



META-RESEARCH OF KOMUNITAS PENKAJI KOMUNIKASI: MAINSTREAMING ALTERNATIVE FIELDS AMIDST INDONESIA COMMUNICATION ACADEMIA

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ABSTRACT

This research recommends meta-research as one of propitious research methods in mainstreaming the alternative fields amidst Indonesia's communication academia. Our thesis came from the scrutiny of Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi (KPK) intellectual activism. It questioned and intervened the lacking alternative fields within Indonesia's communication scholarships. We analyzed 48 documents from varying of KPK's research publications related to the epistemological cues for knowing the verstehen worldview of KPK's intellectual craftsmen. Harnessing Miles, Huberman & Saldana's interactive analysis method, our findings reiterated on how KPK alternative fields development had embraced unorthodox research outputs. KPK also had closely enquired an inclusive interparty collaboration. KPK also enforced the research and advocacy endeavours. Yet reflecting from 48 document findings, we expected for more rigorous literature studies of the extended field of interests. We end by calling for larger Indonesian communication scholars to enforce field diversity against the saturated fields, likened to what KPK has endured inssofar.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini merekomendasikan metariset sebagai salah satu metode penelitian untuk mengarusutamakan kajian-kajian alternatif dalam keilmuan komunikasi di Indonesia. Penelitian ini berangkat dari pengamatan aktivisme intelektual yang telah dilakukan oleh Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi (KPK). Mulanya, KPK berasumsi bahwa kajian-kajian alternatif dalam ilmu komunikasi cenderung belum banyak diarusutamakan, terutama dalam dinamika komunitas akademik keilmuan komunikasi di Indonesia. Kami menganalisis 48 dokumen dari berbagai publikasi penelitian KPK yang berkaitan dengan isyarat epistemologis, guna mengetahui pandangan verstehen dari para pegiat KPK untuk mendalami kajian-kajian alternatif. Lewat metode analisis interaktif Miles, Huberman, dan

Saldana, temuan kami menegaskan kembali upaya pengembangan kajian alternatif oleh KPK yang berusaha merangkul kajian-kajian komunikasi yang kurang populer. KPK juga telah menjalin kerjasama kolaboratif dengan berbagai pihak yang memiliki semangat selaras. Pada perjalanan berikutnya, KPK diharapkan mampu membawa upaya advokasi untuk pengarusutamaan kajian-kajian alternatif dalam keilmuan komunikasi. Penelitian ini akhirnya berusaha menyerukan semangat peragaman studi kajian-kajian alternatif dalam keilmuan komunikasi, ke pada komunitas akademik keilmuan komunikasi di seluruh Indonesia.

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INTRODUCTION

This research highlights a meta-research of Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi (KPK) seminal contributions within the Department of Communication Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Brawijaya University. This meta-research of KPK addressed remarkable endeavours in mainstreaming alternative fields amidst Indonesia communication academia. Empirical findings within Studi Pendekatan Sejarah Komunikasi: Beberapa Catatan Pengalaman Jurusan Ilmu Komunikasi Universitas Brawijaya (2017) and Metariset atas Karya Riset Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi (2020) inscribed KPK's trailblazing endeavours in both popularizing and provoking the non-mainstream field of studies of communication science (Antoni *et al.*, 2017; Handayani *et al.*, 2020). As it also comes to term with the endeavor in deconstructing and grounding the local tacit knowledges of communication science, from the non-Western perspective qua Indonesia and Asia perspectives (Firmantoro, 2018; Winartono *et al.*, 2019).

Meta-research of KPK did not in any way coming from the intellectual void. KPK adduced its epistemic vision and mission, in mainstreaming the alternative fields in communication science, from the notion of cross-examining philosophical issues within the field of communication science. For a while, Craig (1993, 2018) and Jensen (2016) argued of communication scholars are often too preoccupied by the Western cum modern social practices, for the sake of attaining normative dimension qua administrative goals-based research. Some extended debates for over 8 decades straggled amidst the vociferous debates between the administrative vis a vis critical research in communication science (Delia, 1987; Fuchs & Qiu, 2018; Rogers, 1994).

Following its consequences, international academia in communication science reverted to the lack of avant-garde and progressive development in current time. It also subsequently meddled to the regression of intellectual debates toward the varier methods and theoretical development in communication science; as the domination of post-positivism paradigm and quantitative method preoccupied communication science discourses to a great extend (Walter *et al.*, 2018).

