

Agenda

07 July 2025

8:30 am - 9:00 am

Registration - Postgraduate Students Day

Special Event - Postgraduate Students Day - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

The information here applies to all session related to the Postgraduate Students Day (7 July).

Beyond the Thesis: A Day for Postgraduate Scholars of Indonesia

Join us for the Postgraduate Students Day as part of the Indonesia Council Open Conference. This special event is hosted by the [University of Melbourne's Indonesia Forum](#), and it brings together postgraduate students researching Indonesia from both Indonesian and Australian institutions. Through a series of engaging panels, participants will explore strategies for success in academic life, including tips on conferencing and networking, navigating the world of academic publishing, and preparing for the job market after postgraduate studies. This is a valuable opportunity to connect with peers, share experiences, and build supportive networks across borders. Don't miss this chance to be part of a vibrant community of emerging Indonesia scholars.

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL - [please fill out this form \(https://forms.office.com/r/Xt2nq57kpX\)](https://forms.office.com/r/Xt2nq57kpX)

Open to PhD, Masters', Graduate diploma/certificate and Honours Students

07 July 2025

9:00 am - 9:15 am

Welcome - Postgraduate Students Day

Special Event - Postgraduate Students Day - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

07 July 2025

9:15 am - 10:45 am

Publishing and Communicating Your Work - Postgraduate Students Day

Special Event - Postgraduate Students Day - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

Panelists:

- **Cathy Harper** - Cathy Harper a senior editor and journalist with 25 years' experience in public interest journalism. She's currently the Managing Editor of Melbourne Asia Review, the journal-magazine of the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne. Previously, she was a senior journalist and producer in news and current affairs at the ABC (Melbourne and Darwin) and SBS (Melbourne); and also worked for seven years as an Australian correspondent for the Washington DC-based National Public Radio. She is also a trained lawyer.
- **Tiara Marthias** - Dr Tiara Marthias is a Lecturer in Global Health at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne. As a health systems researcher, her work focuses on advancing equitable access to quality health services in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia. She has published on universal health coverage, maternal and child health, and primary health care. She currently leads an implementation research on social behaviour change interventions to improve child immunisation, handwashing with soap, and child

nutrition in Indonesia. Tiara is also actively engaged in policy-relevant research and regional collaboration. Together with Charlotte Setijadi, Tiara is one of the co-convenors of the Indonesia Forum for 2025.

- **Andrew Rosser** - Professor Andrew Rosser is Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on the political economy of development, with a longstanding interest in Indonesia. He has worked at the University of Sydney, AusAID, IDS Sussex, and Adelaide, and was an ARC Future Fellow (2012–2015) researching law, politics, and social rights in Indonesia. He has consulted for international organisations including the World Bank, DFID, OECD, and UNDP. His early work examined economic liberalisation during and after Indonesia's New Order, as well as the political impacts of the 1997–98 Asian financial crisis.

07 July 2025

10:45 am - 11:00 am

Morning Break - Postgraduate Students Day

Break - [Break/Lunch](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

07 July 2025

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Conferencing and Networking - Postgraduate Students Day

Special Event - [Postgraduate Students Day](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

Panelists:

- **Lis Kramer** - Dr Elisabeth Kramer is a Senior Lecturer, Scientia Fellow, and ARC DECRA Fellow (2023) at UNSW. Her research focuses on the intersection of politics, policy, and advocacy in Indonesia, with current ARC-funded projects on opioid policy and tobacco regulation. Her book *The Candidate's Dilemma* (2022) explores money politics and anticorruption in Indonesian elections. She has held fellowships at Harvard, Chiang Mai, and the University of Indonesia. Previously Deputy Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, she has worked across public service, development, and NGOs. Elisabeth is of Indonesian heritage and fluent in the Indonesian language.
- **Charlotte Setijadi** - Dr Charlotte Setijadi is a Lecturer in Asian Studies at the Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne, where she is also the Head of Program for Asian Studies. She researches Chinese identity politics in Indonesia and Indonesian diaspora politics. Charlotte's first book *Memories of Unbelonging: Ethnic Chinese Identity Politics in Post-Suharto Indonesia* was published by University of Hawai'i Press in 2023. She is currently working on a new book project on highly-skilled Indonesian professional migrants. Together with Tiara Marthias, Charlotte is one of the co-convenors of the Indonesia Forum for 2025.
- **Ariane Utomo** - Dr Ariane Utomo is a social demographer and Senior Lecturer in Demography and Population Geography at the School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, The University of Melbourne. Her research focuses on the intersecting themes of gender, education and the labour force; migration; and marriage and family change in Indonesia.

07 July 2025

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch Break - Postgraduate Students Day

Break - [Break/Lunch](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

07 July 2025

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Life After Postgrad: Experiences from Australia & Indonesia - Postgraduate Students Day

Special Event - [Postgraduate Students Day](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

Panelists:

- **Farwiza Farhan** - Renowned environmental activist and 2024 Ramon Magsaysay awardee Farwiza Farhan will discuss Indonesia's environmental governance, reflecting on the progress and challenges that have unfolded in the eight decades since the country's independence. Farhan, internationally celebrated for her work in environmental conservation and social justice, will chart the evolution of environmental policies and practices in Indonesia, examining how colonial legacies, post-independence developmentalism, and contemporary socio-political dynamics have shaped the country's approach to natural resource management.
- **Annisa Beta** - Dr Annisa R. Beta is an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) Fellow (2023-2025) and a Senior Lecturer in Cultural Studies at the School of Culture and Communication, the University of Melbourne, Australia. Before joining the University of Melbourne, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National University of Singapore, where she also completed her PhD. She is the author of *Pious Girls* (Routledge, 2024) and a co-founder of Anotasi and Jaringan Etnografi Terbuka.
- **Gietty Tambunan** - Dr Shuri Mariasih Gietty Tambunan is a lecturer in the English Studies Program and currently serves as the Head of the Literature Postgraduate Program at the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia. She earned her PhD in Cultural Studies from Lingnan University, Hong Kong, in 2013, after completing master's studies in Cultural Studies at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands in 2010 at Universitas Indonesia in 2007. In early 2024, she was a research fellow at the Centre for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) in Germany. Most recently, she was a visiting scholar under the Indonesia Initiative Program at the University of Melbourne for three weeks in March and April 2025. Her doctoral research explored the transnational flow of East Asian television dramas in Indonesia within the context of cultural globalization. Her current research focuses on the dynamics of digital media and diaspora, particularly the experiences of Indonesian female migrant vloggers.
- **Erick Hansnata** - Dr Erick Hansnata is a Principal Economist at FWPA, one of the Research and Development Corporations under the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. He manages levy investments in research and initiatives to improve the timber industry's productivity, competitiveness, and sustainability. Previously, he was a Senior Economist at KPMG Australia, advising on health economics and fiscal policy, and a Senior Regulatory Economist with the ACT Government, overseeing utility pricing and the territory's full renewable energy scheme. Erick was also a Research Fellow at the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), focusing on economic modelling and social policy analysis

07 July 2025

3:00 pm - 3:10 pm

Wrap-Up - Postgraduate Students Day

Special Event - [Postgraduate Students Day](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

08 July 2025

8:00 am - 8:45 am
Day 2: Morning Registration

Special Event - [Break/Lunch](#) - Registration & Info Desk (Melbourne Connect)

Please come by the ICOC 2025 Registration and Information desk to collect your name badge.
Location: Superfloor, Mezzanine Level (Melbourne Connect, 700 Swanston Street, Carlton) - outside Forum 1
The cafe and coffee cart will also be available for teas and coffees (Note: only electronic or card payments accepted)
For wifi, join network name MelbConnectGuest (no password needed)
To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks.
[Link for prayer room/mosque locations](#)

08 July 2025

8:45 am - 10:45 am
ICOC 2025 Opening Event with Keynote Speaker Farwiza Farhan

Keynote - [Event](#) - The Forum combined (Melbourne Connect)

Please join us for our 2025 Opening Event!
Featuring welcome speeches and a keynote address from Farwiza Farhan, conversation between Farwiza Farhan and Dr Charlotte Setijadi (Asia Institute) and more.

Renowned environmental activist and 2024 Ramon Magsaysay awardee **Farwiza Farhan** will discuss Indonesia's environmental governance, reflecting on the progress and challenges that have unfolded in the eight decades since the country's independence. Farhan, internationally celebrated for her work in environmental conservation and social justice, will chart the evolution of environmental policies and practices in Indonesia, examining how colonial legacies, post-independence developmentalism, and contemporary socio-political dynamics have shaped the country's approach to natural resource management. Looking forward, Farhan will also offer an analysis of emerging trends, including the increasing role of technology, climate resilience strategies, and the necessity for inclusive, community-led conservation initiatives.

Following this Opening Event, all attendees and presenters are invited to a hosted morning tea.

8:45 am
[Opening Keynote](#)
[Farwiza Farhan](#)

In this keynote panel, renowned environmental activist and 2024 Ramon Magsaysay awardee Farwiza Farhan will discuss Indonesia's environmental governance, reflecting on the progress and challenges that have unfolded in the eight decades since the country's independence.

08 July 2025

10:45 am - 11:30 am
Welcome Morning Tea

08 July 2025

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Art and Music: Post-Regional Narrations, Non-Theatrical Film, Dangdut and Toraja Music

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Arts & Culture](#) - M13 + M14 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Elly Kent**

11:30 am

[Zones of Speculation: A Post-Regional Imagination for Indonesian Art, 2014-2021](#)

[Ms Caitlin Hughes](#)

In 2014, artists Tita Salina and Irwan Ahmett embarked on their ten-year (now still ongoing) project, the Ring of Fire; travelling across the instable, earthquake-and-volcano-prone Pacific Ring of Fire to explore shared experiences through art. This paper brings Tita and Irwan's project into dialogue with similar, contemporaneous art-ideas explored elsewhere on the archipelago between 2014-2021: in particular, through new interests in environmental and decolonial trajectories of thinking in/about Eastern Indonesia.

Taken together, this paper argues that these trajectories are part of a wave of projects that take a distinctly post-regional perspective. Terminology for the 'post-regional', here, is understood as neither wholly regional (daerah) nor regionalist (Southeast Asian) in focus. Instead, it has sought to imagine fluid between-spaces that relate inter-island contexts to an international sphere, primarily through new media; generating new kinds of relations through climate, geography, and culture.

Note this paper was originally titled: Highways, Lines, and Rings of Fire: A Post-Regional Narration for Indonesian Art?

11:30 am

[Non-theatrical Film and Indonesia's Progress](#)

[Mr. Pye Siregar](#)

My presentation hinges on the idea that industrial or corporate documentary films, or non-theatrical as a field or genre of film studies, have potentialities as visible historical documents to study the architecture of Indonesia's present developments, particularly from the standpoint of science and technology, which has long been the backbone of the country's growth. Through a close reading of *Conquering the Jungle*, a documentary produced by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in 1939, I argue that a documentary has the power to reveal the ideological basis of capitalism and expansion fuelled by the imperialist spirit. A film, then, should be understood not only as a tool for mass entertainment and a source of information but also as a form of ideology throughout each of its images, scenes, and sequences. Cinematic materials of non-theatrical films are pertinent to open new dialogues and complicate the study of the so-called progress in Indonesia.

11:30 am

[Popularity perception changes in different dangdut music trajectories](#)

[Mr Michael Haryo Bagus Raditya](#)

This paper deals with perceptions about popularity, particularly about how dangdut performers seek to maintain their popularity. Since dangdut has been popularised at different times through different media, such as cassette, television, video compact disc, MP3 and YouTube video, in this paper, I examine how dangdut agents interpret and manage their popularity in different eras of media use. I examine three focus eras: the Rhoma Irama and PAMDI (Indonesian Dangdut Music Artists Association) era, the Dangdut Koplo era, and the Dangdut *Ambyar* era. I also relate these findings to the political constellations of their times. Rhoma Irama emerged in the era of the New Order, while Dangdut Koplo and Ambyar became known in the era of democratic reform or Reformasi. I use literature review, interviews, and ethnography to reveal how perceptions of popularity, technology use and contemporary politics have shaped the lyrics, music, and social relationships of each generation of dangdut performers in the Indonesian music industry.

11:30 am

[The Lasting Gospel: An Ethnographic Approach to Funeral Music in Toraja, Indonesia](#)
[Ms Danielle Dudung](#)

This study focuses on the Toraja people in Indonesia, where indigenous identities intersect with a range of old and new Indonesian religious identities, including Christianity and Islam. This paper explores the Christian communities in Toraja and discusses how indigenous cultures and ways of doing and thinking have shifted since the arrival of Western missionaries and during and after colonial times. I particularly focus on the grand funeral of Toraja that takes place up to a week full of rituals and celebrations. Despite the shift of the majority of the people from their indigenous faith, *Aluk Todolo*, to Christianity, traces of the old religion have been incorporated into the practice of the new religion. Based on ethnographic research, I explore how Toraja Christians use music to negotiate identities in funeral practices and eventually produced their own unique Christianity where the new and old identities of Torajan intersect.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Business, Human Rights and Labour: Institutional Frameworks and Industry Transitions

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [History & Society](#) - Forum 3 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Lis Kramer**

11:30 am

[Domestic Politics, States and the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: The Case of Indonesia](#)
[Prof Andrew Rosser](#)

The Indonesian state has moved slowly and inconsistently to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the main international standard related to corporate human rights abuses. It has developed a national strategy on business and human rights and incorporated some elements of the UNGPs into a separate national action plan on human rights. But, otherwise, it has done little to develop or implement a national regulatory framework for BHR outside the fisheries sector where it has provided for a BHR certification scheme, albeit with little practical impact. This paper explains this response, drawing on a critical political economy framework that emphasises the role of domestic political struggles over wealth and power and the agency of individual political leaders in determining state action.

11:30 am

[Indonesia's Labour Dispute Resolution System: An Historical Institutional Evaluation](#)
[Dr Petra Mahy](#)

Indonesia's formal labour dispute resolution system has long been slated for review, with a draft law and accompanying academic manuscript released in 2020. It is listed on the National Legislature's priority list for 2025–2029. This paper analyses Indonesia's labour dispute resolution system using an historical institutional lens. While many commentators saw the creation of Indonesia's post-reformasi system, with the introduction of the Industrial Relations Courts, as a fresh start, in fact many of the current problems with the system can be traced back to much earlier in time. That is, there are 'sticky' institutional procedures and assumptions which have carried forward to the present and interact negatively with the current system. I argue that paying attention to these factors are key to effectively redesigning the system for the future.

11:30 am

[Labour Transition in Indonesia's Automotive Corridor](#)
[Joshua Walker](#)

Indonesia is transitioning from internal combustion engine vehicle (ICEV) production to battery electric vehicle (BEV) production. This paper presents results from ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Indonesia's 'automotive corridor' to theorise the implications of the BEV transition for automotive industry workers. The transition poses three key challenges for workers: (1) the labour intensity of automotive manufacturing is declining; (2) Japanese manufacturers that tolerate Indonesian labour unions and comply with labour laws are facing heightened competition from more belligerent Chinese and Korean manufacturers; and (3) new BEV production hubs are emerging outside the heavily-unionised, high-wage automotive corridor. Labour

unions are experimenting with a range of responses to these challenges, including partnering with Japanese manufacturers to lobby for policies that will moderate the pace of the BEV transition. But the Indonesian state appears largely indifferent to their concerns, and is yet to formulate a plan for labour transition in the automotive corridor.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Criminal Justice: Alternative Sanctions, Human Rights and Judicial Oversight

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Politics & Law](#) - Forum 2 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Amalinda Savirani**

11:30 am

****NOT PRESENTED**** [Application of Alternative Sanctions: Reshaping the Justification of Punishment in Indonesia](#)
[Dr Nathalina Naibaho](#)

The issue of punishment in Indonesia Criminal Code 2023, responds to emerging issues related to the shift in the paradigm of punishment from retributive to rehabilitative and resocialisation, overcrowding of inmates in the correctional institutions, the negative impact of deprivation of liberty, disparity in sentencing, and issues of discrimination and corruption in the prison. The advantages are the availability of alternative sanctions such as supervision sentence, fine, social work sentence, intermittent prison sentence (conditional punishment or probation), and judicial pardon. The effectiveness and implementation of various alternatives to imprisonment will very much depend on the clarity of provisions and the various supporting factors. Indonesia and Australia can cooperate and collaborate in strengthening the implementation of alternative sanctions in order to achieve the objectives of punishment stipulated in the new Criminal Code 2023 which will take effect in January 2026.

11:30 am

[Assessing Indonesian New Criminal Code: Are We on the Right Track For Human Rights Protections?](#)
[Ms Nella Sumika Putri](#), [Dr. Fachrizal Afandi](#)

The 2023 Indonesian Criminal Code introduces important updates, including more human rights protection such as criminalizing torture and the reform of the regulation of the death penalty. While these changes show progress, the new Criminal Code doesn't fully align with the human rights standards. Recent findings from the UPR 4th cycle-41st session highlight ongoing concerns around freedom of expression, capital punishment, torture, and other fundamental rights. This article will discuss these issues and the important roles that civil society and academia play in advocating stronger human rights protection on the new code. Civil Society groups and academic experts have been key in pushing these reforms. Their combined efforts help ensure that the code moves closer to international standards. While the code shows some improvements, continued support and advocacy from both civil society and academics are needed to address its gaps in human rights protections.

11:30 am

****NOT PRESENTED**** [Assessing the Potential for Deferred Prosecution Agreements \("DPA"\) in Indonesia: A Consideration for the Judicial Oversight](#)
[Dr. Febby Mutiara Nelson](#)

According to the new Criminal Code Act 2023, Indonesia now acknowledges corporations as entities subject to criminal law. The resolution of corporate crimes is generally intricate and challenging, in contrast to individual crimes. This rationale motivates Western nations, including the UK and US, to employ alternate strategies for addressing corporate offenses, such as the Deferred Prosecution Agreement ("DPA") mechanism. Countries like Australia and Indonesia are now contemplating the implementation of DPA. Australia is advocating DPA in the Bill to Amend the Combating Corporate Crime Act, while Indonesia has explored the potential in the Medium-Term Development Plan Draft. By using doctrinal research, this study will emphasize the implementation of DPA, the court's role, and its oversight. This study will examine the optimal method for monitoring the execution of DPA agreements, either by creating an independent *ad hoc* authority or enhancing the function of judicial oversight via the Preliminary Examination Judge.

11:30 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Imagining Indonesia as a Just Nation: Evaluating Indonesia's "War on Drugs" Policies and Punitive Approach in The Criminal Justice System](#)
[Ms. Gladys Nadya](#), [Mr Dio Ashar Wicaksana](#), [Putri Amanda Kusuma](#)

A just nation prioritizes individuals' opportunities to lead fulfilling lives through fair laws and equal access (Sen, 2019). According to the United Nations (1948), everyone is entitled to basic freedoms and rights, including full participation in cultural, social, and political life. These principles guide justice efforts in Indonesia, especially within the criminal justice system.

Indonesia's criminal justice system struggles to shift from a crime control focus to one emphasizing due process. A prominent example is the ongoing war on drugs policy, which prioritizes punishment over rehabilitation, leading to a rising population of drug offenders. Therefore, this article explores the impact of Indonesia's criminal justice approach on victims of drug misuse, especially in vulnerable, impoverished communities. It proposes alternative strategies centered on human rights, aligning with Indonesia's long-term justice reform goals.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Democracy, Gender and Governance

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Dr Trissia Wijaya](#)

11:30 am

[Democratic Resilience: Public Evaluation on Democracy, Democratic Legitimacy, and Quality of Governance in Indonesia](#)

[Djayadi Hanan](#)

Like many other democracies in the world, contemporary Indonesian democracy is characterized by backsliding or decline. However, on the other side, the Indonesian public shows a preference for democracy and continues to trust democratic institutions. Although Indonesia has been categorized as a flawed democracy by the Economist Intelligence Unit or as a partly free country by Freedom House during the last decade or so, its regime is still considered as electoral democracy, at least. Does this mean that Indonesian democracy is resilient in facing the phenomenon of democratic erosion, backsliding, or decline? By utilizing the concept of democratic resilience and public evaluation on democracy during the last two decades, this paper argues that Indonesian democracy is still resilient. However, as the process of democratic decline continues, the risk of having democratic breakdown is getting higher.

11:30 am

[Gender Politics and Anti-gender Activism in Indonesia's Democratic Backsliding](#)

[Ms Dyah Kartika](#)

In the past two decades, Indonesia has faced two major trends that potentially hinder feminist gains: conservative turn and democratic regression. Yet, over the past decade, progressive gender activism has arguably achieved considerable policy goals. While opposition groups toward feminist goals have become more consolidated and organized, they have had few political wins. What explains the apparent success of gender activism given what, in theory, should be an adverse political and social environment for such movements? How has the deepening democratic decline and narrowing civic space over the past decade impacted gender politics in Indonesia? To answer the questions, I will use countermovement theory as an analytical framework to understand the intricate dynamics between the state, women's and gender activists, and anti-gender groups. This is an attempt to respond to the emerging global literature that investigates the new form of backlash and the rise of anti-gender groups in backsliding democracies.

11:30 am

[**NOT PRESENTED** Social Protection Budgets Under Gendered Leadership: A Comparative Study of Urban and Rural Contexts](#)

[Ratnaningsih Damayanti](#)

Social protection serves as an instrument for the state to fulfill the social rights of its citizens. In the era of decentralization, the authority over social services has become a mandatory responsibility of local governments. However, the budgetary capacity of local governments to perform their social protection functions varies widely. Regional leaders play a crucial role in determining social protection budgets. Gender is often linked to social protection policies, as traditionally, social protection is associated with feminine stereotypes. This study aims to analyze the influence of leadership on social protection budgets in East Java Province from 2021 to 2024. The dependent variable in this research is the social protection budget at the district or city level, while the independent variables are gender and regional characteristics (district or city). The contribution of this research is to examine the impact of gender stereotypes and

regional characteristics on budgeting in regions with strong patriarchal norms.

11:30 am

[The Romance of Empowerment](#)

[Dr Annisa R. Beta](#)

In this presentation, I critically examine the contemporary discourse of empowerment in hypermediated Indonesia, focusing on how it obscures and sustains existing power structures rather than subverting them. Drawing from Lila Abu-Lughod's (1990) germinal critique of resistance and grounded in recent fieldwork with young women leaders across Indonesia, I interrogate the ways in which resistance has been co-opted and repackaged as empowerment by dominant actors particularly within youth and gender-focused activism in Indonesia. By contrasting the empowerment strategies employed in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Lombok, I expose the limitations of current approaches that, while outwardly progressive, reproduce the power imbalances they claim to challenge through conventions. This presentation advocates for a more critical, grounded analysis of empowerment, moving beyond abstract, top-down narratives to uncover the intricate ways in which power operates and is maintained.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Health and Well-Being: Expenditure Modelling, Aging, HIV and Men's SRHR Behaviours

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Health and wellbeing](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Tiara Marthias**

11:30 am

****NOT PRESENTED**** [Cross-Spousal Education on Older Adult Health and the Buffering Role of Cognitive and Structural Social Capital in Indonesia](#)

[Associate Professor Renuka Mahadevan](#)

This research shows that there is significant gender disparity in the spousal education-health relationship for self-rated and mental health but not cognitive health using nationwide panel data on Indonesians aged 45 to 80 years. Husbands with nine years of schooling or less, adversely affect their wives' self-rated health but there is no impact of wife's low education on husbands' self-rated health. With mental health, females relative to males are more disadvantaged by spousal low education. Although one's social capital fully counters this adverse effect, important differences in gender as well as negating strength were noted. For example, cognitive social capital buffers female cognition, mental and self-rated health while only structural social capital buffers male cognition and mental health. Also, structural social capital has twice the offsetting effect on male than female cognition caused by spousal educational disadvantage. Results show that gender-specific policies around social capital may aid adverse health outcomes associated with low education in marital dyads.

11:30 am

[Factors that influence men's SRHR behaviours and outcomes in Indonesia: an overview of Indonesian literature](#)

[Ms Laura Wallace](#)

It has been 30 years since the 1994 United Nation's International Conference on Population and Development emphasised the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all. However, the field of SRHR tends to be dominated by interventions and policy action that target women and girls. Indonesia has one of the highest HIV rates in the region and heterosexual transmission is becoming the most common mode of transmission within the country. Despite this, Indonesian men's SRHR and associated masculinities continue to constitute research areas that are neglected. To further understand what influences this demographic's SRH behaviours and outcomes, a rapid review of SINTA 1 ranked Indonesian health and social science journals was conducted using a keyword search. Dominant themes pertaining to Indonesian men's SRHR that were observed in the literature included: family planning and fertility control, male infertility, HIV/AIDs, sexual dysfunction and sexual wellbeing, and other male-specific SRH issues including penis enhancement and cancer.

11:30 am

****NOT PRESENTED**** [Projecting national health expenditures using growth accounting modelling: Indonesia](#)

[Miss Yoshida Samosir](#)

Forecasting health expenditures have policy implications of better resource planning and prioritizing equitable access if one could predict such future health financing needs. We use a top-down, past growth accounting model as demonstrated by Rocha et al. 2019 in Brazil, as the availability for administrative microdata in Indonesia were relatively limited. We estimate an annual increase of 2.71% in the share of health expenditure relative to GDP in Indonesia, reaching 4.12% of GDP in 2035, keeping pace with GDP growth. This growth is primarily driven by economic expansion and residual factors, underscoring the role of macroeconomic conditions in shaping health financing trends. Indonesia's expanding social health insurance schemes are anticipated to increase the public sector's share of health spending, raising critical questions about long-term financial sustainability. Our results show considerable robustness from our sensitivity analyses, and comparisons of other forecast studies.

