

RACHEL RINALDO

University of San Francisco
Center for the Pacific Rim
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EMPLOYMENT

- University of San Francisco** 2008-2009
Center for the Pacific Rim
Kiryama Postdoctoral Fellow at a leading center for the study of Asia
- National University of Singapore** 2007-2008
Asia Research Institute
Postdoctoral research fellow at the largest academic research center for Southeast Asian studies

EDUCATION

- University of Chicago** 2007
Ph.D. Sociology
Special Field Examinations: Gender and the Nation-state; Globalization and Culture
- University of Chicago** 1999
M.A. Sociology
Thesis: "Space of Resistance: The Puerto Rican Cultural Center and Humboldt Park"
- Barnard College** 1994
B.A. Political Science
Graduated *cum laude*

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Mobilizing Piety: Women, Islam, and the Public Sphere in Indonesia

The revitalization of Islam in Indonesia over the past 25 years is part of a global revival of Islam. This study investigates how religion can empower women in the public sphere and how religion is part of the ways women present themselves as legitimate in the public sphere. I explore these questions through an ethnographic study of Muslim and secular women activists in Jakarta, Indonesia. I argue that women's knowledge of religion and use of religious discourses and their self-presentations as religious practitioners are the keys to their legitimacy in the public sphere. As Islam becomes an increasing part of the Indonesian public sphere, the use of religious texts and discourses allows women activists to be heard. When a variety of religious interpretations exist in political contexts that embrace religion, such as contemporary Indonesia, religion can be a significant force for women's involvement in politics. The women activists in this study represent three distinct strategies of mobilizing religious knowledge and practices as a means of entry to the public sphere. These engagements are tied to different understandings of Islamic teachings on gender, as well as contrasting conceptions of the relationship between religion and public life. Because these women are involved in the public sphere, where their use of Islamic discourse provides them with legitimacy and the potential to mobilize across class lines, their different political imaginations all have the potential to shape national discourses and policies.

Dissertation Committee: Saskia Sassen, Leslie Salzinger (Boston College), Chairs; Andreas Glaeser; Danilyn Rutherford (Anthropology) **Defense:** June 2007

Received 2007 Best Dissertation Award, Women and Politics Research Section, American Political Science Association

SCHOLARSHIP

I. Articles

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2008. "Envisioning the Nation: Women Activists, Religion, and the Public Sphere in Indonesia." *Social Forces* 86/4.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2008. "Muslim Women, Middle Class Habitus, and Modernity in Indonesia." *Contemporary Islam* 2/1: 23-39.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2008. "Pious Islam and Women's Activism in Indonesia." *Michigan State University Women in Development Working Paper Series* # 291.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2006. "Contesting Womanhood in Two Indonesian Islamic Organizations." *Jurnal Antropologi Indonesia* 30/1: 21-35.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2002. "Ironic Legacies: The New Order and Indonesian Women's Groups." *Outskirts, a journal of feminist cultural criticism*.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2002. "Space of Resistance: The Puerto Rican Cultural Center and Humboldt Park." *Cultural Critique* 50: 135-174.

II. Book Reviews

Rinaldo, Rachel. Forthcoming. *Women Building Peace: What they Do, Why it Matters*, by Sanam Naraghi Anderline. Book Review. *Gender & Society*.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2006. *Reorganising Power in Indonesia: The Politics of Oligarchy in an Age of Markets*, by Richard Robison and Vedi R. Hadiz. Book Review. *University of Chicago South Asia News* 30/2: 12-13.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2004. *National Performances: The Politics of Class, Race, and Space in Puerto Rican Chicago*, by Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas. Book Review. *City and Community* 3/2: 177-178.

III. Manuscripts Under Review and in Preparation

Rinaldo, Rachel. *Textures of Struggle: The Emergence of Resistance among Garment Workers in Thailand*, by Piya Pangsapa. Book Review submitted to *Contemporary Sociology*.

Rinaldo, Rachel. "Women and Piety Movements." Chapter in preparation for the *New Companion to the Sociology of Religion*, edited by Bryan S. Turner (Blackwell).

Rinaldo, Rachel. "High Heels and Headscarves: Women's Clothing and Islamic Piety in Indonesia." Manuscript in preparation.
Received Honorable Mention, ASA Sociology of Culture Section, 2007 Graduate Student Paper Award.

Rinaldo, Rachel. *Imagining the Nation: Women Activists, Islam, and the Public Sphere in Indonesia*. Book manuscript in preparation.

IV. Selected Non-Academic Publications

“Genocide’s Deadly Residue,” *In the Fray*, September 2004.

