

FASS RESEARCH

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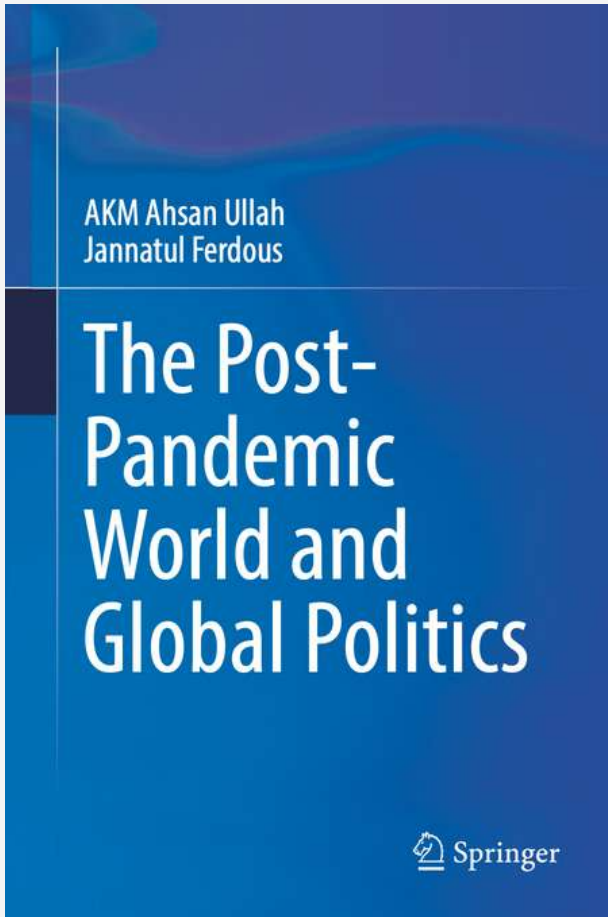
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JUNE 2022

FASS RESEARCH

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

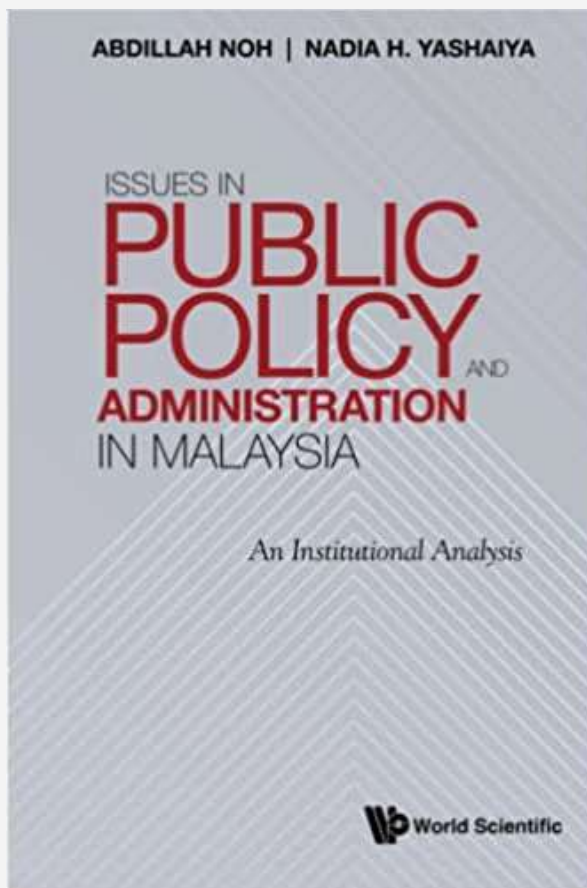


THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD AND GLOBAL POLITICS

BY AKM AHSAN ULLAH
AND JANNATUL FERDOUS

This book examines the impact of COVID-19 on economic and political processes, contending that the global reaction to the pandemic has been the largest failure in scientific policy in a generation. Unlike earlier crises, it has impacted the world's leading economies while also paralyzing international ties, provoking diverse and far-reaching reactions. The authors posit that no effective global response has been launched in response to this global catastrophe.

