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The Newsletter of the Institute of Asian Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam

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INSTITUTE OF
ASIAN STUDIES

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December 2022





NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Having recently been appointed Director of the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) this past July 2022, this is my first newsletter message.

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and thank my predecessor, Associate Professor Dr. Bruno Jetin, for his four years' of service. Under his directorship, IAS expanded its staff and activities and also navigated through a pandemic. As an institute, we are thriving in no small part due to his considerable contributions.

The IAS staff members remain very active, and their work contributes to the vibrancy of the Institute as well. As will be clear in the pages that follow, IAS staff members have been actively publishing their research and participating in academic conferences and forums, both in Brunei and internationally, all while maintaining regular teaching and supervising duties.

One clear sign of the Institute's productivity is a milestone that we are reaching this December, the publication

of the 20th volume in the IAS/Springer "Asia in Transition" book series.

Professor Lian Kwen Fee has written a report for this newsletter which summarizes the history of the Asia in Transition series, one of the key achievements of the Institute as we celebrate the 10th year Anniversary of IAS.

In addition to publishing the Asia in Transition book series, the Institute also regularly publishes working papers, and in this newsletter we highlight the latest three additions to that dynamic series.

Now that most pandemic restrictions have been lifted, we are again able to hold in-person events. Our Wednesday Seminar Series has therefore transitioned back to in-person meetings, and it has been nice to see engaging in-person discussions following seminar presentations.

Additionally, we were pleased to co-host with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences a joint seminar featuring Eminent Visiting Professor Jonathan Rigg of the University of Bristol, and we were likewise pleased to welcome Distinguished Professor Victor T. King back to the Institute for seminars and work on on-going projects.

Last but not least, the Institute is very pleased to welcome three new staff members: Dr. Lee Cheuk Yin, Dr. Koh Sin Yee, and Dr. Sanjeev Routray. Their bios are featured in this newsletter and we look forward to working productively together in the years ahead.

As we enter the year 2023, I would like to wish you success and a good year ahead.

**Dk Dr. Noor Hasharina
Pg Hj Hassan**

Senior Assistant Professor,
Director of IAS



STUDYING URBAN BRUNEI

IAS Director **Dk Dr. Noor Hasharina Pg Hj Hassan** together with a group of colleagues has recently published an article on the geography of poverty in Kampong Ayer, Brunei Darussalam, entitled **“Making Do and Staying Poor: The Poverty Context of Urban Brunei.”**

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.

Noor Hasharina Hassan, Jonathan Rigg, Izni A. Azalie, Gabriel Y. V. Yong, Nurul Hazirah Haji Zainuddin, Mohammad Addy Shahril Muhammad Shamsul (2022). Making Do and Staying Poor: The Poverty Context of Urban Brunei. *Geoforum* 136: 132-141. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2022.09.012>

KEDAYAN ECOLOGICAL CALENDAR

Senior Assistant Professor **F. Merlin Franco** has published a co-authored article with Nurzahidah Bakar on **“The Fading Popularity of a Local Ecological Calendar from Brunei Darussalam, Borneo”** in the *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*.

Local ecological calendars are ecocultural frameworks that link temporal and spatial scales, contributing to resilience and adaptive management of natural resources and landscapes. They also facilitate management, access and withdrawal of provisioning ecosystem services.

In this article, the authors describe how the ecological calendar of the Kedayan people of Brunei Darussalam links skyscape and biodiversity with sociocultural aspirations to foster adaptive management of landscape, and provide an understanding of the transmission of calendric knowledge in the community.

The authors collaborated with sixteen purposively sampled knowledge keepers from the Kedayan community of Brunei Darussalam to document the Kedayan local ecological calendar, and develop a calendrical pictogram. Using a structured questionnaire, they then interviewed 107 randomly selected community members, to understand the contemporary relevance and popularity of the Kedayan calendar, and the transmission of calendric knowledge in the community.

The findings of this study reveal that very few of the respondents were aware of the ecological calendar. The authors argue that the calendric pictogram could help the community in revitalizing their calendar. However, the community will have to invest in enhancing transmission of calendric knowledge.

Bakar, N., **Franco, F.** (2022). The fading popularity of a local ecological calendar from Brunei Darussalam, Borneo. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 18(33). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13002-022-00525-9>



ARBITRATION

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** has recently published two new articles on arbitration.

The first, entitled **“Developing Brunei Darussalam as an ASEAN Hub for International Islamic Finance Dispute Resolution: Opportunity or Over-ambition?”** examines the international dispute resolution industry in Brunei in comparison with those in Malaysia and Singapore. The article argues that while international dispute resolution is not as developed in Brunei as in those other

countries, there is potential to develop niche expertise in this industry.

Meanwhile, in a co-authored second article, entitled **“Declining Professional Diversity in International Arbitration,”** Dr. Teramura and his co-authors discuss the issue of the decline in involvement and influence of full-time academics and especially other non-lawyer practitioners (NLPs) in international arbitration and the ramifications of this issue.

Nobumichi Teramura (2022). “Developing Brunei Darussalam as an ASEAN Hub for International Islamic Finance Dispute Resolution: Opportunity or Over-ambition?” *SMU ASEAN Perspectives* 1(3).

Nobumichi Teramura, Luke Nottage and James Tanna (2022). “Declining Professional Diversity in International Arbitration.” *ACICA Review* (June 31).

MIGRATION AND URBAN ISSUES IN MALAYSIA

Senior Assistant Professor **Koh Sin Yee** has recently published three new works.

