Australian National University | Indonesia Institute

# ANU Indonesia Institute Postgraduate Workshop 2026

## Student Conference Program

17th September

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# General information

## Location

Hedley Bull Building (Bld 130), Lecture Theatre 2

130 Garran Rd,

Acton ACT 2601

# Getting around

How to find your way around ANU Campus

### How to find your way to ANU Campus

If you are arriving at Canberra airport, the Rapid 3 (R3) comes directly to the city centre. The Jolimont interstate bus terminal is also located in the city centre on Northbourne Avenue.

### Public transport

Bus 53 has direct stops in front of and opposite the National Film and Sound Archive, which is across the road from Hedley Bull Building. You can take the bus from City Interchange Platform 8. You can use a debit/credit card to tap on and off any bus or tram.

### Taxi

ACT Cabs is the local taxi service in Canberra. To book a taxi, call (02) 6280 0077. Alternatively, you can use ride-hailing services to reach our campus.

### On foot

It will take approximately 20 minutes to walk from the city centre (Civic) to the Hedley Bull Building and the adjacent Coombs Extension Building. You can also take this walking route from the Civic tram terminus.

## Program

## Thursday 17th September: Hedley Bull Theatre 2

| TIME | PROGRAM |
|---|---|
| 8.30am | Arrival & Coffee |
| 9.00-9.40am | Session 1. Student panel – Environment and Energy<br>Mahesti Hasanah (University of Sydney)<br>Clara Hetty Primasari (Monash University)<br>*Discussant*: Dr Rini Astuti |
| 9.40-10.40am | Session 2. Student panel – Culture and Religion<br>Tri Kurnia Revul Andina (Monash University)<br>Yohanes Victor Lasi Usbobo (The University of Sydney)<br>Nurliah Buhari (visiting fellow, ANU Indonesia Project)<br>*Discussant*: Prof Robert Cribb |
| 10.40-10.55am | *Morning tea* |
| 10.55-12.15am | Session 3. Student panel – Public Health<br>Amirah Ellyza Wahdi (University of Queensland)<br>Sandra Olivia Frans (University of Melbourne)<br>Hartaty Sarma Sangkot (ANU)<br>Chreisye Mandagi (visiting fellow, ANU Indonesia Project)<br>*Discussant*: Dr Nyoman Sutarsa |
| 12.15-1.00pm | *Lunch* |
| 1.00-2.00pm | Session 4. Student panel – Language and Education<br>Topan Iman (University of Queensland)<br>Haira Rizka (University of Queensland)<br>Andi Miftahul Maulidil Mursyid (University of Queensland)<br>*Discussant*: Professor I Wayan Arka |
| 2.00-3.00pm | Session 5. Student Panel – Policy and Spatial Planning<br>Savitri (Monash University )<br>Rosa Turpa Gabe (UNSW)<br>Fairuz Mutia (UNSW)<br>*Discussant*: Dr Nurina Merdikawati |
| 3.00-3.15pm | *Afternoon tea* |
| 3.15-4.15pm | Session 6. Student Panel – Law, Justice and Politics<br>Syaiful Anam (University of New England)<br>Dio Ashar Wicaksana (ANU)<br>Citra Orwela (Flinders University)<br>*Discussant*: Dr Sana Jaffrey |
| 4.15pm | Closing remarks |

# Panels and Abstracts

## Environment and Energy

### State Agency and Green Fiscal Geothermal Energy Policies in Indonesia

Mahesti Hasanah, University of Sydney

The literature on the green energy transition highlights the contradictory role of the state in both promoting green transitions and sustaining capital accumulation. This presentation intervenes in this debate, using Indonesia's renewable geothermal energy policy as a case study to ask: How does the combination of low-pricing regimes and fiscal incentives illustrate the state's role in constructing markets for geothermal energy? The research uses qualitative methods, including policy analysis, stakeholder reports, 87 multi-stakeholder interviews, and five months of field observations. The analysis focuses on the tension between government efforts to maintain low energy prices and the provision of fiscal incentives — subsidies, tax concessions, and flexibility in import tariffs policies — to stimulate capital investment in geothermal energy. Drawing on the concept of state agency in capitalism and the critique of price-led climate policy, this research conceptualises the state's policy contradiction not as a policy failure but as a mechanism through which state capitalism operates in the geothermal energy market. This study argues that markets for green energy are not simply enabled by the state but are deliberately produced through contradictory yet coordinated interventions.

