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**From respected hermits to ordinary citizens: The conversion of the Baduy, ethnicity, and politics of religion in Indonesia (1977 - 2019)**  
Suryani, A.J.

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# **From Respected Hermits to Ordinary Citizens**

**The Conversion of the Baduy, Ethnicity,  
and Politics of Religion in Indonesia (1977 - 2019)**

Proefschrift

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de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,  
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof.mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,  
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties  
te verdedigen op 28 januari 2021  
klokke 10.00 uur.

door  
Ade Jaya Suryani  
Geboren te Pandeglang  
1981

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To my wife Desty and our children Maryam, Umar, and Brillian.  
With them my life is joyful.



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# Note on the Transliteration

Indonesian and Sundanese words are written as they are used in the languages. The writing of Islamic terms follows *Encyclopaedia of Islam New Edition* / EI-2 which was published by E. J. Brill in 1986, otherwise follows “Brill’s simple Arabic transliteration system” as the table below. Non-English words are written in italic. All non-English nouns are written in singular, like *kiyai* (Indonesian/Sundanese) not *kiyais* and *madrassa* (Arabic) not *madrassas* neither *madāris*. When the non-English words function as a pronoun, like “Kiyai Ahmad”, they are written normal.

Arabic	sAts	Arabic	sAts	Arabic	sAts
ا	a, ā	ط	ṭ	ى	ā
ب	b	ظ	ẓ	ي	ī
ت	t	ع	‘	و	ū
ث	ṭ	غ	ġ	َ	a
ج	ġ	ف	f	ِ	i
ح	ḥ	ق	q	ُ	u
خ	ḥ	ك	k	يَّ	ai
د	d	ل	l	وَّ	au
ذ	ḏ	م	m	يَّ	īy
ر	r	ن	n	وَّ	ūw
ز	z	ه	h	ة	a, ah, āh, at, āt
س	s	و	w, ū		
ش	š	ي	y, ī		
ص	ṣ	ء	’		
ض	ḏ				

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# Glossary

<i>Adat</i>	Arabic: <i>ʿāda(ʾ)</i> , custom.
<i>Āmil</i>	An agent, tax-collector, administrator, government official, and finance officer. In Cicakal Girang a man is called <i>ʿāmil</i> to who the Outer Baduy declare the <i>shahāda</i> .
<i>Ādān</i>	The Islamic call for prayer.
AMAN	<i>Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara</i> / the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago.
Bapeda	<i>Badan Perencanaan Daerah</i> / the Body of Regional Planning.
BKKI	<i>Badan Koordinasi Kebatinan Indonesia</i> / the Coordinating Body of Indonesian Spirituality.
BPUPKI	<i>Badan Penyelidik Usaha-Usaha Persiapan Kemerdekaan Indonesia</i> (The Investigating Committee for Preparatory Work for Independence).
BUMN	<i>Badan Usaha Milik Negara</i> / State-Owned Company.
Danramil	<i>Komandan Rayon Militer</i> , Commander of <i>Koramil</i> .
DDII	Dewan Dakwah Islamiyah Indonesia / Indonesian Islamic Da'wa Council.
<i>Debus</i>	Performance art and capability of being invulnerable to weapons.
Depag	<i>Departemen Agama</i> (Department of Religious Affairs). In 2010 the name <i>Departemen Agama</i> was changed into <i>Kementerian Agama</i> (Ministry of Religious Affairs/ MORA).
Depsos	<i>Departemen Sosial</i> (Department of Social Affairs).
GPDI	<i>Gereja Pantekosta di Indonesia</i> / Pentecostal Church in Indonesia.
<i>Haj</i>	The pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the five pillars of Islam.
IAIN	<i>Institut Agama Islam Negeri</i> / State Institute for Islamic Studies.
<i>Jaro pamarentah</i>	The governmental head of <i>desa</i> . In the <i>adat</i> community of Baduy there are many <i>jaro</i> , one of the <i>jaro</i> is <i>jaro pamarentah</i> who is similar to <i>kepala desa</i> ( <i>desa</i> leader) in other <i>desa</i> . <i>Jaro pamarentah</i> of the Baduy, however, is appointed by the <i>adat</i> leader and legalised by the government.
Kemenag	<i>Kementerian Agama</i> (Ministry of Religious Affairs/ MORA).