The administrative turn in communication research should being more open toward the discourse of suspicion (critical-biased) and vulnerabilities (postmodern-biased) (Mumby, 1997). Both of the discourse of suspicion and vulnerabilities encouraged the arrangement of dialectical constitutive metamodel in communication science (Craig, 1993, 2018; Mumby, 1997). Public discourse also means a collective whereabouts for disseminating and sustaining more diverse discursive metatheory in communication science. By any means necessary, the rise of leftward

public discourse has stood up for the historical and cultural consciousness, in which the following school of thoughts would contribute inward. Learning respectively from Frankfurt School and Birmingham School, those school, still, become seminal due to their stark insistency in criticizing against the quo elitist power.

Both schools advocated the historical consciousness that had enlightened the marginalized groups to prevail their identities' representation for the wider mass. Frankfurt Critical School enfolded the class consciousness throughout mass media's representation consequently the neo-Marxism. Whereas mass media during that time was aggravated by the totalitarian control of media institution, as it resulted in engendering the centralization and homogenization of mass (Carey, 1965; Rogers, 1994). Succeeding the aforementioned school, Birmingham School confided the racialized marginalization issues as foundational ground for emerging post-structuralism and postcolonialism in 1960s media & cultural studies (Simonson et al., 2013). That is to say, both schools were in opposition to the domination of singular paradigm in discerning about the relationship between media and society.

Due to the saturation of Western qua White-centric scholarly metadiscourse in communication studies, there have to be some intervening discussion to provide non-centrism dialogues. Craig (1999), from his awareness upon the possibility in engendering metadiscursive practice, has confided the importance of scooping out more diverse representation of scholarly deliberations. In pursuits of dialogic-dialectical field, communication studies ought to embrace its nature as a practical discipline. Practical discipline broadly concerns toward the ideas of inclusivity in accommodating multifaceted paradigms; including the cultivation of positivism, interpretive, to critical research (Craig, 1993, 2018). Even though the pioneering academic communities—such as the East-West Center's Communication Institute (EWCI), Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre (AMIC), and Journal of Communication (JoC)—have intricated non-Western qua non-Eurocentric discourses in communication studies, those indelible debates should not be limited only to the luminary communities (Waisbord, 2015; Wang & Kuo, 2010). Discursive debates, indeed for the sake of attaining dialogic-dialectic practices, are better off being open toward less luminary schools of communities.

The openness toward the idea of practical discipline, as one of the philosophical frameworks in communication praxis, also aligned to the prevailing tendencies of postmodern intellectual calling that is amicable to the acceptance of metanarratives. Postmodernism intellectual calling is also thus entitled to the more ethical responsible society, in the course of giving rise to address for resolving social issues (Breede, 2017; Holtzhausen, 2000). With further action of participatory approach as a *raison d'être* in democratizing open science in opposition to the domination of neoliberal metaphor (Lawless et al., 2019). Postmodern view in communication studies also means to transcend beyond the polarization between the East vis a vis West dichotomic debates. It accommodates epistemic debates way beyond the barriers of continent, social & culture, and politics (Fuchs & Qiu, 2018; Mumby, 1997; Waisbord, 2015).

Not only limited for the aforementioned international epistemic debates, Indonesia communication academia also have justified their agencies to cultivate larger metadiscourses; regardless of the dominating pragmatic views in communication scholarships (Adiprasetio, 2023; Rahardjo, 2009; Wahyuni, 2009). During that, Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi (KPK) has nudged activism movements by engendering, and yet, mainstreaming alternative fields in communication science. Major gratitude upon numbers of peculiar academic/lecturer from the Department of Communication Science at Brawijaya University; who have become the pioneering figures in establishing KPK in 2014. KPK has mapped out any possibilities in thriving

several alternative fields, with all cost of its unorthodox disposition, in order to mainstreaming the deeper of dialogic-dialectic academic debates. Especially within the case of Indonesia's communication academia that suscept to the lethargy of vigorous epistemic debates beyond pragmatic or instrumentalist views.

To adduce the intellectual craftsmanship whilst its deliberation in expressing alternative thinking, KPK has undergone several alpha stages of research project. Started in 2014 up to these days, KPK academic members have actively sought for potential student volunteers to indulge their final year of undergraduate study in researching for the initial archetype of KPK's research masterplan. Thus far, as I have been collected from my meta-research of KPK, those research files would be compiled as the undergraduate and master theses (from the Communication Science Department, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Brawijaya University class of 2016-2020), academic journal articles, conference proceedings, and unpublished research reports. KPK enmeshed its academic members and student volunteers to work out on thematic research masterplan on each period.

