

CODED FEMINISMS IN INDONESIA

Online symposium (in English)

Saturday, 26th of February

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Austrian time, which is 5:00 to 8.30 p.m. Indonesian time.

With: Ita Fatia Nadia, Annie Pohlman, Astrid Reza, Julia Suryakusuma, Saskia Wieringa

Moderator: Stefanie Wuschitz

Concept: Astrid Reza, Stefanie Wuschitz

Organized in the context of Stefanie Wuschitz solo exhibition „Coded Feminisms“ at kunstraum pro arte in Hallein, Austria.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92140125822?pwd=OGdtU29WeHM3cDJUQklzcG8yVVordz09>

Meeting ID: 921 4012 5822

Passcode: s82Aps



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Do you know where the largest feminist movement of the 1960s was originally based?

Indonesia! Many European and Northern American feminists believe that their interpretation of liberty and equality was exported to the so-called Global South. The women's* movement in Indonesia in fact had experienced its widest expansion between the 1920s and the early 1960s. With three million members Gerwani was the strongest organisation of this movement. It presented the largest and most progressive feminist movement in the world of that time. After a coup d'Etat that was supported by Western countries this feminist movement and all other critical or leftist networks were silenced. Critical ideas could only get communicated in hidden, translated and coded form. The following 30 years of oppression and propaganda left behind scars and stigmata that affect the public memory of the women's movement up until today. Still trauma

cannot heal, because memories are handled as family secrets. In this context art is a valued platform for voicing critique, initiating transformation and healing from trauma.

The **Online Symposium “Coded Feminisms in Indonesia”** is organized in the context of the solo exhibition „Coded Feminisms“ by media artist Stefanie Wuschitz. The solo exhibition shows the results of an artistic research project, that aims to reconstruct the practices and positions of the destroyed feminist movement.

This arts-based research project was started by Stefanie Wuschitz in 2019 and ended in 2021. Two artist in residence projects in Indonesia 2013 and 2014/15 resulted in an increased interest in Gerwani and the Indonesian women's movement. In 2019 she applied for and received a grant from the city of Berlin (Digital Program, TU Berlin) to do interviews about Gerwani and create an animated documentary on the topic. With the extremely professional and dedicated assistance and guidance of Nilu Ignatia and Astrid Reza, archive materials, interviews, literature and footage could be collected. To protect the interviewed people's identity and to acknowledge copyright licensing of the image materials, Stefanie Wuschitz decided to draw an animated documentary. It was generated through a team of artists who contributed texts, voice, music and sounds. The final animated documentary “Coded Feminism in Indonesia” will be screened for the first time at the opening of the exhibition in Austria.

After the exhibition opening the online symposium invites experts on gender equality, democracy and feminist movements in Indonesia to give online lectures. The symposium wants to pay tribute to these authors' and activists' significant, famous and outstanding work. The symposium situates the exhibition in a transdisciplinary discourse and opens up a critical debate on the unique approach, practice and insight of activists involved between 1950s and 1965, activists who were part of the Indonesian women's movement, and in particular Gerwani, that had an outspoken position against imperialism, colonialism, polygamy, fought for gender equality in family, education, politics and at the workplace, created networks to support children and give access to kindergartens and schools. In the Symposium we would like to discuss: How does Gerwani's legacy impact future generations? What new challenges and which new perspectives emerge in this process?

TIME SCHEDULE

11:00–11:10	Welcome & contextualizing the symposium in the exhibition by <i>Stefanie Wuschitz</i>
11:10–11:35	Video screening
11:35–11:40	Break
11:40–11:50	<i>Astrid Reza</i>
11:50–11:55	Introduction of panel by moderator
11:55–12:00	Introduction to Ita Fatia Nadia by moderator
12:00–12:30	<i>Ita Fatia Nadia</i>
12:30–12:45	Break
12:45–13:00	Introduction by moderator & video message <i>Annie Pohlman</i>
13:00–13:05	Introduction to Julia Suryakusuma by moderator
13:05–13:35	<i>Julia Suryakusuma</i>
13:35–13:40	Introduction to Saskia Wieringa by moderator
13:40–14:10	<i>Saskia Wieringa</i>
14:10–14:30	Questions & discussion

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

NILU IGNATIA

Ignatia Nilam Augusta Nugraeni – Writer, Arts Curator and Cultural Producer. Known as Ignatia Nilu and formally studied international relations in political science. She was approaching her interest to arts and various other intersection of disciplines, such as: social-politic, history, science, internet cultures, technology, music and subcultures. She is working on non-binary community and projects to develop and channeling the relation between human and art in multi-facet and generative experience. She is currently curating an international contemporary art festival based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia called ARTJOG and also an international art festival in Bali, called ARTBALI. In the project „Coded Feminisms” she collaborated as interpreter and research assistant.

