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INVITATION TO THE LECTURE

Navigating the Borders of Indonesia-Malaysia in West Kalimantan and Sarawak Borderlands

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Date and Time: Monday, 22 September 2025, 4-5 pm

Place: Institute for Social Anthropology

Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna, Room 4, 4th Floor.

Abstract: This study seeks to understand and explain the processes of bordering and de-bordering by analysing the daily practices of the local communities: 1) how people in the borderlands interpret and strategically utilise borders; 2) how their everyday activities are shaped by their interactions with diverse actors. The arguments are grounded in ethnographic research conducted from 2022 to 2023 in two border kampungs in West Kalimantan and Sarawak borderlands. According to Español (2020, 146), understanding everyday life in borderlands is essential because it helps explain the social construction of borders. It is also vital to explore the construction of borders from a bottom-up perspective by examining personal experiences and the construction of power structures. Interactions among diverse actors in daily life are significant in understanding how their actions influence those power structures. The empirical data demonstrate that regular visits driven by familial ties, communication in shared languages, and cross-border trade facilitate negotiations of bordering and de-bordering processes. The daily practices of local residents are further influenced by their engagement with diverse actors, including government officials, educational institutions and teachers, local elites, Indonesian NGOS, and Malaysian Dayak organisations. As the past continues to shape the interpretation of the present, collective memories of historical events such as the Indonesia-Malaysia Confrontation (1963-1966), anti-communist military operations (1966-1970s), border demarcation after 1970, shared memories of Dayak ancestors and ancestral lands, and the history of the kampung—evolved from family relations—are crucial for understanding how local communities negotiate borders. The empirical data reveal that borderland residents have made several adaptations, such as leveraging familial ties, shared languages, and commonalities, to use borders for social and economic interactions and in response to the presence of diverse actors. This highlights how bordering and de-bordering processes unfold, as observed through the lived experiences of local inhabitants in the borderlands.

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Lecturer at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Tanjungpura, Indonesia and PhD student at the Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna, Austria. My research interests include border studies, Southeast Asian studies, and belonging. Adityo focus on studying International Relations from a people-centred perspective with a multidisciplinary approach. Adityo began his research focus on the Indonesia-Malaysia borderlands since his bachelor's thesis in 2013. Here are several of his publications:

1. Nusantara from the Perspective of West Kalimantan: Opportunities, Challenges and Narration of Belonging, *Jurnal Masyarakat Indonesia* Vol. 50 No. 2 (2024), 227-248
2. Problems of Good Governance in Managing Indonesia's Borderland: The Case of Entikong Subdistrict, *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik*, Volume 28, Issue 1, July 2024, (1-16)
3. Book Chapter: Reflection and Lessons Learned from the Daily Life at the Indonesia-Malaysia Borderlands in West Kalimantan and Sarawak, In *ASPEK HUKUM POSITIF DAN HUKUM ISLAM Dalam Konteks Kontemporer*, 2024, 1-30, Publisher: Penerbit KBM Indonesia
4. Ramai-ramai Bicara Transmigrasi di Kalimantan Barat in Kolom Opini *Pontianak Post* 18 Juli 2025
5. Mempersiapkan Supadio Menjadi Bandara Internasional (Lagi) in Kolom Opini *Pontianak Post* 4 Juli 2025
6. Peristiwa Mandor, Belajar dari Sejarah, dan Masa Depan Kalimantan Barat in *Majalah Riwajat* Vol. 10 No. 1 2025