

# PhD Abstract

## Near-South Urbanization: Flows of people, water and capital in and beyond (post-) New Order Jakarta

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### Problem definition

There are two basic problems in the way in which floods in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, are understood. The first one is that researchers do not explicitly relate floods to wider (post-) New Order state-led development processes, a distinct depoliticization in that it conceals how the occurrence of floods is partly the result of, and in turn helps create, a particular trajectory of capitalist growth. The second is that ongoing interventions in managing floods risk reproducing the unevenness both within and outside the city of Jakarta.

### Research Question

*How flood events and infrastructure development are produced by and productive of uneven urbanization in Jakarta under the (post-) New Order?*

### Theoretical Framework

A synthesis of approach of "political ecology of uneven urbanization," which I derived mainly from on-going rich discussion in theorizing urbanization, i.e. discussion of planetary urbanization, urban political ecology and political ecology of urbanization, and explicitly formulated a triad as its internal arms: unevenness, sociospatial, and socationatural (society-nature relations) moments within the context of Global South (Near-South) (Simone 2012).

It sets unevenness by put in conversation Trotsky's "uneven and combined development," Smith's "uneven development," and Harvey's "uneven geographical development." Unevenness reflects the trajectory of capitalist development that embodies how spaces and nature are developed in one pole at the cost of underdevelopment at the other. Sociospatial (Brenner 2012) captures the in and beyond city processes through which spaces are reconfigured. Socionature (Swyngedouw 2006) is about how the social and the nature are entangled/transformed as a part of socio-ecological system within the metabolic of urbanization.

### Methodology

This research deploys historical analysis of media, document analysis of flood prevention and spatial plans, ethnography, interviews, quantitative survey, and spatial analysis through Geographic Information System (GIS).

### Expected Results

A better understanding of a Near-South paradigmatic case in which flooded spaces are produced in the City of Jakarta, through the lens of urbanization theories. It highlights the structurally uneven characters of sociospatial reconfiguration and socationatural transformation, explicitly fleshing out the relations of urbanization and unevenness as well as subsequent political consequences of understanding Jakarta's urbanization questions as questions of unevenness.