

The Javanese in Surinam : Ethnicity in an Ethnically Plural Society

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Deskripsi Lengkap: <https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20251479&lokasi=lokal>

Abstrak

The thesis tries to show that ethnicity is, in a certain sense, an individual phenomenon that emerges in social interaction. Its methodology is focused on the individual and on the group and passes back and forth between the two, as units of analysis, in their interplay with their environment. The environment referred to is natural and social, which includes the actors, and the others' ethnic categories and cultural sets, and the systems of power into which they have been incorporated and which prescribe certain political, economic, and social regulations toward their activities should conform. These are seen as reference systems providing variable alternatives, certain parts of which can be activated and employed by different individuals and groups as a reference for their actions in certain ethnic and inter-ethnic relationships, based on plausible reasoning which rationally, morally and emotionally is justified.