

International Conference on University-Community Engagement

Never Stand Still

8-10 October : UIN Maulana Malik Mbrahim Malang 2018

University Social Responsibility for Social Justice Order: Moral, Philosophical and Theological Perspectives

Associate Prof. Dr Minako Sakai

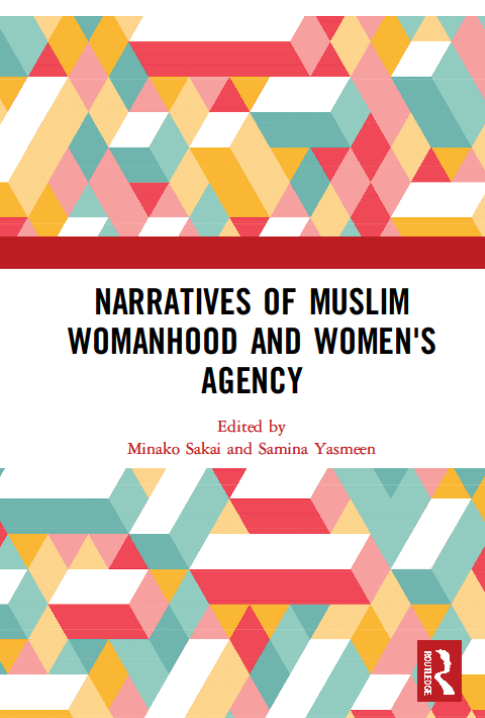
School Humanities and Social Sciences

The University of New South Wales, Canberra

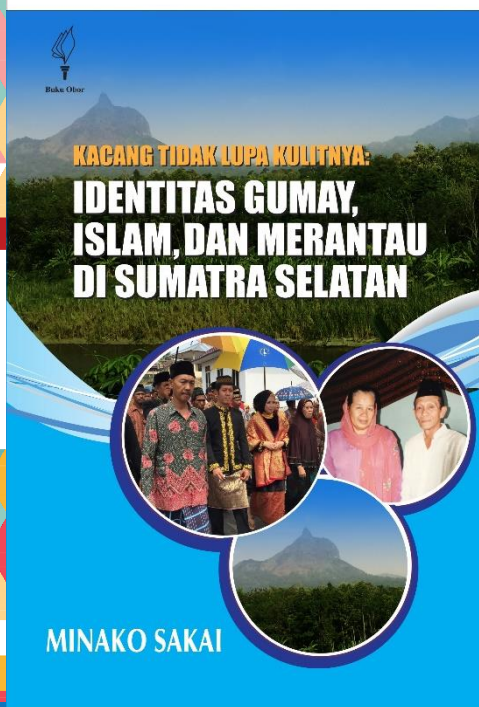
Email: m.sakai@unsw.edu.au



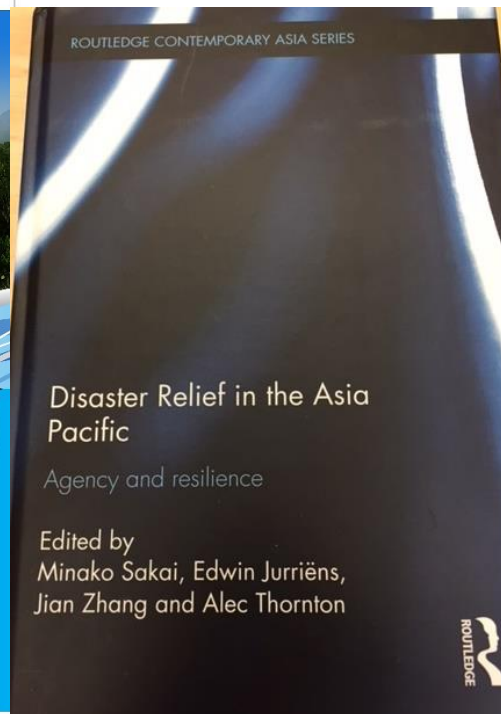
My Research Areas: Islam and Development, Social Policy, Post-disaster Resilience, Gender and Empowerment



