

# Understanding Asia: Transnational Care Ageing, Displacement, and Transnational Family Care among the East Timorese in Indonesia

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16:00 – 18:00 c.t.

Zoom event

This talk concerns living experiences of ageing, transnational family care, and border regimes in the context of displacement. Drawing from multi-sited ethnographic research among the East Timorese, I discuss how older adults cope with family separation and life in exile, their aspirations, when and how transnational care becomes ‘on hold’, and how they deal with the impossibility of meeting intergenerational and cultural obligations. The talk examines care through the lens of ‘circulation’ and attends to the asymmetries entailed in intergenerational relationships and border regimes in the ways they shape (and are shaped by) transnational care exchanges. In the context of ‘ageing in exile’, it is essential to understand older people’s narratives as they are linked with the ambivalences of other family members across generations. Forms of immobility withholding or limiting care can transcend physical borders, including the social and emotional boundaries conflict-divided communities build against one another over time. These imaginary borders require us to think about how precarious familial relations affect understandings of transnational care amid enduring legacies of violence.

**Dr. Victoria Kumala Sakti** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany. She obtained her PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. Her research interests are at the intersections of emotion, memory and violence, ageing, displacement, temporality, and translocal (im)mobilities. Victoria’s current project examines ageing experiences in exile among older East Timorese people and in relation to kinship and social bonds in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, where she has conducted research since 2010.