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Visions of the Future: Imagining Islamic Modernities in Post Suharto Popular Culture

This paper suggests that in post-Suharto Indonesia a dialectics between specific economic, political, social and cultural processes has led to the boom of images of Islam in the public sphere and has constructed a Debordian *Islamic spectacle*. The paper proposes that this spectacle is a space where experiments with Islamic modernities are taking place and visions of global modern Islamic futures are articulated. Through analyzing three slices of the spectacle: the Islamic rock music of *Gigi*, the Islamic blockbuster *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* and the soap opera *Muslimah*, this paper explores how different styles of Islamic modernities are imagined. It shows how these imaginations both display and interfere in a political ideological battle between three major social forces (developmentalism, Islam(ism), Javanism) which are in present-day Indonesia competing for hegemony and are propagating different visions for the future of the post-authoritarian 'modern Muslim nation'.