WORKSHOP DAY II: FIELDWORK IN PRACTICE

Dr. Rapti Siriwardane-de Zoysa (Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research)

BLUEURBAN
Towards Blue Urbanism for Sea Level Change Adaptation: Global Trajectories and Speculative Futuring in Island Southeast Asia

A German Science Foundation (DFG) funded SPP initiative “Regional Sea Level Change and Society” (Phase II)
Problematising ‘research’ as a privileged mode of knowing

Vernacular terms for ‘research’ in Bahasa Indonesia

Perellitian < scrutinise
Riset — old school

Studi — booklearning
novelty
innovation
reading / text

Existence

how do seek truths
(known-how of methods)
Unthinking the ‘field’

Group discussion on personal/subjective imaginaries and visions of the ‘field’
Imaginaries and Categories

A ‘field’/wellspring of ideas
- source or ideas / data source
- “Geographical spaces”. “facts”
- spaces/places of “perspectives”

A field as a socio-space
- “ecological niche”
- “traveling somewhere”
- “local culture-community”
- where “specified subjects exist”

A field of practices/praxis:
- Space of ‘collection’
- “Observation – Environmental and people engagement, “coordination”

A ‘field’ of relations and relationships
- “interaction and people”
- “intimate space”, “familiarity” - assemblage of relations (court, lawyers, cases)

A ‘field’ as imaginary space
- “Digital space”, “unnatural weird idea”
Field as temporalities
- “timeframe”
Thoughts ..... 

Soly: From formal presence to informal – it was meant to be informal, but as time went by it became more formal... Emic perspective...she told me other stories. What are the indicators that made it formal? How did the energy change (and how does this impact the interview) 
- how to tone of someone’s voice and suspicion changes with an introduction (framing what you say)
- How do you make people ‘experts of their lifeworld...?’

Iqbal: Urban identities...’city folk more suspicious’ (the ethics of documentation)

Soly: the Ibu who owned the warung changed her formal way of speaking thinking that this would make the space more visible...

Ida: Existing familiarity (how to work with things you know and take for granted? .... Time as important pattern. You realise how much you miss (in places you are so familiar with).

Soly: Interviews make the observations clearer.

Sascha: Familiarity of people / untold stories of her mother as a customer (‘insider information’) – the crafting of insiderliness (an accidental pregnancy)

Ida: Timing and the environment matters, context of place matters (e.g. when it rains).
Individual Warung Projects and Reflections

Some differences:
- Multisensory presence (taste, spatial, haptic, visualisations, auditory)
- The social organisation of space, life histories
- Interviews and participating as ‘regular’
- Intimate space vs. public placemaking
- The ethnographer in ‘frame’ / activity participation
- Changing role of warungs as location finders vs. meeting points
Mouth-watering short story from *Warung Mie Ayam Cabe Uleg Layah*

A weekend’s Observational and Interview Exercise

Soly Santoso
06 June 2022
Observation of the Warung
(Saturday, 04 June 2022)

- A stall building with a permanent wall.
- There is a poster above the stall building written *Mie Ayam Cabe Uleg Layah* with a picture of exploded chili as part of the logo.\(^{(1)}\)
- There is a wooden cart (locally known as *gerobak kayu*) in front of the stall.
- Some of the walls are decorated with wallpaper images of cut wood piles.
- There was a woman wearing a blue hijab accompanied by a man inside the stall.
- There are five sets of wooden dining tables and benches inside the stall.
  - Four of them are separated from each other, and 1 of them has a longer shape than the others.
- Inside the stall, there are pictures of *Mie Ayam* that have orange, green, and pale yellow colors.

Remarks: (1) *Mie Ayam* is a common Indonesian/Chinese Cuisine of seasoned yellow wheat noodles topped with diced chicken meat, vegetables, and (sometimes) mushrooms.
Mrs. AM is 37 years old woman who has sold *Mie Ayam Cabe Uleg Layah* since 2018. (1)

Mrs. AM briefly explained about *Mie Ayam Cabe Uleg Layah* as:

“…*Mie Cabe Uleg Layah* is noodles mixed with diced chicken meat, fresh chillis crushed/pulverized in a *Layah*, and other seasonings, including *Bangka Belitung’s* white pepper.”

The noodles are homemade with three types of variants, as explained by Mrs. AM as follows:

“…all of my products are homemade, and we try to make them with the safest ingredients. We have three variants [while pointing to the noodles]. First, it is *Mie original* [while pointing to pale yellow color noodles picture]. Second, it is *Mie Lahar* [while pointing to slightly orange color noodles picture] where the noodles are made from chilly, carrots, and pumpkins. [Third,] *Mie Hijau* are made from vegetables… [while pointing to green color noodles picture].”

