

iASIA

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

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INSTITUTE OF
ASIAN STUDIES

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Brunei
Darussalam

April 2024





NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The second half of 2023 proved to be as productive as ever for the Institute of Asian Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

IAS staff continued to produce cutting-edge research and to participate in international conferences and workshops, while the Institute's publication initiatives, its Working Paper series and the Asia in Transition book series, likewise continued to produce new works.

This research output, activities, and publications are all documented in this newsletter.

While the productive work of the Institute therefore is proceeding as usual, there are certain changes that are taking place in the larger world of higher education that IAS is also responding to.

In recent years, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become an important benchmark for university curricula and research, as SDGs provide a framework for

universities to direct their research efforts towards addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

By focusing on sustainability-related research, universities contribute to finding innovative solutions that support the SDGs. This research often leads to partnerships with other institutions, governments, and industries.

For more than a decade since its establishment in 2012, IAS staff members have engaged in such research, and aligning the Institute's work with this new benchmark is therefore a rather straightforward process, however the Institute is consciously making that effort.

Indeed, in reviewing the work of the Institute over the past decade, we find that almost all of the SDGs have been addressed, including the following:

SDG 1 - No Poverty or "Lack"; SDG 4 - Quality Education; SDG 5 - Gender Equality; SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13 - Climate Action; SDG 14 - Life Below Water; SDG 15 - Life on Land; SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals.

Moving forward, we fully anticipate that IAS will continue to address these pressing issues.

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

Senior Assistant Professor,
Director of IAS



THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF KAMPONG AYER

Kampong Ayer is a paradox and a challenge to urban planners and to the government. It is often presented as central to Brunei's history and identity, for instance, in the Wawasan [Vision] 2035 and Bandar Seri Begawan Masterplan 2035.

At the same time, there is the recognition that Kampong Ayer is out of tune with the demands of modern living, as planners wonder whether it can be saved as economic, societal and environmental factors combine to thwart attempts at reinvigoration.

In that context, **IAS Director Dk Dr Noor Hasharina binti Pg Hj Hassan** has recently co-led a UBD-funded research project on **"Sustainable Future of Kampong Ayer in an era of Climate Change."**

At the core of this study is the aim to critically examine and assess the sustainability of Kampong Ayer in

economic and social terms and, with input from settlement's residents, to contemplate what the future might hold for Kampong Ayer especially in a time of climate change.

The project adopted a multi-method approach, mainly including qualitative methods.

A participatory planning activity was designed to engage residents of Kampong Ayer and gather their views and knowledge of the challenges they face, and how the settlement might be improved and revitalized.

One-to-one interviews with both residents of Kampong Ayer and key informants, including local leaders and officials, were employed to gain insights on the sense of place, experiences and movement patterns of residents within and beyond Kampong Ayer.

Finally, a mapping of different economic resources and hazards areas in

Kampong Ayer was carried out based on the local knowledge shared during the participatory planning activities.

The other main members of the research team for this project are **Professor Jonathan Rigg** (University of Bristol) and **Gabriel Y. V. Yong** (FASS, UBD).