### Environmental Threat and Pro-Environmental Action: Understanding Carbon Offset Behavior Across Indonesian Contexts

Clara Hetty Primasari, Monash University

Climate change mitigation increasingly depends on individuals engaging in pro-environmental behavior. One approach is carbon offset contribution, yet environmental intentions often fail to translate into action, creating the intention–behavior gap. Digital platforms increasingly use social norm nudges to encourage sustainable behavior, but their effectiveness may depend on environmental context. Drawing on the Focus Theory of Normative Conduct, this study examines whether the effectiveness of descriptive and injunctive norm nudges varies across environmental threat conditions. A scenario-based survey and laboratory experiment were conducted in Indonesia across low-risk (Yogyakarta, Malang) and high-risk (Palembang, Palangkaraya) contexts of forest fire and deforestation exposure. Preliminary findings suggest that injunctive norms outperform descriptive norms across contexts but through different mechanisms. In high-risk contexts, injunctive norms strengthen intention enactment, whereas in low-risk contexts they support behavior among individuals with weaker intentions. The findings advance understanding of how environmental conditions shape the effectiveness of digital social norm nudges.

## Culture and Religion

### Vulnerability, Piety, and Culture: Indonesian Muslim Women's experiences of technology-facilitated violence in halal matchmaking (ta'aruf) apps in Indonesia

Tri Kurnia Revul Andina, Monash University

This project examines Indonesian Muslim women's experiences of technology-facilitated violence in halal-matchmaking (ta'aruf) apps in Indonesia. While these platforms are increasingly popular as religious-oriented alternatives to conventional ta'aruf and mainstream dating apps, they also reproduce gender hierarchies and expose women to various forms of online abuse. This study addresses a gap in scholarship by focusing on religious-oriented platforms in the Global South, where intersections of gender, culture, and religion shape women's experiences. Drawing on feminist frameworks including the social theory of gender, cathexis, intersectionality, decolonial feminism, and the concept of continuum of sexual violence, this study explores how women engage with these apps, how they experience and negotiate violence, and how their practices reflect broader socio-cultural and religious norms. This study employs feminist interviewing, case study methods, and observation. This project aims to contribute to feminist media, platform, and gender studies by providing context-specific insights (Indonesian ta'aruf apps). Ultimately, this study aims to inform safer platform design, support advocacy efforts, and advance understanding of Muslim women's experiences with digital platforms.

### Banu as Atoni Meto Environmental Knowledge and Governance

**Yohanes Victor Lasi Usbobo,** University of Sydney

I will present Banu as a knowledge and environmental governance system of the Atoni Meto group, which describes the development, practice, and institutionalisation of this system in arid Timor. The fieldwork employed a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with customary leaders, villagers, village government officials, and officers of the forestry and environment department in Oecusse (Timor-Leste) and West Timor (Indonesia). Banu is grounded in a cosmological worldview that connects humans, nature, and ancestors, with the environment being considered a living and sacred entity. This worldview is articulated in moral-ecological principles, traditional prohibitions and behaviours inherent in agriculture, resource management and ceremonial life. Knowledge is created and transmitted through oral traditions, ritual performances, and collective memory, which is shared through societal norms and taboos. This chapter deals with the differences between Oecusse and West Timor with regard to legal recognition and interaction with the state. Overall, the Banu appear to be an integrated system of knowledge, spirituality and institutional regulation underpinning environmental governance and climate adaptation.

### The 'Madak' Tradition and Marine Resource Sustainability in West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia: Insights from University Students

**Nurliah Buhari,** Visiting Fellow, ANU Indonesia Project

Traditional harvesting of marine resources during low tide, locally known as Madak, has been practiced for generations in West Nusa Tenggara. However, previous studies have indicated that these activities contribute to the decline of marine biodiversity and the degradation of critical ecosystems. As agents of change, the younger generation must be involved in marine resource management. This study explores undergraduate students' perceptions and knowledge regarding Madak activities and their associated social-ecological impacts. A total of 206 students from 11 universities participated by completing questionnaires containing both open- and closed-ended questions. Collected data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The results show students perceive Madak activities as having positive economic impacts but potential negative social and environmental effects. Knowledge of Madak's negative environmental impacts is more prevalent among students studying marine organisms and ecosystems. To reduce these negative impacts, students proposed the need for socialization and awareness campaigns.

