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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Institute of Asian Studies was established in 2012 to develop human and social science research in Borneo, Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole. Originally focusing on key issues in Asian studies such as the historical study of nation-states and national identity, ethnicity, social stratification, and the place of religions, our research program has expanded into new areas.

Our research and publications now focus on migration, mobility and Asian diasporas, various forms of human insecurity, biodiversity, tourism and heritage, and regional integration in Asia in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The publications of IAS staff presented in this newsletter reflect this diversity.

Our working paper series reached a new milestone with the publication of its 50th issue. Our “Asia in transition” book series celebrates the launch of its 8th volume.

More widely, the articles, chapters, and books published by the IAS team in high-quality academic journals, or by renown publishers, testify to our ability to produce solid knowledge on the major issues of concern to Asia today.

Finally, our weekly seminars and video interviews reveal our commitment to disseminating knowledge as widely as possible. Do not hesitate to contact us to continue the discussion and let us know your plans.

Bruno Jetin

Associate Professor,
Director of IAS

SELECT RECENT STAFF PUBLICATIONS AT A GLANCE

B. Jetin (2019). "ASEAN Economic community: the shift from absolute to relative poverty, and the rise of the middle class". *Journal of Business and Economic analysis*, 2(1), p 57-72.

Franco, F.M. and Minggu, M.J. (2019). "When the Seeds Sprout, the Hornbills Hatch: Understanding the Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the Ibans of Brunei Darussalam on Hornbills". *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 15: 46.

King, Victor T. (2019). "Truth's Fool: Derek Freeman and the War over Cultural Anthropology", *International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*, Vol. 15(1), pp. 183-197.

King, Victor T. (2019). "Negotiations in Space and Time: Changing Gender Relations in Thai Tourist-oriented Encounters", *Suvannabhumi. Multi-disciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, vol. 11 (1), (with Joseph Rotheray). 11(2), pp. 23-55.

King, Victor T. (2019). "Local and Transnational Anthropologies of

Borneo", in Eric C. Thompson and Vineeta Sinha (eds), *Southeast Asian Anthropologies: National Traditions and Transnational Practices*, Singapore: NUS Press, pp. 207-242 (with Zawawi Ibrahim).

Carnegie Paul J. (2019). "National Imaginary, Ethnic Plurality, and State Formation in Indonesia" in Ratuva S. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Ethnicity*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore.

Hoon, Chang-Yau and Esther Kuntjara (2019). "The Politics of Mandarin Fever in Contemporary Indonesia: Resinicization, Economic Impetus, and China's Soft Power", *Asian Survey*, 59(3): 573-594.

Kelley, Liam C. (2020). "The Centrality of 'Fringe History': Diaspora, The Internet and a New Version of Vietnamese Prehistory", *International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*, 16 (1): 71-104.



ASEAN

THE RISE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS IN THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Associate Professor and Director of IAS **Bruno Jetin** has recently published an article on “ASEAN Economic Community: The Shift from Absolute to Relative Poverty, and the Rise of the Middle Class”.

In this article Dr. Jetin notes that in 2015 ASEAN was declared to be a community which rests on three pillars: political-security, economic and social-cultural. The underlying assumption is that economic

development will be fostered by a deepening regional integration, namely a “single market and single production base” which should lead to a convergence of social-cultural development thanks to a catching up process of the late-comers and the poorest member states vis-à-vis the more advanced ASEAN Member States (AMS). This implies a convergence of living standards and a strong decline of poverty. The purpose of this paper is precisely to

verify the existence of such a process of convergence among AMS and the nature of this convergence. Which countries are converging? How did poverty evolve and what is the social dynamics implied?

B. Jetin (2019). "ASEAN Economic community: the shift from absolute to relative poverty, and the rise of the middle class". *Journal of Business and Economic analysis*, 2(1), p 57-72. <http://www.jbea-sbe.org/vol02-no01-58-73.html>

PRODUCTION NETWORKS OF THE ASIAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Dr. **Bruno Jetin** has also recently published an article on value chains in the automobile industry in Asia entitled "Production Networks of the Asian Automobile Industry: Regional or Global?".