11:30 am

[The Experience of Poor Sleep of Living with HIV in Indonesia: Towards an Intervention Development](#)
[Dr Hening Pujasari](#)

Poor sleep quality is a health problem primarily experienced by people living with HIV. The impact of poor sleep quality not only affects the HIV disease itself, but extends to many areas of life. This study aimed to explore the experience of poor sleep quality in people living with HIV AIDS. The research method used was qualitative using semi-structured in-depth interviews with 12 PLHIV from a national peer support group. Approximately 60 minutes interview was run through Zoom meeting and recorded. The data was analysed descriptively and interpretatively for 3 clusters of PLHIV who differ in the severity of sleep problems. These three clusters have been determined using an initial analysis based on Insomnia Severity Index (ISI). Further data analysis was based on a hermeneutic form PLHIV narratives. During the data analysis, all authors agreed with the results. Three themes were identified: 1). I have a lot of things in my mind that prevent me from sleeping; 2). I would rather switch to TLD (Tenofovir, Lamivudine, and Dolutegravir) so that I can have my sleep back; and 3) When I cannot sleep, I end up scrolling through my phone. HIV positive status and any HIV medication taken may affect PLHIV sleeping pattern. However, there are many potentials to improve their sleep.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Islamic Traditions and Ideologies: Mawlid al-Barzanji, Philanthropy, Majlis Taklim and Qur'anic Performance

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Religion](#) - **Room 119 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Chair: [Helen Pausacker](#)

11:30 am

[Honouring the Prophet: Reading the Mawlid al-Barzanji in Indonesia](#)
[Mr. Hafidz Fadli](#)

Influential studies on Islamization in Indonesia have focused primarily on well-educated individuals, a perspective termed 'ulema-logy' by Mottahedeh (1975). This emphasis often overlooks the significant roles of broader groups beyond intellectuals. This ongoing research investigates the *Mawlid al-Barzanji* text and its importance among Indonesian Muslims, particularly its performative aspects in the *barzanjian* ritual. This study highlights the importance of broader groups of Muslims, moving beyond the traditional focus on scholars. By examining diverse performers—from intellectuals to the illiterates—this study aims to illustrate how these rituals reflect the lived experiences of Islam across various communities. A textual approach is essential, as the *Mawlid al-Barzanji*'s life is closely tied to its ritual. The research will explore the text's transmission, circulation, interpretation, and embodiment, providing insights into its enduring relevance despite modernist critiques. Ultimately, it seeks to enhance the understanding of Islamization in Indonesia by highlighting the contributions of multiple actors.

11:30 am

[Ideological Doctrine of Islamic Philanthropy in Indonesia](#)
[Aji Sofanudin](#)

Ideological Doctrine of Islamic Philanthropy in Indonesia

This research investigates the ideological doctrines of Indonesia's largest Muslim communities, Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama, in practicing creative philanthropy. The findings show that the Aswaja doctrine has a major role in encouraging the flourishing of philanthropic practices in the NU

community. In the Muhammadiyah community, the *Risalah Islam Berkemajuan* (RIB) doctrine is important. Nahdlatul Ulama has an innovative fundraising model through the Gerakan Koin NU. Gerakan Koin NU is the collection of small changes through an infaq box distributed to Nahdliyyin (NU members). The cultural NU community conducts incidental fundraising based on mosques, muludan, haul, pilgrimages, and other religious traditions. Meanwhile, Muhammadiyah organizationally optimizes the role of LazisMU more than NU through LazizNU. In addition, Muhammadiyah also formed the Muhammadiyah Endowment Fund. Technically, Muhammadiyah's creative forms of religious fundraising are online, cash, and congregation raising.

Keywords: Aswaja, Islamic Creative Philanthropy, *Risalah Islam Berkemajuan*.

11:30 am

[Majlis Taklim and Moderate Islam: Indonesian Muslim Perspectives and Attitudes](#)

[Ms Zakiyah Zakiyah](#)

Indonesian Muslims have various activities for the communities including disseminating moderate Islam. However, at the same time, they have faced challenges that include intolerance, hate speech, and radical thought spread in society. In this sense, majlis taklim, one of the existing Muslim assemblies, was expected to significantly minimize them. Thus, this paper discusses this issue. This article was written based on research conducted in 2020 and 2021. This study used a mixed method both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Data was gathered through five techniques; (a) an online survey using Google Forms and 950 people participated in this survey, (b) interviews, (c) observations, (d) focus group discussions, and (e) a documentary study. The findings show that the majority of respondents disagree with the da'wah using violence and denigrating other religious groups (98 %). However, there is still majlis taklim that sometimes demeans other religious groups, and the content of da'wah was not respecting others. Furthermore, during their activities, various majlis taklim have several efforts to disseminate friendly Islam and counter-radical teachings. For instance, they will select moderate preachers to teach Islam, and they have activities involving people from different religious backgrounds so that they will have good interaction and minimize suspicion among them.

11:30 am

[Qur'anic Performance and the Public Sphere](#)

[Professor Julian Millie](#)

Recent decades have seen the rise of Qur'anic performance in public spaces, especially in the context of competition (MTQ). This emergence into public visibility is a product of complex collaborations between state and non-state actors. Based on research in Bandung, the paper examines these collaborations, focussing upon the diverse interests that enable these public expressions of piety.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Language and Education: Street Libraries, Gen Z/Alpha Mindsets, and Peace Education

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Education](#) - **Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 located on level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

Chair: **Michael Ewing**

11:30 am

[Dual Discursive Articulation: Languages of Resistance and Persuasion in Street Library Community](#)

[Ms. Ghina Zoraya Azhar](#)

This study examines the dual discursive articulation in the Instagram posts of the street library community, Literasi Trotoar (LIAR), in Purwakarta, Indonesia. The study focuses on two groups of posts: those directed towards the LIAR community and the general public, and those aimed at the Indonesian government. To analyse the posts, this study adopts 'Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis (MCDA)'. The findings reveal the

presence of two integrated and inseparable types of articulation within the posts. Firstly, articulation serves as a discursive tool to persuade the public to embrace in-group ideology through positive in-group representation, subject interpellation, ideological legitimation, and power formation. Secondly, articulation functions as a discursive mechanism to challenge the authority of the government negative out-group representation, subject resistance, ideological delegitimization, and power exertion. This study proposes a model termed 'dual discursive articulation,' which integrates two discursive objectives: persuasion and resistance.

Keywords: Social movement, street library, multimodal critical discourse analysis, articulation, resistance, persuasion, power relation, ideology, legitimation

11:30 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Indonesian Discourse Markers \(DMs\): A Case of Indonesian Migrant Communities in Sydney, Australia](#)
[Mr Syarif Nasir](#)

Whilst research on discourse markers (DMs) has been extensive in languages e.g., English, Spanish, Italian, and Chinese, Indonesian DMs, especially in migration contexts, are less studied. This project investigates types, interactional functions, and interpretations of Indonesian DMs—such as *loh*, *kan*, *sih*, *ih*, *kok*, *dong*, and *yuk*—used by Indonesian migrants in Sydney, Australia. The study aims to: (1) identify Indonesian DMs in interactions within Sydney's Indonesian community; (2) examine their interpretations; (3) analyse how interlocutors respond to them; and (4) contribute to the literature on DMs in migration contexts. Adopting an Interactional Linguistic (IL) approach, the research included 15 Indonesian-born speakers living in Sydney for at least four years, who regularly engage with the local Indonesian community. Their interactions were recorded on video and audio. Preliminary findings suggest frequent use of Indonesian DMs with minimal English influence and limited code-switching or mixing.

11:30 am

****NOT PRESENTED**** [From Classroom to Social Media: Seeing the Culture and Mindset of Generation Z and Alpha in Language Practice](#)
[Mrs Nuryani Nuryani](#)

This research aims to explore the evolving linguistic practices of Generation Z and Alpha. The main focus of the research is to look at how they form unique cultural identities by engaging with classroom environments and interactions on social media. As digital natives, they use different lexicons that reflect their experiences, values and social dynamics. Through analyses of slang, memes and contemporary communication styles, the research highlights the role of technology in facilitating the evolution of language and cultural expression. Through observing the interplay between classroom learning processes and online platforms, this research will specifically look at how language serves as a tool for identity formation and social relations among young people. The research found that it is important to understand the generational shifts in language practices. This understanding is important to encourage effective communication and engagement in language learning and education frameworks.

11:30 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Building Bridges: The Impact of Peace Education in Higher Education on Interreligious Harmony in Indonesia](#)
[Rev. Imanuel Geovasky](#)

Indonesia, a nation founded on the principles of unity in diversity, will commemorate its 80th year of independence in 2025. Despite the founders' lofty ideals, challenges persist, particularly in the realm of religious diversity. Issues such as intolerance, fundamentalism, radicalization, and the politicization of religion continue to hinder interreligious harmony, a crucial element for Indonesia's progress. This research delves into the role of peace education in promoting interreligious harmony within Indonesian higher education. Challenges such as religious intolerance, polarization, policy gaps, resistance to change, resource constraints, and youth aggression impede the effective implementation of peace education programs. To address these issues, this study will conduct a comparative analysis of peace education programs at Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga and Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana, two universities with distinct religious affiliations. By examining these case studies, the research aims to contribute to the development of more effective and sustainable peace education programs that emphasize religion's potential to foster peace in Indonesia.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Day 2: Lunch Break

Break - [Break/Lunch](#)

To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks.

Note: Melbourne Connect does not permit outside food or drink except those purchased from their cafe, coffee cart or food stand on the superfloor (mezzanine level)

Some ICOC lunch specials can be pre-ordered from The Atlantic Group:

Pre-order via this link <https://qr.meandu.app/afl3vznz> or purchase at the counter (subject to availability)

- Nasi goreng with satay chicken skewers (\$14)
- Spicy tofu stir-fried noodles with vegetables | VEGAN (\$14)

Please ensure you are back in time 10 minutes before the start of the next session

08 July 2025

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Book Launch: Inovasi dan Beragama Maslahat: Menuju Indonesia Emas 2045 (2024)

Book Launch - [Event](#) - [Room 119 \(Sidney Myer Asia Centre\)](#)

Author: Aji Sofanudin, Research Center for Religion and Belief

Beragama maslahat merupakan cara beragama yang menghadirkan kebaikan bersama (common good, public interest). Lawan beragama maslahat adalah beragama mafsadat (causing damage, ruin). Beragama maslahat melihat agama sebagai sesuatu yang positif, problem solver, dan spirit untuk kemajuan bangsa. Beragama maslahat adalah beragama yang selaras dengan konsensus berbangsa: Pancasila, UUD 1945, NKRI, dan Bhineka Tunggal Ika. Agama yang menjadi solusi atas berbagai persoalan bangsa, bukan sebaliknya. Beragama maslahat penting sebagai strategi untuk menyongsong Indonesia emas 2045.

Buku Inovasi dan Beragama Maslahat: Menuju Indonesia Emas 2045 menghadirkan diskusi awal tentang dua hal, yakni inovasi beragama dan beragama maslahat. Inovasi beragama dimaknai sebagai kebaruan dalam pemikiran dan praktik beragama yang dilandasi semangat perubahan untuk kemaslahatan bersama. Berbagai bentuk inovasi (termasuk cara beragama) bertujuan untuk menjadi landasan kemajuan bangsa. Kebijakan "beragama maslahat" ini potensial dapat menjadi program payung, menyempurnakan kebijakan "moderasi beragama" dalam 10 tahun pemerintahan Jokowi.

Buku ini diharapkan dapat menjadi bacaan untuk para mahasiswa dan dosen agama, sarjana agama, tokoh agama, periset bidang sosial keagamaan, serta sivitas akademika di UIN, IAIN, dan perguruan tinggi keagamaan, serta stakeholders lainnya. Buku ini juga dapat menjadi rujukan penting bagi para pengambil kebijakan di Kementerian Agama RI terkait tata kelola agama di Indonesia.

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Book Launch: Small Farmers for Global Food Security: The Demise and Reinvention of Moral Ecologies in Indonesia (2024)

Book Launch - [Event](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Please join Dr Graeme MacRae and Professor Thomas Reuter to launch their book [Small Farmers for Global Food Security: The Demise and Reinvention of Moral Ecologies in Indonesia](#) (2024) available now from Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Food systems in Indonesia, as in most developing countries, have experienced major transformations in the course of agriculture modernisation. This has led to a loss of once healthy human diets and eco-systems, as well as a decline in social cohesion and long term food security. Our detailed ethnographic research over the past decade, mainly in Java and Bali but also in East Timor and India, informs this volume. It documents this decline but also the recent rise of bottom-up initiatives to revive small farming, sustainable production methods, and community-based distribution systems. A growing movement of farmers in Asia and beyond rejects the dominant paradigm of aggressive capitalist development, and supports the re-creation of food systems based on what we refer to as moral ecology — that is, the notion that food is a common good rather than for profit, and needs to be produced without harming the natural environment. Small farmers such as these already feed two thirds of humanity with one third of agricultural land. With proper support, we argue, they could feed the entire world, using fully sustainable and socially responsible approaches to reverse biodiversity loss and curb world hunger.

[Click here to read an extract](#)

About the editors:

- Dr Graeme MacRae teaches anthropology at Massey University in New Zealand and is a Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, Australia. His research in Indonesia and India over the last three decades is published in over 50 articles and chapters, many of them on agriculture. A recent book is “John Darling: An Australian Filmmaker in Indonesia.”
- Prof Dr Thomas Reuter is an anthropologist at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, who has researched transformative social change, food systems and sustainability in Asia and beyond since 1994. He is a board member of the World Academy of Arts and Science, a fellow of Academia Europaea, and former chair of the World Council of Anthropological Associations and Senior Vice-President of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. He has produced 17 books, 150 papers and two documentary films.

08 July 2025

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 2: Art, Engagement, and Solidarity: Toward Community-Centered Responses to Social and Environmental Challenges in Indonesia

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Arts & Culture](#) - M13 + M14 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Ardhana Riswarie**

This panel explores the dynamic role of art and social initiatives in fostering solidarity across diverse communities in Indonesia. Examining four unique practice-led studies, the discussion spans from refugee support networks to inclusive art spaces, long-term socially engaged art practice in an urban area, and hydro-social relationships. Each study provides insights into how art and grassroots efforts address pressing socio-political and environmental issues. The panel highlights Muslim volunteers' work in refugee solidarity networks, inclusive curatorial practices that engage visually impaired spectators, an art collective's sustained community engagement through socially-engaged practices, and hydro-socially engaged art that reimagines human-water interactions along the Cikapundung River. Together, these presentations reveal how cultural, social, and ecological practices intertwine, offering frameworks for sustained dialogue with complex social and environmental challenges while underscoring art's capacity to inspire meaningful social impact in Indonesia.

2:00 pm

[Art and Everyday Life: Trotoart's Decades of Community Engagement in Penjaringan](#)

[Ms Shafira Amaradani Riswan](#)

This study examines how Trotoart, an art collective that began as street artists in Jakarta's Old City in 1989 and formalized as a foundation in 2001, has become deeply integrated into North Jakarta's Penjaringan community. Through initiatives ranging from transforming a waste disposal site into a community space to creating Jakarta's longest mural along Kali Opak, Trotoart demonstrates how art collectives can evolve alongside their communities. Using a qualitative approach combining interviews with collective members,

local residents, and program participants, this research explores how their diverse activities—from public art and mobile cinema to health programs and educational initiatives—have been sustained through collective funding and community participation. The findings reveal how Trotoart's long-term presence and locally-rooted approach has fostered meaningful social relationships, challenging conventional understandings of art collective engagement in urban communities.

2:00 pm

[A Touch of Art in The Dark: Access of Inclusion for the Visually Impaired in Art Spaces](#)

[Ms Karen Clahilda Gabriela](#)

In art spaces, where the sense of sight takes precedence, visitors are given the experience of 'free-choice learning', allowing them to navigate their own paths and preferences to educate themselves. This freedom relies on access through mobility and interaction that are often hindered for visually impaired visitors. While sighted individuals can intuitively navigate and appreciate art, those with visual impairments require more time and effort to access the same information. This disparity highlights the need for more inclusive art spaces. During the study, four participants from Sentra Wyata Guna Bandung collaborated in a participatory research process through group interviews, experiments, and surveys. The research explores three key areas: lighting, orientation, and touch tours, which have been tested in exhibitions across Bandung and Jakarta over the past two years. Findings show that visually impaired visitors need more time to process information, emphasising the urgency of creating spaces that balance accessibility while maintaining meaningful engagement for all visitors.

2:00 pm

[Hydro-Socially Engaged Art: Reimagining Human-Water Relationships through Artistic Practice on the Cikapundung River](#)

[Mr Aulia Ibrahim Yeru](#)

This research introduces "hydro-socially engaged art" as a framework for situating artistic practice within the hydrosocial cycle, which examines interactions between water, humans, and socio-political structures. Focusing on the Cikapundung River in Bandung, Indonesia, it reinterprets water as an active socio-natural entity shaped by geological forces and cultural practices. The study explores two key strands: "Reimagining the Stream," which focuses on the visual and material representations of water, and "Engaging the Social," which examines art's role in addressing socio-political dynamics around water systems. Through projects like *Aras Tarum*, using indigo dye, and *Aras Putih*, using 35mm film submerged in river water, the river is invited to co-create the art, challenging traditional representation. The *Susur Bau* walking expedition further fosters community engagement. Overall, this research positions hydro-socially engaged art as a critical approach to rethinking human-water relationships and addressing environmental challenges.

2:00 pm

[Management and Dynamics of Solidarity with Refugees in Indonesia: Insights from Muslim Indonesian Volunteers and Social Workers](#)

[Ms Fikha Adelia](#)

This study explores the motivations, positionalities, challenges, and commitments of Muslim volunteers and civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in refugee solidarity work in Indonesia. Through a qualitative approach that integrates system thinking, organizational theories, and social movement theories, the research examines how education, social circles, exposure to media discourses, and cultural and religious values, particularly Islam, shape Indonesian generosity toward refugees, reinforcing participants' motivation and commitment to this movement. Interviews with 15 participants from four CSOs reveal a complex interplay of factors influencing their involvement in refugee solidarity, including global discourse, national policy, Islamic teachings, local refugee responses, organizational structures, depth of participation, and personal conditions. The study highlights the nuanced dynamics of solidarity work, showing how participants navigate individual and communal challenges while fostering shared goals amid ongoing learning and experimentation. The findings provide a foundational framework for enhancing organizational management and sustainability within Indonesia's refugee solidarity movement, with insights that may also be relevant to similar contexts in other countries.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 2: Childhood, Youth and Childlessness

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [History & Society](#) - Forum 3 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Dr Trissia Wijaya](#)

2:00 pm

[Child Marriage in Indonesia: Problems of Law, Religion, and Culture](#)

[Mrs Putu Samawati Saleh](#)

The dilemma between getting married or not for pregnancies that occur in girls due to dating relationships or promiscuity has an impact on their future. The most common choice made by parents is to marry them off. Marriage is considered the best way to cover up disgrace and restore the family name. It is also considered a solution to avoid prosecution, fulfill religious doctrine, and customary law. The focus in this case is on the interests of the parents or family to protect their good name, not on the rights of the child. The act of marrying off children is not accompanied by protection and providing opportunities for children to organize their future, so children are forced to live like adults in building a marriage. Finally, most marriages cannot be maintained, and the number of divorces has increased due to disharmony, continuous quarrels, abandonment, infidelity, and domestic violence.

2:00 pm

[Child Violence Crisis in Indonesia: How Islamic Family Law Fails to Protect Children's Rights](#)

[Fatimah Zuhrah](#)

Violence against children in Indonesia continues to increase, indicating the low quality of protection of children's rights in the country. This article evaluates the implementation and limitations of Islamic Family Law contained in the Compilation of Islamic Law and Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974 in protecting children's rights. These two legal products, although adopted by the Indonesian Muslim community, do not comprehensively address legal sanctions for violators of children's rights. Using qualitative methods and socio-legal research, it was found that the unsuccessful implementation of this law caused many children not to receive their rights. Key factors include insufficient fair legal policies for children and poor government-community coordination in developing protective rules. The Compilation of Islamic Law and Indonesian Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974 must evolve to address contemporary issues, necessitating reformulated child protection to align legal frameworks with current challenges and modern family needs.

2:00 pm

[I'mOther in Indonesia: An Autoethnography on \(In\)voluntary Childlessness](#)

[Dr. Evi Eliyanah, Nelly Martin-Anatias](#)

This study is an autoethnography on childlessness as a journey as experienced by two middle class, highly educated, Muslim Indonesian women. We intend to describe our journey from involuntary childlessness to voluntarily embracing life without children. Methodologically, we exchanged our stories and experiences. And then we reflect on our struggle to live outside the idealised gender norms. In doing so, we expose the deeply rooted social construction of marriage as a social institution grounded in reproduction. We also highlight the hegemonic ideal femininity as still being primarily grounded on women's reproductive capacity. We borrow Guzman and Parsmo's term I'mOther (2021) to capture our social alienation for deciding to choose against the norm of ideal womanhood. We also introduce the concept of 'pseudo parenting' in explaining one of the common social responses to our caring for pets, younger siblings, nieces and nephews.

2:00 pm

[**WITHDRAWN** Youth, Waithood, and Making a Good Life in Indonesia](#)

[Mrs. Izmy Khumairoh](#)

The phenomenon of delayed marriage and procreation in Indonesia indicates a crucial issue: the erosion of the mystification of marriage. Socio-cultural values and beliefs that have influenced individuals' decisions to build a household are slowly being replaced, especially among the young people. The government has also started realizing the radical transformation in people's perspective on the urgency of raising a family, which is no longer considered as a *rite de passage*, but rather a personal life choice, by renewing regulations to increase the population. The results of my research will challenge the assumption that the decision to delay marriage among the new generation is always perceived as correlated with self-agency. On the other hand, the decision may not be entirely about freedom: *waithood* is chosen by young Indonesians as the most realistic option and response to the uncertain world conditions regarding the economy, security, politics and climate change.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 2: Education in the Digital Age: Curriculum Reform, Translation and Translanguaging

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 located on level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

Chair: **Michael Ewing**

2:00 pm

[The Future of Translation Education: Preparing Indonesian students for a Digital Age with Computer-Assisted Translation \(CAT\) Tools](#)

[Ms Lilik Istiqomah](#)

Translation has been impacted with the dynamic digital world and globalisation; it can be said that digital skill will become an essential for future translators due to the rapid development of technology in translation. The article investigates the changing trend in translation education in Indonesia with specific reference to the use of CAT tools and software at a tertiary level. This research illustrates that CAT tools can help prepare students for the digital world of translation and improve translation quality through greater accuracy and efficiency. Using interview and photovoice, the study explores students' responses to this change, discovering both their engagement with student work results as well as educational objectives versus industry expectations. The results highlight how important it is to shape digital literacy towards digital natives' translation students in the Indonesian context, enabling them to adapt with the changing demands of globalised market involving more reliance on technology.

2:00 pm

[Translanguaging In Efl Classroom In Indonesian Higher Education: Teachers' And Students' Perceptions](#)

[Ms Marlia Marlia](#)

This study investigates the use of the Translanguaging approach in English Language teaching practice in Indonesian higher education institutions, focusing on the perspective of both instructors and students. Translanguaging has drawn attention as an innovative strategy in the context of multilingual education as it uses a variety of linguistic resources to improve learning. This study focuses on Examining how instructors perceive and apply Translanguaging, how students experience it, and how it affects their teaching and learning practice. The data will be gathered using a mixed-method approach at several Indonesian institutions via questionnaires, interviews, and classroom observations. The results should provide light on the advantages and difficulties of implementing Translanguaging, especially when it comes to promoting language and cultural variety in English classes. Another goal of this research is to help providing a more effective and inclusive educational framework for teaching English in multilingual settings.

Kata Kunci: Translanguaging, English Language Teaching, Higher Education, Multilingual Pedagogy, Indonesia

2:00 pm

[University Teachers' Responses to a Decade of Curriculum Reform in Indonesia](#)

[Ms Restu Mufanti](#)

Over the past decade, Indonesia has undergone significant changes in its higher education curriculum through three major policies: the Indonesian Qualification Frameworks (INQFs) and Outcome-Based Education (OBE) introduced in 2012, and the Merdeka Belajar (Freedom of Learning) policy launched in 2020. This study explores how university teachers have responded to these reforms. Using a qualitative approach, data were collected from 632 English university teachers across 34 various provinces through surveys, followed by in-depth interviews with 27 of them. The findings reveal that while most teachers recognise the potential of these policies to align Indonesia's education system with international standards, they also find the curriculum reforms challenging to comprehend and implement in classroom practice. Teachers' responses are shaped by three key factors: operational constraints, pedagogical challenges, and cultural influences. This study highlights the support university teachers need to navigate the complexities of these curriculum changes effectively.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 2: Gender Equality and Women's Political Representation

Chair: **Lis Kramer**

2:00 pm

****WITHDRAWN**** [Gender Equality In Indonesia: Problems and Strategies \(a Comparative Study of Practices in Several Countries\)](#)

[Dr. Rico Noor](#)

This research examines the issue of Gender Equality in Indonesia with the fact that the issue of gender discrimination with the majority of women as victims of sexual harassment and violence and gender mainstreaming that has not been evenly distributed in various fields in Indonesia. By using normative juridical research methodology with legal, case, comparative law and conceptual approaches, this study concludes that various problems of gender equality in Indonesia still occur in various fields, so that improvements need to be made with the Strategy, First, improving and increasing good regulations on gender equality by comparing good practices of regulatory frameworks in several countries such as Norway which already has a special Law on Gender Protection, Second, collaboration and control over the implementation of gender protection in various fields such as the example of the Gender Equality Ombudsman in Norway, Third, building a culture of literacy towards gender equality, especially for marginalised communities such as indigenous peoples through the idea of paralegal programmes that look at practices in several countries.