## Public Health

### Adolescent mental health service use in Indonesia: Findings at the national and subnational level

**Amirah Ellyza Wahdi,** University of Queensland

This presentation will cover my investigation into the prevalence and profile of adolescent mental health service use in Indonesia. In 2021, the Indonesia – National Adolescent Mental Health Survey (I-NAMHS) gathered data from 5,664 adolescent-caregiver pairs across Indonesia regarding adolescent mental health and their use of mental health services. This dataset includes two oversampled subnational samples from Palu City, Central Sulawesi, and Purworejo Regency, Central Java. Both districts were selected due to the high prevalence of depression among populations aged 15 and older in Palu, and rapid urban development in Purworejo. Therefore, my analysis will allow us to compare the prevalence and profiles of adolescent mental health service use at both the subnational and national levels, highlighting opportunities for districts in Indonesia to improve adolescent mental health service utilization based on their unique characteristics. Measures of service use include prevalence and profile derived from demographics and health-seeking behaviors. This analysis also examines health insurance and out-of-pocket costs for adolescents accessing mental health services, offering insights into how the health insurance system functions within the context of adolescent mental health.

### "We Should Know about This Disease": A qualitative study of cervical cancer awareness and community engagement in Cervical Screening in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

**Sandra Olivia Frans,** University of Melbourne

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in Indonesia, with a high mortality rate. The screening rate nationwide remains low at only 10%. Factors contributing to low cervical screening uptake include limited availability of services, lack of trained providers, and low community engagement. This study aims to explore how women in East Nusa Tenggara perceive cervical cancer and their needs regarding screening, and what roles midwives play in health communication and community engagement related to cervical screening. Using a qualitative, descriptive-interpretive approach, data were collected through four focus group discussions with women, 2 in Kupang and 2 in Timor Tengah Selatan districts (total n=32) and semi-structured interviews with 24 midwives. The thematic analysis identified four interconnected themes. Women's perceptions of cervical cancer primarily linked it to mortality and stigma, which deterred some from screening. Conversely, many expressed a desire for more information and respectful care. From the midwives' perspective, themes included health communication strategies, including the use of reproductive rights to educate women, and community engagement practices.

### Digital access and patterns of utilisation among older adults in Malang City, Indonesia: implications for digital health interventions

**Hartaty Sarma Sangkot,** Australian National University

Indonesia's rapidly ageing population presents both challenges and opportunities for digital health interventions. This study aimed to examine digital access and utilisation, and older adults' willingness to receive health screening results in Malang City. A cross-sectional study was conducted among individuals aged ≥45 years at 16 Puskesmas. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to 400 participants. Descriptive analysis and chi-square tests were employed to identify determinants of digital readiness. A total of 72.25% (n=289) of participants reported having access to digital technology; however, only 2.5% (n=10) were classified as digitally ready. Despite this, a high level of willingness to engage with digital health communication was observed, with 96% (n=385) indicating openness to receiving health-related notifications. Although access to digital technology is relatively high, digital readiness remains low among older adult population in Malang. Nevertheless, the use of WhatsApp highlights its potential as a feasible & accessible platform for health communication. The use of WhatsApp-based messaging represents a more practical approach. Effective implementation will require investments in workforce capacity, infrastructure, and policy frameworks.

### Strengthening Inclusive Primary Health Care Systems for Equitable Immunization Coverage in Remote and Border Areas: A Policy Implementation Study in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

**Chreisye Mandagi,** Visiting Fellow, ANU Indonesia Project

Immunization is one of the most effective public health interventions; however, disparities in coverage remain a critical challenge, particularly in geographically remote and underserved regions. In archipelagic countries like Indonesia, the complexity of delivering equitable health services is amplified by geographic fragmentation, decentralized governance, and socio-cultural diversity. Despite national efforts to achieve universal immunization coverage, regions such as North Sulawesi especially border and island districts continue to experience gaps in access and utilization, few studies integrate policy analysis (policy cycle), health system readiness, and inclusivity perspectives (gender & disability). These disparities are not solely due to service delivery limitations but are shaped by broader policy, governance, and social inclusion dynamics. Existing literature has largely focused on coverage outcomes or service delivery constraints, with limited attention to how policy processes and inclusivity factors intersect within decentralized health systems. This study addresses this gap by integrating policy analysis, health system readiness, and gender and social inclusion perspectives.