In this article Dr. Jetin explains that Southeast Asia has been a pioneer of global value chains since the early eighties with the rise of consumer electronics, computers and later mobile phones. American and Japanese firms off-shored their

production in Southeast Asia to export to North America, Europe and Japan. With the emergence of China as the second economy of the world and the adoption of free trade agreements in Asia, the question arises of a refocusing of value chains on Asia. Are we witnessing the emergence of value chains integrating East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia? This article examines this question by taking the example of the automobile industry.

B. Jetin (2018). "Production Networks of the Asian Automobile Industry: Regional or Global?" Special issue on "Regionalization of the Asian Automotive Industries and Markets", *International Journal of Automotive Technology and Management*, Vol. 18(4), p 302-328. DOI: 10.1504/IJATM.2018.097346



Indonesia

MANDARIN FEVER AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION IN INDONESIA

Associate Professor **Chang-Yau Hoon** has published a new article on multiculturalism in Indonesia entitled, “The Politics of Mandarin Fever in Contemporary Indonesia: Resinicization, Economic Impetus, and China’s Soft Power”.

The political events of May 1998 that forced Suharto to step down opened up a new space for the public articulation of Chinese identity, which was previously prohibited

under Suharto’s assimilation policy. Following the decrees that lifted the ban on Chinese language, Mandarin classes experienced an unprecedented boom in Indonesia. Some Chinese Indonesians who have lost almost all of their affinity with their Chinese origin are beginning to re-discover their ‘Chineseness’ and voluntarily identify with their Chinese ‘roots’ – an act sometimes described as ‘resinicization’.

In a recently published article, Associate Professor Chang-Yau Hoon of IAS and his co-author, Dr. Esther Kuntjara, reflect on this phenomenon in the geopolitical context of the economic rise of China and its promotion of soft power, as well as the market forces that reward Mandarin competency in contemporary Indonesia.

Chang-Yau Hoon and Esther Kuntjara, 2019, "The Politics of Mandarin Fever in Contemporary Indonesia: Resinicization, Economic Impetus, and China's Soft Power", *Asian Survey*, 59(3): 573-594. DOI: 10.1504/IJATM.2018.097346

NATIONAL IMAGINARY, ETHNIC PLURALITY, AND STATE FORMATION IN INDONESIA

Associate Professor Paul J. Carnegie published a new chapter on "National Imaginary, Ethnic Plurality, and State Formation in Indonesia" in *The Palgrave Handbook of Ethnicity*. The chapter examines the range of ways the nationalist leaders of the fledging republic narrated and structured the nation-state to hold contested social imaginaries and ethnic identities together. It considers the implications of the ways in which the nationalist leaders in the postcolonial period (1945–1998) forged not just a material state but a nation of the mind. This chapter appears with 14 others in a section on Ethno-nationalism and Power that Dr. Carnegie edited for this 3-volume work.

Carnegie P.J. (2019) National Imaginary, Ethnic Plurality, and State Formation in Indonesia. In: Ratuva S. (eds.) *The Palgrave Handbook of Ethnicity*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore, pp. 791-807. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-2898-5_165



Vietnam

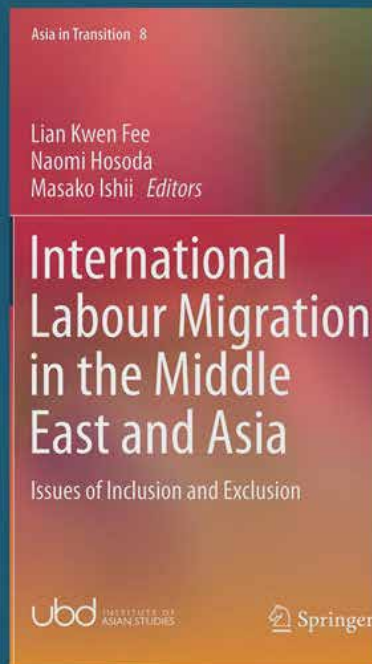
A NEW VERSION OF VIETNAMESE PREHISTORY

Associate Professor Liam C. Kelley has recently published an article entitled “The Centrality of ‘Fringe History’: Diaspora, The Internet and a New Version of Vietnamese Prehistory.”

