

Panel:

Exploring “zones of safety” for street-associated people in Yogyakarta

Convener:

Paul Kellner, DPhil Student, University of Oxford, Department of International Development

Local Regulation No. 1 from 2014 on Vagrants and Beggars in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, has led to a fundamental reshaping of the urban landscape for several people who have traditionally occupied public space, including waria, youth, the elderly, and those in need of mental healthcare. The local regulation intoned a concerted effort to make a city free from *vagrants* and *beggars* by 2015¹, in part by broadening and redefining what it means to be a *vagrant* or *beggar*.

Responding to and building on Hegarty’s (2016) article *Seeking a “zone of safety”*², this roundtable endeavours to engender a lively dialogue rooted in empirical data collected at roughly the same time about street-associated groups in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Specifically, several groups’ experiences of criminalization as beggars and vagrants will inform a discussion on “zones of safety”; and how such zones may be reframed or interpreted as zones of legitimacy, abandonment, or visibility. This process of reframing/interpretation will focus on individuals’ relationship to care provision or with care givers. Through this dialogue, we hope to consolidate and strengthen ideas about how care is conceptualized and available to street-associated people who are deemed *vagrants* or *beggars* by Law No. 1 from 2014.

The urgency of this issue is derived from the fact that the regulatory and social landscape for the above mentioned individuals is still rapidly changing. Moreover, several other urban areas in Indonesia are implementing similar regulations, but with different resources, perspectives, and budgets. So, several participants will also speak to the national-level developments on this issue. The discussion will beg vital questions of the audience, like their insights and perspectives on the regulation of public space and the treatment of marginalized people in other Southeast Asian contexts. Additionally, we will seek discussion about the social and historical contexts that shape definitions of vagrancy and begging, and more broadly, who is welcomed in public space.

Convener Bio and Contact Information:

Paul J. Kellner, MSc, MSc, University of Oxford

Paul J. Kellner is DPhil candidate at the University of Oxford studying issues of identity, belonging, and interaction with social service providers with street-associated youth in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Prior to his current research, he worked for 7 years on public health, migration, and child protection issues.

Contact: paul.kellner@geh.ox.ac.uk, +44 749 299 3163, or at 3 Mansfield Road, Oxford, OX1 3TB, UK.

Participant Bios:

Dr. Thomas Stodulka, Freie Universität Berlin

Dr. Thomas Jan Stodulka is a Junior Professor at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. His research focuses on emotion, stigma, marginality, health and illness. He

¹ <http://dinsos.jogjaprovo.go.id/2015-jogja-bebas-gepeng/>

² <http://www.newmandala.org/seeking-a-zone-of-safety/>

conducted long-term action research with street-related young men in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for four years between 2001 and 2013, which resulted in a shelter for HIV+ youth, and generated a doctorate thesis, titled 'Coming of Age on the Streets of Java' (2013), and many journal articles. He is the co-editor of 'Feelings at the Margins – Dealing with Violence, Stigma and Isolation in Indonesia' (2014), and is currently directing an interdisciplinary research project on ethnographic knowledge production titled the 'The Researchers' Affects'.

Dr. Sandeep Nanwani, MD, Harvard University

Sandeep Nanwani graduated from Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta and received his MD degree in 2015. He has worked actively with displaced and street-based populations to assist them in navigating the health system to obtain care. He is an active member of several community-based organizations serving various populations including street youths, beggars, transgender populations, and sex workers. Dr. Nanwani is an activist in the call for the decriminalization of street-based work. Currently he works as a case manager in a state-funded community shelter for displaced HIV positive people and is also a volunteer in a state institution which harbors the homeless including many of which with major mental illness and disabilities. He has worked on research projects with young HIV positive populations under the HIV working group in the center of tropical medicine, Universitas, Gadjah Mada.

Benjamin Hegarty, Australian National University

Benjamin Hegarty is a PhD student nearing completion of his dissertation on the globalisation of 'transgender' and its translations in Indonesia from the late 1960s onwards. The research articulates everyday experiences and encounters during this period as they relate to three main areas. A) Transnational capitalism and the market. B) Emergent sex work economies and queer intimacy. C) Mass-media, consumerism and liberalism. The work is located in experiences within the history of medical and social theoretical models of knowing sex and sexuality.

Teuku Ferdiansyah Thajib, Freie Universität Berlin

Ferdi Thajib is a researcher at KUNCI Cultural Studies Center in Yogyakarta and a PhD Student at the Freie Universität Berlin.