

Editorial

Rethinking Radical Inclusiveness: A Theoretical Provocation

Teguh Wijaya Mulya

Faculty of Psychology

Universitas Surabaya

The notions of human rights and identity politics have been widely drawn on in the contemporary understandings and practices of developing more inclusive cities. Examining the UN Habitat III Issue Paper on Inclusive Cities (2015), in this article I attempt to identify and problematize some assumptions that might have underpinned our efforts to improve the inclusiveness of our cities. I argue that a liberal view of human being has constrained the understandings about who “everyone” is, the nature of their sense of self, and what they want; which subsequently might exclude and marginalise those who do not fit our conceptions. Alternatively, I will draw on poststructuralist theorisation of discourse and subjectivity to offer a new way of thinking about human rights and identity politics, and discuss how it might contribute to our understanding and practices of inclusiveness.

Keywords: inclusiveness, inclusive cities, identity politics, human rights, subjectivity

Konsep hak asasi manusia dan politik identitas telah digunakan secara luas dalam pemahaman dan praktik kontemporer pengembangan kota inklusif. Dalam artikel ini saya akan mengajari dokumen PBB Habitat III tentang kota inklusif dengan tujuan mengidentifikasi dan menyalurkan asumsi-asumsi yang mungkin telah melandasi usaha-usaha untuk menjadikan kota kita lebih inklusif. Saya berargumen bahwa pandangan liberal tentang manusia telah membatasi pemahaman tentang siapa “semua orang” itu, hakikat pemahaman diri mereka, dan apa yang mereka inginkan; sehingga berpotensi mengeksklusi dan meminggirkan mereka yang tidak cocok dengan konsepsi tersebut. Sebagai alternatif, saya menggunakan konsep wacana dan subjektivitas dari teori pasca-strukturalis untuk menawarkan pandangan baru memahami hak asasi manusia dan politik identitas, dan bagaimana pandangan ini dapat berkontribusi bagi pemahaman dan praktik keinklusifan kontemporer.

Kata kunci: keinklusifan, kota inklusif, politik identitas, hak asasi manusia, subjektivitas

In this editorial article I seek to offer a theoretical provocation in relation to the notion of inclusiveness and inclusive cities. My discussion here is predicated on a premise that an inclusive city starts from inclusive ways of thinking, and promoting inclusive ways of thinking involves continuous resistance towards our current ways of seeing and being inclusive. Following this premise, I attempt to identify and problematize some assumptions that might have underpinned our efforts to build more inclusive cities. Specifically, I will draw on poststructuralist con-

ceptualisation of discourse and subjectivity to offer a new way of thinking about human rights and identity politics, and how it might contribute to our understanding and practices of inclusiveness.

I will start by citing one of the recommendations from the UN Habitat III Issue Paper on Inclusive Cities (2015, May 31, p. 8):

Urbanization processes should be more firmly entrenched in a *human rights* framework that ensures the alignment of goals and implementation processes to specific *human rights* obligations while promoting the accountability of local governments with respect to evolve from technocratic models to *rights-based* models that ensure

Correspondence concerning this editorial article should be addressed to Teguh Wijaya Mulya, Faculty of Psychology Universitas Surabaya. Jalan Raya Kalirungkut Surabaya 60293. E-mail: teguh@ubaya.ac.id