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<i>Kiyai</i>	A title attributed to a higher level of <i>ustad</i> .
<i>Koramil</i>	<i>Komando Rayon Militer</i> , Command of Indonesian Army at the regency level.
KUA	<i>Kantor Urusan Agama</i> / Office of Religious Affairs.
<i>Leuit</i>	(Sundanese) barn.
<i>Madrasah</i>	(Arabic) <i>madrasa</i> , school. In the Indonesian context, <i>madrasah</i> means Islamic school. In Indonesia education is managed by two ministries: the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The latter manages, from the lowest the highest levels, <i>Madrasah Diniyah</i> (religious school), <i>Madrasah Ibtidaiyah</i> (Islamic Elementary School), <i>Madrasah Tsanawiyah</i> (Islamic Middle School), <i>Madrasah Aliyah</i> (Islamic High School) and Higher Education in various names such as <i>Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam</i> (Islamic College), <i>Institute Agama Islam</i> (Institute of Islamic Studies), and <i>Universitas Islam</i> (Islamic University), both private and public. In addition, the Ministry of Religious Affairs has also higher education for non-Islamic religions such as <i>Sekolah Tinggi Agama Hindu</i> (Hindu College) and <i>Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha</i> (Buddhist College).
MK	<i>Mahkamah Konstitusi</i> / Constitutional Court.
MUI	<i>Majelis Ulama Indonesia</i> (the Council of Indonesian Ulama).
Pakem	<i>Pengawasan Aliran Kepercayaan dan Aliran Keagamaan dalam Masyarakat</i> / Surveillance of Belief and Religious Streams in Society.
<i>Penghulu</i>	Marriage officiant. Working in an Office of Religious Affairs (KUA), a <i>penghulu</i> gets marry a Muslim couple, when her father or guardian cannot, and records their marriage.
Persis	Persatuan Islam. This Islamic organisation was founded in 1923 in Bandung.
Pesantren	<i>Pe-santri-an</i> , <i>santri</i> -place. Islamic boarding school where students ( <i>santri</i> ) learn classical Islamic subjects. In terms of the teaching methods, <i>pesantren</i> are divided into three: traditional ( <i>salafiyah</i> ), modern ( <i>khalaftiyah</i> ) and mixed.
PGI	Founded in 1950, <i>Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia</i> (the Council of Churches in Indonesia Council) is the new

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	name of <i>Dewan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia</i> (DGI).
PPMT	<i>Program Pembinaan Masyarakat Terasing</i> / the Programme of the Development of Isolated societies.
Puskesmas	<i>Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat</i> / Community Health Centre which commonly exists in a district.
<i>Qunut</i>	(Arabic) <i>qunūt</i> . According to Vicon Arabic – English Dictionary, <i>qunūt</i> means “obedience, humility, devoutness, piety”. The <i>qunut</i> is practiced by the doer by reading a certain prayer before he prostrates in the last <i>rakaat</i> (prostration). The practice of <i>qunut</i> in the down prayer often becomes a marker of the Nahdlatul Ulama culture
<i>Santri</i>	Students who study Islam in a <i>pesantren</i> .
<i>Shahāda</i>	(Arabic) testimony. The first of the five pillars of Islam testifying that Allah is his/her God and Muhammad is His messenger.
SPG	<i>Sekolah Pendidikan Guru</i> / School for Teacher Education
<i>Tablilan</i>	<i>Tablilan</i> is from <i>tahlil</i> (Arabic: التَّهْلِيل) which refers to the declaration of the uniqueness of Allah ‘لا إله إلا الله’ ‘there is no god but God’. In traditional Muslim communities in Indonesia, which is often associated with Nahdlatul Ulama, when a Muslim dies the other Muslims will gather mostly in the first week evenings either in the house of the dead or in the mosque to do a ceremony called <i>tablilan</i> . During the gathering they read Qur’an verses, recite the <i>tahlil</i> sentence for a certain number and pray for the dead. The host family, like in many ceremonies in Indonesia, commonly provides food for the participants. Muhammadiyah who brings the idea of the purification of Islam rarely practices the <i>tablilan</i> ceremony and is considered by many Muslims from the this community, especially in rural areas, strange.
UIN	<i>Universitas Islam Negeri</i> / the State Islamic University.
<i>Ulama</i>	(Arabic) The plural form of <i>‘alim</i> , scholar. It is a general term covering the terms <i>ustad</i> and <i>kiyai</i> . In a specific usage, <i>ulama</i> refers to higher levels of <i>ustad</i> and <i>kiyai</i> . <i>Ulama</i> can simply mean an influential <i>kiyai</i> .
<i>Ustad</i>	(Arabic) teacher. Specifically <i>ustad</i> refers to Islamic religious teacher.
<i>Yasinan</i>	<i>Yasinan</i> means to read the <i>sūrah</i> (chapter) <i>Yā-Sīn</i> (36) from the Qur’an, which is generally performed in the Friday

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night. The participants read the *sūrah* and may be added with other *sūrah*. After reading the *sūrah* or *sūrah* they pray for the wellness, prosperity, forgiveness of them and the Muslims in general. Eating and drinking as exist in other ceremonies include in this event. *Yasinan* is also performed by traditional Muslims in the first seven days day of a death.

