

## “Gendering Trauma Recovery in Aceh, 1976-2010”

**Abstract:**

In Aceh, the performing arts were used for trauma recovery during and after the GAM separatist conflict and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Offering an alternative space for grieving, community-building, and consciousness-raising, the arts can be an important step in the process of individual and communal healing. However, my research reveals that Acehnese girls and women are less likely to enjoy these and other benefits of performance. As a result of social stigmas, conservative religious policies, and families' practical/financial concerns, Acehnese girls' and women's opportunities within the performing arts have been limited. In this paper, I examine how gender biases within the performing arts have influenced performance-based trauma recovery efforts employed in Aceh. I also suggest methods for strengthening Acehnese girls' and women's relationship to the arts.