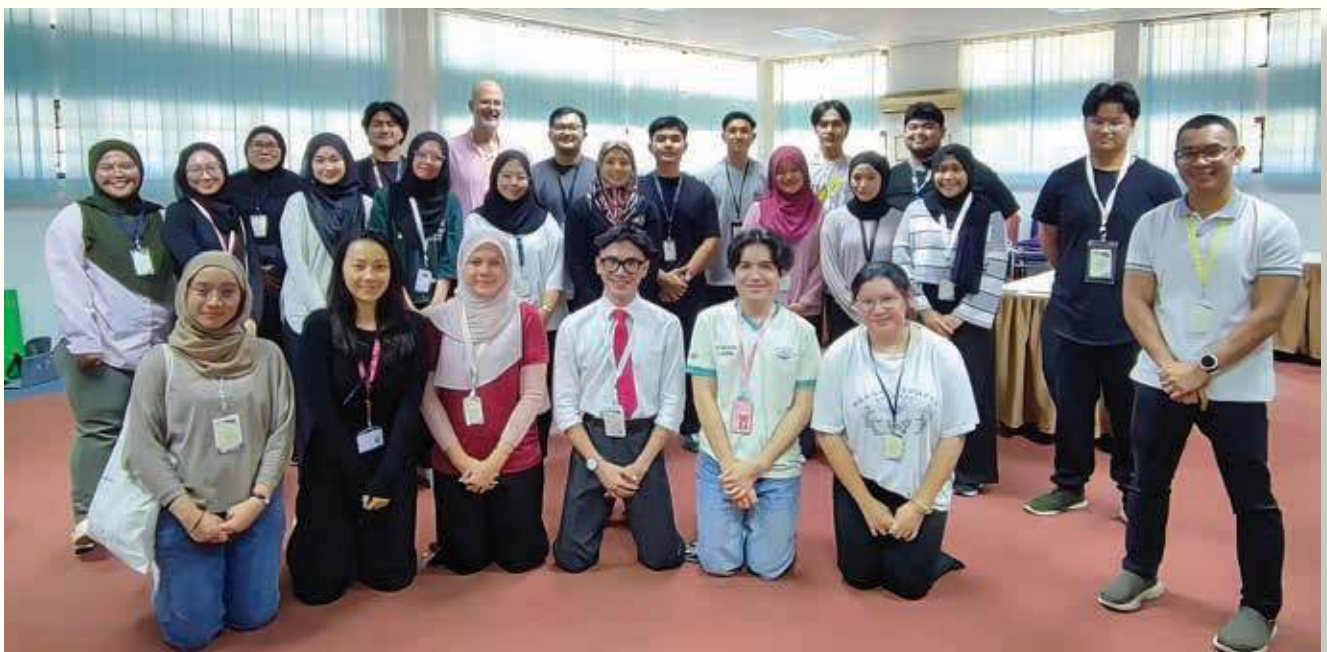
Professor Rigg visited UBD in September 2023 as an Eminent Visiting Professor by invitation of FASS, and conducted some of their work in Kampong Ayer together with the other members of the research team.

Apart from creating theoretical and conceptual understanding as well as methodological approaches on issues related to sustainability of urban landscapes, the findings will be shared through conference and seminar presentations, reports as well as published papers that can be shared with the relevant stakeholders, in particular, government agencies that oversee the development and

management of Kampong Ayer, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Development and NGOs such as the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

This research has also helped with the capacity building of locals, both university staff and young Bruneians involved in the research. The participatory planning activities and mapping of Kampong Ayer involved about forty undergraduates who were trained to assist in the fieldwork and database entry.

This research responds to several **Sustainable Development Goals**, as it addresses issues related to poverty or “lack” (SDG 1), homes and the built environment (SD11), and climate change (SDG 13). The research also responds to SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by highlighting the participation and inclusion of stakeholders, Kampong Ayer residents, in policy building.



RECENT STAFF PUBLICATIONS

Paul J. Carnegie. 2024. *Precarity Matters: Conceptual Travails in Southeast Asia*. IAS Working Paper No 77. Gadong: Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Hoon, Chang-Yau Ying-kit Chan (eds.). 2023. Special Issue on "Chinese Business in Contemporary Southeast Asia," *Malaysian Journal of Chinese Studies* 12(1).

Hoon, Chang-Yau, and Kaili Zhao. 2023. "Negotiating China's Rise: The Dynamics of Chinese Business Associations and the BRI in Brunei Darussalam." *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 64(3): 359-370. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apv.12392>

Guanie Lim, **Chang-Yau Hoon** and Kaili Zhao. 2023. "Foreign Investment, State Capitalism, and National Development: Rethinking Brunei-China Economic Relations." *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* 42(2): 242-264. <https://doi.org/10.1177/18681034231186441>

Hoon, Chang-Yau and Ying-kit Chan. 2023. "Rethinking Chinese Entrepreneurship and Business in Southeast Asia: An Introduction." *Malaysian Journal of Chinese Studies* 12(1): 95-116. [https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12\(1\).0001](https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12(1).0001)

Zhao, Kaili and **Chang-Yau Hoon.** 2023. "Navigating Brunei-China Economic Connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative: Achievements and Challenges." *Malaysian Journal of Chinese Studies* 12(1): 95-116. [https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12\(1\).0007](https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12(1).0007)

Bruno Jetin. 2023. Electric Batteries and Critical Materials Dependency: A Geopolitical Analysis of the USA and the European Union. *International Journal of Automotive Technology and Management* 33(4). DOI: 10.1504/IJATM.2023.10059315

Liam C. Kelley. 2023. "Tianxia as Anti-cosmopolitan and Proto-racial: A Case

Study of Late Imperial Vietnam." In *Tianxia in Comparative Perspectives: Alternative Models for a Possible Planetary Order*, edited by Roger T. Ames and Sor-hoon Tan, 39-67. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Shirley Wei Lee, **Noor Hasharina Hassan,** Gabriel YV Yong. 2023. "The New Ecotourists of the 21st Century: Brunei as a Case Study." *Cogent Social Sciences* 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2023.2191444>

Sin Yee Koh. 2023. "Crisis Infrastructuring: The Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Programme, 2018–2022." *Applied Mobilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23800127.2023.2242214>

Lian Kwen Fee. 2023. *Identity Matters: Methodological Travails from Malaysia to Indonesia*. IAS Working Paper No 75. Gadong: Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Nobumichi Teramura. 2023. Cambodia. In Anselmo Reyes, Wilson Lui and Kazuaki Nishioka (eds), *Choice of Law and Recognition in Asian Family Law*. Hart Publishing.

Nobumichi Teramura. 2023. Cambodia. In Kazuaki Nishioka (ed), *Treatment of Foreign Law in Asia* (Hart Publishing).

Luke Nottage and **Nobumichi Teramura.** 2023. Japan's International Investment, Evolving Treaty Practice and Arbitration Related to Corruption and Illegality. *Journal of Japanese Law* 28(55): 63-91.

Angela Tritto and Punto Wijayanto. 2023. "The Maritime Silk Road: Tourism, Heritage, Symbols and the People-to-People Dimension of China's Heritage Diplomacy in Indonesia." In **Heritage Conservation and China's Belt and Road Initiative**, edited by Victor C.M. Chan, Yew-Fong Hui, Desmond Hui, and Kazem Vafadari. London: Routledge.



ECOTOURISM IN BRUNEI

IAS Director **Dk Dr Noor Hasharina binti Pg Hj Hassan** has recently co-published an article on “**The New Ecotourists of the 21st Century: Brunei as a Case Study**” together with Shirley Wei Lee and Gabriel YV Yong.

Published in the journal *Cogent Social Sciences*, this paper examines the outlook and interests of ecotourists

from various generations and identifies differences between ecotourists of the Baby Boomer generation and those from generations X, Y, and Z.

The authors then consider the implications of these differences for tourism planning and ecotourism in particular.

GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY IN BRUNEI

With the launching of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, China increased its economic presence in Southeast Asia. This created opportunities and challenges for nations and communities in the region.

Professor **Chang-Yau Hoon** has recently published several co-authored studies, and has co-edited a special issue, on this issue. What ties these different studies

together is an effort to understand the complex and dynamic ways in which people and institutions in Southeast Asia have responded to the opportunities and challenges that the BRI has brought to the region.

For instance, in “**Navigating Brunei-China Economic Connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative: Achievements and Challenges,**”

IAS PhD student **Kaili Zhao** and Professor Hoon examine the economic connectivity between China and Brunei under the BRI, and document achievements and challenges.

Then in **“Negotiating China’s Rise: The Dynamics of Chinese Business Associations and the BRI in Brunei Darussalam,”** Hoon and Zhao take a deeper dive into this issue by looking at Chinese business associations in Brunei and documenting their heterogeneous responses to the BRI.

In a related article, **“Foreign Investment, State Capitalism, and**

National Development: Rethinking Brunei-China Economic Relations,” Guanie Lim, Professor Hoon and Kaili Zhao look at some specific projects that have been undertaken in Brunei under the BRI, and offer an evaluation on their benefits and limitations.

Finally, Professor Hoon and Ying-kit Chan of the National University of Singapore have co-edited a special issue of the Malaysian Journal of Chinese Studies on **“Chinese Business in Contemporary Southeast Asia”** which brings together studies on Chinese entrepreneurship and business in Southeast Asia.