Rather, governments have implemented a variety of policies based on the costs of virus protection against financial closure and isolation. In doing so, there has been a resurgence in nationalism. This book aims to provide comprehensive understanding of how the pandemic has widened political gaps, and demarcates what the long-term consequences might be in terms of policies and economics in the wake of the pandemic. Of interest to scholars in political geography, development studies, international relations, public administration, and health science, this book presents key observations on existing theories of global politics pivoted around the COVID-19 pandemic, and its ramifications on individuals, groups, and ultimately, the nation state.



ISSUES IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION IN MALAYSIA

BY ABDILLAH NOH
AND NADIA H. YASHAIYA

This book argues that there is nothing inherently stable, persistent or enduring about institutions. By examining the various issues facing the Malaysian bureaucracy and adopting an institutional analysis, this book brings the point that institutions are disposed to change because they are fraught with tension due to the quality of institutions. Using various examples, it explains that such tension and change dynamics can come from

institutional resources, the manner in which resources are distributed to different actors, the varying power configurations among institutional actors and the larger political, economic and social environment that institutions operate in.

Accordingly, in examining the various concerns of the Malaysian bureaucracy, this book highlights the typologies of institutional change and the inherent tension over resources that exist among actors that makes reform attempts, at times, potentially problematic but not impossible. New concerns in public policy and governance that are yet to be discussed widely in the Malaysian public administration literature are raised, including issues on collaborative governance, public service motivation and representative bureaucracy.

WHO'S THAT RESEARCHER?

AN ACADEMIC PROFILE



DR KATHRINA MOHD DAUD

English Studies Programme

As a researcher, I'm interested both in stories and in stories about stories.

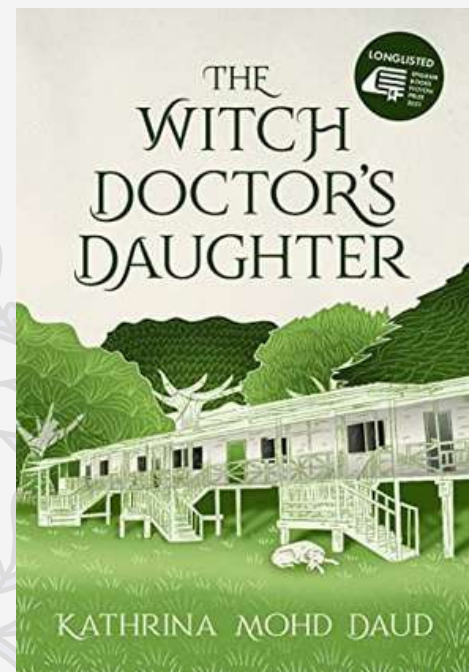
Stories are not neutral sites. They are ideological spaces with the potential to shape, reinforce, or contest the status quo. As such, the questions of who gets to tell stories, why certain stories catch the public imagination, how stories are expressed (text, theatre,

genre), how stories evolve over time, across borders, are questions not just of expression or representation, but of power.

As an educator, I'm deeply invested in inviting and opening conversations about these questions of/around narrative. I supervise graduate projects on representations of Islam, popular romance, and Southeast Asian fiction, and teach undergraduate modules on popular fiction and Southeast Asian literature.

I am also a writer, and hold a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Manchester (2011). My first novel, *The Fisherman King*, was shortlisted for the Epigram Books Fiction Prize in 2020, and my second novel, *The Witch Doctor's Daughter*, was released in May 2022. I teach creative writing modules at FASS, and am a Fiction Editor for PR&TA (*Practice, Research and Tangential Activities*), a peer-reviewed journal for creative and critical practice.

