

## Dr. Kathy Foley



When: **12:30-2:00** on **Friday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

Where: Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage conference room at 600 Maryland Ave. SW, Suite 2001, Washington, D.C.

Please RSVP to [HolmgrenM@si.edu](mailto:HolmgrenM@si.edu) to ensure event capacity.

Title: **Intangible Cultural Heritage in Bordered Worlds (Reflecting on Wayang)**

### Abstract:

Since the 1970s, UNESCO has debated the best way to support and preserve cultural heritage forms. The *Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity* program, to which Japan provided substantial leadership, is widely considered to be the predecessor to the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. New thinking in museum practice, interest in finding ways to value performing arts as much as geographic or architectural monuments, the development of safeguarding practices, and notions of community agency all contributed to the evolution of the Masterpieces model to the Intangible Cultural Heritage framework.

In this presentation, the needs of Southeast Asian groups, especially those in Indonesia, and the processes of local ownership are queried. Forms that cross national boundaries such as Thai and Khmer dance, and *wayang* (puppetry), as pan-Southeast Asian genres become contested as political hierarchies and nationalist dynamics play out.

### Bio:

Dr. Kathy Foley is the current editor of *Asian Theatre Journal* and a professor of theatre arts at the University of California Santa Cruz and Provost of Kresge College. She trained in and performs as a *dalang* (puppeteer) of Sundanese wayang golek. She recently did research on Islamic wali (Saints) and wayang. In the spring of 2014, she was a Senior Fulbright Fellow at the University of Malaya where she worked on politics, language streams, and theatre. The research support for her presentation was assisted by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and the UCSC Arts Research Institute and Committee on Research.