



SCIENCE AND POLITICS

A Comparative Lens of Singapore and Indonesia



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Lessons from the STS scholarship:

1. Knowledge production is politically conditioned.
2. Power relations determine what knowledge to produce and not to produce.
3. Institutional structures facilitate scientific processes.
4. Knowledge regime reflects sociopolitical environment.

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a white lab coat, is shown in profile, looking intently at two computer monitors. The monitors display technical diagrams or data. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with other equipment and a person in the distance. A red banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Singapore and Indonesia in comparison

COMMONALITIES

- Multicultural societies
- Less democratic government
- Science is considered crucial for the economy and industry.

A woman in a white lab coat and safety glasses is working at a computer workstation in a laboratory. She is looking at a monitor displaying a complex diagram or circuit board. The background is slightly blurred, showing other lab equipment and a clean, professional environment. The overall tone is professional and focused.

DIFFERENCES

- SINGAPORE: Science is more organized and structured around the government.
- INDONESIA: Science is more sporadic and organized by individual organizations.

DIFFERENCES

- SINGAPORE: More incentives for researchers, creating more competitive environment.
- INDONESIA: Less incentives for researchers, encouraging more scientific entrepreneurship.

A woman in a white lab coat and safety glasses is working in a laboratory. She is seated at a desk with multiple computer monitors. One monitor displays a complex circuit board design. She is holding a small electronic component with a pair of tweezers. The background shows other laboratory equipment and a blurred figure of another person.

CHALLENGES IN SINGAPORE

- To expand the spectrum of scientific enterprise beyond government-directed, pragmatic-oriented areas of research.
- To give researchers more flexibility in addressing social issues from people's perspectives.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white lab coat and safety glasses, is seated at a desk in a laboratory or office environment. She is looking at a computer monitor which displays a complex circuit board design. Her hands are positioned near the desk, possibly working on a small component. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and equipment. The entire image has a warm, orange-brown color overlay.

CHALLENGES IN INDONESIA

- To build more integrated and synchronized structures between science and industry that benefits society.
- To create more creative and independent scientific culture that doesn't serve only the government agendas, but also the people and the environment.

Thanks.