



# KNOWLEDGE HEGEMONIES — AND — AUTONOMOUS KNOWLEDGE

Speaker

**Syed Farid Alatas**

※ Language: English

2022 **FRI**  
**10.21** 15:00-18:00 (JST)

**Venue** Mid-sized Room (Room 332), at the 3rd Floor  
Inamori Building, CSEAS, Kyoto University

ACCESS : <https://kyoto.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/access/>



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## Discussants



**Caroline Hau**

Kyoto University

Cultural Studies



**Ramon "Bomen" Guillermo**

University of the Philippines

Southeast Asian Studies,  
Translation Studies, Political Lexicology,  
Digital Humanities

## Moderator



**Takamichi Serizawa**

Kyoto University

Philippine History,  
Japanese Intellectual History

## Abstract

With the emergence of the modern social sciences in the nineteenth century came recognition of the problem of knowledge imperialism both in the imperial centres as well as the colonised world, understood to be inseparably tied up with the dominant orientation in knowledge production, Eurocentrism. This orientation is still held to dominate the various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. While there is much consensus over this characterization of the problem, the assumption that the central ideological problem in knowledge production is that of Eurocentrism is not sound. There are several other hegemonic orientations that affect knowledge production in the Third World, many of which predate the colonial period by centuries and have little to do with the colonial experience. These include androcentrism, traditionalism, culturalism, ethnonationalism and sectarianism. If this is true, then the task of decolonizing knowledge is far from sufficient. For this reason, scholars in the Malay world speak of the need to generate autonomous knowledge, that is, knowledge that is autonomous from not only Eurocentric but also other hegemonic orientations. This presentation discusses the dominant hegemonic orientation in knowledge production in our times and the response to these in terms of the idea of autonomous knowledge.

## Bio

Syed Farid Alatas is Professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore, and Visiting Professor at the Department of Anthropology and; Sociology at the University of Malaya. He also headed the Department of Malay Studies at NUS from 2007 till 2013. Prior to joining NUS he taught at the University of Malaya in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies. In the early 1990s, he was a Research Associate at the Women and Human Resource Studies Unit, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Alatas has authored numerous books and articles, including *Applying Ibn Khaldun: The Recovery of a Lost Tradition in Sociology* (Routledge, 2014), and (with Vineeta Sinha) *Sociological Theory Beyond the Canon* (Palgrave, 2017); "Political Economies of Knowledge Production: On and Around Academic Dependency", *Journal of Historical Sociology* 35, 1(2022): 14-23; and "Knowledge Hegemonies and Autonomous Knowledge", *Third World Quarterly* (forthcoming). His areas of interest are social theory, religion and reform, the sociology of Islam, intra- and inter-religious dialogue, and the study of Eurocentrism.

