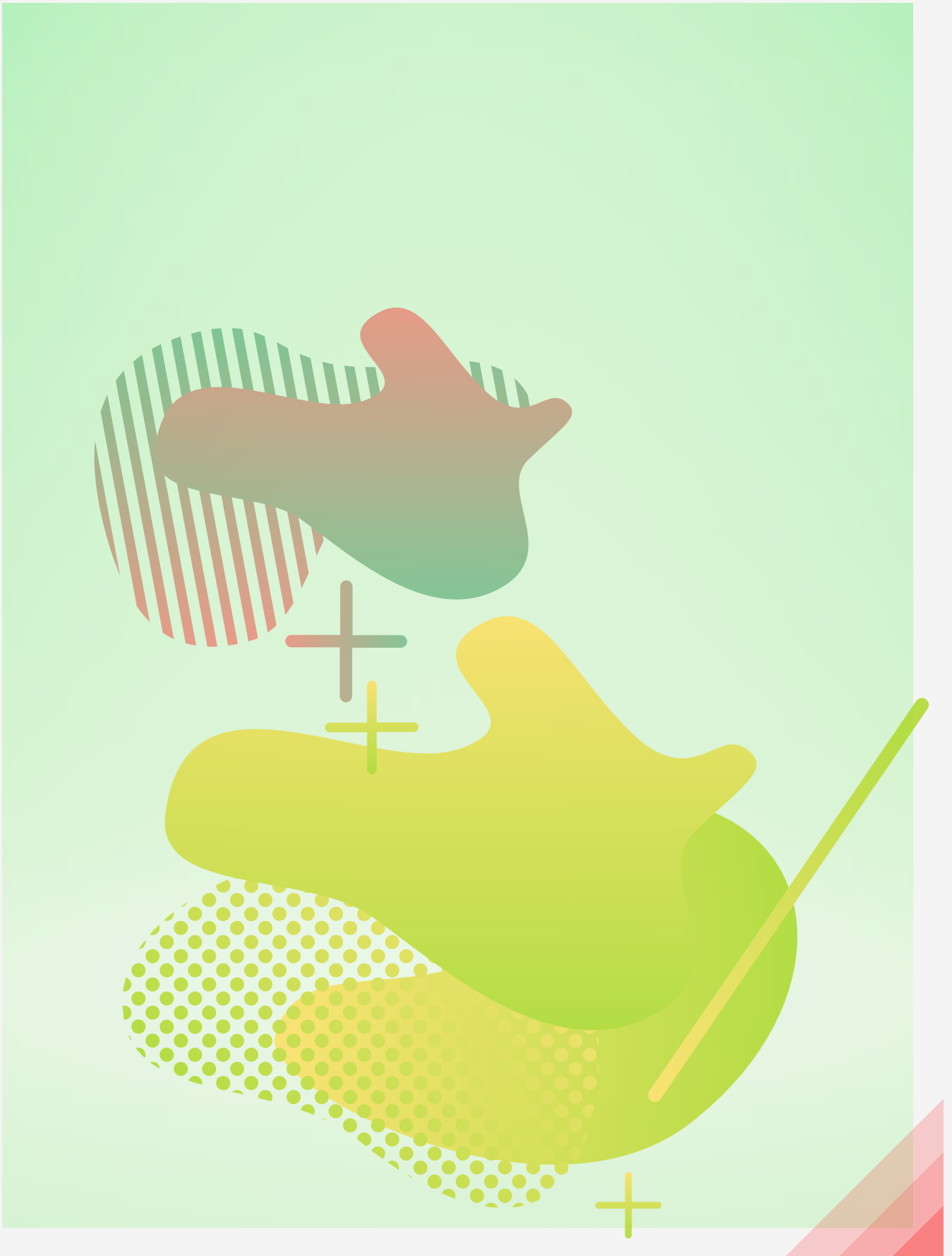


FASS RESEARCH

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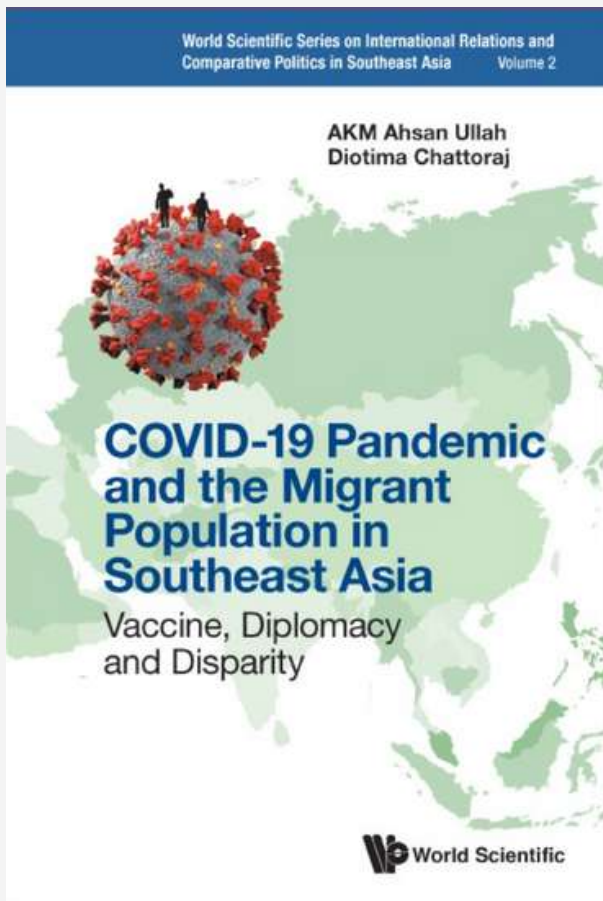
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DECEMBER 2022

FASS RESEARCH

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT AND ONGOING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
CONDUCTED AT THE FACULTY OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES (FASS)
AT UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM (UBD)



COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE MIGRANT POPULATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BY AKM AHSAN ULLAH AND
DIOTIMA CHATTORAJ

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted about 1 billion migrants (both international and domestic) in a variety of different ways, and this book demonstrates how COVID-19 has widened the gaps between citizens, non-migrant and migrant populations in terms of income, job retention, freedom of movement, vaccine etc. While there is emerging literature studying the impacts of COVID-19 on migration, the situation in Southeast Asia has not received

much scholarly attention. This book fills the literature gap by studying the experiences of migrants and citizens in Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore and highlighting how the pandemic has exacerbated inequalities between and within the groups. These three countries are studied due to their high reliance of migrants in key economic sectors. Findings in this volume are derived from a qualitative approach, complemented by secondary data sources.

This book is appropriate for undergraduate and postgraduate students of population studies, epidemiology, public policy and administration, political science, international relations, anthropology, psychology, sociology, and migration and refugee studies. Migration and labour scholars benefit from the nuanced comprehension of how a pandemic could cause a schism between migrants and the population at large. Policymakers may consider the proposed recommendations in the book to improve the migration situation.

WHO'S THAT RESEARCHER?

