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**Some possibly 15th century surat-type texts from Sumatra**

In recent years a few texts have surfaced that all very likely date into the 14th or 15th century. These are two stone inscriptions from Mandailing, one stone inscription from Muara Takus, and one manuscript from Kerinci. The three inscriptions are written in Surat Batak and in the Mandailing batak language whereas the Kerinci document is written as a sort of appendix to the 14th century Tanjung Tanah code of law. The text in Malay language is, however, unrelated to the legal code and written in an entirely different script, namely in an ancient variant of the southern Sumatran Ulu script.

These four texts have not yet been published and will be discussed on an open forum for the first time. This presentation will discuss the implications of the discovery of these four texts for our understanding on when, where, how, and why the Sumatran scripts developed, and the relations of the Sumatran Ulu scripts to the contemporary Malayu script which is also known as the Kawi script.