In this article Professor Kelley examines how Vietnamese in the diaspora created a new narrative of Vietnamese prehistory that claims a central role for the ancestors of

the Vietnamese in establishing the foundations of Asian civilization, and how this new narrative traveled across the Internet to Vietnam where its ideas, although unfounded, are increasingly being accepted. The paper is thus an examination of how knowledge about the past is being constructed in new ways in the digital age.

Kelley, Liam C. (2020). “The Centrality of ‘Fringe History’: Diaspora, The Internet and a New Version of Vietnamese Prehistory”, *International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*, 16 (1): 71–104.



NEW VOLUME IAS/SPRING BOOK SERIES

IAS maintains a book series with academic publisher Springer called “Asia in Transition” that addresses the interplay of local, national, regional and global influences in Southeast, South and East Asia, through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The latest volume in this series has recently been published: *International*

Labour Migration in the Middle East and Asia: Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion, edited by **Lian Kwen Fee** (IAS), Hosoda Naomi and Ishii Masako.

The discourse on migration outcomes in the West has largely been dominated by issues of integration, but it is more relevant to view immigration in non-western societies in relation to practices of exclusion and inclusion.

Exclusion refers to a situation in which individuals and groups are usually denied access to the goods, services, activities and resources associated with citizenship. However, this approach has been criticized in relation to gender issues, which are very relevant to the situation of migrants.

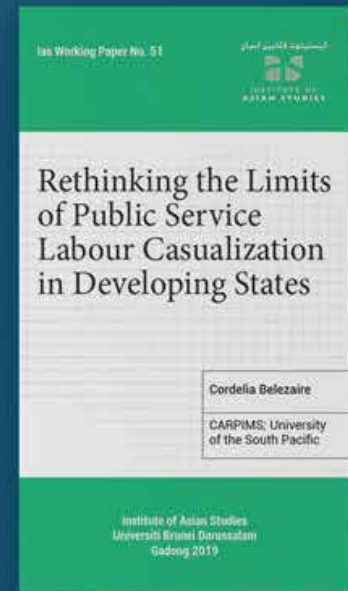
The authors in this volume address this criticism. Furthermore, when framed within a North-South discourse, it may be potentially ethnocentric to assume that the experience of exclusion is cross-culturally uniform. Indeed, work on migration issues has invariably been conducted within such a discourse.

The contributors to this volume go beyond this binary discourse of 'exclusion and inclusion' which has dominated migration research.

They examine the situation of migrants in the Middle East and Asia as one that encompasses both exclusion and inclusion, addressing related concepts of empowerment, ethnocracy, the feminisation of migration and gendered geographies of power, liberal constraint and multiculturalism, individual agency, migrant-friendly discourses, spaces of emancipation and spaces of insecurity.

The book highlights current research in the Arab Gulf states, and examines multiculturalism in Asia more broadly. It will be of particular interest to students and researchers in international labour migration studies in the Middle East and Asia.

If you have a scholarly work or an edited volume that you would like to submit to the IAS – Springer “Asia in Transition” books series, please feel free to contact Editor-in-chief Bruno Jetin (bruno.jetin@ubd.edu.bn).



WORKING PAPER SERIES CELEBRATES MILESTONE

The IAS Working Paper Series recently celebrated the publication of its 50th Working Paper. Started back in 2012 as an online publication resource for open-access dissemination of topical peer-reviewed research papers, the Series has since grown into a key component of the Institute's profile locally and internationally. It has had the privilege of showcasing the work of leading scholars at UBD and in the region as well as providing a publication platform for early career researchers and talented students alike.

The editors of the IAS Working Paper Series invite submissions for consideration:

Professor Lian Kwen Fee (kwenfee.lian@ubd.edu.bn)

Associate Professor Paul J. Carnegie (paul.carnegie@ubd.edu.bn)

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES

Since 2012, IAS has organized a regular Wednesday Seminar series to highlight the work of IAS staff, UBD professors, as well as visitors to the University.

