



Nongkrong

Leonhard Bartolomeus

Nongkrong is an informal word that is heard quite often when discussing collective culture in Indonesia. Derived from the word *tongkrong*, which, in the Indonesian Language Thesaurus (Ministry of Education and Culture) is listed as commensurate with lazing around, wasting time, wandering, chatting, and so on. In the late 90s, MTV Indonesia popularized the term, when it described its viewers as *anak nongkrong* (“*nongkrong* boys/girls”).

Although it is often associated with laziness, the term *nongkrong* has been evolving. In terms of artist collective and cultural practice, *nongkrong* can be ideological and sometimes serves as the axis of activities. In a bigger context, *nongkrong* can also be interpreted as a way to counter capitalism and fast-living culture. The term might undergo another transformation during the pandemic, as many people like to “*nongkrong* online” through multiple platforms.



Photo: GUDSKUL



Cut and Rescue Exhibition "Kesedihan/Sadness"

Photo: Leonhard Bartolomeus

Related Links

Websites

- A serious approach to deconstruct 'nongkrong'
<http://parsejournal.com/article/nongkrong-and-non-productive-time-in-yogyakarta-contemporary-arts/>
- A text about 'nongkrong' and collective practices
<https://aaa.org.hk/en/ideas/ideas/gudskul-art-collective-learning-while-nongkrong-nongkrong-while-learning>
- An extended definition of 'hang out' in terms of curatorial practice written by Sandy Lo <https://curatography.org/curators-living-rooms/>
- *The Japan Foundation Asia Center Art Studies: Curators Forum: Imagining New Ecologies*, ed. Beverly Yong (Tokyo: The Japan Foundation Asia Center,

2019)

https://www.jpfi.go.jp/j/publish/asia_exhibition_history/pdf/42_ArtStudies-05_Reports_ALL.pdf

- Arts of the Working Class: Reconsidered Dhaka Art Summit 2020
<http://artsoftheworkingclass.org/text/reconsidered-dhaka-art-summit-2020>

Podcasts

- Podcast interview with Muhammad Faisal, a researcher that focusing on education and youth culture in Indonesia
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/we-as-indonesian-cant-live-without-nongkrong-sitting/id1448033049?i=1000432617164>

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