

**Interview by Jemma Purdey with Eric Hiariej, Yogyakarta, 27 May 2014**

**MA, International relations, ANU, 2001-2003; PhD, International relations, ANU, 2005-2009**



[00:00:16]	Was in Canberra from 2001 to 2003 doing a MA then went home for a year before going back to Canberra from 2005 to 2009 to do a PhD, possibly due to a mistake since scholarship students are normally expected to be in Indonesia for two years before applying again. [Story about being refused a visa to go to a conference in 2010.]	Scholarship experience; Studying in Australia
[00:02:30]	Originally from Ambon, went to school there until going to Gajah Mada University [UGM]. Has been teaching International Relations in FISIPOL (Faculty of Social and Political Sciences) at UGM since 1995. Got his first AusAID scholarship in 1997 but already had a Shansi Memorial Fellowship to Oberlin College, outside Cleveland, in the US. [Anecdote about Krishna Sen arranging for the AusAID scholarship to be delayed so he could go to Oberlin.]	Childhood; Family background; Early education; Early career; Scholarship opportunities
[00:05:36]	After finishing high school Eric sat the national selection test to go to UGM and was accepted, no scholarship. He is the eighth of nine children. Five of them went to UGM, the eldest three and youngest two, in Dentistry, Archaeology, Law, Economics and Eric in IR. Only one has stayed in Ambon, three are in Jogja, two in Jakarta, one in Gresik near Surabaya, one in Bandung and one is a notary in Papua. His father was a civil servant in the governor's office and before that he was an assistant governor so the family lived in different parts of the Moluccas. Four of the siblings are civil servants: Eric, his younger brother teaches in the law faculty at UGM, his older sister is a dentist at the air force hospital in Jakarta and another sister works for the Department of Education. Three of them studied overseas: his brother studied law in Holland and	Early education; Childhood; Family background; International networks

	his sister studied archeology in Singapore with an American supervisor.	
[00:10:40]	[Story about choosing further education over a sporting career.] His wife joined him when he did his master's, their first child was born when they were back in Indonesia and their second child was born when they were back in Canberra. He did his master's by thesis, he decided on a topic while he was in Oberlin. At Oberlin he taught three subjects: Indonesian student movement, Indonesian military and politics and Democracy and development in Indonesia. His master's thesis was 'The historical materialism and the politics of the fall of Suharto'.	Family; Living in Australia; Child born in Australia; Professional networks; International mobility; Career; Studying in Australia
[00:15:00]	His wife went to English classes and activities with other students' partners. Canberra is good for studying but not good for living. Eric didn't have much to do with the Indonesian community, just saw them at Friday prayers and Idul Fitri. He studied in the arts faculty and he was the only Indonesian student. He chose to study there, rather than the Research Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies, because he wanted to get a perspective that was less familiar among Indonesianists. He also chose Michael McKinley, an expert in Australian foreign policy, and Jim George as his supervisor's and they gave him different approaches to IR. He chose ANU from the ten universities that offered the scholarship.	Family; Living in Australia; Socialising; Indonesian community in Canberra; Supervisor-student relationship; Studying in Australia
[00:20:29]	The research centre and faculty fought over him. He had the same supervisor for his PhD. [Comments about being caught in the tension between the faculty and the research centre, and major political events that happened while he was in Australia – the first Bali bombing, attack on the WTC, anti – Iraq war campaign, anti-globalisation action in Sydney.]	Studying in Australia; Living in Australia
[00:24:29]	Lived in Queanbeyan, people there were unable to make a distinction between different types of Indonesians, and different types of Muslims. An Indonesian neighbour, wearing a jilbab, had eggs thrown at her while walking with her children. [Anecdote about his hairdresser's reaction to the Marriott bombing, not realising that Eric was Indonesian.] But in other parts of Canberra, educated people had wiser responses. [Discussion about the socioeconomic status and attitudes of people living in of different parts of Canberra and Queanbeyan.]	Living in Australia
[00:30:32]	Eric lived in a townhouse with six units, four occupied by Australians, one by a Thai man and Eric's family in the sixth. He lived in number 5	Living in Australia; Family; Indonesian community in

	when he did his master's and in number 2 when he did his PhD. [Story about how that came about.] Eric's son went to kinder in North Ainslee, it was convenient for Eric to take him on his way to uni. His wife had Indonesian friends in Queanbeyan. It was a bit scary living there sometimes.	Australia; Challenges
[00:34:47]	His PhD was 'The politics of becoming fundamentalist in the consumer culture' about Islamic fundamentalism in Indonesia. It's due to be published in the US soon but he thinks it's too controversial to translate into Indonesian. He interviewed Abu Bakar Bashir. [Story about refusing to make his research available to ASIO (a regulation of the new anti-terrorist bill), the ANU refusing to provide him with legal aid, if necessary, and his supervisor backing him, threatening to resign over it.] His project was eventually approved but the data was classified by the ANU and not allowed to be published for five years.	Studying in Australia; Professional networks
[00:43:49]	[Comments about absurd rules, e.g. every mosque in Australia had to speak English because ASIO can only speak English.] Eric was determined to do his project regardless of the consequences. It was easy to get access to Abu Bakar Bashir, spent almost six months with him in his boarding school. The people there treated Abu Bakar Bashir like a guru. Eric did ethnographic research, slept with them there, they knew what he was there for and accepted him. He made his thesis available to those who asked for it. His family came back to Indonesia with him while he did that. He had four years to do his PhD and finished before the end of the scholarship. AusAID were very supportive, helpful and efficient. He didn't talk to them about the ethics issues.	Studying in Australia; Challenges; Scholarship experience
[00:49:02]	Most alumni events are in Jakarta so it's difficult to go. He was invited to be a panelist at the 2010 annual seminars. There are lots of Australian alumni at UGM but he doesn't have a connection with them. He collaborates a lot with people in Europe through the international undergraduate program that the department has been developing. It's compulsory for the students to spend a semester studying overseas. As head of department he's been finding universities as partners. Flinders and University of Queensland are partners and he's going to teach at Murdoch University in a few months so will try to collaborate with them as well. Collaboration is on research and publication as well as student exchange.	Alumni network; Professional network; International collaboration; Connections with Australia; Leadership

[00:54:28]	Hopes to do some guest lecturing at ANU in the next couple of years. At Murdoch he will teach Ian Wilson's classes. [Discussion about Ian's research and violence in international relations.] The last contact he had with Abu Bakar Bashir was in 2011. The children spoke English at school but Indonesian at home, to keep up their Indonesian. Eric's son is ten. The baby being born in Canberra hospital was a good experience, it was covered by Medicare.	Career; Connections with Australia; Living in Australia; Family
[00:58:47]	The main difficulty with coming back to Indonesia was an upset stomach. His son missed the cold of Canberra, needed the air conditioning on. [Anecdote about the whiteboard at the Indonesian kindergarten not being an interactive white board.] He would rate his time in Australia as nine out of ten, just some problems with the authorities. [Discussion about the excitement about Kevin Rudd and the change of government in 2007, comparisons to Jokowi.]	Returning to Indonesia; Family; Living in Australia
[01:03:10]	He still follows Australian politics. [Discussion about Australian politicians, Indonesian politics, Jokowi, public opinion.]	Connections with Australia
[01:09:45]	Eric hasn't joined a party, last election he was out of town and didn't vote. He encourages his students to vote, especially for the presidency. [Discussion about Indonesian politics, political parties, politicians and public opinion.]	
[01:14:27]	[Discussion about Prabowo, his past and how he's got where he is.]	
[01:23:09]	END	