Methodological Dilemma on Studying Diversity

Coordinators: Elan Lazuardi (UNSW Sydney), Des Christy (Radboud University), & Wahyu Kuncoro (Universität Zürich)

In Indonesia, like elsewhere, ethnography works have increasingly been inseparable from global connectedness which influences people’s way of thinking regarding their relationships with their surroundings (Appadurai 1996, Tsing 2004). At the same time, the so-called reflexive turns in anthropology (Clifford and Marcus, 1986) has called into question the often taken-for-granted positionality among the anthropologist. More than four decades have passed since legal anthropologist Laura Nader (1972) first called for anthropologists to ‘study up’, which calls into question the often taken-for-granted power relation between anthropologists and the people they research about (or rather, the people they do research with). Since then, Nader’s question has been taken up, and even challenged by anthropologists working with those who hold ‘more power’. Nader, herself, has further clarified her position that her call to ‘study up’ did not mean for the anthropologist to stop ‘study down’, but to study ‘up, down, and sideways simultaneously’ (2008). Anthropologists have discussed the challenges of doing ‘anthropology at home’/‘native anthropology’, ‘reverse anthropology’, and other ethical dilemmas of doing ethnographic research. This panel invites abstracts that address the methodological dilemma anthropologists face in their search for ‘anthropological knowledge’, whether based on research in Indonesia and outside. The panel’s learning objectives are as followed: - to share the methodological reflection in anthropological research in responding to increasing threat to diversity; - to learn about the methodological innovation in anthropology to document diversity; - to understand how anthropologists, negotiate consent in research; - to discuss the ways, one’s positionality as a researcher define or limit our choice of methodology; and finally - to discuss the ways anthropologists (re)define research methodology in the era of ‘dis’-integration.

Methodological Dilemma of Doing Fieldwork among Fishers in the UK

Des Christy
Radboud University

Abdullah (2018) in his reflexion on 50 years of Indonesian anthropology is reminding the readers that culture is not an object but a perspective used to understand human problems and concerns, which is essential for (Indonesian) anthropologist to expand their perspective. In my case, doing research outside Indonesia is part of the effort to expand and diversify the perspective. I have been doing fieldwork among fishers in the United Kingdom since July 2018, to see how their livelihood affected by European fisheries regulation and how they see their future after Brexit (Britain leaving the European Union).