AN ACADEMIC PROFILE



DR MARIA CARINNES ALEJANDRIA **Sociology and Anthropology Programme**

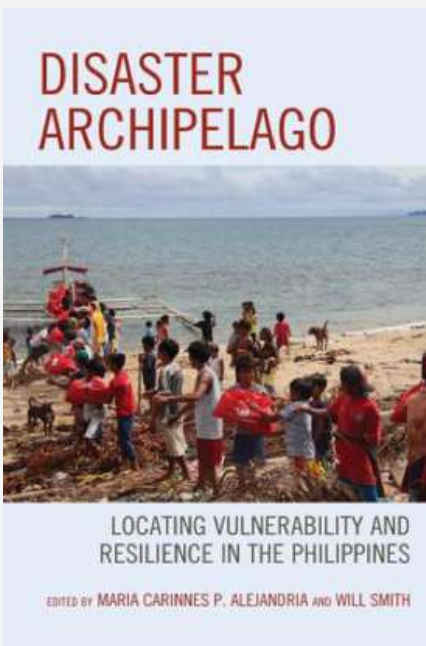
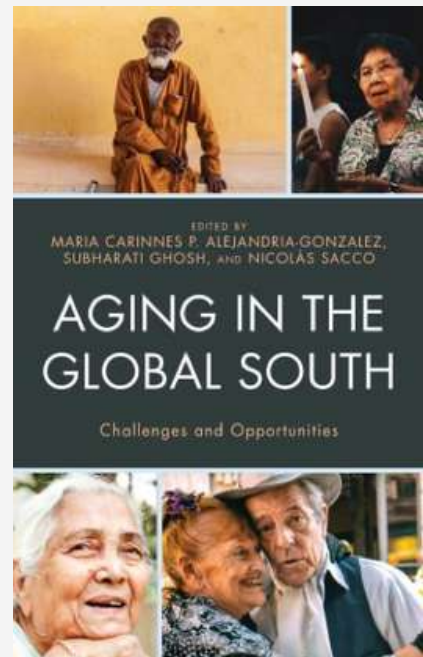
I am an engaged anthropologist trained in the Global South discursing on the forms of injustices in society that exacerbate experiences of hazards and risks among affected communities.

Disasters are not natural. These are violent occurrences that often impact communities that have been made vulnerable to hazards (flooding, earthquake, epidemics, hurricanes) by structural and infrastructural gaps. As a researcher working with marginalized and disaster-affected communities, I document their lived experiences while actively collaborating on humanitarian projects that could alleviate issues like food and health insecurities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, countries like the Philippines experienced complex disasters where two or more hazards have co-occurred, which generated more challenges for humanitarian response. On December 2021, Hurricane Rai devastated islands in the Philippines, prompting the call for humanitarian collaboration between civil society organizations and the government. Being both an academic and a humanitarian worker, I collaborated with military actors and private donors to deliver food and medical aid to affected communities. This later inspired my research interest in examining civilian-military humanitarian coordination during complex disasters in Southeast Asia.



A year after Hurricane Rai, I represented FASS-UBD as a co-convener of the webinar-workshop entitled Governing Complex Disasters in Southeast Asia. With a training seed grant funding from the Brown University Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies, we aim to hold another workshop in 2023 with the goal of producing original research on the management of co-occurring hazards in the region to engage policy-makers and the public to address the root causes of vulnerability and risks.

As an educator, I envision to contribute to the wholistic learning experiences of my students that would allow them to take a critical look on social processes and collaborate with stakeholders to dismantle sources of issues relating to health and disaster. I am interested in supervising research projects of students relating to disaster risk reduction and management, humanitarian coordination, and social health.



My forthcoming publications include articles that explored university students' mental health, the role of dating app during the pandemic, and community-based humanitarian coordination. My previous publications include edited volumes and articles on disaster, food security, and aging in the Global South. I also serve as the founding editor of the Journal of Social Health, a peer-reviewed open access journal featuring articles exploring the intersection of social processes and health experiences.



JOURNAL ARTICLES

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE LIMAU MANIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

*BY GABRIEL Y. V. YONG AND
NOOR HASHARINA HASSAN*

The Brunei Museums Journal 2022

An archaeological discovery in Sungai Limau Manis in 2002 suggests that a sizable city-port once existed in this rural area, probably pre-dating the Brunei Sultanate. The present-day geography of the site, however, would not have facilitated trade to the site, which is located at the extreme upstream of Sungai (river) Brunei, suggesting that it was a feeder port to another unidentified main city-port located somewhere in, or close to, Brunei Bay. This paper employs the principle of uniformitarianism to reconstruct the historical geography of the area using current knowledge of natural processes and available data. The study found that only a few areas, including that which contains the archaeological site, were suitable for settlement in a region that is largely swampy and is part of a large estuary that is continuous with Brunei Bay. The paper further discusses the issue of ascertaining the period of the site's existence, as well as the various implications the findings have for our current knowledge of the Sultanate's history.

