

Women Workers in Industrial Areas: The Predicament of “Floating Community” Citizenships

Aris Arif Mundayat
Anthropology, Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta

Abstract

Many studies on socio-political life of women's labour in Indonesia focus on industrial relations and the labour movement. Analyses of the relationships between women workers, consumption behaviour and local politics present a more problematic picture by identifying attention to the consumer culture, primordial issues, and the problem of defining citizenships within the context of local politics. Consumption behaviour is interpreted here as the politics of lifestyle in the course of urban life and their engagement with mass media, out of which hybridised sociality emerges as a significant indicator of inter-cultural affiliation beyond locality. My aim is to formulate new ways of identifying associations between consumer culture, the social life of women workers in industrial areas, local politics, and citizenship in Indonesia.