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Propositions

For the doctoral dissertation

Representation and beyond: Female Victims in Post-Suharto Media

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1. The emergence of women's activism during *reformasi* (reform) did not only articulate women's political consciousness, but also served as a milestone for both the public recognition of violence against women and the positioning of women as victims respectively (*Dissertation*, Chapter Two).
2. The issue of violence that was prevalent during reformasi on the one hand, and freedom of the press and the dream of transparency on the other, has spawned public fixation on the aspect of 'visibility' (*Dissertation*, Chapter One).
3. For women, the opening of the media world during reformasi has had two contradictory effects: on the one hand, it has been liberating in the sense that there are more forms of alternative media for them through which to express themselves, but on the other hand, it has been repressing, considering how pornography has increased and how the press reporting of violence against women is still demeaning (*Dissertation*, Chapter Three).
4. While the New Order's absence led to the massiveness of the scale of violence against women, it is the present state's silence that prolongs it (*Dissertation*, Chapter Nine).
5. As representation depends on 'the recognizable', if it is in the best interest of those in power that a specific representation is recognised, then they will facilitate its recognition, whether by force or persuasion.
6. Our cultural understanding may dictate certain meanings of the word 'victim', yet it may also misread certain other occurrences of violence against women and fail to recognise them as victims.
7. When we talk about suffering, neglecting to acknowledge 'the speech genres of specific discourse communities' can mean we risk ridicule or failure to achieve an intended response.
8. There is a thin veil between the myths and the reality of the past, and in viewing the history of modern Indonesia, how the New Order came to power is still a mythic reality for many.
9. It is best to let sleeping tigers lie, especially the Dutch immigration office. When you do not hear anything from them about your visa extension request, don't ask them about it.