The first is an article in a special issue of *Urban Studies*. The article, **“The Interurban Migration Industry: ‘Migration Products’ and the Materialisation of Urban Speculation at Iskandar Malaysia,”** highlights the need to analyse speculative urbanism and transnational investment/lifestyle migration as intertwined processes.

The second is an article in another special issue of *Urban Studies*. The article, **“The Inversion of Majority/Minority at the De/Reterritorialised Urban Higher Education Enclave: Xiamen University Malaysia,”**

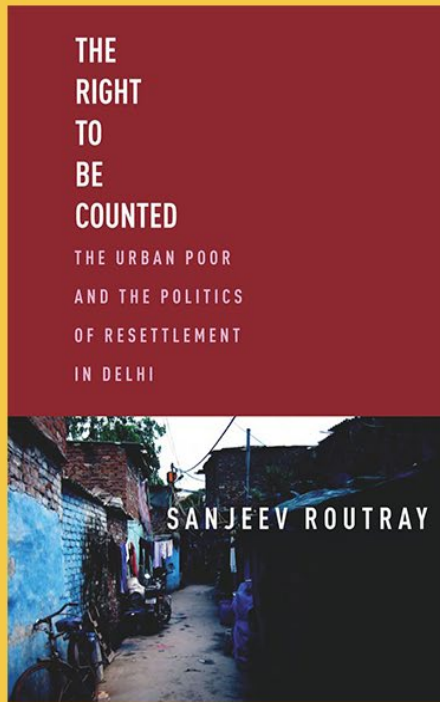
examines the inversion of majority/minority at an offshore campus and the catalyst development of a satellite township in Sepang, Selangor, Malaysia.

The third is an entry to the MoLab Inventory of Mobilities and Socioeconomic Changes (hosted by the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology), co-authored with Nirmala Prabhakar. The entry, **“Contesting Reproduction Migration: Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Controversies During the COVID-19 Pandemic,”** illustrates how different stakeholder groups are rethinking lifestyle migration as a form of reproduction migration.

Koh, S. Y. (2022). The Interurban Migration Industry: ‘Migration Products’ and the Materialisation of Urban Speculation at Iskandar Malaysia. *Urban Studies*, 59(11), 2199–2216. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098021992219>

Koh, S. Y. (2022). The Inversion of Majority/Minority at the De/Reterritorialised Urban Higher Education Enclave: Xiamen University Malaysia. *Urban Studies*, 59(16). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00420980221109135>

Koh, S. Y. and Nirmala Arath Prabhakar (2022). Contesting Reproduction Migration: Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Controversies During the COVID-19 Pandemic. MoLab Inventory of Mobilities and Socioeconomic Changes. Department ‘Anthropology of Economic Experimentation’. Halle/Saale: Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. <https://doi.org/10.48509/MoLab.9800>



THE URBAN POOR AND RESETTLEMENT IN DELHI

Assistant Professor **Sanjeev Routray** has recently published a book with Stanford University Press entitled ***The Right to be Counted: The Urban Poor and the Politics of Resettlement in Delhi***.

In the last 30 years, Delhi, the capital of India, has displaced over 1.5 million poor people. Resettlement and welfare services are available—but exclusively so, as the city deems much of the population ineligible for civic benefits.

The Right to Be Counted examines how Delhi's urban poor, in an effort to gain visibility from the local state, incrementally stake their claims to a house and life in the city.

Contributing to debates about the contradictions of state governmentality

and the citizenship projects of the poor in Delhi, this book explores social suffering, logistics, and the logic of political mobilizations that emanate from processes of displacement and resettlement.

Sanjeev Routray draws upon fieldwork conducted in various low-income neighborhoods throughout the 2010s to describe the process of claims-making as an attempt by the political community of the poor to assert its existence and numerical strength, and demonstrates how this struggle to be counted constitutes the systematic, protracted, and incremental political process by which the poor claim their substantive entitlements and become entrenched in the city.

Analyzing various social, political, and economic relationships, as well as kinship networks and solidarity linkages across the political and social spectrum, this book traces the ways the poor work

to gain a foothold in Delhi and establish agency for themselves.

Routray, S. (2022). *The Right to be Counted: The Urban Poor and the Politics of Resettlement in Delhi*. California: Stanford University Press. <https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=34165>

Southeast Asia

REVISITING HISTORICAL SOURCES

Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** has published a new article on Southeast Asian history.

Entitled “**Rescuing History from Srivijaya: The Fall of Angkor in the Ming Shilu,**” this is the first part of a two-part article that revisits the historical sources for the premodern polity of Srivijaya.

This first article examines Chinese-language sources, while the second part will also look at materials in Thai and Khmer.

Taken together, the two parts of this article argue that some key historical sources that have been employed to write about the history of Srivijaya are actually about the Cambodian polity of Angkor.

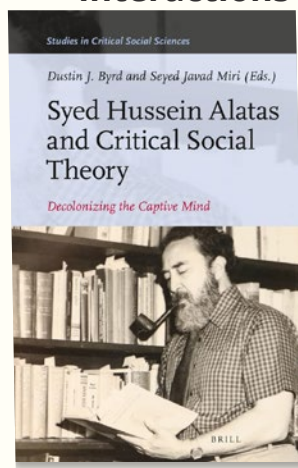
In making this argument, this article demonstrates multiple instances in which previous scholars have misread and/or misunderstood various historical sources.