2:00 pm

****NOT PRESENTED**** [The Phenomenon of Women's Participation in the 2024 Regional Elections as Candidates for Regional Government Leaders](#)

[Mrs Lusi Apriyani](#)

Since 2005, regional head elections have been directly elected by the people through the General Election of Regional Heads (Pilkada). The pair are nominated by political parties and/or independents. *Pilkada* in Indonesia in 2024 will be held simultaneously for regions whose regional head terms of office end in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. The total number of regions that will hold simultaneous regional head elections in 2024 is 545 regions with details of 37 provinces, 415 regencies, and 93 cities. The article will elaborate on the driving and inhibiting factors for women's participation as candidates for *Pilkada* in the 2024 elections. In our findings, there has been a phenomenon of increasing participation of women running for regional heads. However, this increase did not achieve significant results because the percentage of men running for office was higher than women. This is due to several factors, mainly, stigma, culture, and political interests.

2:00 pm

[Who Benefits from Gender Electoral Quotas? What Women Bear and Men Gain in Indonesia's Electoral System](#)

[Yumasdaleni -, Associate Professor Tanya Jakimow](#)

The 2024 elections were arguably a disappointment for women's political representation. The percentage of women in the DPRI-RI reached 22.1%: an increase of only 1.2 percentage points from 2019, and below the 30% candidate quota for women. Studies point to high campaign costs, ballot-positioning, patriarchal attitudes to explain the limited success of quotas in increasing women's representation (Aspinall et al. 2021; Prihatini 2019; Perdana and Hillman 2022; White et al. 2024). Less explored are how individual women experience quotas, and the way quotas shape the inequitable incorporation of women in Indonesia's electoral system. Research with 24 female candidates contesting the DPRD-Kota Medan elections in 2024 shows how candidate quotas create demands for female participation, yet more often party elites benefit from their campaigns. If becoming a candidate does not benefit female candidates, yet extracts significant costs, can quotas be considered a positive policy, even given (marginal) increases in female representation?

2:00 pm

[Women's Political Representation at the Local Level: A Gender Perspective Study on the Formation of Regional Regulations in the Regional People's Representative Councils of Karawang and Pandeglang Regencies](#)

[Mrs Encop Sopia](#)

This article explores the local political dynamics in forming Regional Regulations (Perda) on Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) following Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2000. Focusing on Pandeglang Regency in Banten and Karawang Regency in West Java, the study examines factors influencing the success of PUG regulations, emphasizing women's substantive representation in the legislature. Using a qualitative case study approach, it involves policy document analysis, in-depth interviews, and participatory observation in

the two regencies. The findings highlight the crucial role of female legislators, executive officials, and political party support, particularly their commitment to gender issues, in successfully enacting PUG regulations. Despite challenges like bureaucratic inefficiencies, patriarchal cultural resistance, and limited budgets, legislators outside formal decision-making processes contribute significantly. Their support includes advocating for budgets and engaging civil society to oversee the process. This study offers key insights into local political dynamics and factors driving the success of PUG regulations in Indonesia.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 2: Migrant and Diaspora Lives: Culture, Religion, Motherhood and Family Dynamics

Panel (Paper) Presentations - Religion - **Room 119 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Chair: **Charlotte Setijadi**

2:00 pm

[Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong showcasing Indonesian Culture](#)
[Professor Panizza Allmark](#)

There are over 70,000 Indonesian domestic workers (IMDWs), mostly women, in Hong Kong. On Sundays, on their only day off, many congregate at Victoria Park in the Causeway Bay area. Their intense working conditions as live-in maids, often on 24-hour calls, pose significant challenges for this community. They face exploitation, poor living conditions, and social isolation. However, despite these hardships, their respite day is a time to reconnect with their homeland and community. Victoria Park acts as a counter space for the IMDWs in Hong Kong, as a form of resilience, empowerment, and reconnection to Indonesia. This research explores how IMDWs reclaim and display the freedom to express their culture through activities like *Pencak Silat* (Indonesian martial arts), *Reog* (traditional dance), and learning Nusantara scripts. These are seen as culturally meaningful ways to create closer bonds within the diasporic community bolstering self-esteem, identity, and social capital.

2:00 pm

****WITHDRAWN**** [Lived Religion and Digital Homemaking: The Case of Indonesian Marriage Migrants](#)
[Dr Rita Budiman](#)

The paper examines the intersection between two key fields in which international migrants respond to displacement and negotiate a sense of home: digital media and religion. The example chosen is the vlogging strategies used by Indonesian marriage migrants to navigate complex religious relationships with their followers and weave these into wider homemaking practices. The vlog analysis and in-depth interviews with the Indonesian marriage migrants in France and Belgium show that religion is an important element in constructing a sense of home in new locations. However, the immediacy of vlogs exposes them to religious expectations from followers back in Indonesia. As a result, homemaking is shaped by a complex interplay between the feelings of belonging and alienation in relation to their followers. Using vlogs, the marriage migrants maintain control over their sense of home by building a mediated form of religious tolerance with their followers through adapted religious expressions in the vlogosphere.

2:00 pm

****WITHDRAWN**** [The Dilemma of Indonesian Diaspora Children in Malaysia: Modern Apatrides Amidst Inequities in Education and Social Welfare](#)

[Dr Jagad Aditya Dewantara, Dasim Budimansyah, Nuri Annisa, Rico Septian Noor](#)

This study examines the challenges faced by children born to Indonesian parents working as migrant laborers in Malaysia, particularly in the palm oil plantation sector. These workers have lived in Malaysia for decades, often reluctant to return to Indonesia due to the stability of their jobs and lives there. Ironically, many neglect or overlook their Indonesian citizenship status and lack official documents, such as Malaysia's resident identification card (*IC Residen*). This absence directly impacts their basic rights, including access to education, healthcare, and welfare.

These children, born and raised in Malaysia, grow up without being taught about their Indonesian identity, resulting in a weak sense of nationalism and emotional detachment from their heritage. However, their ambiguous legal status leaves them marginalized—they are neither recognized as Malaysian citizens nor emotionally or culturally connected to Indonesia. Labeled as *apatrides* (stateless persons), they navigate life

in uncertainty, denied justice and belonging.

Through an autoethnographic approach integrating the personal experiences of the researcher, Johan Johar Mulyadi, a former attaché in Tawau, Malaysia, and life histories of the diaspora, this paper explores the harsh realities of this community. The findings highlight systemic injustices, urging Indonesia and Malaysia to create inclusive policies that secure these children's rights and futures.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 2: Sexual Violence: Legal Reforms, Media Narratives and Institutional Challenges

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Annisa Beta](#)

2:00 pm

****WITHDRAWN**** [Advancements in Sexual Violence Legislation for Women in Indonesia: Insights for Policy Development and Regulation](#)
[Mrs Juniar Laraswanda Umagapi](#)

This article reframes sexual violence issues from feminist and political perspectives. Due to inadequate dissemination and training, authorities continue to use regulations like the Criminal Code rather than the specific provisions of Law Number 12/2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes when handling cases of violence and sexual harassment. This situation highlights a significant challenge within Indonesia's legal system, as law enforcement officers struggle to fully understand the criminal elements defined in the new law. The research aims to answer several questions: To what extent have national policies been adjusted to reflect global discourses on gender equality regarding domestic violence? Which aspects should be prioritized to enhance women's roles in society? The authors argue that policy creation at the central level can empower women as future policymakers and strengthen the enforcement of sexual violence laws. The law was enacted nearly two years ago, but enforcement remains inconsistent and ineffective. The research employs qualitative methods, including document studies and in-depth interviews with women categorized by education level and urban or rural residence. Findings indicate that Indonesia still faces significant challenges in enforcing domestic violence laws. The study concludes that educating the public requires the involvement of all stakeholders and provides specific recommendations for policymakers to improve law enforcement and support for victims.

Keywords: sexual violence, policies, law enforcement, criminal code, crimes

2:00 pm

[Decolonising Indonesian Anti-Sexual-Violence Legislation: Analisis Post-Struktural Undang-Undang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual \(UU TPKS\)](#)
[Ms. Ayu Siantoro](#)

Before the ratification of UU TPKS or Law on Sexual Violence Crimes in 2022, the major legislation governing sexual violence in Indonesia was KUHP, or the Penal Code, a book of criminal laws with colonial roots. KUHP (before 2023 revision) constituted sexual violence in a narrow fashion; encompassing only rape against a woman outside of marriage (hence, a violation of the victim's chastity) and molestation (as an act against decency). In contrast, UU TPKS covers wide sexual violence forms and ostensibly reconstitutes them as a violation of the victim's body and sexuality, thus an act against human rights and dignity. This paper will employ a poststructural policy analysis method, "What's the Problem Represented to be?" (WPR), to critically examine how UU TPKS 'deconstructs' and 'reconstructs' sexual violence 'problems'. It will ultimately explain the ways UU TPKS has disrupted the hegemonic knowledge governing sexual violence in Indonesia since the colonial era.

2:00 pm

[Femicide in Indonesia: Analyzing Patterns, Media Framing, and Legal Challenges](#)
[Mrs Naila Rizqi Zakiah](#)

In 2023, an estimated 187 women and transwomen were killed in Indonesia, according to a 2024 report by Jakarta Feminist. The initiative to document femicide cases emerged due to the absence of national femicide data. Data was collected from online news articles between May and August 2024 using specific keywords such as *perempuan/transpuan dibunuh* or *mayat perempuan*. Most victims (37%) were killed by intimate partners, followed by family members (13%). The majority of victims were killed outside their homes (51%), while 45% were found around their residences. A concerning 11% victims experienced rape and other sexual violence prior to murder. Despite the Sexual Violence Law, it's rarely applied in femicide cases

involving sexual violence. Through the media analysis, the report reveals that 19% of the media coverage sensationalized the case and 4% contained elements of victim blaming.

2:00 pm

****WITHDRAWN**** [Sexual Harassment and Violence Against Female Students in Indonesian Universities](#)
[Professor Bagong Suyanto](#)

Eighty years after Indonesia's independence, sexual harassment and violence still exist within the nation's universities. This quantitative study reveals that incidents of sexual violence are common on campuses, despite the Ministry of Education and Culture's stance condemning these acts in educational settings. Many female students report verbal harassment, including being targets of inappropriate jokes, and half have faced physical harassment. Perpetrators include not only male peers or seniors but also teaching assistants and lecturers, indicating asymmetric power relations that facilitate such abuse. While some victims have reported incidents, aiming to hold perpetrators accountable, most remain silent and only share their experiences with close friends rather than authorities. These findings show the urgent need for strong institutional support and preventative measures to ensure that campuses can truly be safe spaces for students.

Keywords: sexual harassment; sexual violence; female victims, power relations.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 2: Thinking Through Global Health Initiatives: Digital Governance, Local Responses, and Stunting Reduction in Indonesia

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Health and wellbeing](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Irwan Hidayana](#)

What is the influence of global health initiatives on national attention to the health and well-being of Indonesia's population? How do local actors navigate challenges in maintaining resources, managing bureaucratic systems, and meeting accountability and audit demands imposed by these initiatives? This panel addresses these questions through findings from two months of ethnographic research on stunting intervention programs in three locations: Padang (West Sumatra), Semarang (Central Java), and Manggarai (East Nusa Tenggara). It examines development planners' political interests in using digital information systems for stunting reduction and explores local responses to these digital bureaucratic technologies as a lens to assess their empowerment effects in ensuring equitable health access for marginalized communities often excluded from health digitalization processes. By addressing themes of governance systems, health metrics, development actors, and the emotional dimensions of global health implementation, the panel provides insights into contemporary development in Indonesia.

2:00 pm

[How the State Makes "Better Mothers": Gendered Volunteerism in Indonesia's Stunting Programs](#)
[Dr Sari Ratri](#)

How does the Indonesian state engage women and shape their caregiving practices to align with development goals? This paper argues that one key strategy is the deployment of kader—community health volunteers who serve as intermediaries between state policies and families. Through institutionalized volunteerism, kader are tasked with delivering services which mostly focus on “educating” other women to become better mothers according to state-defined ideals. By tracing the historical trajectory of women's roles in nation-building and examining contemporary stunting prevention programs, we show how the kader figure reflects the state's ongoing reliance on gendered care labor to implement development interventions. Focusing on Indonesia's stunting programs, we analyze how kader—often older, low-income women—navigate moral obligation, community respect, and structural inequality while carrying out digitalized, metrics-driven health responsibilities. Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their work increasingly involves producing health data used to demonstrate program effectiveness. We show that kader make visible the contradictions of care in contemporary development: they are essential yet structurally unsupported, vulnerable yet positioned to enforce state expectations that make other women vulnerable. This paper contributes to debates on gender, care, volunteerism, and the politics of development in postcolonial states.

Keywords: volunteerism, childcare, gendered labor, development, Indonesia

2:00 pm

[Beyond Numbers: Rethinking Indonesia's Top-Down Governance in Stunting Reduction](#)

[Aulia D. Nastiti](#)

This paper critically examines the global origins of Indonesia's stunting reduction programs and their impacts on local communities targeted by these interventions. Stunting reduction policies in Indonesia closely follow global health frameworks that prioritize simplified nutrition metrics, such as height-for-age, as central development indicators. While these quantitative targets have raised stunting to a national priority, they have also narrowed interventions to demand-side approaches focused on individual behavioral changes, overlooking the structural issues driving malnutrition. I argue that Indonesia's adoption of a global health model emphasizing top-down governance and individual-oriented metrics has limited effectiveness, placing disproportionate responsibility on caregivers and health workers without achieving sustainable improvements in child health. This argument draws on a study of longitudinal policy conceptions of stunting and fieldwork in Semarang to assess local-level implementation and outcomes. The paper underscores the need for a comprehensive, community-centered approach to stunting intervention in Indonesia.

Keywords: policy intervention, development indicator, caregivers, healthworkers, stunting, Indonesia.

2:00 pm

[Under the red-line: Visibility, subjectivity, and the performance of ethics in the stunting reduction program in Indonesia](#)

[Hestu Prahara](#)

This presentation explores how visibility, care, and subjectivity are produced through Indonesia's stunting reduction program. Using visual ethnography, it examines how the classification *di bawah garis merah* (under the red line) makes children legible to intervention by linking measurements to predefined causes and responses. These practices, while technical on the surface, are deeply affective and ethical, especially for volunteer *kader* who frame their unpaid labor as *kerja sosial* — a moral and spiritual duty. Drawing on concepts of legibility (James Scott) and self-in-process (Tanya Jakimow), the presentation shows how development functions as a site of ethical self-making. Rather than questioning whether care is real or performed, it highlights performance as a way people live, negotiate, and give meaning to their role within systems of governance and accountability.

Keywords: care, legibility, performance, subjectivity, development, stunting, Indonesia

2:00 pm

[Digital Health in Mundane Practices: An Ethnographic Study of Care Through Technology for Stunting Reduction in Indonesia](#)

[Dr. Irwan M. Hidayana, Diana Teresa Pakasi](#)

Digitalization has profoundly transformed healthcare governance, healthcare workers, and patient experiences in Indonesia. We examine the impact of digital transformation in healthcare by theorizing the "mundane"—the everyday practices through which digital health technologies are integrated and reshape health knowledge, practices, and governance, particularly in Indonesia's stunting reduction program. Drawing on ethnographic research conducted in Padang (West Sumatra), Semarang (Central Java), and Ruteng (East Nusa Tenggara), it highlights the marginalization of the often-invisible labor of health cadres, the "everyday ethics" (Pols, 2024) that guide health workers, cadres, and caregivers, and the affective and labor dimensions of care (de la Bellacasa, 2011). While digital health technologies in stunting governance disproportionately burden health cadres, they also enable the enactment of "response-ability" in caring for children and communities. This study illustrates how digital health transforms care practices and the ethics underpinning them in everyday life.

Keywords : digital health, healthcare governance, health cadres, stunting reduction, Indonesia

08 July 2025

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Day 2: Afternoon Break

Break - [Break/Lunch](#)

This break is the conclusion of ICOC Day 2 for paper presentations.
Following this break the Indonesia Council will host their awards and networking event (paid members only, register separately).

08 July 2025

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Indonesia Council Award and Social Networking Event**

Special Event - [Event](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

For registered paid Indonesia Council members only (see: <https://www.indonesiacouncil.org/membership>)

You're invited to join the Indonesia Council for a social networking event. [More about the Indonesia Council](#)
Indonesia Council will host a **members-only** networking event at ICOC 2025. More information on our [website](#).

This event will also include a Public Award Ceremony for the two winners of the inaugural Indonesia Council Postgraduate Bursary Prize.

Registrations have now closed. If you have any questions please contact Dr Monika Winarnita via email (monika.winarnita@unimelb.edu.au)

Some light snacks available - sponsored by Indonesia Forum.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 located on level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

09 July 2025

8:00 am - 8:45 am **Day 3: Registration**

Special Event - [Break/Lunch](#) - Registration & Info Desk (Melbourne Connect)

Please come by the ICOC 2025 Registration and Information desk to collect your name badge.

Location: Superfloor, Mezzanine Level (Melbourne Connect, 700 Swanston Street, Carlton) - outside Forum 1

The cafe and coffee cart will also be available for teas and coffees (Note: only electronic or card payments accepted)

For wifi, join network name MelbConnectGuest (no password needed)

To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks.

[Link for prayer room/mosque locations](#)

09 July 2025

9:00 am - 10:30 am **Session 3: Beyond Borders: Cultural Material Conservation as a Pathway for Australia-Indonesia Dialogue**

Roundtable - [Arts & Culture](#) - M13 + M14 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Nicole Tse](#)

The *Beyond Borders* roundtable panel brings together five conservation scholars from Australia and Indonesia to critically explore how collection care for Indonesian material culture intersects with cross-cultural practices, global pedagogies, and culturally embedded research.

Speakers will share experiences working with Indonesian cultural material across diverse public and private collections in Victoria, and learning in Indonesia, including: a large-scale private collection of contemporary mixed media works in regional Victoria; a state-owned collection of Southeast Asian manuscripts, an institutional research collection of *wayang kulit* and cross-cultural studies in Indonesia

9:00 am

[Beyond Borders: Cultural Material Conservation as a Pathway for Australia-Indonesia Dialogue](#)
[A/Prof Nicole Tse](#), [Saiful Bakhri](#), [Mr Yori Setiyawan](#), [Dr Eliza O'Donnell](#)

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9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 3: Children's Rights and Futures: Legal, Online and Policy Perspectives

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [History & Society](#) - Forum 3 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Jeremy Kingsley**

9:00 am

[Advocating for Children's Futures: Marginalized Women's Responses on Education Policy in Indonesia Amid and Post-COVID-19](#)

[Miss Rizky Septiana Widyaningtyas](#)

Parents play a crucial role in the success of their children's education, especially during the pandemic and the transition to remote learning. This study highlights that single female parents, who are often the heads of low-income and less-educated families, face significant challenges in providing their children with the necessary online learning resources. Additionally, these parents often lack the skills needed to effectively assist their children with their studies. The situation is further complicated by the growing demands of their unpaid caregiving responsibilities. This article emphasizes the need for an intersectional approach to education policy that goes beyond focusing solely on students. It calls for consideration of all the factors and individuals that influence educational success, including parents. Addressing these issues is essential to create more inclusive and effective education policies in the future.

9:00 am

[Efforts to Protect Children in Conflict with the Law in the Case of Rape and Murder in Palembang](#)
[Vera Novianti](#)

Child protection efforts have been stated in Article 1 Number 2 of Law Number 23 of 2002 in conjunction with Law Number 35 of 2014; this applies to all children in any situation, including children in conflict with the law. In the rape and murder case that occurred in Talang Kerikil Palembang, as many as four (four) children aged 12 -16 years raped and murdered their victim, who was also a child. society who wants a proper response for the child who committed the crime. The problems in this study are the first: how is the legal protection for children in this case and the responsibility of the child perpetrator, family, environment, and even the state for the case that occurred? The second problem is whether the decision given by the judge in this case provides justice for the child perpetrator and the victim, in this case the victim's family.

9:00 am

[**WITHDRAWN** Online Gender-Based Violence Among Adolescents](#)
[Mrs Ratna Azis Prasetyo](#)

This study uses Routine Activity Theory to examine the correlation between online routine activity variables and the opportunities, impacts, resistance, and digital supervision associated with online gender-based violence (OGBV) experienced by urban adolescents in Indonesia. This quantitative research involved interviews with 400 adolescents who have experienced OGBV in the cities of Surabaya and Malang. Pearson correlation tests revealed complex relationships between the variables: online routine activity is significantly and positively correlated with the variables of experiencing OGBV and the impact of OGBV, but does not show a significant correlation with the variables of resistance and digital supervision. The solutions to this issue is a digital campaign of the anti-OGBV movement to change public perception of victims of gender-based violence. In addition, strict government regulations are needed to take action against perpetrators of OGBV.

Keyword: OGBV, Adolescents, digital campaign, SDG's cyber crime

9:00 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Resilience and Adaptation Mechanisms of Children Who Are Victims of Bullying](#)
[Prof. Sutinah Sutinah](#)

This study explores the resilience and family social support mechanisms that help children who are victims of bullying adapt to their school and community environments. The research is based on the principles of resilience and the role of family social support. A quantitative method was employed, surveying 513 junior high school students in East Java. The findings reveal that bullying affects both male and female students and is particularly prevalent in school settings. In response to bullying, children develop several adaptation strategies: they build self-confidence, learn to remain calm and self-control, choose to stay in the same school, engage positively with peers, and actively avoid confrontations with bullies. Most respondents reported receiving support from their families, which included guidance on not retaliating and advice to report incidents to school authorities or law enforcement.

Keywords: Bullying, Resilience, Adaptation Mechanisms, Social Support

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 3: Climate Change and Sustainability: Governance, Tensions, Collaboration and Community

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Environment & Climate Change](#) - **Room 119 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Chair: [Tess Toumbourou](#)

9:00 am

[Contradictory commitments: National and subnational tensions over climate change responsibility in Indonesia and Malaysia](#)
[Sebastian Dettman](#)

Indonesia and Malaysia have made increasingly ambitious commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Yet neither country has outlined how subnational governments, critical to meeting these goals, will be incorporated into, or held accountable to, broader national commitments. This paper analyses the political economy of such agreements at the subnational level. It examines two factors that hinder the ability of the two countries to implement their goals at the subnational level: institutional arrangements that incentivise subnational governments to exploit their own resources for revenue generation, and political coalitions at the subnational level that depend heavily on ties with carbon-intensive industry. It will use a cross-border comparison of the states of East Malaysia and provinces of Kalimantan to examine these dynamics in the resource-rich island of Borneo.

9:00 am

[Local Initiative of Sustainability : Practice of Coastal Community Leadership in Implementing Sustainable Economy](#)
[Mr Maygsi Aldian Suwandi](#)

Indonesia has 108,000 square kilometers (km²) of coastline and plays an important and strategic role. According to BPS (Statistics Indonesia), the number of fishermen in Indonesia reached 3,033,941 in 2022. This data shows that Indonesia is highly dependent on its marine ecosystem. However, marine ecosystem damage remains a significant issue. Coral reef destruction, marine pollution, and environmentally unfriendly

fishing practices are among the challenges faced. The causes of this damage are not only large industrial actors but also fishermen's behaviors that disregard environmental considerations in their economic activities.

KUB Berkah Samudera, through its empowerment activities, strives not only for welfare but also for environmental sustainability. Through in-depth analysis, this paper explores the motives and factors driving empowerment with conservation practices. By understanding these factors, this paper contributes to highlighting local community initiatives as alternative solutions to promote environmental conservation efforts.

9:00 am

[Tension Between Paer Values and Neoliberal Tourism Development in the Rinjani Cable Car Project](#)
[Lalu Ary Kurniawan Hardi](#)

The Rinjani cable car project in Lombok, Indonesia, has triggered deep cultural conflict by disregarding the traditional Paer value system, which emphasizes the sacredness of nature. This study explores how neoliberal tourism practices have clashed with local beliefs, particularly through the privatization of public assets and exclusion of local communities. Ethnographic research and interviews highlight the community's reverence for Mount Rinjani, seen as "Inan Paer" (Mother Earth), and its profound connection to ecological balance. The Paer system, with its components like Gawah Paer (sacred forests) and Desa Paer (traditional settlements), demands responsible stewardship of natural resources. The neoliberal model driving the cable car project, however, prioritizes short-term profits and has excluded the community from decision-making processes. This clash has not only led to environmental harm but also sparked a socio-cultural movement resisting the social transformation. The study underscores the importance of integrating local values to ensure sustainable, respectful development.

9:00 am

[Nurturing collaboration in environmental climate management: Lessons from multi stakeholder initiative of tropical peatland restoration in Indonesia](#)
[Mr Bondan Winarno](#)

Restoration of peatland in Indonesia is important for climate mitigation and responsible management. This study highlights the lessons of multi-stakeholder initiative and collaboration on peatland restoration in Indonesia amid the climate change era. A qualitative approach is implemented in this paper from the Central Kalimantan site. The study showed that establishing Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency has flourished the initiative collaboration among stakeholders. This establishment and the recurrent fires have encouraged private sector, NGO, and research agencies to build networking in peat restoration. Collaboration with the community is substantial in the restoration at the field level. There is a raising stakeholder's awareness of designing collaborative peatland climate responsive management unfortunately, it needs more effort to engage the stakeholders in the long-term process of restoration, institutionalizing the programs, and financing. Beyond that, power management in collaboration is another critical point to deal with.