Shirley Wei Lee, **Noor Hasharina Hassan**, Gabriel YV Yong. 2023. “The New Ecotourists of the 21st Century: Brunei as a Case Study.” *Cogent Social Sciences* 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2023.2191444>

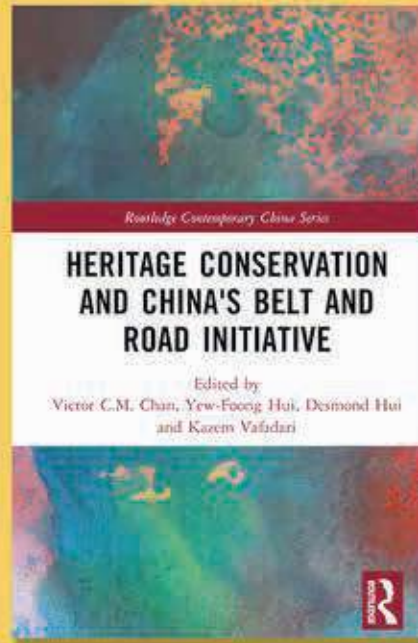
Hoon, Chang-Yau and Ying-kit Chan (eds.). 2023. Special Issue on “Chinese Business in Contemporary Southeast Asia,” *Malaysian Journal of Chinese Studies* 12(1)

Hoon, Chang-Yau, and Kaili Zhao. 2023. “Negotiating China’s Rise: The Dynamics of Chinese Business Associations and the BRI in Brunei Darussalam.” *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 64(3): 359-370. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apv.12392>

Guanie Lim, **Chang-Yau Hoon** and Kaili Zhao. 2023. “Foreign Investment, State Capitalism, and National Development: Rethinking Brunei-China Economic Relations.” *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* 42(2): 242-264. <https://doi.org/10.1177/18681034231186441>

Hoon, Chang-Yau and Ying-kit Chan. 2023. “Rethinking Chinese Entrepreneurship and Business in Southeast Asia: An Introduction.” *Malaysian Journal of Chinese Studies* 12(1): 95-116. [https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12\(1\).0001](https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12(1).0001)

Zhao, Kaili and **Chang-Yau Hoon**. 2023. “Navigating Brunei-China Economic Connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative: Achievements and Challenges.” *Malaysian Journal of Chinese Studies* 12(1): 95-116. [https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12\(1\).0007](https://doi.org/10.6993/MJCS.202306_12(1).0007)



HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND THE BRI

Assistant Professor **Angela Tritto** together with Dr. Punto Wijayanto from Trisakti University in Jakarta published a chapter titled “**The Maritime Silk Road: Tourism, Heritage, Symbols and the People-to-People Dimension of China’s Heritage Diplomacy in Indonesia**” in the book *Heritage Conservation and China’s Belt and Road Initiative* (Routledge).

The chapter examines the nexus of economic, cultural, and diplomatic activities that constitute China’s heritage diplomacy in Indonesia and is set in the context of the rising importance

of Chinese tourists and investments in Indonesia’s tourism, which became a prominent part of the diplomatic talks in BRI forums to direct Chinese investments towards the fulfillment of Indonesia’s “10 New Balis” policy.

At the same time, the chapter examines the efforts to establish the Cheng Ho Sea Route program in Indonesia. Finally, the study discusses the case of Lasem, one of the first success stories of regenerating a historical town connected to forgotten Chinese heritage in Indonesia.

Angela Tritto and Punto Wijayanto. 2023. “The Maritime Silk Road: Tourism, Heritage, Symbols and the People-to-People Dimension of China’s Heritage Diplomacy in Indonesia.” In *Heritage Conservation and China’s Belt and Road Initiative*, edited by Victor C.M. Chan, Yew-Fong Hui, Desmond Hui, and Kazem Vafadari. London: Routledge.

CRISIS INFRASTRUCTURING IN MALAYSIA

Senior Assistant Professor and Deputy Director of IAS Dr. **Sin Yee Koh** has published an article on **“Crisis Infrastructuring: The Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Programme, 2018–2022.”**

In 2002, the government of Malaysia initiated the “Malaysia My Second Home” (MM2H) programme which allowed foreigners who meet certain requirements to purchase property and reside in the country for ten years. This led to a wave of lifestyle and retirement migration.

In recent years, however, the programme has faced certain challenges, and in this study, Dr.

Koh interviewed various MM2H stakeholders, such as migrants, current migrants, and members of the MM2H migration infrastructure to consider how these people are responding to the challenges that the programme is facing.

