Islam, Ethnicity and Identity in South Kalimantan

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Abstract

This paper provides an historical outline of the formation of identity in a transmigration village in South Kalimantan. First settled in the early 1950s, its population comprises Javanese transmigrants and their descendants and Banjar. Most Javanese are farmers, and most Banjar are traders or civil servants; thus, it is occupation rather than ethnicity that underlies the village's primary social division, that between urang gunung (farmers, Javanese, 'people of the mountain') and urang pasar (traders, Banjar, 'people of the market'). In this paper, I explore both the articulation between pasar and Banjar and between gunung and Javanese, as well as the changing relationship of both occupational and ethnic categories to Islam.