Recent speakers have included Stephen C. Druce (ABS), Micheal Feener (Oxford), Victor T. King (IAS), Phan Le Ha (SHIBIE), Lian Kwen-Fee

(IAS), Johannes Kurz (FASS), Bruno Jetin (IAS), F. Merlin Franco (IAS) and Iftekhar Iqbal (FASS), and their talks have covered a wide range of topics, from economic conditions in China, to biodiversity in open markets in Brunei, to the internationalization of education in universities in Asia, to Islamic perceptions of the past in Southeast Asia.












VIDEO INTERVIEWS

The Institute of Asian Studies has an initiative to create video interviews with leading experts on Asian societies from various disciplines (economics, sociology, education, anthropology, history) and to share those videos publicly on the IAS website.

Recent videos include Dr. Johannes Kurz (FASS, UBD) on Brunei in Chinese historical sources, Dr. Phan

Le Ha (SHBIE) on issues in higher education in Asia, Dr. Bruno Jetin (IAS) on the Belt and Road Initiative, Dr. F. Merlin Franco (IAS) on the ecological knowledge of the Iban, Dr. Jérôme Samuel (INALCO) on the mutual intelligibility of Malaysian and Indonesian languages, Dr. Victor T. King (IAS) on tourism in Southeast Asia, and Dr. Rui Oliveira Lopes (FASS, UDB) on Asia in European visual culture.

		
<p>Interview on Brunei in Chinese Historical Sources, the...</p>	<p>Dr. Rui Lopes on Asia in European Visual Culture, and...</p>	<p>New Study on Hornbills in Brunei</p>
		
<p>Phan Le Ha on Higher Education, English, and the Idea of 'the...</p>	<p>IAS Seminar - Jérôme Samuel on the Mutual Intelligibility...</p>	<p>The Pioneers of Southeast Asian Studies</p>
		
<p>Bruno Jetin on the Belt and Road Initiative (Part 2)</p>	<p>Ooi Keat Gin on World War II and Cold War Borneo Scholarship</p>	<p>Bruno Jetin on the Belt and Road Initiative and Social Science...</p>

IAS STAFF NEWS

Associate Professor and Director of IAS **Bruno Jetin** presented a paper at the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) conference in Leiden, the Netherlands, 16-19 July 2019.

Professor **Victor T. King** has been honored with a book that has been published in recognition of his contributions to the field of Southeast Asian Studies. The book is entitled *Borneo and Sulawesi: Indigenous Peoples, Empires and Area Studies* (Routledge, 2019) and is edited and contains chapters by some of Dr. King's former PhD students.

Professor King also delivered an address in a keynote forum at the International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities (ICOSH); Integrating the Culture and Civilization of the Nusantara, organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) at the Parkcity Everly Hotel, Bintulu, Sarawak, 8-9 October 2019.

Professor King has also been

appointed Editor-in-chief of the journal, *Suvannabhumi: Multi-disciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*.

Assistant Professor and Deputy Director of IAS **F. Merlin Franco** was featured in the Brunei News in an article about Dr. Merlin's recent research on hornbills and the ecological knowledge of the Ibans in Brunei.

Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** co-organized an international conference in Leiden, the Netherlands in July 2019 with Senior Professor Phan Le Ha (SHBIE) called Engaging With Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue. This was the 11th time that Kelley and Phan have organized this conference.

Dr. Kelley has been appointed co-editor of the journal *China and Asia: A Journal in Historical Studies* (CAHS).

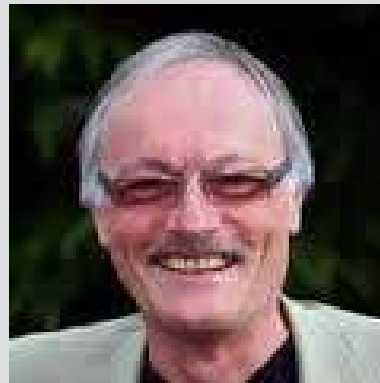


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Lian Kwen-Fee
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Liam C. Kelley
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