Here, Dr. Koh develops the concept of “crisis infrastructuring” to capture the various efforts of stakeholders to repair and rescue the programme as well as seek alternatives at a time when this migration infrastructure is perceived to be in crisis.

Sin Yee Koh. 2023. “Crisis Infrastructuring: The Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Programme, 2018–2022.” *Applied Mobilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23800127.2023.2242214>



CRITICAL MATERIALS DEPENDENCY

Associate Professor **Bruno Jetin** has recently published an article entitled “**Electric Batteries and Critical Materials Dependency: A Geopolitical Analysis of the USA and the European Union.**”

In this article, Dr. Jetin analyses the scramble for critical materials to produce the batteries used in electric cars in a global context marked by the rivalry between the United States and China.

He reviews the material diplomacy the USA and the EU adopted and how they struggle to catch up with China.

The article shows how the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) implemented by the Biden administration led to a politicisation of global value chains by trying to exclude the participation of Chinese firms.

The European Union is in complete contradiction. While seeking to increase its “strategic autonomy”, it generously welcomes on its soil the Chinese battery champions who benefit massively from its subsidies.

Bruno Jetin. 2023. Electric Batteries and Critical Materials Dependency: A Geopolitical Analysis of the USA and the European Union. *International Journal of Automotive Technology and Management* 33(4). DOI: 10.1504/IJATM.2023.10059315



EXAMINING TIANXIA

Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** has recently published a chapter entitled **“Tianxia as Anticosmopolitan and Pro-racial: A Case Study of Late Imperial Vietnam”** in a book entitled *Tianxia in Comparative Perspectives: Alternative Models for a Possible Planetary Order* that was edited by Roger T. Ames, Sor-hoon Tan, and Steven Y. H. Yang (Honolulu: UH Press, 2023).

“Tianxia” is a very old concept in East Asia. It literally means “All Under Heaven,” and it is a term that was used to refer to such concepts as “the empire”

or “the (important) people in the empire” or “the known world,” etc.

Over the past couple decades, Chinese scholar Zhou Tingyang has attempted to develop a philosophy for world order that could serve as an alternative to the Western world order of nation states.

To do this, he has examined the Chinese past, and has found inspiration in the concept of Tianxia.

In this chapter, Dr. Kelley tests this theory from the perspective of Vietnam.

Liam C. Kelley. 2023. “Tianxia as Anti-cosmopolitan and Proto-racial: A Case Study of Late Imperial Vietnam.” In *Tianxia in Comparative Perspectives: Alternative Models for a Possible Planetary Order*, edited by Roger T. Ames and Sor-hoon Tan, 39-67. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

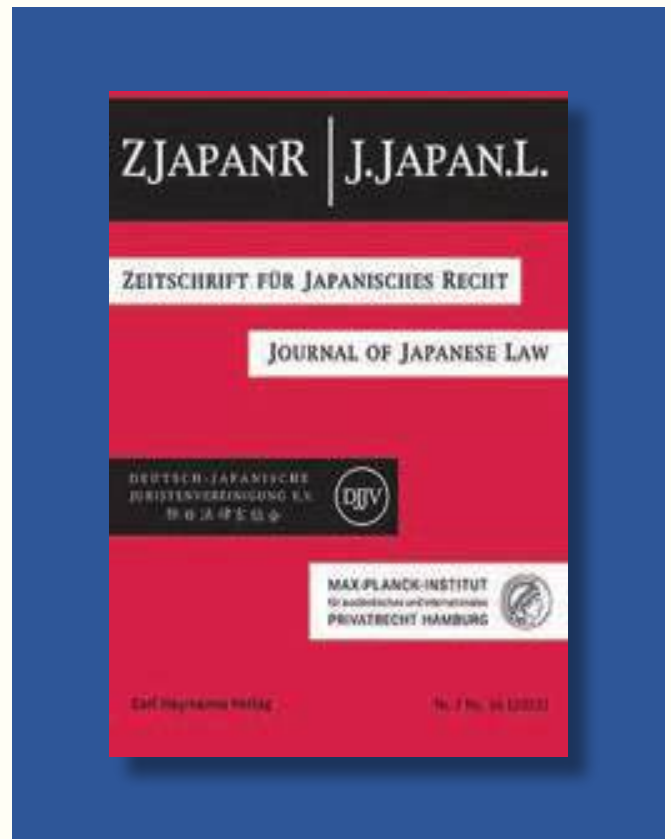
LEGAL ISSUES IN CAMBODIA AND JAPAN

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** has contributed chapters on Cambodia to two volumes that address pressing issues in cross-border legal challenges.

