



Asia Research Centre

— Murdoch University —

STUDYING "SPACES OF NON-EXISTENCE": METHODOLOGICAL CONCERNS

22 - 23 MARCH, 2010

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY, PERTH

Anthropologists, criminologists and other social researchers have been increasingly drawn in recent years to the study of ‘spaces of non-existence’, i.e. spaces of invisibility, exclusion, repression, exploitation, and violence. Yet the methodological, ethical, legal and practical challenges of conducting research in such spaces are rarely discussed in a systematic fashion. This workshop seeks to document, analyse and discuss the experiences of fieldworkers in such sites, in order: first, to produce a scholarly book for students, scholars and researchers of ‘spaces of nonexistence’, and second, to promote a greater understanding and sensitivity among political and social actors to the role and importance of ethnographic research in the collection and analysis of data on charged social phenomena which receives none or very one-dimensional attention from the relevant authorities.

THIS WORKSHOP IS FUNDED BY

THE AUSTRALIA-NETHERLANDS RESEARCH COLLABORATION (ANRC)



Asia Research Centre
Murdoch University

**STUDYING "SPACES OF NON-EXISTENCE":
METHODOLOGICAL CONCERNS**

MONDAY 22ND MARCH, 2010

LOUNGE ROOM, CLUB MURDOCH

9:30 AM INTRODUCTIONS

Session 1

10:15AM – 11:30AM

15 mins papers, 30 mins Discussion

CHAIR: IAN WILSON

DISCUSSANT: LENORE LYONS

‘THE THIN LINE BETWEEN ETHNOGRAPHY AND PORNOGRAPHY: STUDYING THE OTHER IN SPACE OF NON-EXISTENCE’, Barak Kalir, University of Amsterdam

‘WRITING ANTHROPOLOGY OF INDIA: PRELIMINARY NOTES ON METHODOLOGICAL NATIONALISM’, Irfan Ahmad, Monash University

DISCUSSION

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM MORNING TEA

Session 2

11:45AM – 1:00PM

15 mins papers, 30 mins Discussion

CHAIR: JIM GLASSMAN

DISCUSSANT: MICHELE FORD

‘REFLECTIONS ON THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE IN UNDOCUMENTED SPACES’, Diana Wong, University Sains Malaysia

‘TBA’, Henri Myrntinen, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

DISCUSSION

1:00PM – 2:15 PM LUNCH

Session 3

2:15PM – 3.30PM

15 mins papers, 30 mins Discussion

CHAIR: WILLEM VAN SCHEDEL

DISCUSSANT: HENRI MYRTTINEN

‘REFLECTIONS ON RESEARCH INTO ILLEGAL CROSS-BORDER PRACTICES IN INDONESIA’S RIAU ISLANDS’, Michele Ford, University of Sydney

‘TBA’, Darma Rusdi Marpaung, University of New South Wales

DISCUSSION

CLOSE OF MONDAY SESSIONS

TUESDAY 23RD MARCH, 2010

LOUNGE ROOM, CLUB MURDOCH

Session 4

9:30AM – 11:00AM

15 mins papers, 30 mins Discussion

CHAIR: BARAK KALIR

DISCUSSANT: IRFAN AHMAD

‘LEGAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE STUDY OF SEXUAL CONTENT ON THE INTERNET’, Lenore Lyons, University of Western Australia

‘THE DARK SIDE OF SACRED TEMPLE: VIOLENCE AND CULTURAL POLITICS IN BALI’, Ngurah Suryawan, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

DISCUSSION.

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM MORNING TEA

Session 5

11:15AM – 12:30PM

15 mins papers, 30 mins Discussion

CHAIR: HENRI MYRTTINEN

DISCUSSANT: DIANA WONG

‘STUDYING PRIVATE GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION IN POST AUTHORITARIAN COUNTRY: CASE INDONESIA’, Luky Djani, Indonesian Corruption Watch/Asia Research Centre

‘NEGOTIATING ETHICAL AND PHYSICAL ‘DANGERS’ IN THE FIELD: RESEARCH AMONGST GANGS AND MILITIAS IN JAKARTA’, Ian Wilson, Asia Research Centre

DISCUSSION.

12:30PM – 1:45 PM LUNCH

Session 6

1:45PM – 3:00PM

15 mins papers, 30 mins Discussion

CHAIR: LUKY DJANI

DISCUSSANT: JIM GLASSMAN

‘TRIANGLE OF FEAR: REFLECTIONS ON METHOD IN BORDERLAND RESEARCH’, Willem van Schendel, University of Amsterdam

‘THE “DEFAULT METHODOLOGY”: HOW TO APPREHEND REALITIES WHILE STUCK BETWEEN ETHNOGRAPHER/INFORMANTS’ ILLEGALITY, INVISIBILITY, AND SUSPICION’, Caroline Grillot, Macquarie University

DISCUSSION.

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM AFTERNOON TEA

Session 7

3:30PM – 4:30PM

‘POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS, Ian Wilson and Barak Kalir

DISCUSSION.

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE