



TITLE: Contested Narrations of the Nation in post-Suharto Indonesia (1998-2013)

Author/s: Suzanna Eddyono

Affiliation/s: Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, USA.

Erstwhile studies reveal shifting discourses of citizenship and national identity in the transition from Suharto to Post-Suharto period. At least three tendencies can be identified: democratic citizenship, the return to Pancasila as national ideology, and the emphasizing on religious identity as religion increasingly becomes an important criterion for the inclusion of citizens in a transition to democracy. While implicitly suggesting shifts in Indonesian 'modern social imaginary', previous studies, however, do not explicitly analyze the contesting visions of Indonesian nationhood. Bridging the gap, my study attempts to understand contested narrations of the nation in post-Suharto Indonesia. Focusing on citizenship education textbooks in higher education, I ask the following research question: amidst politics of identity at national and sub-national levels and the unprecedented influences of neoliberalism, how do citizenship education textbooks represent nationhood in post-Suharto Indonesia? My study suggests there are more ideals vying for dominance than in the previous regime. The quest for redefining nationhood in post-Suharto Indonesia is not only colored by the persisting Lemhanas' version, but also by emerging contested Islamic visions of the nation.