

## Producing Wealth and Poverty in Indonesia's New Rural Economies

Professor Tania Li, Department of Anthropology and the Asian Institute, University of Toronto  
Dr Pujo Semedi, Department of Anthropology, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

This research program examines the social relations through which rural people gain access to, or are excluded from, the benefits of high growth agriculture in Indonesia. The research focus is on West Kalimantan, where massive areas of forest and the mixed garden land of the Dayak people are being converted to monocrop oil palm plantations to supply a global market. The aim of the research is to map the social positions, relations and practices that shape who wins, and who loses, from this radical transformation of the rural economy.

**Student Experience:** Undergraduate participants will receive intensive training in the Indonesian language as well as research skills, and will undertake a month of field research in the challenging environment of rural West Kalimantan. They will learn to work as members of an international team composed of Canadian and Indonesian faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, while also conducting independent research, analysis and writing on a topic selected in consultation with the instructors. This experience is especially valuable for advanced undergraduate students considering graduate work in the field of socio-cultural anthropology or related disciplines.

**Prerequisites, background preparation and specific abilities:** This Research Opportunity is intended for highly motivated students who are capable of working independently, taking initiatives, and conducting themselves in a mature fashion under rugged working and living conditions that will be unfamiliar to most undergraduates in Canadian universities. Good organizational and social skills are essential. Academic preparation should include several upper level courses in the social sciences, preferably though not necessarily in socio-cultural anthropology. Places are limited. Selection will be based on application form, academic transcript, and interview.

**Funding:** The research program has received funds from Canada's Social Science and Humanities Research Council. The 5-10 students selected for this research opportunity will receive sufficient **funds** to cover airfare, immunizations, visas, Indonesian language tuition, and living expenses for three months in Indonesia. Students will be responsible for paying the standard U of T tuition for a "Y" course.

**Evaluation procedures and marking scheme:** Students will attend all training, language and preparatory activities. They will keep detailed field notes typed daily and shared with the team in a format to be agreed. They will prepare an individual research report that uses field data to examine a topic of particular interest to them. The reports will be evaluated and receive feedback from Professors Li and Semedi. They will then be revised for publication as working papers on the research website.

<b>Marking Scheme:</b>	Attendance, participation and contributions to the team	40%
	Field notes	20%
	Research report, draft version	20%
	Final report for publication as Working paper	20%

**Program:**

May 01 - June 30	Language learning and research preparation at Gadjah Mada in Jogjakarta
July 01-July 31	Field research, West Kalimantan
August 1-31	Return to Canada to complete research paper and field notes for submission.

*To signal your possible interest in this course, to find out about the Dec 01 information session, and to obtain the application form, please contact the course assistant [jacob.nerenberg@utoronto.ca](mailto:jacob.nerenberg@utoronto.ca) by November 26, 2010.*