As an academic, my research and teaching practices feed in to and off each other in obvious ways. While my creative writing exists in a slightly separate space, as a writer I'm aware (albeit usually in retrospect and from a distance) of the multiple ways that my own stories exist within interstices of questions of identity, representation, access and power.



FASS SEMINAR SERIES

The FASS Seminar Series runs throughout the year and contributes to UBD's vibrant intellectual environment by providing a stage for faculty members and graduate students to share knowledge and perspectives developed from their respective research projects.

Here are some of the titles of previous seminars:

“Changing Places”: Travels Beyond the Anglo-American Campus Novel

Genre *by Dr Sarah Ghazali*

Historical Fiction on Enrique de Malacca: An Exploratory Comparative

Analysis *by Dr Rommel Curaming and Dr Hannah Ho*

Political Economy of Small States: How are Small States Gearing Up for a Post-Oil Age?

by Dr Abdillah Noh

Haunted Forests, Anti-Extractivism and Postgrowth Values: Bruneian Gothic Tales as Eco-Anxious Narratives

by Dr Rinni Hj Amran

‘I’m a Youth Geographer who Studies Youth Mobilities’: Finding and Branding an Academic Identity

by Dr Siti Mazidah Hj Mohamad

‘In Between the Lines ...’: Representing Power Relations in Brunei-Britain Political Discourse 1847-1984

by Dr Siti Badriyah Hj Mohd Yusof

Brunei English – A badge of the modern Bruneian identity

by Dr Salbrina Sharbawi

Silence over the Wire: Student Verbal Participation and the Virtual Classroom in the Digital Era

by Dr Debbie Ho

“Can 3-Hour Online Classes Be Effective? Is It Desirable?: An Experiment”

by Dr Rommel Curaming (Joint ICE-FASS Seminar)



JOURNAL ARTICLES

COASTAL TRANSITIONS: SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES, LIVELIHOODS, AND MARITIME ZONE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BY MICHAEL FABINYI, BEN
BELTON, WOLFRAM H. DRESSLER,
MAGNE KNUDSEN, DEDI S.
ADHURI, AMMAR ABDUL AZIZ, MD.
ALI AKBER, JAWANIT
KITTITORNKOOL, CHATURONG
KONGKAEW, MELISSA MARSCHKE,
MICHAEL PIDO, NATASHA STACEY,
DIRK J. STEENBERGEN, AND PETER
VANDERGEEST

Journal of Rural Studies, Vol. 91,
Apr. 2022, pp. 184-194.

Across Southeast Asia, coastal livelihoods are becoming more diverse and more commodified, as maritime zone developments intensify. This paper reviews literature from the ten maritime states in Southeast Asia to assess how older and emerging forms of maritime zone developments influence the viability of small-scale fishing livelihoods, and show how small-scale fisheries persist as a significant coastal livelihood activity across the region, despite declining opportunities due to long-term intensification of fisheries exploitation. Key trends that small-scale fishers and coastal communities must negotiate include deepening commodification, worsening environmental degradation, loss of access to fishing grounds, and an intensifying 'squeeze' on coastal space.

ASIAN ART IN PORTUGUESE MUSEUMS AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

BY RUI OLIVEIRA LOPES

Orientations, Vol. 53 No. 4,
July/August 2022, pp. 2-10.

Due to Portugal's long-term presence in Asia, it is not surprising that several museums and private collections in Portugal are well furnished with objects of Asian art and material culture. These collections offer significant information on the Portuguese experience in Asia. However, the formation of collections and their discourses of display depend on collectors' worldviews, museum mission statements and practices, decisions of trustees, and the increasing participation of communities through social activism and new attitudes towards diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. This essay discusses examples of Portuguese collections and exhibitions of Asian art and reveals that objects of art and material culture represent paradigms that encompass beliefs, worldviews, assumptions, and discourses within a given epoch and its circumstances. Through time, however, the reception and perception of art and material culture within individual and collective experience and knowledge require revisions of understanding, informed by our present knowledge, beliefs, and worldviews.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN DESIGN FROM A BIOMIMICRY-ARCOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