---

(1) Remarks:

1. *Mie Ayam* (chicken noodle): is a common Indonesian/Chinese Cuisine of seasoned yellow wheat noodles topped with diced chicken meat, vegetables, and (sometimes) mushrooms.

2. *Cabe Uleg* is Fresh Crushed/Pulverized Chilli

3. *Layah* is a handmade (clay) bowl (for serving *Mie Ayam*)
Observation of the Food Taste
(Saturday, 04 June 2022)

The broth and meatballs were savory and flavorful

- The noodles and chicken meat had a mix of sweet and spicy flavors
- Fried shallots was savory-crunchy

The chicken feet' texture were soft and tastes sweet

The texture of the noodles was chewy and soft.
In 2018, Mrs. AM wanted to open her own business. After considering initial money capital and the skills she had to make noodles with secret recipes inherited from her family, she decided to make *Mie Ayam Cabe Uleg Layah*.

She opens the stall on *Irigasi Sipon* Street, Tangerang City because she thinks the location is near school, residential, and traditional market areas.

- She believes that it is strategic location.
- She considers that *Mie Ayam* is snack food, and most people of all ages love to consume it.

She feels that opening a food stall on that street is sometimes a quite challenging since there are many other food stall competitors.

To "survive" in competition, she thinks that her business has to be unique and the taste must be flavourful and appetizing.

- She decides to import some secret ingredients from Bangka Belitung island.
- She sets affordable prices, especially for school-age customers.
Short Story of the Business Owner about COVID-19 Pandemic Lockdown
(Interview on Saturday, 04 June 2022)

- On the one hand, she thought she would close her business temporarily. However, on the other hand, she could not bear to think about the fate of her employees at that time, as she described:

  "...When I heard the "lockdown" term, I imagined there would be many restrictions from the government. It means I couldn't open a stall temporarily. What I had in mind was that my business had to stop. [but] I thought my employees had to be paid. If I fired them, there was still a sense of humanity that I needed to consider [while looking her employees]."

- Mrs. AM, Saturday, 04 June 2022

- During the lockdown, Mrs. AM said no customers were eating at her stall. Only a few of them preferred to choose takeaway and online orders.

- Mrs. AM mentioned that her gross business income plummeted to 80%.

- During the lockdown, Mrs. AM succeeded in innovating to make her chicken noodles into frozen food, and product sales gradually improved, at least it lasted until the lockdown pandemic ended.

  "At that time, people could not leave the house. So, many of them prepare food supplies at home. [Then] I thought about how our [product] became part of the food supply of these people [customers]. So I thought of making frozen chicken noodles that they could buy and make it at home anytime. [The products] look like instant noodles [while showing a photo of the noodle product packaged in frozen form]."
Thank You!
Terima Kasih!

Comments?
Critiques?
Observations

Run by Middle Income Families
Have multifunctions for children playing and also eating
Sell the basic needs and children’s play
Located in a very decent home
Bring benefits to abang nasi goreng and other sellers

Run by a teacher who has been retired

CHARACTERISTICS - Using a part of home’s owner
Always clean and has a good smell
A modern building
Has a cheap price
Offers ‘Warkop’ and also ‘Laundry’
Emotional Attachment

• Place of Struggle
• Place of Losing and Meeting New Friends
• Place of Acceptance
Main Room

Leisure Space
- Conversation
- Transaction
- Sofa and little round table
- Family, Friends, Partner

In Between Space
- Working
- Individual

Group Space
- Conversation/Working
- Big Table
- Family, Friends, Partner
Separate Room 1

- For a more intimate conversation
- For work but not for long because customers are sometimes intimidated by the barista

Separate Room 2

- Only for work for a long time, usually all day long
Starbuck as Contested Space

Student/worker starter pack:

• Meal from home (eat on car or at separated room 2)

• Drink Camomile Tea for only 27,000 rupiah. Get 2 packs of tea, brew one in the morning and another in the evening.
Association with other places

