

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Samiaji Sarosa, Yogyakarta, 28 May 2014

MA, Accounting, University of Wollongong (University scholarship), 1999-2001; PhD, IT, UTS, 2001-2004



[00:01:02]	Born in Jogja. His parents were public servants, his father with a government bank and his mother with local government. His two brothers both went to university, one is in Jogja and the other works for a mining company in Kalimantan. His mother did economics at Gajah Mada University (UGM) and his father was one of the first students to graduate from Atma Jaya University. His parents are Muslim but he is Catholic. He went to Catholic primary and high schools and a state middle school. The Catholic school was one of the best schools at the time and close to home. The three brothers all got married in churches.	Childhood; Family background; Early education
[00:03:57]	It was an all-boy high school, the only one in Jogja. [Comments about the school's reputation, not for good behaviour, the focus was on being professional rather than academic.] Did accounting at Atma Jaya, finished in 1998 and became a lecturer specialising in information systems. Did a master's at Wollongong, was there for the Olympics, then came home for eleven months before going to University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Started applying to do a PhD while at Wollongong, with the help of his supervisor, and got offers from Wollongong, Deakin and UTS. The master's scholarship was an international fellowship from Wollongong itself.	Early education; Early career; Studying in Australia; Scholarships opportunities
[00:08:42]	Before going to Wollongong didn't know much about Australia. Lived in a university dorm there, which was nice but some students, the Americans, were a bit annoying, noisy and not serious about studying. It was a good time, totally changed his view about studying at university. Now he gives his students room to work, appreciates their differences and	Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; Supervisor-student relationship

	encourages independent learning. Previously there was less critical thinking and problem solving. The relationship with lecturers is more friendly and equal in Australia and he is like that with his students within limits.	
[00:13:00]	It was the first time he'd been overseas. There were a lot of Indonesian students at Wollongong and lots of student activities on campus. He couldn't afford to travel elsewhere. The scholarship covered the tuition and Atma Jaya gave him a lump sum to live off. He didn't get a casual job. He had to do IELTS but it was no problem. Wanted to go overseas because one of his lecturers had studied in the US. His parents were supportive. His father had travelled for work, and one of his younger brothers, but not to study. Came back to Australia in 2001. Looked for a university in the UK, New Zealand or Australia to do his PhD, didn't mind which, already had the English score. Didn't look in the US because they usually ask for an English test.	Arriving in Australia; Scholarship experience; Living in Australia; Motivation to study overseas
[00:17:19]	Had offers from the three universities before applying for an ADS scholarship. His research plan was to investigate the adoption of information technology in Indonesian small business. [Discussion about it being a new field.] His university was happy for him to go again. He got married in that time and his wife went too, did a master's in accounting at Macquarie University as a private student. He tutored at Sydney University and UTS.	Application process; Scholarship opportunity; Family; Living in Australia; Work experience in Australia
[00:21:17]	Australian undergraduate accounting students are the same as in Indonesia except they're more vocal. He enjoyed tutoring and the pay was good. At first they lived in Glebe then, when his wife was pregnant, they moved to North Ryde to be closer to Macquarie uni. After their daughter was born, in 2004, they moved back to Glebe, they loved Glebe. [Story about Samiaji's father becoming very ill and dying and their decision to have a baby.] Had three months in Indonesia for data collection.	Work experience in Australia; Living in Australia; Family; Birth of child in Australia
[00:24:58]	[Discussion about having a baby in Australia, e.g. being there for the delivery, which wouldn't have happened in Indonesia, ante-natal classes.] The grandmothers came after his daughter was born. Two female colleagues were very helpful and an Indonesian friend made herbal remedies. His wife went back to study after two weeks and he looked after the baby.	Birth of child in Australia; Family; Indonesian community in Sydney; Living in Australia
[00:28:37]	He finished the PhD on time, within three and a half years, but it was with one of the reviewers for nearly a year. The AusAID liaison officer made sure everything was OK. Samiaji was	Studying in Australia; scholarship experience; Living in Australia; Bali