BY GABRIEL Y V YONG

*International Journal of
Environment, Architecture, and
Societies, Volume 2, pp 1-15.*

Global climate action initiatives have focussed on either climate mitigation or adaptation in the decarbonisation agenda. The impact of urbanisation is generally overlooked. Urban development alters the environment, including climate, in multiple ways. Therefore, climate actions are unlikely to succeed, even if its goals are achieved, largely because the current paradigm promotes expansion at the expense of nature. This paper presents an alternative perspective on urban design with respect to climate resiliency. It draws primarily from the thoughts that underpin Arcology and Biomimicry from a complex, evolving Earth systems paradigm, and argues that urban development must shift from 2-dimensional gigantism to a compact 3-dimensional form. It further posits that the structure should facilitate greater exchanges, drawing together complementary elements in economy, industry and society, and services into the same structure. Biomimicry provides suitable models and guides through species that thrive as well as biomes that have developed in the range of environmental and climatic regions on the planet.

HERITAGE INDUSTRY AS CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR KAMPONG AYER (BRUNEI DARUSSALAM)

*BY IZNI AZREIN AND
GABRIEL Y V YONG*

*Brunei Museum Journal
[forthcoming]*

Kampong Ayer (KA) in the 16th century was once described as the 'Venice of the East'. By 1900, it had become a pale shadow of its past glory and today, is home to just 3% of the country's population and of minor economic and political importance. Yet KA holds a treasure trove of intangible cultural heritage in the memories of some of Brunei's ageing population. This paper examines KA using Storper's model of production, which we apply to the production of culture and its manifestations to reveal the structural changes that have occurred between the pre-modern and modern times. The same model is used to show how developing an industry based on heritage products would re-establish structures of production to achieve the dual goals of (a) heritage conservation and (b) restoring economic vitality in KA, with the latter expected to enhance the quality of life of its residents. The paper identifies a number of heritage products that are in urgent need of conservation, particularly as much of this knowledge and information exist in the fading memories of a few elderly former residents. The paper further discusses the need and opportunity to address environmental sustainability.

SHOULD HETEROGENEITY MATTER?: EVALUATING PUBLIC SERVICE MOTIVATION IN A NON- HOMOGENEOUS SOCIETY

BY NADIA H. YASHAIYA
AND ABDILLAH NOH

Intellectual Discourse
[forthcoming]

Drawing works on Public Service Motivation (PSM), heterogeneity and institutions, this article suggests that in assessing an individual's PSM and chances of joining the public service, ethnic heterogeneity matters. It matters because while personal attributes — like education, personal values and identity, political beliefs, socialisation — are important in determining one's PSM, an ethnically heterogeneous environment with the potential of producing numerous types of exclusive institutions can influence one's perception of the public service, alter one's motivation to serve in the public service or even determine one's chances of joining the civil service. This study is based on interviews among 28 officers who were attending a training at the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This study found that ethnic heterogeneity influences an individual's perception, motivation and decision to join the public service.

KUMPULAN SAJAK SUNGAI, LAUT DAN KITA KARYA MORSIDI M.H.: CERITA PENYAIR TENTANG KEHIDUPAN

(A Collection of Poems *The Rivers, Seas, and Us* by Morsidi M.H: The Story about Life)

BY MASLIN HAJI JUKIM

Malay Literature Vol. 35 No. 1,
June 2022, pp. 127-154.

