

## Sebastian C. Dettman

School of Social Sciences  
Singapore Management University  
90 Stamford Road, Level 04  
Singapore 178903

Tel. +65 6828 0092  
[sdettman@smu.edu.sg](mailto:sdettman@smu.edu.sg)  
[www.sebastiandettman.com](http://www.sebastiandettman.com)

### Academic Employment

<b>Singapore Management University</b> , Singapore Assistant Professor of Political Science	2019-present
<b>Stanford University</b> , Stanford, CA Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary Asia, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center	2018-19

### Education

<b>Cornell University</b> , Ithaca, NY Ph.D. & M.A., Government <i>Subfields</i> : Comparative Politics and International Relations	2018
<b>University of Michigan</b> , Ann Arbor, MI M.A., Southeast Asian Studies	2012
<b>Pitzer College</b> , Claremont, CA B.A., International and Intercultural Studies (Asia Concentration)	2005

### Publications

#### Peer Reviewed

Dettman, Sebastian. 2022. "A (Partial) Exit out of Ethnic Politics? Local Government and the Prospect of Local Elections in Malaysia." Ting, Helen, and Donald Horowitz eds. *Electoral Reform and Democracy in Malaysia*, NIAS Press.

Dettman, Sebastian. 2020. "Authoritarian Innovations and Democratic Reform in the 'New Malaysia.'" *Democratization* Vol 27(6): 1037-1052.

Dettman, Sebastian and Edmund Terence Gomez. 2020. "Political Financing Reform: Politics, Policies, and Patronage in Malaysia." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* Vol 50(1).

Dettman, Sebastian and Meredith Weiss. 2018. "Has Patronage Lost its Punch in Malaysia?" *The Round Table* (107):739-754.

Dettman, Sebastian, Thomas Pepinsky, and Jan Pierskalla. 2017. "Incumbency Advantage and Candidate Characteristics in Open-List Proportional Representation Systems: Evidence from Indonesia." *Electoral Studies* Vol. 48:111-120.

Aspinall, Edward, Sebastian Dettman and Eve Warburton. 2011. "When Religion Trumps Ethnicity: A Regional Election Case Study from Indonesia." *South East Asia Research* 19(1):27-58.

### **Working Papers/In Progress**

Dettman, Sebastian. 2023. "The Geographic Scope of Opposition Challenges in Malaysia's Parliament" (*under review*)

"Ethnicity and Urbanization in Malaysia's 2022 Election." (With Tom Pepinsky)

"Authoritarian Legislative Behavior amid Declining Electoral Dominance: Evidence from Malaysia" (With Paul Schuler) (*Presented at APSA 2022*)

Pathways to Power under Authoritarianism: Building Multiethnic Opposition Parties and Coalitions in Malaysia (*Book manuscript in progress*)

### **Other**

"Mobilizing for Elections: Patronage and Political Machines in Southeast Asia." Book review, *Journal of Asian Studies* (forthcoming 2023)

"Malaysia: The New Political Normal, for Now." *New Mandala*, August 24, 2021.

"Opposition Legislative Behavior under Malaysia's National Front." *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*, May 3, 2021.

"The Malaysian election results were a surprise. Here are 4 things to know." *The Monkey Cage*, May 15, 2018.

"Malaysia's old players in a new game?" *East Asia Forum*. January 1, 2017.

"Malaysia: Chipping Away at the Opposition Before the Next Election." *East Asia Forum*. September 15, 2016. (Originally published under pseudonym)

## Awards and Fellowships

Most Promising Teacher Award (Nominated), SMU	2022
Young Southeast Asia Fellow, Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG)	2018
Boren Fellowship, NSEP	2015-2016
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA)	2015-2016 (declined)
Sumitro Fellowship, The United States-Indonesia Society	2015
Center for the Study of Inequality (CSI) Seed Grant, Cornell University	2015
Graduate School Research Travel Grant, Cornell University	2015
Milton L. Barnett Scholarship, Cornell University	2013, 2014, 2016
Einaudi Center Research Travel Grant, Cornell University	2013, 2014
Houston I. Flournoy Fellowship (with Thomas Pepinsky), Cornell University	2013
Sage Fellowship, Cornell University	2012
Tuition Award, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan	2011
Rackham Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, University of Michigan	2011
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (Vietnamese)	2011
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (Indonesian)	2010-2011
Fulbright Fellowship, English Teaching Assistant (Indonesia)	2005-2006

