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State legal pluralism: the intersection of adat, jinayah, and national penal law in Gayo, Indonesia

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About the Author

Arfiansyah was born in Takengen, the capital of Central Aceh District, Indonesia. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Islamic philosophy and theology from the State Islamic University of Ar-Raniry in 2004. Then, he went to McGill University, Montreal, Canada in 2007 to pursue Master's degree in Islamic Studies with the sponsorship from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In late 2013, he obtained a scholarship from the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) of the Indonesian Ministry of Finance. This scholarship enabled Arfiansyah to go to Leiden University for a Ph.D. degree in Legal Anthropology at the Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS) of the Humanities Department and at the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society (VVI).

Arfiansyah was appointed as a junior lecturer (teaching assistant) in 2006 at the Islamic Studies and Philosophy Faculty of the State Islamic University of Ar-Raniry. In 2010, he was also delegated as the university representative to the International Center for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies (ICAIOS), with which he is still affiliated until now.

Since 2012, Arfiansyah has been involved in many kinds of research, both individually and collaboratively. He has also been involved in many advocacy activities. His first research was with the Planning and Development Agency of Aceh Province in 2012. Since then, he has been involved in many applied and policy research projects for government planning and development programs. In 2019, he served as the Principal Investigator for a research project on Cultural Mitigation of Disaster and Hazard in Aceh, funded by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Jakarta. In 2021, with the same source of funding, he acted again as the principal investigator to turn research-based findings into more practical modules for the religious counselors (*penyuluh agama*) of the Aceh province regional office and for teachers of Islamic junior high schools.

From 2020-2022, Arfiansyah was a principal investigator of a research and advocacy project on Family and Gender relations in the Aceh Community. In 2021, with a research team from the Geography, Planning and Environment Department of Radboud University in the Netherlands and ICAIOS in Aceh, funded by KNAW of the Netherlands. In 2022, he served as the Principal Investigator for a policy research project on Orphan Guardianship aiming at producing regional regulations on guardianship of orphans in Aceh Province.

Individually, Arfiansyah worked as a research officer for the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) (2021-2022) and examined

humanitarian assistance, development, and peace-building in Aceh. From August 2022 to July 2023, he serves as a co-investigator to the director of the Nonviolent Peaceforce of the Philippines for a research project on Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) in Papua amidst violent conflict. This project is funded by Aberystwyth University, UK. In addition, Arfiansyah published several book chapters and journal articles.