For example, started in 2015 until 2018, I found an undergraduate thesis in a field of philosophy of communication; about the school of thoughts in which Universitas Indonesia's School of Communication had framed its institutional biases. At the same year of 2015 until 2020, the non-Western perspective in communication research started to pave its major attention within KPK's research dynamics. In the following year of 2016, KPK arrayed its early research project within the subject of studying numbers of contributive intellectuals in Indonesia communication studies, following by the introduction of performance research project. In 2020, performance research remained exist with a brand-new concept of virtual performance research due to the impact of social mobility restriction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the same time with the attainment of contributive intellectuals in Indonesia communication studies and performance research projects (in 2016-2019), KPK was also exploring the theme of communication history which at the same time correspondently to the performance research projects. All those periods were that I could explore insofar, even though I surmised there have been more of uncharted prior works.

As the consequences of my inability in finding other uncharted works of KPK members and student volunteer, a sign of mismanagement had been apparent. KPK has an issue with the archival management system; where some of the unpublished undergraduate thesis files (printed and soft file format) are still missing from a proper archive storage. Subsequently, KPK also poses to another challenge of promoting its trailblazing methodologies application, amidst Indonesian Communication Science academia, under its lack of comprehensive studies of KPK's research patterns in the time being.

Notwithstanding with all sense upon the aforementioned issues, KPK still remarked its chivalrous endeavors in advocating academic freedom within a field of communication science. Reflectively thinking, as the ultimate addressal, it provided an alternative space that opposed to the slackness of flexibility in matters of institutional bureaucracy and biases.

METHODS

This research inquired an interpretive paradigm that puts forward the role of researcher; by formulating new concepts in explaining trends within the field of research promoted by Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi (O'Reilly, 2009). The elaboration of interpretive paradigm intends to develop epistemological cues of the emergence of various concepts or theories and their correlations from the data findings (Charmaz *et al.*, 2018; Miles *et al.*, 2014). By any means,

the aforementioned epistemological cues dredges inductive reasonings by verstehen worldview of KPK's founders and student volunteers, which overarched to the research publication documents (Neuman, 2014). My understanding toward the verstehen worldview will posit to founders and student volunteers regarding their internal motivations and perspective of in promoting alternative fields by KPK. Thus, it relates to my research objectives in mapping out the pattern of research publications by KPK in the course of time.

Then, we applied an exploratory approach in finding new information that has not been revealed by the previous researches. The main purpose of utilizing an exploratory approach is to trace the development of research data from the archives of the KPK, as well as to capture the phenomena of any following involuntary data findings (Stebbins, 2001). The ultimate goal of these activities is to be able to analyze in order to produce the discovery of epistemological concepts; which explains the nuances of the field of KPK's academic publications. Thus, this research method emphasized the inductive data collection process. Inductive in question refers to the researchers' efforts to carry out the process of extracting data in-depth as an initial empirical attempt, before generalizing the results of the analysis from the data findings that we have been sought (Cresswell, 2014; Kalu & Bwalya, 2017). That is to say, researchers can describe a general concept that explains the phenomenon of field of studies' inclination in various publications by KPK.

In this study, we have collected 48 documents which comprises of undergraduate theses, master thesis, journal articles and a research report. Those documents have been affiliated to KPK. Not only in a form of physical documents, I also had interviewed two co-founders and eight former student volunteers of KPK. The arranged interviews were held by impromptu and semi structured ones. All the data mentioned above were produced within the initial timeframe of 2014 (the first year of KPK's establishment) to 2021 (the latest publication by KPK's student volunteers). The major decision to limit the year of research publication up to 2020 is due to the absence of scientific publications at the post 2020. In the process of insights gaining, we recorded our data findings within a field note. Our field notes were structuralized from the concept of interactive analysis by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014). Those consisted of data reduction part (as we dissected it from our raw data findings), data display which compiled data that had been curated and condensed from the data reduction part, and later followed by conclusion drawing as a form of our reflective analysis toward the whole data collecting process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the course of time, Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi (KPK) has succeed in developing initial research projects in fields of; 1). contributive intellectuals in Indonesia communication studies, 2). philosophy of communication/sociology of knowledge/meta-research of knowledge, communication history, 3). communication education, 4). non-Western perspectives of communication, and also one experimental research namely 5). performance research.

KPK has started to execute numerous trailblazing research projects; which concerned on the development of alternative fields in communication Science. By littler amount of research endeavor, KPK fellows also managed to disseminate other emerging alternative fields including; communication science and biology, health communication, and also environmental communication. Therefore, it should triggered any kind of active involvement in the absence of vigorous academic debates across Indonesia communication scholarships. While KPK's nature has had not depend on seasonal grants or research fundings, KPK has been able to accommodate essentialist principle in developing the "tucked up" fields in communication science. That is to

say, KPK has embodied as a watchdog and catalyst upon monolithic academic debates at the Department of Communication Science, FISIP, Brawijaya University.