ANNIE POHLMAN

Annie Pohlman is Senior Lecturer in Indonesian studies at The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane, Australia. She is author of *Women, Sexual Violence and the Indonesian Killings of 1965-66* (2015) and the co-editor of five volumes examining historical injustice in Asia, including two on the 1965–1966 mass purges of Communists in Indonesia. Her most recent volume (co-edited with Jess Melvin and Sri Lestari Wahyuningroem) is *The Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Indonesia’s Culture of Impunity* (forthcoming 2022, ANU Press). Her current research programme maps the spread and evolution of torture during Indonesia’s ‘New Order’ regime (1965-1998). Her research interests cover Indonesian history, gendered experiences of violence, genocide, torture, and oral testimony.

ASTRID REZA

Astrid Reza graduated from the History Department of Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2010. She writes broadly on literature, art, and history across various media. She has translated many books with themes related to social politic, history, feminism and literature. She is currently contributing to RUAS (Ruang Arsip dan Sejarah Perempuan - Space for Women Archive and History), Yogyakarta, and developing collaborative research with PERETAS (Perempuan Lintas Batas) network, an intersectional organization for women across borders working in the fields of art and literature. She started to be involved for “Coded Feminisms” in 2020 as a part of the research team and doing the translation needed for this project.

JULIA SURYAKUSUMA

Julia Suryakusuma is a public intellectual, researcher, feminist activist and scholar, and author of several books, among others, *Sex, Power and Nation* (2004), *State Ibuism* (2011), and *Julia’s Jihad* (2013), an anthology of her columns in The Jakarta Post from 2006-2013. She continues to write her famously provocative, controversial and entertaining columns up to now.

State Ibuism, the Social Construction of Womanhood in New Order Indonesia is based on her MA thesis from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Netherlands (1988). The concept of State Ibuism is the only original social theory conceived of by an Indonesian scholar that has had an international and national impact. On 10 March 2021 she was awarded the Order of the Crown medal by King Philippe of Belgium for her activism and writings on democracy, human rights and gender. It is an award rarely bestowed on non-Belgian citizens, bestowed only to individuals considered to have made special achievements. As of December 2021, Julia Suryakusuma is the director of the Gender and Democracy Center (GDC) of the Institute for Research, Education and Information on Economy and Social Affairs, one of Indonesia’s largest and oldest NGOs, dealing in research, education and community development, publishing, and overseas network development.

ITA FATIA NADIA

Ita Fatia Nadia is Chair of RUAS (Ruang Arsip dan Sejarah Perempuan), an institute and archive on the history of the women's movement in Indonesia. As a feminist scientist, she has documented Indonesian women's history and processed the oral narratives of women.

SASKIA E. WIERINGA

Saskia E. Wieringa is Emerita Professor at the University of Amsterdam. From 2005 till 2012 she was the Director of Aletta, Institute for Women's History in Amsterdam. She is a co-founder of the Kartini Asia Network. From the late 1960s onwards Saskia participated in the women's third world solidarity and sexual rights movements in Holland. Since then human, women's and sexual rights have dominated her research, teaching and writing. Since the late 1970s she has done research on women's movements, sexual politics and same-sex relations in many parts of the world, particularly in Indonesia. When she started publishing about the history of the Indonesian communist women's organization and debunked the sexual slander they were subjected to by General Suharto, she was blacklisted in Indonesia. She has helped set up women's studies programmes in the Caribbean, Namibia, the Sudan and Bangladesh. She has lectured widely, for instance in Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, South Africa and Australia. She has worked as a consultant for various development organizations, UN Women and the UN ECA. She has given trainings on sexual diversity and empowerment and designed gender indexes. Saskia Wieringa received various awards for her scholarly work. Her recent research projects focus on women's same-sex relations in historical perspective in Indonesia and on the post-1965 violence in East Java. She is co-founder and the chair of the Foundation IPT 1965 which organized a People's Tribunal on the Indonesian post-1965 crimes against humanity in 2015.

STEFANIE WUSCHITZ

Stefanie Wuschitz works at the intersection of research, art and technology, with a particular focus on Critical Media Practices (feminist hacking, open source technology, peer production). She graduated with an MFA in Transmedia Arts in 2006. 2008 she completed her Masters at TISCH School of the Arts at New York University and became Digital Art Fellow at Umeå University in Sweden. 2009 she founded the feminist hackerspace and art collective Mz* Baltazar's Laboratory in Vienna. In 2014 she finished her PhD on 'Feminist Hackerspaces' at the Vienna University of Technology. She held research and Post-Doc positions at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, the Vienna University of Technology, Michigan University, Universität der Künste Berlin and functions as project leader of an FWF research project on 'Feminist Hacking. Building Circuits as an Artistic Practice' affiliated to Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. She is also working on artistic research projects, e.g. on Digitalization and Feminism in Indonesia and exhibiting her art works in international venues. From 2019 until 2021 she was a postdoc researcher at the TU Berlin in the framework of the 'DiGiTal' program for Women* in Art and Science, where she was carrying out the project 'Coded Feminisms in Indonesia'.