<http://inthefray.com/html/article.php?sid=704&mode=thread&order=0>

“Defying Expectations: The Experience of Muslim Countries Suggests that Having a Female Leader isn’t Always Enough,” *In These Times*, July 22, 2002.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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| 2008 | Best Dissertation Award (2007), Women and Politics Research Section, American Political Science Association |
| 2007 | Honorable Mention, ASA Sociology of Culture Section, 2007 Graduate Student Paper Award |
| 2006-2007 | University of Chicago Committee on Southern Asian Studies Dissertation Fellowship |
| 2005-2006 | University of Chicago Committee on Southern Asian Studies Dissertation Fellowship |
| 2005 | Selected to participate in Association for Asian Studies 2005 Dissertation Workshop, “Religion and Politics in Asia” |
| 2005 | National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$7,500) |
| 2005 | University of Chicago Robert S. Park Memorial Lectureship |
| 2004-2005 | University of Chicago Committee on Southern Asian Studies Dissertation Writing Fellowship |
| 2002-2003 | Fulbright-Hays International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$27,721) |
| 2002 | U.S. Indonesia Society Summer Travel Grant |
| 2001 | Puffin Foundation Arts Grant for documentary video production |
| 2000 | American Sociological Association / American Association for the Advancement of Science Mass Media Science Journalism Fellowship |

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS, INVITED TALKS

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| 2008 | “Beyond Morality: Gender, Islam, and the Nation-State in Indonesia.” Religion in Politics: Resistance, Negotiation and Transcendence conference at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, December 11-12, 2008. |
| 2008 | Invited participant, “Religion on the Edge,” Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, October 2008. |
| 2008 | “Women’s Activism, Islam, and Pluralism in Indonesia.” Guest Presentation. Kapal Perempuan annual meeting, Jakarta, Indonesia, March 20, 2008. |
| 2008 | “Women Activists, Islam, and Globalization in Indonesia.” Guest lecture. Department of International Relations, Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia, March 12, 2008. |

- 2007 "High Heels and Headscarves: Women's Clothing and Islamic Piety in Indonesia." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York City, August 12, 2007.
- 2007 "Pious Feminism: Islam and Women's Rights in Indonesia." Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA, March 25, 2007.
- 2006 "Veiled Feminism: Islamic Religious Piety and the Women's Movement in Indonesia." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada. August 12, 2006.
- 2006 "Studying Islam and Women after 9/11." Sociologists for Women in Society Summer Meeting, Graduate Student Roundtable on Social Movements. August 11, 2006.
- 2006 "Feminism in Uncertain Times: Women Activists, Islam, and State Transition in Indonesia." 8th Annual Globalization Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. April 22, 2006.
- 2005 "Transforming Feminism: The Politics of Islam, Global Flows, and Women's Rights in Indonesia." Seeking Gender Justice Beyond the Beijing Conference, Invited Panel Speaker, The Ray Smith Symposium, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. September 18, 2005.
- 2005 "The Struggle over Women: Gender and Sexuality in Two Indonesian Muslim Women's Organizations." 4th International Symposium of *Jurnal Antropologi* Indonesia, University of Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia. July 13, 2005.
- 2005 "High Heels and Headscarves: Womanhood, Islam and Globalization in an Asian Megacity." 7th Annual Globalization Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. May 7, 2005.
- 2005 "The Struggle over Women: Gender Ideology in Two Indonesian Islamic Organizations." Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. March 29, 2005.
- 2003 "Globalization and the Women's Movement in Indonesia." Brown Bag Presentation, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. November 2003.
- 2002 "Globalization and Feminists in Indonesia." ISA International Congress of Sociology, Brisbane, Australia. July 9, 2002.
- 2002 "Globalization, Cultural Flows, and Indonesian Feminists." 3rd Annual Globalization Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. May 2002.
- 1999 "Combining Ethnography and Documentary Artwork." Co-presented at the Sociological Ethnography Conference, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. February 1999.

TEACHING

- 2005 **Instructor, University of Chicago**
Department of Sociology
Gender and Sexuality in the Developing World (Park Lectureship)
Developed and taught an advanced undergraduate class aimed at examining shifts in gender and sexuality in South/Southeast Asia and East Africa, as well as thinking about how Western theories of gender and sexuality can be applied to developing world contexts. Assigned and supervised student projects, including midterm and final papers.
- 2003 **Instructor, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda**
Department of Women's and Gender Studies
One-day Seminar on Ethnographic Methods
Seminar presented an overview of ethnographic methods and relevant issues in conducting ethnographic research.
- 2001 **Instructor, University of Chicago**
Center for Gender Studies
Problems in Gender Studies 101 -- Feminism and Gender
Along with Center for Gender Studies faculty member, developed and taught introductory undergraduate course surveying theories of feminism and gender. Assigned and supervised student projects, including midterm and final papers.
- 2004-2005 **Participant** in University of Chicago **Center for Teaching and Learning** programs:
Course and Syllabus Design Seminar
Workshop on Course Design
Conversations on Teaching

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 1999-present **Manuscript Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology***
- 2006 **Panel Organizer and Presenter**
Association for Asian Studies 2007 Conference, Boston, MA
"Examining Religion: Social Change in Asia"
- 2001-2002 **Member, Book Review Editorial Board**
American Journal of Sociology
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

FILM AND VIDEO

- 2002 *Division + Western*
Produced, shot and edited documentary video about Chicago's Puerto Rican community
Screened at Women in the Directors Chair International Film Festival (Chicago), American Sociological Association annual meeting. Shown on Chicago Public Television (WTTW), September 2003, September 2005.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association – Sex and Gender, Culture, Political Sociology sections
Association for Asian Studies, Sociologists for Women in Society, Association for the Sociology of Religion
American Anthropological Association

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Bahasa Indonesia – fluent speaking, reading, writing

REFERENCES

Saskia Sassen (Dissertation Co-Chair)
Professor
Columbia University
Department of Sociology
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