Hereafter the publications list generated by KPK from 2014 subsequently to 2021. Those publications consisted of numerous academic writing outputs as shown on the table below:

Table 1. Publication Lists by *Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi* (2015–2021)

No.	Publication Types	Publication Outlets & Year of Publication						
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1.	Undergraduate Thesis	1	4	11	11	9	4	3
2.	Journal Article				1		1	
3.	Report				1			
4.	Conference Proceeding			1				
5.	Master Thesis				1			
Total of Amounts							48 publications	

Source: Author's document (2022)

The abovementioned publications also deciphered into five categories as shown below:

1. **Contributive Intellectuals in Indonesia Communication Studies**

Studying contributive figures in Indonesia communication studies has been deemed as an important mainstay. As those figures were contributive in kick-starting the illuminating habitus and structuration aspects in Indonesia communication science academia, it becomes important for KPK members to trace back their biographical information. Almost of their intellectual contributions became useful for further development in communication science academia; at least influences the local and national academia communities. This project was undergone by KPK student volunteers as a part of their final-year undergraduate thesis research endeavours; started from the class of 2016, 2017, and 2018. The majority of research publications heavily nuanced by figures only from few institutions; which tends to represent less school of thought's intellectual dynamics. Insofar, several abovementioned figures still came from top-tier universities in Indonesia; such as University of Indonesia and Gadjah Mada University. Despite of the popularity among communication science scholars from top-tier Indonesia universities, some mentioned scholars stated themselves as a political figure and non-partisan scholar or independent intellectual figure.

2. **Philosophy of Communication (Sociology of Knowledge/Meta-research of Knowledge)**

By developing this alternative field, the students under the tutelage of KPK's founders manifested the meta-research of higher education's institutional regime of knowledge; within the department of communication science. In encompassed the bias of communication science department's intellectual preferences, which not limited to the general description of department curricula development, publication trends developed by the herewith academia environment, academia publication trends, influential scholars, and student thesis publication trends (both undergraduate and master program). This project was undergone by KPK student volunteers as a part of their final-year undergraduate thesis research endeavours; started from the class of 2015, 2017, and 2018. Co-founders of KPK also

released two publications under this field, in a form of research report (2018) and a journal article (2020). The majority of research publications are heavily nuanced by the study of school of thought's pattern and bias.

3. Communication History

The field of Communication History developed by Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi, during the first phase, were notably nuanced by the Indonesian prominent Communication Science Scholar studies. I argue to that matter, as it paralleled to my document findings that comprised of 23 undergraduate theses from class of 2016 to 2018. That was to say, those manifold documents then categorized into the work by three research groups : Sadajiwa (2017), Arkamaya (2018), and Abiwara (2019).

a. Sadajiwa Team (2017)

The initial movement of organizing Sadajiwa exhibition “Ekshibisi dan Apresiasi untuk Tokoh Pers” art exhibition came from the saturated impression toward academic final projects at Depkom FISIP UB—which had not accommodated action research projects yet (Dewanto, 2017). Therefore, seven undergraduate students (class of 2017) whom later became the member of Sadajiwa, decided to conduct performance research about Indonesian prominent press figures studies on December 26, 2016. Those students consisted of Dimas Adrian Dewanto, LM. Ramzi Chalid, Muhammad Rizki Akbar, Muizzuddin Nurazmi, Tiwi Maryani, Vadilla Mustariah, and Adhiprana Rosyadi. All that to say, Sadajiwa was idealized within the influence of enlivening the significance of communication history perspective in a field of journalism studies; by appreciating prominent figures in developing ethical journalism practices (Rosyadi, 2020). Thus, members of Sadajiwa were willing to organize an art exhibition “Ekshibisi dan Apresiasi untuk Tokoh Pers”, in the sake of enshrining intellectual legacies of Indonesian prominent press figures. Those remarkable press figures were Adinegoro, Agus Salim, Mochtar Lubis, Goenawan Mohamad, H. Misbach, Jakoeb Oetama, P. K. Ojong, Rosihan Anwar, and Tirto Adhi Soerjo (Dewanto, 2017). We were nevertheless only found seven undergraduate theses except Agus Salim and H. Misbach. Thus afterward, I expect future researchers of KPK would like to revisit this research findings and willing to find missing parts for the sake of attaining wholeness. According to the abovementioned table, Sadajiwa team members work in collective manners, wherein each members analyzed one figure related to the exhibited figures on Sadajiwa “Ekshibisi dan Apresiasi untuk Tokoh Pers”.

b. Arkamaya Team (2017)

