

University of Groningen

Decentralization and the challenges of local governance in Indonesia

Efriandi, Tri

DOI:
[10.33612/diss.155466640](https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.155466640)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2021

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Efriandi, T. (2021). *Decentralization and the challenges of local governance in Indonesia: Four case studies on public service provision and democratization in Papua and West Papua*. University of Groningen. <https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.155466640>

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, 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), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

Acknowledgements

I illustrate my PhD as a journey, both literally and figuratively. Migrating 11.329 km from Indonesia to the Netherlands, leaving my comfort zone in Jakarta to pursue higher education in Groningen was indeed not an easy decision and as people said, every choice has a risk. The journey was pretty rough in the beginning. A host of challenges, viz., shock culture, new working environment and new day-to-day activities loomed over me in the first three months of my studies. However, I survived and in reverse, I really enjoyed my life in the Netherlands where I learned a lot from the culture and the society particularly on how to be direct, how to appreciate the time, how to understand and respect the diversity, as well as how to comprehend tolerance and empathy. Figuratively, this PhD trajectory is also an intellectual journey for me. Directing the way of thinking from practical matters to the abstract or theoretical realm was not an easy turning-point. More often than not, I got lost in exploring the labyrinth of theories, although I have to confess that no comparable feeling than experienced a *eureka* moment when I found papers and theories which correspond to my research.

Accordingly, I truly believe that I would not be at this point without the generosity of those who have been part of my PhD journey. First and foremost, my sincere gratitude goes to Professor Oscar Couwenberg. His invaluable help, support and encouragement made all the inevitable challenges that I countered during the PhD easier to resolve. He always knocked on my office door or sent me an email asking how I was doing whenever I did not show up for a while. Our insightful discussions on the diverse topics, especially on institutions, poverty and development, always challenged my critical thinking to not just perceive problems from the surface, but to dig deeper in discovering the underlying issues. Your attention to detail was also not always easy to follow, but I realized that

nothing worth having comes easy. I should not forget to thank you for your help in translating the summary into Dutch, which I believe not all PhD students got this opportunity. I would like to thank Professor Ronald L. Holzhaecker who provided me an opportunity to conduct my research at the University of Groningen. I truly appreciate your valuable feedback, support and encouragement throughout my PhD journey.

My research would never be accomplished without help from the many people during the data collection in Jakarta, Papua and West Papua. I would like to express my appreciation to representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Works, National Election Commission, National Election Supervisory Agency, Geospatial Information Agency, Provincial governments (Papua and West Papua), District governments (Jayawijaya, Asmat, and Manokwari), and researchers at Papua Research Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada. I would also like to thank the respondents from Yayasan Pendidikan Kristen, Yayasan Pendidikan dan Persekolahan Katolik, Yayasan Kristen Wamena, Yayasan Pendidikan Islam, Yayasan Sosial Untuk Masyarakat Terpencil, Keuskupan Agats, PDAM of Manokwari, and PERPAMSI.

Due to the challenging geographical terrains combined with limited infrastructures in some regions, collecting empirical data in Papua was an adventurous field trip. I would like to acknowledge the great help from my friends in Jayapura (Omri, Wasti, Selvi), Jayawijaya (Leonard Nekwek, for his generosity hosting me in his house during my fieldwork in Wamena and introduced me to the various key informants; Taufikurrahman, for guiding and accompanying me during interviews), Asmat (Warsito and Yeremius, for providing me much pleasant help); Manokwari (Albinus Cobis, for arranging my research permit and introducing me to the key stakeholders).

My sincere thanks also go to my former colleagues in the Ministry of Home Affairs especially Nur Anita Setyawati and Diah Cintani for handling all my official documents while I went studying in the Netherlands.

I would like to express my appreciation for the support from colleagues in the Faculty of Spatial Sciences: Jos Arts (for allocating time to discuss various issues with PhDs), Diana, Tineke and Gerda (for helping me with various administrative issues), and Sanne (for discussing the challenges relating to work and life). I would also like to thank all colleagues and friends in the Department of Spatial Planning and Environment: Marijn, Steven, Rozanne, Anne Marel, Ciska, Laura, Jasper Meekes, Robin, Stanati, Berino, Mohammad, Tim, Terry, Ward, Ferry, Ines, Elen, Chris, Nienke, Gwenda, Sacha, Shreya and Diani. A special thank you to Koen, Jing, Naim, Isti, Thai, Ju, and Lili, for the friendships and togetherness. I should not forget to thank my personable friend, Mufty Hasanov, for all discussions, sarcasms and smart jokes.

I would like to acknowledge the support from my office mate, my paranymph as well as my best friend, Isabelle Soares. Thank you for all the laugh, tears, joys and dramas, which colored our daily life in the office. I am sorry for being “too quiet” in the office and for not actively participating in many social events. I wish all the best for you in the future together with Thomas. I will never forget a quote from Nelson Mandela on your white board: “It always seems impossible until it is done”. *Obrigado!*

I am also very grateful for the priceless friendship, trustworthiness, and sincerity from my best friend, Prayoga Permana, who was always there whenever I need help, from the first time I arrived in the Schiphol airport to the final stage of my PhD by being my paranymph.

I would like to thank my Indonesian friends in Groningen, Annisa Wiharani (and *mas* Krisna), Titissari Rumbogo (and *mas* Ega), *mas* Kuswanto (and *mba* Fitri), *pak* Taufik, *pak* Tatang, *mba* Suwatin, *mba* Inung, *mba* Laksmi (and *mas* Kadek), *pak* Petrus, *mba* Elda, Ali Syari'ati, Azkario Pratama, Aryan Morita, Dina Maniar, and Masyhita Ambarwati.

I would also like to thank Tim Zwaagstra, our “accidental” meeting at European Higher Education Fair in 2015 became the starting point of my PhD journey in the University of Groningen. Many thanks also go to Zoltan Lippenyi, Abdul Rahman bin Yusope, Sazril Ambri bin Shahrim and Andre Kusuma for all the kindness and friendship.

Last but not least, I would like to deliver my deepest gratitude to my parents for the unconditional love and support. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my siblings and Papa Harjono Koewarijanto (and my loveliest nephew, Raditya Bagasyudha). Ook wil ik mijn dank uitspreken aan mijn familie in Nederland: Thea van Vliet, Ivo van Vliet, tante Anne-Miek Schiks, oom Rob en tante Mayke Gerrits. Een speciaal woord van dank is gericht aan Sjoerd van Vliet voor zijn ondersteuning, zorgzaamheid en begrip voor de ups en downs die ik beleefde tijdens mijn PhD journey.

Tri Efriandi

Rotterdam, December 2020