Kartosen, Reza, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands Asian Parties and Pan-Asian Identity in the Netherlands

'Asian parties' are organised regularly in major Dutch cities. This form of diasporic popular culture is produced and consumed by Asian Dutch youths of diverse Asian ethnic/national backgrounds, including Indonesian, Indo-Dutch and Chinese. At first sight Asian parties seem to have little connection with the Asian homelands: they are held in mainstream club venues and mostly feature western pop music played by Dutch deejays. Nonetheless, Asian parties do provide a site for the construction and articulation of Asian ethnic/national as well as pan-Asian identities. In this study I will investigate why Asian Dutch youths visit Asian parties, what 'Asian' symbolic content Asian parties offer and how Asian Dutch youths consume and appropriate Asian parties to construct their cultural identities. To that end I will conduct a survey, participatory observations and interviews with both organisers and visitors of Asian parties.