Arkamaya team originated from seven undergraduate students who were willing to execute a final project by performance research on September 23, 2017 (Mu'allimah, 2018). In the hands of Putra Perdana, Singgih Pakusalaow, Bima Sindu, Azkiyah Mu'alimmah, Zuyyina Afwa, Akmal Jati, and Denia Purnamayanti, Arkamaya team decided to materialize two events; Film Dokumenter: Ekspedisi Butir Tinta and Arkamaya: Pemutaran dan Ekshibisi Jejak Tokoh Pers Indonesia. Arkamaya was specialized to cover the history of numerous Indonesian ideal press figures; in which comprised of Tjokroaminoto, BM Diah, Herawati Diah, Mochtar Lubis, Rosihan Anwar, PK Ojong, Jakob Oetama, and Ashadi Siregar. Arkamaya team members worked in collective manners, where each members analyzed one figure related to the exhibited figures on Arkamaya events; Film Dokumenter: Ekspedisi Butir Tinta and Arkamaya: “Pemutaran dan Ekshibisi Jejak Tokoh Pers Indonesia”.

c. Abiwara Team (2018)

Established on May 28, 2018, Abiwara team initially consisted of nine undergraduate students of JIK FISIP UB which comprised of; Annisa Yosa Satwika Jati, Arika Virginia Aji, Elisabeth Elita, Irfan Fahmi Aditya, Sena Bagus Lazuardi, France Budhiman, and Isyraqi Ilmam (Jati, 2019). On July and August 2018, Destia Luti Inggga and Bella Algea proceeded to join Abiwara team, in which it concreted the formation of Abiwara team that consisted of nine students.

Abiwara in Sanskrit means “Knowledge” or “Lesson”. This team focused their research subjects on the representation of Indonesian contributive intellectuals in communication science by art exhibition, within the framework of performance research. By that means, Abiwara team aspired to pass on the knowledges of Indonesian contributive communication science scholars toward public audiences; through performance research qua art exhibition (Aditya, 2019). It was not limited to introducing the mainstream field (in a field of administrative science/research) of communication science, Abiwara team was also willing to inform the development alternative traditions and paradigms in Indonesia’s communication science academia. The aforementioned Abiwara’s art exhibition remarked as EXSENSI (Eksibisi Sejarah Ilmu Komunikasi). Abiwara team organized an art exhibition in a form of seminar and video mapping show which co-partnership with Holution Team. Within the video mapping show, Abiwara team directed a narrative story telling of Indonesian contributive communication science scholars. Those scholars consisted of Dedy Nur Hidayat, Astrid S. Susanto, Ishadi S. Kartosapoetro, Alwi Dahlan, Jalaludin Rakhmat, and scholars from Salemba School. EXSENSI was held on February 22, 2019 at Nuswantara Building FISIP UB. During the same period with Abiwara’s project in 2019, three co-founders KPK wrote an academic article *Studi Pendekatan Sejarah Komunikasi: Beberapa Catatan Pengalaman Jurusan Ilmu Komunikasi Universitas Brawijaya*, which got published on *Prosiding Konferensi Nasional Komunikasi*, Vol. 01, No. 01, 2017 by Ikatan Sarjana Komunikasi Indonesia (ISKI). In general, it reviewed endeavors which had done by founders of KPK for the last three years (2014-2017), in developing the alternative field of Communication History research approach.

4. Non-Western Perspectives in Communication Science

From the non-Western perspective in communication science, it puts forward awareness toward the Westernized intellectual domination in the communication science academia. The non-Western perspectives in communication science provided ample opportunities for KPK, to enhance their distinctive action in mainstreaming alternative fields against the banality in communication researches amidst Indonesia academia. In materializing that idealism, KPK has managed its five student volunteers to conduct research upon social phenomena which framed in communication studies. Those were including exploratory studies of preaching communication in; 1). *Tembang Macapat Walisanga* (by Mutiara Ramadini Setia Lestari, undergraduate student class of 2019), 2). “Barokatologi” as an instructional communication at boarding school of Pondok Moderen Darussalam Gontor (by Shofiy Petrina Mufidah, undergraduate student class of 2020), 3). *Analysis on political communication of Pangeran Diponegoro from the eighteen to nineteenth centuries* (by Verdy Firmantoro, master student class of 2018), and 4). *Qualitative studies of the Syekh*

Abdul Qadir Jailany Manaqib at Pondok Pesantren Assalafi Al-Fithrah Surabaya (by Fitrotul Aini, undergraduate student class of 2015).

