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Matrilineal Islam: State Islamic Law and everyday practices of marriage and divorce among people of Mukomuko-Bengkulu, Sumatra, Indonesia

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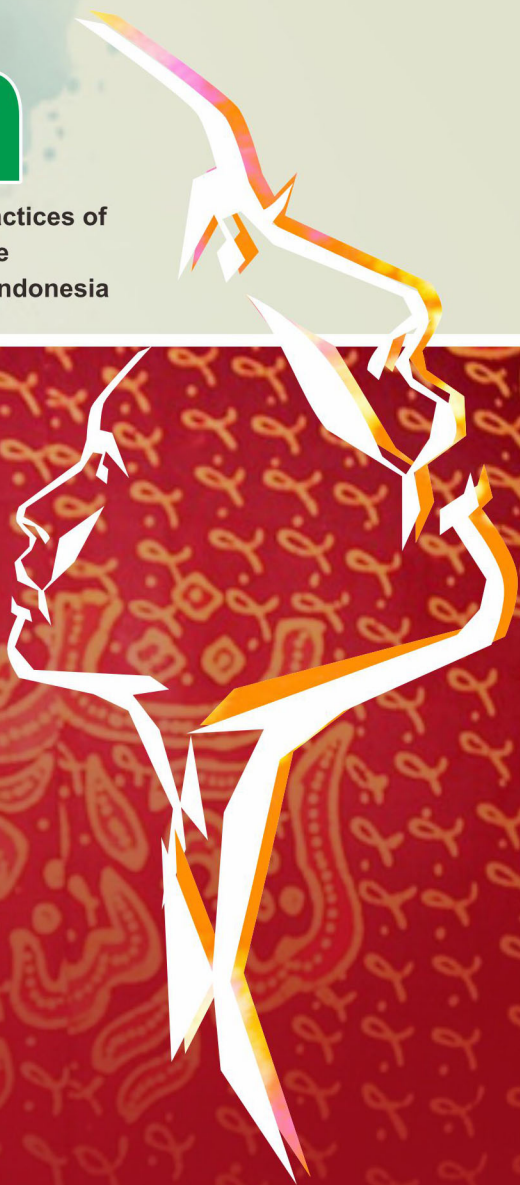
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Matrilineal Islam

State Islamic Law and Everyday Practices of
Marriage and Divorce among People
of Mukomuko-Bengkulu, Sumatra, Indonesia



Al Farabi

Matrilineal Islam

A stylized white outline of the island of Sumatra is positioned behind the title, with the word 'Islam' in green and 'Matrilineal' in dark blue.

State Islamic Law and Everyday Practices of
Marriage and Divorce among People
of Mukomuko-Bengkulu, Sumatra, Indonesia

This dissertation approaches marriage and divorce among Muslims in 'peripheral' areas in Indonesia from various angles, employing legal analysis as well as historical and ethnographic research. The study seeks to understand the intricate relationship between the interpretation of Muslim family law as promulgated by the state, and the different forms of empirical laws or norms operating within Indonesia's multicultural Muslim society. Focusing on Mukomuko in Bengkulu province, on the west coast of Sumatra, this study discusses marriage and divorce practices in three different but connected sites: i.e. everyday practices at societal level; relevant cases available in the first instance Islamic courts; and landmark decisions and developments within the Islamic Chamber of the Indonesian Supreme Court, at the national level. Mukomuko is a case in point, in which the state's patriarchally-inclined Islamic law conflicts with matrilineal Muslim community traditions. This study reveals that even though marriage and divorce practices in Mukomuko are increasingly influenced by the state, matrilineally-inclined Islamic law and its institutional actors have shown remarkable resilience.