

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Yuyun Suresti, Yogyakarta, 26 May 2014

MA, Anthropology and Sociology, Flinders University, 2008-2010

[00:00:16]	Comes from Panican, a small village near Purwokerto. After primary school went to a pesantren, in East Java, for eight years. Did undergraduate studies at State Islamic University (UIN) Jogja for four years then did a master's at Gaja Mada University's (UGM) Centre for Religion and Cultural Studies (CRCS). Applied for an ADS scholarship, to do another master's, while at UGM and went to Australia in the same month as finishing the master's in 2008. Her UGM master's thesis was about young women's perception of their bodies and motivations for wearing the veil. Wanted to do more research overseas because many friends from CRCS did that and she wanted the experience of living and studying overseas.	Childhood; Early education; Postgraduate education; Motive to study overseas
[00:05:39]	She has a brother. Her family does not have an Islamic background. She chose to go to the pesantren herself, after seeing it on television, and her parents were surprised and shocked. She got very good marks at school and her father asked why she didn't want to use her marks to go to a good high school. She wanted to go to the pesantren she'd seen on television but she went to pesantren with her mother's friend's daughter. It was a wonderful experience. Her parents were village traders, with a small grocery shop.	Family background; Early education
[00:10:45]	Before applying to ADS had applied to the American Foundation (AF) without success. Graduated from UIN in 2004, started at UGM in 2005. The ADS application process was quite smooth. She was thinking of a master's in sociology or anthropology and looked at Monash and ANU but a friend who had been to Flinders recommended she go there because they offered a graduate diploma in sociology leading to master's. She did coursework with a minor thesis and her topic was the Bali bombings trials because that fitted her supervisor's interests. She explored theories about the hero and antihero.	Scholarship opportunities; Undergraduate education; Motive to study overseas; Studying in Australia
[00:15:37]	Her supervisor was Dr Brad West. She realised she was more interested in gender issues than terrorism. She had done some gender studies at CRCS but not in Australia. Studying at Flinders was a wonderful academic experience. She wanted to experience Australian life so, for the first year, rented a room from an old Australian	Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; Friendship

	man who lived very close to the university. They discussed Indonesia and Australia and his family visited.	
[00:18:34]	She joined an interfaith group, organised by the Flinders chaplain, that met regularly for social gatherings. Most Indonesians at Flinders were conservative, from the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), there were many lively discussions. The PKS people dominated the student organisation so an alternative organisation formed. [Anecdote about Yuyun trying to challenge the PKS view and deciding not to meet with them anymore after they responded badly.]	Living in Australia; Indonesian community in Adelaide; Religious practice in Australia
[00:23:52]	She went to PPIA (Indonesian Students Association of Australia) events, Independence Day etc. Also to weekly discussions at the pendopo organised by Pak Budi. Her landlord went to the pub every evening. After the first year her husband came. She was the only Asian in her course, most of the other students were Australian. She went to the pub with them. She made friends with PhD students who helped her with her thesis.	Indonesian community in Adelaide; Family in Australia; Studying in Australia; Socialising; Friendships
[00:29:37]	Her research was based on online discussion forums, they were quite new at that time. When her husband came they moved into a place together. Her husband worked as a grape picker. In Indonesia he was a university researcher. She didn't travel out of Adelaide.	Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; Family; Work experience in Australia
[00:32:58]	In 2007 she had been to Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney for two weeks on a Muslim Exchange program, organised by the Australia–Indonesia Institute (AII). She went with two friends and met people of different faiths. Four groups of three or four Indonesians go every year.	Existing connections with Australia; Muslim Youth Exchange Program
[00:36:27]	Her first son was born in Australia, prematurely at 33 weeks so he was in hospital for six weeks. At the same time her supervisor moved to Bristol University and she didn't get a new one. Everything was disrupted. She decided to have a baby after her friend did and thought she had timed it for after she finished her thesis, but he was early. Got back from Australia at the end of 2010 and started at UIN at the beginning of 2011, on contract.	Family; Child born in Australia; Studying in Australia; Challenges; Returning to Indonesia
[00:41:02]	The AusAID liaison officer was very helpful. Friends on DIKTI and other scholarships had difficulty but the AusAID officer helped with everything. Yuyun was offered a semester's extension, with income, when her baby was born but she only took three months. She's started a PhD at UGM, needs a PhD to teach at the CRCS. She had a letter of acceptance to do a	Scholarship experience; Living in Australia; Post-; Family

	PhD at Flinders but couldn't get a scholarship, and now she has two young children and her husband doesn't want to go to Australia for four years.	
[00:45:00]	The scholarship she has is from the Religions, Public Policy and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia project so she has to compare three Southeast Asian countries. [Discussion about topics and the Indonesian PhD system.]	Further study; Scholarships opportunities
[00:50:39]	Her supervisor at CRCS was always busy, she had to write her thesis mostly on her own. In Australia, her supervisor was very helpful. Now there is a Flinders alumni group that meets monthly for arisan. [Discussion about Novi and her Facebook posts.] Yuyun went to the first one but hasn't had time since. She doesn't really have contact with people in Australia, she sends her landlord, Raymond, a Christmas card and a gift if a friend is going to Adelaide.	Further study; Alumni network; Ongoing connections with Australia
[00:55:14]	When she lived with Raymond they cooked separately but usually ate together. He told her about his family life, wife and children. He was 80. His grandchildren studied at Flinders University but didn't come to visit him. CRCS has a sandwich program to Australia and America for a semester.	Living in Australia
[00:58:39]	END	