5. Performance Research

Alternating the domination of research-based final project (thesis), affiliated members of KPK initiated a performance research project. Those events deployed into several forms of performing art show (theatrical show, performing dance show, puppet show, story-telling performance, live music, and video mapping show) and artwork exhibition. Thus, the main objectives of Performance Research more to the informal public pedagogic purposes. This research project dispersed into the single-driven and group.

2016 remarked as a first year for performance research to launch its prior project. The first member of KPK who conducted performance research was Verdy Firmantoro (undergraduate student class of 2016. He did research in a field revitalizing the mainstream of classical manuscripts across Nusantara. Denoting his performance research, Verdy has proven his noteworthy endeavor in deconstructing Nusantara classic manuscript's estrangement. Preceding the issues, he sensed the importance of enhancing public audiences toward the preservation of Nusantara classic manuscripts. Verdy had initiated the exploration on the Nusantara classic manuscript preservations into several projects within the framework of performance research. On the initial stage, Verdy organized an integrated show *Peradaban yang Terjual*; which consisted of poetic theatrical performance, peduli sejarah march, public charity, Reog and Jaran Kepang performances at Car Free Day event on Ijen Kota Malang. Then, Verdy and his fellows ideated the digitalization of Nusantara classic manuscript through mobile application and competed it to Pekan Komunikasi competition at the University of Indonesia. In the following years, KPK empowered student volunteers to execute performance research, in part of their undergraduate thesis research project.

a. Kondang Merak Team (2019)

Providing a new research theme and field of study, Kondang Merak team was ordered to trailblaze the new field of Environmental Communication. Environmental Communication research conducted by Kondang Merak team was executed in 2019 by partaking the subjects within the environment of Kondang Merak Beach. Then, Kondang Merak team organized an exhibition entitled *Kondang Merak Performance Research*. The event encapsulated several mini events such as talkshow, documentary film screening, exhibition (photograph, mural, painting, and performing art show such as live acoustic music, theatrical show, and open mic poetry reading/spoken work), and ecotourism trip to Kondang Merak Beach.

b. Andjara Team (2020)

Consisting of M. Herlambang, Dimas Aritiyan Saputra, M. Nur Faridian, Alfin Endra Pratama, and Aga Pradnya Widagda, Andjara team was being in charged of executing the first virtual performance research. That performance research (in a form of virtual exhibition) remarked as *Sindrom Cuka Webinar*, which held on Google Meet. The revival process of collective memories led Andjara team to introduce Sinematek Indonesia as a leading institution in preserving the national classic film artefacts. Andjara team members work in collective manners, wherein each members analyzed one figure related to the exhibited subjects on *Sindrom Cuka Webinar*. Each member of Andjara team worked to denote various perspective regarding Sinematek Indonesia' research subjects. Take examples of Dimas Aritiyan Saputra who examined the archival system

management at Sinematek Indonesia, Alfin Endra Pratama's research focus on the celluloid film archive of Lewat Djam Malam's restoration, M. Nur Faridian who worked on researching Sinematek Indonesia in the eyes of Indonesia media exposure, and Aga Pradnya Widagda who conducted research on the historical aspect of Sinematek Indonesia.

6. Communication Education

Communication education studies discerns the aspect of communication curricula and organizational matters, which influence a certain school of thought's ideological disposition. This research read the phenomena of particular school of thought's ideological disposition across communication science major in Indonesia higher education institutions (both public and private institutions). Insofar, comparative studies in communication science curricula still becomes a rarity, especially within the context of Indonesia communication science academia. KPK only managed to produce one research project in a field of communication education. Bintang Lentera Dayu (undergraduate student class of 2020) was the only student volunteer, and the rest of KPK members, who conducted a comparative research of communication science curricula across both public and private universities in Malang Region.

Komunitas Pengkaji Komunikasi as a Ferment Advocacy amidst Indonesia Communication Science Academia

KPK had not intended to be a precedent organization; in branding its research body wherein aligned on particular school of thoughts in communication academia. Yet at the very least, KPK embodied as a zygote from the birth of Indonesian intellectuals, that brings its own color to the intellectual legacy of communication science in Indonesia. However, KPK did not want to be a party which had been cynical against other schools of thought. This is precisely the uniqueness brought by KPK; it wants to embrace many adherents of the scientific paradigm in communication science academia, without having to belittle other school of thoughts. This spirit of harmonization is very much in line with the perspective of non-Western communication; which carries the mission of peace and harmony in human communication. As a bonus, the alternative fields in communication science, that are, promoted by the KPK is able to bring new intellectual discourse and refresh the saturation of communication science dominating cum popular fields so far.

