

Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Widya Pujarama, Malang, 22 October 2014

MA, Communication and Media, Deakin University, 2010 cohort



[00:00:20]	<p>Studied communications science from 2004 to 2008 and was accepted into the ADS scheme in 2009 and came to Australia in 2010. Is part of the Bugis tribe but grew up in Malang. Father is a soldier and mother is a stay at home mum. Has three sisters. The family doesn't have an academic background, grandfather was a traditional architect (mandor). Widya loved reading as a child, had a great English teacher in school who taught her how to speak English and open her mind to other peoples and cultures. Was very thoughtful, enquiring and a bit introverted as a child, different to the rest of her family. Loved reading Harry Potter – undergraduate thesis in Faculty of Social and Political Sciences was about Harry Potter, how Indonesians learn from other cultures.</p>	Childhood; early education; family
[00:04:25]	<p>While at high school hoped to be accepted into an international relations major but that would have meant going to UGM and her father wouldn't allow her to go away from Malang so she did communications science. She was in the first</p>	Undergraduate study; family; choosing Australian university

	<p>cohort. Is the eldest in the family so the first to go to university. One sister also goes to university, one is a flight attendant with Garuda and the third is only five years old. Really enjoyed her studies because they answered many of her questions about herself and her society. She is also interested in film and video, that's why she chose Deakin to study at in Australia.</p>	
[00:06:57]	<p>Mother is Javanese. Doesn't speak Javanese or Bugis, rarely went to Makassar. Father was in the military police, he had traditional expectations that Wadya would get married after high school. Her mother was supportive of her university studies. Widya and her father argue a lot, arguing is a normal part of their family with parents from different cultures and the girls all challenging their father a lot. Father is proud now of Widya's achievements.</p>	<p>Family background and culture</p>
[00:11:50]	<p>The plan was to be a lecturer, didn't want to burden her parents by doing postgraduate studies without a scholarship. Felt it was easier to get an overseas scholarship than one in Indonesia and really wanted to live overseas. Had visited Laos to do an internship as part of her bachelor where she helped the Indonesian embassy for a month and a half and wrote for the Vientiane Times English language newspaper. Very influenced by popular culture – <i>A Quiet Life, Diary of Bridget Jones, Harry Potter</i> – wanted to go abroad from senior high</p>	<p>International mobility; Scholarship application; overseas networks</p>

	school. Doesn't find Indonesian literature easy to read, prefers English language books and films.	
[00:15:54]	Was an assistant lecturer and colleagues told her about many scholarship schemes. Widya applied to ADS and was accepted the first time. Applied in July 2009, was accepted in December and had the interview in January 2010. Didn't apply for German or Japanese scholarships because of the language. Needs a higher degree to be a lecturer at a university.	Scholarship application; mentoring; international networks
[00:19:24]	Heard a lot about Australia from colleagues who had been, especially a lecturer who went on a DIKTI to the University of South Australia in Adelaide. He said it was nice, language was fine and warned her about managing her money and the weather. Got in touch with the Indonesian community at the last minute, joined IndoMel mailing list and got information about accommodation and goods for sale.	Prior awareness of Australia; networks; Indonesian community in Australia
[00:23:16]	Got married three weeks before leaving for Melbourne. Husband came too, three months after, and did casual work setting up at Victoria Market. He was a student in Indonesia and enjoyed himself in Australia. They lived in share houses to experience other cultures. The first was with and five or six housemates – Sri Lankans, Malaysians and Vietnamese – in a house in Station Street owned by a Chinese woman.	Family; Living in Australia; international networks

	<p>The second was owned by an Indonesian married to an Australian, Tante Maria, and Widya and her husband shared with eight housemates, mostly Korean. Had Americo-Latin and Australian friends too, got to know lots of people from her course.</p>	
[00:28:37]	<p>Had decided not to wear her veil on coming to Australia but after settling in wore it again and had a bad experience with a New Zealand teacher, teaching global media war. Also felt that some lecturers marked her work down because of her English. Widya was the only one wearing the veil, chose Deakin to avoid being with other Indonesian students. It only felt a bit strange not wearing the veil. She felt it made her less likely to be invited out and hated that. Started wearing it again a third of the way through because people in Indonesia were making negative comments on Facebook and because wearing it is a part of herself and she felt people respected her more with it on.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; challenges</p>
[00:32:35]	<p>Seldom goes to the mosque because prays alone. Her husband prayed on campus on Fridays. They went to different mosques for major festivals. Once they went to a Pakistani mosque and couldn't understand anything, thought it was funny. They like to travel and explore. Tried to go all over Victoria. They had a car and went to the major tourist attractions and lakes where her husband could sail his remote control boat.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; religious groups; travelling in Australia</p>

	Comments about interactions with Australians and questions about the veil, terrorism and postgraduate studies.	
[00:35:45]	Still listens to 101.1 radio from her home in Indonesia. Hates how Indonesians degrade themselves on TV so has cable TV. Watched television in Melbourne, channels Ten, Seven and Nine, especially the news and <i>Friends</i> . Went to Imax, nothing in Indonesia can compare – screens so small, sound so bad. Had reverse culture shock going home, wants to go back to Melbourne, feels her life is fullest there. In Indonesia, other people’s expectations of her, e.g. to have children make her feel stressed. Wasn’t able to go interstate when in Melbourne.	Living in Australia; popular culture; ongoing connections; returning home
[00:39:03]	Had a miscarriage in Melbourne and going to hospital used up the ADS settlement money because it happened soon after arriving in Australia so she had to pay for it herself. In Indonesia doctors do a curette after a miscarriage but in Australia they did an ultrasound and said there was no need for a curette. Wadya wanted a second opinion and this cost money. The miscarriage was at six weeks very soon after finding out she was pregnant.	Living in Australia; health concerns and expenses
[00:41:13]	The scholarship money was enough to pay the rent but they had to earn money for food and other things. Intends to go back to do a PhD but the heavy workload makes it hard to prepare for	Scholarship experience; Plans for further study

	<p>it. Wants to choose carefully as has heard of people having difficulties with supervisors and universities. If she could go to Deakin and have her former supervisor, Nina Weerakkody, she would feel comfortable. Is still in contact with Nina who encourages her to do a PhD. Loves Melbourne, almost as much as Malang.</p>	
[00:45:09]	END	