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Abstract:

*A Spatial Conjunctural History Of Nusantara: Infrastructure-Led Development  
And Technopolitics In The Construction Of Nusantara*

Owing to a myriad of socioecological problems in Jakarta, the Indonesian government has decided to build a new capital city in the Province of East Kalimantan (Borneo) called Nusantara. As part of a global trend of building new cities and learning from 'best practices', Nusantara can be seen as following certain developmental imaginaries enabled by global circulations of capital. A decade or so after the Smart City has captured elite (and public) imagination on how to run a city and nation, Nusantara keeps this trend alive by incorporating other such models as the Eco-City and the Sponge City amid a renewed focus on climate change. Concurrently, the increasing multipolar economic world has emboldened different sources of financing infrastructural projects as part of broader developmental politics—such as the rise of China, Japan, and the UAE as development donors. This research explores **how different socioeconomic and political processes condition the development of Indonesia's new capital city Nusantara**. It answers two questions: 1) What logics and imaginaries of urban development are informing the new planned city of Nusantara? 2) How do international flows of capital and expertise enable or disrupt these plans? The data for this study was collected from archival research, government documents and key informant interviews with government officials and advocacy groups. It engages with and extends key debates in urban geography, developmental urbanism, and historical materialist geography. This research tries to argue how the management of social reproduction through urbanisation is becoming a key avenue of state power.