

Marriage, migration and ethnic boundaries in Indonesia

Dr Ariane Juliana Utomo, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Changing Family in Asia Cluster of ARI-NUS



Much of the literature on assortative mating has centred around the social contexts of the US and traditional immigrant countries in the West. Using an ethno-demographic approach, this paper brings forth the issue of ethnic assortative mating (endogamy) against a backdrop of rising volumes and intensity of migration within a multiethnic developing country. We explore the effects of relative group size on the relative likelihood of endogamy among 24 aggregated ethno-regional groupings in Indonesia - an ethnically diverse archipelago and home to the world's largest Muslim population. We use full enumeration data from the 2010 Census to create a national dataset of husband-wife pairs ($n=47.8$ million couples), and five additional subsets of married couples from provinces with the highest proportion of lifetime migrants ($n=4.05$ million couples). Using endogamy as a proxy of the strength of ethnic boundaries, our results demonstrate that accounting for group size at the provincial level changes the overall ranking of relative "openness" among ethnic groups. Endogamy is particularly strong within an ethnic category which is coterminous with a minority religion. Controlling for ethnic size, our multivariate analysis shows that younger and more educated individuals have a lower likelihood of endogamy. Across the five provinces, female migrants have a lower likelihood of endogamy than non-migrants. For males, migration status was associated with significant differences in the likelihood of endogamy only in two provinces with comparatively recent gains of migrants: Riau Islands and West Papua.

Date: 16 September 2016, Friday

Time: 12nn - 1.30pm

Venue: Ventus - Evans

Seminar chaired by

Dr Mu Zheng

Assistant Professor,

Dept of Sociology

All are welcome!

Light lunch will be provided.

Register at

<https://goo.gl/forms/2iXrEyFrLwTfa4R02>

by 15 September 2016

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ariane Utomo is a Research Fellow at the Crawford School of Public Policy of the Australian National University, and a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Changing Family in Asia Cluster of ARI-NUS. As a social demographer, her overarching research interest is to examine the relationship between the family and four dimensions of social change in contemporary Indonesia: globalization, economic development, demographic transition, and democratisation following the political Reforms in 1998. Her research and teaching activities are centred on how social change are reflected in attitudes to gender roles, school to work transition, women's employment, changing marriage patterns, and the nature of social stratification in Indonesia. While at ARI-NUS, Ariane will be working on a paper on ethnicity, migration, and marriage pairing patterns in Indonesia.