Liam C. Kelley (2022). “Rescuing History from Srivijaya: The Fall of Angkor in the Ming Shilu (Part 1).” *China and Asia: A Journal in Historical Studies* 4(1): 38-91. <https://doi.org/10.1163/2589465X-04010003>

RECOGNIZING SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Distinguished Professor of Borneo Studies **Victor T. King** has recently published a series of works that both revisit and honor the work of key scholars in the fields of Borneo and Southeast Asian Studies.

In a book chapter entitled **“East-West Interactions and Complexities: Syed Hussein Alatas, Willem Wertheim and Edward Said,”**



Professor King examines the work of Malaysian sociologist the late Syed Hussein Alatas and the issue of the relations between Western and non-Western social science.

In another book chapter, entitled **“Revisiting Social Organisation and**

Identity in Borneo,” Professor King re-examines one of the early writings of French anthropologist Bernard Sellato, “Social Organization in Borneo,” and comments on Dr. Sellato’s larger contribution to the field of Borneo studies.



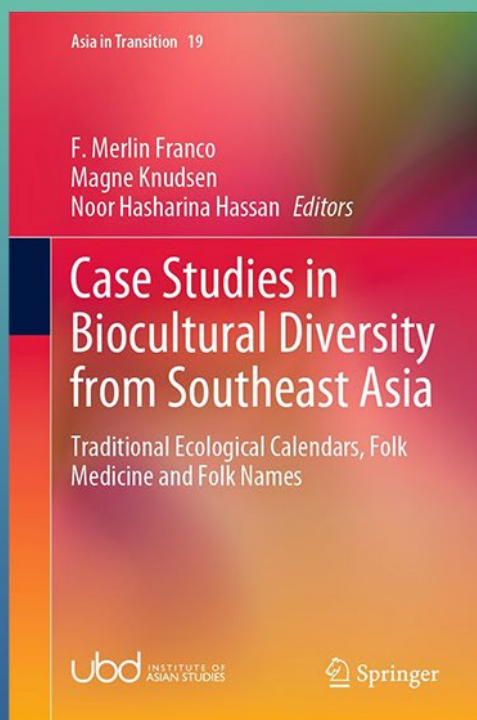
Finally, Professor King has also written tributes to two important scholars in the field of Southeast Asian Studies who have recently passed: Malaysian anthropologist Dr. Che Wan Ahmad Zawawi Ibrahim and American historian of the premodern Indonesian world Dr. Jan Wisseman Christie.

King, Victor T. (2022). “East-West Interactions and Complexities: Syed Hussein Alatas, Willem Wertheim and Edward Said.” In Dustin J. Byrd and Seyed Javad Miri, eds., *Syed Hussein Alatas and Critical Social Theory: Decolonizing the Captive Mind*, 420-454. Leiden: Brill.

King, Victor T. (2022). “Revisiting Social Organisation and Identity in Borneo.” In Pierre Le Roux, K. Alexander Adelaar and Bernard Moizo, eds., *Bornéo à Cœur. Hommage à Bernard Sellato: Argonaute de la forêt tropicale* [Borneo at Heart: A Tribute to Bernard Sellato, Anthropologist of the Tropical Rainforest]. Auxonne: Le Murmure, U-Limit, Sciences humaines en sociales.

King, Victor T. (2022). “Professor Dr Che Wan Ahmad Zawawi Ibrahim (1947-2022), Memories.” *Suvannabhumi. Multi-disciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 14(2): 5-14.

King, Victor T. (2022). “A Tribute to Jan Wisseman Christie (1947-2021).” *International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies* 18(2): 359-363.



BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Institute of Asian Studies is pleased to announce the publication of the 19th volume in the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” Series, **Case Studies in Biocultural Diversity from Southeast Asia: Traditional Ecological Calendars, Folk Medicine and Folk Names** edited by **F. Merlin Franco** (IAS), **Magne Knudsen** (FASS and IAS), and **Noor Hasharina Hassan** (IAS).

This book has been made open access through the generous support of Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Case Studies in Biocultural Diversity from Southeast Asia demonstrates the linkages between local languages, traditional knowledge, and biodiversity at the landscape level in Asia, providing

a fresh approach to discussions on Asia’s biocultural diversity.

The book carries forward earlier analyses but importantly focuses on “traditional ecological calendars,” “folk medicine,” and “folk names” in the context of the vital importance of maintaining biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity. It does this by addressing a range of cases and issues in relation to Southeast Asia: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and North-East India.

The several chapters demonstrate the ways in which the various forms of knowledge of the environment and its categorizations are important in areas such as landscape and resource management and conservation. They

also demonstrate that environmental knowledge and the practical skills which accompany it are not necessarily widely shared.

This book sends important messages to those who care about the sustainability of our environment, the maintenance of its biocultural diversity, or at least the maintenance of what remains of it because much has changed. This interdisciplinary collection draws from a wide range of disciplines and is of

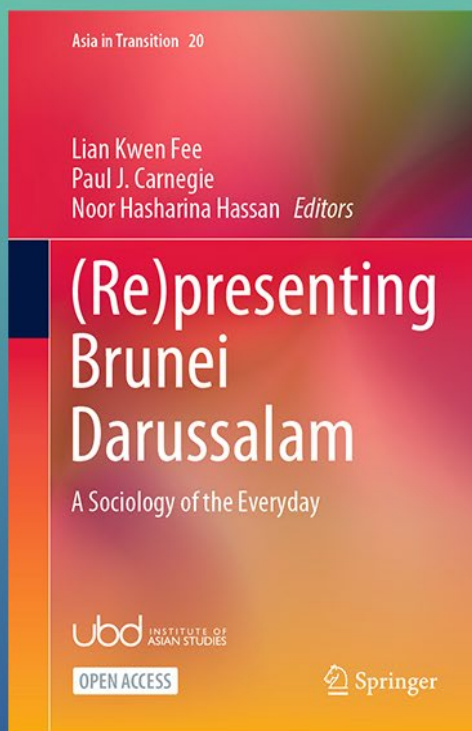
appeal to students and scholars in anthropology, environmental studies, geography, biodiversity, and linguistics.

