

Dr Bosman BATUBARA

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Education

- PhD (Human Geography, Planning and International Development Department, University of Amsterdam and Water Governance Department, IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education, 2022).
 - MSc (Interuniversity Program in Water Resources Engineering, VU Brussels and KU Leuven, 2012)
 - Bachelor (Geological Engineering Department, Gadjah Mada University, 2005)
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Professional Experience

JANUARY 2025 – JANUARY 2027

Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

- Opening flows of rock in expanding urban frontier beyond the city in the relocation of Indonesia's capital city from Jakarta to Ibu Kota Negara (IKN) in East Kalimantan.

MARCH 2022 – DECEMBER 2024

Postdoctoral Fellow, Utrecht University

- Foregrounding “operational landscape” at the location of Indonesia's new capital city in East Kalimantan, and its reproduction elsewhere.

MARCH 2019 – FEBRUARY 2022

Researcher, University of Amsterdam

- Identifying and evaluating pragmatic possibilities for a just and sustainable groundwater governance for integrated urban water resources management in Semarang, Indonesia.
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Research Area

Keywords: capitalism, urban theories, labour, land, water.

My research interests are uneven and speculative relations of capitalism (and urbanization) within and beyond the city, in horizontal and vertical directions, involving human and non-human, above and below ground.

Short Biography

I aim to open the expansion of urban frontier beyond the city by examining the flows of rock for the new Indonesia's capital city of Nusantara. I defended my PhD thesis entitled “*Floods in*

(post-) New Order Jakarta: A political ecology of urbanization” at Human Geography, Planning, and International Development Department, University of Amsterdam and Water Governance Department at IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education. I hold master’s in water resources engineering from VU Brussels and KU Leuven, and bachelor in geological engineering from Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia.

Selected publications

Books

Batubara B and Toding ET (2025) *Reforma Agraria Perkotaan dan Koperasi Perumahan* (Urban Agrarian Reform and Housing Cooperative). Yogyakarta and Jakarta: Kasan Ngali and Urban Poor Consortium.

Batubara B, Kausan BY, Handriana E, Salam S and Ma’rufah U (2021) *Banjir Sudah Naik Seleher: Ekologi Politis Urbanisasi DAS-DAS di Semarang* (Water is at the Neck: A Political Ecology of Urbanization in Semarang Watersheds). Semarang: Cipta Prima Nusantara.

Batubara B, Warsilah H, Wagner I and Salam S (2020) *Maleh Dadi Segoro: Krisis Sosial-Ekologis Kawasan Pesisir Semarang-Demak* (Turned into Ocean: Socio-ecological Crises in Semarang-Demak Coastal Area). Yogyakarta: Lintas Nalar.

Batubara B (2020) *Teman Rebahan: Kapitalisme dan COVID-19* (Companion for Lockdown: Capitalism and COVID-19). Yogyakarta: Penerbit Gading.

Batubara B and Utomo PW (2012) *Kronik Lumpur Lapindo: Skandal Pengeboran Migas di Sidoarjo* (Chronicle of Lapindo Mudflow: Oil and Gas Drilling Disaster in Sidoarjo). Yogyakarta: INSIST Press.

Refereed Article

Batubara B, Otsuki K, Van Noorloos F, Kooy M and Zoomers A (February 2026, accepted) Reproducing Operational Landscapes: The rock mining for Indonesia’s new capital city. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

Batubara B (2025) Subsumption of Landscape under Capital: Extended urbanisation at the location of Indonesia’s new capital city. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 1–21.

Batubara B, Belland M and Kooy M (2025) Linking Up Degrowth in/From the South With Provincialised UPE: Mangrove and groundwater conservations in Semarang, Indonesia. *Asia Pac. Viewp.*, 66: 105-114.

Batubara B (2024) The Pulse of the Earth: Political Geology in Java (Book review). *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 80(2): 243-4.

Batubara B, Guntoro, Rachman NF, Herlily and Adianto J (2024) Land Occupation, Re-occupation, and Housing Cooperative: Commune formation by Jakarta’s urban poor. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 13(1): 89-109.

