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**Islam and Intimacy. Comparing Identity Politics in Multi-Ethnic and Arab Indonesian Chat Rooms**

This paper is based on online and offline fieldwork conducted in post-Suharto Indonesia among youth of various ethnic backgrounds, including young Indonesians of Arab descent. Discussing their most popular online practices, the paper proposes that the internet and its chat rooms offer their young users various opportunities for enhancing their agency and for experiencing intimacy among peers. The paper further examines the (re)presentation and (in)direct expression of religious and ethnic identities in these online spheres. The focus is on users who communicate in offline life through dress and appearance that they are pious followers of Islam as well as on young Arab Indonesians whose ethnic identity is closely associated with Islam. By comparing their identity politics in multi-ethnic chat rooms and in the ones founded by Arab Indonesians, the paper asks how offline notions of Islam and ideologies of descent interact with the constructions of intimacy and personal autonomy online.