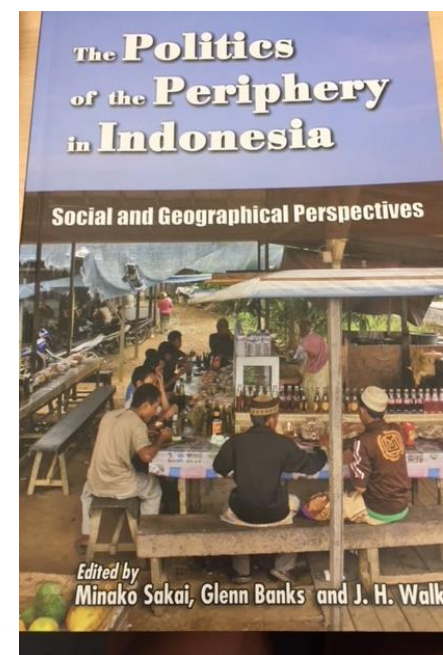
Routledge, 2018



Obor, 2017



Routledge, 2014

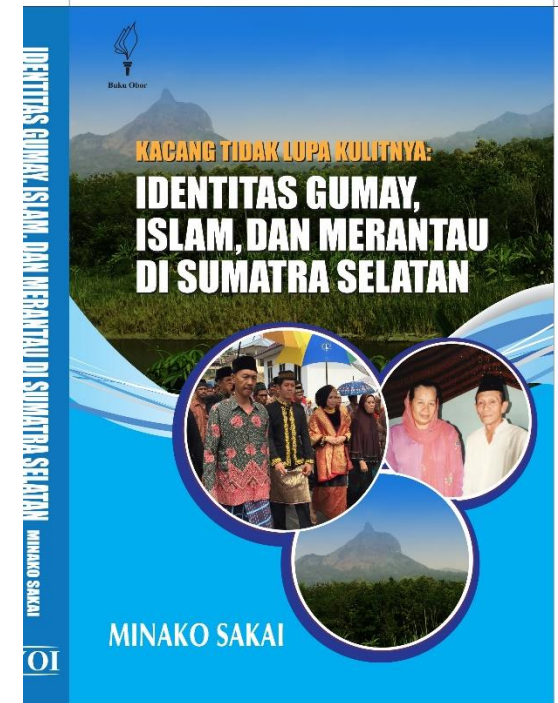


NUS, 2008

Social Science Approaches to Islamic Studies

Kacang Tidak Lupa Kulitnya (2017)

- Traditional approaches in Islamic Studies:
 - focus on texts
 - focus on Islamic preachers and boarding schools
- South Sumatran Muslim Identity: Being a Gumay
 - No boarding schools and no texts
 - Limited influence of dominant Islamic organisations
 - Ritual practice, ritual specialists but different from Java



Kinship and political contexts

New Book: *Penggiat Bisnis Syariah* (2018)



- New Framework to understand *Ekonomi Islam* or *Bisnis Syariah*: Islamic social engagement via ***Dakwah bil-hal***
- *How social engagement using Islamic concepts have brought in **bottom-up development initiatives**, contrary to top-down developmentalism*

Structure of This Presentation

1. Australian universities: expectations and practices
2. Islamic social engagement (1990-present) in Indonesia via my research findings
3. Reflections on community empowerment initiatives of Indonesian universities
4. Future strategies to harness universities' social engagement

Australian Expectations

- Research should have
 1. Research impact in terms of citations, engagement with the current knowledge base, and future research directions
 2. Interdisciplinary collaborative efforts to solve difficult problems (wider research networks and groups)
 3. Impact for wider community (public funding, so public should receive tangible benefit)
- Engineers and medicine: easier than humanities and social sciences due to its direct relations between research and its impact

Australian Expectations: (Humanities and Social Sciences)

- Public intellectuals or talking heads:
Writing in media and new media
(twitter)
- Policy engagement:
 - Contributions to policy-making
 - Contributions to board of studies for curriculum mapping for improvement
 - Contributions to industries' regulations based on research
- Creating synergies, partnerships and dialogues



The University of New South Wales: Synergies and Partnerships

- The University of New South Wales, Australia
- [Institute for Global Development](#) (IGD), a specialized institution to assist in achieving Sustainable Development Goals
- Facilitate the synergies between academics and practitioners (i.e. NGOs, government agencies)
- UNSW offers an annual conference venue for the ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) for 2018-2019.
- **Academics to initiate networking opportunities with practitioners (professors: obligations)**

ACFID Annual Conference at UNSW on 30-31 October 2018



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Women's Economic Empowerment Forum

29 October 2018 at IGD, UNSW

Event to be opened by [Professor Eileen Baldry](#) - Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Panel 1: International and State Policies for Women's Empowerment

Led by Dr. Pichamon Yeophantong and [Adjunct Associate Professor Stephen Sherlock](#) with panel member, [Professor Anthony Burke](#).

Panel 2: Patriarchal Norms and Gender Relations for Women's Economic Empowerment

Led by Dr. Minako Sakai with [Scientia Professor Louise Edwards](#) and NGO representative, Mrs Farha Ciciek Abdul Assegaf, an Indonesian activist, sociologist of religion and renowned writer rethinking Muslim women's rights and gender empowerment.

