Surviving Spouses: Support for Widows in Malang, East Java

Marianti, R.

Citation for published version (APA):
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: It is about support!

The book is about support for widows in urban neighbourhoods in Malang, East Java, but this section is about support for me. During the whole PhD trajectory, I received various kinds and forms of support from different categories of support providers. Although the book bears my name and I am fully responsible for its content, I would not be able to start and to finish it without being supported by numerous people.

I shall begin with my two supervisors: Jan Breman and Otto van den Muijzenberg. Jan and Otto have different ‘supervision styles’. Jan often challenged me to contextualize the findings of the research within the wider social, economic and political context. While from Otto, I learned to be consistent and precise with the details of the findings. Nevertheless, both of them similarly encouraged me to search and find my own direction. I am most grateful to their confidence in my choices, although these choices involved many trials and errors. This kind of freedom is a ‘fertile soil’ for me to grow further as an independent researcher.

My PhD trajectory is also inseparable from the research project ‘Social Security and Social Security in Indonesia’. During our project’s meetings, seminars, workshops, dinners and selamatans, I could share my preliminary ideas and got stimulating feedbacks. Frans Hüsken, Hotze Lont, Gerben Nooteboom, Andreas Susanto, Huub de Jonge, Irwan Abdullah, Ratna Saptari, Ben White, Juliette Koning and Made Pande Kutanegara are colleagues in this project, to whom I would like to express my appreciation for their companionship and (intellectual) support. Related to my participation in the Social Security research project, I wish to mention that this study would not have been possible without the funding of The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science.

For some years I also participated in one of the promotion clubs in Amsterdam School. In this club, which is latter called ‘Asian Societies in Transitions’ (ASIT); I had the opportunity to discuss almost all of the first versions of my chapters. Therefore, I would like to thank all of (ex) members of this club, especially Miranda Engelshoven, Mario Rutten, Marten Ndoen, Erwan Purwanto, Song Ping, Pepijn van de Port, Harald Bekkers and Mariko Nakajima. After a promo-club discussion, I often had lunch with Mariko. With her I could share many daily ‘ups and downs’ as Asian transnationals in Amsterdam.

From my first working day in Amsterdam School, I have been supported in many ways by people from management and secretariat. For this, I like to thank Hans Sonneveld, José Komen, Miriam May, Teun Bijvoet, Anneke Dammers, Albertine van Peursen and Annelies Dijkstra. It is a great honour for me to be the 100th PhD of the School and I am
grateful with the School’s attention to celebrate this in a special way. Concerning my Amsterdam School period, I would like to mention a few people that are special for me. Jeroen de Kloet is a colleague and a good friend to whom I can openly tell ‘stories’. During my first year in the School, I was lucky to have the chance to participate in Joop Goudsblom’s courses. Our discussions on Norbert Elias’ work has shaped the way I understand social phenomena.

During the last phase of my study, I received a scholarship from the Belle van Zuylen Institute for multicultural and comparative gender studies. This institute is academically and socially a very stimulating place to work. I would like to thank the Bellies: Frances Gouda, Pamela Pattynama, Selma Leydesdorff, Sonja van Wichelen, Marjolein Denslagen, Astriet Blommestijn, Hanne Drogendijk, Marie-Louise Janssen, Jelke Boesten, Ellis Jonker and Monica Scholten and Sandra Ponzanesi. From them I learn to deal with the complexity of gender; one of the important aspects in this book.

During my fieldwork, I received support from many colleagues and friends in Indonesia. Bu Umu Hilmy from the Law Faculty of Brawijaya University in Malang, gave me useful suggestions to choose research locations. She also introduced me to Mbak Cung in Kotalama. From Mbak Cung I got a great amount of local knowledge and a warm friendship. Pak Marzuqi, Fenti, Mbak Darmi, Mbah Nah, Mbah Sarah, Bu Niti, Bu Oentoeng, Bu Noto, Mbak Dartik and Mbak Sri’ah are those to whom I could come again and again to learn about the rich kampong daily life.

In my Amsterdam daily life, I am lucky to have some friends who help me in keeping my academic and social life in balance. I enjoyed very much the relaxing hours I spent with Juliani Wahjana and Claudia Theile. With them I could put aside the writing stress for a while. Thomas Estel is also a part of my Amsterdam social life although he lives in Berlin. Every time he visited Amsterdam, I had a great holiday.

As you shall notice in the following chapters, family members often play a very important role as prime support providers. This finding also obviously speaks for me. In every fieldwork I carried out in Malang, my family and I were lovingly taken care by my parents. Therefore, I also experienced those fieldworks as big holidays; days when I really understood what home sweet home is. The ‘hard cores’ of my support providers are Arthur and Arlina. No word can sufficiently express my gratefulness for the love and warmth they give to me. Without these two precious ‘mates’, I could not be where I am today……, ACPM!
Map of East Java

Central

Java

MADURA STRAITS

Provincial boundary
Main road
Railway
Major river
Mountain 3000m +

INDIAN OCEAN
Dengan ingatan pada Lawang
Mata air dari sungaiku yang berkelok panjang
Untuk pemenuhi janji pada Lawang
Kini aku pulang

Amsterdam, musim gugur 2002

RM