To access the chapters in this volume, please visit the Springer/IAS “Asia in Transition” Series website:

[springer.com/series/13611](https://www.springer.com/series/13611)

F. Merlin Franco, Magne Knudsen, Noor Hasharina Hassan (eds.). 2022. *Case Studies in Biocultural Diversity from Southeast Asia: Traditional Ecological Calendars, Folk Medicine and Folk Names*. IAS/Springer Asia in Transition Series. Singapore: Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-6719-0>





(RE)PRESENTING BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The Institute of Asian Studies is pleased to announce the publication of the 20th volume in the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” Series, **(Re)presenting Brunei Darussalam: A Sociology of the Everyday** edited by **Lian Kwen Fee** (IAS), **Paul J. Carnegie** (IAS), and **Noor Hasharina Hassan** (IAS).

This thoughtful and wide-ranging open access volume explores the forces and issues shaping and defining contemporary identities and everyday life in Brunei Darussalam. It is a subject that until now has received comparatively limited attention from mainstream social scientists working on Southeast Asian societies.

The volume helps remedy that deficit by detailing the ways in which religion, gender, place, ethnicity, nation-state formation, migration and economic activity work their way into and reflect in the lives of ordinary Bruneians.

In a first of its kind, all the lead authors of the chapter contributions are local Bruneian scholars, and the editors skilfully bring the study of Brunei into the fold of the sociology of everyday life from multiple disciplinary directions. By engaging local scholars to document everyday concerns that matter to them, the volume presents a collage of distinct but interrelated case studies that have been previously undocumented or relatively underappreciated.

These interior portrayals render new angles of vision, scale and nuance to our understandings of Brunei often overlooked by mainstream inquiry. Each in its own way speaks to how structures and institutions express themselves through complex processes to influence the lives of inhabitants.

Academic scholars, university students and others interested in the study of contemporary Brunei Darussalam will

find this volume an invaluable resource for unravelling its diversity and textures. At the same time, it hopefully stimulates critical reflection on positionality, hierarchies of knowledge production, cultural diversity and the ways in which we approach the social science study of Brunei.

[springer.com/series/13611](https://www.springer.com/series/13611)

Lian Kwen Fee, Paul J. Carnegie, and Noor Hasharina Hassan,
(2022). *(Re)presenting Brunei Darussalam: A Sociology of the Everyday*.
IAS/Springer Asia in Transition Series. Singapore: Springer.

IAS/SPRINGER BOOK SERIES OPEN-ACCESS INITIATIVE

The Institute of Asian Studies is pleased to announce that thanks to the generous support of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” book series is set to publish 15 open-access volumes over the next five years.

The “Asia in Transition” series addresses the interplay of local, national, regional and global influences in Southeast,

South and East Asia and the processes of translation and exchange across boundaries and borders from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

For more information about the series, please visit the Springer website:

[springer.com/series/13611](https://www.springer.com/series/13611)

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).

20 VOLUMES OF “ASIA IN TRANSITION”

In a timely coincidence, the IAS-Springer **Asia in Transition** book series publishes its 20th title on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Asian Studies.

The book series, **Asia in Transition**, was initiated by Professor Tong Chee Kiong, the first Director of the Institute of Asian Studies, in conjunction with Springer in 2015. The series was dedicated to publishing works which address the interplay of local, national, regional and global influences in Southeast, South and East Asia and the processes of translation and exchange across boundaries

and borders, from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The first volume ***Multiculturalism, Migration, and the Politics of Identity in Singapore*** was published in 2016 and examines how multiculturalism as statecraft has

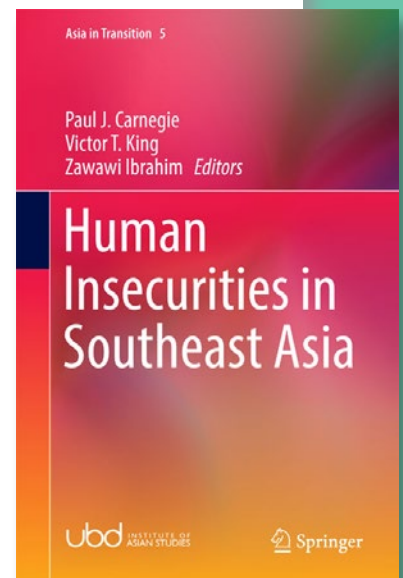
had intended and unintended consequences for the city-state's

major ethnic communities. Since then, a flurry of books appeared.

International Migration in Southeast Asia (2016) includes contributions of active migration scholars from a regional perspective; ***Human Insecurities in Southeast Asia*** (2016) locates the threats and impediments to 'human security' within relationships of risk, uncertainty, safety and trust; the 600-page ***Borneo Studies in History, Society and Culture*** (2017) is the first major review of what has been achieved in Borneo Studies then; and ***The Southeast Asian woman writes Back*** (2018) analyses gender, identity, and nation in postcolonial Southeast Asian literature.