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 3: Covid-19: Conflicts of Interest, Community Action and Communication

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Health and wellbeing](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Amalinda Savirani**

9:00 am

[**WITHDRAWN** Communication in Time of COVID-19: The Indonesian Experience](#)
[Ivana Lamria](#)

This study analyses COVID-19 communication, focusing on government communication in Indonesia during the first two years of the pandemic (January 2020 – December 2022). It maps various forms of government communication, including press conferences and media interviews with government ministers, as well as the official spokespeople appointed to lead the government response onto key points in the spread of COVID-19. It also reflects critically on the power dynamics and sociocultural attributes such as familial obligations, religious values and practices that impacted on Indonesian health communication and the

government's capacity to effectively manage the pandemic.

The findings presented in this research offer for a more grounded understanding of communication during a pandemic and important lessons from the Global South that to date has thus far received a scant scholarly attention. The unique insights and new perspectives gained contribute to the advancement of both communication theory and practice related to complicated prolonged crises that is usually understood from a predominant western lens.

Ivana is a PhD student in the School of Media, Film and Journalism at Monash University. Her PhD research investigates the role of communication during complicated, prolonged crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic in the Indonesian context. She has degrees in public relations and strategic communications from Monash University and Deakin University.

9:00 am

[From Solidarity to Social Protection: Localized Collective Community Actions Calling the State to Account](#)
[Ms Holy Sijabat](#)

The COVID-19 posed significant challenges in countries with weak welfare systems, like Indonesia, where government resources struggled to meet social protection needs. In response, grassroots community movement, grounded in solidarity, mobilized to support national efforts, building on either existing initiatives or creating new ones during the crisis, provided essential health, financial, and social assistance.

This study draws on social movement and welfare state theory from a feminism postcolonial lens to analyse grassroots solidarity movements in providing local social protection based on three Indonesia's empirical case studies. These actions highlight the role of local actors including women, in cultivating Sense of Community Responsibility that emphasise commitment to collective well-being. From a welfare perspective, grassroots movements can strengthen Indonesia's welfare state, expanding the concept of citizenship to include "social citizenship"—where citizens not only receive welfare but also contribute to social safety nets, complementing government efforts for inclusive local problem-solving.

9:00 am

[Opportunity for Corruption: Examining Conflict of Interest and State Capture in Indonesia During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Ms Raisa Annisa](#)

During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic (July 2021) Indonesia experienced 50,000 daily cases. Amid this emergency, two significant conflict of interest cases attracted public attention: presidential staff Belva Devara and Taufan Putra held CEO positions in companies receiving COVID-19 assistance, and ministers Luhut Pandjaitan and Erick Thohir's affiliations with PCR testing providers. Concerns arose following the corruption convictions of Social Affairs Minister Juliari Batubara and West Bandung Regent AA Umbara for misconduct in COVID-19 procurement.

This presentation highlights my initial research findings on how conflicts of interest can evolve into state capture and facilitate corruption during emergencies. By analyzing regulations, court decisions, and media coverage, I explore how policy decisions are distorted by unchecked interests among government decision-makers, exacerbated by pressure on civil liberties, restrictions on media freedom, and weakened accountability institutions. The research further will propose interventions to mitigate the adverse effects and strengthen future emergency governance.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Session 3: Democracy Nexus in Indonesia: Problems and the Ways Ahead

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Politics & Law](#) - Forum 2 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Kacung Marijan**

This panel will present our studies on the development and dynamic of important aspects of today's politics in Indonesia. We look more specifically at four areas: the impact of political leadership on democratisation, electoral competition and strategies, ecological conservation issues and democratic innovations. By exploring this nexus, we can understand the multitude of democratic regression problems in the country, which mainly happened during the decade of President Joko Widodo's administration. In addition, it is

worthwhile to think of what approaches are feasible to cope with the consequences of declining democracy and governance and rebuild Indonesian democracy under the new government of Prabowo Subianto. Our panel is as follows.

9:00 am

[Prabowo Subianto's Political Leadership and the Problem of Democratic Rebound in Indonesia](#)
[Dr Muhammad Asfar](#)

Studies on democratisation in Indonesia have focused more on the drivers, means, and challenges of democratic decline taking place under the administration of President Joko Widodo or Jokowi (2014-2024). Little attention is given to what and how the pro-democracy movements can save the country from falling into the hands of an utterly autocratic regime. To close this intellectual gap, we present an anti-autocratisation study highlighting the political leadership of the new President, Prabowo Subianto. The authors propose two interrelated arguments. First, having been elected in the 2024 presidential election, Prabowo initiated the process of reconciliation among the contesting parties by accommodating them into a big tent of coalition government. To some extent, this move narrows the space for opposition, meaning that the government is very strong and unchecked. Second, Prabowo is trying to consolidate his power beyond the grip of his predecessor, Jokowi. In this context, however, a middle-path style of democratic leadership arises, by which a compromise between state power and democratic values is made. While this form of political leadership works for Indonesia, it is still necessary to consider how real democratic life can be restored.

9:00 am

[The Jokowi Effect during the 2024 Indonesia Presidential Election: Incumbency Advantage, Voter Behavior and the Future of Indonesian Democracy](#)
[Mr Dimas Lazuardy Firdauz](#)

The concept of incumbency advantage in elections has been interpreted as the incumbent's ability to allocate and leverage available resources to build a more robust electoral position compared to their opponents. In essence, this concept is most pertinent when the incumbent seeks re-election. Incumbency advantage is widely recognised as one of the most relevant frameworks for understanding the power dynamics of sitting presidents during election periods. However, prior studies have not thoroughly explored scenarios where the incumbent president does not seek re-election but instead allocates their power, resources, and accumulated political capital to enhance his equity of incumbency while signalling his heir. This study examines the phenomenon of incumbency effects in the context of Indonesia's 2024 presidential election, focusing on the impact of President Joko Widodo's (Jokowi) to Prabowo-Gibran victory.

9:00 am

[Ecological Security in Indonesia's Illiberal Democracy: Governance Paradox and Policy Implications](#)
[Ms Ais Syafiyah Asfar](#)

This study analyses how illiberal democracy impacts ecological security. As a conceptual approach currently developing in the academic world, ecological security offers more comprehensive operational dimensions than the previous views, which were separated between focusing on anthropocentrism and ecocentrism. Ecological security provides a reconciliatory solution that accommodates agendas, agencies, and policy instruments related to the state, society, and nature interactions. We argue that in illiberal democracy, there is a governance paradox, where the implementation of environmental policies is claimed to be effective. However, on the other hand, dissatisfaction and problems with the government's response to the increasingly dangerous and widespread ecological damage continue to rise. As an empirical illustration, we propose a case study of Indonesia, where, over a decade of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's leadership, Indonesians have experienced a decline in the quality of democracy - aka moving towards illiberal democracy. Our study is supported by an extensive literature review and a survey to check public perceptions about ecological security, which lead to an understanding of the implications for ecological governance.

9:00 am

[Democratic Innovation Challenges in Local Government Indonesia: Beyond Governance-Driven Democratization and Democracy-Driven Governance](#)
[Dr Mochamad Arif Affandi](#)

Democratic innovation in local government has become a focal point of political reform in Indonesia, especially as the country faces the challenge of democratic decline at both national and local levels. This research explores the problems and opportunities for democratic innovation in the context of Indonesian local governments, focusing on the intricate balance between governance-driven democratisation and democracy-driven governance. Governance-driven democratisation emphasises the role of institutional reforms and administrative processes in promoting democracy, whereas democracy-driven governance

prioritises citizen participation and grassroots empowerment as central to effective governance. This study identifies the key obstacles hindering democratic innovation in Indonesia's local governance, including bureaucratic inertia, lack of civic engagement, and power imbalances between local authorities and civil society. Furthermore, it highlights the potential pathways to overcome these challenges, such as enhancing institutional transparency, fostering active citizen participation, and rethinking the role of technology in facilitating inclusive governance. By critically examining these dual approaches, the research provides insights into how local governments can innovate democratically, aiming to bridge the gap between top-down governance reforms and bottom-up democratic engagement, ultimately leading to a more resilient and participatory local democratic system in Indonesia. We offer analysis of two cases; Kediri and Samarinda.

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 3: Gender and Social Change: Indonesia's Economic Transformation

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Sarah Dong**

Indonesia's sustained economic growth over the past decades has reshaped its social, economic, and cultural landscape, with rising living standards, expanding education, a growing middle class, and urbanization. This panel examines the gendered implications of these developments, focusing on how they influence education, labour market participation, marriage, fertility, and social mobility. The first paper explores the relationship between the rise of the middle class and educational and labour outcomes. The second paper investigates urban sprawl in Greater Jakarta, analysing gendered dynamics in commuting and labour market participation. The third paper highlights the role of babysitters in the care economy, addressing gender, class, and rural-urban disparities. The panel concludes with a comparative analysis of the legislative processes behind two gender-related bills in Indonesia: the anti-sexual violence bill and the domestic worker protection bill. This panel offers insights into the cultural, social, and legal transformations shaping contemporary Indonesia from a gender-inclusive perspective.

9:00 am

[The rise of Indonesia's middle class and the implications for women's education, marriage, fertility and labour market outcomes](#)

[Dr. Sarah Dong](#)

Indonesia's middle class has been growing rapidly in the last two decades, transforming the social and economic landscapes of Indonesian society. What are the implications of the rising middle class for women? On one hand, rising aspirations could lead to a rise in women's education, as daughters are expected to achieve tertiary education levels to join the middle class. On the other hand, the change in consumption patterns of the growing middle class could mean change in job opportunities for women, especially in highly feminized sectors such as health and education. The higher standard of lifestyle could also put pressure on women's fertility and labour market decisions, as women juggle the need for a two-income household and the expectations of quality care and education for their children. This study attempts to quantify the implications of the rise in middle class for women's education, marriage, fertility and labour market outcomes.

9:00 am

[Mapping the gendered megacity: urban sprawl, commuting, and labour market outcomes in Greater Jakarta](#)

[Mrs Aktiva Primananda Hadiarta, Dr Ariane Utomo](#)

This study uses spatial analysis to explore the relationship between urban sprawl and gender dynamics in commuting and labour market outcomes in Greater Jakarta. We analyse data from Landsat 8 satellite images (2013-2023) alongside data from the Greater Jakarta Commuter Survey conducted by BPS-Statistics Indonesia. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques, we quantify various indicators of urban sprawl, such as population density, built-up area, accessibility, public facilities, and land-use changes. This analysis allows us to produce spatial distribution maps that illustrate different typologies of urban sprawl and their relationship to gendered work and commuting outcomes. Our findings provide insights into how urban form and mobility influence gender dynamics in the labour market. This study contributes to a better understanding of the complex interplay between urban expansion and gendered economic participation in one of the world's largest urban agglomerations.

9:00 am

[Baby sitter and care economy in Indonesia](#)

[Dr Gita Nasution](#)

Care economy receives a lot of current attention in Indonesia as the government, supported by international organizations, looks at options to improve the number of women in the workforce by providing childcare. Baby sitter is among the occupations that perform childcare tasks for many urban families. This occupation has existed in Indonesia for decades, and their appearance in public – wearing uniforms like a nurse -- symbolises a transformation of the occupation. However, baby sitter as an occupation receives little attention from policy makers, despite their significant role in the care economy. They are not only providing service for families in the domestic domain, but also a service industry that is regulated formally. Through the lens of baby sitter, this study tries to understand women in Indonesia as a non-homogenous group, and care as an occupation that intersects with gender, class, and the rural-urban gap.

9:00 am

[Navigating legislative priorities: a comparison of Indonesia's anti-sexual violence and domestic workers' protection bills](#)

[Gita Damayana](#)

This presentation examines the deliberation process of two significant pieces of legislation in Indonesia: Law on Anti-Sexual Violence (UU TPKS) and the Bill on Domestic Workers' Protection (RUU PPRT). Despite both addressing vulnerable groups protection, these bills experienced different legislative trajectories. While the UU TPKS was passed in 2022 after 11 years of deliberation, the Domestic Workers Bill remains stalled after 19 years in the House of Representatives (DPR). Through analysis of DPR records and media coverage, this presentation reveals how different advocacy approaches, political dynamics, and the political elite's perceptions of women influenced these contrasting outcomes. The TPKS Law succeeded through civil society mobilization and strategic framing of the issue as a national emergency, whereas the RUU PPRT faced persistent resistance from two of the largest political parties. This comparison provides insight into the factors that facilitate or impede social protection legislation in Indonesia's post-reform era.

09 July 2025

10:30 am - 11:00 am

5th Australia-Indonesia In Conversation Opening Event

Special Event - [Event, Australia-Indonesia in Conversation](#) - **Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

Join Prof. Jennifer Balint (University of Melbourne) and Prof Wawan Mas'udi (Universitas Gadjah Mada) for the Australia-Indonesia in Conversation Opening event.

Bridging Development, Representation, and Indigenous Knowledge: Learning from Australia and Indonesia

The Australia-Indonesia in Conversation (AIC) 2025 brings together various stakeholders to examine critical issues at the intersection of indigenous representation, economic development, and knowledge production in Australia and Indonesia. Both countries have rich histories of indigenous communities navigating complex relationships with state policies, economic development initiatives, and knowledge systems. Despite differences in governance structures and legal frameworks, indigenous groups in both nations face similar challenges in asserting their rights, protecting their lands, and ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes. By discussing and learning from these experiences, AIC 2025 aims to foster a comparative dialogue that highlights best practices, shared struggles, and potential pathways for more equitable and sustainable engagements with indigenous communities. The conference highlights the importance of Indigenous agency, collaborative research, and ethical engagement in addressing pressing social, political, and economic challenges.

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Day 3: Morning Break

Break - [Break/Lunch](#)

To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks. A coffee cart will be available at Melbourne Connect for coffee purchases.

09 July 2025

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 4: Australia-Indonesia in Conversation - The Nexus between Development and Indigenous Representation

Roundtable - [Australia-Indonesia in Conversation](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

There is increasing academic literature on the nexus between development and indigenous representation. Literature shows that the relationship between indigenous people and development is complex and multifaceted, which often involves competing interests in economic growth, environmental conservation, and human rights. Asymmetric power between indigenous people and developmental actors (such as state and private sector) provides the structural obstacle for indigenous people to participate in the development design. They often experience the high-level disadvantages of development such as loss of their land rights, economic marginalisation, cultural erosion, and limited source of life due to environmental degradation. Therefore, currently, global movement requires meaningful participation to secure indigenous people's representation in the governance of development.

11:00 am

[Beyond borders, between peoples: Indonesian-Indigenous relationships and future for cooperation](#)
[Mr James Blackwell, James Blackwell](#)

Indigenous peoples on the Australian continent have had long contact with Indonesian peoples that pre-date ideas of Australia and Indonesia as states; trading, sharing cultures, moving peoples between one another for centuries. These relationships go beyond traditional notions of modern borders and show alternatives to current narratives on the Australia-Indonesian relationship. Focusing on peoples, relational thinking, and cross-cultural trade, rather than the standard Australian survivalist frames of security, immigration, and the "Indo-Pacific", present ways to prioritise the development of a stronger relationship with our closest northern neighbour while focusing on culture and shared history. This is not to say that such an approach is entirely rosy and without contention; issues of Indigenous rights in West Papua, and cultural appropriation in commerce are still present and need to be addressed at both ends. But the story of Indigenous-Indonesian relationships, and the lessons in cross-cultural learning, are underrepresented in current discussion, and deserve to be shared more widely, and show what Indigenous approaches can teach us in international relations thinking.

11:00 am

[Inclusive local procurement in oil and gas company: Intended and unintended consequences for Indigenous people in Indonesia](#)
[Dr. Bahruddin --](#)

Interactions between oil and gas companies and indigenous people have increased over the last decade. Increasingly, oil and gas exploration and exploitation are taking place on customary land that belongs to Indigenous peoples who have different characteristics from those of the wider community. The interaction between oil and gas companies and Indigenous people is structured around three key issues: engagement,

impact and opportunities. Engagement and impact cover the activities in the participatory environmental and social monitoring. Meanwhile, the opportunities focus on creating more incentives for oil and gas exploration for Indigenous people. One of the policies to provide incentives is through local procurement mechanisms. It provides an affirmative policy for Indigenous people to be part of the supply chain. Despite positive intentions (e.g. economic), local procurement may have unintended consequences on the cultural and social structure of Indigenous people.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 4: Community Resilience and Environmental Sustainability in Indonesia

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Environment & Climate Change](#) - **Room 119 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

***Note venue change**

Chair: **Shuri Mariasih Gietty**

This panel focuses on environmental sustainability and community resilience in Indonesia, particularly on local knowledge, grassroots movements, and collective action. The four presenters collectively examine how through common initiatives in the physical and digital space, communities respond to environmental and social challenges. By looking into Indonesian environmental documentaries, communities in the islands of Ambon and Haruku, the Indonesian Peasants Union and the Batin Sembilan indigenous community in Jambi and Jakarta's urban middle-class, particularly housewives' initiatives like Trash Bank, the presentations in the panel highlight the various ways Indonesian communities respond to environmental challenges, emphasizing on resilience and solidarity.

11:00 am

[Spectacles of Sustainability: Persuasive Strategies in Indonesian Environmental Documentaries](#)

[Shuri Mariasih Gietty Tambunan](#)

In order to persuade viewers to embrace a particular viewpoint on the subject of environmental sustainability, environmental documentaries employ persuasive communication techniques. This presentation examines the diverse environmental narratives portrayed in six Indonesian documentaries: *Semesta* (2020), *Our Mother's Land* (2020), *Plastic Island* (2021), *Tenggelam dalam Diam* (2021), *Mutualisme* (2021), and *Saat Orang Baik (Tidak) Diam: Build Back Better and Sustainable* (2023). These films present a plurality of environmental narratives, utilizing distinct strategic techniques to engage audiences. Many of them foreground grassroots movements and emphasize the role of marginalized or 'small' actors in local environmental activism, often employing the David vs. Goliath archetype to highlight struggles against powerful entities. Other documentaries focus on delivering consequential messages through the use of carefully chosen strategic narrators, illustrating the broad spectrum of narrative approaches in the portrayal of Indonesia's environmental challenges. This presentation will critically analyze how these films shape public discourse on sustainability and environmental resilience.

11:00 am

[Lost and Found: The Preservation and Revitalization of the Local Knowledge on Disaster Mitigation amongst Ambonese Communities](#)

[Manneke Budiman](#)

The common assumption that collective memory is preserved in the form of local knowledge, especially in relation to community's survival, is not always proven. My research with a BRIN team on the islands of Ambon and Haruku in September 2024 discovered that most of the communities on these islands have lost their memory about how to save themselves from earthquakes and tsunamis, which have occurred several times since the 1600s, and the last time took place in 2019. However, based on the memory of the recent disasters, the Ambonese communities produced new knowledge that is socialized to their members using contemporary means, such as pop songs and children's books. In addition, the architectural knowledge of building an earthquake-proof house is still part of the living culture, although this too is gradually being abandoned due to the higher cost of material and the decreasing number of the local builders who master the traditional knowledge.

11:00 am

[Making Zero Waste a Trend: Jakarta's Urban Middle Class Movement to Reduce Waste](#)

[Dr Asri Saraswati](#)

This presentation investigates the increasing popularity of zero waste movement and efforts towards sustainability motored by urban middle-class communities in Indonesia. It investigates efforts such as the Trash Bank initiated by housewives in housing communities in urban Jakarta and initiatives by women and housewives in Malang and Jogjakarta. The presentation looks at the motivations, narrative strategies, and community organizing that reveal the anxieties of urban middle class towards environmental issues in their living spaces. Paying attention to the middle-class often hailed as initiators and change-makers in the Indonesian economy, the presentation helps understand the attitude and behavior of the urban middle-class, their awareness about the role they play, and their hope for the urban spaces they lived in.

11:00 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Building Solidarity in Hutan Harapan: SPI and Batin Sembilan Alliance Towards New Commons](#)
[Yudi Bachrioktora](#)

This study discusses the dynamics of land tenure in Harapan Rainforest, Jambi, by the Indonesian Peasants Union (SPI) and the Batin Sembilan indigenous community to form a new commons in response to the pressures of agrarian capitalism, especially oil palm plantations and forest conservation. Based on ethnographic studies, this study reveals how the collaboration between SPI and the Batin Sembilan indigenous community created a new mechanism for collective forest management. This process involved land negotiations with customary leaders, the establishment of local rules, and solidarity that strengthened claims to customary forests. In addition, the collaboration between SPI and the Batin Sembilan indigenous community also encouraged the formation of new 'Adat' institutions that strengthened claims to forest resources but became an essential step in building a more inclusive and sustainable commons system. Thus, this study highlights how land tenure in Hutan Harapan serves as a meeting point between agrarian resistance and customary revitalization to create a new commons by offering a resource management model articulating social and ecological justice.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 4: Cultural Histories: Maritime Traditions, Customary Law, Religious Transformations and Collective Memory

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [History & Society](#) - Forum 3 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Nicole Tse](#)

11:00 am

[History Of Dayak Customary Law in Central Kalimantan In The Early 20th Century](#)
[Mr Agus Hermanto](#)

The history of Dayak customary law in Central Kalimantan during the early 20th century reflects a complex interplay between indigenous traditions and external influences. Rooted in ancestral wisdom, Dayak customary law, or adat, regulated various aspects of life, including conflict resolution, land use, marriage, and social obligations. These laws were deeply tied to spiritual beliefs and collective values, promoting harmony within the community. The early 20th century spans the period from the aftermath of the 1894 *Tumbang Anoi Peace Agreement* to the collapse of the Dutch East Indies colonial government in Indonesia in 1942. The phase marked a period of significant transformation, driven by the expansion of Dutch colonial administration and missionary activities. Colonial policies sought to standardize governance, often clashing with indigenous practices. Simultaneously, missionary efforts introduced new religious and moral frameworks that subtly influenced the adat. Despite these pressures, the Dayak communities exhibited resilience, adapting and negotiating their customary laws to preserve their cultural identity. The historical reconstruction of this phase also emphasizes the oral history approach, which captures the lived experiences, narratives, and collective memories of the Dayak people that are alive and sustainable to this day. Custom, rooted in ancestral traditions, regulates various aspects of life, including land use, social order, conflict resolution, and spiritual practices. This historical evolution highlights the dynamic nature of Dayak customary law, illustrating its ability to integrate external changes while maintaining its core principles. Studying this period offers insights into the interaction between indigenous systems and colonial modernity, as well as the enduring relevance of adat in contemporary legal and cultural discourses.

Keywords:

Dayak customary law, Central Kalimantan, adat, indigenous traditions, colonial influence, cultural resilience

11:00 am

[Religious Transformations in 16th-Century Indonesia](#)

[Dr Jarrah Sastrawan](#)

Why did Islam and Christianity become the major religions in Indonesia? What are the historical roots of religious conflict in frontier zones in eastern Indonesia? The answers lie in a series of profound religious transformations in the long 16th century: the expansion of Islamic kingdoms, deep reformation within Hinduism and Buddhism, the infusion of beliefs and practices across religious boundaries, and vigorous debates about religious identity and orthodoxy. We lack an adequate theoretical model to understand these religious transformations, and there remain many empirical gaps in our knowledge of how these changes took place. This talk engages with neglected primary sources and the latest research to take the first steps towards an integrated account of religious transformation in the archipelago during this decisive time. It thus contributes to pressing conversations about religious identity and diversity in present-day Indonesia.

11:00 am

[The Past in the Present: The Transmission and \(Re\)Production Of Collective Memory in the Border Community Of Elpaputih Baai, Seram Island](#)

[Galuh Ambar Sasi](#)

Research on Indonesia's borders has tended to focus on international borders. In contrast, studies of internal borders are less common. I combine archival data and oral histories to examine how the border communities of Elpaputih baai on Seram Island, regions with the worst border conflicts, have survived Indonesia's post-colonial and post-reform administrative changes. I show how these changes have divided the communities and revived collective memories of the tsunami-induced village reorganisation of 1899. I also show how these disputes have exacerbated identity conflicts, with some groups seeking recognition of their customary lands and linking their interpretations of Indonesian independence and reform to the disaster within a Christian framework. In response, they adopt multiple identities, move to remote forest areas, and continue to cultivate collective memory through the customary system. I argue, therefore, that border studies should extend to how local communities maintain and transform their collective memories and survival strategies.

11:00 am

[The Role of Mandar Women in Crafting Layar Karoroq \(Gebang Leaf Sails\) in the Sea Cucumber Trade Era: Techniques, History, and Preservation of Nusantara Maritime Culture](#)

[Dhila Damayanti](#)

This study examines the role of Mandar women in crafting Layar Karoroq (Sails from gebang leaves) during the sea cucumber trade era, beginning in the 17 century-a multi-ethnic maritime network linking the Indonesian archipelago to northern Australia. Mandar women's skill in processing gebang leaves into sails was essential for long-distance voyages, fostering ethnic collaboration and advancing maritime commerce centered in Makassar.