## Teaching Experience

### Instructor

Introduction to Political and Policy Studies	2 sections, 2022
Political Participation and Policy	3 sections, 2019-2022
Democracy	7 sections, 2019-2022
The Politics of Democracy in the Global South ( <i>Writing Seminar</i> )	Fall 2014

### Senior Thesis Reader/Mentorship

Nicholas Chua (supervisor), Political Science Honors Thesis - <i>Awarded Best Senior Thesis in Politics, Law, and Economics (2021)</i>
Elijah Lai Jun Yi (coexaminer), Political Science Honors Thesis - <i>Awarded Best Senior Thesis in Politics, Law, and Economics (2022)</i>
Daniel Ho, (coexaminer), Political Science Honors Thesis (defending in Spring 2023)
Salihin Subhan, (academic mentor), SMU Fellowship for Social Science Graduate Research

## Presentations

### Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association (*co-organized panels)	*2017-19, 2021-22
Midwest Political Science Association	

	2014-15, 2017-18, 2021, 2023
Association for Asian Studies	2013, 2017, 2019
Asian Studies Association of Australia	2016
Graduate Forum, Asia Research Institute, NUS Singapore	2012
Southeast Asia: Between the Lines, University of Michigan	2011
Canadian Center for Southeast Asian Studies, U of Toronto	2011
Northeast Conference on Indonesian Studies, Yale University	2011
Intl. Center for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies, Aceh, Indonesia	2011

### **Invited Presentations**

Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong	April 2023
Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) Conference	October 2021
Politics in Action, University of Sydney, Southeast Asia Centre	April 2020
IKMAS Workshop on Electoral Reform, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	March 2020
UC-Berkeley Center for Southeast Asian Studies	October 2018
Washington National Guard/Malaysia State Partnership Program	August 2018
Kings and Dictators: The Legacy of Monarchy and the New Authoritarianism in Asia, Cornell University	April 2018
Cornell Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) Gatty Lecture	September 2017
The World Bank, Jakarta	January 2015

### **Professional Service and Affiliations**

Research Affiliate, University of Malaya, Malaysia	2016
Research Affiliate, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia	2015
Co-Founder of Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAR), University of Michigan	2011
Co-Organizer, "Between the Lines": University of Michigan graduate student conference	2011
Member, American Political Science Association	2013-
Member, Association of Asian Studies	2013-
Editorial Committee member, <i>Inside Indonesia</i>	2008-2010

**Reviewer:** *Asian Survey, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Contemporary Southeast Asia, Democratization, Economics & Politics, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Taiwan Journal of Democracy, Economics and Politics, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties, Oxford Bibliographies (Oxford University Press), Pacific Affairs, Party Politics, Problems of Post-Communism*

## **Research Projects and Consultant Work**

Political Settlements Project, University of Manchester	2018
The World Bank, Consultant, PNPM Support Facility, Indonesia	2014
The Asia Foundation, Consultant, Indonesia	2012, 2013
Australian National University, Research Consultant, Indonesia	2009, 2012
Global Leadership Project, Country Expert on Indonesia, Boston University	2012
International Crisis Group, Research Consultant, Indonesia	2009
The Carter Center, Long-Term Election Observer, Indonesia	2009

## **Skills and Additional Training**

### **Fieldwork**

Malaysia: 2013, 2014, 2015-2016, 2018, 2020, 2022

Indonesia: 2009-2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

### **Languages**

Indonesian (fluent), Malay (advanced), Mandarin (basic)

### **Software**

Stata, Atlas.ti

### **Language, Methods, and Teaching Training**

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)	2015
Teaching Writing Program, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University	2014
SEASSI – Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute	2011