



## UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

### Visions of the future: imagining Islamic modernities in Indonesian Islamic-themed post-Suharto popular and visual culture

Schmidt, L.K.

**Publication date**

2014

**Document Version**

Final published version

[Link to publication](#)

**Citation for published version (APA):**

Schmidt, L. K. (2014). *Visions of the future: imagining Islamic modernities in Indonesian Islamic-themed post-Suharto popular and visual culture*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

**General rights**

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

**Disclaimer/Complaints regulations**

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

# Acknowledgements

The writing of this dissertation has taken me to the most incredible places and has been an unforgettable experience. Although in the end only my name appears on the cover, this thesis would not have been possible – or half as fun – without the inspiration and support of a number of wonderful individuals. I would like to thank them for being part of this journey and for helping me see it through to the end.

I am deeply grateful to my supervisors Pamela Pattynama and Jeroen de Kloet. Without their excellent guidance this thesis would not have been possible. They gave me the freedom to wander intellectually, and wisely pulled my sleeve to bring me back to my topic. Above all, I thank them for being wonderful role models.

I am grateful to Pamela for her thoughtful feedback and sharp questions. Her elaborate comments helped me to refine my arguments. She was always caring, a constant source of motivation and knowledge. From my master's studies onwards she encouraged me to pursue my own ideas. Over the course of this research her warm, calming presence and persistent faith in me has boosted my confidence and morale. After meeting with her, I always felt much more relaxed. Thank you for believing in me, and in the process of doing so, helping me believe in myself. Thank you for being exemplary mentor, I feel very fortunate that you were my supervisor.

As for Jeroen de Kloet, I find it difficult to put my appreciation into words, because it is so boundless. If it were not for him, I would not be where I am now. As my BA, MA, and PhD-thesis supervisor, his advice, knowledge, friendship, and support have been indispensable and fundamental to my growth as a scholar and as a person. He was encouraging in times of new ideas, and helpful in times of struggle. Very often, our discussions led to key insights. And at those moments that I felt disheartened about my research, his cheerfulness, unique humor and enthusiasm would raise my spirits greatly. I do not only feel privileged to have him as a supervisor, but also as a close friend. Many fun memories are wrapped around these past years, such as painting houses, exchanging kitchen tools in front of our class, and early mornings at the H&M designer sale. I cherish our discussions about Asia, research, and life in academia, but also our ever-ongoing on- and offline conversations about equally important matters such as fashion ("do I wear socks with stripes or dots to today's lecture?"), blenders, TV series, wheatgrass, and, last but not least, home improvement and decoration ("should I buy a cuckoo-clock with a sheep or a chicken?" – a regular cuckoo is of course way too conservative). Thank

you for always being there for me, for believing in me, and for setting an example. In your own words: "One teacher can make the difference". You have made all the difference.

I am grateful to the members of the committee: Ben Arps, José van Dijk, Ariel Heryanto, Giselinde Kuipers, Christoph Lindner, and Patricia Pisters. Not only did they generously offer me their time, but each of them has in their own way also inspired and supported me over the course of the past few years.

I thank my colleagues at the Media Studies department, University of Amsterdam, and the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, for their companionship and support: Jacqueline Antonissen, Carolyn Birdsall, Sudeep Dasgupta, Charles Forceville, Abe Geil, Marianne Harbers, Joke Hermes, Swaan Janssen, Eloë Kingma, Catherina Koerts, Nina Köll, Jaap Kooijman, Jobien Kuiper, Erik Laeven, Pieter Manders, Joan Mosselman, David Nieborg, Wouter Oomen, Thomas Poell, Willem Pool, Maarten Reesink, Richard Rogers, Reinder Rustema, Eva Sancho, Sabrina Sauer, Sebastian Scholz, Ruben Smith, Markus Stauff, Hannus Taken, Jan Teurlings, Marijke de Valck, Dymph Verdiesen, Reinier Vriend, and Aletta Verwoerd.

I am indebted to all the past and present members of the Transasia Cultural Studies reading group, and particularly to Bart Barendregt, David Kloos, Hongfei Liao, Pal Nyiri, Lena Scheen, Olga Sooudi, and Ian Yang. We discussed several of my chapters and the feedback that I received from you has been extremely helpful.

I owe special thanks to the people in Indonesia who made my fieldwork an unforgettable experience. Thank you Arif, Dedi, Dyan, Evi, Hairul, Jati, Marlin, Oki, Ryan and Sri. I am indebted to Siska, who warmly opened the doors to her home to me when I first started my fieldwork. I also thank Nisa for her help and for our fun trips around town. Without Desca my fieldwork would simply not have been the same. Thank you Desca, for providing me with a home away from home, for taking care of me when I was sick, for all those delicious dinners, the cheerful chats, the laughs, the many *Bintang*s, and for acting as a research assistant when the amount of research data became overwhelming. You are a true friend. I am also grateful to all those who have shared their stories with me, some of which I put into this book.

