JESSICA SOEDIRGO

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Academic Positions

University of Amsterdam
Assistant Professor (UD2), Department of Political Science, 2021-present (with tenure, 2023-present)
Faculty affiliate, Amsterdam Centre for Conflict Studies (ACCS)

Georgetown University
Postdoctoral Fellow, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Studies and the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, 2020-2021

Education

University of Toronto

Ph.D, Department of Political Science (2020)

Committee: Jacques Bertrand (chair), Lee Ann Fujii, Ruth Marshall, Edward Schatz, Courtney Jung (internal examiner), Ed Aspinall (external examiner)

M.A, Department of Political Science and Asia-Pacific Studies (2009)

Queen's University (2008)

B.A (Honours) with distinction, Political Studies and English Language and Literature (2008)

Publications

Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed)

Jessica Soedirgo. 2021. "Quotidian Institutions and Identity Formation: Explaining Patterns of Identity Salience in Maluku, Indonesia." *Asian Politics and Policy* 13(1): 56-71.

Jessica Soedirgo and Aarie Glas. 2020. "Towards Active Reflexivity: Positionality and Practice in the Production of Knowledge." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 53(3): 527-531.

Jessica Soedirgo. 2018. "Informal Networks and Religious Intolerance: How Clientelism Incentivizes the Discrimination of the Ahmadiyah in Indonesia." *Citizenship Studies* 22(2): 191-207.

Alexandre Pelletier and Jessica Soedirgo. 2017. "The De-Escalation of Violence and the Political Economy of Peace Mongering: Evidence from Maluku, Indonesia." *South East Asia Research* 25(4): 325-341.

Journal Articles (Editor Reviewed)

Jessica Soedirgo. 2019. "Indonesia's 2019 General Election: Democracy in Retreat?" *Asian Politics and Policy* 11 (4): 672-674.

Aarie Glas and Jessica Soedirgo. 2018. "A Posture of Active Reflexivity: Learning from Lee Ann Fujii's Approach to Research." *Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research* 16: 53-55.

Book Chapters

"Réflexivité et Positionnalité" (with Aarie Glas). Forthcoming. In *Voix de terrain: récits et réflexions sur les terrains de recherche en sciences sociales*, edited by Alexandre Pelletier. Presses de l'Université du Québec.

"Reflexive Methodologies and Methods" (with Aarie Glas). 2024. In *Oxford Handbook of Methodological Pluralism in Political Science*, edited by Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, and Dino Christenson. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Jessica Soedirgo. 2024. "Civic Associations and Practices in Maluku, Indonesia: Explaining the Failure of the South Maluku Republic (RMS) Movement." In *Regional Movements and Identity Demands in Developing Democracies: Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Amy Liu and Joel Selway. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Book Reviews

Review of *Show Time: The Logic and Power of Violent Display* by Lee Ann Fujii. 2022. In *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 60.3.

Review of *Stories from the Field: A Guide to Navigating Fieldwork in Political Science*, edited by Peter Krause and Ora Szekely. February 2022 in *H-Diplo/ISSF*.

Review of *Becoming Better Muslims: Religious Authority and Ethical Improvement in Aceh, Indonesia* by David Kloos. 2019. *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*.

Policy Reports

Jacques Bertrand and Jessica Soedirgo. 2015. "A Threat to Stability? Islamic Extremism and Fundamentalism in Indonesia." Canadian Institute for Governance and Innovation Paper Series No.95.

In Progress

"The Threat of Visibility: The Targeting of Micro-sized Groups in Indonesia" *Preparing for Submission*.

The Threat of Small Things: Patterns of Repression and Mobilization Against Micro-Sized Groups in Indonesia. *Book Manuscript, under review.*

"How the Positionality of Research Assistants Shapes Knowledge" (with Syahar Banu). *Preparing for submission*.

"When are Religious Groups Harmful to Democracy? Evidence from Indonesia" (with Nathanael Gratias Sumaktoyo). *Revise and resubmit*.

