

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Lily Farid Yulianti, Melbourne, 24 February 2014

MA, Gender studies, Melbourne University, 2000 cohort; PhD, Gender studies, 2010 cohort



<p>[00:00:40]</p>	<p>Worked for <i>Kompas</i>, a Jakarta-based newspaper, as a journalist. Applied to do a Master's with an AusAID scholarship in 2000 for 2001 intake. Heard about the scholarship from a friend and that women and the areas of gender studies, environmental studies and human rights were prioritised then. Graduated from Hasanuddin University [Makassar] with a degree in Agriculture. While there, worked for the university newspaper. After graduating got a job with <i>Kompas</i>, new office in Eastern Indonesia, in 1995 or 1996. Later went to Jakarta to work with the national desk and applied for a scholarship. In Jakarta, went to the AusAID office and got information about applying for the scholarship.</p>	<p>Early career; Scholarship experience; Application</p>
<p>[00:04:43]</p>	<p>Did not study English formally, just borrowed books about preparing for the IELTS from the Hasanuddin University Language Centre. Son was born in 1998. In 1999 <i>Kompas</i> started a Women's Issues Supplement and Lily was involved. Also worked for South Sulawesi Concerned Women's Organisation, formed the South Sulawesi Female Journalists Association and</p>	<p>Early career; Selecting area of study; Family</p>

	was involved in women's issues during Reformasi. So became interested in gender studies.	
[00:08:40]	<i>Kompas</i> office said Lily would have to resign to go to Australia, they had a scholarship scheme but she was not eligible yet, so it was a difficult decision whether to accept the scholarship. Lily's husband also had to resign from his job with a regional newspaper in the <i>Java Post</i> group. In January 2001, after three months English and academic preparation in Bali, Lily resigned and the family went to Melbourne. AusAID had a family support system, Lily didn't want to go by herself. During the preparation in Bali, AusAID officers explained how the childcare system worked in Australia. It was significant that women scholars were prioritised, family negotiations were different for them than for men.	Leaving Indonesia; Arriving in Australia
[00:12:41]	Had looked into the cost of living in Melbourne and felt that the AusAID stipend would be enough. Then the stipend was for the scholar and their family, now the stipend is only for the scholar. Discussion about this and the likelihood that women who were eligible for these scholarships would have families.	Scholarship experience; Family
[00:15:47]	Chose Melbourne University after briefings in Bali because wanted to come to Melbourne. Melbourne University liaison team had a very good reputation for looking after	Arrival; Selecting course and university; Support staff; family

	<p>scholarship students and it was good, Lucia Wong especially. There was a briefing for the spouses. There was help with housing, letter of recommendation, and childcare. At first they rented a small unit in Dawson Street, Brunswick. Son went to Dawson Street Childcare Centre and husband went to the university spouse language and support program (free childcare for two days a week was included).</p>	
[00:21:07]	<p>Had completed short student exchanges in Japan and elsewhere but this was the first time living overseas. Academic relationships were good, lots of activities. Had to get an H2A in a graduate diploma before starting the master's, so the scholarship was for three years. It was a real challenge, as a non-English speaker, to do coursework, especially the writing and critical thinking, very different to Indonesia where the emphasis was more on memorising information. Master's was by coursework and minor thesis. Husband got a full-time job and also enrolled in a self-funded Masters at Monash.</p>	<p>International mobility; Studying in Australia; challenges</p>
[00:26:14]	<p>Born on 16 July 1971 in Makassar, South Sulawesi, second of three siblings and the only girl. Parents were business people, mother graduated from vocational school for teaching, father went to university, Bachelor of History. Mother's family were well educated, uncle studied overseas, but father's family were in business.</p>	<p>Childhood; family background; undergraduate education</p>

	Lily was not interested or involved in the family business, interested in writing and organising arts events. Did well at school so was streamed into science subjects, enrolled in agriculture to be with her best friend.	
[00:30:29]	In 1994 won a writing competition, in English, and went to Japan on a student exchange for a semester. Family response to getting AusAID scholarship: mother was supportive but others were not, thought the job at <i>Kompas</i> was too good to give up. The union also took up her case, supporting her application for unpaid leave or to be a foreign correspondent. <i>Tempo</i> allowed their journalists to study abroad. (<i>Kompas</i> granted three months maternity leave without pay.)	Childhood; early career; international mobility
[00:35:37]	Australia seemed very quiet, no people. The night before leaving, Lily and her husband went to an internet cafe and found the Radio Australia website and Lily introduced herself and asked for work, and Radio Australia agreed. Was in Melbourne when S11 happened. AusAID office contacted Lily the next day saying they would look after Moslem students, asking her to let them know if there were any unpleasant incidences and telling her to use the transport provided for Muslim students to get home from evening classes. Lily felt safe and didn't have any bad experiences herself.	Arrival; Other work experience; Living in Australia