## Language and Education

### Examining Ordinary Indonesian Multi-Party Conversations

**Topan Iman,** University of Queensland

This study demonstrates the application of Conversation Analysis (CA) method to ordinary Indonesian multiparty social interaction. CA is a method for examining systems of social interaction based on data-driven examination of recordings of naturally occurring interactions. While CA research has extensively examined English, European, and major Asian languages, there has been comparatively little work examining Indonesian conversation. Therefore, this study contributes to expanding comparative CA research, providing new evidence for which aspects of conversation that may be culturally and linguistically variable, and which are common across languages. The data for this study are drawn from a corpus of video-recorded Indonesian multiparty conversations consisting of recordings of 3 or 4 Indonesian (Sumbawa) native speakers over 18 years old who already know each other engaged in ordinary conversation. The recordings are currently being transcribed and annotated for the analysis of turn-taking practices. While the analytic focus is still being developed, preliminary observations suggest that projection may be a promising area of investigation. In particular, the study may examine how participants use grammatical, prosodic, and sequential resources to anticipate upcoming talk.

### Translating Culture-Specific Items in Indonesian Scholarly Publications: A Study of Local-to-Global Knowledge Transfer

**Haira Rizka,** University of Queensland

Translations of culture-specific items (CSIs) in Indonesian scholarly articles challenge translators wishing to convey semantic and cultural meanings. This research investigates how Indonesian CSIs without direct English equivalents are handled in scholarly articles and explores the implications of these translations for transferring Indonesian local knowledge into international academic discourse. This research draws on a CSI taxonomy synthesised from Newmark (1988), alongside Baker's multi-level equivalence theory (2018) and Toury's translation norms (2000, 2012). This qualitative research collected 18 datasets of source texts and English translations published in open-access journals indexed by Scopus and Indonesia's SINTA Rank 2. The data were analysed using textual analysis. Preliminary findings show that Indonesian CSIs mostly appear in English translations to foreground Indonesian culture. The translations generally conform to Anglophone

academic norms, resulting in some cultural meanings being conveyed only partially. These findings advance understanding of CSI translation in scholarly articles and enrich research on a less-represented language pair in translation studies.

### Environmental Literacy: A Critical Discourse Analysis of English Textbooks

Andi Miftahul Maulidil Mursyid, University of Queensland

Textbooks play a significant role in shaping how environmental issues are presented and interpreted. However, the discursive construction of environmental literacy in textbooks may also reproduce particular ideological perspectives regarding responsibility and solutions to environmental problems. This study examines how environmental issues and responsibilities are represented in Indonesian English language textbooks. Drawing on Critical Discourse Analysis, the analysis focuses on linguistic and visual representations of environmental problems, actions, and agents. Particular attention is given to grammatical features such as transitivity, nominalisation, and modality, as well as the interaction between textual and visual elements. Preliminary analysis indicates that environmental problems are frequently framed through narratives emphasising individual behavioural change and technological or corporate-led solutions. At the same time, structural causes of environmental degradation are often backgrounded or obscured through linguistic strategies such as passive constructions and nominalisation.

## Policy and Spatial Planning

### How can vernacular housing and settlement principles be reframed to inform contemporary living?

Savitri, Monash University

In rural Indonesia, government housing and settlement provision often reveals a disconnect between policy, culture, and health considerations. Standardised approaches often overlook local spatial practices and environmental conditions, leading to low community acceptance. Establishing culturally responsive housing and settlements is particularly challenging in Indonesia, which has more than 300 ethnic groups with diverse living traditions, spatial organisations, and social customs. While vernacular architecture demonstrates strong relationships between environment, culture, and wellbeing, this knowledge remains underrepresented in contemporary rural housing development. This research investigates how vernacular housing and settlement principles can be reframed to inform culturally adaptive contemporary living. Using a design-led approach, the study combines literature review, case studies, fieldwork, analytical drawing, and spatial analysis across multiple scales, from dwelling to settlement. Through iterative design exploration, vernacular knowledge is translated into speculative strategies for future scenarios. The study contributes to design-led research by developing culturally responsive and sustainable housing and settlement strategies for rural Indonesia.

### Caught in Between: Housing Precarity and the Role of Kampung Kota for Indonesia's Urban Middle-Income Households

Rossa Turpuk Gabe, University of New South Wales

Housing research has long centred on low-income and traditionally vulnerable groups, leaving the housing vulnerabilities of middle-income households comparatively underexamined. This is especially pronounced in rapidly urbanising Indonesia, where the category of "middle income" remains loosely and inconsistently defined. This conceptual ambiguity shapes how the group experiences housing precarity. My research develops a conceptual framework of housing precarity comprising eight dimensions: affordability, tenure security, suitability, quality, accessibility, neighbourhood quality, locational accessibility, and social cohesion. While the framework is examined conceptually and empirically in Australia, Indonesia's expert engagement offers an emerging cities perspective through structured interviews and the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) with stakeholders from government, NGOs, developers, and academia. Preliminary findings position

affordability, locational accessibility, and tenure security as the most influential dimensions. Notably, kampung kota emerges as a transitional space through which middle-income households negotiate entry into the formal market, offering proximity to employment and affordable stepping stones at the cost of tenure security and quality.