From my extended readings toward KPK's contextual vision and missions, we personally imply that attempts to construct an avant-garde "Sociological Imagination" in a field of communication science (Hadiz, 2015; Mills, 1940). KPK stands for the idealism in weighing the domination of saturated trends amidst Indonesia communication science academia. The argument delivered by Hadiz (2015) is kind of relatable with our circumstances right now; wherein most of the Indonesia social sciences and communication science in particular are barely fulfilling institutional errands which oriented toward neoliberal market interests. It is not really surprising to us, as Indonesia higher education institution faced by the surge of internationalization accordingly to the bias of elite Western higher education institutions; which made us cannot be solely distinctive with our own knowledge's sociological imagination (Hutomo, 2019). Our designated curricula in communication science department in the majority of Indonesia higher education institution still work insularly; especially between the market-oriented field of studies versus philosophical and humanity aspect of communication studies (Antoni, 2018; Hadiz, 2015; Murtiningsih, 2022).

Moreover, the absence of critical 'leftish' studies in Indonesia communication science educational curricula even intensifying the traumatic silence from the New Order's legacy (Adiprasetyo, 2019, 2023). Market and client-oriented field of communication studies, on its dysfunction possibility, will only engender pragmatic academic consultants who do not bother to concern on the critical reading on power relations on every circumstance of sociological imagination of knowledges in Indonesia (Gazali, 2004; Hadiz, 2015; Rapoport, 1970). That notion comes up as a legacy of the New Order social science institutional logic, in which counted on the bureaucratic approval and tend to nurture the trait of anti-criticism toward any caustic counter paradigm. Even at the post-Reformation, Indonesia social sciences and communication science academia in particular, our academia conditions have not been as free as we thought, even the wraith of neoliberalism promoted social and communication science scholars to attach more on the neo-developmentalism mindset. That mindset works in a way of seeking the profitable research consulting projects for the private sector ventures. Against to that front, KPK founders and members want to omit the label of market and client-oriented studies as the only aging field of communication science.

Through the idea of Mills "Intellectual Craftsmanship", the provision of sociological imagination in a certain environment, is considered as a vehicle for forming human intellectual awareness around it (Kaufman, 1997; Kaufman & Schoepflin, 2009). Indeed, intellectual craftsmanship will predispose the notion of pedagogical imagination; as a pre-requisite of particular process in disseminating alternative school of thought's influences among KPK founders throughout pedagogic activities—especially within the teaching-learning activities in the classroom (Kaufman & Schoepflin, 2009). Intellectual craftsmanship, quintessentially by pedagogical imagination transpires within groups of intellectual who relate their exemplary works with the real circumstances surrounding them. For example, within KPK's founders, Pak Antoni, Bu Nisa, Bu Sri, and Pak Fikri have similar interests upon one of the developed alternative fields. As well it established, founders of KPK coalesce their alternative field interests into a unified research group—as well as ideating ambitious research projects that distinct from other mainstream research groups or institutions. As I join KPK in such extended period, I felt their persistence and endurance of not being facile in producing research publications. Even to some of KPK members (hereafter Pak Antoni) have to endure their alternative field research project for transpiring 5 years. Their endurance in working for long-term research projects bring out their idealist character; in assessing the student thesis work's complexity and richness in essence of data finding & analysis endeavors. As the craftpeople of KPK, they have engendered a non-perfunctory culture as one their work ethics.

Therefore yet, KPK has not declare its completed work for this time being—as the intellectual production process still takes account to how KPK founders drive larger development, in establishing other alternative fields. It means, KPK founders carry out the awareness of systematic reflection. To some extent towards the Indonesia's communication scholarships mainstream social imagery—that indulges more on the strategic communication and media studies as example (Assiddiq *et al.*, 2023; Frauley, 2021; Rahmalia, 2023; Siwi & Febriana, 2022). As the intellectual production rouses by KPK does not wish any fastidious works, for the sake of gaining instant fame regarding their frothy research publications. As results, inconsequent research works by student members of KPK are not expected to surpass the faster period of publication, or at least thesis defenses. Back to the quintessential principle of KPK, the founders wish to savor their hard works any longer, before they set into complex and rigorous work of researches.

Once again, KPK has animated in the virtuous path, by providing fresher academic sphere in comparison to what Asosiasi Pendidikan Tinggi Ilmu Komunikasi (ASPIKOM) has done so far. From my deconstructing readings toward ASPIKOM vision and missions, they have not provided enough academic debate sphere for the alternative or non-mainstream fields in communication science yet. Thus far, ASPIKOM only still manages to enlivening the communication science academia; by developing current fields in communication science and roleplaying as an active consultant for governmental projects (ASPIKOM, n.d.). Nevertheless, I still could not benchmark KPK's vision and missions with Ikatan Sarjana Komunikasi Indonesia (ISKI)'s ones, due to the absence of any official statements from ISKI's official website. Regardless of inadequate literature resources of Indonesia's communication curricula outlook in higher education, ISKI had projected Indonesia's communication curricula on Communication Outlook 2023 online event (21/12/2022). However, in further course, Communication Outlook 2023 hosted by ISKI did not accommodate the burgeoning of alternative fields in communication science. As Communication Outlook 2023 only accommodated administrative qua strategic communication studies; in which also supported the trend of Indonesia Presidential Election in 2024 (Ikatan Sarjana Komunikasi Indonesia, 2022).

