Australian National University | Indonesia Institute

ANU Indonesia Institute Postgraduate workshop 2025

Program booklet

Thursday 11 September

ANU Indonesia Institute

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Indonesia Project

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Australian National University

Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

ANU Indonesia Institute

General information

Location

Hedley Bull Building (Bld 130)

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Acton ACT 2601

ANU Indonesia Institute
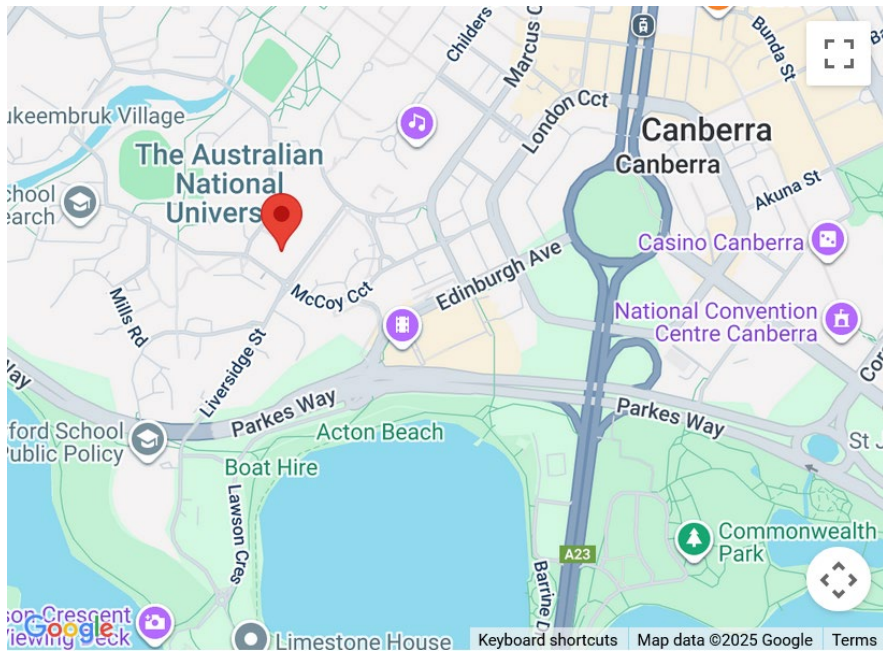
Program

Thursday 11 September

All sessions: Lecture Theatre 2 (HB2)

TIME	PROGRAM
8.30am	Arrival
9.00am	Opening remarks from H.E Dr Siswo Pramono
9.10am	Session 1. Politics and Public Opinion in Indonesia Raka Pamungkas (University of Sydney) Putri Limilia (University of Sydney) Irnasya Shafira (Monash University) **Discussant:** Associate Professor Marcus Mietzner
10.25am	Session 2. Managing Indonesia's Changing Environment Dinah Yunitawati (University of Western Australia) Adityo Setiawan (James Cook University) **Discussant:** Dr Rina Astuti
11.15am	*Morning tea*
11.30am	Session 3. Democracy and Governance in Indonesia Rhemawati Wijaya (Australian National University) Hasnan Bachtiar (Deakin University) Gary Rosario Da Gama (Australian National University) **Discussant:** Professor Ed Aspinall
12.45pm	*Lunch*
1.15pm	Session 4.Religion and Culture in Contemporary Indonesia Mardianto Natanael Wangkanusa (UNSW Canberra) Riza Sovia Nur Priandhita (Australian National University) Dewi Hermawati Resminingayu (Australian National University) Yori Setiyawan (University of Melbourne) **Discussant:** Emeritus Professor Kathy Robinson
2.45pm	Session 5. Rethinking Indonesia's Development Dwi Sulihati Sri Sugiharti (James Cook University) Trisha Devita Indraswari (Australian National University) Trisna Mulyati (University of Technology Sydney) **Discussant: TBC**
4.00pm	*Afternoon tea*
4.15pm	Session 6. Inclusive Teaching and Education Imtiyazul Urfa Ramadhan (University of Wollongong) Ibrahim (Monash University) Alies Poetri (Monash University) **Discussant:** Dr Elly Kent
5.30pm	Closing remarks