Using an ethnographic approach, this research combines historical analysis, interviews, and observation to examine sail-making techniques. Findings show that cross-ethnic collaboration forged a shared seafaring identity, enriched by friendship with Aboriginal communities. Through cultural revitalization and sustainability theories, this study highlights preservation efforts through youth education, ensuring the relevance of this maritime heritage.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 4: Gender Inequalities in the Labour Market and Workplace

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Tess Tombourou](#)

11:00 am

[Gender Equality and Access to Justice in the Developing World: The Role of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Workplace Disputes](#)

[Associate Professor Herliana Herliana](#)

This paper examines the role of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in promoting gender equality and access to justice in workplace disputes in the developing world, focusing on Indonesia and drawing insights from Australia. In many developing countries, women face significant barriers to accessing formal justice, particularly in cases of gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and unequal pay. These barriers include limited access to legal resources, slow judicial processes, and entrenched societal norms. ADR mechanisms, particularly mediation and negotiation, offer a more accessible, flexible, and cost-effective way

to resolve these disputes. The paper explores how Indonesia has implemented ADR to address gender-related workplace issues and highlights the challenges women face in accessing justice. It also examines how Australia's more developed ADR framework offers lessons for Indonesia, particularly in gender-sensitive training and institutional support. The study identifies key challenges and best practices for enhancing ADR in developing countries to improve justice for women in the workplace.

11:00 am

[Gender Segregation and Gender Wage Gap in Indonesian Labor Market](#)

[Mr Yohanes Andika Tjitrajaya](#), [Regina Gracia Alexander](#), [Rikardiani Rikardiani](#)

The gender wage gap reflects income inequality between men and women. In Indonesia, men earn an average monthly wage of 3.23 million rupiah, 25% higher than women's 2.42 million rupiah. This disparity affects resource access and limits women's opportunities due to wage constraints and societal roles, perpetuating stereotypes and prioritizing men's societal positions. This study examines gender segregation and wage differentials in Indonesia, focusing on the roles of education and occupation in shaping these disparities. Using the Indonesian Labor Force Survey (Sakernas) from 2019 to 2024, we employ Mincerian wage regressions, Heckman selection with instrumental variables to address selection bias, and Neumark decomposition to analyze wage distribution. To our knowledge, this is the first study linking educational segregation to gender wage disparities in Indonesia, offering new insights into how segregation influences wage differentials. Findings aim to inform policies addressing wage inequality and promoting gender equity.

11:00 am

[Leveraging Women's Views to Influence Gendered Attitudes to Women Working: Evidence from an Online Intervention in Indonesia](#)

[Dr Diana Contreras Suarez](#)

How to influence gendered attitudes that drive behaviour in relation to women's participation in employment is not well understood. We provide randomly selected participants with information on the extent of i) wives' support for women with children working; ii) husbands' support for sharing day-to-day childcare; and iii) mothers' and mothers-in-law's support for working women. As a result, the probability of participants choosing an online career mentoring course for women over a shopping voucher of equal value increased by 25%. Demonstration of support among mothers and mothers-in-law appears to be more salient for women, and information on childcare norms more salient for men.

11:00 am

[The Positioning of Domestic Care Workers \(PRT\) in Care Economy in Indonesia: Everywhere but Nowhere?](#)
[PhD Valentina Utari](#)

Indonesia's 2025-2045 Care Economy Road Map recognizes that the Female Labor Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in Indonesia has been stagnant for decades. This is largely due to the burden of unpaid carework, which predominantly falls on women. To address the burden of carework, many families share chores within households or hire domestic workers or *pekerja rumah tangga* (PRT). However, the state should also play a role in filling the gap in care services, ensuring the well-being of care workers, especially PRT. This exploratory paper is about a study that aims to provide comprehensive information on the advocacy process to push for the passage of the Bill of Protection for Domestic Workers into law. The study applies desk study on care policies, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions. The study is part of a joint effort to promote the positioning of PRTs in the care economy ecosystem in Indonesia.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 4: Gender, Aging Piety and Systemic Change: Theatre, Film, Literature and Textile Practices

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Arts & Culture](#) - M13 + M14 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Helen Pausacker](#)

11:00 am

[Discourse on Women's Piety: Narrative Strategy in Pesantren Literature](#)

[Novi Diah Haryanti](#)

Twenty years after the emergence of pesantren pop literature, novels were published written by kiai's daughters who were often called ning. The four novels, namely *Hati Suhita*, *Dua Barista*, *Diary Ungu Rumaysha*, and *Cincin Kalabendu*. Through these four novels, the lives of women in pesantren which have

been closed for so long begin to emerge to the public. The nings explore themes of piety that reflect their unique experiences and perspectives as part of the pesantren's nuclear family. This research aims to show the narrative strategies used by writers in building piety discourse in pesantren literature. The sociology of literature approach and Saba Mahmood's concept of religiosity are used to show the tension between traditions that tend to be patriarchal in pesantren and the demands of modernity. This research will contribute to the development of literary studies, especially pesantren literature, which has so far been dominated by male writers, as well as presenting the voices of pesantren women who have been "silenced".

11:00 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Exploring Aging on the Narrative of a Woman Theatre Performer in Studiklub Teater Bandung, Indonesia](#)
[Mrs Afri Wita](#)

This research elaborates on aging narratives of an elder woman theatre performer. Sugiyati's autobiographical narratives discuss her aging experience as a woman theatre performer of Studiklub Teater Bandung (STB). STB is known to be the oldest modern theatre in Indonesia. Sugiyati's narratives comprise her collection of writing about her life related to stage and performance issues. In these collections, Sugiyati narrates the complication of embodying expectations of age-appropriate roles on stage and maintaining an authentic sense of self offstage. Using the framework of performativity theory and aging as a fluid construct contextualized by a woman theatre performer, this article investigates how the complexity of performative aspects of aging are negotiated between personal agency and constructed narratives of aging shaped by the societal norms within theatre performance. Sugiyati's narratives of aging reflect the constant insecurity regarding embodiment due to the stage expectations of the female ideal bodies.

11:00 am

[Living Threads: Rethinking Textile Practices](#)
[Dr Joanna Vogeley](#)

This research proposes that threads are living actors within Indonesian weaving communities, influencing people, the environment and cultural practices. Utilising Actor-Network Theory (ANT), we examine the intricate relationships among artisans and threads within their unique ecosystems, highlighting how artefacts and people create unique interdependencies. The introduction of synthetic dyes, while offering vibrant colours and economic benefits, disrupts these ecosystems, threatening the health and well-being of weaving communities and leading to environmental degradation. Tracing the connections between weavers and their materials reveals that these threads are not merely resources but vital links in a broader socio-ecological network that informs daily practices and policymaking. We propose the "Living Threads" framework, which advocates for adopting innovative natural alternatives that respect people, cultural heritage and the environment. Ultimately, this study underscores the need to view textile practices as dynamic ecosystems that can facilitate systemic change.

11:00 am

[Mudik \(Home-Coming\) as a Gender-Negotiated Space Through a Film Titled Mudik \(2019\) by Adriyanto Dewo](#)
[Mr. Jordy Satria Widodo](#)

The concept of *Mudik* (Home-coming) or *Pulang* (Returning 'Home') is a cultural fundament in Indonesia which represent the physical journey and the symbolic connection with tradition and identity. This article explores a film titled *Mudik* (2019) by Adriyanto Dewo that combines the tradition with modernity through personal conflict, social expectation, and gender roles that are existing in society. This analysis criticizes patriarchal norms by describing the marginalization of women in family and society, yet it also puts emphasis on women's agency and resistance. Employing gender performativity by Judith Butler, this study analyzes how gender roles are portrayed and negotiated while highlighting the fluidity and gender construction in society. This article redefines the concept of *Mudik* which is not only a cultural ritual, but it also becomes a negotiated space where the tradition and modernity meet to form gender experiences and to challenge patriarchal norms and values.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 4: Health Equity and Transformations in Contemporary Indonesia: Panel 1

Chair: [Linda Bennett](#)

One of the key responsibilities of a modern nation state is to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of its citizens. The papers presented in this double panel engage with ongoing health transformations and the extent to which health equity is and can be achieved within a country with extraordinary geographical, cultural and economic diversity. This theme is timely because it is now a decade since the introduction of Jaminan Kesehatan Indonesia (JKN), which represented a legion investment towards achieving equity in access to universal health care for Indonesians. The panel papers consider how a range of populations and actors are still experiencing health inequities and how these disparities are intrinsically linked with other forms of social and economic inequity, as well as exploring differences in the accessibility of health services for marginalised populations. The presenters in this panel also examine how policy guiding health transitions moving forward needs to be explicitly engaged with improving health equity and provide insights into how this can be achieved in different locations and at different scales from national, provincial and community level perspectives.

11:00 am

[The cost of ignoring context: How risk communication oversights deepen inequity for poor urban women](#)
[Citra Lestari](#)

This paper explores how risk communication during health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, is not sensitive to the social determinants of health and consequently exacerbates inequity among the poor, especially poor urban women who subjected to otherness and gendered risk. Using qualitative methods, I conducted interviews and observations with 15 women living in an informal settlement and low-rent vertical public housing in Jakarta. Employing feminist standpoint theory, I examine the risk information seeking and processing of poor urban women through an intersectionality lens. The study found that 1) the dominant risk communication approach that focuses on behaviour change largely ignores the social determinants of health, which for poor urban women needs to be prioritised in order to survive; and 2) the oversight of the social determinants of health has resulted in othering and deepening of gendered risk that further marginalises poor urban women from risk mitigation or disease prevention.

11:00 am

[Assets and challenges for achieving equitable coverage and improved education in HPV vaccination scale-up](#)
[Setiyani Marta Dewi](#)

Indonesia introduced primary prevention of cervical cancer (CC) via HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination for 11-12-year-old girls in 2016 through a demonstration program. Following high uptake in the demonstration program, Indonesia announced plans for national scale-up in 2023. Prior research has indicated persistent inequities in childhood vaccination coverage in Indonesia, particularly for children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This paper explores policy implementers' views on assets and challenges that can inform HPV vaccination scale-up to achieve more equitable coverage and promote more comprehensive CC education.

Between 2019 and 2021, nineteen key informants in Jakarta and Yogyakarta, were interviewed. Study findings include that high parental awareness, supportive school communities, and local stakeholder engagement are key assets in supporting high vaccination uptake. Conversely, barriers to achieving equitable coverage and sustaining high uptake included rising vaccine hesitancy, lack of human resources, lack of consistent community health education, and failure to prioritise vaccination for out-of-school girls.

11:00 am

["The Reunion": Enhancing Physical, Social, and Emotional Well-Being for Older Adults at Posyandu Lansia in Urban Kampung Yogyakarta, Indonesia](#)
[Dr. Erlin Erlina](#)

This study examines the role of Posyandu Lansia (Elderly Integrated Service Post), a community health program, in supporting elderly well-being in Kelurahan Kricak, Yogyakarta. As older adults face loneliness and the risk of non-communicable diseases, Posyandu Lansia offers a space for social interaction, strengthening social bonds and resilience. Through a qualitative case study involving elderly participants and Posyandu cadres, selected based on participation levels, the research explores how regular Posyandu activities impact participants' physical, social, and emotional health. Findings show that Posyandu activities mitigate loneliness, offering a reunion-like setting for shared memories and community connection. Elderly participants highly value these gatherings for fostering close, familial ties with cadres, who support them with enthusiasm and care. The program is seen as beneficial in preventing non-communicable diseases,

such as hypertension, by enhancing social and emotional support, underscoring its importance for elderly health and community cohesion.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 4: Navigating Global Dynamics: Indonesia's Evolving Foreign Policy and International Engagement

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Politics & Law](#) - Forum 2 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Jeremy Kingsley**

11:00 am

[Beyond Borders: Indonesia's Liminal Role in Global Democracy Promotion and Peacebuilding](#) [Mrs Merve OZTURK ASIL](#)

The dominance of the West in peacebuilding has come under scrutiny due to issues with Western-led approaches to establishing lasting peace, coupled with the rise of emerging powers in peacebuilding. While the peacebuilding methods of these emerging powers are perceived as vague and inconsistent compared to liberal peace, they continue to challenge the Western-led peacebuilding paradigm. This article focuses on the concept of 'liminality' as a framework for understanding how emerging powers approach peacebuilding. Liminality represents a state of in-betweenness, capturing the unique position of emerging powers that are neither fully integrated nor fully established in the international order. Drawing on Mälksoo's perspective, which views liminality not only as uncertainty but also as a creative space—an opportunity for renewal—the article explores how this liminality allows emerging powers to develop distinct peacebuilding strategies, rather than merely replicating established models. As an illustrative case, the article analyses Indonesia—a significant emerging power. Indonesia's promotion of democracy serves as a peacebuilding strategy in conflict-affected nations. The conclusion emphasizes that Indonesia's ability to embrace liminality enables it to adopt a flexible and adaptive approach. Drawing from its own experiences with democratic transition and culture, Indonesia promotes democracy as a viable strategy for peacebuilding.

11:00 am

[Thinking of Change in Foreign Policy Strategy: Indonesia from Declared Nonalignment to Partial Multialignment](#) [Professor I Gede Wahyu Wicaksana](#)

This article unpacks changes in Indonesia's foreign policy. The conduct of Indonesia's foreign policy has long been understood as non-aligned. It was associated with the basic tenet of *bebas aktif* (independent and active) and evolving international relations of the state, which demonstrated the continuity of a non-taking side position in the Cold War bipolarity. This article contends that Indonesia is now walking towards partial multialignment. The recent domestic and external developments have proven the irrelevance of non-bloc strategy. Instead, Indonesia is partially multi-aligned by diversifying and intensifying its multilateral cooperation with China and the US, building bilateral strategic partnerships with selective major regional powers and undertaking 'normative hedging'. Nevertheless, limited national power and persistent threat perception hinder the steps toward complete multialignment.

11:00 am

[What Trump's Election Win Means for Indonesia's Global Health Strategy](#) [Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Hafizon](#)

Donald Trump's re-election in the 2024 US presidential election has reignited concerns about multilateralism and global health. During his first term (2017-2021), Trump demonstrated minimal commitment in multilateralism, as evidenced by his intent to withdraw from the WHO, proposed cuts to PEPFAR, and reduced global health contributions. His return to power risks destabilising global health financing, jeopardising the future of the Pandemic Agreement, and deepening inequities. By using exploratory research, this study explores the implications of Trump's victory on Indonesia's global health strategy. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia has played a more active role in global health through initiatives such as the Pandemic Fund, Global Fund, and the Pandemic Agreement's Group of Equity. Trump's re-election could heighten structural challenges in global health and hinder Indonesia's leadership. Our findings suggest the need for Indonesia to recalibrate its global health strategy, focusing on South-South cooperation and strengthening domestic capacities for global health diplomacy.

09 July 2025

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Day 3: Lunch Break

Break - [Break/Lunch](#)

To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks.

Note: Melbourne Connect does not permit outside food or drink except those purchased from their cafe, coffee cart or food stand on the superfloor (mezzanine level)

Some ICOC lunch specials can be pre-ordered from The Atlantic Group:

Pre-order via this link <https://qr.meandu.app/afl3vznz> or purchase at the counter (subject to availability)

- Nasi goreng with satay chicken skewers (\$14)

- Spicy tofu stir-fried noodles with vegetables | VEGAN (\$14)

Please ensure you are back in time 10 minutes before the start of the next session

09 July 2025

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm
Indonesia Council AGM

Special Event - [Event](#) - [G07 \(Sidney Myer Asia Centre\)](#)

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Room G07 on ground floor of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

**** note room change****

The Indonesia Council cordially invites members to attend the 2025 Annual General Meeting. If you do not have an active membership for the Indonesia Council but wish to attend the AGM, you are invited to sign up [here](#).

The Annual General Meeting will provide an opportunity to review the Council's activities and achievements over the past year, discuss strategic directions, and address any formal business in accordance with the Council's constitution.

Further details, including the meeting agenda, Zoom access details, and RSVP information, will be circulated directly to financial members of the Indonesia Council via email.

09 July 2025

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Book Launch: Routledge Handbook of Human Rights in Southeast Asia (2025)

Book Launch - [Event](#) - [Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 \(Sidney Myer Asia Centre\)](#)

Note new location

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect

Please join Professor Kate McGregor to launch the newly published book [**The Routledge Handbook of Human Rights in Southeast Asia**](#) (2025) co-edited by Professor Amalinda Savirani and Dr Ken Setiawan.

The handbook analyses some of the region's most pressing human rights issues, while also giving attention to those actors and institutions that work towards improvement.

[Click here to order or view the table of contents](#)

Chapters by international experts in the field provide readers with a background on some of Southeast Asia's most pressing human rights concerns. The book builds on, and contributes to, existing analyses of human rights in Southeast Asia to further enhance our understanding of what sits behind the region's ambivalent human rights track record. Following an introduction, the handbook is structured in eight parts. The chapters cover a wide range of human rights issues including human rights debates at political and regional levels, and how human rights are experienced every day, such as the rights to food, water, and work:

- Advancing Human Rights through ASEAN
- Refugees: Protecting Rights and Strengthening Agency
- Transitional Justice in Southeast Asia: Confronting the Past
- Balancing Moral Perspectives: Ideologies and Human Rights
- Intersections between Workers' Rights, Corporations and the State
- Accessing and Maintaining Rights to Water, Food, and Health
- On the Frontline: Human Rights Defenders
- Promoting Human Rights in Southeast Asia: New Directions and Strategies

The handbook considers the political and social contexts in which human rights emerge, the dynamics of their contestation and violation, and how rights are claimed. It demonstrates that human rights are a practice and goes beyond considering human rights as formal structures in laws, regulations, and meeting rooms. A timely overview and analysis of the situation of Human Rights in Southeast Asia, this handbook will be a valuable reference work for scholars and practitioners in human rights, the field of Asian Law, Asian Studies in general and Southeast Asian Studies in particular.

[Click here to order or view the table of contents](#)

About the editors:

- **Amalinda Savirani** is Professor in Politics at the Department of Politics and Government, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. Her research concerns Indonesian politics and particularly focuses on social movements of marginal groups in accessing their basic rights. She is co-editor, with Edward Aspinall, of *Governing Urban Indonesia* (2024).
- **Ken M.P. Setiawan** is Senior Lecturer in Indonesian Studies at the Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne, Australia. She has widely published on the politics of human rights in Indonesia. She is co-author, with Dirk Tomsa, of *Politics in Contemporary Indonesia: Institutional Change, Policy Challenges and Democratic Decline* (Routledge, 2022).

09 July 2025

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 5: Australia-Indonesia in Conversation - Directions in Indigenous Knowledge Research Between Indonesia and Australia

Roundtable - [Australia-Indonesia in Conversation](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

Indigenous knowledge research is an emerging field with immense potential to address domestic and regional challenges across Indonesia. Indigenous knowledge research typically addresses issues of environmental sustainability and cultural diversity through localised knowledge traditions practiced across generations. Yet Indigenous knowledge research is also thoroughly interdisciplinary and builds global connections between diverse peoples and places. This is exemplified by collaborative research projects connecting academics and Indigenous communities in Australia and Indonesia. By profiling several research projects that sustain relationships between Australia and Indonesia, the roundtable will explore the significance of Indigenous knowledge research within various cultural, social and political settings. We ask how Indigenous knowledge research might inform local and regional challenges, and explore applied methodologies that can enhance research across a range of disciplines and contexts.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 5: Commodity Sourcing, Deforestation Monitoring, and Small Farmers

Panel (Paper) Presentations - Environment & Climate Change - **Room 119 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Chair: [Mia Dunphy](#)

2:00 pm

[Bridging Gap between Landsat and Drone images to observe acute deforestation in Aceh after Tsunami](#)
[Dr Yoshifumi Azuma, Ardiansyah Ardiansyah](#)

This presentation explores how geospatial research combined with GIS and UAVs (drones) contributes to detecting acute deforestation in post-conflict societies, specifically in Aceh, Indonesia. The authors surveyed resettlement areas of demobilized GAM (Aceh Independent Movement) combatants in 2021 and 2022, employing the Ground-Truth Points Sampling method with UAV aerial photography. While deforestation in Aceh has been reported, inconsistent forest statistics complicate its analysis. For instance, while Aceh's total forest area is decreasing, data from the Tangse and Padang Tiji areas in Pidie districts suggest an increase, highlighting conflicting findings. Geospatial tools can bridge such data gaps. Although Landsat has monitored deforestation since 2004, its 30-meter spatial resolution limits detail. UAVs, however, provide high-resolution, up-to-date aerial imagery, enabling precise detection of deforestation boundaries, area estimation, and vegetation analysis. This approach offers critical insights into ongoing environmental degradation, facilitating more effective monitoring and response.

2:00 pm

[Downsizing upscaling? Navigating implementation challenges in jurisdictional approaches to sustainable commodity sourcing](#)
[A/Prof Rachael Diprose, Associate Professor Kate Macdonald, Dr. Bahrudin --](#)

Amidst rising recognition of the contributions of agro-commodity production to accelerating climate crises, interest has exploded in 'scaled-up' approaches to sustainable commodity sourcing. Such approaches promise to transcend the boundaries of traditional supply chain sustainability programs, instead promoting sustainability transformations within entire sectors, landscapes and jurisdictions. Yet, despite rising enthusiasm for such approaches, the advance of jurisdictional approaches (JAs) has so far remained tightly delimited within a small number of locations. Drawing on in-depth analysis of two jurisdictional initiatives in the Indonesian provinces of Aceh and Central Kalimantan, this paper illustrates the local political economy dynamics through which ambitions for upscaling instead transform into stasis or shrinkage, as efforts to leverage market transformation suffer from excessive reliance on external resources and incentives and support from a narrow set of 'progressive' leaders. This renders such efforts highly vulnerable to resistance from competing interests and agendas, with implications for larger-scale sustainability transitions.

2:00 pm

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2:00 pm

[Small Farmers for Global Food Security: The Demise and Reinvention of Moral Ecologies in Indonesia \(and beyond\)](#)

[Thomas Reuter](#)

The world faces the prospect of a major food crisis with four main contributing factors –demand, supply, distribution and ecological impact. Deteriorating environmental growing conditions, increasing demand and increasing inequality combine to produce significant food security risk in many developing countries. Indonesia is among the 30 countries most at risk. Here the food security problem is essentially a rice problem, as up to 1,25 million tons have had to be imported annually, mostly from India and the Mekong Delta, which is itself under severe threat. Small farmers grow most of Indonesia's domestic rice, but they now struggle to make a living from farming, partly because government interventions depress prices. For disadvantaged consumers all over Indonesia, in turn, fluctuations of the market price of rice are a vital concern.

The mainstream approach, shared by the agricultural research complex, corporations, many international development agencies and the Indonesian government, is to enhance capital investment, new technology and better market access, but this leads to a growth of corporate land holdings and profit oriented production decisions. The alternative approach, shared by small-farmers organisations, NGOs and ethnographic researchers, tend toward solutions grounded in local knowledge, traditional farming, and systems of distribution and consumption that are embedded in local moral economies. A more integrated policy choice is now required, and the paper examines the two options. Notably, it looks at initiatives by farmers to convert to organic production to reduce production costs and add market value.

[Big Problems for Small Farmers: the culture and political-economy of the rice-fertiliser industrial complex in Indonesia.](#)

[Dr. Graeme MacRae](#)

A lot of the world's food is produced by small farmers, on a fraction of the land, using a fraction of the resources used by industrial agriculture and with relatively little government and institutional support. This is especially so in Indonesia - a country of small farmers, especially of rice - the biggest crop and staple food of most of the population. The food security and political stability of the country depends on these farmers, but they are finding it harder and harder to make a living. Most are old and many are leaving agriculture for more lucrative employment. Land too is being retired from agricultural production. The government is aware of the problems but is doing little to really help address them. The most promising developments are self-help ones - by local farmers organisations and NGOs. These focus mostly on moving to more natural methods of production and shortening supply chains to consumers. However, the effectiveness of even these developments is limited by national-level political-economic structures of which the big rice and fertiliser industries are two of the most important. Ironically there is very little research on either of them. This presentation sketches the broad outlines of these industries and suggests a programme for future research.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 5: Decolonial Museum Interventions in the Netherlands and Indonesia

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [History & Society](#) - Forum 3 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Kate McGregor](#)

This panel brings together a range of perspectives to consider several different examples of decolonial museum interventions. We define decolonial museum interventions as efforts by persons outside the formal context of museums to disrupt museum narratives and collections in critical ways that take up the legacies of coloniality. Our case studies include an exhibition on the colonial era plantation workers exhibited at Van Abbemuseum (Netherlands) analysed by Eclair and a new anti-colonial museum in Indonesia called the Multatuli Museum analysed by McGregor and an exhibition on the contested colonial

plaster casts from Nias exhibited at the Museum Pusaka Nias, Indonesia analysed by the curator Boonstra. The final case study reflects on artistic intervention drawing on decolonial and local knowledge to contest colonial knowledge production including a piece created by Albaquni that has been exhibited in different contexts analysed by the artist.

2:00 pm

[‘Hidden Connections’: Making Slave Labour Visible in the former Dutch East Indies](#)

[A/Prof Ana Eclair](#)

As part of efforts to decolonise museums, Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, hosted an exhibition titled ‘Hidden Connections’ (*Verborgen Verbanden*, March-June 2024). The exhibition explored the labour conditions of contracted workers in the Deli plantations in Sumatra, in the former Dutch East Indies. Founded by Henri van Abbe, a colonial cigar manufacturer who sourced tobacco from the Deli plantations, the museum is now engaging with its colonial past. This includes working with its own colonial archives, which serves as a foundation for this exhibition.

This paper offers a feminist analysis of the representation of women as slave labourers on the Deli plantations, examining the possibilities and limitations of using colonial archives to decolonise public knowledge about labour conditions in the former Dutch East Indies.

