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ÖSTERREICHISCH-INDONESISCHE GESELLSCHAFT
AUSTRIAN-INDONESIAN SOCIETY
LEMBAGA PERSABAHATAN AUSTRIA INDONESIA



GASTVORTRAG

23.06.2022, 18:30 Uhr, Hörsaal C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Pujo Semedi (Gadjah Mada University)

A witch cauldron called plantation

The presentation discusses the political-economy and political-technology origin of internal theft in Indonesian plantations. Based on long-term ethnographic and archival research (1800s - 2000s), it examines the conditions under which a private property regime leads to resource degradation, rather than providing a solution to the "tragedy of the commons". Indonesian plantations are operated as primer of the pumps from which the energy to turn the global market relations alive originated, whose products kept capital and commodities circulating. Just imagine global capitalism relation as a yoyo, and we will find plantations were positioned at the lowest end of the curve. Along the line, be it down or up, there were many

hands-banks, machinery agents, insurances, transportations, trading houses, retailers-claiming their share of the wealth that was created in the plantations.

Plantations could be privately owned, but the wealth it produced is a common pool for the exclusive use and maximum gain of those who can claim a position along the line that connects plantations with the global market. Together they collaborate to keep plantation production activities rolling by sharing a flimsy logic of not killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.



Pujo Semedi is a professor at the Dept. of Anthropology, Gadjah Mada University. His research mostly addressed the issues of environmental and economic dynamics in rural, agricultural communities. He published articles on Indonesian fishing communities, upland agriculture communities, and tea and palm oil plantations in Java and Kalimantan. Currently, he collects historical ethnographic data on the social transformation from agricultural to industrial society in Southern Germany (1850s-2010s).

Diese Veranstaltung findet in Kooperation mit der Austrian-Indonesian Society statt.