Panels and abstracts

Politics and Public Opinion

Public Opinion in Indonesia: Comparing Responses to Ukraine and Gaza

Raka Pamungkas
School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Sydney

The interplay between public opinion and foreign policy has been widely examined in Western democracies, particularly the US. Extensive research has explored how American public sentiment influenced responses and non-responses to armed conflicts, such as the Vietnam War. However, this dynamic remains understudied in non-Western middle powers, including Indonesia, particularly in relation to international armed conflicts. As Indonesia plays an increasingly active role on the global and regional stages, exploring public opinion on armed conflicts and the dynamics of Indonesia's foreign policymaking presents a valuable opportunity to fill this research void. This research addresses the gap by investigating how Indonesian policymakers have interpreted public opinion indicators, as expressed in mainstream media narratives and social media discourse, on the armed conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. The research project will conduct media content analysis, social media research on X and Instagram, and semi-structured interviews with Indonesian foreign policy officials and journalists. It also aims to uncover how the interplay between public discourse, media, and policymakers has influenced, or failed to influence, Indonesia's foreign policy decisions.

Fake Crowds, Real Consequences: Unpacking Astroturfing in Modern Political Campaigns

Putri Limilia
School of Social and Political Science, University of Sydney

Political astroturfing, the practice of creating fake online personas to simulate grassroots support, has become an increasingly powerful tool in shaping public opinion and influencing democratic discourse. Unlike traditional misinformation, astroturfing performs legitimacy by mimicking authentic citizen voices. This research explores how these coordinated campaigns exploit social media features such as human-like profiles, follower counts, and verified badges to gain credibility and manipulate perception. Drawing on survey and experimental data, this research examines how profile variations and individual media literacy influence the perceived trustworthiness of astroturfing content and its impact on political attitudes. The findings indicate that participants are more inclined to engage with astroturfers who present themselves as human and popular. Furthermore, a brief exposure to these astroturfers can subtly shift individuals' political preferences. Those who are skilled at evaluating the credibility of astroturfers show greater resistance to such manipulation. This research highlights the significance of social media account attributes in shaping perceived credibility, which ultimately influences user engagement with these accounts and their susceptibility to being swayed.

Towards a Criminology of Normalised Cyber Insecurity: Structural Harm, Emotional Governance, and State Omission in the Digital Age

Irnasya Shafira

ANU Indonesia Institute

School of Social Sciences, Monash University

This presentation aims to develop a critical criminological framework to explain the systemic production of public apathy toward government data breaches. Drawing on theories of informated crime, surveillance capitalism, emotional governance, state crime, and governmentality, it argues that indifference to data insecurity is not merely a psychological failing but a sociopolitically cultivated condition. The abstraction of harm, routinisation of breaches, and institutional inaction converge to normalise insecurity, depoliticise outrage, and privatise responsibility. Using Indonesia as an illustrative context, the paper demonstrates how breach fatigue emerges through repeated exposure to unresolved violations and the emotional conditioning of digital governance to inform similar democracies with emerging cybersecurity initiatives. By reinterpreting data breach apathy as a product of technosocial forces and state omission, this article challenges individualised accounts of cybercrime victimisation and calls for a criminology attuned to invisible harms and institutional complicity.

Managing a Changing Environment

Stakeholder interaction in transboundary cooperation in the Arafura and Timor Seas: Indonesia's perspective

Dinah Yunitawati
School of Agriculture and Environment, University of Western Australia

The growing complexity of global environmental problems means that a multi-faceted approach involving cooperation between countries is required, including in transboundary marine areas. This cooperation may include various transboundary concerns, such as marine spatial planning. Existing studies have focused on transboundary cooperation in marine spatial planning in the European context. Similar studies in non-European regions involving diverse countries are limited. Transboundary cooperation in marine spatial planning involves interactions among multi-stakeholders at different levels and jurisdictions, which shape the planning and broader decision-making processes related to shared marine resources. Yet, there is a knowledge gap in understanding the specific mechanisms and processes of stakeholder interaction in this context. This study aims to examine stakeholder interaction in transboundary cooperation using a case study of the Arafura and Timor Seas, which involve Indonesia, Australia, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea. This paper focuses on the perceptions of Indonesia's stakeholders regarding the drivers, priorities, and challenges of transboundary cooperation in the Arafura and Timor Seas.