URBAN TAPESTRY: A PLACE-SENSITIVE APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN

*BY NOOR HASHARINA HASSAN,
GABRIEL Y V YONG, IZNI AZREIN
AND NORZURIANIE
KAMARULZAMAN*

*International Journal of
Environment, Architecture, and
Societies, 2(02), pp. 109-121*

Shophouses are essential elements of the urbanscape. However, the rate at which they are developed and neglected in Brunei has given rise to various problems in commercial areas, which undermines sustainability. This paper proposes a way to elucidate the genius loci of a site using urban tapestry as an analytical model rather than just a metaphor. The Menglait commercial area (MCA) was used as a case to illustrate this method. The MCA tapestry depicts a place for the common people to fix their automobile issues and quick social-business meet-ups. Its threads could be traced to the area's early development, interweaving national development programs with the introduction of the automobile, the Chinese diaspora, and the development of the oil industry. Planned rejuvenation of the area would have obliterated existing features, structures, and knowledge that have essential values to enhance its resilience as a commercial area. The utility of our tapestry method is in the conservation of the genius loci of an area when integrated into the standard urban planning process.

MAKING DO AND STAYING POOR: THE POVERTY CONTEXT OF URBAN BRUNEI

*BY NOOR HASHARINA HASSAN,
JONATHAN RIGG, IZNI AZREIN,
GABRIEL Y.V. YONG, NURUL
HAZIRAH HAJI ZAINUDDIN, AND
MOHAMMAD ADDY SHAHRIL
MUHAMMAD SHAMSUL*

Geoforum, 136, pp. 132-141

Drawing on interviews with households in Brunei's Kampong Ayer, this paper explores the geography of poverty in an urban, high-income country context. Under the forces of modernisation and broader conditions of prosperity, the residents of Kampong Ayer can survive with dignity, but cannot prosper and are constrained in their upward mobility. State agencies' approaches to poverty normalise a terrestrial mode of living, implicitly problematising the lives of those who choose to remain in Kampong Ayer, thus overlooking the important role such a space provides for the less privileged in Bruneian society. The paper develops the notion of 'geographical context' as a means to elucidate the co-production of produced marginality and enduring survival in a national context of thoroughgoing transformation.

TRANSCULTURALITY AND THE HAJJ: DIASPORAS AS MEDIATORS OF CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

*BY MUHAMMAD ARAFAT
BIN MOHAMAD*

*Journal of Ethnic and Migration
Studies, Sept 2022*

Arguably the most sacred Islamic city, Mecca has long been a migration destination for Muslims. It has become the home to various diasporas over time. Born and raised in Mecca, members of these diasporic communities become transcultural as they retain aspects of their ancestral cultures while adopting the practices of Mecca's native Western Arabians and other diasporas amidst them. These diasporas put their transculturality to good use as mediators of cross-cultural encounters when millions of pilgrims congregate in Mecca to perform the Hajj each year. This paper is an ethnography of the longitudinal effects of migration and discusses the Fatani who perform various roles to ensure the pilgrims' successful and comfortable completion of the Hajj, especially their co-ethnic Malays from Southeast Asia. This study of the Fatani diaspora shows that culture is multifarious and dynamic, not homogenous, static, and exclusive. It is also an account of how migration transforms people and cultures.