The series has gone from strength to strength over the years and as its reputation has grown it has attracted proposals from a broad range of interests.

The publication of ***China English in World Englishes*** (2020) addresses



the pedagogic implication of China English and its use in the Chinese workplace, while **Contesting Chineseness** (2021) articulates a dialogic relationship

of Chineseness between China and Chinese diaspora. They both reflect the increasing significance of China for scholars in the region.

The Divergent Nation of Indonesia (2020) delivered an innovative exploration of how Indonesia is

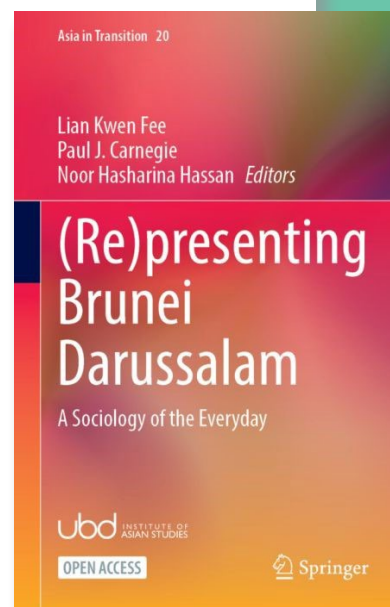
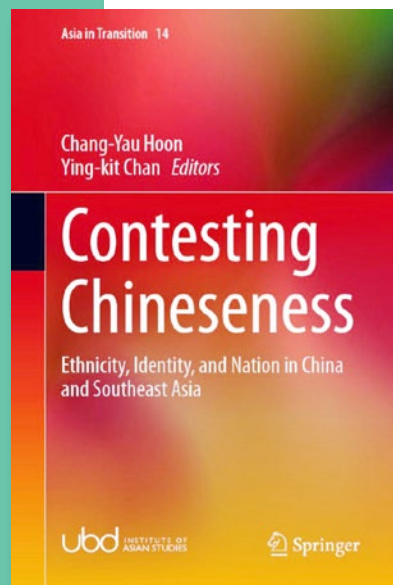
imagined heterogeneously by young people in the three cities of Jakarta, Kupang and Banda Aceh. In **Vietnam at the Vanguard** (2021), scholars discuss how the country positions itself in a globalized and internationalized world, touching on history, identity, mobilities, heritage, and education.

Fieldwork and the Self: Changing Research Styles in Southeast Asia (2021) was the result of a symposium hosted by UBD, giving researchers working in the region the opportunity to reflect on their personal relationships to the research terrain and their fieldwork.

Discourses, Agency and Identity in Malaysia (2021) brings together scholars to reflect on the incredible diversity of postcolonial and multicultural Malaysia so often silenced by the politics of race, contestation and confrontation.

Case Studies in Biocultural Diversity from Southeast Asia (2022) demonstrates the linkages between local languages, traditional knowledge, and biodiversity and it is the first volume to be published in open access.

In the latest book, **(Re)presenting Brunei Darussalam: A Sociology of the Everyday** (2022), all the lead authors are local Bruneian scholars who are engaged with and have intimate knowledge of the society and culture they write about. The contributions in this volume draw attention to how structures, institutions, and processes work their way into and reflect in the lives of ordinary people. They animate the ways in which religion, gender, place, ethnicity, nation-state formation,



migration, and economic activity operate through complex processes to influence the lives of inhabitants.

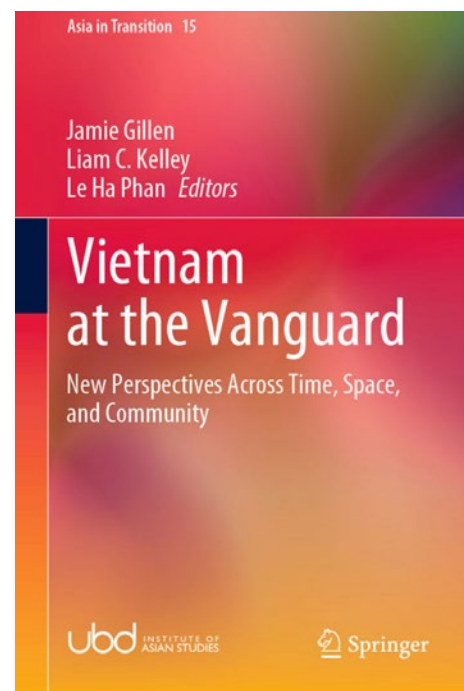
Between 2016 and 2022, IAS with Springer has produced 20 titles which are Scopus-indexed. Under the current Editor-in-Chief, Associate Professor Bruno Jetin, the last two years have produced a bumper harvest of 8 titles and the series is now open access with another projected 15 volumes in the next 5 years. He has also been responsible for negotiating with Springer to publish the series in open access.

