

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Dhiann Nur, Surabaya, 30 May 2014
MA, Human rights studies, Victoria University, 2008-2009

[00:00:41]	Born in Jogjakarta but spent some of her childhood in Surabaya and Malang, her grandparents lived in Malang. Her father was a freelance journalist for Antara news office and her mother was a maths teacher. Her parents' tertiary education was interrupted in 1965, they were both part of the student movement and their institutions closed. Her mother finished her course when Dhiann was about fifteen. She was one of five, two girls and three boys, but her younger sister died of meningitis at three years old.	Childhood; Family background
[00:04:15]	Education was important in her family and her brothers all went to university. At school Dhiann was interested in biology and sociology. Her maternal grandfather was a teacher and superintendent of schools. Her paternal grandfather was in the army, one of Sukarno's presidential guards, he survived the 'ganyang Malaysia' in Borneo but was arrested soon after he returned and died a political prisoner, in jail, in 1974. She was in primary school and remembers the letters he wrote her from prison. Both her parents were only children.	Family background
[00:08:07]	Her parents were supporters of Sukarno in 1965. When Dhiann was in junior high school her father told her she had to read <i>Max Havelaar</i> , but it was hard to read. She was a Scout leader, and practiced karate in senior high school and got to level one. Did karate until second semester university.	Family background; Early education
[00:11:37]	Her interest in human rights developed when she was working in a research position in the Community Development Centre at the Petra Christian University and had to face many problems that people had in South Malang. [Story about a man who set up an informal school for the fishermen's children and was accused of being a communist.]	Community service; Early career
[00:14:40]	After that, in 1996 she was involved, through the university, in clandestine advocacy training with some Christian NGOs network from the church and grassroots farmer education, Bina Desa. The military came. Some of them were from the National Human Rights Commission, like Asmara Nababan. In 1998 she supported the protestors by giving them food and drinks.	Community service; Political activism
[00:17:34]	After '98, her network was the first in the province to give political education to women. She was based in the KPPD (Women's Pro-democracy Coalition) in Surabaya. She chose to	Community service; Professional network; Scholarship opportunities;

	<p>study public advocacy to complement her colleagues, Inge and Vera, who were studying human rights implementation and education. They all applied for AusAID scholarships around the same time. She was at Victoria University (VU) in 2008 and 2009. Chose VU because she wanted to learn about public protest. She found some theories about globalisation and military democracy. She used the Lapindo mudflow in Sidoarjo as the topic for her thesis, focusing on a feminist and human rights perspective.</p>	<p>Application process; Studying in Australia</p>
[00:22:33]	<p>It was her first trip overseas. She had some idea of life in Australia from looking online. She found VU different to Indonesia because people appreciated other's experience and culture. She lived in Footscray because she had classes at three campuses, St Albans, Footscray and the city. It was a bit difficult to find her way around. She lived with Indonesian friends, they picked her up when she first arrived. It was only 20 minutes walk to campus, near North Footscray Primary School, and many Indonesians lived there. The market had Asian food.</p>	<p>Arriving in Australia; Living in Australia; Indonesian community in Melbourne</p>
[00:26:37]	<p>There was no formal Indonesian student group then but afterwards VUISA (Victoria University Indonesian Student Association) was formed. There were informal gatherings. She went for trips with Indonesian friends – a holiday in Wahroonga, Western Australia, the Whale Conservatory, Phillip Island and Geelong, watching fireworks on the beach.</p>	<p>Indonesian community in Australia; Travelling in Australia; Friendships</p>
[00:29:23]	<p>Went to Christ Church in Melbourne city, with a friend. Chose that church because she liked how the priest taught about the bible. She did bible studies classes. Members of the congregation were from many different countries, the priest was Australian. She went there every week and liked to meet others and learn about their culture They would share food and invite her to their homes.</p>	<p>Religious practice in Australia; Socialising in Australia; Freindships</p>
[00:32:15]	<p>Her husband and child came two months after Dhiann did. Her daughter was five and a half and went to school. Her husband worked at a heater factory in Thomastown, he got there by train and bicycle. In Indonesia he was a supervisor in fish-food marketing. The family went to the park every week and visited friends, Annie [Feith], Pak Tet from Bandung. Her daughter loved her teacher, Miss Mary. She didn't know any English when she came but it only took her a month to learn to speak it. She had to learn to write Indonesian when she went home. It was OK for Dhiann going home but she</p>	<p>Family; Living in Australia; Work experience in Australia; Returning to Indonesia</p>

	missed the safety and freedom of being able to walk around the streets.	
[00:37:10]	Had a miscarriage while in Melbourne. Annie was one of her supervisors when she did an internship with a women's NGO. Her homework was to analyse the military in Fiji and Indonesia. It was very stressful because her bachelor was in hormonal reproduction in fisheries and this was all a new area of study but she passed the test and learned a lot.	Living in Australia; Studying in Australia
[00:40:06]	There were two AusAID liaison officers who were both very helpful. She was also involved in international student activities at VU. It was a good time. She is still in touch with her supervisor, Julie Stevens, who is an activist. If she gets the opportunity she wants to study the relationship between economic distribution and the military democracy from a human rights perspective.	Scholarship experience; Friendships; Ongoing connections with Australia
	[00:45:48] END	