[00:40:07]	<p>Was busy working for Radio Australia and writing for <i>Kompas</i>, also after the Bali bombing. Did an interview with a community newspaper here and used the opportunity to explain that there are many types of Muslims and most are not extremists. Went to a few mosques here and realised how diverse Islam is. Settled on the Indonesian mosque in Clayton. Melbourne University has a mosque run by the Melbourne University Moslem Students Association, dominated by Middle Eastern or Turkish students. Also met some fellow Sunni students. Was interested to find herself getting along well with Shia students, after often having reported on the conflicts in the Middle East.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; Experiences with religious organisations</p>
[00:47:45]	<p>Lily's son has not had any bad experiences here, living in a multicultural suburb of Melbourne, the school has Friday prayer time for Muslim students. Visited Darwin to set up a relationship between Makassar and Northern Australia, involved in a project called 'Vessel for Stories' – took two artists from Darwin to Makassar – got some funding from the writer's festival. Planning to bring Indonesians to Darwin this year. (Mentions Herlambang Wijaya)</p>	<p>Family; Travels in Australia; Collaborations</p>
[00:52:45]	<p>PhD time was hard. Started in January 2010. Finished Masters in 2003 and went home. No job, so flew to Tokyo and worked as an Indonesian specialist for the Japanese public broadcasting company who</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Post scholarship work experience; international mobility</p>

	run several international foreign language services. Husband went first to Tokyo then to Sweden to finish his Masters, then worked for a Norwegian newspaper in Japan in their East Asian bureau.	
[00:55:31]	Lived five years in Japan, the last years were hard when parents became sick and died. Father-in-law became sick so Lily's husband worked as a lecturer for Paramadina University for two years to be near his parents. In 2010, soon after Lily started her PhD, her mother-in-law got cancer. Very difficult time trying to arrange for someone to be with her in Macassar. Previously went home every summer. In Japan annual family holidays were paid for by work. As a student in Australia, there was no family allowance now and it was hard to go home, very stressful.	International mobility; post-scholarship career; Family; Returning to Australia
[00:59:31]	Could have stayed in Japan or gone back to Indonesia but son's education was a priority so decided to do a PhD in Melbourne. Application was online this time which was easier but had to prepare a year beforehand and get paperwork from the university before applying. Was very stressed by mother-in-law's illness and mother was sick too, felt selfish and regretted deciding to do the PhD, had counselling. Mother recovered. Lily hopes she will come for her graduation.	Family; International mobility; scholarship experience; studying in Australia

[01:03:57]	Father is well. Mother-in-law's illness was most stressful, Lily was the first to notice the problem with her leg, and it was so soon after father-in-law's illness, lengthy separation while her husband cared for him and the family's return to Melbourne.	Family; international mobility
[01:07:00]	Melbourne University was very different in 2010 from 2001, the Melbourne model had been applied and gender studies moved three times during the application process. Less people, fewer staff, Lucia Wong had resigned, new liaison team of 13 people. The Indonesian community had grown, more Indonesian students, DIKTI and private students, more Indonesian and Malaysian restaurants and groceries.	Returning to Australia; Studying in Australia; Indonesian community in Australia
[01:10:09]	Bonded to go home to Indonesia and stay for two years when PhD completed. No obligation to work in the field. Not affiliated to any government body, difficult to get a government job now because of age. Anecdote about a friend with a PhD in microbiology from Melbourne University who was refused a government position because of her age.	Scholarship conditions; returning to Indonesia; Post-scholarship career
[01:15:42]	There are people who have returned to Indonesia and made significant contributions, and not all of them are politicians or public servants. Lily wants to explore the Indonesian–Australian relationship on a person-to-person level. Contributes to Melbourne University's election watch, writing about how	Returning to Indonesia; Australia-Indonesia relations

	Indonesians perceive Australia and how they perceive Indonesian elections.	
[01:19:24]	Ubud Writer's Festival: Lily helped curate the Indonesian program. Now runs a Makassar Writer's Festival, a cultural platform and people-to-people initiative. Lily wants to stay in Australia, Melbourne in particular, because loves all the cultural events and the education her son is getting. Still misses family so thinking about having more family visits, cheaper flights via Denpasar. Age discrimination, especially in government jobs, makes going back to Indonesia less attractive.	Collaborations; Living in Australia; international mobility
[01:24:27]	END	