Poetry has become a popular choice among Bruneian writers. As a result, many of those who received the Southeast Asian Writers Awards came from the genre of poetry. Most recently, in 2021, Morsidi M.H was announced as the recipient of the award for his book, *Kumpulan Sajak Sungai, Laut and Kita*, which was published in 2021. This book contains 57 poems and is divided into four themes, namely Pulse and the Journey of Life (20 poems), Homeland (7 poems), Nature and the Meaning of Life (12 poems), and Introspection and the Reality of Life (18 poems). This collection of poetry presents life in line with time that is always moving forward. It works on the poet's imagination, wisdom, and emotions to produce the poems. The findings of this research showed that these poems share the meaning of life, which is a journey that is not considered too easy to go through, especially when confronted with many faces of human nature. This journey of life is passed along with the passage of time, and it is finally realized that there is no best way to follow this journey of life except with faith and the guidance of Islamic teachings.

BOOK CHAPTERS

THE REPORTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS IN AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

BY SHARIFAH NURUL HUDA ALKAFF,
KHAIRUNNISA IBRAHIM &
NAJIB NOORASHID

READING THE NOVEL SARONGGE THROUGH THE EYES OF FEMALE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS IN INDONESIA

BY MEREDIAN ALAM

In J. P. Telles, J. C. Ryan, J. L. Dreisbach (Eds.),
Environment, Media, and Popular Culture in Southeast Asia

In September 2016, Brunei Darussalam became one of the first ASEAN member states to ratify the Paris Agreement to combat climate change, showing the government's goal of protecting the environment. This chapter explores the same objective is shared by the country's news media, specifically by Borneo Bulletin, Brunei Darussalam's oldest English language daily newspaper. The findings of this research show dissonance between the Government's policies and the country's media. Very little attention has been given by Borneo Bulletin to environmental news. Moreover, most news stories contain very little information as they primarily focus on events that are graced by dignitaries rather than on actual news about the environment. The reporting of climate change in the newspaper is often framed in accordance with Brunei's cooperation with international organizations tackling the issue.

Through a cognitive praxis lens, this chapter examines the construction of the environmental identities of female activists who read the novel *Sarongge* (2013) by Indonesian author Tosca Santoso. The research drew from a set of in-depth interviews conducted with female activists involved in the Greenpeace environmental movement in Bandung, Indonesia. Through the influence of the novel, the female activists equipped themselves with the belief that self-sacrifice, resilience, and commitment are the keys to defending and protecting the environment. Although *Sarongge* recounts the ecological implications of authoritarian hegemony on community land, the novel reflects on the contemporary juxtaposition between the work of activists and the practices of private companies in Indonesia. The activists' interviews emphasize the ways in which the novel strengthened their resolve and fostered their dedication to environmental justice.

FLOODS, CHARLAND EROSIONS AND SETTLEMENT DISPLACEMENT IN THE GANGES-PADMA RIVER BASIN

BY SHAFI NOOR ISLAM

In M. Zaman and M. Alam (Eds.), *Living on the Edge: Char Dwellers in Bangladesh*

Floods and river bank erosions in Bangladesh have historically impacted the society and economy of the country. The flood and erosion disasters in the Ganges-Padma River Basin have caused displacement, in many instances frequently, forcing people to migrate every now and then. The objective of the chapter is to map the process of out migration of char people to various locations within the region and to develop a comprehensive adaptive guideline for charlands settlement conducive to sustainable livelihood for households that are victims of the cyclic displacements due to natural hazards.

THE PLIGHT OF MYANMAR'S ROHINGYA CHILDREN

BY AKM AHSAN ULLAH
AND DIOTIMA CHATTORAJ

In K. Aljunied (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Islam in Southeast Asia*


This chapter deals with how Rohingya children have survived under the current dire circumstances and how they imagine their future. We attempt to reconstruct their life-politics as reflected in narratives of their everyday life in the refugee camps. In doing so, this chapter raises several issues such as: Are they demoralized in their country of present residence? Does culture play any role in their imaginations of a better future? Do they consider repatriation to be a good option for their future? Or do they want to migrate to some other countries for a better future? These issues are pertinent in understanding the plight of the refugee children in the camps, adding value to the literature on child refugees as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE HIGHLIGHTS
AND THE MANY OTHER PUBLICATIONS NOT FEATURED HERE,
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