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### **Cultural Studies as Praxis, An Extramural Experience**

In Indonesia the ideas and practices known as "cultural studies" have largely been developed outside of the university framework. Having its origin in the struggle against the authoritarian regime, the agenda of "cultural studies" was to understand and challenge cultural hegemony of the regime. On the positive side there was a strong connection between theory and practice, as studying culture was considered essential to develop different cultural practices, from graffiti actions and street performances to the production of samizdat literature. On the other side, because all of the energy was directed to waging resistance against the hegemon, a certain discipline was self-imposed to focus on 'burning issues' at the expense of others. After 1998, when the regime collapsed and was gradually replaced by an 'illiberal democracy' cultural studies was introduced into the university structure as a new discipline in literary departments. This migration has implications for the agenda and practice of cultural studies and also affects the way cultural studies is related to social and cultural movements. The presentation is a personal reflection of these issues based on my experiences with cultural activism in Indonesia and currently doing cultural studies (the discipline) in a university framework.