



JURNAL ILMU PENGETAHUAN BUDAYA

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## Preface

*Wacana*, Vol. 15 No. 2 (2014) carries “Cultural discourses on religion” as its theme. It contains articles focused on religious discourses and practices from cultural point of views. The articles are organized chronologically from the past to the present. The journal begins with a piece that looks into the biases of cosmological beliefs with regard to ancestral religion based on a research conducted in highland Bali, and wraps up with an article on the spiritual experience of a young female novelist that is reflected in some of her works. The other papers are concerned with religious practises: a research done in Nualu, Seram, where people revere their religion more than *adat*, and a paper about harvest ritual in West Java. A study on a short tract by a historic Islamic expert in legal matters shows why having festive meals and using decoration in mosques are forbidden. The major religions in Indonesia apparently need to adapt to change in order to balance their traditional theological practices with modernization, as described in an article titled “Indonesia, modernity, and some problems of religious adaptation.” Religious adaptation is also discussed in an article on life in a modern pesantren (Islamic boarding school) in Banten.

This issue of *Wacana* also contains two PhD thesis summaries. The first one is a summary of a PhD thesis on a study of three Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia, while the other one is summarized from a PhD thesis on archaeology from Oxford University, which combines historical linguistic and archaeological approaches. A review essay based on two books dealing with public housing in Jakarta and two book reviews about Indonesian films and Bali complete this issue of *Wacana*.