

SCRAPS OF HOPE

Inequalities and the Everyday in Post- Tsunami Banda Aceh

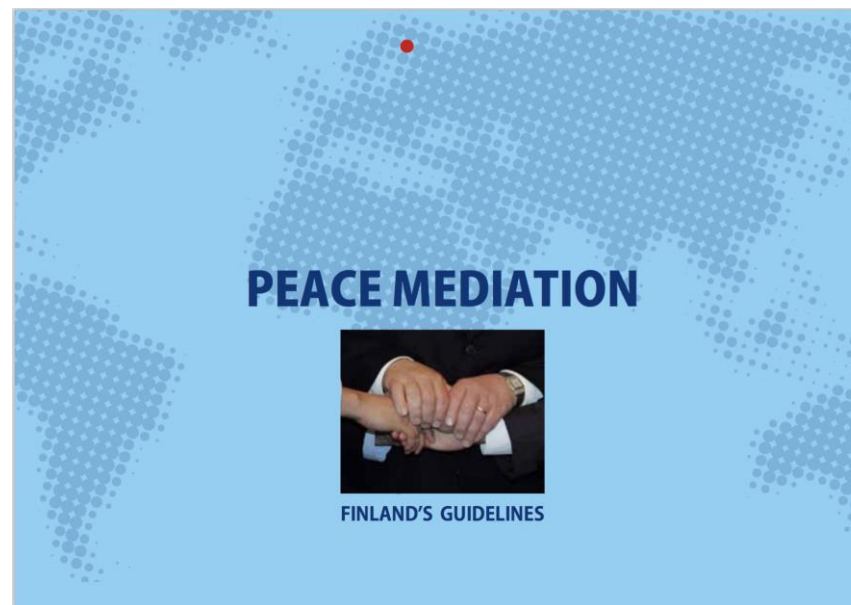
Dr. Marjaana Jauhola

Docent, Academy of Finland Research Fellow

Gender Studies

University of Helsinki

An Urban Ethnography of Peace



<https://youtu.be/sH3TNxS2mGI>

Studying politics of reconstruction through urban ethnography, life narratives and film documentarism

- Indian Ocean earthquakes and the tsunami in December 2004
- Armed conflict between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (1976-2005)
- Post-conflict legal, economic and political framework
- Provincial capital Banda Aceh:
 - Low intensity of conflict
 - 78,000 residents died (out of 270,000)
 - 61-85% of infrastructure destroyed
 - By 2011 270,000 residents – birth rate and migration

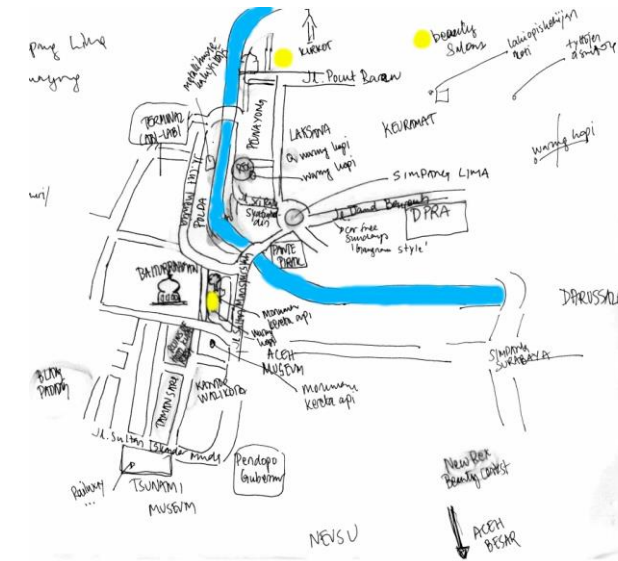


Research aims to

- Study how reconstruction materializes itself in the everyday
 - "Build back better"
 - "Civilized Banda Aceh" (*kota Madani*)
- In what ways do personal narratives challenge linear notions of transformation for "better", expectations of recovery, resilience and return to normalcy?
- What forms of social inequalities and silenced histories do those narratives illuminate?
- Explore the possibilities for combining ethnographic writing and film documentarism
 - 2012-14: 7,5 months ethnography
 - 2015-6: 2 months filming + 6-10 months post-production/writing/talks + screenings

feminist analysis of reconstruction requires a move away from gender analysis towards understanding of intersections of normativity (Hyndman 2008; Jauhola 2013)

- Everyday as a site of struggle: provoking norms in relation to gender, class, caste, ethnicity, sexuality, and religion, in particular through normative calls for piety and propriety
- The analysis draws from ethnographic data around the liminal urban spaces, and the attempts by the provincial and municipality government to normalise subjects in accordance with their visions, such as *civilized city (kota madani) ahklah dan aqidah* (morality and belief) and pious adolescence
- But also how the global media circuit is attracted mapping Aceh in relation to global politics of modernity, Islam, Eurocentrism, war on terror
- Resisting binaristic representations of subjects of Islamic law or political Islam in need of rescuing, rather on the complex ways in which people orient and negotiate normative codes, material, corporeal and social constraints (Dupret et al. 2012)



Ethnographic sites: street, municipal governance and political elite around the (vice)-mayor

Social media (Facebook)

Oral life history
(Auto)photography – video
documentarism/activism

Media circuit

Some observations

- Layered and connected lives in the city, continued militarized masculinities – history that goes beyond the tsunami
- Repetition and new forms of patterns of conflict, violence and displacement
- Gendered violence not restricted to that of women/girls
- Ethnonationalist independence struggle – post-conflict dynamics of Acehnese identity – minority politics
- Struggle for the political and economic power, unfinished de-colonialization, transnational/global politics
- Resistance and critique found in multiple locations: subaltern analysis of the political economy, money politics, identity politics
- The making of middle classness in Banda Aceh





Hybrid monograph

7 chapters

1. Rebuilding the Islamic city
2. Female political populism and elite women
3. Chaotic pavements – punk/metal and post-conflict masculinities
4. Careful management of women's good reputation
5. Battles of ex-combatant masculinities
6. Queer in Aceh
7. Political economy of the plastic bottle

scrapsofhope.fi/aceh

Facebook: Scraps of Hope

10 short documentary videos

6 life history narratives

Transman's life
From young ex-combatant to ageing Sufi healer
Inter-province migrant from religious and ethnic minority
Single parent gardener
Merry-go-around entrepreneur seeking divorce
In search of middle class dream

2 Zubaidah Djohar's poems

Because you're woman
Peace for Whom?

Acehnese women talk back to the Helsinki peace process – interview with Prof Eka Srimulyani/Islamic State University Ar-Raniry and Donna Swita / Solidaritas Perempuan

Sharia law: moral panic vs. blueprint for social and economic justice

– interview with the head of Shari'a Department Prof. Dr. Syahrizal Abbas

SCRAPS OF HOPE



Videos

Facebook: Scraps of Hope

Youtube: Scraps of Hope



Publications

Scraps of Hope: Ethnography of Peace (monograph in process)

Article A.C.A.B. – Studying up the rule of law in Banda Aceh, Indonesia (article manuscript in process)

Article "Scraps of Home" – 7 life stories on home and belonging (2015, Asian Journal of Social Sciences)

Chapter "On Being Bored" – on ethnography of 'here and now' and punk masculinities in Emotions, Politics and War (2015, Routledge)

Photoessay with Yudi Bolong – The punks of the Tsunami Museum (2014, Planet the Welsh Interantional)