- For Praying
- For Eating
- For dating/hook up
Warung Watching: Aninmart

- Located about 100m from home, opening hrs around 7 am-10 pm
- About 2.5msq * 3msq
- Need to take off shoes or sandals before go in hence the squeaky clean floors → the most noticeable from this warung
- Owned by a married couple around 40ish (?)
- No cash register machine and inventory stock is still manual → considered as a “traditional warung”
- Few plastic chair outside (owner sometimes sits here at the day to wait the warung, at night around 7-9pm ish the chair is being used by bapak-bapak from the neighborhood area to exchange interaction; sip a coffee, smoking together, chit-chat)
Images taken from Google Maps, now they have a small banner at the front “Aninmart”
What’s happening inside the Aninmart:

- Customer freely choose product they’d like to buy (take from the well-organized racks) → **self-service vs counter service** in a regular warung hence the name Aninmart
- A quite complete and wide-range stock (example: different brand for detergent powder), use a four-level racks to display products
- Their products: sembako, sanitary, ice cream, selected cold canned drinks, snacks
- The couple takes turn to wait the warung and customer
- Small table at the back as “cashier table”
- They have phone number to delivery service for water and gas refill
- No strange smell like rotten eggs or products
Bellevue Mart?

- Located in West Java, Gunung Putri Bogor
- Inside the housing cluster
- It is next to multipurpose room
What is in the outside?
What is in the inside?
WARUNG BADRIAH
WARUNG AS A PLACE

• Closest place to buy groceries and breakfast
• Place for daily interaction with neighbors
• Place of childhood memories
• Pin point to book Gojek/Grab (Online transportation)
WHAT I OBSERVE

- 'Grassroot information center': about local social activities including *arisan*, *pengajian*, or *syukuran*
- Current local prices and the average amount of spending
- Gossip/rumor has it
- Neighbors that I no longer feel familiar with
- The packaging
- The place hasn’t changed much from years ago
- Claimed to serve online delivery
Observations, positionality, reflexivity and the place of emotions during fieldwork

Many anthropologists felt that the publication of the diary—which Raymond Firth describes as "this revealing, egocentric, obsessional document"—was a profound disservice to the memory of one of the giant figures in the history of anthropology. Almost certainly never intended to be published, Malinowski’s diary was intensely personal and brutally honest. He kept it, he said, "as a means of self-analysis." Reviews ranged from "it is to the discredit of all concerned that the diary has now been committed to print" to "fascinating reading." (source: https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=2891)

Hidden struggles of fieldwork: Exploring the role and use of field diaries

Samantha Punch

Department of Applied Social Science, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA, Scotland, United Kingdom
It was in May 2017, during a gusty monsoonal-like month of ethnographic fieldwork in northern Manila, that a few of us became stealthy seawall walkers. Having mustered the courage, we clambered atop some loose concrete to gingerly tread the quarter of a mile length above the city’s cinereous-grey breakwaters. At a certain point its coastal waters yawn out towards the South China Sea, culminating in a breathtaking vista....
Here what greets the eye is a Boschian-like image of cranes, booster pumps, hydraulic fill and sand spreaders of military precision that crank well into the night. “It is a war against the sea”, say the local engineers that reside in the makeshift accommodation that the local fishing communities refer to as “barracks.”

The place of autoethnography?
Recap - Three interconnected levels of an interview (de Sardan, 2017)

Beware: Interviews and the ‘illusion of reality’ (never the reference reality!)

1) Conveys situated and partial information ‘on the wor(l)d’

2) Conveys point of view of the actor concerning interpretation of the question

Conveys information on the communicative structure of the interview itself (e.g. limitations in environment, vocabulary)
Unravelling the qualitative interview

- **Unstructured / semi-structured / structured (but all open-ended)**

- **Interview as interaction** (closest to ordinary conversation) - improvisation, digression, backtracking, ‘beating around the bush’…

- **Interview as recursive** - ‘symbolic realism’ (taking what is important to the actors seriously), this offers new questions and redefines reality…

- **Interview as ‘invisible negotiation’** – doublebind of ‘containment’ of interview and maintaining agency for interviewee to freely express themselves…

(e.g. think about FGDs and performativity)
Q: When do you opt for an unstructured as opposed to semi-structured...?

- Exploratory...
  - Ethnograph. research – ‘art of serendipity’
    “go there and see what is interesting in that area..” – we never come with a blank slate?
  - In Indonesia we say...
  - Establishing relations first (rapport building); better to let it flow ... Interviewing informal workers who are afraid to directly answered, sometimes related, sometimes not...
Roleplay exercise

You wish to explore memories and emotions of people about leaving high-school. You are particularly interested to know how your peers perceived their own ‘adulthood’ at the time.

You can choose to approach your interview from any time-space ‘entry point’ (e.g. a life history, a particular event etc.).
You are free to choose the qualitative interview format (i.e. unstructured or semi-structured).

