New Directions: Advancing the Study of Southeast Asian Religions Alexandra Kaloyanides, Chiara Formichi, Cuong T. Mai, Richard Fox, Kelly Meister Brawn, Nathan McGovern, Penny Edwards and Oona Paredes 573

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## In Memory of Professor Josef Silverstein (1922–2021)



Professor Josef Silverstein and Mrs Marilyn Silverstein at their Connecticut home in 2018.

*Source:* Frank Silverstein.

We learned with great sadness of Professor Josef Silverstein's passing, on 29 June 2021, at the age of 99, a week after his beloved wife, Mrs Marilyn Silverstein, passed away at age 90.

Professor Silverstein was the third director of ISEAS. A Burma expert from Rutgers University in New Jersey, he served a two-

year term at the institute from 11 August 1970. Under Professor Silverstein's leadership, the institute grew in staff strength and produced a steady stream of conferences, seminars and publications, including occasional papers and monographs. He also advocated for the development of local and regional scholars at the institute. Prof Silverstein, together with the first two directors, Prof Harry Benda and Prof John Legge, laid the foundations on which ISEAS stands today.

Having worked closely with Dr Goh Keng Swee and David Marshall to establish ISEAS as one of the first Southeast Asian research institutes dedicated to the study of sociopolitical, security and economic developments in Southeast Asia, Professor Silverstein handed the directorship over to Professor K.S. Sandhu on 1 July 1972.

Professor Silverstein was also the author and editor of several definitive books on Myanmar, including *The Political Legacy of Aung San*, *Burmese Politics: The Dilemma of National Unity*, and *Burma: Military Rule and the Politics of Stagnation*.

His professional papers and research collection—the Josef Silverstein Papers, 1944–2002—are now housed in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at the Cornell University Library in Ithaca, New York.

Professor Silverstein will be greatly missed. He is buried next to his wife in Princeton, New Jersey. Our deepest condolences go to Mr Frank Silverstein, Dr Gordon Silverstein, Ms Maya Silverstein, Mrs Esther Brumberg Silverstein and family on the demise of their beloved parents and grandparents.