### The Impact of Old Dutch Canals on Flood Risk in Java's Desakota Landscapes

**Fairuz Mutia,** University of New South Wales

Following the agricultural reforms of the 1830s, Dutch colonial authorities engineered an extensive hydraulic network across Java to service the Cultivation System. This article examines how this infrastructure shapes contemporary floods in Jombang, East Java. Drawing on a desakota (urban-rural transition zone) in the Kudu district, the research combines GIS-based historical mapping with walking interviews to trace the spatial legacy of colonial water engineering into the present. The findings reveal that colonial hydraulic geometries, designed for extractive agriculture rather than ecological resilience, have become morphological constraints on flood adaptation. Rather than functioning as a durable infrastructure, these inherited systems generate persistent vulnerabilities such as waterlogging, soil degradation, disrupted agricultural livelihoods, and are unevenly distributed across the landscape. This paper contributes to interdisciplinary debates on colonial spatial legacy, landscape persistence, and climate adaptation in Indonesia. It argues that flood risk in contemporary Desakota cannot be addressed without confronting the physical and epistemological inheritances of hydraulic colonialism.

## Law, Justice and Politics

### "I Cannot Cry at Home, But I Can Cry Here": Emotional Safety and Everyday Peace at Peacesantren Welas Asih, Indonesia

**Syaiful Anam,** University of New England

This work is based on my ongoing ethnographic fieldwork at Peacesantren Welas Asih (PWA), an Islamic Boarding School in Garut, West Java, Indonesia. While peace education is often framed as a preventive strategy, focusing on how young people can be protected from violence or discouraged from adopting intolerant and extremist ideas, this work proposes a complementary question: what kinds of everyday spaces enable young people to experience and practise peace? Through immersion in conversation and observation over the past couple of months, students often describe PWA as a space where they feel heard, welcomed, loved, comfortable, and emotionally safe. These emerging findings demonstrate that peace may be experienced through the relational and spatial conditions of everyday educational life. The research therefore explores peace as emotional safety, examining how Islamic ethical values are embodied and enacted in everyday life within PWA. Rather than portraying students as passive recipients of peace education, it considers how they actively interpret, negotiate, and reproduce peaceful relationships through creative and everyday practices. Preliminary findings suggest that peace education may be understood not merely as the transmission of peaceful values but as the cultivation of spaces and relationships through which young people can experience and enact peace.

### Victim Participation in Indonesian Criminal Justice: A Case Study in Regulatory Borrowing and Contestation

**Dio Ashar Wicaksana,** Australian National University

Indonesia is in the initial stages of changing its approach to criminal law in ways that acknowledge the role and needs of victims. This can be seen from the enactment of special legislation that accommodates the interests of victims to incorporate victim-oriented perspectives. This study investigates the position of victims in Indonesia by first analysing how victims are referenced in the legislative framework of Indonesia and then asking key actors in the criminal justice system. Under the criminal procedural law, the treatment of victims depends largely on how they are perceived by police and prosecutors. This study uses sexual violence crimes as the lens through which to view victim rights and to assess their standing in Indonesia's criminal justice system. In Indonesia victims

continue to face substantial challenges and systemic barriers to reporting offences, being heard during prosecution, and accessing compensation within the criminal justice process. Since the early 2000s, legal reforms in Indonesia have introduced victim-oriented measures. However, in practice, victims remain largely treated as instruments of evidence, while access to remedies and participation still depends on law enforcement discretion.

### To Become and To Be a Politician: Women in the Post-Suharto Era

**Citra Orwela,** Flinders University

Studies of women in politics often focus on representation and quantitative figures on women politicians who have been successfully elected to parliament. However, the motivation behind it is also essential, as it is influenced by several factors, including rational, structural, and cultural systems deeply rooted in society. This thesis examines the motivations, drivers, and barriers to women's political participation in East Java, Indonesia. This doctoral thesis will investigate women's engagement in Indonesia's political arena, examining the motivations that encourage women to become representatives (legislative and executive). Here, engagement in politics is understood as political participation involving beliefs, commitments, and actions. Focusing on political contests in the province of East Java at the local levels (city/region and province), it will examine women's motivation in Indonesia's political environment. Through in-depth research with women in East Java who engage in politics as representatives, political party officials, and candidates, my thesis will explore the motivations for women to participate in the political arena.