- Pair up and recount your memories of leaving school;
- Think of 5 questions (each) you would like to ask your interviewee
- Now switch partners according to your tokens you receive! The rest can take notes on the interaction
Discussion ....

- What was it like to think of questions? What were some of the challenges when formulating your questions?

- What was it like being at the other end – as an interviewee? Did certain questions surprise you?

- For interviewers: what was the process like for you?

- As an interviewee how did you think the communicative structure of the interview determined what you wanted to say, and how you said it?
Opportunities for decision making

Less parental and/or school intervention

Adulting → becoming

Adjustment creating own spaces

Adapting

Independent transport + living alone

Establishing own boundaries

Entire new world

Making mistakes

Intimacy vs. isolation

Living by your own convictions

Knowing what you want

What is reasonable?

Not based on own reasoning

Done with the "storm"
A **transect walk** is a systematic walk along a defined path (transect) across the community/project area together with residents to explore local spaces, memories, stories, and perspectives. It draws on skills of observing, asking, listening. These spaces could be anything from kampungs to institutional offices.

It could lead to transect diagrams, maps or other visual forms.

It is best to walk a route, which will cover the greatest diversity...or chosen by individual participants.
Storying land subsidence (Kamal Muara)
Storying land subsidence (Kamal Muara)
Lunch break
Blue Urbanism for Sea Level Change

Adaptation:

Global Trajectories and Speculative Futuring in Island Southeast Asia

Principal Investigators:
Johannes Herbeck, artec Sustainability Center, University of Bremen
Rapti Siriwardane-de Zoysa, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Bremen
Imagine a coastal city in 2060...
Four Polarities: Planning imaginaries and visions of coastal futures

Dry versus watery territory-making (blue-green vs. grey)

Whose adaptation? - Grand projects (in gentrification) vs. everyday practices (of survival and transgression)

Dystopian and utopic imaginaries (marginality and affluence, privatization vs. public placemaking)

‘Coastal’ centeredness vs. peripheralization
Futuristic visions of city-making (or speculative futuring):

Indonesia Is Moving Its Capital to ... Where, Exactly?
Why Coastal Infrastructures and their Speculative Futures?

Question: How do global networks of ‘innovation’ for living with sea level change influence how Southeast Asia’s coastal cities futuristically reimagine, challenge, and materially shape their urban environments in the century to come.

Knowledge genesis and genealogies of two infrastructural ‘solutions’:

- **multifunctional dykes** (i.e. protective living away/with water);
- **floating structures and artificial islands** (terra-aqueous and ‘amphibious’ ways of living with & making a living from coastal waters)
‘Follow-the-moving solution’ – tracing technological experiments...

Engineering firms, hydraulic consultancies, urban planning/architectural design labs

Study tours, trade fairs, conferences

Construction sites, projects, built environments and material, infrastructures …
Premise 1: Dys/utopic or dysutopic urban coasts

Who Will Benefit From Sea-Level Rise?
Surely someone out there is already thinking of ways to make a few bucks.

By Cecil Adams — Jul 8, 2016 9 AM
Transcending the risk / opportunity-driven binary in coastal contemporary coastal transformations

Speculative Futuring as lens = imaginative speculative & the capitalized speculative
Premise 2: Coastal (protection) infrastructures as a mode of urban governance in itself
Premise 3: from oceanising the urban to the urbanisation of the ocean
'Blue Urbanism' as planning mantra

- NEW URBANISM - Frontiering both the urban and the oceanic
- Reconnecting cities with oceans (combatting "ocean blindness")
- Utilitarian and resource-centric (waterfront leisure, community fisheries, aquaphocs, tidal energy etc.
  Translating green urbanism to blue urbanism
  (terrestrial mindset in urban planning)
- Profound transformation of littoral citizenry into the
- "homo aqua urbanis"

Critiques: extent to which a flattening of transcultural difference in land-sea interactions and sensibilities
Examples 'northern' centric (incl. Rotterdam, NY, Copenhagen, Singapore)
Blue urbanities(1): From riskscapes to taskscapes

Coastal northern Jakarta / Jakarta Utara:

- Historic-colonial focus on Dutch hydro-technological practices and imaginaries (e.g. dredging)
- Multiple ‘coasts’—rummah panggung/stilted homes to concreted bulwarks
- Diversity of waters (hinterland/banjir), tidal (rob), groundwater - between inundation/scarcity
- surface vs. underground
- Taskscapes – as sites of hydrosocial intervention

Top left, HA Simarmata © Right, A-K Hornidge ©
Refashioning 'new'/hybrid metropolitan identities
From 'lost city' to the spectacular urban(e)

Practices:
• Infrastructuring coastal protection (Colven, 2018; Herbeck & Flitner, 2019)
• National Capital Integrated Coastal Development Plan (NCICD)’s Dutch-consortium led Great Garuda “mega-fauna of resilience projects” (Yarina, 2018)
• Is/land reclamation as the new “cost rush” (reclamation from sea as economically viable?)