Panel 3: New and Old Ways to Generate an Income

Led by Dr. Minako Sakai and [Dr. Felix Tan](#) with NGO representatives, Ms Katrina Dunn (CEO, [Grameen Australia](#)) and Ms Farhana Kahn Pushpa (Communications Coordinator, [EDUCO](#)).

Panel 4: Gendered Violence towards Women at Work

Led by [Associate Professor Jan Breckenridge](#) and [Dr. Morten Pedersen](#).

ABOUT THE CONVENORS

[Dr Minako Sakai](#) has published widely on the issues of Islam and development in Indonesia and Muslim countries. She is Associate Professor (2019) and leads the [Gender, Development and Human Securities Research Group](#) at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra

ACFID Responses to the Palu Earthquakes and Tsunami (2018)



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Understanding Islamic Economy

Visit to Islamic Universities: Fac. Shariah. Education.

- Textual interpretations of Islam on *muamalat*
- Banking sector analysis: textual interpretations on *riba*

The Bank of Indonesia: Shariah Islam section:

Regulatory matters in progress, slow growth of the sector

Economists: window dressings of capitalism by the use of Islamic terms

Framework of *Penggiat Bisnis Syariah* using the concept of *Dakwah Bil-hal*

Civil Society Responses to Poverty Reduction in Indonesia (Sakai 2018)

- Secularly-educated urban Muslims' realisation that the state-led development programs **failed to reduce the economic gap**
- Modern Islamic empowerment movements using Islamic alms giving (zakat) by Islamic charity organisations in the 1990s **as an alternative solution for poverty in Indonesia mediated by Islamic media**



Islamic Economy and Businesses for Community Empowerment in Indonesia:

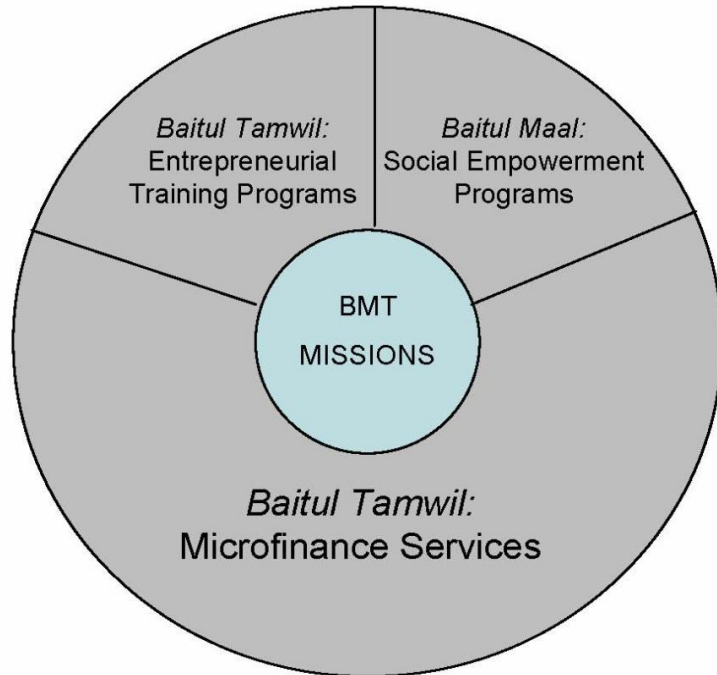
Three main actors showing concrete examples of **Islamic social innovations**

- Organisations (BMT and Faith-based organisations)
- Individuals (penggiat: men and women)



The agency of development initiatives: **bottom-up and participatory, different from top-down developmentalism approaches, using Islam as social capital**

