

The *Sholeha* paradox: Mothers, deception, and the HIV struggle in Indonesia



Najmahj's current book project, *The Sholeha paradox*, offers a rare and intimate look at a hidden crisis unfolding within the world's largest Muslim-majority nation.

In Indonesia, the archetype of the *Sholeha*—the pious, obedient Muslim wife—is revered as a pillar of domestic safety and moral standing. Yet, for many women, this sacred expectation of obedience has become a silent risk factor. *The Sholeha paradox* pulls back the curtain on a growing epidemic of HIV sweeping through traditional families, where "good wives" are infected by the husbands they trusted, and widows are left to navigate a world of sickness and systemic neglect.

Speaker
Najmah
 Sriwijaya University

Date : 19 February 2026
Time : 15.30 – 17.00 PM (CET)
Venue : KITLV & online via ZOOM
Registration : kitlv.nl/event/najmah/



Discussant
Annemarie Samuels
 Leiden University



Moderator
David Kloos
 KITLV

