**EXTENDED ABSTRACT HEADLINE**
(TIMES NEW ROMAN, 14, BOLD)

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**Objective / Scope (50-100 words)**

The city of Sawahlunto was chosen to represent Indonesia at UNESCO as the world’s cultural city in 2016 and this was unforeseen because this city has been declared as a dead city. In order to overcome the social and economic situation, the city’s authorities have transformed the city by referring to the city’s past as a mining city. This article analyses the meaning-making process in constructing the image of the city by utilizing collective memory, particularly in constructing the name of Lubang Tambang Mbah Soero as a tourism site. The aim is to explore the meaning-making process and the power relation within the process.

**Methods, Procedures, Process (100-150 words)**

Data were collected from participant observations, interviews and textual analysis by referring to and evaluating existing concepts, such as collective memory and the image of the city. Research findings evaluate the notion of orang rantai and reveal that the imbedded meaning, for example in the naming of Lubang Tambang Mbah Soero, is in itself a complex ideological battleground. For example, the heroic depiction of orang rantai by the government is not in line with the historical writings, which is based on Dutch archives and document studies. As a penal colony, the Dutch colonial government played an important role in constructing the image of orang rantai as criminals.

**Results, Observations, Conclusions (100-200 words)**

In the recent depiction of orang rantai, from the government and also from the locals, there are no similar ways of understanding what orang rantai mean in the transformation of Sawahlunto from a mining city to a tourism city. This complicated and sometimes overlapping yet contrasting conversations between the government, the memory of the people and historical writings on how orang rantai have been understood and made sense of reflect how the meaning-making process is heavily embedded with the imbalanced power relation between the actors involved. This article will finally reveal what is at stake in this state-sponsored heritage project and tourist industry in reshaping Sawahlunto and its historical knowledge.

**Keywords**: orang rantai, collective memory, the image of the city,UNESCO **(3-6 keywords)**

**Novelty of Research / Product (100-200 words)**

There have been a number of research that have investigated how a city develops, particularly those intended for tourism, highlighting issues such as how space is constructed, economics, collective memory, and the social and cultural structure of society (Conlin, 2011; Ballesteros, 2007; Wanhill, 2000). Previous research about Sawahlunto was done through the perspective of city planning and how it relates to the social and cultural condition of society (Arifman, 2014; Martokusumo, 2008; Nawanir, 2003; Suprayoga, 2008; Hendry, 2011). There have also been several research on orang rantai in Sawahlunto (Alexander & Wisdiarti, 2017; Fahmi, 2016; Kurniawati & Achnes, 2016); however, there has not been any research on how collective memory is used to construct the image of the city in relation to its history and transformation. Therefore, the main focus of this research is how the dominant meaning in the construction of the city’s image is all about the politics of collective memory (Kusno, 2009) and cultural heritage. All in all, the research aims to contribute to the scientific discussion that in making sense of the past, there will always be a power play and the claiming of heritage spaces is in itself an ideological battleground.

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