I feel fortunate that I got to write the last part of this dissertation in Hong Kong. My stay in Hong Kong has been made possible by the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI), Baptist University Hong Kong, and I thank them for funding my stay and for offering me an excellent working environment. My time in Hong Kong was made especially enjoyable due to the people that became part of my life there. I thank everyone at LEWI and in particular Emilie Yeh and Alice Lu for their support. I also want to thank Jiang, Meihua, Daisy, Sui, Jim, and Anneke for

helping me out and keeping me company. I owe special thanks to Yvette and Lun, who were always there for me and who made me feel so much at home. I am grateful to Yiu Fai for his friendship and continuous support, both in Hong Kong and Amsterdam. I would also like to thank Marcel and Gladys for their encouragement. Thank you Gladys for being such a supportive office buddy and caring friend in Amsterdam and Hong Kong. I will remember our laughs, the long (curry beef) lunch breaks, and our even longer conversations. Thank you for your encouragement, you kept me sane during those challenging last weeks of writing. I treasure our friendship and I hope that our paths will keep crossing.

Writing a dissertation is both a very lonely and a very convivial experience. I feel fortunate that I got to share this experience with many friends, who have been going through the same process: Elena Caoduro, David Duindam, Anne Helmond, Lonneke van Heugten, Penn Ip, Reza Kartosen, Emiel Martens, Andrea Meuzelaar, Melanie Schiller, Laurike in 't Veld, Tom de Vries, and Guohua Zeng. I am grateful to them for their friendship, understanding and support. I owe special thanks to Toni Mazel and Maryn Wilkinson. Toni has been incredibly supportive and I thank her for always listening to my stories, for offering advice, for cooking me delicious food, and for enlightening me about the way the French eat their birds. The writing sessions with Maryn made this PhD a much less solitary venture. Her optimism, impressive geometrical origami skills, and boundless intellectual curiosity – that covers a wide range of topics, including the life of bees and breasted experience – are inspirational. I thank her for her support and friendship.

During the writing of this dissertation, I have not been an 'easy' friend. The long periods away from home and my monk-like or fanatic writing behavior have often tipped the 'work/social balance' to the work side. Amazingly, a few remarkable friends stuck around and have supported and encouraged me through it all. I am deeply grateful to them and would like to give them extra special mention here. Bram, I can probably never thank you sufficiently. We have been in this together from the very beginning. Without your enormous support this thesis would not have been possible. I will never forget how many good ideas you offered me and how you helped me to solve problems. I thank you for your encouragement, for sharing the hardships and joys of pursuing an academic career, for the moral support, the laughs, the Indonesian dinners, and above all for your incredible friendship. You sincerely ask me how I am doing on a daily basis and patiently listen to me. You were there for me in my best and worst moments. Your optimism, enthusiasm, and willpower to make the best out of any situation go unrivalled and will continue to inspire me. You are one of my best friends and I am deeply indebted to you.

I also thank my two paranymphs and close friends, Daisy and Hester. I am extremely grateful to have the most loyal and generous friend in Daisy. We met as students, but became close friends as teachers. When I felt thrown in at the deep end, she helped me out. Her enthusiasm for teaching is infectious and inspirational. As a friend she provided tremendous support. She has a unique way of gently quelling my doubts and insecurities. I feel that I can always count on her, no matter what. Thank you for your care, for your honesty, for cooking for me after long days of work, for dragging me out of my isolation when I needed to breath fresh air, and for your priceless sense of humor which brightens up so many of my days.

Hester always showed sincere interest in my research, and she was one of the first persons I turned to when I felt like I had written myself into a corner. Somehow she always knew a way out. Her encouragement has seen me through tumultuous times, and I do not know where I would be without her moral support. At those few moments I felt overwhelmed by stress, she provided a couch, a blanket and a cat, and when things were going great, she was the first who was ready to celebrate. I thank her for being my digital roommate, for the endless FaceTime sessions, for cheering Erica's and sushi Thursdays, for synchronically watching TV series, for her mastery of foreign accents, for sharing the joy of watching Tom Cruise play volleyball, and for her invention of 'autismedag', which has truly given new meaning to 'the care of the self'. Thank you Hester for being such a caring friend, you have introduced me to a kind of friendship I did not know existed.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to my family for their continuous and unparalleled love, care, help and support. My brother Kristian always brags about me, and this is my chance to brag about him. He is the most intelligent person I know, and I love how we get into long discussions about everything. Thank you for challenging me, for encouraging me, for always being there for me, and for coming to the rescue when my Internet connection fails to work. I learn so much from you. I am eternally indebted to my parents for giving me the opportunities and experiences that have made me who I am. I can never thank them enough. The past few years have not always been easy, and this dissertation would not have been possible without the unwavering care, love, and support of mother Joke. When I was younger you told me that you believed that one day I would write a book, I laughed and did not believe you. But here it is. Thank you for believing in me before I did, and for always being there for me. This journey would not have been possible if not for you, and I dedicate this milestone to you.