Assessing the Sustainability of Multi-Species Coral Reef Fisheries in Indonesia

Adityo Setiawan,
School of Marine Biology and Aquaculture, James Cook University

Sustainable multispecies coral reef fisheries support food security and livelihoods in coastal communities. Determining sustainability requires reference points; however, their use in coral reef fisheries management remains unclear. Using Indonesia as a case study, I analyse data from 422 sites and environmental factors, including coral cover, sea surface temperature, ocean productivity, and atolls, to adapt a reef fisheries sustainability global model by Zamborain-Mason et al. (2023). I establish site-specific biomass reference points and assess the status of fisheries. I find that over half of Indonesia's coral reef fisheries are overfished, particularly in the Western and Central regions, largely due to human pressure. Current protection measures have not improved fisheries except in Eastern Indonesia. This research supports the application of multispecies reference points in developing countries.

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Rethinking Development

Consolidating Community-Based Tourism Principles: A Critical Analysis of Tourism Policy Documents

Dwi Sulihati Sri Sugiharti
James Cook University

This study critically examines the extent to which Community-Based Tourism (CBT) principles are institutionalised in tourism policy documents in Central Java, Indonesia. Recognising CBT as a policy paradigm, not merely a grassroots initiative, the research explores how local governments integrate core CBT concepts such as community participation, empowerment, sustainability, and equitable benefit sharing into formal planning instruments. Employing a qualitative approach, the study combines thematic document analysis of twelve national and provincial tourism policies with twelve semi-structured interviews involving tourism stakeholders, including government officers, village leaders, tourism entrepreneurs, and academics. Document analysis was conducted using the READ (Research, Extract, Analyse, Discuss) framework with NVivo-assisted coding, while interviews provided contextual insights into the implementation realities, institutional challenges, and stakeholder perspectives often absent from policy texts. Five core themes emerged: Policy Conceptualisation of CBT, Community Participation, Government Support and Institutional Facilitation, Capacity Development and Skill Building, and Protection of Community Resources and Interests. Findings reveal that while CBT is acknowledged in strategic discourse, its policy integration remains fragmented, lacking clear implementation guidelines and accountability mechanisms. The interviews highlighted gaps between rhetorical commitments and practical realities, illustrating how fragmented governance and limited institutional capacity constrain CBT adoption. This paper introduces the concept of CBT policy coherence and argues for a more systematic institutional embedding of CBT principles. The study contributes to tourism and policy literature by offering a replicable framework for evaluating participatory governance and by providing practical insights for improving policy design in emerging tourism economies.

Rethinking Poverty Index: Why A Multidimensional Poverty Approach is More Comprehensive than Monetary Poverty? A Case Study in Indonesia during COVID-19

Trisha Devita Indraswari
Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University

Poverty is a multifaceted and evolving phenomenon that encompasses various dimensions. Relying solely on income or consumption metrics overlooks the multiple deprivations individuals face. This study applies the Alkire-Foster method and National Socio-Economic Survey (SUSENAS) to assess multidimensional poverty in Indonesia during the COVID-19 era. It provides poverty estimates at both national and provincial levels and examines key drivers of deprivation. Recognized as "the Great Lockdown Era," the pandemic disrupted not only income but also health, education, and living standards, exposing overlapping and hidden vulnerabilities. This study highlights the importance of complementing monetary poverty measures with a multidimensional approach to better capture the complexity of poverty. It also explores the role of social protection programs in addressing deprivation and supporting human capital. By adopting a multidimensional perspective, the study contributes to policy debates on poverty and social protection, emphasizing the need for integrated, data-driven approaches to inform more inclusive and resilient policy responses in times of crisis.