A METRIC INSTRUMENT FOR THE GAMES WITH CULTURAL HERITAGE

*BY NOREENA YI-CHIN LIU,
KEVIN CHI-JEN MIA, AND
DARREN CHEN YI YING*

*International Journal of Serious
Games, 9(4), 89-136*

This paper reviews existing research within two fields, game studies and cultural heritage, discovering inadequacies in current digital means of cultural heritage preservation. This study details two new tools that can further identify and assess the level of cultural heritage content in commercial games which will benefit not just their digital preservation, but also game developers and game design researchers. A unique conceptual framework was developed for analysing video game content specifically on four elements of cultural heritage and five elements of game components in both tangible and intangible forms. Exploratory tables of metrics were also created to quantify the content. Two trials analysing 6 game franchises and testing 28 games demonstrated the presence of significant amounts of cultural heritage, much more than past works credited. Further research into this area, including adapting said tools for other game studies and commercial games usage will be possible and fruitful.

DESIGNING SERIOUS GAME METRICS FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

*BY NOREENA YI-CHIN LIU AND
GARY WILLS*

*International Journal of Serious
Games, 9(3), 81-114*

This paper presents a conceptual framework and a metric instrument for assisting the design and evaluation of serious games for dementia family carers as the first step towards designing a game specifically designed to cater for their needs. The paper starts with a literature survey on dementia, dementia family carers and existing games for health issues. From this survey, three components of the carers' needs (health, education and social), three platforms (social marketing, social media and games) and six game contents (game world graphics, gameplay, storyline, avatar portrayal, sound/music) were identified. Engagement as the metric of interaction was also identified. With these, a conceptual framework was constructed, identifying the relationship amongst these elements. Based on these, the metric instrument was devised, and an exploratory experiment was conducted with six health-related games and five game professionals to assess the instrument's effectiveness. It was found that the instrument can identify the successfulness of games in terms of satisfying the three categories of needs of the carer, i.e., health, education and social. However, further experiments with more participants and focusing on one game would further verify the effectiveness of the instrument.

ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN THE PANDEMIC: CRISIS AND POLICY RESPONSES

*BY MALLIK AKRAM HOSSAIN,
A. K. M. AHSAN ULLAH, AND
MD. MOHIUDDIN*

Global Policy, 14(5): 1-9

The purpose of this article is to demonstrate how a lack of policy attention has exacerbated the extreme circumstances faced by the Rohingya and how they can contribute to the deterioration of their health, livelihood, and education, as well as their repatriation to their homeland. This article is based on data collected from field observations and interviews prior to and during the pandemic. This study confirms that the Rohingya refugee populations endure a higher level of suffering from a lack of food security and livelihood, a lack of basic amenities and financial resources, and overcrowded accommodation compared with the pre-pandemic period. The lack of a specific policy for the Rohingya has compounded the current situation in Bangladesh. This research is crucial for countries receiving refugees as well as the countries from which they flee and other actors.

STIGMA, DISCRIMINATION AND HIV OR AIDS: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION OF ASIAN IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN CANADA

*BY AKM AHSAN ULLAH AND
AHMED SHAFIQUUL HUQUE*

*International Journal of Human
Rights in Healthcare
(Forthcoming)*

HIV or AIDS remains invisible and dismissed by most South Asians living in Canada as HIV or AIDS issues are perceived as an offshoot of Western lifestyle linked with drug use and promiscuity. This paper looked into how people living with HIV or AIDS (PLWHA) cope with prejudice and stigma. To guide this research, a constructivist grounded theory approach was adopted as the theoretical and methodological framework. The authors reached the participants through a Toronto-based group that works with PLWHA. It was found that South Asian immigrants and refugees/refugees with HIV or AIDS claimants are vulnerable to discrimination in Canada due to the following factors: a lack of information about HIV and AIDS incidence in the community, and the Canadian health system's inability to respond appropriately to the lack of information. It is critical that governmental action prioritizes increasing public understanding of stigma. To minimize the consequences of HIV-related discrimination and stigma, misconceptions about HIV transmission must be debunked.

