

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Bevaola Kusumasari, Yogyakarta, 28 May 2014

PhD, Disaster Management, Monash University, 2008-2012



[00:00:08]	Originally from the city of Yogyakarta and has worked in this department [Faculty of social and political sciences (FISIPOL) at the University of Gajah Mada (UGM)] since 2000. She went to Australia on an ADS scholarship in 2008 after seven previous applications. She was offered a scholarship to study in Germany at the same time but asked her three-year-old daughter which she should accept and her daughter said Australia. Bevaola has two brothers in Jakarta and two sisters in Yogja; she's the second. Her parents live in Jakarta now, her mother owns and teaches at a kindergarten and her father works for a petroleum company. She did her master's at UGM after working for seven months at an export-import company.	Family background; Scholarship opportunity; Early career
[00:03:29]	Education is important in the family. Her father went to university in Jakarta. Her grandparents lived in Klaten, near Yogja, and were farmers. She hadn't planned to be an academic but when she did her master's her supervisor asked her to help with his project and then recommended she apply for a lecturing position. Her bachelor is in International Relations and her master's was in public policy because this was the only department in FISIPOL that accepted candidates from other departments. She did her thesis about customer satisfaction with train services in Yogja and loved learning about research methodology, interviewing people and analysing data.	Education; Family background; Undergraduate education; Early career
[00:06:54]	When she teaches methodology to her students she emphasises library research as well as interviews. After her master's she had a research position at the UGM Centre for Population and Policy Studies for almost a year, then started applying for scholarships in Germany, America	Post-scholarship career; Application process; Early career; Motive to study overseas

	and England as well as Australia. [Discussion about the difficulty of doing a PhD in Indonesia – course work, Dutch system and busy supervisors – and that in Australia it was by research and she didn't have to defend her dissertation.]	
[00:10:27]	She went to Hamilton, New Zealand, on an American Field Service (AFS) exchange program when she was sixteen and stayed with a family for a year while she finished high school. She's still in touch with people from there and her host sister visited her when she was in Melbourne. She had culture shock when she went to New Zealand and when she came back to Indonesia. AFS have a program to help students adjust.	International mobility; Friendships; Arriving in Australia; Living overseas; Scholarship experience
[00:13:06]	Arrived in Melbourne in 2008 with her husband and daughter and had two more children while there. Her husband worked as an editor, a job he got before they left because he had a good portfolio from his previous work with an American client. They rented a house in Clayton for \$1200 a month and the stipend was \$2000. She didn't know anyone before she arrived but there were eight other students from her English class in Jakarta who also went to Monash and she had already connected with her supervisors.	Arriving in Australia; Family; Living in Australia; Work experience in Australia; Professional networks; Indonesian community in Melbourne; Supervisor-student relationship
[00:16:25]	[Discussion about how she chose Monash after a dream.] She was in the management department in the Faculty of Business and Economics (Buseco) and studied disaster management. The Indonesian community and Muslim Association at Monash were very supportive. She was in a room with another student, worked there from 9.00 to 5.00, and it was easy to get around.	Studying in Australia; Indonesian community in Melbourne
[00:19:43]	They had a car that they bought after doing five months fieldwork in Yogja, interviewing victims from the Bantul earthquake. They could sublet their house to a friend. She went to the Indonesian mosque in Clayton and people there were very supportive.	Fieldwork experience in Indonesia; Religious practice in Melbourne
[00:23:03]	[Discussion about being inspired by a youtube clip to wear the hijab for the first time after seven months in Australia and it being easier to do in Australia than in Indonesia.]	Religious practice in Melbourne
[00:27:37]	She went to a conference about disaster management in New Orleans when she was five months pregnant and presented her preliminary findings. Her mother and younger sister came to Melbourne to look after her daughter. Her daughter went to school in Clayton, until Grade 2. Now her daughter is ten and still doesn't want to speak Indonesian at home, she does at school.	International mobility; Professional networks; Family; Returning to Indonesia; Challenges

	[Story about her correcting the English teacher's writing and comments about Australian and Indonesian idiom.]	
[00:33:08]	School in Australia was different to in Indonesia but Bevaola has chosen a school in Yogja that is philosophically more like an Australian school. Bevaola had two babies in Melbourne only a year apart. It was hard but everyone was helpful and understanding. She could have taken time off but chose to have the days off and work in the evenings. She also set herself the goal of finishing her first draft before her third child was born, two and a half years after starting her PhD, and that helped a lot.	Living in Australia; Family; Child born in Australia; Studying in Australia; Challenges
[00:37:33]	She finished her thesis then went back to Indonesia for a week in February 2012 to have the third baby and came back to Melbourne to submit her thesis. Her scholarship finished on 28 February. Her second child was born at the Monash Medical Centre and it all went fine. But the regulations changed and the scholarship didn't cover the medical expenses for the next baby. [Discussion about medical insurance, maternity hospitals and her prenatal care.]	Family; Studying in Australia; Scholarship experience
[00:43:42]	She didn't use the AusAID liaison officer much. She still has friends from her time in Australia and stays in touch through Facebook. [Comments about advising a friend at University of Queensland who has children how to manage her time to get her PhD done and discussion about the discipline needed to study with children.]	Scholarship experience; Friendships; Connections with Australia
[00:47:21]	[Discussion about having to do housework in Australia, having Indonesian food delivered and learning to cook, making sate ayam to raise money for victims of the Merapi eruptions.] Going to Australia has changed her life, the way she faces problems, her approach to life and how she teaches her students.	Living in Australia; Family; Post-scholarship career
[00:49:51]	She teaches her students to find journal articles and be discerning about how they use the internet. She runs a fortnightly discussion group for her PhD students where they discuss journal articles. The relationship with her supervisor at Monash was a mutual cooperation and she has adopted that style with her students. The office at Monash was well-resourced and people were supportive. There were Buseco seminars and she presented her research plans at the Melbourne uni postgraduate round table in 2008.	Post-scholarship career; Supervisor-student relationship; mentoring; Professional networks
[00:53:36]	When she came back to Indonesia she took three months maternity leave. [Discussion about the etiquette of publishing something in a journal that has been previously published in	Returning to Indonesia; Family

	non-refereed conference proceedings.]	
[00:59:10]	[Discussion about Bevaola's new work, interviewing teenagers in Yogja, Kalimantan and Jakarta about social media and political participation, and Danny Ardianto who's doing a PhD at Monash about social media and elections.]	Post-scholarship career
[01:01:23]	Still has contact with supervisors from Monash. A month ago Quamrul Alam and Ken Coghill asked her to collaborate in their research into civil servant leadership. She'll pay someone to do the data analysis as well as distribute the questionnaires. There's no funding attached, just payment for the data analysis.	Connections with Australia; Research collaboration with Australia; Professional networks
[01:03:04]	Her thesis only needed minor changes, just a one page addendum. She has published part of the thesis as journal articles and translated the literature review into Indonesian as a book. She has a nanny to look after the children. It's easier as a first class citizen in Indonesia than a third class citizen in Australia but that was an important experience and she learnt many skills. She didn't adopt any Australian customs. She feels a responsibility to repay Australia by transferring her knowledge and being useful, helping Indonesia.	Post-scholarship career; Returning to Indonesia; Family; Connections with Australia
[01:06:37]	It was a great benefit to be able to bring her family, her husband has benefitted from living in Australia. He returned to his previous job with greater confidence to negotiate with people. In Melbourne, he worked in an office in the city and he enjoyed it. In Indonesia he worked from home. They are hoping to live overseas again to do postdoctoral studies, but not until the children are older.	Connection with Australia; Family; International mobility
[01:09:013]	END	

