

# Call for Applications

## PhD Candidate on Religious Gender Justice Activism (Gender Justice)

Full-time | 3 years | Deadline: **Sunday, June 15th, 2025**

**Fully Funded!**

The GenderJustice Indonesia project is a collaboration between the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and the Social Trust Fund - UIN Syarif Hidayatullah (STF UIN Jakarta). We are currently inviting applications for one (1) PhD Candidate to join the project through a fully funded, full-time doctoral program, for a period of three years. There is a possibility for a double degree from the UIN Jakarta (Indonesia) and the University of Groningen (The Netherlands).

### About the Project

Rights related to gender equality and non-discrimination are increasingly under attack, with significant backlash against women's rights, sexual and reproductive health rights, and LGBTIQ+ rights, both globally and locally. The debates have become highly polarized, often influenced by religious actors and discourses. At the same time, new actors and perspectives challenge this binary view of religion and gender equality. Across the world, religious women's rights NGOs, queer activists, feminist theologians, and others engage in struggles for gender equality and non-discrimination, find arguments and inspiration in their religious beliefs. Through case studies in Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan and at the UN, the GenderJustice project will explore the ways in which these actors employ religion as a resource in their work and examine whether these activists' strategies and networks might help reduce polarization on these issues. The project is funded by the Research Council of Norway.

### The Indonesia case

The GenderJustice Indonesia case will investigate how religious gender justice activism in Indonesia engages with and responds to socio-political polarization. Since the early 20th century, religiously inspired gender justice actors—distinct from secular feminists—have drawn on religious texts and historical reinterpretation to advocate for gender rights.

These actors include academics, NGO workers, and religious leaders, some of whom are affiliated with organizations such as Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama, though often operating independently of institutional mandates. The Indonesia case will examine the strategies, alliances, and discourses of these actors, as well as the opposition they face from both conservative religious and secular groups. By focusing on how these activists navigate contestation and build legitimacy, the project aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of religious engagement with gender justice and the dynamics of polarization and potential paths toward depolarization in Indonesia.

## **The Doctor Researcher within the project**

The Doctoral Researcher will be part of the GenderJustice Indonesia Project Hub at UIN Jakarta and is expected to reside in Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia. The Doctoral Researcher is also expected to contribute to other project activities (stakeholder dialogues, co-authored articles, and public dissemination).

The doctoral research is an integral part of the GenderJustice project, an international collaborative project with research partners in Colombia, Denmark, Indonesia, Kenya, The Netherlands, Pakistan and Norway. The Doctoral Researcher will work with an interdisciplinary team of researchers.

### **The PhD research project proposal**

The applicant is invited to develop a proposal for fieldwork-based doctoral research that addresses select aspects of the GenderJustice project. The research project proposal (no more than four pages, c. 2000 words excluding references) should address the following issues:

- A description of the main research question, aims and motivation of your project ( including reflections on which aspects from the GenderJustice proposal you find most interesting or relevant and why; how you will address the GenderJustice research questions and what you would like to add or change within your specific project?)
- The position of the project within the (sub-)discipline (what new insights can be expected?)
- A brief description of the relevant literature
- The proposed methodological approach (including how you will organize and manage the data collection and analysis, and reflections on your positionality as a researcher (e.g. your age, gender, appearance)?
- A progress plan for the three-year doctoral research

A successful application is one that makes clear how it will contribute innovatively to the project as a whole, and candidates are encouraged to read the background material closely before writing their proposal.

A complete description of the project will be made available to interested candidates upon request.

### **PhD supervision (promotors) will be provided by:**

1. Prof. Amelia Fauzia (UIN Jakarta – Country Hub Director)
2. Dr. Kaja Borchgrevink (PRIO – International Project Leader Investigator)

In the case of a double degree, an additional supervision team will be provided by the University of Groningen.

### **Key Features**

- Duration: 3 years (August 2025 – August 2028) (2 years of coursework and research and 1 year of writing and completion)
- Possibility of dual degree: UIN Syarif Hidayatullah and The University of Groningen
- Mobility: 6-month (or two times 3-month) research stay in the Netherlands
- Funding: Fully funded (tuition, stipend, travel, fieldwork, conferences)
- Estimated monthly stipend: IDR 6 million
- In the case of research stay at University of Groningen a higher stipend and travel costs will be covered.
- Location: Tangerang Selatan-based, with fieldwork in Indonesia and potential 6 months stay abroad.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- ✓ Research based Master's degree (or equivalent) in social sciences, religious studies, gender studies, or related disciplines
- ✓ Proven experience in gender-related research, preferably with published journal articles (at least one in a reputable international journal)
- ✓ Demonstrated interest in religious-based social movements and gender justice
- ✓ Excellent research proposal aligned with the Gender Justice Indonesia case
- ✓ High proficiency in English and Bahasa Indonesia (Minimum English requirement: TOEFL iBT 90 / IELTS 6.5)
- ✓ Strong commitment to the full 3-year research program
- ✓ Willingness to contribute to both PhD research and broader project tasks (dialogues, publications and dissemination)

## Required Documents

Submit the following in one combined PDF file to **socialtrustfund@apps.uinjkt.ac.id** with subject line: PhD Fellow Application - Genderjustice- [Your Name]

1. Cover letter (1 page)
2. CV (max. 3 pages)
3. Research proposal (background, argument, novelty, methodology).
4. One sample of academic writing in English (published article or thesis excerpt)
5. Certified copies of academic transcripts and diplomas
6. Proof of English proficiency (certificate, preferably international IELTS)
7. Recommendations from 2 academics

## Expected Outputs

- PhD dissertation (monograph or article-based)
- At least one peer-reviewed academic article in an international journal
- Contribution to policy briefs and public knowledge outputs
- Stakeholder dialogues with civil society organizations
- Participation in annual project workshops (in Indonesia, Oslo, or partner countries)

## TIMELINE

| Activity                  | Date   |
|---------------------------|--|
| Deadline for applications | June 15th, 2025  |
| Review & shortlisting     | June 15-29th, 2025 (only shortlisted candidates will be contacted) |
| Online interviews         | 30 June - 02 July 2025   |
| Contract signing          | 3rd week of July 2025  |
| Start of contract         | 15 August 2025   |

## Contact Us



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