"Ethnoreligious Moderation in the 2024 Presidential Election." (Preparing for submission)

Grants and Fellowships

2025-29 Veni Grant, Dutch Research Council (€319,999)

2024-30 Starters Grant, Dutch Central Government (€300,000)

2021 Women in Southeast Asia Social Sciences Collaborative Grant ($500 USD)
(with Megan Ryan, Aim Sinpeng, and Sol Iglesias)

2016 Ontario Graduate Scholarship ($15,000 CAD)

2015 Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia-Pacific Studies - Travel ($2,900 CAD)

2015 Ontario Graduate Scholarship ($15,000 CAD)

2013 Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia-Pacific Studies - Travel ($10,000 CAD)

2013 School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant ($5000 CAD)

2012-14 Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada ($40,000 CAD)

2012 FAS Fund for Study Elsewhere of LCTLs for Research Purposes (5000)

2011 Ted Hodgett Ontario Graduate Scholarship ($15,000 CAD)

2011 Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia-Pacific Studies - Travel

2010 Ontario Graduate Scholarship ($15,000 CAD)

2008 Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia-Pacific Studies - Non-Travel ($4251 CAD)

2008 Royal Bank Graduate Fellowship in Public and Economic Policy ($5000 CAD)

Awards and Recognitions

Research

2022 Aaron Wildavsky Dissertation Award in Religion and Politics, APSA

2020 Departmental Nominee for the Governor General Gold Medal, University of Toronto

2019 Young Southeast Asia Fellow, Southeast Asia Research Group

Teaching

2022 *Onderwijslieverdje* ('Education Darling') - Teacher of the Year in Political Science, Machiavelli (UvA Political Science Student Association)

Teaching

University of Amsterdam

Conflict Resolution and Governance, Research Project (2022, 2023, 2024)

Political Violence, MA Seminar (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Southeast Asian Politics, BA Seminar (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Violence and Security: Paradigms and Debates, BA Lecture Course (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

University of Toronto

POL 3881H, Politics and Government of Southeast Asia, BA Lecture Course (2020)

AS400H1, Interdisciplinary Research Methods in Contemporary Asian Studies, BA Seminar, *Module (4 lectures): Diversity and Conflict in the Asia-Pacific* (2019)

POL 3001H, Ethnic and Communal Violence, BA Lecture Course (2017)

Teaching Assistantships (University of Toronto)

PCJ 260, Intro to Peace, Conflict, and Justice (2019); POL 377, Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing (2019); WDW151, Order and Disorder (2018-19); POL 215, Politics and Transformation of Asia-Pacific (2011-17); POL111, Canada in Comparative Perspective (2015); POL101, Democracy, Dictatorship, War and Peace (2010-11); POL B81H, International Conflict and Conflict Management (2009)

Invited Talks

"Jessica Soedirgo and Aarie Glas Do Reflexive Research" (With Aarie Glas), Interpretivists do Interpretive Methods Series, APSA's Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Group, January 2025. Online.

"Visibility as Threat: The Targeting of Micro-Sized Groups in Indonesia," Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) Lunch Talk, March 2023.

"The Threat of Small Things: The Targeting of Micro-Sized Groups in Indonesia," WZB Berlin-Institutions and Political Inequality Brown Bag Series, March 2022. Online.

"Positionality and Reflexivity in Research," Workshop for UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, May 2021 (*with Aarie Glas*). Online.

"Deeskalasi Kekerasan dan Faktor Ekonomi Politik dari Penjaja Kedamaian: Bukti dari Maluku, Indonesia," Institute for Social and Economic Research, Education, and Information (LP3ES), March 2021 (*with Alexandre Pelletier*). Online.

"Qualitative Research in Areas of Conflict" (Panelist), Centre for International Peace and Security Studies, McGill University, March 2021. Online.

"Indonesia Masterclass: Violence Against Religious Minorities in Post-Suharto Indonesia," UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, March 2021 (*with Tyler Seuc*). Online.

"Understanding Violence Against Muslim Minorities in Indonesia," Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU), Georgetown University, November 2020.

"The Threat of Small Things: The Targeting of Micro-Sized Groups in Indonesia," Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University, October 2020. Online.

"Decentralization, Clientelism Structures and Sectarianism in Indonesia," Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, December 2016.

"Moving Targets: The Rise of Intra-Muslim Conflict in Indonesia," Asian Institute at the Munk Centre of International Affairs, University of Toronto, November 2013.

Conference Activities

Roundtables and Workshops

The State of Indonesian Democracy Workshop, Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University, August 2024.

Interpretivist Political Science: Conversations on Methods and Methodologies, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual), September 2021.

Engaged Methodological Pluralism, International Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual), July 2021.

"Decentralization, Clientelism and the Rise of Religious Intolerance in Indonesia," Southeast Asia Group/Groupe Asie du Sud-Est Dissertation Workshop (McGill University and Universite de Montreal), April 2017.

