



# One tribe, many venues:

The use of multiple online community platforms by Indonesian government scholarship recipients

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# INTRODUCTION

- Tapping from the knowledge of others is a form of learning, it is “as much a part of our human nature as eating or sleeping, that is both life-sustaining and inevitable” (Wenger, 1998:3)
- Communities of Practice (CoP): a community where learning is a central component, consisting of informally bound groups with shared expertise and a passion for a joint-enterprise (Lave and Wenger, 1991; Wenger and Snyder, 2000: 139)
- The Internet’s structure makes it easier for people to find their “tribe” online rather than in real life, especially when the interest may be highly unusual or unique (Ridings, 2006)

# SETTING A CONTEXT

- Indonesian govt. push towards e-government
- The Overseas Graduate Scholarship program of the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education of Indonesia has shifted to e-government processes: all submission and communication are conducted online
- The study looks into the CoP consisting of overseas doctoral students funded by the scholarship

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the patterns of membership in the various online community platforms used by the scholarship recipients?
2. What are the themes that arise from their discussion of the various platforms?

# METHOD

- List a population of 259 scholars included in batch 2014, identify their online profiles and membership on online community groups in various platforms.
- Interview a purposive sample of 16 scholars, use thematic analysis to discover themes from the interviews

# FINDINGS: The Platforms



- Platforms used:
  - Government-led bulletin board system referred as 1) FORUM
  - Citizen-led groups using 2) Facebook and 3) WhatsApp platforms

FORUM	FACEBOOK	WHATSAPP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible to all scholars through their individual account</li> <li>• Now no longer exist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 90% of the population have Facebook accounts</li> <li>• Most converge in the Facebook group created for their specific batch of 2014</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only 43% of the population joined the WhatsApp group due to the platforms initial limitation number for members</li> <li>• A new group was created to discussing extension process of the scholarship</li> </ul>

# FINDINGS: Themes and Sub-themes

Information	The qualities of the CoP in the different platforms	Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Informativeness</li><li>• Sharing of information</li><li>• Citizen-led groups as points of reference</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inaccessibility</li><li>• Reliability of the CoP</li><li>• Responsiveness</li><li>• Inefficiency</li><li>• Affordances</li><li>• Platform preferences</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation level</li><li>• Apprenticeship learning</li><li>• Multiple communities/ overlaps</li><li>• Personal connection</li><li>• Secrecy of the community</li></ul>

## CONCLUSION

Organically-formed, citizen-led groups built on platforms that are readily available for scholarship recipients proved to be more appealing in comparison to the government-led group. The citizen-led groups were able to fulfill the gap unsatisfied by the government-led group, and allowed the CoP to do even more than expected.

# This is a work-in-progress: all inputs are welcome!

Thank you very much. Terima kasih banyak. شكرا جزيلًا. Mahalo nui loa.



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