

**Dwellers and strangers:  
Socio-cultural entity, space-use, and spatial configuration in  
kampung settlements of Jakarta, Indonesia**

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**Abstract**

This paper concerns spatial configuration and space-use in the informal kampung settlements in Jakarta. Taking the indispensable relationship between the social-activities and the configuration of space as the basis for discussion, this study sees each local kampung in two ways; on its own and in relation with the city as a whole. What then emerges considering the 'parts in the whole' problem is a structured relationship between the city-wide scale and the local dynamics. The emergence of supergrid space which is embedded with functions used locally by dwellers and accidental strangers at the global scale, underlines the fact that the phenomenon of urbanity does not occur randomly but is highly determined by the generic law of urban grid and urban movement. In the final analysis, the kampung of Jakarta, despite the fact that it has come into being without planning regulation in the common sense, presents in total a well-constituted human settlement. Besides some differences in spatial structures and the spreading of local scale activities in each kampung - regarding some socio-cultural variations, the existence of a universal generative process creating a predictable pattern of micro-economic activities is emphasised.

**Keywords**

dwelling, local inhabitant, informal settlement, informal economy, kampung, Jakarta

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