Smart Farming Innovation Pathways for Smallholders: Reframing Middlemen Entrepreneurship in Indonesia's Agricultural Innovation Systems

Trisna Mulyati
Transdisciplinary School, University of Technology Sydney

This transdisciplinary research examines the diffusion of innovation among smallholder farmers in Indonesia and what constitutes "smart farming" more inclusively. Through an empirical qualitative study in four provinces, I challenge the technology-centric narrative that promotes eliminating middlemen. From traditional Tengkulak to agritech startups, I investigate how a range of middlemen entrepreneurs strategically occupy institutional voids in agricultural innovation systems. Current findings demonstrate that these intermediaries don't merely transfer products or services but engage in complex processes of innovation translation, adaptation, and value creation that direct-to-farmer solutions often fail to provide. The middlemen contextually appropriate external innovations to fit endogenously with farmers' main needs, resource constraints, and entrepreneurial aspirations. Building on Klerkx's agricultural innovation intermediary studies, this research attempts to conceptualise the neo-middlemen entrepreneurship with a hybrid Positive Deviance approach as fundamental to the envisioned small-and-smart farm futures. Beyond productivity-driven technology push and farmers' training, I argue for embracing intermediary entrepreneurial models that support smallholder agency.

Democracy and Governance

Designing Research on Environmental Activism in Indonesia's Shrinking Civic Space

Rhemawati Wijaya
Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University

Democratic decline has been observed globally, including in Southeast Asia, where many countries face shrinking political space, weakened institutions, restricted civil liberties, and growing pressure on civil society. Environmental activists are often among those most affected, as governments become more sensitive to criticism. In Indonesia, environmental NGOs have long supported communities for better environmental management and have been growing rapidly after President Soeharto's fall in 1998. However, under Joko Widodo's administration, civic space has become more limited. Activists have faced increasing threats, and the government has cut ties with some critical NGOs. This research looks at how environmental movements in Indonesia have responded to democratic decline and how they continue to operate in the limited political space. The project draws on the concepts of shrinking political space and environmental NGO typologies to explore how civil society frames climate issues and adapts its strategies. This presentation will share the research design and key findings from the literature so far, with fieldwork to follow. The project aims to offer both practical and theoretical insights for those working on environmental protection in challenging political settings.

The FPI's Sharia-Based Populist Mobilisation

Hasnan Bachtiar
Deakin University

ANU Indonesia Institute

Current scholars tend to agree with the theory that crisis is one of the determining factors behind the emergence of populism. Yet, some argue that ideology plays a crucial role in the complex process of populism. Focusing on Islamist populism in Indonesia through an ideational lens, crisis is understood not a basis for people's struggle against their enemies in the name of popular morality, but rather as a predictor of that struggle. In addition, thicker ideology such as Islamism can help to generate populist narratives and rhetoric that invite ordinary masses to engage in populist political dynamics. Using NVivo reflexive thematic analysis, I investigated 125 speeches delivered by the Grand Imam, clerics, and preachers of the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) between 2017 and 2024. While highlighting the major elements of FPI's populist ideology, I found that sharia constitutes a specific component of Islamism that significantly contributes to the process of populist mobilisation. Elements of sharia, such as fatwa, fiqh, and the discourse of Islamic law, have inspired Muslims to support the programmatic mission of FPI's populism. I argue that socio-religious charisma, along with a top-down model of political mobilisation, ensures the functionality of these elements.