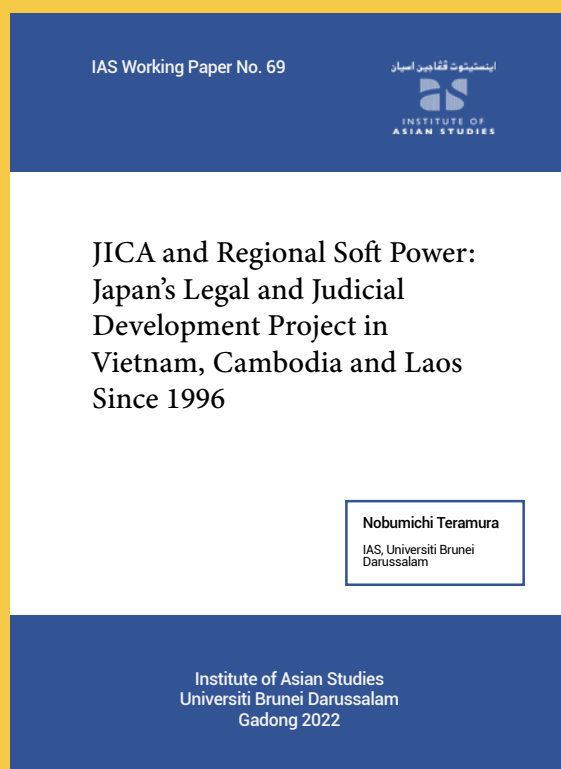
The international board of editors include well known scholars with a wide range of interest and expertise in the region such as

Professor Victor King, Professor Lian Kwen Fee, and Professor Jonathan D. Rigg. It also included the late Professor Wan Zawawi.

The success of the series is a reflection of both the openness and inclusivity of the editorial policy, the quality of the publications, and Springer's commitment to accessibility for interested readers.

Asia in Transition is now well established as a book series dedicated to advancing research and scholarship on Southeast Asia at the crossroad of South and East Asia, and it has contributed to raising the international profile of Universiti Brunei Darussalam in the social sciences and humanities.





IAS Working Paper 69: JICA and Regional Soft Power: Japan's Legal and Judicial Development Project in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos since 1996 by Nobumichi Teramura

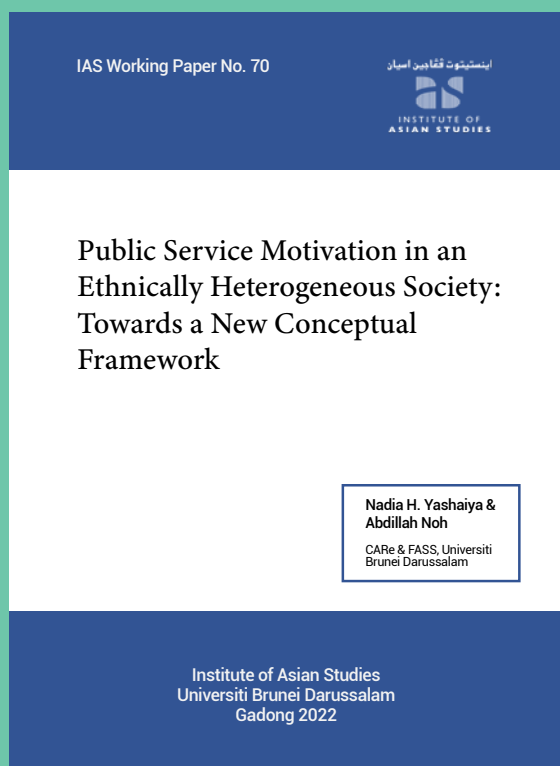
Due to geopolitical tensions, such as those brought about by COVID-19 and the US-China trade war, many multinationals have been closing factories in China and relocating to countries along the Mekong such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

While much has been written about these countries' laws, scant attention has been paid to a common feature in their development, the pervasive influence of Japanese private

law. Since 1996, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has played a major role in the modernization of law in the region.

This paper critically examines JICA's contribution to the rule of law in the region. It considers whether Japanese soft power (as manifested by JICA) complements or is at cross-purposes with projects of other organisations and initiatives (such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank).

It then evaluates the extent to which JICA's work is currently attuned to or has the potential to be made more responsive to the social and economic aspirations of the relevant countries.



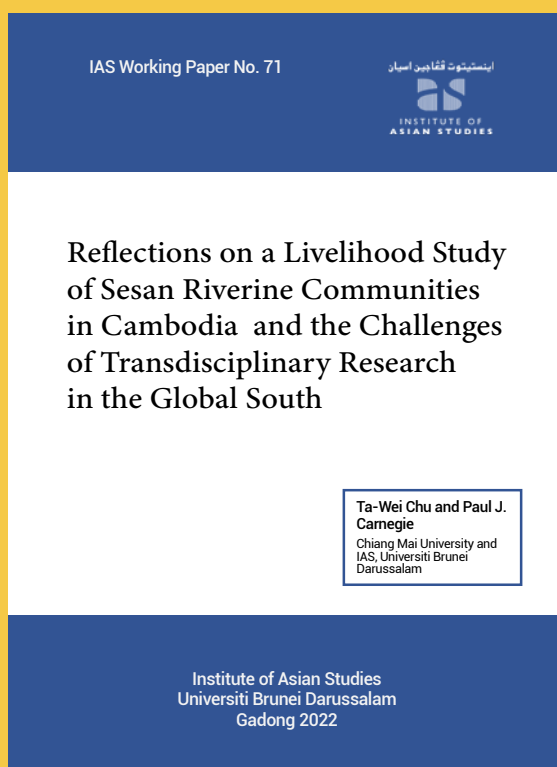
IAS Working Paper 70: Public Service Motivation in an Ethnically Heterogeneous Society: Towards a New Conceptual Framework by Nadia H. Yashaiya and Abdillah Noh

This exploratory study seeks to detail propositions and a conceptual framework that factor ethnic heterogeneity and exclusive institutions in determining public service motivation (PSM).

Drawing on scholarly work on PSM, heterogeneity and institutions, our paper 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 public service motivation, they are not the sole determinants.

As the paper highlights, 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 eliminate one's chances of joining the civil service.