Diana Aguiar, Yasmin Ahmed, Duygu Avci, Gabriel Bastos, Bosman Batubara, Cynthia Bejeo, Claudia I. Camacho-Benavides, Komal Chauhan, Sergio Coronado, Somashree Das, Mercedes Ejarque, Zeynep Ceren Eren Benlisoy, Diana Isabel Güiza-Gómez, Adwoa Yeboah Gyapong, Hao Phuong Phan, Rahma Hassan, Carol Hernández Rodríguez, Huiying Ng, Sardar Babur Hussain, Sinem Kavak, Thiruni Kelegama, Amit John Kurien, Daren Shi-chi Leung, Tania Martínez-Cruz, Boaventura Monjane, George Tonderai Mudimu, Deniz Pelek, Tsilavo Ralandison, Andrea P. Sosa Varrotti, Dzifa Torvikey,

and Diana María Valencia-Duarte (2023) Transforming Critical Agrarian Studies: Solidarity, scholar-activism and emancipatory agendas in and from the Global South*. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 50(2): 758-786.

Batubara B, Kooy M, Zwarteveen M (2023) Politicising Land Subsidence in Jakarta: How land subsidence is the outcome of uneven sociospatial and socionatural processes of capitalist urbanization. *Geoforum*, 139: 1-9.

Batubara B, Kooy M, Van Leynseele Y, Zwarteveen M and Ujianto A (2023) Urbanization in (post-) New Order Indonesia: Connecting unevenness in the city with that in the countryside. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 50(3): 1207-1226

Batubara B and Rachman NF (2022) Extended Agrarian Question in Concessionary Capitalism: The Jakarta's Kaum Miskin Kota. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 11(2), 232–255.

Batubara B (2021) Swyngedouw's Puzzle: Surplus-value production in socionature. *Human Geography*, 14(2): 292-5.

Batubara B, Kooy M, Zwarteveen M (2018) Uneven Urbanisation: Connecting flows of water to flows of labour and capital through Jakarta's flood infrastructure. *Antipode* 50(5): 1186-1205.

Zwarteveen M, Kemerink-Seyoum JS, Kooy M, Evers J, Guerrero TA, Batubara B, Biza A, Boakye-Ansah A, Faber S, Cabrera Flamini A, Cuadrado-Quesada G, Fantini E, Gupta J, Hasan S, ter Horst R, Jamali H, Jaspers F, Obani P, Schwartz K, Shubber Z, Smit H, Torio P, Tutusaus M and Wesselink A (2017) Engaging with the Politics of Water Governance. *WIREs Water*, 4 (6): e1245.

Batubara B, Batelaan O and Quevauviller P (2014) Science-policy Interfacing on the Issue of Groundwater Ecosystem and Groundwater-dependent Ecosystems in Europe: Implications for research and policy. *WIREs Water*, 1(6): 561-571.

Edited Book

Kausan BY, Batubara B, Handriana E. (2024) *Ngelep, Ngrumat, Niteni: Ekologi Politik Merawat Air dan Ruang Hidup di Jawa Bagian Tengah (Ngelep, Ngrumat, Niteni: Political Ecology of Caring for Water and Living Space in Central Part of Java)*. Yogyakarta: Mata Kata Inspirasi.

Mariana A and Batubara B (Eds.) (2015) *Seni dan Sastra untuk Kedaulatan Petani Urutsewu (Art and Literature for Urutsewu's Peasants Sovereignty)*. Yogyakarta: Literasi Press.

Prasetia H and Batubara B (Eds.) (2010) *Bencana Industri: Relasi Negara, Perusahaan, dan Masyarakat Sipil (Industrial Disaster: Relations between State, Corporation, and Civil Society)*. Jakarta: Desantara.

Book Chapter

Batubara B, Kooy M, Guntoro, Sobirin M (2025) Urban-rural solidarity builds a rice supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic in Java, Indonesia. In Tacoli C, Agergaard J, Andreasen MH and Brown D (Eds.) *The Edward Elgar Handbook on Rural-Urban Linkages in the Global South*. Massachusetts: Edward Elgar Publishing, Inc, pp. 310-322.