2:15 pm

[Searching for Lost Voices: Decolonizing Dutch Museum Collections in Nias, Indonesia](#)

[Dr Sadiyah Boonstra](#)

This paper discusses the exhibition “Looking Behind the Faces of Ono Niha. Colonial plaster casts from Nias” curated by the author in collaboration with Museum Pusaka Nias, as a critical re-examination of the colonial legacy of physical anthropology in Indonesia. The focus is on 64 plaster casts of Nias men created by the Dutch physical anthropologist J.P. Kleiweg de Zwaan (1875-1971) in 1910, that are part of various museum collections in the Netherlands.

To challenge the colonial perspective and explore future potentialities for these casts, this project developed a collaborative research and exhibition with Universitas Nias Raya and Museum Pusaka Nias. To uncover lost histories and memories about the men whose faces were cast the exhibition was developed as a platform for dialogue and interactive discourse, and also explores potential futures for the casts, including repatriation.

2:30 pm

[**WITHDRAWN** Ruwatan Tanah Air Beta: Moving between the WereldMuseum and the Bandung Art](#)

[Space Selasar Sunaryo](#)

[Mr Zico Albaquni](#)

Note: This paper author has withdrawn from ICOC 2025

This paper discusses the genesis of my art work Ruwatan Tanah Air Beta which was inspired by a Sundanese ritual, at the Bogor Botanical Garden intended to cleanse bad omens and restore balance between the spiritual and physical worlds. The art work constituted a meditation on decolonization, reflecting on the diverse and conflicting meanings of objects in the garden across different historical and cultural contexts that suggest a profound intersection of colonial and indigenous histories. The work was first created for a critical exhibition on botanical gardens by the Farmer Framed (the Netherlands). Then it was purchased as a form of museum intervention by the Wereldmuseum in Amsterdam, an institution with a colonial legacy. Following this I created a work of art that reflected on this process which I exhibited at the Bandung Art Space, Selasar Sunaryo. This paper analyses how different forms of display of art affect its purposes.

2:45 pm

[Disrupting Colonial History and Nationalist Narratives: Museum Multatuli in Indonesia](#)

[Prof Kate McGregor](#)

In 2018 Museum Multatuli in Rangkasbitung Lebak opened its doors. Multatuli, the pen name of Eduard Douwes Dekker, became famous for his 1860 novel *Max Havelaar or the Coffee Auctions of the Dutch Trading Company*, which was based on Dekker’s experience as a colonial official of trying to advocate for improved conditions for local people. I ask what is new or original about this museum. I focus on the museum’s attention to the structures of colonial rule including local complicity in colonialism as well as the unusual choice to commemorate a Dutch man, which goes against the nationalist trope in history writing of pitting colonisers against the colonised. By reflecting on the museum curators as key memory activists I ask why the museum was created at this time and what it tells us about memories of colonialism and connections to other more recent periods of repression in Indonesia.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 5: Gender and Knowledge in Indonesia: Women academics in neoliberalising universities

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - M13 + M14 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Annisa Beta](#)

This organised panel explores the state of knowledge work in neoliberalising Indonesia using a feminist lens. Indonesia has an increasingly vibrant knowledge economy where universities are gradually geared to produce marketable education and research services efficiently, causing rising precarity and casualisation, especially among early careers and women academics. The panelists unpack the contradictions within the neoliberal reorganisation of universities, encouraging a critical discussion on 'academics as neoliberal subjects' who could articulate grievances about the nature of knowledge work by shaping a collective academic will based on everyday practices and engaged theoretical understanding of the social and cultural world.

2:00 pm

[Indonesian Early Career Women Navigating the Neoliberal Higher Education](#)

[Nur Rafiza Putri](#)

Despite entering academia earlier with a master's degree, early career women academics are burdened by precarious financial conditions, overwhelming workloads, job security, and the tension between career and family in the first decade of their career in neoliberalised academia in Indonesia. By appropriating the framework of governmentality, and feminist literature to inform how neoliberalism and patriarchy are connected in governing the academic work of young women, the study highlights the struggles of young women academics who essentially operate as self-entrepreneurs responsible for their sustenance. Rather than giving up and following the game, participants chose to 'play the game'—advocating for alternatives while playing within established academic frameworks. However, the study acknowledges that the participants' middle and upper-class backgrounds provide them with privileges and resources which enables these alternatives to occur.

2:00 pm

[Slow Down or Speed Up: Indonesian Early-Career Women Scholars Experiencing Time in Academia](#)

[Dr Asri Saraswati](#)

As response to the increased pace of scholarly life caused by commodification and neoliberalisation of higher education, the term 'slow scholarship' has become prominent in Global North academia. My talk examines this concept against the Global South context by asking the question how do Indonesian early-career women academics experience time? We conduct in-depth interviews and identify the elements that are stacked against early-career women academics in Indonesia that hinder their career progression and made it impossible for them to slow down: the cultural and societal expectations to balance work and family, neoliberalisation of higher education, high teaching load, administria, and care work at the office. The talk argues that while these pressures function as a temporal disciplining structure which distort their sense of time and blur boundaries between private and personal time, women academics continue to cope and give meaning to their profession within these temporal structures.

2:00 pm

[The micropolitics of care of Indonesian universities](#)

[Dr Yulida Pangastuti](#), [Dr Zulfa Sakhiyya](#)

Scholars have criticised how neo-liberalisation has affected universities globally, specifically highlighting how market-driven policies have transformed higher education institutions into corporations and students as commodities. Feminist scholars have critiqued the increasingly neoliberalised universities as careless institutions where care practices, which can be located in the teaching-learning nexus, are too often marginalised. Our talk explores the micropolitics of care in Indonesian higher education and identifies 'caring practices' as subjugated knowledge despite its criticality in day-to-day teaching and learning. Indonesia provides a unique setting to enhance the notion of care and its micropolitics in a specific context to demonstrate how care is understood, negotiated, and institutionalised within a particular context. Our talk will explore three alternative constructions of care practices which may challenge the neoliberal careless doxa, namely: (1) lecturers as educators, (2) caring practices as resistance, and (3) possibilities of institutionalising care. Only by acknowledging care as a value, practice and conceptual lens in

understanding gender inequalities in neoliberal academia can we re-imagine universities as having equalising effects rather than otherwise.

2:00 pm

[Who gets things done? Exploring invisible labour among women academics in Indonesia](#)

[Dr Kanti Pertiwi](#)

This study seeks to understand how invisible work shapes Indonesian women academics' career progression amidst a neoliberal and bureaucratised higher education system. Using poststructural feminist discourse analysis, we critically analyse selected social media content, examining how the dominant discourse of the ideal woman academic affects perceptions. Interviews with selected women academics enriched our findings. Our findings indicate that this idealisation is both cultural and historical, linked to the state's long-standing gender ideology of *ibuisim*, which positions women as appendages to their husbands and mothers to their children, and the notion of *pengabdian*, or selfless service work. As a result, women academics often shoulder the burden of bureaucratic housework. Additionally, the study explores how women academics navigate, negotiate, and resist the dominant discourse of the ideal woman academic within the context of the three pillars of higher education in Indonesia: teaching, research, and community service. This research contributes to understanding the impact of the neoliberalisation of higher education by discussing the lives of women academics in contemporary Indonesia.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 5: Governance Challenges and Strategies: Poverty Alleviation, Public Management, and Combating Corruption

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Politics & Law](#) - Forum 2 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Lis Kramer**

2:00 pm

[Anti-Corruption Efforts in Indonesian Sub-National Governments](#)

[Mr Ludgerus da Gama](#)

"What if the use of accountability mechanism as a part of the national strategy to increase accountability and transparency of sub-national government in Indonesia, becomes a new "legal source" of corruption? There is a concern that Sistem Informasi Pemerintahan Daerah (SIPD) may be ineffective in curbing corruption, but rather subject to corrupt practices. SIPD is under the supervision of The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and every local government in Indonesia must use it to generate two essential annual documents - local government plans and local budgets.

The principle-agent (PA) theory will be employed to examine information asymmetry between principles that could be national agencies (MoHA and KPK), high-level bureaucrats in sub-national governments in Indonesia, civil society organisations (CSOs), including Non-Governmental Organisations, ordinary citizens, academia, and the press, and agents (sub-national governments, middle/lower-level bureaucrats responsible for the SIPD). This research will examine the success/ failure of anti-corruption efforts in Indonesia.

2:00 pm

[Managing in Times of Complexity: Emerging themes in public management and their relevance for Indonesia](#)

[Janine O'Flynn](#)

The field of public management is in transitional times. Confronted by increasing complexity, and challenged for its Western dominance, important shifts are taking place. In this paper I will argue that there are important themes emerging that can provide insights into this shifting worldview. In doing so I will explore what this means for our notions of the state, its connection to society, and the practice of public management.

In this paper I will explore four main themes, and then draw out some connections to public management developments in Indonesia. The first theme focuses on how we might grapple more with complexity, rather than resort to rationality in an increasingly turbulent world. The second explores how humility can help us to navigate a more uncertain world, and the demands it places on states and society. The third examines how a return to empathy can aid in building more human and humane approaches to governing. And the fourth sets out the emergence of a more positive orientation towards public administration and how this is

shaping how we think about what it is that states do for society.

In exploring potential building blocks of the next phase of public management, I will pose some questions of what these shifts might mean for Indonesia, but also ask what Indonesia can teach the world.

Keywords: Public Management; States and Society; Governing; Indonesia

2:00 pm

[Plans over Plans: Multiscalar Governance and Poverty Alleviation Strategies Across Governance Structures in Indonesia](#)

[Eko Prasajo](#), [Zuliansyah Putra Zulkarnain](#), [Reza Fathurrahman](#)

Since its independence 80 years ago, Indonesia has evolved as a unitary state with a multi-tiered governance structure, spanning provinces, districts/cities, and—since 2014—village-level self-governance. Poverty alleviation remains a persistent national challenge, with policies and programs designed and implemented across these different administrative scales. However, the interplay between these initiatives and how they shape poverty reduction efforts remains underexplored.

This study investigates the interconnectedness of poverty alleviation strategies across Indonesia's multilevel governance framework. Employing a qualitative approach, we analyze planning documents and stakeholder interviews to assess how varying policy targets and intergovernmental dynamics influence implementation. Findings reveal that divergent practical priorities at each governance level generate distinct incentives for actors, while shifting power relations further shape policy outcomes.

By applying a multiscalar governance lens, this research contributes to broader debates on decentralization, local autonomy, and inclusive development in post-colonial states. The study offers critical insights for policymakers seeking to enhance coherence in poverty reduction strategies amid Indonesia's evolving governance landscape.

Keywords: multiscalar governance, multilevel governance, poverty, strategic planning

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 5: Health Equity and Transformations in Contemporary Indonesia: Panel 2

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Health and wellbeing](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Tiara Marthias**

One of the key responsibilities of a modern nation state is to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of its citizens. The papers presented in this double panel engage with ongoing health transformations and the extent to which health equity is and can be achieved within a country with extraordinary geographical, cultural and economic diversity. This theme is timely because it is now a decade since the introduction of Jaminan Kesehatan Indonesia (JKN), which represented a legion investment towards achieving equity in access to universal health care for Indonesians. The panel papers consider how a range of populations and actors are still experiencing health inequities and how these disparities are intrinsically linked with other forms of social and economic inequity, as well as exploring differences in the accessibility of health services for marginalised populations. The presenters in this panel also examine how policy guiding health transitions moving forward needs to be explicitly engaged with improving health equity and provide insights into how this can be achieved in different locations and at different scales from national, provincial and community level perspectives.

2:00 pm

[Mapping inequity in access to health and social services among young street-situated mothers in Yogyakarta](#)

[Dr Pritania Astari](#)

Equity in access to health and social services depends on many factors. This paper presents the findings of a community mapping exercise conducted with street-situated young mothers in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2025. Sixteen mothers participated in the exercise, mapping the areas where they live and work in relation to available services that they were aware of. Services identified included community-based health services organised by CBOs and the government, maternal and child health services, primary health care centres, domestic violence services, civil registry offices, public hospitals, and national health insurance offices.

Young mothers then identified barriers to accessing services, including social, economic, and geographical obstacles. Additionally, they shared insights into which services they prefer to access and the characteristics of those services. The findings highlight the need to consider the specific contexts in which street-situated mothers live when addressing equity in access to, and quality of, health and social services.

2:00 pm

[Understanding the Motivation and Challenges of Village Midwives in East Nusa Tenggara](#)

[Dr Sandra Frans](#)

Village midwives in Indonesia are an essential part of the health system, functioning as an extension of Puskesmas (primary health clinics) in local communities. More information is needed to better understand how they manage their varied tasks, especially considering a renewed government focus on upscaling primary health care service delivery at village level. This paper explores how health equity is translated in regional Indonesia, in two resource poor settings, drawing on 12 in-depth interviews with village midwives. Positive experiences reported include intrinsic rewards, such as personal satisfaction, community respect and support from the health district. Meanwhile, the negative experiences identified include geographical challenges, poor access and infrastructure, high demand to deliver health priority programs, and the addition of miscellaneous administration tasks on top of their main roles. Investment in designing supportive resources for the health workforce working in remote populations is crucially needed to ensure better systems for the providers.

2:00 pm

[Understanding the complex drivers of health inequities for Indonesian women diagnosed with cervical cancer](#)

[Prof Linda Bennett](#)

Cervical cancer is fourth most common form of cancer affecting women globally, and the second most common cancer affecting women in Indonesia, after breast cancer. With consistently rising incidence of this disease and extremely poor survival rates at just 57% of women diagnosed (after 5 years), it is critical to explore why survival rates for Indonesian women are so low. This paper draws on ethnographic case studies with 31 Indonesian women with a cervical cancer diagnosis gathered between 2019 and 2021. The analysis explores patterns of inequity in the timeliness of achieving diagnosis, in accessing and completing treatment, and in relation to women's access to early detection via cervical screening. The findings examine how inequity is driven by a range of health system factors, aspects of women's personal situation such as geography, education and income-status, and widespread misperceptions about who is at risk.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 5: Land, Development and Social Movements

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Land & Economic Development](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Ariane Utomo](#)

2:00 pm

[Contextualising Social Movements: An Exploration of Media Activism in Padang, Bandung, and Semarang, Indonesia.](#)

[Mrs Indriyani Sugiharto](#)

This paper explores collaborative engagement models between activists and journalists as part of civil society in post-authoritarian Indonesia. Using a Gramscian approach, it takes the case of The Agrarian Reform Consortium (KPA), which recorded 115 agrarian conflicts related to National Strategic Projects (PSN) in Indonesia from 2020-2023, prompting grassroots resistance movements across regions. While studies have shown that the resistance lacked significant and lasting impact, some forms show strategic and tactical alliances were formed with potential long-term engagement. Based on grounded research, we focus on three cities—Padang, Bandung, and Semarang—hosting such alliances between activists and independent media. Our finding indicates a spectrum of partnership outcomes, from collaborative investigative reports to a cross-community and grassroots organizational campaign network. We argue that explaining variations and the formation of local movements could enrich our understanding of how democratic struggles take shape in context.

Keywords: Indonesia; civil society; activism; journalism; movement.

2:00 pm

[Development and Separatist Conflict: Reflecting on Papua After Twenty-Five Years](#)

[Gabriel Lele](#)

This research revisits the puzzling nexus between development and separatist conflict. One body of literature argues that development is beneficial in resolving separatist conflict, while another maintains otherwise. This raises the question: Under what circumstances has development tamed or fueled separatist conflict? Working with a case study of Papua, this research expects to answer this question. It argues that development fails to tame separatist conflict due to the nature of its approach, which lacks sensitivity to conflict background. Upon the implementation of asymmetrical decentralization in 2001, the national government gradually employed a neo-centralist approach in planning and implementing development. This creates a sense of deprivation in terms of both process and outcome of development. The approach fuels conflict even further. The finding implies the importance of more robust local engagement and decentralized arrangement in any development undertakings.

Keywords: Development; Separatist Conflict; Asymmetrical Decentralization; Papua

2:00 pm

[Negotiating Indonesia's 'New Developmentalism' from Land Use Decision-Making in Wadas Case](#)

[Muhammad Bahrul Ulum](#)

Under Jokowi's administration, Indonesia prioritised economic growth through massive infrastructure initiatives linked to the concept of 'new developmentalism' proposed by Eve Warburton, which accelerates economic growth without repressive institutions. This thesis negotiates her notion, by arguing that new developmentalism has involved significant repression, particularly following the introduction of the National Strategic Project (PSN), as seen in Kulonprogo, Wadas and Rempang. In the alternative, the concept of 'repressive developmentalism,' as Herb Feith described, has resurfaced in contemporary Indonesia. This research takes a case of land procurements for mining andesite in Wadas, Purworejo, to construct Bener Dam, based on interviews with 14 local farmers, 5 academics, 5 activists opposing forced land acquisition, and 7 key national and local decision-makers. The findings indicate that decision-making on land use was influenced by technocratic elites and backed by police forces as well as retired military figures, leading to inadequate participation and repression of local farmers.

2:00 pm

[Land Titling in the Jokowi Era: The PTSL Program in Historical Context](#)

[Mrs Fathia Hashilah](#)

The allocation of an individual land title is generally considered an attractive opportunity for individuals to improve land tenure security, to increase the value of their land as a saleable commodity and for potential use as collateral for a bank loan. The PTSL (Complete and Systematic Land Registration) Program, implemented during the Jokowi presidency, was thus widely appreciated by land title recipients across the country. Under the program, the number of land parcels registered with a *hak milik* certificate increased substantially and may even come close to achieving the highly ambitious goal of registering 126 million land parcels by 2025. This program, however, was not the first time that the government of Indonesia had introduced individual land registration to its citizens. This paper presents the history of individual land titling in Indonesia since the colonial era, examining the challenges of successful implementation and analysing the impacts of previous programs. Legal arrangements regarding land ownership are foundational determinants of societal development and this review will enable a more realistic assessment of the long-term social and economic implications of the PTSL program in Indonesia.

09 July 2025

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Australia-Indonesia in Conversation - Closing Event

Special Event - [Australia-Indonesia in Conversation](#) - Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Day 3: Afternoon Break

Break - [Break/Lunch](#)

This break is the conclusion of ICOC Day 3 for paper presentations.
During this break there is an optional guided tour of the Potter Museum of Art.
Following this break, you are invited to join the Arief Budiman Lecture.

09 July 2025

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Guided Tour of the Potter Museum of Art

Special Event - [Event](#)

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

This event and exhibition access is FREE.

Location: The Potter Museum of Art [Map link](#)
Corner Swanston Street and Masson Road
The University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus

About the exhibition

[65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art](#) celebrates the brilliance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art while confronting the dark heart of Australia's colonial history and proclaims the importance of Indigenous knowledge and agency. The exhibition features more than 400 works, including rarely-seen artworks and cultural objects from the University of Melbourne's collections, 193 important loans from 77 private and public lenders and six new commissions.

09 July 2025

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Arief Budiman Lecture given by Dandhy Dwi Laksono

Special Event - [Event](#) - **Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room 106 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Note this event is not located at Melbourne Connect.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room level 1 of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

Speaker: leading film maker **Dandhy Dwi Laksono**

Challenges to Indonesian Democracy: Autocracy Strengthens, Journalism and Film Influence Fades?

Dandhy Laksono will talk about his experiences as a film director and co-founder of the documentary production house [Watchdoc](#). Laksono will speak about how two Watchdoc films [Dirty Vote](#) and [Sexy Killers](#) are examples how it is increasingly difficult as a filmmaker to engage in long-term reporting and investigative journalism in the public interest.

About Dandhy Laksono:

Dandhy Laksono is an award-winning Indonesian activist, investigative journalist, and filmmaker. He previously worked with Indonesian and foreign news channels: AcehKita.com, Liputan 6 of SCTV, RCTI, and ABC Radio. In 2009, he co-founded the documentary production studio WatchDoc which promotes social change in Indonesia through videos and digital media. Watchdoc has produced more than 400 documentary episodes, 1000 television features, and at least 100 commercial videos & works on topics such as corruption, democratic transition, environmental issues, and human rights. In 2021, Watchdoc received

the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Award and the Ramon Magsaysay Award for the Emergent Leadership for its activism. Upon receiving the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Watchdoc was praised for its “highly principled crusade for an independent media organization, its energetic use of investigative journalism, documentary filmmaking, and digital technology in its effort to transform Indonesia’s media landscape, and its commitment to a vision of the people themselves as makers of media and shapers of their own world.”

About the Arief Budiman Lecture:

The Arief Budiman Public Lecture is held in honour of scholar, activist and public intellectual Arief Budiman (1941-2020), who was Foundation Professor of Indonesian at the University of Melbourne from 1997 to 2008. The Arief Budiman Lecture is supported by the Asian Studies Trust Fund, The University of Melbourne. Inaugurated in 2021, the annual Arief Budiman Lecture is held by the Indonesian Studies Program at the [Asia Institute](#).

10 July 2025

8:00 am - 8:45 am **Day 4: Registration**

Break - [Break/Lunch](#) - Registration & Info Desk (Melbourne Connect)

Please come by the ICOC 2025 Registration and Information desk to collect your name badge.
Location: Superfloor, Mezzanine Level (Melbourne Connect, 700 Swanston Street, Carlton) - outside Forum 1
The cafe and coffee cart will also be available for teas and coffees (Note: only electronic or card payments accepted)
For wifi, join network name MelbConnectGuest (no password needed)
To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks.
[Link for prayer room/mosque locations](#)

10 July 2025

9:00 am - 10:30 am **Session 6: ~~CANCELLED~~ Masculinities and Gender Dynamics ~~CANCELLED~~**

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

~~CANCELLED~~

Chair: [Bronwyn Beech Jones](#)

9:00 am

~~WITHDRAWN~~ [Shadowing Male Authority: Female Involvement on Santriwati Creative Writing on Pesantren in Digital Era](#)
[Mrs. Atiqotul Fitriyah](#)

This research aims to highlight the evolving role of women in pesantren as digital literacy improves. With advancements in technology, santriwati (female students) are gaining greater opportunities for engagement and productivity. The impact of technology is transforming many aspects of everyday life. This study employs a qualitative design and a digital ethnography approach to understand how Nyai and Ning (pesantren female leaders) empower santri through creative writing in the digital space. The research focuses on three key figures: Khilma Anis, Mambaul Athiya, and Mar'atul Makhmudah, as well as 15 actively writing santriwati. Utilizing Bourdieu's theories of habitus and capital, the findings indicate that Nyai and Ning have taken a leading role in writing activities within pesantren. This shift enhances their social and cultural influence, which was previously dominated by men's authority. As a result, women are contributing equally to the growth of pesantren rather than being solely led by men.

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 6: Equality and Social Inclusion: Gender, Disability and Educational Perspectives

Panel (Paper) Presentations - History & Society - Forum 3 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Lutfun Nahar Lata**

9:00 am

[Access to Higher Education in Indonesia: Entitlement, Basic Right, or Optional Pursuit](#)

[Almira Novia Zulaikha](#)

As Indonesia nears its 80th year of independence, debates around access to higher education—whether it is an entitlement, a basic right, or a personal choice—gain prominence. The Ministry of Education's *Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka* (MBKM) program has transformed learning by emphasizing student autonomy and requiring institutions to overhaul curricula to align with 21st-century demands. While these changes aim to modernize education, they raise concerns about inclusiveness, equity, and accessibility. This paper examines how MBKM policies shape public perceptions of higher education and evaluates their implications for justice and equity. Through policy analysis, interviews, and case studies, we argue that educational reforms must uphold inclusivity, recognizing higher education as a fundamental right. By fostering equitable access through inclusive curricula, Indonesia can ensure that all citizens contribute to and benefit from national development, paving the way for a fairer and more prosperous future.

9:00 am

[Constructing Equality: A Critical Analysis of Gender Mainstreaming in Indonesia](#)

[Fitri Oktaviani](#)

Despite 24 years of gender mainstreaming efforts, Indonesia's gender development remains limited. In 2022, Indonesia ranked 109th out of 190 countries on the Gender Inequality Index (GII), positioning it slightly above the global average but behind several Southeast Asian neighbours, including the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. This paper analyses how gender equality, within the framework of gender mainstreaming, is perceived and constructed by key stakeholders. Data was collected from online media discourse, supplemented by interviews and survey results, to explore stakeholders' understanding of gender equality and the construction of gender mainstreaming initiatives. This study critiques the bureaucratic constraints hindering the success of gender mainstreaming in Indonesia.

9:00 am

[Mobilizing Social Capital: Communication and Collaboration in Disability Empowerment](#)

[Dr Juni Alfiah Chusjairi](#)

This paper seeks to examine how DILANS Indonesia (Disabled and Elderly People's Movement) empowers its members through a series of collaborations and strengthening internal activities. The study uses the perspective of social capital and explores how communication is used to strengthen members, collaborative cooperation with various parties, and advocacy. Music concerts, museum tours, and yoga, are bonding social capital that strengthens togetherness among DILANS members. Building relationships with the wider community, such as educational institutions, small medium enterprises, and BISINDO (Sign Language Indonesia), is bridging social capital that helps in opening access to external resources. Linking social capital is implemented by conducting sidewalk audits and sidewalk policy advocacy by providing input to the Ministry of PUPR (Ministry of Public Works and Housing of the Republic of Indonesia) as well as collaboration with international donors such as the Ford Foundation for financial support.