BOOK CHAPTERS

CULTURE OF VOLUNTEERISM: AN OVERVIEW OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH-LED NGOS AND YOUTH-LED PLATFORMS IN BRUNEI

BY ABDUL HAI JULAY AND
SITI MAZIDAH MOHAMAD

In K. G. Ooi & V. T. King (Eds.),
*Routledge Handbook of
Contemporary Brunei*

Currently, we are witnessing an increasing number of grassroots, youth-led organisations established by Bruneian youth who are passionately driven to address key social, humanitarian, environmental, economic, and educational issues in development. In light of this exciting turn to youth-led initiatives in the nation, it is warranted that we offer an analysis of their active engagement via non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to support the nation's progress and development. As the first published work on young people and NGOs in Brunei Darussalam, this chapter offers an overview of youth participation and youth-led platforms in working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders in achieving the country's aspiration, Wawasan Brunei 2035, or Brunei Vision 2035. Finally, we address the culture of volunteerism and collaboration, and networking and youth mobilities and propose future research opportunities on youth participation in the country.

#ARTCOVIDBN ON INSTAGRAM: CAPTURING COVID-19'S NEW NORMAL IN BRUNEI VIA CREATIVE ARTWORK

BY SITI MAZIDAH MOHAMAD AND
NURUL FARZANA ABDUL GHAFAR

In S. D. Brunn & D. Gilbreath (Eds.),
*COVID-19 and a World of Ad Hoc
Geographies*

Social media sites have become the window to the local and global societies' everyday experiences, adaptation, and management of the new normal during the COVID-19 pandemic. Creative communities are among these social media sites where users express their feelings, perspectives, and concerns via their creative artwork during this period. This chapter demonstrates the local creative contents tagged with #artcovidbn produced and circulated on Instagram that capture individual experiences, collective struggles and lived experiences of the public in Brunei Darussalam during the pandemic. While offering insights into the current situation at the micro-scale, the three pandemic phases—familiarization of the new normal, managing and coping with the new normal, and normalizing the new normal—capture the progression of COVID-19 and the implications of the pandemic in Brunei Darussalam. Furthermore, the local creative artwork could offer a glimpse of the global geographies of COVID-19.

ROUNDTABLE

ENGAGING K-DRAMA: EXPERIENTIAL, ANALYTIC AND METHODOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

3 December 2022

BY THE FASS K-POP CULTURE RESEARCH GROUP

Five academics from across FASS — four lecturers and one postgraduate — met several times over the course of a year, in-person and online, to discuss how academics react to K-Drama, using as a case study the critically acclaimed 2018 Netflix show *SkyCastle*. Through this lens, we addressed three main questions. First, **Why K-Drama?**, focused on how this product of Korean popular culture is immensely popular globally and within the Southeast Asian region, and provides a rich transcultural experience for viewers. We also discussed why as academics we are drawn to this media. Secondly, in **How do our identities affect our experience of K-Drama?**, we discussed our own individual and group receptions to *SkyCastle*. Two insights are particularly significant: first, we discuss how our individual contexts — where we were born, our education, our upbringing, our identities as parents and/or children of a particular generation, our personal values — contribute greatly to our respective experiences of and reaction to watching the drama. Second, the intersection of our personal and academic identities has enabled us to address issues of gender, class, power and education, among others, not only within the context of the drama but also in our own everyday lives. Finally, in **What do these reflexive examinations of our individual and group reactions to K-Drama reveal about us as academics?** we considered whether academics are different from casual viewers, the analytic vs. affective experiences of watching K-Drama, and whether there is a taxonomy of viewers in relation to their propensity to critically analyze the shows. Our data was obtained through a combination of methods that ranged from autoethnography (including reflective journaling pre- and post-watching of *SkyCastle*) and focus group discussions, and we hope this seminar demonstrates how a shared experience and interest in K-Drama can provide fruitful methodological and conceptual insights.



LOOK FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE IN JUNE 2023!

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