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Laughing through difference: Islamic-inspired memes in Indonesia's digital culture — humour, platform affordances, and the negotiation of religious difference

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Citation

Murfianti, F. (2026, September 16). *Laughing through difference: Islamic-inspired memes in Indonesia's digital culture — humour, platform affordances, and the negotiation of religious difference*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4309633>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Laughing Through Difference:

Islamic-Inspired Memes in Indonesia's Digital Culture—Humour,
Platform Affordances, and the Negotiation of Religious Difference

Fitri Murfianti

Laughing Through Difference:

Islamic-Inspired Memes in Indonesia's Digital Culture—Humour,
Platform Affordances, and the Negotiation of Religious Difference

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van
de graad van doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van rector magnificus prof.dr. S. de Rijcke,
volgens besluit van het college voor promoties
te verdedigen op
woensdag 16 September 2026
klokke 11.30 uur

door

Fitri Murfianti
geboren te Surakarta Indonesië
in 1977

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This PhD project was funded by the Indonesia Endowment Fund for
Education (*Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan*, LPDP), Ministry of Finance of the
Republic of Indonesia

Acknowledgements

There was a time when pursuing a PhD felt like something far beyond my reach. After completing my undergraduate studies in Bandung, I began my academic career as a lecturer at Institut Seni Indonesia Surakarta in 2005. A few years later, while continuing to teach, I pursued a Master's degree at Universitas Airlangga in Surabaya and completed it in 2010. At that point, I did not know whether I would ever have the opportunity to continue my studies at the doctoral level.

More than a decade passed before I finally arrived in Leiden. Looking back, this dissertation is not simply the product of my years as a PhD candidate, but also of many years spent teaching, conducting research, and continuing to learn. Along the way, there were moments when things moved forward smoothly and moments when they did not. Receiving an LPDP scholarship after several years of trying was one of the turning points that made this PhD possible.

I would first like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. dr. B.A. Barendregt. Bart consistently encouraged me to take subjects that are often dismissed as trivial seriously as objects of scholarly inquiry. His confidence that religious memes, humour, and everyday digital culture were worthy of academic attention helped me develop this project from an initial idea into a dissertation. I am equally grateful to my co-supervisor, Dr. John D. Boy, whose thoughtful comments, critical questions, and continuous encouragement strengthened both the arguments and the direction of this study. Working with both has been a privilege.

I would also like to thank the members of the reading committee for their time, careful reading, and constructive comments. Their engagement with this dissertation has helped me see my work from new angles and improve it in important ways.

My sincere gratitude goes to the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP), Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, for providing the opportunity and support to pursue doctoral studies at Leiden University.

I would also like to thank the academic community at CADS, Leiden University, for the seminars, workshops, and conversations that helped shape this research. My thanks also go to my colleagues at the Department of Visual Communication Design, ISI Surakarta, and to my fellow researchers at Mafindo, whose dedication to teaching, research, and public engagement continues to inspire me.

I am also grateful to my neighbours at the Boerhaavelaan complex, who made Leiden feel closer to home through shared meals, Indonesian gatherings, iftar,

Independence Day celebrations, and everyday companionship during my years away from Indonesia.

This dissertation would not have been possible without the many individuals who generously shared their stories, experiences, and perspectives during my fieldwork. I am deeply grateful for their trust and willingness to participate in this research.

Throughout these years, my faith in Allah has been a constant source of strength, providing comfort, patience, and hope whenever the path ahead felt uncertain. In this regard, I would like to express my special gratitude to my mother, whose prayers, encouragement, and unwavering faith in me never ceased, even when I doubted myself. Although we spent much of this period living far apart, I always felt supported by her quiet strength and constant belief that I would one day complete this work. For that, and for countless forms of care that often went unspoken, I remain deeply grateful.

I also remember my late father, Suranto Padmosuwiryo, who passed away in June 2024 during the course of my doctoral studies. He was among those who most persistently encouraged me to pursue a PhD and often reminded me not to postpone that aspiration. I wish he had been here to witness the completion of this dissertation.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my husband, Roem Indrawan Julianto. Long before this dissertation began, he was already helping to make it possible. From helping me identify potential supervisors and prepare scholarship applications to patiently navigating the countless practical, administrative, and personal challenges that accompanied this process, he has been a constant source of support. Throughout these years, he patiently stood beside me through moments of uncertainty, exhaustion, and self-doubt, while also celebrating every achievement along the way. Much of the work behind this dissertation remained invisible to others, but I know how much of it was made possible by his generosity, patience, and unwavering belief in me.

I am equally grateful to my children, Naufal Roem Ismail, Rafie Roem Ruzain, and Rifqi Roem Ruzain, for their love, understanding, and encouragement throughout these years. I also thank all of my siblings for their support and kindness. They have shared both the challenges and the joys of this process and patiently accepted the many occasions when work and deadlines took priority. Whatever I have achieved through this work, I know that it has never been mine alone.

Leiden, 2026
Fitri Murfianti

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