9:00 am

[Women in the Public Sphere: Gender Sensitivity in Political Decision-Making 80 Years into Indonesia's Independence](#)

[Almira Novia Zulaikha](#)

Women's participation in the public sphere is a critical measure of democratization, particularly in advancing gender equality and inclusiveness. Despite progress in women's political involvement in Indonesia, underrepresentation in key positions and persistent patriarchal norms often result in policies that inadequately address issues like gender-based violence, maternal health, childcare, and economic equality. Legal initiatives, such as the quota system, have improved representation but often fail to translate into substantive policy change, raising concerns about tokenism. This paper examines whether women's presence in political institutions leads to gender-sensitive policies through case studies, policy analysis, and interviews with female leaders. It also explores the societal impact of more inclusive decision-making processes. As Indonesia celebrates 80 years of independence, advancing gender-sensitive political decisions is crucial for building a just and inclusive society. Ensuring policies reflect women's voices is not only

equitable but vital for national development and a truly independent Indonesia.

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 6: Governance for Sustainability: Place-Based Approaches, Investment, Social Innovation and Community Empowerment

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Environment & Climate Change](#) - **Room 119 (Sidney Myer Asia Centre)**

Chair: **Charlotte Setijadi**

9:00 am

[Governing Towards Sustainable Rural Development: Utilizing Place-Based Policy Approach in Panggungharjo Village Indonesia](#)
[Reza Fathurrahman](#)

Place-based policies have seen a remarkable renaissance in recent years, but this renaissance is rarely connected to two underlying reasons: Environmental concerns and a growing appreciation of cultural diversity. Using a case study from an award-winning village in Indonesia, this article examines the utilization of a place-based approach leveraging local traditions to achieve sustainable rural development and identifies the necessary conditions for more effective place-based strategies in a near-city village.

It is evident that new forms of PBPs are compatible with broader notions of rural development if they include re-appreciation, re-grounding, and re-positioning dimensions. Based on the collected evidence, this study found several necessary conditions for effectively utilizing a place-based approach in sustainable rural development context. Hence, the Indonesian case, while small, presents some fascinating insights into the effective use of place-based policies also in the Global North.

Keywords: Place-Based Policy; Sustainable Rural Development; Village; Rural Area

9:00 am

[Hidden Knowledges: How Was Social Innovation Co-Governance Model in Indonesia Leads to Sustainable Future?](#)
[Vishnu Juwono, Retno Kusumastuti](#)

Social innovation requires effective governance. Previous studies suggest that successful governance in social innovation need to consider the community's capacity, especially in building relationships among targeted communities and others stakeholder. In this context, social innovation becomes a community of practice. There is still a gap regarding how the connection between social innovation governance and sustainable development.

Christopher Meyer's found that current innovation policies and governance do not involve social innovation as a strategy for sustainable development. This paper presents an appropriate model demonstrating that social innovation governance with the mode of co-governance do support sustainable development in Indonesia. First method conducted in this research involves scientometric analysis to validate empirical evidence related to social innovation co-governance, followed by utilizing secondary data for the case study to develop the model. The research findings indicate that a sustainable social innovation governance model can occur if it involves a community of practice of stakeholders.

Keywords: Social Innovation Co-Governance; Co-creation; Sustainable Development

9:00 am

[Optimizing Investment Governance in Jakarta Special Capital Region: A Policy Analysis of Special Authority Implementation after Enactment of Law No. 2 of 2024 on the Jakarta Special Capital Region](#)
[Eko Sakapurnama](#)

This study analyzes the implementation of special regional authority over investment governance in Jakarta, following the enactment of Law No. 2 of 2024 on the Special Capital Region (DKJ). With Jakarta's transition from the national capital to a global economic hub, the Jakarta Investment and One-Stop Integrated Service Agency (DPMPTSP) plays a strategic role in facilitating investment climate reform. This research employs a qualitative approach through literature review and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) involving central and regional government institutions, academics, and business representatives.

The findings show that while Jakarta holds promising investment potential due to its infrastructure, human

capital, and strategic location, several challenges remain. These include overlapping regulations, limited institutional integration, and issues in licensing governance. Despite regulatory reforms, foreign investors still face bureaucratic hurdles and limited legal clarity. The report concludes with actionable recommendations for enhancing institutional readiness, digital integration, and the alignment of investment regulations with Jakarta's vision as a global, inclusive, and sustainable city. These findings contribute to the formulation of policy directions and the development of technical guidelines (NSPK) for the implementation of investment functions under the new DKJ framework.

Keywords: Investment Governance, Special Authority, Jakarta Special Capital Region, Policy Implementation, Sustainable Economic Growth, Global City

9:00 am

[Sukamade Light Village: The Impact of State-Owned Enterprise in Empowering Isolated Communities at Meru Betiri National Park Indonesia](#)
[Mrs. Theresia Octastefani](#)

Sukamade is a remote area inside Meru Betiri National Park that is often forgotten in regional development. Local Communities have difficulty accessing various basic needs. This condition is ironic considering that Sukamade has a world tourist destination beach that is always "sold" by the regional government. This situation changed when the Indonesian Electricity Company (PLN) entered Sukamade with its philanthropic foundation offering the Sukamade Light Village Program. This research examines the impact of PLN as a state-owned enterprise in Empowering Isolated communities through this program. Results showed that apart from providing an electricity network, this program can increase community welfare by providing access to capital for business and integrated with environmental conservation efforts such as reforestation turtle nesting locations. However, this program indirectly produces negative impacts. 24-hour electricity makes teenagers addicted to gadgets, the internet, and pornography. Therefore, local community leaders encourage teenagers to be more active in empowerment activities.

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 6: Histories Hidden in Plain Sight

Roundtable - [Arts & Culture](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

****Note Room Change****

Chair: **Lynette Russell**

The study of history often depends on access to archives. But this raises questions about who has access, and which materials are deemed significant. As Jacques Derrida wrote in *Archive Fever* (1995), "[T]here is no political power without control of the archive, if not memory. Effective democratisation can always be measured by this essential criterion: the participation in and access to the archive, its constitution, and its interpretation."

This roundtable session unites Indonesia-focused researchers from institutions in Indonesia and Australia to explore how archives can reveal lesser-known histories. Projects represented include:

- Global Encounters & First Nations Peoples: A research project examining interactions between Australia's Indigenous peoples and ocean voyagers over the past millennium.
- Queer Indonesia Archive: A digital archiving project that collects, preserves and celebrates the lives and experiences of queer Indonesia.
- Monash Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre: A research centre fostering collaborations between Monash researchers and Indonesia.
- The MAREGE Institute: A research and cultural centre investigating encounters between Makassan sailors and Australian Indigenous communities since the 15th century.

The panel will expand on the concept of the historical archive to encompass oral histories, ephemera, family records, linguistic and archaeological evidence, and botanical and genetic data. Presenters will address challenges in translation, cultural differences, and digital methods for accessibility, aiming to engage communities with hidden histories.

9:00 am

[‘Histories Hidden in Plain Sight’.](#)

[Prof Lynette Russell](#), [Dr David Haworth](#), [Fikri Yathir](#), [A/Prof Sharyn Davies](#), [Sidhi Vhisatya](#)

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9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 6: Linguistic Landscapes and Masculinities

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Arts & Culture](#) - M13 + M14 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Michael Ewing**

** Note panel title change **

9:00 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Exploring how Sundanese construes dynamic and static relations through grammar: a systemic functional linguistics perspective](#)
[Lungguh Bangga](#)

This talk focuses on exploring how Sundanese, an Austronesian language spoken in West Java, Indonesia, construes activity and static relations through grammar. The description offered here is geared towards educational concerns associated with developing literacy programs, particularly in Sundanese. Utilising axial argumentations (Martin et al., 2013; Matthiessen & Halliday, 2009; Matthiessen et al., 2018), the works presented in this talk focuses on two types of Sundanese clauses, e.g., material and relational clauses, in relation to their contribution to construe ideational meanings in texts. The talk will first revisit relevant initial descriptions of Sundanese, laying out the foundation to propose a more comprehensive, systematic descriptions from systemic functional linguistics (SFL) tradition to language description and typology (e.g., Caffarel et al., 2004; Kim et al., 2023; Martin et al., 2019; Martin et al., 2021; Martin et al., 2023). It then provides a description of material clauses in relation to their contribution to the construal of occurrence figures which in turns realise activity in register variable field. After that, the talk will continue to explore how Sundanese construe ideational meanings statically through relational clauses which is important to help uncover the realisation of state figures in text. To exemplify these, a deconstruction of a biography text used as a teaching-learning material in current Sundanese textbook will be provided. The deconstruction highlights how Sundanese material and relational clauses build the field in relation to sequence of activities and identification of historical personae along with their significance, such as their works. This demonstrates how SFL-informed descriptions of Sundanese clauses can potentially aid the ongoing development of literacy programs in Indonesia, particularly for teaching and learning Sundanese across levels of education.

9:00 am

[Korean language in the Linguistic Landscape of Indonesia: The case of Malang and Kupang](#)
[Dr Nurenzia Yannuar](#)

This study focuses on the emergence of the Korean language within Indonesia's linguistic landscape by utilising a semiotic approach along with interpretive and critical discourse analysis (Fairclough 1995, 2010; Jaworski & Thurlow, 2010). Data of the study includes pictures of signs collected on the streets of Malang and Kupang in 2024. These locations, Malang in East Java and Kupang in East Nusa Tenggara, represent the diversity of the Indonesian archipelago. Additionally, interviews with university students provided insights into their perceptions of the Korean signs. Our preliminary findings indicate that Korean words frequently coexist with Hangeul, Romanised Korean, Indonesian, and English, reflecting translanguaging in public spaces. We argue that Romanised Korean and Hangeul serve more than mere decorative elements; they represent the transnational identity of Indonesian youth and modern Indonesians navigating a global linguistic environment. The results of the study suggest the changing perception of the Korean language among Indonesia's younger generation.

9:00 am

[Meaning Beyond Words: A Systemic Functional Semiotics Analysis of Intonation and Gestures in Indonesian English Presentations](#)
[Ms Annisa Shofa Tsuraya](#)

This study investigates how Indonesian students who speak Makassar as their first language use English in their presentations. It focuses on understanding differences in pronunciation between English and Bahasa Indonesia, and identifies any challenges students face with complex English words and sounds. Additionally, the research examines how students use body language and facial expressions during their presentations. The study aims to uncover the specific difficulties these students encounter and how their pronunciation and body language construct meaning and influence their communication. Audio-, video-recording data will be collected from 20 (10 in English and 10 in Bahasa Indonesia) academic students' presentations in Indonesian University. This study aims to contribute to the pedagogical understanding of phonological and paralanguage challenges faced by Indonesian learners of English, and to inform the development of effective teaching strategies and interventions tailored to their needs.

9:00 am

[Pigeons and men in the entrails of the city](#)
[Dr Robbie Peters](#)

This paper explores how pigeon racing in a Surabaya neighbourhood keeps poor men out of the city by hiding them within it. The paper provides an ethnographic example of what Anne Stoler (2022) conceptualises as the "interior frontiers" of the postcolony where equivocation is a means of dissent against being known. It shows how the racing pigeon enables such dissent by helping men escape the interpretive violence that has haunted them over many decades of authoritarian rule.

9:00 am

[Redefining Indonesian Masculinities: Familial Values and the Return of Strong Men](#)
[Dr Nur Wulan](#)

This study examines the ways Indonesian masculinities are being shaped through the norms of masculinities shown and represented by the newly elected President, Prabowo. He has been known as a strong, militaristic, and patriotic man that promised to bring back the prosperity of the country. His leadership marks a significant difference from the country's former presidents. A number of studies on Indonesian masculinities highlight familial values and the dominant norms of senior men (*Bapakism*) as strong markers of Indonesian masculinities. Suharto and Jokowi exemplified this norm in the representation of the president as Indonesia's *Bapak Pembangunan* (the Father of Development) and the intervention in government policies for the sake of the family's interests respectively.

With new internal and external challenges, as well as global socio-cultural trends, this study will examine whether the notion of familial values is still an important marker of the next Indonesian male leader.

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 6: Navigating Justice and Accountability: Restorative Practices and Victim Perspectives

Chair: **Simon Bian**

9:00 am

[Evaluating Restorative Justice in the Indonesian Prosecution Service: A Shift Towards Efficiency Over Victim Protection](#)

[Dr. Fachrizal Afandi](#)

This paper examines the challenges faced by the Indonesian Prosecution Service (IPS) in prioritizing victim protection within the framework of restorative justice (RJ). Traditionally, prosecutors in Indonesia have been more like “postmen,” delivering police case files to the court without actively considering the needs of victims. The 2021 Prosecutor Law now requires prosecutors to act as mediators and apply RJ principles, which should encourage reconciliation between suspects and victims. However, in practice, RJ often benefits the suspects more, as it mainly serves to reduce case backlogs and minimize prison overcrowding, rather than addressing the needs and rights of victims. The government promotes RJ to ease system burdens, but without revising the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), RJ remains a policy focused on efficiency over victims' interests. This paper critiques this RJ approach, arguing that KUHP reform is essential for IPS to advocate for victim rights in Indonesia.

9:00 am

[The Failure of the Governmental Non-Judicial Mechanism for Resolving Sexual Violence Cases as a Past Human Rights Violation in Indonesia](#)

[Dr Sri Wiyanti Eddyono](#)

This paper examines whether the Indonesian government's non-judicial settlement for addressing past gross human rights violence (PGHRV) may bring better conditions for the victims of sexual violence of past human rights violations. Indonesia has struggled to address past human rights violence through formal justice mechanisms. There are about 12 unsolved cases, half of which include sexual violence during conflict. Learning from different experiences in various countries, the non-judicial mechanisms in settling gross human rights violations are not a new practice. However, this approach has a complexity in its implementation, particularly in handling sexual violence cases. Finding the dead end of the formal judicial mechanism due to heavy political interest, this approach is still disputable, particularly in Indonesia, when the team for non-judicial mechanism settlement of past gross human rights violence (Tim PPHAM) was established in 2022. The non-judicial mechanism has not had a significant impact on victims of sexual violence.

9:00 am

[The Role of Restorative Justice in Criminal Law: A Case Study of the Problems on the Police Accountability in the Application of Restorative Justice in Drug Use Offences in Indonesia](#)

Restorative justice, introduced into the criminal justice system in the 1970s, was developed in the Global North, with little attention given to its application in the Global South. In Indonesia, restorative justice in 2020, was incorporated into the national development plan to address prison overcrowding. However, a key misconception in Indonesia reduces restorative justice to an out-of-court settlement. The National Police issued Regulation Number 8/2021, extending restorative justice to drug offences, allowing case terminations and rehabilitation orders within six days of arrest under Narcotics Law.

My master's thesis research, using socio-legal analysis, found that in practice, the application of restorative justice in Indonesia perpetuates police violence, extortion, and the transactional nature of drug rehabilitation during investigations, without judicial oversight. This is driven by the legacy of colonialism, authoritarianism, and punitive drug policies. The case highlights the risks of restorative justice being co-opted by state power, leading to its abusive institutionalisation.

9:00 am

[The Role of Restorative Justice in Criminal Law: A Case Study of the Problems on the Police Accountability in the Application of Restorative Justice in Drug Use Offences in Indonesia](#)

[Ms. Maidina Rahmawati](#)

Restorative justice, introduced into the criminal justice system in the 1970s, was developed in the Global North, with little attention given to its application in the Global South. In Indonesia, restorative justice in 2020, was incorporated into the national development plan to address prison overcrowding. However, a key misconception in Indonesia reduces restorative justice to an out-of-court settlement. The National Police issued Regulation Number 8/2021, extending restorative justice to drug offences, allowing case terminations

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9:00 am

[What is the position of the victim in the Indonesian criminal justice system?](#)

[Mr Dio Ashar Wicaksana](#)

In 1985, the United Nations adopted the *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*. This declaration demands countries regulate the provision of access to justice for victims of crime and their fair treatment within justice systems. It also includes the obligation to fulfil rights such as restitution, compensation, and assistance for victims. It reflected the global trend in rethinking the purpose of criminal law policy as being not about sanctioning offenders but also prioritizing the protection and recovery of victims of crime.

However, In Indonesia, the challenges with these different Indonesia legislative instruments are that, although they address the restoration mechanism for the loss suffered by victims and focus on forms of criminal harm, they were enacted without making significant changes to the existing Indonesian criminal procedural law. That procedural law is found in Law No. 8/81 on Criminal Procedure Law/*Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana* (KUHAP). The KUHAP primarily emphasizes safeguarding the rights of suspects. The only provision of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Law (KUHAP) that regulates victims' rights is Article 98. This article outlines how prosecutors may combine criminal prosecutions with civil lawsuits to pursue civil damages suffered by victims because of criminal acts. Therefore, this study asks, 'How are the rights to receive restoration and interest of victims conceived within Indonesia's evolving criminal justice system?' and analyzes through the regulation of criminal justice in Indonesia

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 6: Religion, Law and Community Well-Being

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Religion](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: [Annisa Beta](#)

9:00 am

[Charismatic Leadership and Altruism: Key Drivers of Women's Philanthropy in Indonesia's Tzu Chi Foundation](#)

[Yumasdaleni -](#)

The Tzu Chi Foundation, a prominent Buddhist humanitarian organization, has seen a significant rise in women's involvement in its philanthropic activities in Indonesia. This study investigates the factors motivating women to actively participate in the Foundation's charitable initiatives. Through in-depth interviews with female members, it highlights charismatic leadership as a key influence. Leaders known for their compassion, vision, and personal connection-building foster an environment that nurtures altruistic values and inspires women to engage in humanitarian efforts. These leaders empower women by instilling a strong sense of purpose and making them feel valued in their contributions. Altruism also emerges as a primary motivator, as Tzu Chi's focus on compassion, selflessness, and service deeply resonates with its female members, providing them with a meaningful avenue for action. The study offers valuable insights into the drivers of women's philanthropic engagement and provides strategies for organizations to enhance female participation in charitable activities.

9:00 am

[**WITHDRAWN** Constitutional Law, Religious Freedom, and Courts in Indonesia: A study of 'Kartu Tanda Penduduk' Case](#)

[Ms. Meghna Kajla](#)

This paper critically examines constitutional court's landmark decision in the *Kartu Tanda Penduduk* case,

which equates 'beliefs' with recognised 'religions' in Indonesia. Scholars argue the court expanded religious freedom (Butt, 2021), whereas others point towards reversal of recent trends of upholding majority opinion against religious minorities (Bagir 2021). By analysing case records and interviews, this paper argues that although the court adopts an inclusive interpretation of Pancasila, recognising indigenous beliefs as believers in *Almighty God*, its implementation is limited by Indonesia's differentiated citizenship model (Hefner 2021). Contrary to legal scholars who criticise the court's unclear reasoning (Butt 2021), public opinion (Ibrahim 2022) and political context (Nalle 2021), the paper shows judge's personal opinion impedes extending constitutional rights to beliefs. It further argues that strategic litigation by civil society groups, rather than the court, has enabled equal status to beliefs in a politically regulated sphere dominated by the majority religious group.

9:00 am

[Mediating Well-being: Buddhist Meditation as Religious Bricolage among Yogyakarta's Interreligious Youth](#)
[Mr Fuji Riang Prastowo](#)

This study investigates how Buddhist meditation provides Yogyakarta's youth with a culturally hybrid approach to mental health within Indonesia's diverse religious landscape. Conducted in 2023-2024 at Karangdjati Vihara, this ethnographic research utilizes teacher-student dialogues as a primary data source, with the researcher—a meditation teacher trained in Thai, Burmese, and Indian Theravada traditions—facilitating focused meditative practices. The findings reveal that many young participants are motivated by well-being needs, with some referred by mental health professionals due to psychiatric concerns, while others engage due to limited access to psychological services. Buddhist teachings, especially the Abhidhamma as a form of Buddhist psychology, resonate with predominantly Muslim youth, signifying a process of religious bricolage. Mindfulness and the Four Noble Truths are central themes. The findings illuminate a post-pandemic shift toward "lived identity" and individual spiritual agency, positioning meditation as a resource for navigating identity and cosmopolitan spirituality in a pluralistic society.

9:00 am

[Examining Agency Social Capital in Pesantren-Based Microfinance in Indonesia](#)
[Mrs Titi Fitrianita](#)

The rapid expansion of business units in many provinces in Indonesia brings a question of whether these pesantren are one venue for economic empowerment. The scholarship linking the pesantren to economic empowerment is very limited; it simply focuses on the implementations of the business units and the success or failures of the companies in people's development. This essay discloses the rationale and mechanisms behind which the involvement of pesantren in economic empowerment activities takes place in the microfinance framework. Utilizing a qualitative literature review and focusing on the concept of social capital, it was deduced that the reason why pesantren is involved in microfinance activities draws its impetus from its institution's mission to strengthen Islamic teaching, achieve independence from the state, and reap benefits for the community around the pesantren. Three principles are transferred to the students who, later, are already alumni. They are welcomed back by the community, in particular surrounding pesantren and broader society, to build trust and network that may help in improving the financing based on pesantren. It is the state, as an authoritative entity governing public space, that stipulates formal legal prerequisites for its emergence and incorporation with the pesantren to issue permits so as to align with the ethos of pesantren within the BMT framework.

10 July 2025

10:30 am - 11:00 am
Day 4: Morning Break

Break - [Break/Lunch](#)

To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks. A coffee cart will be available at Melbourne Connect for coffee purchases.

10 July 2025

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 7: Histories of Nationalism, Heroism and Public Memory

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [History & Society](#) - Forum 3 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Justin Wejak**

11:00 am

[Public History in Indonesia: How History Shapes the Nation](#)
[Kresno Brahmantyo](#)

Public history plays a critical role in shaping national identity and collective memory, serving as a bridge between academic history and the public. In Indonesia, public history encompasses a range of initiatives, from museums and monuments to media and education programs, all of which contribute to how citizens understand their past. By narrating historical events through the lens of national significance, public history fosters a shared identity rooted in Indonesia's diverse cultures and complex history, from the colonial period to the present day. These efforts not only educate the public about key events but also engage citizens in critical discussions about historical narratives, including issues of independence, political transitions, and social justice. The teaching of public history in Indonesia emphasizes inclusivity, allowing marginalized groups to be represented in the historical discourse, and highlights the role of oral traditions and local histories. Through its diverse approaches, public history in Indonesia helps create a more nuanced understanding of the nation's heritage and its ongoing evolution.

Keywords: public history, Indonesia, national identity, collective memory, historical education, inclusivity, local histories, heritage, public engagement.

11:00 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Re-imagining Heroism in the City of Hero: Experiencing Sense of Place through Walking Tour in Surabaya](#)
[Lintang Wahyusih Nirmala, Rio Satria Nugroho](#)

As widely known for the heroism story since the Indonesian independence day in 1945, Surabaya has many historical buildings to capture the sense of that heroism. Following 80 years of its independence, Surabaya's historic buildings are now tourist attractions that help visitors understand the city's identity and sense of place. One of the recent popular tourist activities is walking tours. This paper tries to explore key cultural and historical elements that contribute to Surabaya's sense of place through walking tours. Empirically, this study applied ethnography as the framework and in-depth interviews as the data collection method. Through the walking tour experience, the analysis aims to demonstrate the role of Walking Tour in reviving the re-imagining of heroism in the city of Surabaya, as a medium to increase awareness of the sense of place for tourists.

11:00 am

[Say it with monuments: reinvestigating and redefining the concept of Indonesian populist nationalism](#)
[Mrs Wahyu Purwiyastuti](#)

Based on a dissertation (Purwiyastuti, 2023), the conception of Indonesian nationalism is still relevant to be reinvestigated and even needs to be defined more deeply. Why does Indonesian national consciousness not automatically inherent in post-colonial society? Why does there is a need for continuity in the process of practicing Indonesian nationalism?

The imagination as Indonesian citizen beings still needs to be produced through field tours to museums. Historical education for senior high school often requires students to get a historical excursion as a strick form of indoctrination. The symbols of nationalism presented at the beginning of the formation of the nation building is narrated through many of statues or dioramas. In the era of President Soeharto's government, that seem adopted and implemented through policies and practices of internalizing Pancasila and nationalism within formal education channels, launching new curriculum changes, and changing civics lessons to Citizenship Education.

11:00 am

[The Pao An Tui in Java: Rethinking a Chinese Ethnic Militia During the Indonesian National Revolution](#)
[Mr Leo Barry](#)

The Pao An Tui was the name given to two similar, yet separate, ethnic Chinese militias that operated in

Medan and Java during the Indonesian National Revolution. This organisation represents for some an enduring testament to ethnic Chinese indifference and hostility to the Indonesian nationalist cause, continuing to emerge in contemporary anti-Chinese Indonesian public discourse. Other scholarship more sensitive to the Chinese experience has painted the militia as a cynical concoction of the Chinese Nationalist Party in Indonesia that served only Chinese business interests. This paper will re-examine the historiography surrounding the Pao An Tui in Java, demonstrating that this militia was a solution to the anti-Chinese violence of the war employed only after all other non-violent options were exhausted. It will also demonstrate how the militia enjoyed the support of Java's two largest Peranakan Chinese newspapers - *Sin Po* and *Keng Po*. This fact of broad popular support within Java's Chinese communities, particularly by progressive factions, indicates that the militia was not just a vehicle for powerful Chinese interests, but rather considered a legitimate and necessary solution to anti-Chinese violence.