**IAS Working Paper 71:
Reflections on a Livelihood
Study of Sesan Riverine
Communities in Cambodia
and the Challenges of
Transdisciplinary Research
in the Global South by Ta-Wei
Chu and Paul J. Carnegie**

This paper contends that a state's political-economic dynamics can have a key influence over the primary aims and rationale of conducting transdisciplinary projects in the Global South (TPGS).

By reflecting on fieldwork experiences in the study of dam-induced problems in northeast Cambodia, it problematises a

tendency to overstate the impact of methodological challenges such as language barriers, internet access or unexpected funding expenses on project efficacy.

Instead, the paper employs a social-conflict lens to detail the political-economic agency of actors and the preponderant influence this can bring to bear on the aims of a transdisciplinary project. In doing so, it foregrounds often-inimical and asymmetrical relationships that form among various non-academic stakeholders during a TPGS to significantly shape project outcomes.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

Two distinguished professors visited Universiti Brunei Darussalam this fall semester and gave lectures.

On 26 October 2022, the Institute of Asian Studies co-hosted a seminar with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam featuring Eminent Visiting Professor **Jonathan Rigg** of the University of Bristol.

In his talk, entitled **“Planet, People and Prosperity in an Era of Climate Change: A Case for the Social Sciences,”** Professor Rigg encouraged the development a new kind of climate science, one that is characterised by

deep interdisciplinarity and public engagement.

Then on 9 November 2022, Distinguished Professor **Victor T. King** of the Institute of Asian Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam presented the inaugural lecture in the Academy of Brunei Studies Distinguished Lecture Series.

Entitled **“Making the Malay World: Region-Formation in Interdisciplinary Perspective,”** the talk was a reflection on Borneo and Borneo Studies in the Malay World.



WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES

The **Wednesday Seminar Series** that IAS has hosted since 2012 has continued with the following seminars:

Lian Kwen Fee (IAS) and **Muhammad Arafat bin Mohamad** (FASS, UBD), "Why Do Cultural Boundaries Matter: Reflections on the Dusun of Brunei and the Patani Malays of Mecca."

Nobumichi Teramura (IAS), "Exporting Japanese Legal Ideas to the Mekong Subregion of ASEAN."

Liam C. Kelley (IAS), "Reconceptualizing Southeast Asian

History: The Under-recognized Role of the Malay Peninsula, 600-1400."

Koh Sin Yee (IAS), Sirijit Sunanta (Mahidol University), Mayumi Ono (Notre Dame Seishin University), and Anindita Majumdar (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad), "Interdisciplinary Dialogues on Migration Mobilities in Asia – Dialogue #1 Lifestyle Migration."

Victor T. King (IAS) and **Ooi Keat Gin** (APB), "Southeast Asian Studies: Pioneers and Critical Thinkers."





VIETNAM CONFERENCE

Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** together with IAS Research Associate, Senior Professor **Phan Le Ha** of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE) at UBD recently organized a series of events in Vietnam.

With the generous support of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City (USSH, VNU, HCMC), Dr. Phan and Dr. Kelley organized the 13th **Engaging With Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue** (EWV) conference. This is an annual interdisciplinary conference that professors Phan and Kelley have been organizing since 2010 (engagingwithvietnam.org).

The conference was proceeded by a workshop on publishing that was held for

USSH staff. This workshop was organized by EWV and the Centre for Research in Education and Social Inclusion (CRESI) at the University of South Australia (UniSA). It also featured a session with a representative from Springer.

The conference was also proceeded by a visit to the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH), where conference participants were introduced to the university and some of its key programs, and where Dr. Kelley gave a presentation on "Instagrammable Culture, Tourism, and Universities in the 21st Century."

In addition, HUTECH also organized a community engagement trip to Tra Vinh Province in the Mekong Delta for the final two days of the conference.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Dr. Lee Cheuk Yin is Senior Professor of East Asian Studies at IAS. A former Swire Scholar and Commonwealth Scholar, his research interests include Chinese intellectual history, Chinese culture, East-Asian Confucianism, and Chinese beliefs and customs, and he has published extensively on those topics. Dr. Lee previously served as Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Director of the Centre for Research in Chinese Studies, and Head of the Department of Chinese Studies, at the National University of Singapore.



Dr. Koh Sin Yee is Senior Assistant Professor in Asian Migration, Mobility and Diaspora at IAS as well as Deputy Director. She is a human geographer with 8+ years postdoctoral experience in leading universities in Hong Kong, Brunei, and Malaysia. Her work is positioned in migration studies, urban studies and postcolonial geography. It uses the lens of migration and mobility to understand the circulations of people, capital, and aspirations in and through cities.



Dr. Sanjeev Routray is Assistant Professor of Asian Migration, Mobility and Diaspora. His areas of expertise include urban poverty, political and legal mobilizations, transregional migration, and caste and labor market negotiations. His recently published monograph is featured above. Dr. Routray has received fellowships from the Urban Studies Foundation (UK), The Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies (UK), Zeit-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius Foundation (Germany), and International Development Research Centre (Canada) for his research.

FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENTS



Zhao Kaili is a PhD candidate. She is currently also a part-time research assistant at the Brunei Research Center at the College of ASEAN Studies, Guangxi Minzu University, China. Her research focuses on the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese FDI in ASEAN, and Chinese communities in Brunei Darussalam.

Duong Van Bien is a PhD candidate. He is also a researcher (on leave) at the Institute for Religious Studies (IRS) of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS). For his dissertation, he is examining the topic of the transformation of spiritual practices in Vietnam, particularly the localization of Marian devotion.