In Jakarta, kampungs coexist with skyscrapers

Vela Andapita
The Jakarta Post
Case study 1:
Planning ‘from below?’ – Kampung Akuarium
February/March 2017 (after the forced relocation)
Kampung Akuarium - Experiments of living with/out water

Practices:

- Ahok Era: mass displacement (Padawangi & Douglass, 2015), policy reversal post- Anies Baswenda
- Kampung as taskscape – “Wall of Tyranny”
- Pro-poor NGO involvement (e.g. Rojak), vernacular architecture
- Refashioning as ‘maritime kampung’
Akuarium today – from 'maritime kampung' to land-based rusun? (tenurial security still an issue)
Case study 2: Reclamasi and Nimbu in Dialogue
The Poetics and Politics of (grand + small) Reclamasi & Nimbun

A resurgence? (post-Suharto New Order regime, 1990s)

“Land reclamation”— beyond the oxymoron

Collective memory and intergenerational forgetting (city-making)

But what of the hybrid, in creating more malleable, fluctuant spaces? Whither middle ground? (Pauwelussen and Verschoor 2017; Anand 2017; Ley 2021; Krause et al., 2020)
Doing *Nimbun (as social practice) – ‘self-reclamation’*

Nimbun – as an act of ‘soil-making’
(construction rubble, wooden shards, shells...)

Higher ground (not just extension)
Layered heaps left to ‘fallow’

Gendered social practice - Distinct urban knowledge

Floating mass – soggy to the foot, permeable to flood waters

New ground from nimbun
- Blue Urbanism, no “grand narratives” here
- **Vernacular concepts**— blue vs. grey, historic, sensory and transcultural placemaking, ways of seeing, knowing, & being (how is the coast defined)

- **Terra-aqueous vs. terrestrial/grounded notions**— fixity/fluidity, floating/submerged (reframing of the very boundaries that distinguish land from sea)

- **Co-production and contestations of the singular urban ‘coast’** while it is continually remade. What constitutes dwelling and consumption, the desired and the reviled/f feared?
June 2022 Fieldwork

Workpackage 1

“Working the Waves”: Multifunctional Dykes
Expert-led and localised definitions of ‘multifunctionality’...

Meanings of dyking – why dykes as preferred infrastructure....

What forms of external knowledge taken up and translated?

What kinds of socio-infrastructural networks form around them?

Influences from historic practices and community-based learning and appropriation?

Impact on futuristic visions of/for city-making?
June 2022 Fieldwork

Workpackage 2

“Rising with the Waves”: Floating structures and ‘amphibious’ design
Expert-led and localised definitions of amphibious living / lifestyling

‘Vernacular’ Meanings of amphibious – why floating structures preferred infrastructure.... What kinds of network form?

What forms of external knowledge taken up and translated?

Semarang sees construction of Indonesia’s first floating house

Influences of historic practices and community-based learning and appropriation?
  (e.g. “vernacular” architecture”)
Or influences from local level/community actors?
Futuristic visions for city-making

(L: Semarang’s floating library)
Infrastructures are politics / the ‘field’ as assemblage
Social lives and ‘afterlives’ of infrastructures

“How do you convince a fisher that s/he needs to fear water?”
- a Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, Metro Manila

Siriwardane-de Zoysa ©

Your Sea Wall Won’t Save You
Negotiating rhetorics and imaginaries of climate resilience.

MARCH 2018
Concluding thoughts (group ideas and discussion)

- Two days is not enough (just the tip of the iceberg)
- Would like more reading and a dedicated session on grounded theory
- Also practice-based methods
- Individual creativity of researchers to decide what they think is best in dialogue with the team... Mix in our on multidisciplinary methods (quantitative, psychology etc.).
- **Skills sharing**: Next workshops (hybrid format / zoom) are about sharing methods of others who will teach everybody else about their modalities
Thank you!
Some approaches & perspectives
‘Doing’ Grounded Theory

For the future
Assemblage theory in ethnographic res.

For the future
Practice-based research