1:30 pm

[Of Tears and Love: Domesticity and the Sentimental Man in Colonial Indonesia, 1910s-20s](#)

[Nik Setiadarma](#)

This paper is about a historical configuration of gender and (hetero)sexuality during the rise of a Malay language domestic genre in the early twentieth century. Engaging two texts—a Sino-Malay marriage manual *Satoe Istri Jang Doenia Impiken* (1912) written by Chinese entrepreneur Ang Siau Kan and Batak-Angkola writer Merari Siregar's second less-known novel, *Tjinta dan Hawa Nafsoe* (1924)—I argue that this domestic genre written by male writers created a specific figure of sentimental man: an individual man who sheds tears for others' misery, fights for truth, and longs for love. In showing how both writers used men-women sexual, romantic, and marital relationships as a source to identify and solve social problems, I suggest a reading that examines domesticity less as an exclusively women's site or feminized realm and more as a project of compiling fantasies about heterosexual arrangements within which both "masculinity" and "femininity" make and reinforce each other.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 7: Mythologies, Representation and Lived Realities: Women and the Environment

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Elly Kent**

11:00 am

[Restoring Peatland, Restoring Lives: Gendered Livelihood Strategies in Degraded Peatland Area of Central Kalimantan](#)

[Mrs Sri Lestari](#)

Indonesia's peatland restoration has entered a new phase by providing a larger portion of women to be involved in various activities, including land-based programs, capacity building, and networking. This paper investigates the interconnections between gender and livelihood options in degraded peatland areas of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. Targeting the experiences of local communities in 4 villages, we examined how gender has access to resources, participates in restoration activities, and develops new sustainable livelihoods. Our findings showed that women's engagement in peatland restoration improved ecological outcomes by reducing forest fires, and empowered women economically and socially by increasing their income and capacity. This research emphasized the significance of gender roles in preserving peatland, improving livelihoods, and increasing community resilience. The study advanced our understanding of how gendered approaches might influence peatland restoration success and local people's well-being.

11:00 am

[The Decolonization Narratives of Indigenous Women in Sumba Island: How Do They Respond to Environmental Degradation?](#)

[Dr Elisabeth Dewi](#)

Sumba Island in the Province of East Nusa Tenggara has experienced changes in livelihood patterns in recent decades following the division of four districts and the government's development programs: agro-industry, food estate and tourism. As a result, there are changes in the socio-cultural-spiritual relations of the community, moving away from communal activities based on indigenous knowledge of the Marapu Indigenous People to the modern models of subordination to fulfill personal needs and ownership. In addition, there are changes in the human interaction with nature, moving away from the traditional

farming traditions to the new orientation towards instant production on a large scale, such as the use of modern tools, transgenic (GMO) varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. However, poverty levels remain high, with most of the population still living below the local poverty line with a daily income of around \$1.90/day and this province is one of the largest contributors of illegal female labor in Indonesia. Applying the decolonization methodology and ecofeminism, this study found agencies of Marapu Indigenous Women through a) dismantling colonial ideologies, b) valuing Indigenous knowledges and approaches, c) centering Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and c) incorporating Indigenous perspectives and practices, which all are seen through the weaving activities on their daily basis.

11:00 am

[The Nyis in Indonesian Mythology: The Monstrous – Feminine or Powerful Queens of the Sea?](#)
[Dr Diah Ariani Arimbi](#)

Indonesia, the largest archipelago country, is rich in narratives about its waters and the powerful female figures within them. Indonesian myths recognize powerful figures such as Nyi Roro Kidul, the queen of the South Sea; Putri Mandalika of the Lombok Sea; Putri Hijau of the Aceh Sea; and Dewi Lanjar of the North Sea. This study uses Barbara Creed's concept of the monstrous feminine to analyze these figures, focusing on their complex relation to water and nature from the ecofeminist lens. Are these women viewed merely as monstrous, encapsulating negative stereotypes about femininity, or celebrated as powerful, fiery entities akin to female superheroes in contemporary entertainment? These narratives portray women as supernatural beings commanding the oceans, prompting discussions about women's power and the materiality of the female body. Through the lens of the monstrous feminine, this study reveals insights into their dual nature as both fearsome and empowering tricksters.

11:00 am

[When Ibuism meets Orientalism: On Diplomatic Discourse, Practices, and Portrayals of Indonesian Women](#)
[Dr Kanti Pertiwi](#)

This paper challenges diplomatic practices and official portrayals that reinforce stereotypes of Indonesian women as traditional, domestically oriented, and politically disengaged. Depicted as keepers of tradition and embodying the "true" Indonesian woman, these representations perpetuate 'ibuism,' a construct linked to orientalism.

Using a multi-modal critical discourse analysis of newspaper articles, official documents, and interviews, this study uncovers how diplomatic language perpetuates gendered stereotypes, limiting Indonesian women to domestic roles and downplaying their political agency.

By critically examining these narratives, the research aims to foster a more nuanced understanding of Indonesian women's multifaceted identities and contributions. Ultimately, it calls for a shift in diplomatic portrayals, encouraging more inclusive representations that reflect the diverse roles and interests of Indonesian women beyond traditional stereotypes.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 7: Online Spaces, Offline Realities: Gender, Religion and Healthcare in Digital Contexts

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Gender & Sexuality](#) - M01 + M02 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Ariane Utomo**

note room change

11:00 am

[From WhatsApp to YouTube: Where Muslims getting advice on IVF and what this means for Indonesian migrants in New Zealand](#)
[Dr Nelly Martin-Anatias, A/Prof Sharyn Davies](#)

This talk explores the experiences of Indonesians seeking advice on IVF in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Despite the opportunity to access free IVF treatment, many Indonesian migrants grapple with uncertainties regarding its religious permissibility. After interviewing 12 participants between 2020 and 2021, we transcribed, manually coded, and thematically discussed our findings during our regular meetings (Merriam

& Tisdell, 2016). Our research revealed several challenges for religious individuals, including the gender-based understanding between imams (religious leaders), ethnic communities, and the participants in their adopted country. To seek religious guidance, many turned to innovative methods such as consulting Indonesian imams via YouTube and contacting relatives and friends through WhatsApp. Through this presentation, we aim to highlight the resourcefulness of Indonesian Muslim participants in maintaining their Islamic identity while availing themselves of ARTs offered by the New Zealand government. Additionally, we show diverse religious interpretations of IVF within New Zealand's Muslim communities.

11:00 am

["I am swamped with endless notifications": Academic Women Experiencing and Engaging Online](#)
[Ms Siti Muflichah](#)

There has been a major shift in the academic engagement scene with the rise of digital platforms, offering both opportunities and challenges, particularly for female academics. This paper aims to uncover how the dual-edged impact of online engagement on female scholars. Feminist research methodology is used to understand the phenomena faced and experienced by women. This study employs a qualitative methodology, using in-depth interviews to explore the impact of online engagement on female scholars. The interviews with three senior female academics reveal that digital platforms provide unparalleled opportunities for networking, visibility, and collaboration, enabling female academics to connect with global peers, disseminate research, and access diverse resources. By reducing traditional barriers like institutional biases and geographic isolation, these platforms can promote an inclusive academic environment. The report does, however, also highlight the particular difficulties experienced by female academics when working online, such as heightened scrutiny, cyber bullying, and the possibility of digital fatigue. The results highlight how important it is to manage digital presence and mental health support strategically. This study emphasizes the complex advantages and challenges for being active online for female academics, and it advocates for focused approaches to improve their digital lives and guarantee fair participation in the academic community.

11:00 am

[Navigating feminism and piety: Mubadalah.id's digital activism strategies in addressing gender-based violence under religious pretext](#)
[Miss Prasakti Ramadhana Fahadi](#)

This study aims to enrich the growing literature on Islamic feminism in Indonesia by exploring its intersection with digital activism. Contextualized within Indonesia's sociopolitical history, including the rise of Islamic conservatism post-Suharto, it highlights the challenges and opportunities of integrating religious and feminist values to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and foster inclusive discourse. Focusing on Mubadalah—a framework of gender reciprocity, an Islamic feminist movement, and a method of interpreting Islamic texts—the research examines how its activists address GBV perpetuated by patriarchal interpretations of Islam. A significant focus is on GBV in religious institutions, particularly pesantren (Islamic boarding schools). Findings reveal Mubadalah's digital strategies, which include leveraging ulema endorsements, utilizing trending media narratives and social media algorithms for advocacy, and rehabilitating the image of pesantren by promoting "positive pesantren". These approaches demonstrate the potential of digital activism to reshape discourse and challenge gender inequalities in Indonesia.

11:00 am

[Negotiating Visibility: How Indonesian Queer Users Navigate Online Healthcare Services to Avoid Discrimination](#)
[Ferry Hermawan](#)

Digital platforms have emerged as an alternative method for Indonesians to access medical care. However, much less is known about the experiences of the Indonesian queer community when accessing online healthcare services. Drawing on data from the media go-along method (Jorgensen, 2016) with 21 participants who identified as queer in three cities in Indonesia, this project examines what strategies Indonesian LGBTQ+ users adopt to navigate and cope with stigma and discrimination when contacting healthcare services through health apps. The findings show that to avoid stigma and discrimination, participants negotiate their visibility by using many technological features on the health app, such as metric popularity and geolocation features. Participants also implement various practices, including maintaining their profile basic, filtering information through image sharing and chat features, and measuring practitioners' acceptance of LGBTQ+ issues through the platform's network recommendations.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 7: Preserving Cultures: Community Collaborations, Festivals, Heritage Politics and Museums

Chair: **Charlotte Setijadi**

11:00 am

[Community Collaboration and Cultural Resource Management: Reflections from Lasem](#)

[Ms. Virliany Rizqia Putri](#)

Indonesia is known for its rich heritage and diverse culture, each region with its own identity. Lasem, a sub-district in northern Central Java, is renowned for its multicultural heritage, reflected in its Chinatown, Islamic boarding schools, and Batik workshops. As local communities engage with their heritage, Lasem is also attracting stakeholders interested in further development. This paper examines the roles and relationships of stakeholders involved in managing Lasem's cultural resources, particularly scholars and government agencies, in relation to the local community. The analysis draws on recent events and activities, such as local exhibitions, the Memori Kolektif Bangsa nomination, and the formation of Museum Nyah Lasem. These community-based initiatives are often characterised by relationships that are forged personally and informally, which shaped both the successes and challenges of the projects. Findings suggest that experts working across communities should stay flexible and sensitive to local socio-cultural dynamics.

11:00 am

[**WITHDRAWN** Cultural Circulation in Longser Festival: West Java Traditional Theatre as a Stage for Creativity](#)

[Mr Yadi Mulyadi](#)

Longser is one of West Java traditional theatres in Indonesia that continues to grow and attract attention from the younger generation. The existence of Longser Festival started in 2007 and continues to this day with participants from the younger generation. This phenomenon is interesting, as the current young generation is mostly unfamiliar with Longser and is far from Sundanese, the regional language used in Longser. This research aims to investigate how the younger generation of festival participants prepares performance productions for the Longser Festival. The research was conducted by mapping theatre festivals held in Bandung with participants throughout West Java; and then observing the participants' performances from the perspective of mise en scène theatre at the crossroads of culture and cultural productions representing traditional arts with the younger generation in the circuit of culture. The participation of the younger generation in traditional theatre festivals contributes to reviving culture and tradition.

11:00 am

[Noken: the Instrumentalisation of West Papuan Cultural Heritage](#)

[Mr Louis Liedel](#)

This research focuses on Indonesia's submission of noken, a Papuan multifunctional knotted or woven bag, to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Since its inscription in 2012, noken has increasingly featured in international diplomacy and has been incorporated into several internal development programmes. With reference to Indonesia's historic engagement with UNESCO and the policies of cultural development pioneered under the New Order, this research explores how identity formation has influenced contemporary cultural and heritage policy in West Papua. Building from the emerging body of work focussed on the efficacy of UNESCO's engagement with indigenous stakeholders, this project looks at how noken's inscription has been used to support Indonesian territorial integrity in the context of the ongoing West Papuan independence movement. In doing so, this work aims to highlight the at times contradictory outcomes that UNESCO heritage recognition presents for indigenous communities facing displacement from the impacts of settler colonialism.

11:00 am

[Reflecting Practice and Opportunity of Community-based Museum Roles in Conserving Living Heritage in Indonesia](#)

[Mr Yori Setiyawan](#)

Although there is a paradigm shift from the government-based top-down model to community-driven heritage conservation projects in Indonesia, community-based museum's roles have not been theoretically and practically explored. Utilizing a case study of Museum Pustaka Lontar Dukuh Penaban in Karangasem, this study aims to look back at community-based museum roles in conserving the tradition of Lontar Bali. Employing the living heritage conservation concept by Poulios (2014), this study attempts to put Museum Pustaka Lontar Dukuh Penaban as a core community in the conservation model, based on the criteria of continuity. The museum's roles were examined from the museum's programs in preserving and

contextualizing lontar Bali tradition to the Penaban community. This paper also investigates the potential prospect of engaging community-based museums as a main actor in heritage conservation in Indonesia.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session 7: Social Media and Digital Politics: Populism, Surveillance and Legal Landscapes

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Politics & Law](#) - Forum 2 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Vedi Hadiz**

11:00 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Competing Campaign Narratives Among Female Gubernatorial Candidates in the 2024 East Java Election, Indonesia: A Discourse Network Analysis](#)
[Dr. Kurniawati Hastuti Dewi](#)

The 2024 regional elections are notable for the large number of female candidates vying for regional leadership roles. A standout contest is the East Java gubernatorial race, where all three candidates are women: Luluk Nur Hamidah, Khofifah Indar Parawansa, and Tri Rismaharini. This is an unprecedented event, particularly in East Java, a region with a strong Nahdlatul Ulama Islamic influence. This study aims to: (1) examine the campaign narratives of these female candidates and their competition; and (2) identify differences in their messaging, especially related to gender and women's issues. The research will utilize Discourse Network Analysis (DNA) and collect data from 5 widely accessed national online media during the campaign period (September 25 - November 23, 2024). The analysis will provide a detailed understanding of the campaign themes, issue linkages, and insights into the progress of female leadership after 19 years since implementation of direct local elections in 2005.

11:00 am

****NOT PRESENTED**** [Emotional Currents in Digital Populism: Satellite Campaigns and the Politics of Affect in Indonesia's 2024 Elections](#)
[Mr Hestutomo Kuncoro](#)

Satellite campaign is defined as campaigns which are not initiated by official actors--such as candidates or political parties. It is often initiated by citizens who support certain candidates or political parties through unofficial channels, such as social media. Being unofficial and under less scrutiny, satellite campaigns have the risk of being ridden with populist messages and misinformation. Emotions tend to present in both populist message and misinformation because of their ability to make the messages feel personal and more compelling. This paper aims to unveil how emotions are employed in satellite campaigning especially within the context of populist messages and misinformation. Towards that end, social media data were analysed using sentiment analysis to identify the emotions used in social media posts by satellite campaigners. Additionally, network analysis was also used to examine how these emotion-laden posts are distributed in social media networks in Indonesia. The results show that negative and positive emotions are prevalent in election-related social media posts. Their use is dictated by the types of posts in question—positive ones are more prevalent in posts made by satellite campaigner who initiate the conversation, while negative ones are in posts responding to posts made by other satellite campaigner. Interestingly, both positive and negative emotions appear in misinformation posts, each contributing uniquely to make the misinformation more compelling. This research will contribute to further the understanding of how social media can affect the electoral politics especially in the context of emotional contents. This research will also provide insights into how emotionally charged content influences voter behaviours, thereby informing strategies for combating misinformation in digital political landscapes.

11:00 am

****WITHDRAWN**** [Navigating The Threat of Visibility: Social Media Activist's Anticipation of Potential Surveillance within The Case of fPeringatan Darurat Movement](#)
[Mrs Nur Syamsiyah](#)

Indonesia has witnessed a series of impactful social media activism within 26 years after its reform. While activists use social media to amplify their movements, they also encounter risks of potential surveillance. This study explores the visibility threats that activists face, specifically within the *Peringatan Darurat* movement in Indonesia. This movement arose in response to the House Representatives' (DPR) efforts to overturn a Constitutional Court (MK) decision that modified the threshold requirements for regional head nominations. Data was gathered through digital ethnography, with two months of observation on various

activist accounts on X and TikTok. Additionally, interviews with eight activists from this movement were conducted to enrich the findings. The study reveals how activists, drawing from past experiences, anticipate potential surveillance and intervention, which leads them to adopt self-surveillance practices.

Keywords: social media activism, surveillance, visibility, self-surveillance

11:00 am

[Social Media and the Dynamics of Free Expression in Indonesia's Legal Landscape: Reflections on 80 Years of Independence](#)

[Almira Novia Zulaikha](#)

As Indonesia celebrates 80 years of independence, the social media becomes increasing influential in shaping the nation's democratic landscape. Social media transcended the limitations of traditional print media, offering citizens an expansive and dynamic platform to express their opinions. At the same time, this empowers citizens to act as watchdog to the government and law enforcement officials. As with the press, social media has been instrumental in uncovering power abuses and other government officials' misconducts. On the other hand, government officials frequently invoke libel, slander, defamation, or even hate speech laws to suppress dissent, revealing a troubling misuse of the criminal justice system to stifle free expression. This paper examines social media's role in fostering accountability while exploring how legal mechanisms are employed to control speech. This reflection calls for a balanced approach that safeguards freedom of expression while addressing misuse, ensuring that social media continues to support democratic ideals.

10 July 2025

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Day 4: Lunch Break

Break - [Break/Lunch](#)

To keep ICOC free and open to all, this conference is not catered. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks.

Note: Melbourne Connect does not permit outside food or drink except those purchased from their cafe, coffee cart or food stand on the superfloor (mezzanine level)

Some ICOC lunch specials can be pre-ordered from The Atlantic Group:

Pre-order via this link <https://qr.meandu.app/af13vznz> or purchase at the counter (subject to availability)

- Nasi goreng with satay chicken skewers (\$14)

- Spicy tofu stir-fried noodles with vegetables | VEGAN (\$14)

Please ensure you are back in time 10 minutes before the start of the next session

10 July 2025

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Session 8: Urban Renewal: Sustainable and Inclusive Cities

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Environment & Climate Change](#) - Forum 1 (Melbourne Connect)

Chair: **Lutfun Nahar Lata**

1:30 pm

[A Proposal for Jakarta: Interpreting 'Global City' with the ASEAN Regional Integration](#)

[Mr Ali Salmande](#)

The paper aims to interpret the meaning of Jakarta as a 'global city' and connect it with the ASEAN context.

The term 'global city' can be found in Law Number 2 of 2024 on the Special Region of Jakarta. It was created as Jakarta's future direction after removing its capital status to Nusantara. The meaning of 'global city' needs to be discussed in the ASEAN context since Jakarta's vital position in the ASEAN Secretariat and its unofficial status as ASEAN's capital. This research will use doctrinal and explanatory research methodologies by looking into Law No. 2 of 2024, including the minutes of discussion in the parliament, to find its legislative intention. I will add explanatory research to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of the global city based on the historical conditions of Jakarta and ASEAN, as well as the phenomenon of regional integration.

1:30 pm

****WITHDRAWN**** [Integrating Urban Metabolism and Green Infrastructure Planning for Net-Zero Carbon City Pathways in Indonesia](#)
[Issana Meria Burhan](#)

As urban development alters the ecosystem structures and impacts carbon cycling rates, addressing the concepts of urban metabolism (UM, the study of resource flow and environmental impacts of human activities) and green infrastructure (GI, an interconnected network of natural and living systems) have emerged as the core approaches in mainstreaming the net-zero carbon city agenda. UM underscores the significance of integrating GI in urban planning for its ability to facilitate regenerative processes and restore strategic ecosystems. However, planning strategies driven by integrating UM and GI are still in the early stages, particularly in Indonesia. Through a systematic literature review and case studies, this article explores how these two paradigms can be incorporated into urban planning mechanism in Indonesia. We map existing approaches and methods, delving into their integration for planning and practice. Our findings indicate that (1) while the significance of UM and GI has been well identified, applying these principles in planning remains a relatively new research field with limited real-world implementations. (2) UM and GI, despite conceptual differences, share common aspects that can inform planning process in Indonesia. These principles align with regenerative development fundamentals, connecting through metabolic efficiency, landscape functionality, and ecosystem services. Our study suggests that the nexus of UM and GI has the potential to serve as a framework for low carbon city planning framework in Indonesia, supporting the important relationships between nature and the human environment as a cohesive living system.

1:30 pm

[Urban Renewal Projects for Sustainable and Inclusive Cities in Indonesia: A Holistic Approach](#)
[Mr Nurhadi Susanto](#)

Sustainable and inclusive urban development policies need to be sharpened, especially for big cities in Indonesia. Indonesian cities face a myriad of complex challenges, including pollution, overpopulation, and urban displacement. As these urban centers grapple with issues of liveability and community cohesion, there is a pressing need for a comprehensive approach to urban renewal that balances development with social harmony. This research paper explores the critical imperative of creating sustainable and inclusive cities in Indonesia, focusing on urban areas such as Jakarta and Surabaya. The paper underscores the significance of integrating spatial and social considerations in urban governance, advocating for a fair and inclusive environment for all residents. By examining successful sustainable city initiatives and drawing on lessons learned from city authorities throughout Indonesia, this research aims to provide valuable insights for advancing sustainable urban renewal practices in Indonesia. The findings of this study have significant implications for policymakers, urban planners, and community leaders in Indonesia to offer practical strategies for addressing the complex challenges facing Indonesian cities while promoting social equity and environmental sustainability.

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Session 8: Weaving Threads: Politics of Representation, Knowledge Production, Colonial Agency, and Post-1965 Art in Indonesia

Panel (Paper) Presentations - [Arts & Culture](#) - Forum 2 (Melbourne Connect)

****note room change****

Chairperson: **Patriot Mukmin**

This panel explores how colonial institutions and cultural apparatuses have shaped knowledge production and representation in Indonesia, from the Dutch colonial period to the aftermath of 1965. The first two papers examine the colonial politics embedded in museological and pedagogical practices. One investigates the exhibition design of Gallery 1.17 "The Dutch East Indies" at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam,

revealing how the display of artifacts reinforces narratives of imperial authority and colonial knowledge. Another analyzes the role of Dutch-founded institutions—such as the Bataviaasch Genootschap and Technische Hoogeschool te Bandung—in structuring arts education and recontextualizing cultural objects, with long-lasting impacts on Indonesian artistic discourse. These studies uncover the colonial agency behind the shaping of visual and historical consciousness. Closing the panel, the third paper turns to post-1965 Indonesia, showing how contemporary artists like Dadang Christanto and Maharani Mancanagara reclaim narrative agency through artworks that confront historical trauma, memory, and human rights.

1:30 pm

[Power, Knowledge, and European Colonialism in Gallery 1.17 The Netherlands Overseas "The Dutch East Indies", Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam](#)
[Miss Qanissa Aghara](#)

This research examines "The Dutch East Indies" segment in Gallery 1.17 of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, which presents artifacts related to Dutch colonial history in the East Indies. The study focuses on eleven specific artifacts to explore how this exhibition reflects the concepts of colonialism, power, and knowledge. Conducted using a qualitative, constructivist-interpretivist approach, the research spans art, museum studies, and postcolonial theory. Theoretical frameworks include Ania Loomba's colonialism/postcolonialism theory, Tiina Roppola's exhibition design theory, Tony Bennett's work on museums, power, and knowledge, and Ivan Karp and Steven D. Lavine's poetics and politics of display. The findings reveal that the Rijksmuseum's role as a public museum is intricately linked to colonial knowledge production and cultural interventions, evident in the arrangement of "The Dutch East Indies" segment.

1:30 pm

[Imagining Modernity: Colonial Archives and the Reimagination of Arts Pedagogy and Cultural Knowledge](#)
[Miss Kiki Rizky Soetisna Putri](#)

This research investigates the entangled histories of Hindu-Buddha artifacts and the role of colonial institutions in shaping arts pedagogy in Indonesia. By analyzing the colonial agency of institutions such as Technische Hoogeschool te Bandung (now known as Institute Technology Bandung with abbreviation as ITB), Bataviaasch Genootschap der Kunsten en Wetenschappen, and Oudheidkundige Dienst in Nederlandsch-Indië, the project examines how these agencies influenced the relocation and recontextualization of cultural objects during Dutch colonial rule in Indonesia. The study delves into archival materials holds in the Netherlands, including ITB's early curriculum documents, records from the Universitaire Leergang voor Tekenleraren, Bataviasche and Bandoengsche Kunstkring. It seeks to address the societal impact of these colonial interventions, exploring how they shaped modern education and the erasure or distortion of indigenous knowledge. By reexamining these archives and the role of colonial power, the research aims to offer a critical reflection on how arts pedagogy in Indonesia can be decolonized and reoriented toward inclusivity and cultural integrity.

1:30 pm

[1965-66 in Art: Navigating Memory and Human Rights Through Artworks by Dadang Christanto and Maharani Mancanagara](#)
[Mr Patriot Mukmin](#)

On January 11, 2023, Indonesian President Joko Widodo acknowledged and regretted twelve past human rights violations, including the 1965-66 anti-communist violence, following a report from the Non-Judicial Resolution Team for Human Rights Violations (PPHAM). The team recommended several actions, including building memorabilia of the historical events. In this paper, the author focuses on the representation of the 1965-66 violence in visual art, a subject explored by artists such as Dadang Christanto and Maharani Mancanagara. Even though they are from different generations, both draw inspiration from their family stories and represent micro-narratives on the issue. After examining Dadang's *The Raid Rain* (2003) and *They Give Evidence* (1997-98), as well as Maharani's *Hikayat Wanatentrem* (2018), the author found that the artists have produced strongly articulated works of art that were inspired by actual events. They represent ideas of injustice, discrimination, impunity, and a hope that something similar will not happen again in the future. Qualities that are eligible as memorabilia, as stated in the PPHAM recommendation.

10 July 2025

3:15 pm - 3:45 pm
ICOC 2025 Conference Closing Event

Special Event - Event - The Forum combined (Melbourne Connect)

Our time together is coming to an end! Gather together to say our goodbyes