	there when the Bali bombing happened and some Indonesian ADS students had their homes searched by the AFP. They complained to AusAID and the liaison officer lodged a complaint with DFAT and held a meeting for the Indonesian students. People at uni asked questions but he didn't experience any unusual public behaviour. A Muslim friend wearing hijab didn't have any problems either.	bombing
[00:32:47]	Lived in Glebe to be close to campus and not near other Indonesians because they wanted to practise English and experience Australian life. They had Australian neighbours who were friendly, compassionate and trustworthy. His wife worked for a local fish and chip shop and the owner helped them with tax and visa application forms. They needed to earn the money to pay for his wife's study. They managed to explore a bit of NSW but didn't have a car.	Living in Australia; Indonesian community in Sydney; Friendships; Family; Work experience in Australia; Travel in Australia
[00:35:58]	They liked Sydney, Wollongong was empty after 5.00pm but there were people around in Sydney. They felt safe. They joined the congregation at St James. Mass was shorter, less singing, they liked that. His daughter was baptised at St Charles in Ryde. His wife became communion minister in Glebe.	Living in Australia; Religious community in Australia; Family
[00:38:35]	His mother-in-law visited for a couple of months at the end of 2004 and his mother for a month early in 2005. Getting their visas was straightforward. His wife finished studying early in 2005 and she was a bit bored. Submitted his thesis and went back to Indonesia in December 2005. Before that went to conferences in Europe and Thailand, presenting papers co-written with his supervisors.	Family; Living in Australia; Studying in Australia; International mobility; Professional networks
[00:41:35]	It was a smooth transition coming home. There was a new dean who asked Samiaji to manage the faculty's computer lab. He modelled them on the ones at UTS and it caused some controversy. [Comments on changing the way the computer labs were used, changing the scheduling system.] They bought new computers and built a new system, he could apply what he'd learnt in Sydney. He has a good connection with two of his supervisors and is good friends with one of them, Al, who came to Indonesia for a month, funded by a Fulbright scholarship. [Anecdote about a professor from ITB being impressed.]	Returning to Indonesia; Career; Ongoing connections with Australia; Supervisor-student relationship; research collaboration
[00:47:02]	Not enough time for research because is teaching six or seven classes each semester, one master's and six undergraduate. No tutors or teaching assistants. It used to be quite easy because he used e-learning but in 2009 the	Post-scholarship career; Work load; Further scholarship opportunities; Family; Ongoing connections

	<p>university changed its policy and centralised the IT system so they lost everything that they'd built. He applied for post-doctorate studies but his mother was diagnosed with cancer. [Discussion about difficulties because his research is often quantitative rather than qualitative and looking for side jobs to keep up with industry.] He was IT development manager for Fotografer.net, the largest photo-related website in Southeast Asia, in 2011. AusAID employed him in January 2013 to interview alumni for the tracer study. AusAID also invited him to be technical advisor for the Government of Indonesia, he worked for the Ministry of Home Affairs but his salary was paid for by AusAID. [Discussion about his role and how he got those jobs.]</p>	<p>with Australia; Professional networks</p>
[00:54:24]	<p>The salary is not the same as for an Australian but it's quite high for Indonesia. He could fit the AusAID work around his teaching. Since January he's been working on another project, funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). It's an American organisation with an Australian lead consultant. The project goes until 2018. He saw an ad for it in Kompas and applied. He works three days at the university and two days in Jakarta, meeting with government officials. [Discussion about his role, trying to modernise procurement systems in the Indonesian government, observations about how government operates and bright young public servants.]</p>	<p>Post-scholarship career; Professional networks; Leadership</p>
[01:00:05]	<p>Likes being a lecturer, gets respect, but sometimes doesn't like the place. His wife travels a lot too, his wife's parent live near by and help a lot. His daughter is nearly ten and speaks English well. She was eighteen months when they came back to Indonesia and only spoke English and Javanese. When she went to daycare she had to learn Indonesian. She is maintaining English but doesn't want to speak Javanese. Samiaji hopes she will study overseas. She wants to visit Australia again.</p>	<p>Leadership; Post-scholarship career; Family; Ongoing connections with Australia</p>
[01:04:00]	<p>He works with the Australian consultant on this project but all the procedures have to go through Washington. For the AusAID project he only had to deal with Jakarta. His current contract is until the end of the year but with the possibility of extension. He slips stories from his overseas study into his classes but realises it doesn't suit everyone. He supports the ones that ask for advice or help. He hasn't been back to Australia yet. In 2007, his supervisor invited him to attend the graduation, all expenses paid, but it was</p>	<p>Professional networks; International mobility; Ongoing connections with Australia</p>

	when Al was there so he couldn't.	
[01:07:25]	He thinks about a post-doctoral scholarship, would probably go but staying in Yogja is a priority at the moment. Still follows the rugby, supports the All Blacks, fell in love with the haka. Also follows the Melbourne Cup every year, gets a friend to put a bet on for him. Follows Australian politics a bit, interesting to see the difference between the Liberal and Labor approaches to foreign policy. Was working for AusAID when it was disbanded. [Discussion about the spy episode, cuts to the aid budget and increase in scholarships.]	Further scholarship opportunities; Connections with Australia
[01:12:09]	Is a member of the Australian Reference Group (ARG) but his group isn't very active. [Discussion about the 25 interviews he did for the tracer study and the information that was made available to Jemma for her project.] Australian scholarships are more generous and supportive than most other scholarships. [Comments about a friend's experience on ADS and Fulbright scholarships.]	Alumni network; Scholarships experience
[01:19:05]	END	