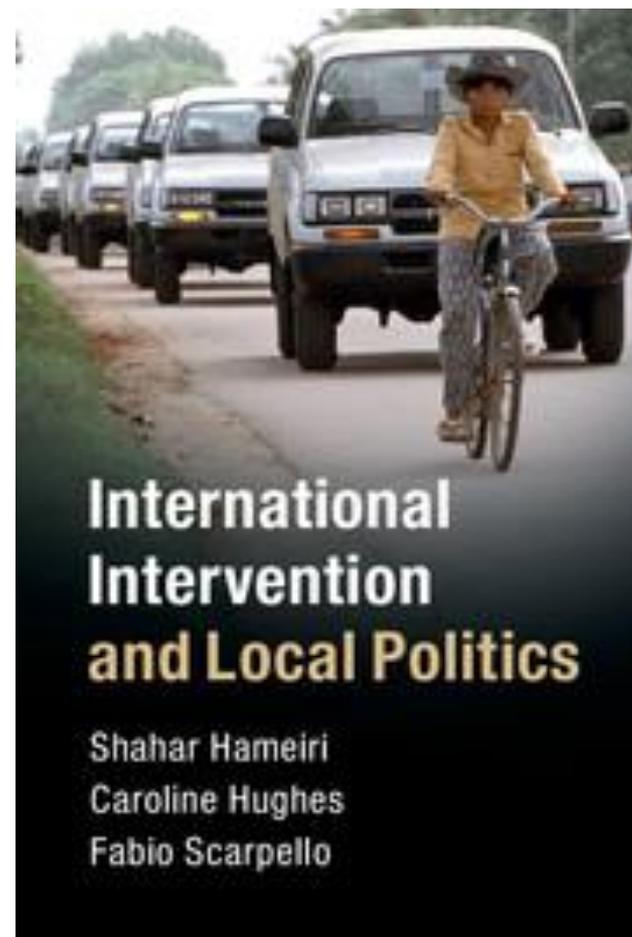


International Intervention and Local Politics: Insights from Aceh

Shahar Hameiri and Fabio Scarpello
Australian National University
24 August 2017



A politics of scale analytical approach



Focus on a particular project or program



Identify the coalitions contesting the outcomes of a project and establish their relative power relations against the broader political economy



Identify the strategies, especially the scalar strategies, they pursue to attain their objectives



Trace how struggles over the extent of governance rescaling constrain the extent and efficacy of governance changes

Aceh Government Transformation Programme (AGTP)



AGTP: Objectives and results

Partly
achieved

- ❑ Support the provincial government during the phasing out of the BRR

Partly
achieved

- ❑ Support the provincial government beyond the transition phase

Failed

- ❑ Reform the processes and practices of recruiting and promoting civil servants

It is not about success or failure. It is about *uneven* results

Immediate assistance via *Tim Asistensi*

A scalar strategy to rescale decision-making beyond the existing Aceh government structure

- ❑ Supported by UNDP, Irwandi and GAM
- ❑ Opposed by Aceh civil servants, civil society, WB-EC

No local-international, traditional-modern divide

Long term assistance via Unit P2K

A scalar strategy to insulate the monitoring of provincial government units' budget expenditures from the local bureaucratic apparatus

- ❑ Supported by Irwandi and Zaini, UNDP, WB, EC and civil society
- ❑ Opposed by various Aceh government agencies

Tactical alliances are crucial

Civil servants reform via merit-based recruitment and strengthening of the BKPP

Scalar strategies to internationalise the process via introducing 'good governance' benchmarks

- Supported by UNDP, WB, EC and civil society
- Opposed by Irwandi and Zaini, Aceh civil servants

Need to focus on achievable aims

Final remarks

- ❑ International interventions are about state transformations. These are contested
- ❑ International interventions often lead to *uneven* results even within a project or a program
- ❑ Explanations need to focus on the politics of scale of coalitions supporting or opposing specific objectives, and on how these coalitions relate to the broader political economy