

**ATTENTION UNDERGRADUATES**  
**FUNDED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN INDONESIA – MAY-JULY 2010**

**INDEPENDENT EXPERIENTIAL STUDY PROJECTS (399Y)**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 22, 2010**

**Producing Wealth and Poverty in Indonesia's New Rural Economies**

**Professor Tania Li, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto**  
**Professor Pujo Semedi, University of Toronto/ Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia**

This research program examines the social relations through which rural people gain access to, or are excluded from, the benefits of high growth agriculture in Indonesia. It uses a team approach to examine two rural sites currently undergoing high rates of growth. In West Kalimantan, the focus is on a bulk commodity – palm oil – supplied to the world market. The research in Central Java examines the production of potatoes to meet a new urban demand for MacDonald's fries. The aim is to map the social positions, relations and practices that shape who wins, and who loses, from Indonesia's new rural economies. The research program has received funds from SSHRC, with Professor Li as the principal investigator, and Professor Semedi as collaborator. The research team includes graduate and undergraduate students from both University of Toronto and Gadjah Mada, Indonesia's premier research university. The Canadian undergraduates will be partnered with Indonesian students while in the field.

**Student Experience:** Undergraduate participants will receive intensive training in the Indonesian language as well as research skills, and undertake a month of field research together with other students working in small teams. The research of each team will involve interviewing workers, traders, community leaders, local officials, and activists concerned in some way with the sector in question. It will also involve observation in naturalistic settings, such as spending a few days working along potato harvesters, or staying at the workers' quarters on an oil palm plantation.

***Calendar, location and setting:***

**Calendar:**

May 10 – June 30	Language Training and Fieldwork Preparation at Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta
July 1- July 30	Field research, Kalimantan or Java; submit complete field notes
August 30	Submit field report/working paper

**Location:**

The students in 399Y will spend May and June based at Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta for their language training, and for planning meetings with members of the research team. They will make preliminary field visits to the West Java field site (about 5 hours drive from Yogyakarta) for training purposes. For the intensive fieldwork period in July, students will spread out into different villages, where they will work in small sub-teams of 4-8 persons. Breakout into sub-teams is necessary to help cover the range of topics and localities, and to avoid overwhelming the research subjects. The total number of undergraduate researchers involved in the project will be about 40 persons (30 Indonesian, 10 Canadian); the number of graduate students will be about 8.

**Supervision:** Supervision will be provided by Dr Tania Li and Dr Semedi, the official collaborator in this research project. Dr Semedi is a professor of anthropology at Gadjah Mada University, and a visiting professor at the University of Toronto. He has been running field research training schools for Gadjah Mada students for 20 years, and has agreement from his university to include Canadian students in this jointly-taught field course. Drs Li and Semedi will institute a chain of responsible leadership to ensure the supervision and safety of students in the field. Where appropriate, a graduate student will be assigned to lead a sub-team and maintain daily contact with the supervisors.

**Safety:** University of Toronto undergraduate students in 399Y will attend training at the Safety Abroad office, and sign the Consent Form and Release from Liability for Off-Campus International Field Courses. They will be fully briefed on necessary health precautions, including vaccinations and anti-malarials. They will be provided with full documentation about their itinerary, field site location, routine and emergency contact information. Copies of this documentation will also be filed with the Safety Abroad Office, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto, and Gadjah Mada University.

**Living Conditions:** Living conditions in rural West Kalimantan and Central Java will be basic. Normally, a few students will share a room in a villager's house; they will have access to clean, cold water for bathing; they will need to use mosquito nets for sleeping; and they will eat local food with their host family. Local transport will be by jeep, bus or motorbike. These are standard conditions for ethnographic fieldwork in rural Indonesia, and a necessary part of learning about local livelihoods and ways of life.

**Evaluation procedures and marking scheme:** Students will attend all training, language and preparatory activities. They will keep detailed field notes typed daily and

shared with the team in a format to be agreed. They will prepare an individual research report that uses field data to examine a topic of particular interest to them. The reports will be evaluated and receive feedback from Professors Li and Semedi. They will then be revised for publication as working papers on the research website.

<b>Marking Scheme:</b>	Attendance, participation and contributions to the team	40%
	Field notes	20%
	Research report, draft version	20%
	Final report for publication as Working paper	20%

**Prerequisites, background preparation or specific abilities:**

This Independent Experiential Study opportunity is intended for highly motivated students who are capable of working independently, taking initiatives, and conducting themselves in a mature fashion under working and living conditions that will be unfamiliar to most undergraduates in Canadian universities. Good organizational and social skills are essential. Academic preparation should include several courses in the social sciences. Places are limited, and selection will be based on transcript, CV and interview.

Student participation in this program has been **funded** by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. If you would like further information, please contact [shrigibbings@gmail.com](mailto:shrigibbings@gmail.com)

Info on eligibility and requirements for this and other 399Y courses offered by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/undergraduate/course/ies>