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Greetings from the desk of the Editor-in-Chief

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Greetings from the desk of the Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased to announce our new journal *Psychological Research on Urban Society* (PRoUSt) published by the Faculty of Psychology Universitas Indonesia. PRoUSt articles include empirical papers, policy reviews, case studies, and book reviews related to urban life.

Rapid urbanization is a global phenomenon that increases cities population around the world. By 2030, it is projected that 60% of the people will live in urban areas (United Nations, 2016). This leads to the importance of understanding how urban dwelling affects people's lives regarding mental health and well-being, educational practices, cultures, and employment.

In one of its mission statements, the Faculty of Psychology expresses concern about urban life, namely that research should be developed related to urban and cross-cultural issues. By publishing PRoUSt, we aim to live up to the mission.

Areas of research

Urbanization may provide positive impacts in the form of economic, educational, and cultural opportunities to urban people that nonurban people do not have. However, among other issues, urbanization also poses negative impacts on the mental health and well-being of urban dwellers. Uncovering the positive and negative impacts of living as urban people is valuable in that researchers and practitioners alike can design interventions to ease the negative impacts and to enhance the positive impacts.

PRoUSt welcomes articles on urban mental health and well-being, educational and child development in urban society, intergroup relations, acculturation and identity formation in urban contexts, urban social issues (e.g., poverty, traffic, crime, and violence), urban culture, and urban issues on employment and organizational behavior. I encourage authors to not only focus on the negative consequences of urban life but also the positive effects.

Urban mental health & well-being

Unlike urban physical health, which is discussed in the fields of public health and medical sciences, research on urban mental health and well-being is still scarce. Life in a city affects an individual's attitudes and behavior, which affects their mental health and well-being. Thus, psychology and other behavioral sciences have broad opportunities to study urban mental health and well-being. In fact, in the current issue, PRoUSt published two manuscripts that deal with issues related to mental health and well-being among city dwellers. The first article is from Kristanti and Poerwandari, who examine premarital sexual compliance among women in Jakarta, Indonesia. Within the more traditional cultural context, talking openly about sexual issues is considered taboo in Indonesia, and premarital sexual conduct is not accepted by most people. However, evidence from their study showed this is not the case anymore in cities, especially in Jakarta and its surroundings. The second article from Wulandari and Jaya is a comparison between urban and non-urban residents in Indonesia regarding risk factors and symptoms of psychosis, depression, and anxiety.

Urban education and child development

Urban and nonurban areas are susceptible to education inequality in developing countries. Factors contributing to the inequality observed in education are financial disparities, parenting styles, and unequal distribution of resources. As a result, children from urban areas have higher

academic achievement than children from nonurban areas. This condition forces urbanization (i.e., movement from rural to urban areas) from families wanting a better future for their children. However, living in cities with low levels of education poses new problems, such as unemployment and poverty. Parents living in these types of environment are prone to victimization and crime, which negatively impacts their children.

Furthermore, family dissolution rates and full-time working parents are common situations in urban areas. Children are therefore susceptible to psychological problems, such as anger and betrayal, anxiety, depression, and attachment issues. This may affect their academic performance at school.

Urban social issues

Living in urban areas often results in social issues related to intergroup conflicts and segregation because of the unfair distribution of resources. Social relationships in urban and nonurban areas are also different as strong relationships are fewer in cities than in nonurban areas.

However, poverty is the biggest social issue for urban dwellers. Often, poor people are concentrated in slum areas in the cities, which worsen the population's quality of life. There are many conditions related to poverty that are concerning such as diseases caused by poor nutrition and inadequate housing condition, exposure to violence, and air and water pollutions.

In this first edition, we welcomed articles related to such social issues. For example, two papers are related to false memories. One article is by Wang and colleagues and looks at false memory and legal consequences in China—a country that is currently dealing with rapid urbanization. The other article is a review by Romeo and colleagues on coping with child sexual abuse and its relationship with memory. Although the child sexual abuse phenomenon is not exclusive to urban areas, it is a pervasive problem found in the urban population.

Urban employment

In general, nonurban people recognize there are more employment opportunities in urban areas, which leads to the migration of nonurban people to urban areas. As a consequence, the migration of unskilled laborers may lead to unemployment problems in the cities, which may lead to higher rates of poverty in urban areas.

Also, the commuting phenomenon is a common work condition in urban areas, wherein employees from suburb areas travel to work in the cities every workday. Commuting experiences may lead to higher stress that may negatively impact workplace performance and well-being. Therefore, it may be useful to compare urban and nonurban populations regarding workplace stress and well-being. Commuting also negatively impact traffic in the city. Maulina and colleagues studied risky riding behavior among motorcyclists in Jakarta and its surroundings, where motorcycles are increasingly used to substitute other modes of transportation.

Urban entrepreneurial behavior is also an important and interesting topic that can be discussed in this journal. Microentrepreneurship is especially important for a country's economic growth, and more than half of the employment in urban areas is in the micro enterprise segment. Purba and Paundra presented a research on how individual factors affect microentrepreneurs' innovative behavior.

Closing words

There are many opportunities for researchers to study human behavior in urban and cross-culture areas. Note the topics I discussed above are not exhaustive. There are several other topics relevant to urban society in the perspective of human behavior other than the ones I described above. Therefore, I encourage researchers and practitioners studying urban society to submit papers to our journal

Sri Hartati R. Suradijono

Editor-in-Chief