YWAM

Youth With A Mission, an international interdenominational Christian mission organisation based in the US.

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*Serang, 8 June 2020*

*Ade Jaya Suryani*

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# Maps

*Map 1: Indonesia*



Source: <http://bit.ly/2QvgD6R>

*Map 2: Banten Province*



Source: <http://bit.ly/2Szo3C>

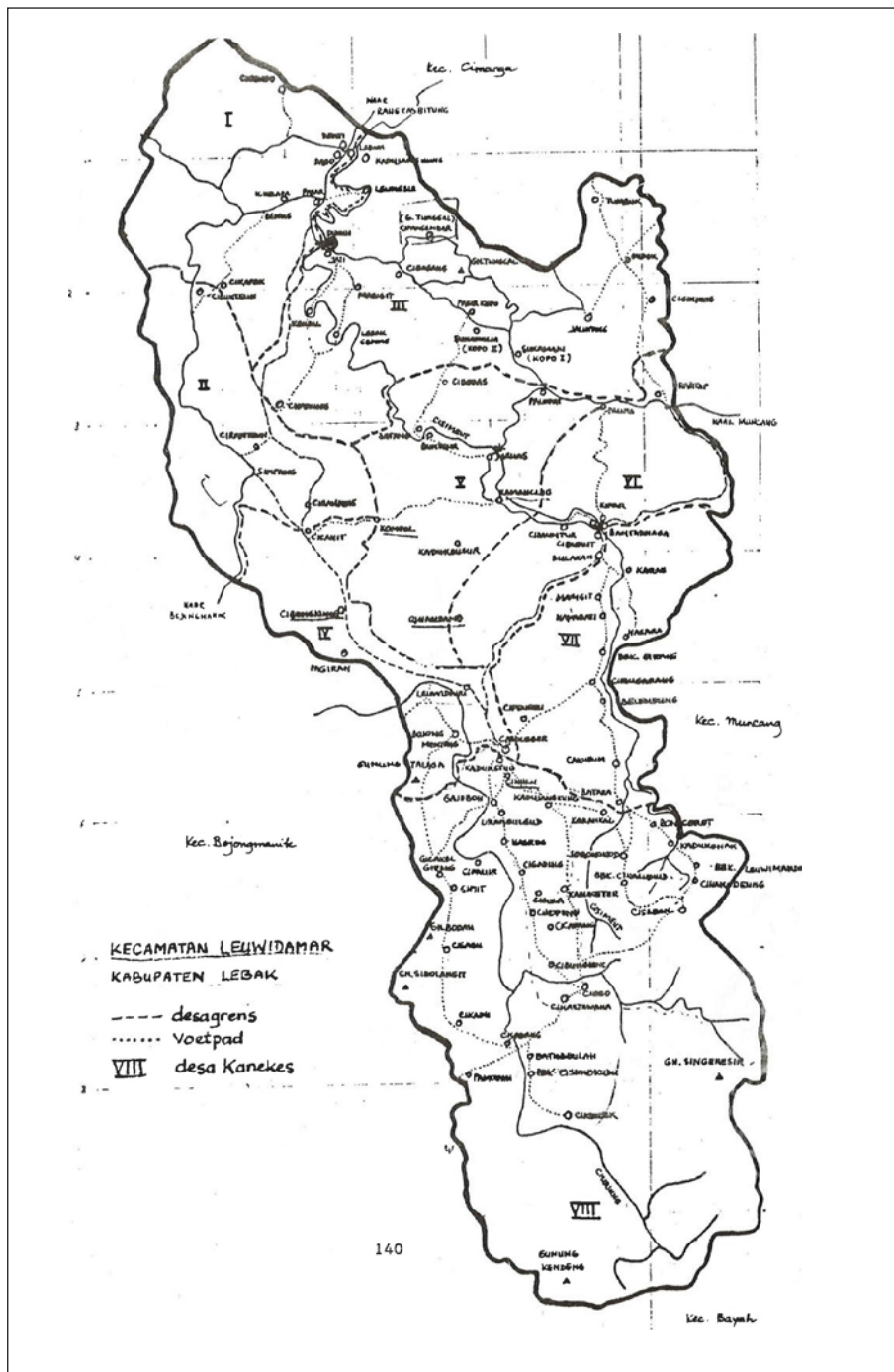
*Map 3: Lebak Regency*



Source: <http://bit.ly/37igTNn>

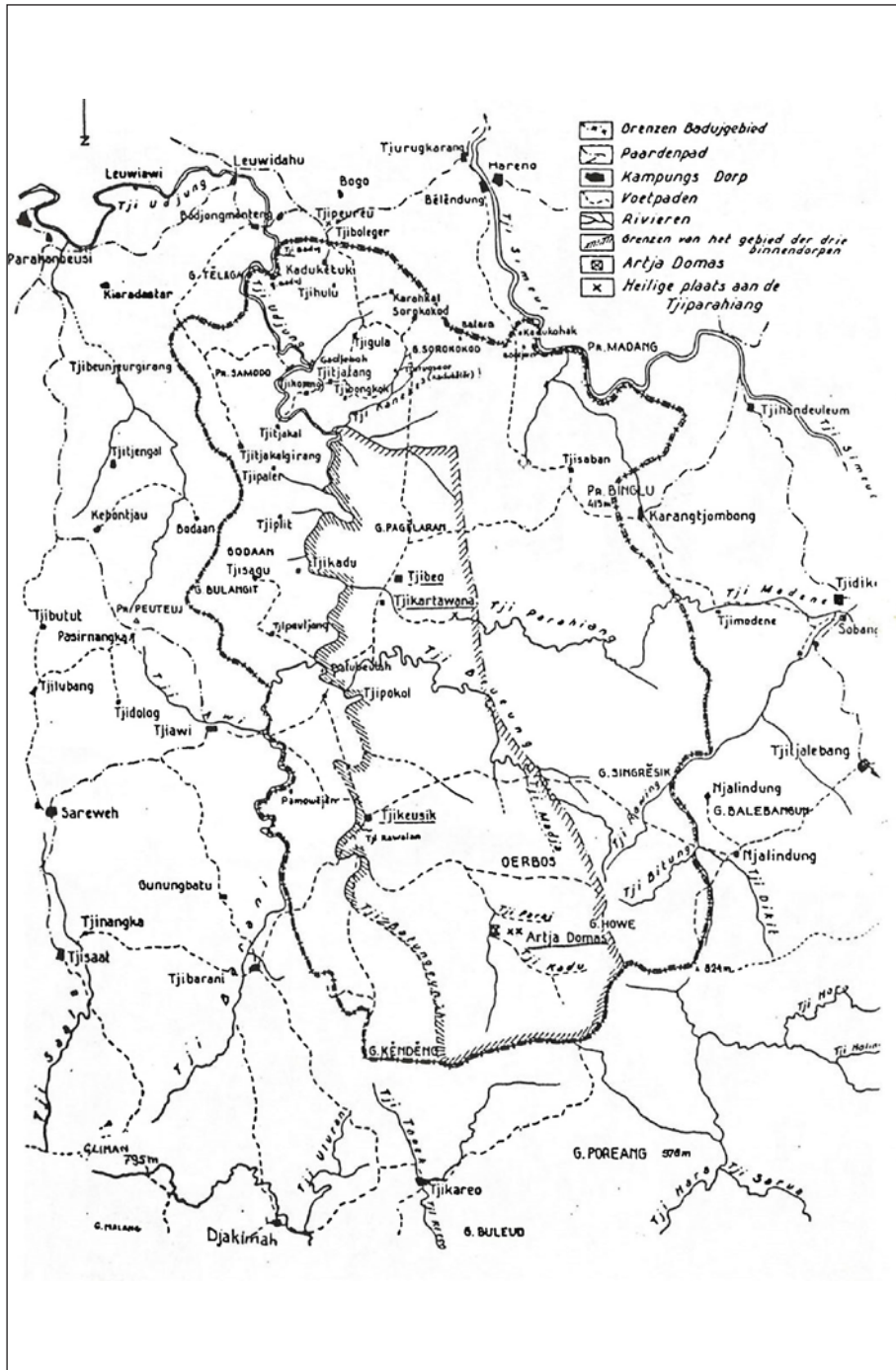


Map 4: Sub-district (kecamatan) of Lewwidamar



Source: Jet Bakels and Wim Boevink, *De Baduy van West Java*, Amsterdam: CASA, 1988, p. 140.

*Map 5: Desa of Kanekes*



Source: Jet Bakels and Wim Boevink, *De Baduy van West-Java*, Amsterdam: CASA, 1988, p. 141.