Panels Organized

The Violent State: Trajectories of Civilian Repression in Southeast Asia, European Association of Southeast Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Amsterdam), July 2024.

Compromising Democracy: Agents of Democratic Regression in Southeast Asia (*with Kikue Hamayotsu*), European Association of Southeast Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Paris), June 2022.

Compromising Democracy: Agents of Democratic Regression in Southeast Asia (*with Kikue Hamayotsu*), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual), September 2021.

Positionality and Reflexivity in Political Science Research I and II (*with Aarjen Glas and Ramon Garibaldo Valdez*), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Washington), September 2019.

Select Presentations

"Coerced Name Change as the Performance of State Power: The Case of Chinese Indonesians" (with Charlotte Setijadi), Southeast Asia Research Group (Singapore), 2023.

"The Power of Groups: Hardliners and Anti-Democratic Attitudes in Indonesia" (with Nathanael Gratias Sumaktoyo), European Association of Southeast Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Paris), June 2022.

"Protection Rackets, Preman and Politics: Gangs and Elections in Democratic Indonesia," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual), September 2021.

"Preman Politics in Medan, Indonesia," Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Virtual), March 2021.

"Space-claiming and the Resonance of Threat: Explaining the Targeting of Indonesia's Shi'a Minority," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual), September 2020.

"Mundane Mechanisms of Group Formation and Maintenance: Ethnicity in Maluku, Indonesia," APSA Mini-Conference on Identities in SE Asia, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Washington), September 2019.

"Positionality and the (In)visible Labour of Research Assistants" (with Syahar Banu), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Washington), September 2019.

"Towards Active Reflexivity: Positionality in Practice," (with Aarjen Glas), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Boston), September 2018.

"Brokered Sectarianism: Clientelism and Religious Intolerance in Indonesia," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (San Francisco), September 2017.

"(In)visible Patterns of Sectarian Conflict in 20th Century Indonesia," Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Toronto), March 2017.

"Reflections on the Ambiguities of Positionality in the Field: Narratives from Indonesia," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Philadelphia), September 2016.

"De-escalating Violence: Local Elites and Political Stability in Indonesia" [with Alexandre Pelletier], Conference of Canadian Asian Studies Association (L'Universite du Quebec a Montreal), November 2012.

Additional Academic Training

2015	Faith-Based Violence Summer School, UCSIA (Antwerp)
2014	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research (Syracuse)
2011	Ethnicity and Democratic Governance Summer Institute (Chapala, Mexico)

Other Experience

2010	Monitoring and Evaluation Intern, Maluku Economic Recovery Program, Mercy Corps
2009-10	Junior Researcher, Sustainable Transportation Office, Ontario Ministry of Transportation
2005-08	Summer Researcher, Executive Council Office, Ontario Cabinet Office

Language, Data Skills and Fieldwork

Field Experience: Indonesia (January-March 2010, July-August 2012, August 2013, January-December 2014, May-June 2015)

Languages: English (native), Bahasa Indonesia (advanced), Dutch (B1, intermediate), French (beginner)

Software: R, ArcGIS

Service

Internal

Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Political Science), University of Amsterdam (2023-present)

Search Committee for Full/Associate Professor in Comparative Politics, University of Toronto Mississauga (2019)

Speaker Series Organizer, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Toronto (2019-2020)

External

Reviewer: *Asian Politics and Policy, Field Methods, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics, Politics and Religion, Political Studies, TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia*

Awards Commmittee for the Charles Taylor Book Award, American Political Science Association (2025)

Awards Committee, Travel Grant, Southeast Asia Research Group (2025)

Awards Committee for the Aaron Wildvasky Dissertation Award, American Political Science Association (2023)

Awards Committee for the Hayward R. Alker Best Student Paper Award, American Political Science Association (2023)

Speaker Series Organizing Committee, Indonesian Social Science Seminar Series (IS4) (2020-2023)

English Language Editor, *Studia Islamika* (2014)

Editorial Board, *Jurnal Harmoni* (2014-2015)

Affiliations

American Political Science Association (APSA), 2015-onwards

- APSA Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Group, 2015-present
- APSA Southeast Asian Politics Group, 2016-present
- APSA Religion and Politics Section, 2017-present

Association of Asian Studies, 2017-onwards

European Association of Southeast Asian Studies, 2022-onwards

Southeast Asia Research Group, 2015-onwards