



Doing Research about Research

An Analysis of Indonesian Social Sciences Research
System



INDONESIA

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION, POLICY & GOVERNANCE

DOING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

INDONESIA



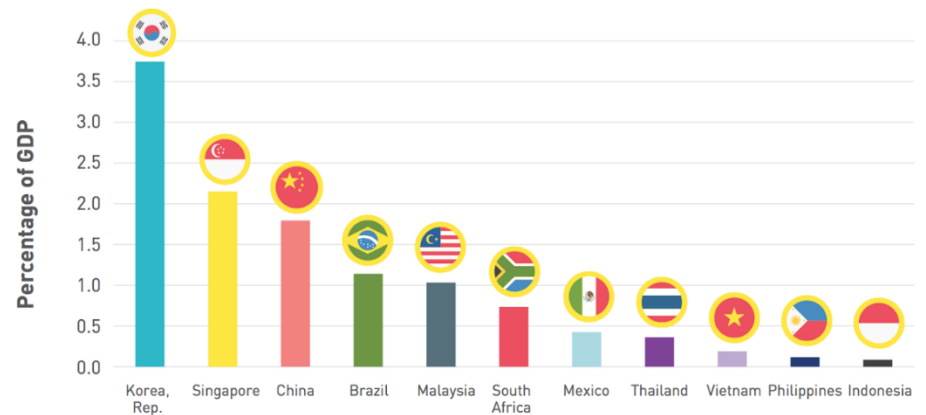
- 267 million population, largest economy is SEA, Muslim majority, third largest democracy
- Stabil economic growth , rising inequalities
- Covid-19: Gap between evidence and policy-making
- Political clientelism, corruption, and a resource-exhaustive centralized bureaucracy
- Legacies of the authoritarian regime

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INDONESIA: Key Findings

- Increase in funding, but slow bureaucratic reform
- Low quality due to institutional barriers

Research funding – 0.2% of GDP



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, September 2016; uis.unesco.org

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INDONESIA: Key Findings

The nature of social science research

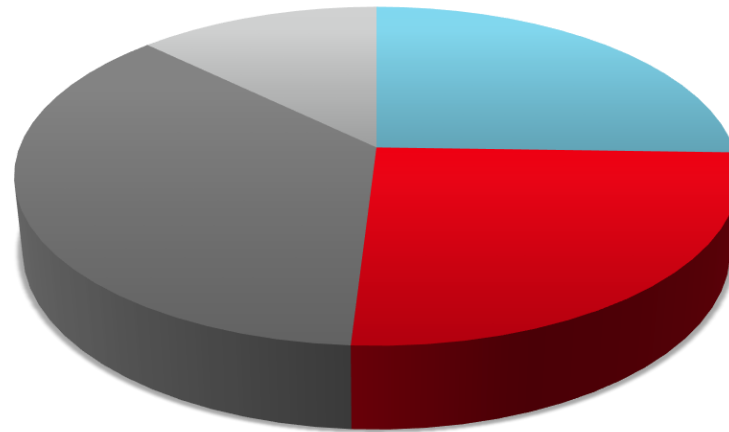


- Claims for evidence-based policy making in social sciences must be treated with caution
- Importance of mentoring

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SYSTEM

ACTORS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SSR actors



■ HEIs ■ Gov & funding ■ CSO ■ private

Higher Education Institutions

- 4551, only 1012 are accredited
- Three pillars of HE (education, research, community service)
- Knowledge production
- Publication

Government and funding agencies

- Bappenas, LIPI, BPPT
- Funding research
- Designing research policies (bureaucratic & programmatic)
- Research uptake

CSO

- Production of research (donor-market, government-commissioned, and industry-commissioned research) for advocacy & basis of policymaking
- Dissemination of research

Private Sector

- Consulting services
- philanthropy-commissioned research is to build reputation
- Corporation commissions

PRODUCTION OF SSR

IMPACT FACTORS

	Encouraging	Hindering
HEIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved research funding Emerging networks of young researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow bureaucratic reforms Jakarta/Java-centred
Gov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New regulation (IPTEK SISNAS) – legal framework to stimulate invention and innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of attention on basic sciences, more emphasis on applied sciences New regulation (IPTEK SISNAS) hinders academic freedom, with the clause of penalty for unregistered foreign academics gathering primary data in Indonesia without permit.
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately funded by clients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioned, market research Private companies do not see themselves as part of a larger knowledge production process (no benefit in linking with peers outside of their own direct interest)
INGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative works with government to fund research Provide expertise and capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmatic and not always institutional linkages Privileging certain thematic issues, some themes marginalised
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent increased participation in policy making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reliable list of CSOs working in research production

QUALITY OF SSR

BARRIERS

- Deregulation without de-bureaucratisation
- Slow bureaucratic reform
- Audit culture
- Academic freedom
- Monodisciplinarity

