

Building Presidential Coalitions in Indonesia: From Jokowi to Prabowo

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Speaker: Marcus Mietzner

Associate Professor (Australian National University)

This talk is based on Mietzner's recently published book *The Coalitions Presidents Make: Presidential Power and its Limits in Democratic Indonesia* (Cornell University Press, 2023). It shows how Indonesian presidents after 2004 managed to build coalitions that protected them from impeachment attempts and allowed them to secure easy re-election. One of the keys to their success was the presidents' strategy to not only build large multi-party alliances but also include a wide range of non-party actors into their regime. This, in turn, allowed presidents to stabilise their governments, but also led to slow policymaking and democratic calcification. Against this background, how likely is it that incoming president Prabowo Subianto will stray from this formula? Will Prabowo replicate the existing order or seek to fundamentally change it, as he had promised in previous campaigns? The talk will offer answers to these questions in the context of presidential politics in Indonesia during the last two decades.



Marcus Mietzner is Associate Professor at the Department of Political and Social Change, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University in Canberra. He has published extensively on Indonesian politics, including in peer-reviewed international journals such as *Democratization*, *International Political Science Review*, *Governance*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Contemporary Politics*, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia* and *Critical Asian Studies*. He is currently writing a book on the Jokowi presidency, based on a series of interviews with the outgoing president and other key actors.

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