

Reading the postcolonial exotic in Anglophone Bruneian fiction

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Graham Huggans argues that “in a postcolonial context, exoticism is effectively *repoliticised*, redeployed both to unsettle metropolitan expectations of cultural otherness and to effect a grounded critique of differential relations of power.”

By examining the iconography of Bruneian identity in selected Anglophone fiction, including KH Lim’s *Written in Black* and Amir Faliq’s *The Forlorn Adventure*, this paper will show how the Bruneian exotic is constructed for the global community. This paper argues that the Bruneian exotic is commodified to legitimize its value for the local population through the economic and cultural value placed on it by the global community. This paper will consider the implications of this “strategic exoticism” deployed by Bruneian writers for the construction of the relationship between Brunei and the West in Bruneian fiction.