BMTs : Multi-functional institution

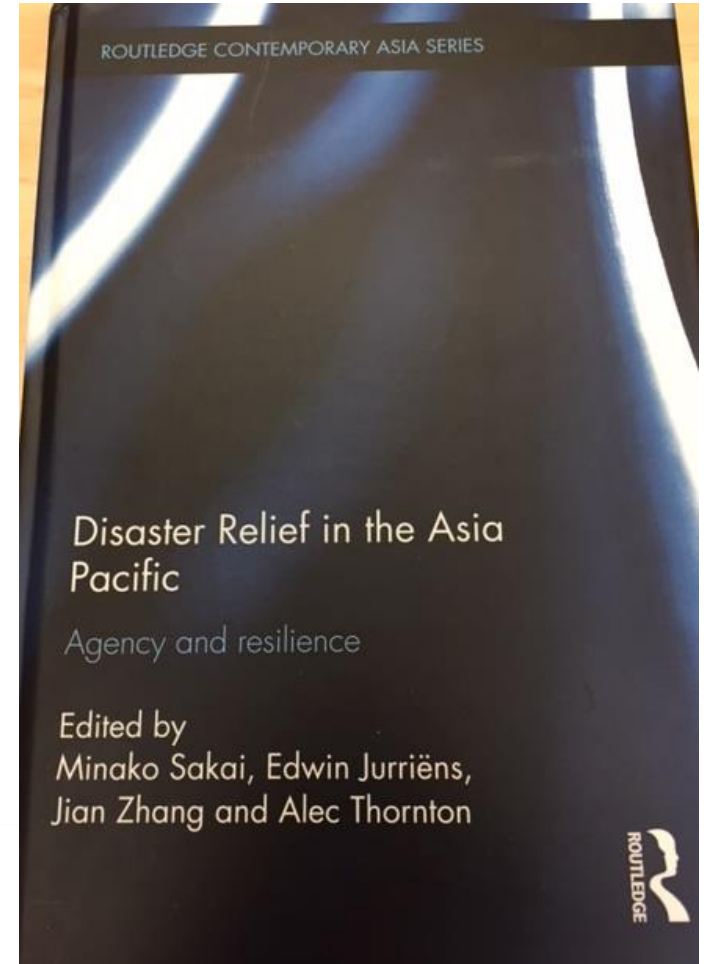


- BMTs ideally offer **three** services
- Run by Muslims as propagation by action
- Business networking through Islamic study groups as community engagement



Religion as social capital for post-disaster recovery

- Religion to mobilise resources in Indonesia
- Internal religious civil society groups assist in building resilience in the post-disaster recovery (Riza Nurdin PhD thesis at UNSW 2018)
- Limitations: partnerships beyond religions groups difficult to form



Penggiat Busnis Syariah: **Agents for Dissemination of Islamic ideas**

Agreeing with Spierings (2014) in that:

- Message: Religious ideas
- Messengers: How religious ideas/messages are disseminated through Islamic values and institutions, kinship, shariah law and community responses



Penggiat Bisnis Syariah: Not only men, but predominantly businesswomen and their role to disseminate new ideas on gender will affect Islamic practices in Indonesia

Islam: creating business opportunities for women, facilitate women's participation in society

A Key to Success for Muslim Businesswomen

Culturally appropriate: women as household managers and the household duties naturally extends to economic activities

Business is a tool to make money to support their family and to distribute the livelihood (rezeki) in their community (making money is not the sole aim)

Charitable activities privately or publically conducted and are important part of social acceptance of female entrepreneurship

Primary womanhood must involve a family care duty first before their business



Analysing Indonesian Universities' Social Engagement: Students

- Pengetahuan Tenaga Mahasiswa (1951-1962)
- Kuliah Kerja Nyata (1972 onwards)
- Indonesia Mengajar (2009 onwards)

Top-down approaches

- Students' disseminating 'knowledge' and the villagers to be 'developed'
- Students start from a scratch to initiate a concrete program within a short-time
- Short-lived non-innovative projects: donation for the poor
- **Collaborations with the existing NGOs & Foundations: limited (Why not? Many appropriate NGOs)**

Other Relevant Factors Affecting Universities' Social Responsibilities at Present

- Successful poverty reduction (40% in the 70s to 10% in 2017)
- Urbanisation of Indonesia (fewer villages but many marginal social groups, street children, disaster victims)
- Increasing CSR and other private foundations
- Creative economy initiatives
- Thriving Islamic businesses (i.e. halal economy Muslim economic activities)
- Support for entrepreneurship and start-ups

Future Directions for University Community Engagement for Social Justice

Bottom-up participatory approaches needed to focus on the community's agency

Inclusive and effective partnerships with other stakeholders strongly needed to make KKN successful

'Kami sekarang masih berhubungan baik dengan penduduk di sana. Setiap ada acara tradisional, pasti kami diundang' Siti Dinar, UIN Yogya 2018.



Strategic Planning and Actions for Consideration

MORA:

- Setting key themes for concrete action as a guidance
- Social Innovation Competition for KKN Projects: Winners can obtain funding for startups for social entrepreneurship in partnership with BEKRAF and the Ministry of Cooperatives
- Journal publications (**Scopus indexed**)

LPPM:

- Annual Conference with Local NGOs to identify gaps and needs of community empowerment
- Website to disseminate the outcomes for wider use

Strategic Planning and Action for Consideration

University

Curriculum reviews to integrate KKN in their program

- consider to support social entrepreneurship and start-up projects with studnets
- Offer capacity building training in partnership with local businesses
- Seek special education funding from MORA to facilitate training?
- Form partnership with international donors and academics?
- Example: UN Yogyakarta, entrepreneurship training as a compulsory course

Research Partnership with the Dompét Dhuafa Foundation, Jakarta

2006 onwards ongoing support and collaborations

Book sale: Fundraising for the Dompét Dhuafa Foundation

My Amal Jariyah. Books in exchange for support for



Dompét Dhuafa Republika

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