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Sabbatical Report, Fall 2022

I am pleased to submit a report of scholarly activities conducted during my sabbatical leave in Fall 2022. During this time, I worked on three research projects: 1) income inequality and economic voting in developing democracies, 2) a pilot project on measuring subnational democracy in Indonesia's districts and 3) a study that investigates how economic conditions can influence public support for democracy. The first and third projects are multi-country studies, while the second project is focused on Indonesia. Thanks to supportive co-authors and colleagues, especially at the institutions that hosted me during my stay in Indonesia, I was able to achieve the research goals that I proposed for my sabbatical and I was also very fortunate to participate in a series of public engagement events, including an international conference held in Bali on the occasion of Indonesia's 2022 presidency of the G20. Below, I briefly describe the work I engaged in.

Visiting Fellowships

1. My co-author Dr. Amalinda Savirani from Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) invited me to become a visiting fellow at her home institution, the [Research Center for Politics and Government](#), located in the city of Yogyakarta. During my stay there in September 2022, we designed an index to measure subnational democracy that is sensitive to the local political conditions in Indonesia and we supervised a team of students to collect data on executive and legislative election results in a sample of 70 subnational units. I found this very rewarding, as we taught the students how to make connections between what they learned in class and a real-world research and data application. Being able to work face-to-face with the local team in Indonesia has been instrumental to the completion of this project. During this time, I also gave a presentation to the research staff at the Research Center for Politics and Government on how to apply for social science PhD programs in the United States.
2. From October-December 2022, I was a Writing Fellow at the [Faculty of Social Sciences Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia \(UIII\)](#).
3. From October- December 2022, I was also a visiting fellow at the [Centre for Strategic and International Studies Indonesia](#). Both institutions (CSIS and UIII) are located in the Jakarta Metropolitan area, and I split my time equally. As the oldest think tank in Indonesia, through CSIS I participated in a series of their public policy events, including the Think 20 Indonesia Summit and the German-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue.

Research Projects & Publications

1. Worked on a revise and resubmit paper with Dr. Florence Bouvet, "Do voters in developing and transitional democracies care about income inequality? the role of media freedom." The revised manuscript was accepted for publication at *Economics & Politics* in November 2022.
2. Completed a first draft of the paper "Conceptualizing and measuring local democracy in Indonesia," co-authored with Dr. Amalinda Savirani in December 2022.

3. Submitted a journal manuscript “How Do Economic Conditions Influence Support for Democracy?” to *Muslim Politics Review*, which was subsequently accepted for publication in June 2023.

Guest Lectures:

1. I delivered a [brown bag lecture](#) to economics students at UIII, as part of their Econ Insight lecture on November 1, 2022.
2. I delivered a brown bag lecture to political science students at UIII on “How do economic perceptions affect public opinion on democracy?” on December 9, 2022. I received feedback on the paper I worked on, which was later submitted to a journal.
3. I delivered a guest lecture for political science graduate students at UIII as part of the course “Scope and Methods.” The topic was quantitative research methods in social sciences.

Conferences and Policy Engagement:

1. I chaired a panel session “Green and Digital Technology Adoption in the context of Global Value Chains,” at the [Think 20 Summit in Bali](#), Indonesia, September 5, 2022.
2. I was a speaker at the 6th Germany-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue, organized by Konrad Adenauer Foundation and CSIS Indonesia on “Aligning Instruments: G7 and G20’s solutions to Global Agenda (Economic, Financial, Health and Beyond),” Jakarta, November 28, 2022. One of my co-panelists is the Deputy Minister of Trade, Republic of Indonesia.
3. I was a speaker at “[Taking Stock of Indonesia’s G20 Presidency](#),” a live talk-show style event held by the Jakarta Post covering the last day of the G20 Summit in Bali, November 15, 2022. One of my co-panelists is the Indonesian Foreign Minister (2001-09).
4. Moderated a Roundtable Discussion on Financial Sector Assessment in Indonesia, organized by the World Bank Jakarta and CSIS Indonesia.

In sum, I am very grateful for the opportunity to focus on research and professional development as well as develop new collaborations and strengthen existing ties in Indonesia. The sabbatical also helped me to remain current in my discipline, as I picked up a new set of statistical skills to analyze public opinion data over time (multi-level modeling). In light of plans from our economics department to offer more quantitative and data analytics courses to our students, I hope to contribute to new course developments in the future.

Sincerely,



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