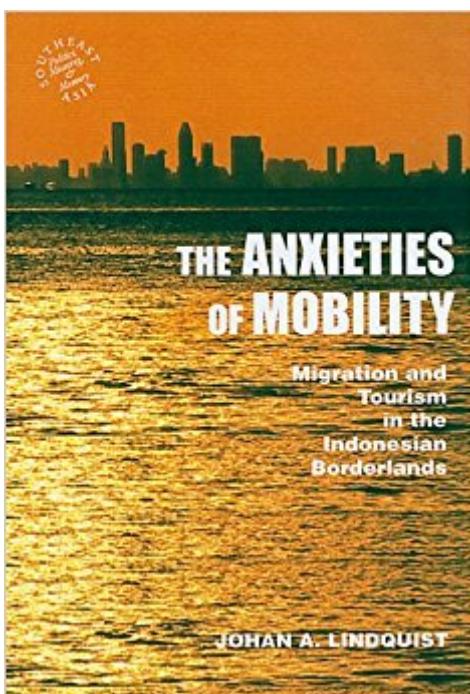


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The Anxieties Of Mobility: Migration And Tourism In The Indonesian Borderlands (Southeast Asia: Politics, Meaning, And Memory)



Synopsis

Since the late 1960s the Indonesian island of Batam has been transformed from a sleepy fishing village to a booming frontier town, where foreign investment, mostly from neighboring Singapore, converges with inexpensive land and labor. Indonesian female migrants dominate the island's economic landscape both as factory workers and as prostitutes servicing working class tourists from Singapore. Indonesians also move across the border in search of work in Malaysia and Singapore as plantation and construction workers or maids. Export processing zones such as Batam are both celebrated and vilified in contemporary debates on economic globalization. The *Anxieties of Mobility* moves beyond these dichotomies to explore the experiences of migrants and tourists who pass through Batam. Johan Lindquist's extensive fieldwork allows him to portray globalization in terms of relationships that bind individuals together over long distances rather than as a series of impersonal economic transactions. He offers a unique ethnographic perspective, drawing together the worlds of factory workers and prostitutes, migrants and tourists, and creating a compelling account of everyday life in a borderland characterized by dramatic capitalist expansion. The book uses three Indonesian concepts (merantau, malu, liar) to shed light on the mobility of migrants and tourists on Batam. The first refers to a person's relationship with home while in the process of migration. The second signifies the shame or embarrassment felt when one is between accepted roles and emotional states. The third, liar, literally means "wild" and is used to identify those who are out of place, notably squatters, couples in premarital cohabitation, and prostitutes without pimps. These sometimes overlapping concepts allow the book to move across geographical and metaphorical boundaries and between various economies. The *Anxieties of Mobility* is an ideal text for courses dealing with gender, globalization, and anthropology. A documentary film, *B.A.T.A.M.*, directed and produced by the author, is available from Documentary Educational Resources.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This engaging and sympathetically written book would make an excellent text for undergraduate courses on globalization, migration or the anthropology of work.-- "Pacific Affairs"Many readers, particularly those looking for ethnographies accessible to undergraduates, will welcome Johan M. Lindquist's timely topic and his engaging writing style. . . . Valuable, interesting, in many ways innovative to the field. The book is ideal for use in undergraduate courses in globalization and development, or area studies (Southeast Asia or Indonesia). . . . The Anxieties of Mobility will no doubt find a secure place in the anthropological literature on development, borderlands, gender, prostitution, and migration.-- "Journal of Asian Studies"

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This book is an excellent ethnographic account of the island of Batam in Indonesia. The reader is introduced to emotions unique to the region such as malu that becomes the driving force for the people to do things they normally wouldn't just to survive their harsh realities. The book is a real eye opener because it shows the true cost of globalization and consumerism. The language used is easy to understand and the book is engaging from start to finish. The book was assigned for a class and It was one of the highlights of my semester.

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