Anti-Corruption Efforts in Indonesian Sub-National Governments: When Accountability Mechanisms Enable Corruption — The SIPD (Sub-National Information System) Case

Gary Rosario Da Gama
Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

What if the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Indonesia's national strategy to enhance accountability and transparency at the sub-national level becomes a new legal source of corruption? This concern has arisen around the Sistem Informasi Pemerintahan Daerah (SIPD), a system that was launched in 2020 and mandated all local governments to produce annual plans and budgets. While SIPD is intended to reduce corruption, it may inadvertently facilitate it, particularly in district planning and service delivery, by legitimising manipulated data and decisions. Supervised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), SIPD still faces the risk of misuse by local actors. To strengthen governance, the Government of Indonesia must improve SIPD's design and oversight. This research employs principal-agent theory to examine the information asymmetry between central actors (MoHA and KPK) and agents (local governments and mid- to lower-level bureaucrats), highlighting the need for effective monitoring and sanctions. Additionally, the collective action framework underscores the role of civil society organisations (CSOs), academia, the media, and citizens in holding governments accountable. Strong political will at the local level is essential for meaningful reforms, making anti-corruption efforts more sustainable and responsive to local needs.

Religion and Culture

Decolonising Customary Practices: Beyond Adat and Religion in the Talaud Islands

Mardianto Natanael Wangkanusa
School of Humanities & Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra

This study examines Palli, a customary prohibition in the Talaud Islands, as a relational cosmological practice that governs ethical, ecological, and spiritual relationships among humans, land, kin, and the unseen. Palli marks sacred boundaries that guide interactions with the environment and spiritual forces. While Indonesian state frameworks often classify such practices under adat (custom and/or

customary law), agama (religion), kepercayaan (beliefs) or pamali (taboo), this research challenges these externally imposed classifications. It argues that such categories not only obscure the relational and cosmological significance of Palli but also marginalise customary ways of knowing by positioning them as peripheral and incompatible with dominant legal and religious discourses. Grounded in decolonial theory and Indigenous research paradigms, the study draws on oral narratives, storytelling, and interviews to examine how Palli is transmitted, adapted and practised within a predominantly Christian Talaud Islands community. By centring customary knowledge on its own terms, this study contributes to broader conversations on epistemic decolonisation and customary knowledge revitalization. It highlights how customary cosmologies persist, adapt and evolve in contemporary Indonesia.

Acquiring Baraka: Delineating A Decent Life for Muslims in Probolinggo

Dewi Hermawati Resminingayu
School of Culture, History and Languages, The Australian National University
Probolinggo is one of the five poorest areas in East Java, dominated by Muslims and highly influenced by Madurese culture. Most Muslims in Probolinggo prefer to actively engage in gift-giving practices instead of improving their economic status. Arguably, the concept of baraka (divine blessing) becomes the main driving force in their life. This thesis aims to analyse a complex understanding of baraka by collecting data through 10-months of ethnographic fieldwork. The research findings reflect how baraka has an idiosyncratic meaning in Probolinggo despite its ubiquitous existence among Muslims worldwide. Baraka allows Muslims to see life as a whole, instead of a set of fragmented experiences. Every life event cannot be separated from another, which eventually shapes a meaningful life. In other words, baraka enables them to be constantly aware and mindful of their life. Therefore, they can exert their agency by pursuing their version of a decent life rather than conforming to national standards like acquiring minimum wages. In this regard, baraka provides them with the capacity to maintain personal and community well-being through gift-giving practices.

Technical Study and Pigment Analysis of 19th-20th Century Illuminated Javanese Quran Manuscripts from Michael Abbot Collection

Yori Setiyawan
University of Melbourne

This presentation aims to present the result of my thesis on the artistic style, material choice and pigment availability, as well as the creative process of illumination production for Javanese Quran manuscripts, which has been understudied by scholars. The research focuses on ten illuminated Javanese Quran manuscripts from the 19th to the 20th century from the Michael Abbott Collection housed in the State Library Victoria, Melbourne. An object-based investigation using non-invasive examinations, such as hyperspectral imaging and handheld X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, was employed to investigate the elemental composition of pigments and authors' techniques. A literature study on the history of Javanese manuscripts production and pigment trading in the 19th to 20th century Java was also conducted to contextualise the technical examination results. This study provides new insight into the creative process of the manuscripts' authors and copyists in producing

illumination on Quran manuscripts, in how pigment selection for the manuscripts connects to both availability and trends of the period, and in the knowledge networks within Southeast Asia.

