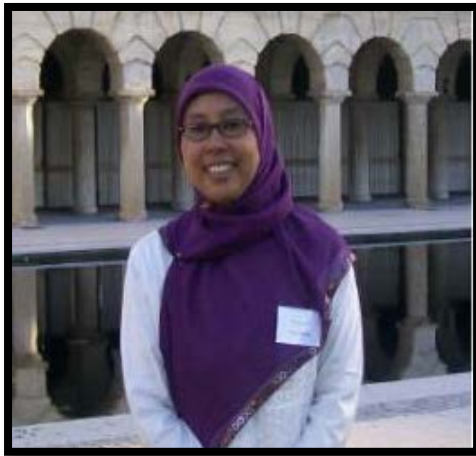


**Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Nina Nurmila, Bandung, 30 April 2014  
MA, Murdoch, 1990 cohort; PhD, Melbourne University, 2000 cohort**



[00:00:20]	From Kuningan, a small city in West Java. Studied in Jakarta, then after graduating did a training program for overseas postgraduate studies run by the Department of Religious Affairs in preparation for applying for scholarships. Applied for an ADS scholarship and was successful. After primary school, 12 years old, went to an Islamic boarding school in Magelang, Central Java, for six years. After that studied education in Jakarta, at first English but was more interested in religion so moved to the Islamic education department.	Background; Childhood; Education; Scholarship application
[00:03:36]	Selection process for the training program for overseas postgraduate studies; nominated by institute, 30 chosen of 140 nationally. Two of the 30 went to London, the Department of Religious Affairs limited applicants for the ADS to 14 and only Nina was successful. Went to Murdoch University and did a Masters degree from June 1995 until June 1997.	University-based competitive selection process for scholarships; Scholarship
[00:07:14]	Attending Murdoch University. Was to start in January but baby	Studying in Australia; Pre-departure support; Family;

	<p>due in February so postponed for a semester, could have postponed for longer if wanted to because Alison Sudraja and Sayla Subroto in the Jakarta office were both mothers and understood. They prepared Nina very well. Went alone and husband and baby joined her after three months. Was welcomed in Perth very warmly by other Indonesian students. At first lived in Cardinia, walking distance from campus, but moved to a bigger, cheaper place a bit further away when the family came.</p>	<p>Indonesian community in Perth</p>
[00:10:31]	<p>Difficult leaving baby and marks suffered, but also difficult when they arrived. At first quarreled with husband about housework but he was willing to learn to help and took over 80 per cent of the housework and baby care. In Jakarta Nina's mother had looked after the baby.</p>	<p>Challenges; family and study</p>
[00:14:04]	<p>Passed the course but not as well as would have liked so did summer school to reduce the load in the next semester and her marks improved. Professor David Eldridge, Research Methods, and Jen Hutchison were both impressed. They both supported Nina's later application for PhD. MA in Development Studies but it didn't improve her life back at UIN. She was still considered as 'just a young woman'. Hoped that a PhD or getting older would make people recognise her worth.</p>	<p>Study in Australia; Networks; Post-scholarship work experience</p>
[00:16:55]	<p>Could only apply for the PhD scholarship after being back in Indonesia for two years. Applied in 1999, but wasn't successful. Was aiming for a doctorate by age 35 so started a PhD at the Islamic University in Jakarta</p>	<p>Returning to Indonesia; Planning for further study</p>

	and was in the third year there when got the scholarship to do a PhD in Melbourne.	
[00:19:13]	Awarded an ADS to do a PhD at Melbourne University in June 2002, husband and son (in Grade 2) were happy to go with her back to Australia. Had three months maternity leave from PhD in October 2004. The scholarship was stopped but was allowed to stay in Australia rather than go back to Indonesia. Husband had casual work in Melbourne. Birth went well but the baby had food allergies at 2 months until 18 months, monthly treatments at the Royal Children's Hospital. Baby was at university childcare so Nina could breastfeed him.	Scholarship, PhD; Family; Living in Australia
[00:25:57]	In 2005 went home to Indonesia with the baby so could pay a nanny and do more writing, spent two months at her parents' house but husband and older son stayed in Melbourne. Breastfed second son for 20 months. During the last six months of candidature went to the university at 4.30am until 10.00pm and her husband stopped work to look after the family.	Family and study
[00:29:04]	Melbourne support network different to that in Perth, only husband and daycare centre. Supervisor, Miala Stivens and Lucia Wong, the International Officer at the Canberra office, arrange to get Nina a three-month extension, until February. Submitted before going home with good results. Made minor revisions when back in Indonesia.	Social networks in Melbourne; Indonesian community; Relationships with supervisors and support staff
[00:33:01]	Thesis was on polygamy in Indonesia. Did research in Bandung, Depok, Bogor and Jakarta. Had six months but did	Research experience; Living in Melbourne

	it in four months. Family stayed in Melbourne. In Melbourne, lived in De Carle Street in Brunswick, close to where Jemma lives. University and Brunswick connections between Nina and Jemma.	
[00:36:02]	Chris Nasion, Nina's interviewer for her MA, suggested Murdoch University. With the PhD she applied to Melbourne, Monash and Flinders universities and was accepted at all three but chose Melbourne because of its reputation. Was a bit disappointed at the lack of postgraduate facilities, was active in University of Melbourne Postgraduate Association (UMPA) so had an office and worked there. Mutual acquaintances, Lutfi and Mina Elfira. Many Indonesian students.	University selection; community work; networks; Indonesian community in Melbourne
[00:38:42]	Not very involved in Indonesian groups, more interested in campus activities. Was an office bearer in UMPA and was elected as the postgraduate representative on the university executive. Fought for better facilities for postgraduate students. Didn't study at home, went to university seven days a week, so it was important to have a workspace on campus, had various offices.	Campus organisations; networks; study experience
[00:41:14]	Picnics and parties with other international students, helped to organise these events. Met Lily. Went to Queensland and to Flinders for conferences. Kept informed about university events, read about a writing competition, entered and won \$200 book voucher. Wrote about experiences as an international student. Likes to be actively involved. Input to university executive resulted in some	Socialising; Friendships; Travel

	improvement but not really big change. As Women's officer raised issues related to the university being more child- and women-friendly. UMPA provided toys and a place for breastfeeding.	
[00:45:37]	Returned to Indonesia in February 2007, went to Sydney on a post-doctoral Endeavour scholarship in April 2008. The family went too, originally for six months but finished in four months to take up an offer to teach at Redlands University in California from August 2008 to June 2009.	Post-scholarship work experience; Endeavour Fellowship; international mobility; Returning to Australia
[00:48:21]	Could design subjects so taught Introduction to Islam and Muslim societies, Gender and Islam, and Islam and modernity. Really enjoyed it. All American students, none were Muslim. This was the second visit to America, the first was on a Fulbright scholarship when doing the PhD in Jakarta, for six months in the Women's Studies department of Philadelphia University. Also went to Uppsala University for six weeks to do a conflict resolution program. Did some research in Malaysia. Situation now - prefers to live in Bandung but misses resources like a library and an office.	Post-scholarship work experience in USA; Other scholarships (Fulbright); international mobility
[00:52:19]	Internet is limited because the university doesn't subscribe to all the journals. Discussion about Alumni Reference Group (ARG) and access to online journals and databases. Sometimes asks overseas colleagues to send her articles but it doesn't always work.	Current work; challenges around infrastructure; research networks; alumni network; ongoing connections
[00:56:42]	Likes to be involved in ARG because meets people, learns a lot and this motivates her to do	Alumni network

	more. Wants it to continue.	
[00:59:27]	END	