Notwithstanding an inability to provide more inclusive academic sphere in the general Indonesia communication science academia, KPK shall look forward toward the program of Merdeka Belajar-Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) which organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia since 2020. One of MBKM programs was Program Pertukaran Mahasiswa Tanah Air Nusantara-Sistem Alih Kredit dengan Teknologi Informasi (PERMATA SAKTI) has given opportunities for JIK FISIP UB in introducing the non-Western perspective of communication science courses (Indonesia and Asia perspective of communication). In fact, JIK FISIP UB has supported the development of non-Western perspective of communication curriculum; for the sake the JIK department's distinctive branding compared to other mainstreams. Pak Antoni, as one of the founders of KPK, incited that several partner universities such as University of Mataram and Respati University appreciate the non-Western perspective of communication' curriculum by JIK FISIP UB. Even though way before the program of MBKM (back in 2015), KPK's dream in developing non-Western perspective of communication had influence the conceptualization of 'Indonesia and Asia Perspective of Communication' module (Dayu, 2020). Not only by MBKM, KPK also contributed to the establishment of Konsorsium Nasional Sejarah Komunikasi (KNSK); as a research body that concerns on the development of Communication History as an emerging field in Indonesia communication science academia.

Back to the discussion of engendering healthier "the sociological imaginational of knowledge" condition amidst Indonesia communication science academia, procuring multispectral educational curricula will open up toward ideal condition of inclusive and critical education (Octavianti *et al.*, 2019). It also aligns to the spirits of regime of knowledge's deconstruction; which KPK's founders do not want to accept a mere reality of the market-oriented field of communication science. There must be opportunities for KPK to not being docile, since KPK deserves to rise and shove their aced alternative fields in communication science. Similar to what Derrida and Foucault has been through in deconstructing power that underlays knowledges, KPK succeeds to found ways in deconstructing actuality and the status quo in Indonesia communication science academia; even with little financial and human capital supports (Derrida, 2000; Foucault, 1982). KPK remarks a new age of the philosophical turn in communication science.

CONCLUSION

From the reflective discern of our research findings, we found out KPK's research publications refined by several alternative fields in communication science; 1). Contributive Intellectuals in Indonesia Communication Studies, 2). Philosophy of Communication/Meta-Research of Knowledge/Sociology of Knowledge, 3). Communication History, 4). Non-Western Perspective in Communication Science, 5). and Performance Research. KPK has consistently idealized and organized research projects in those alternative fields. Another pattern that I found out, Performance Research has become an extension for the long-term project namely 'action research' project. KPK has commanded an important effort in mapping the study of communication science in Brawijaya University and other Indonesia higher education institutions.

In practicing dialogic-dialectic debates, which also building up unyielding mainstay of meta-discourse practices in communication studies, KPK maintained to side within the field of philosophy of communication. Also, in part of it, KPK has been being inclusive and accommodative toward the alternative fields in communication science. KPK co-founders and volunteers have circumvented the halts in developing alternative qua non-mainstream fields in communication science within Indonesia's communication academia context. That distinctive intellectual craftsmanship has engendered, as KPK founders have successfully accommodated and directed student volunteers' to get involved on their on-hand research projects for the past seven years (2014–2021).

Unfortunately, we only managed to find 48 KPK's research publications insofar. That was all the limit that we could reach. For future researchers, to the extent of this particular topic (KPK meta research of knowledge), we hope for some rigorous literature studies which related to the extended interests of KPK members' intellectual bias. Particularly in referencing their works toward more specific literature resources (e.g. particular academic handbook, journal article, research reports, et cetera).

All the noteworthy endeavors by KPK have reflected the epistemological journeys; in re-emphasizing several alternative fields as a promising field, in addition to the non-Western perspective as its definite nuance. We end by calling up awareness from larger Indonesia communication academia to nurture the similar spirit in cultivating other alternative fields. KPK also had closely enquire an inclusive interparty collaboration. It was not only limited to the intellectual craftsmanship by elite academia, university students and non-academia collaborator (such as civil organization), also enforced the research and advocacy endeavors.

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