Sacred Flows: Menstrual Knowledge and Religious Practice Along the Barito River

Riza Sovia Nur Priandhita
Australian National University

This study examines how embodied knowledge about menstruation is constructed, transmitted, and transformed across generations within religiously diverse communities along the Barito River in Kalimantan, Indonesia. Drawing on embodiment theory, the research investigates how Islamic, Christian, and traditional beliefs intersect with environmental factors to shape women's menstrual practices among Banjar and Dayak ethnic groups. The research addresses gaps in anthropological literature by examining intergenerational knowledge transfer in understudied Indonesian contexts, moving beyond symbolic analyses to understand how menstrual knowledge is lived, felt, and transmitted through embodied practice. By focusing on riverine communities where multiple religious and ethnic traditions coexist, this study contributes to understanding how environmental conditions, religious frameworks, and cultural practices collectively influence women's embodied menstrual experiences. Ethnographic methods are to be employed to gain insights into the practices and socio-cultural and environmental nuances of menstrual management among women in both upstream and downstream the Barito River.

Inclusive Teaching and Education

Decoding the Silencing Voice in Indonesia Education and Technology Policy

Imtiyazul Urfa Ramadhan
University of Wollongong

This research decodes the complex "politics of voice" within contemporary educational policy, specifically investigating how youth and rural teacher voices are either silenced or profoundly reshaped within technology-driven policy assemblages. Employing the critical philosophical framework of Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, the study focuses on concepts of assemblages and de/reterritorialization. This study analyses Indonesia's national Chromebook policy. This study argues that these policies, crafted with a notable absence of genuine youth and teacher participation, operate as powerful assemblages that actively deterritorialize diverse voices, subsequently reterritorializing them into controlled, arborescent structures. This Deleuzian-Guattarian lens offers non-linear operations of power in education, challenging conventional understandings of voice and advocating for policies that foster its multiplicity.

Teaching for Transformation: How Preservice Teachers Enact and Understand Critical Pedagogy

Ibrahim
School of Curriculum Teaching and Inclusive Education, Monash University

This research explores how preservice English teachers (PSETs) in Indonesia engage with and understand critical pedagogy, an educational approach that empowers learners to challenge injustice and reflect critically on social realities. In contexts like Indonesia, where English education often carries implicit assumptions of Western superiority, the role of English teachers extends beyond language instruction to shaping student worldviews and identities. However, many PSETs

are trained within rigid systems that emphasise compliance over critical thinking, leaving them ill-equipped to confront sensitive topics or question dominant narratives. This study involved preservice teachers and teacher educators from two Indonesian universities. Findings reveal both potential and constraints: while participants expressed strong commitments to justice, they often lacked the language, confidence, or institutional support to enact critical pedagogy effectively. Cultural norms and fear of backlash further limited their efforts. Yet, small acts, such as integrating social themes into lesson plans, demonstrate the transformative possibilities of critical pedagogy in practice.

Am I Ready to Teach Inclusively? Preservice Teachers' Reflections on Their Readiness for Inclusive Teaching in Indonesia

Alies Poetri
School of Curriculum Teaching and Inclusive Education, Monash University

This qualitative case study explores the experiences of eight preservice teachers at a state university in Indonesia who completed a one-semester Introduction to Inclusive Education course. Data were collected through focus group interview then thematically analysed using the Heart, Head, and Hands framework. Findings indicate that while participants feel theoretically prepared (Head) and show positive attitudes (Heart) toward inclusion, they lack practical readiness (Hands) to implement inclusive strategies confidently. Additionally, their understanding of diversity and inclusion tends to be narrowly defined, focusing mainly on placements and students with disabilities, without broader consideration of other diversity aspects. This limited perspective reflects the course's current scope and placement opportunities. The study underscores the importance of expanding practical experiences and broadening conceptualizations of diversity in teacher education. Embedding the Heart, Head, and Hands framework within a culturally relevant context like Cipta, Rasa, Karsa offers a promising approach to enhance preservice teachers' holistic preparedness for inclusive classrooms. These insights inform future improvements in the design and delivery of inclusive education courses in Indonesia.