sectors. Unbearably, there were are changing landscape of activities ranging from the occupation and expropriation of large mining areas, the proliferation of community mining, to the decentralization of mining policies. However, a number of observers addressed the problems of environment problems, pollution, and the health of miners as consequences of the extensive mining in the community level. In response, the government took back district-level authority, and handed it over to regional governments at the provincial level. Some more considered important authorities were placed at the central government.

My observation in Central Kalimantan showed three effects of this recentralization policies. First, the provincial government is now stronger to regulate and control the granting of permits at lower levels. Second, entrepreneurs in the regions must travel a considerable distance to the provincial capital that led to the practice of licensing brokerage, which involved officials at the provincial government office. Three, while at the community level, mining seems to remain a livelihood option for residents; but most miners actually come from other areas outside the province.

**Subjectivity and Forest Fires Governance in Indonesia: The Making of Environmental Inmates?**

*Sofyan Ansori  
Northwestern University*

This paper investigates the struggle of Dayak people, an indigenous community who greatly depends on forest extraction for their livelihood, in articulating their responses toward the fire use regulation and positioning themselves as subjects. Following the 2015 massive forest fires, the Indonesian government promulgated a regulation and mobilized more than 25 state agencies to control forest fires. Emphasizing the responses and actions performed by the people, the analysis engages critically with the debate on environmentality and environmental subjects to unpack people’s everyday experience, particularly the way they embrace, live, and escape the government’s gaze. This paper draws from author’s ethnographic fieldwork in 2015 and 2016 in Mantangai, Central Kalimantan, one of the most impacted environment by forest fires in Indonesia. The methods deployed in this paper includes participant observation in both farming and forest areas as well as interviews with Dayak people. The preliminary findings show that the new technologies of governance force indigenous people to reorient their positionality toward the state, their environment, and their livelihoods. This paper argues that the making of this new subjectivity is not only constituted by the way development intervention is situated or how oppression is lived and experienced, but also countered by indigenous people in an everyday setting. This paper attempts to exercise other possibilities in probing environmental subjects by proposing that it should not necessarily be attributed exclusively to those with a positive quality relationship between individuals and their environment. Instead, it should also allow space for other forms of positionality and inclusive to those whose thoughts and actions influence the environment in many different ways—including subjectivities as “environmental inmates.” By tracing the formation of subjectivity, this paper offers a different optic in understanding the responses of indigenous people to the centralized efforts of forest fires governance.

*Keywords: Forest fires governance, Environmental subjects, Indigenous people, Ethnography, Indonesia*