

SPECIAL SEMINAR

# DYNAMIC FARMERS, DEAD PLANTATIONS, AND THE MYTH OF THE LAZY NATIVE

## Counter-Trajectories of Indonesian Development



Speaker

**Tania Murray Li**

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PERSONAL SITE : <https://www.taniali.org/>



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**6.13(TUE) 15:30-17:00 (JST)**

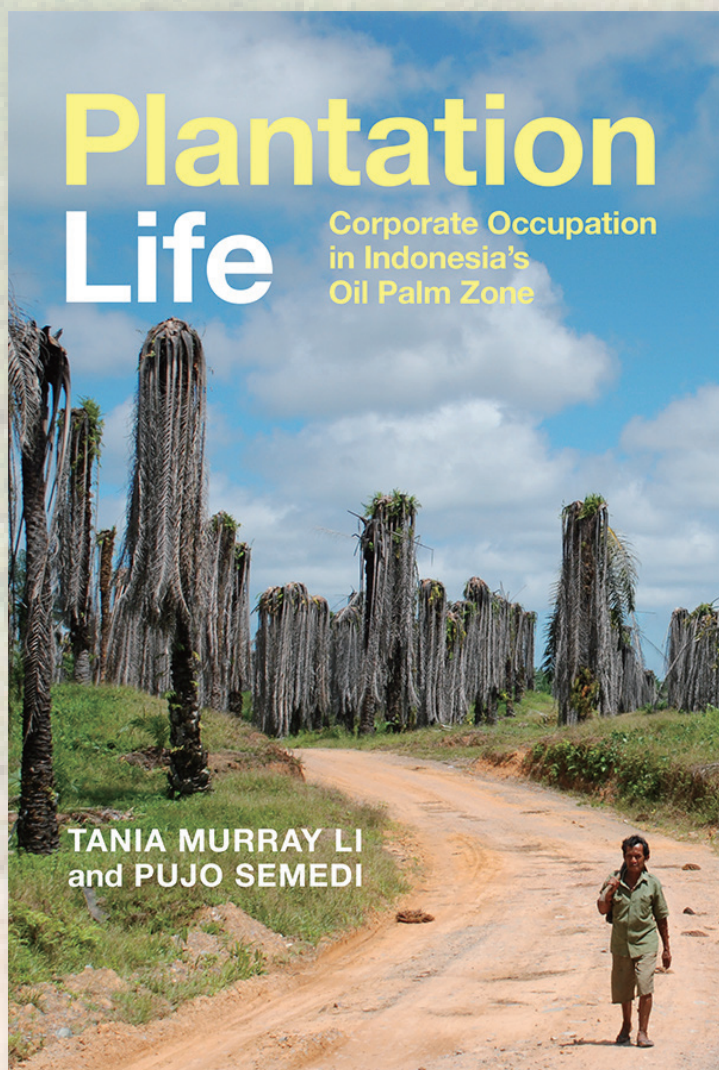
**Mid-sized Meeting Room, 3rd Floor,  
Inamori Foundation Memorial Building, Kyoto University**

ACCESS : <https://kyoto.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/access/>



ONLINE at the following URL

<https://kyoto-u-edu.zoom.us/j/84239536657?pwd=NFNOY0htaE1wQ1JGOEFXOW5XZFpPdZ09>



### Abstract

This talk draws on the experience of Indonesia to challenge the globally-circulating transition narrative according to which rural people move to cities as their economies stagnate, and dynamic corporations take over agricultural production. In Indonesia this narrative pivots on the “myth of the lazy native” that presents small-scale farmers as unproductive, hence corporations are needed to get the job done. Counter to this myth, Indonesia’s small-scale farmers producing for global markets have shown great dynamism; it is plantation corporations that generate dead zones of economic stagnation, ecological reduction, and rights abuse.

※ Language: English

### Bio

Tania Murray Li is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto and Research Fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. Her research focuses on land, labour, class, capitalism, development, resources and indigeneity with a particular focus on Indonesia. Her latest book *Plantation Life: Corporate Occupation of Indonesia's Oil Palm Zone* (Duke University Press, 2021) is co-authored with Pujo Semedi (Universitas Gadjah Mada).

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