QUALITY OF SSR

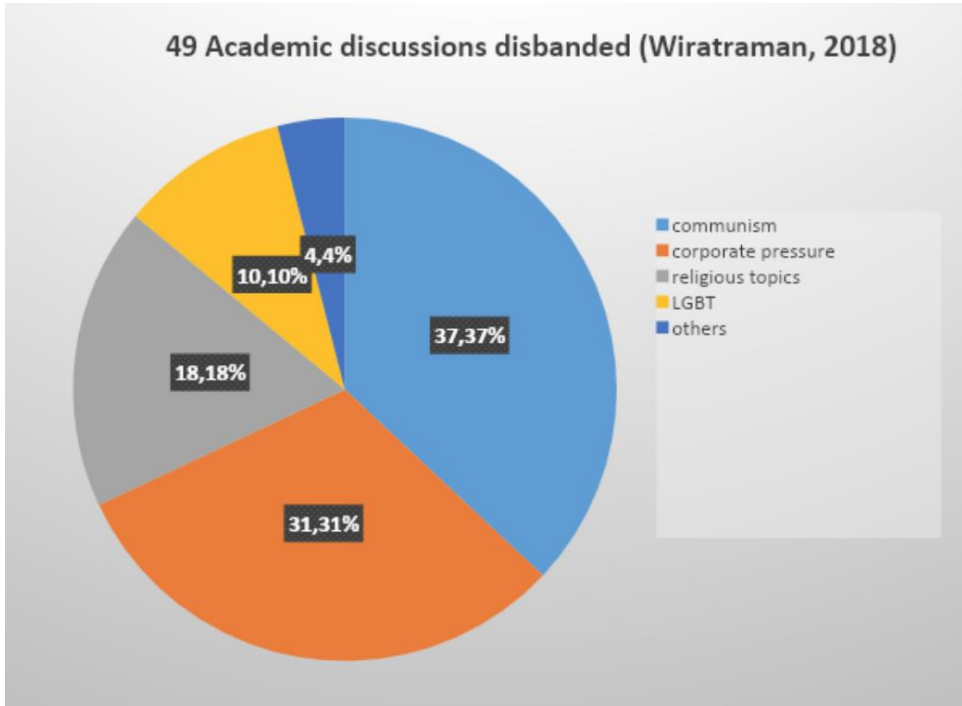
BARRIERS: AUDIT CULTURE

- Audit culture increases administrative compliance much more effectively than it improves academic performance
- Rigid reporting, budgeting guidelines and bureaucratic procedures

“My colleagues and I are sometimes reluctant to do research because of the reporting process (for audit). It has a very specific and rigid format, such as the balance sheet. If our report does not follow the template, they will return it to us to revise and resubmit. So, it’s all about formatting and formatting. Revision and revision. It’s really time consuming” (in-depth interview, 2019).

QUALITY OF SSR

BARRIERS: ACADEMIC FREEDOM



Academic freedom of researchers is hindered no longer by a strong state, but by patron clientelism and the marketisation of research
Promoting academic freedom is the first important step in nurturing a robust social science research system.

QUALITY OF SSR

BARRIERS: MONO-DISCIPLINARITY

- Research problems tend to be interdisciplinary, while the way universities are structured is not.
- ‘Linearity’ - narrowing one’s own educational experiences to increase specialisation.
- Rigid separation of disciplines within HEIs has made it difficult for academics to interact with peers from other areas of expertise.
- The lack of interdisciplinarity among research producing organisations in Indonesia hinders efforts to improve the performance of social science researchers.

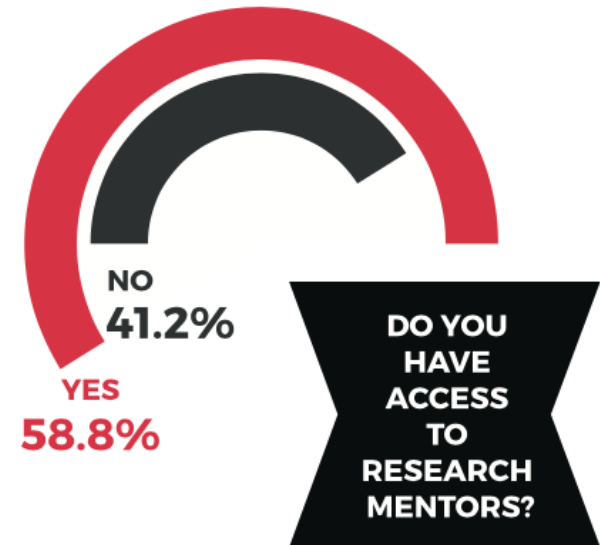
ENGAGEMENT OF SSR KEYPLAYERS

PROCEDURES AND ACTIONS

Mentoring that extends after PhD:

- Publication track (journal and monograph)
- Career development (tenure)
- Building regional academic networks

RESEARCH MENTORING



COOPERATION OF SSR KEYPLAYERS

ACTIONS FOR SSR IMPROVEMENT

- Provision of competitive grants
- Linkages with academic peers from INGOs, CSOs, government, private through facilitating collaboration, conference/workshops
- Capacity building that links with grants
- Comparative analysis that aids researchers to go beyond domestic and national contexts

DOING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

INDONESIA

Conclusions

- Improved attempts and increased in research funding are hindered by slow bureaucratic reforms
- Regional equality exacerbates uneven reforms
- Gender inequality – less women occupy strategic positions

Recommendation

- a follow-up research on the implementation of the Law on the National System of Knowledge and Technology
- Research on how this policy impacts on the production, diffusion and uptake of research

Ways Forward

- Academic productivity of female academics in the social and humanities in Indonesia
- Gender gap in publishing?
- Tension between “domestic” and “public”?
- Social inclusiveness and equity