



## THE SYMPOSIUM RESUME

### Context of the Symposium

- This 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Jurnal Antropologi Indonesia in Yogyakarta is a collaboration between the Department of Anthropology, Universitas Gadjah Mada and Department of Anthropology, Universitas Indonesia.
- The year of 2019 is an important political year; as we saw the rise of unprecedented articulation of sectarian politics, which coincides with the larger global context where sectarianism, conservatism and ultra-nationalism has emerged as a powerful political articulation of discontent.
- The socio-political atmosphere prior to Indonesia's 2019 elections is marked by debates and contesting interpretations over national ideology, heated discussions on development and its outcomes, socio-economic inequalities, and other political debates that are feared to bring Indonesia to a 'disintegration'.
- During the previous (sixth) symposium, we have discussed how changes brought by *reformasi* have enabled Indonesia to experience series of experiments in how to address issues related to socio-cultural diversity. Political expressions have increasingly emerged through the articulation of identity politics such as ethnicity, religion and ideology.
- In these past four days, we had the opportunity to discuss as well as to test and provide various appropriate theoretical frameworks in providing solutions to current socio-political tensions associated with societal / national 'disintegration'.

### Some points of Discussions

- The practice of tolerance in managing socio-cultural differences in everyday life is diverse, both in the political and communal spheres.
- Indonesian anthropologists face different challenges in engaging the increasing politicization of communities by identity politics.
- The idea of multiculturalism as a practice remains problematic in the everyday life of Indonesians:
  - The strengthening of religious puritanism in both public and private spheres has increased social exclusivity, even among adherents of same religions.
  - While the internet as an open communication platform has brought about the strengthening of democracy, it has also enabled the engineering of identity politics for short term political purposes
- We are currently living in an unprecedented acceleration of landscape transformations that have unleashed feral processes that affect both human and non-humans alike. This brings forward the importance of active engagements in rethinking and anticipating the future of our planetary existence
- Critical perspectives and new methods to understand development ideologies, policies and practices have become important in understanding how marginality and social differences are reproduced.



## Methodological and Theoretical Reflections

- Anthropological concerns about diversity has extended beyond humans. Inter-disciplinary approaches are becoming more important in understanding and engaging with our current more-than-human anthropocene.
- We cannot ignore the importance of online social and mass media in influencing and framing socio-cultural diversities by competing interests.
- The need for Indonesian anthropologists to develop a responsive methodological awareness of positionality and intersectionality has become increasingly important in enhancing mutual understanding between researchers and communities studied.
- The curricula of anthropology in Indonesian universities has to accommodate contemporary debates on socio-cultural differences within the framework of multiculturalism, plurality, and relativity to enrich our understanding on this subject
- The need to see plurality from the third person's perspective in managing social differences. More research on inter-island migration in Indonesia and its effect on social interaction and management of social differences is needed.
- The particular challenge of Indonesian (or Southeast Asian / Asian) anthropologists is their longstanding entanglement with the morality of a nationalist-developmental ideological baggage, which needs to be unpacked, criticized and addressed. This has methodological implications in how Indonesian anthropologists formulate questions, position and articulate themselves within the context of both the wider academic community and society.

## Practical and Policies Implications

- The management of social differences should move beyond mere recognition, but should be empirically understood and addressed through the building of friendship, empathy, and solidarity.
- Anthropological engagement is not mere ethnographic research that is strictly bounded by institutional traditions. The way to move anthropology forward is to create new methodological and life-changing possibilities through transdisciplinary research, social engagement through the arts, activism and politics that should be acknowledged as new modes of knowledge creation that is open, democratic and accessible for all.
- The future orientation of (Indonesian) anthropological training should be geared towards inter-university collaboration on formulating responsive academic curricula, and the incorporation of trans-disciplinary approaches through increased institutional collaboration at local, regional and international levels. The curricula should be responsive to issues related to ethnicity, religion, gender & sexuality, labour, class, multi-scalar migration, and the anthropocene.

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