Lengga Pradipta is a PhD candidate. Previously, she was a researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). Pradipta's PhD research examines indigenous women in Kalimantan, Indonesia and their engagement with palm oil plantations as informal laborers.

Napak Serirak is a PhD candidate. He was formerly a lecturer in Sociology and Anthropology at the Prince of Songkla University, Pattani, Thailand. His PhD research focuses on environmental conservation in Brunei and is situated at the juncture between environmental history and political ecology.



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IAS STAFF NEWS

Assistant Professor **Lisa Arensen** conducted fieldwork in Phnom Kulen National Park in Siem Reap, Cambodia as part of a project to produce an ethnography of a localized history of watershed control and land use in this national park.

Dr. Arensen has also helped facilitate the Fall 2022 LuceSEA Webinar Series, Southeast Asia in Transition: Discussing Development. This is a four-session series with 16 speakers and 4 moderators, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation and hosted by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii and Michigan State University.

Associate Professor **Paul J. Carnegie** presented a paper on “Decoding Everyday Human Insecurities in Southeast Asia” at the 13th Asian Social Science Conference, 2-4 June 2022, Tokyo, Japan.

Dr. Carnegie was also a recent online attendee for Hedayah’s side-event on “Rehabilitation and Reintegration: Good Practices and Key Successes” at the 77th UN General Assembly, New York.

IAS Director Senior Assistant Professor Dr. **Hasharina Hassan** presented a paper on “Sustainable Future: Brunei Darussalam and the Belt and Road Initiative” at the 8th China-South and Southeast Asian Think-tank Forum on Deepen Practical Cooperation and Pursuing Innovative Development - Building a Community of Shared Future between China-South and Southeast Asia on 18-21 November 2022, Kunming, China.

Associate Professor **Chang-Yau Hoon** was an invited plenary speaker for a session on “The Central Role of Compassion in Interfaith Relations” at the International Interfaith Peace Conference, Kuala Lumpur, 24-25 June 2022.

Dr. Chang-Yau Hoon was also an invited keynote speaker at the 7th Conference on Language in the Online and Offline World, Petra Christian University, Indonesia, 4 June 2022. His talk was entitled “Speech and Silence: Online Teaching During the Pandemic.”

Dr. Hoon was also an invited speaker at the Changemakers Forum hosted by the Bank Islamic Brunei Darussalam, 18 May 2022, where his presentation was entitled “Roles and Purposes of the Education Industry in the time of Change.”

Associate Professor **Bruno Jetin** presented a paper on “Electric Batteries and Critical Materials: a Geopolitical Analysis” at the 30th GERPISA International Conference on “The Auto Industry Entering a Post-Pandemic World,” 13-17 June 2022, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** presented an invited talk at Fulbright University Vietnam on “The Lost History of the Mekong Delta,” 27 June 2022. He then presented this talk in Vietnamese for a public online forum in Vietnam called Midnight Talks on 24 September 2022.

Senior Assistant Professor **Koh Sin Yee** is co-applicant in a successful six-year grant awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The project, “Complex Migration Flows and Multiple Drivers in Comparative Perspective (MEMO)” is led by Professor Anna Triandafyllidou, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration at Toronto Metropolitan University. The MEMO Partnership brings together 38 academics and 32 partner organisations to investigate refugee and migrant journeys in three migration systems across three continents (Central America, South/Southeast Asia, and Western Africa).

Assistant Professor **Sanjeev Routray** participated in two online book talks and discussions for his new book, *The Right to Be Counted: The Urban Poor and the Politics of Resettlement in Delhi* (Stanford UP: 2022), one on 19 September 2022 at Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad and one on 23 September 2022 at the Space for Engagement and Epistemic Diversity (SEED), Informal Urbanism Research Hub, University of Melbourne.

Dr. Routray also discussed his new book virtually for the Urban Workshop (no. 152) held by the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH) and Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in New Delhi on 30 August 2022.

Finally, **Dr. Routray** also presented a paper on “Who is a Construction Worker? Bureaucratic Arbitrariness, Entrepreneurial Unions, and Performances of Eligibility at the BOCWs Boards” at the Development Studies Association Online Conference at University College London, 6-8 July 2022.

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** presented a paper on “Exporting Japanese Legal Ideas to the Mekong Subregion of ASEAN” at Comparing and Transferring Law and Legal Expertise. The Role of Japan: Symposium in Honour of Harald Baum’s 70th Birthday at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany (1-3 September 2022).

Dr. Nobumichi Teramura presented another paper on “Developing Diversity within Diversity Discourse: Remembering Non-Lawyers in Arbitration, in Asia and Beyond” at the 19th ASLI Asian Law Conference at the University of Tokyo (29 May 2022).

Dr. Teramura also volunteered as a facilitator in the “World Cafe Event - Past, Present, Future: Rethinking Dispute Resolution in Brunei Darussalam” hosted by the Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre (BDAC) on 22 October 2022.

IAS STAFF



Dk. Dr. Noor Hasharina bte Pg. Haji Hassan

Senior Assistant Professor, Director



Koh Sin Yee

Senior Assistant Professor, Deputy Director



Lisa Arensen
Assistant Professor



Paul J. Carnegie
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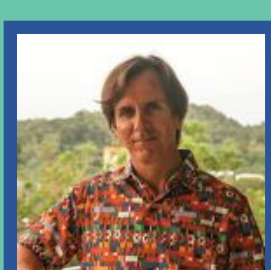
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