The first volume addresses family law and covers the challenges that courts face in dealing with cross-border legal issues, such as adoption and surrogacy. The second volume addresses how foreign law is interpreted and evaluated when it is called upon as proof in legal cases in Asian states.

Meanwhile, Dr. Teramura has also co-authored with Professor Luke Nottage of the University of Sydney Law School an article on treaties that Japan has established with foreign countries that are meant to safeguard Foreign Direct Investment in cases of illegality and corruption.

In these works, Dr. Teramura makes an import contribution in documenting and clarifying these extremely complex and at times opaque legal issues.



Nobumichi Teramura. 2023. Cambodia. In Anselmo Reyes, Wilson Lui and Kazuaki Nishioka (eds), *Choice of Law and Recognition in Asian Family Law*. Hart Publishing.

Nobumichi Teramura. 2023. Cambodia. In Kazuaki Nishioka (ed), *Treatment of Foreign Law in Asia* (Hart Publishing).

Luke Nottage and **Nobumichi Teramura.** 2023. Japan's International Investment, Evolving Treaty Practice and Arbitration Related to Corruption and Illegality. *Journal of Japanese Law* 28(55): 63-91.

A Compendium of Armed Conflicts
in Southeast Asia: In Search
of Typology

Ooi Keat Gin
Academy of Brunei Studies,
Universiti Brunei
Darussalam

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Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Gadong 2023

**IAS Working Paper No 74:
*A Compendium of Armed
Conflicts in Southeast Asia: In
Search of Typology* by Ooi Keat
Gin**

Wars, armed combat, and military occupations are as old as humanity with conflict arising over mates, food and subsequently territory and material resources and ultimately power, control, and domination.

The weapons of conflict have also evolved in sophistication, efficacy, and destructiveness with little sign of abatement.

There are presently scores of conflict hotspots (of varying degree) across the globe with others simmering under the surface.

This paper details examples drawn from Southeast Asia as an exploratory study to develop a compendium and potential typology set of wars and armed conflicts across the region over time.

The aim is to discern patterns of occurrence, and more importantly, primary driving forces and/or 'push' factors that precipitated conflict in the first place. Scrutiny and analysis of discernible patterns might reveal certain conditions and situational commonalities that alert us to the need of making concerted efforts to avoid similar occurrences in the future.

Identity Matters:
 Methodological Travails from
 Malaysia to Indonesia

Lian Kwen Fee
 IAS, Universiti Brunei
 Darussalam

Institute of Asian Studies
 Universiti Brunei Darussalam
 Gadong 2023

**IAS Working Paper No
 75: *Identity Matters:
 Methodological Travails from
 Malaysia to Indonesia* by Lian
 Kwen Fee**

It is fitting that this landmark 75th working paper is written by Professor Lian, as he has contributed extensively to the Institute since its founding in 2012. Here is the abstract of this paper:

The politics of identity is central to the study of race and ethnicity. This paper considers the utility of several methodological approaches relevant to making sense of ethnic identity.

The paper details the contributions of narrative, performative, and dialogical understandings of identity-formation and the ways in which they intersect

and inform one another.

The paper further highlights their application to ethnicity through four case studies in Malaysia and Indonesia. Although analytically distinct approaches, it is important not to treat the three elements in isolation or separately.

A performative or dialogical approach is only meaningful if the narratives implicit in both are uncovered and analyzed, while narratives gain greater import if they are regarded as dialogical.

As this paper argues, if triangulated and used in careful combination, they can render a fuller sense of ethnic identity-formation and its complexities.

Women as Agents of Patriarchy in
The Girl from the Coast (1991) by
 Pramoedya Ananta Toer

Dk Nur Hazirah Pg
 Hassani
 FASS, Universiti
 Brunei Darussalam

Institute of Asian Studies
 Universiti Brunei Darussalam
 Gadong 2023

**IAS Working Paper No 76:
*Women as Agents of Patriarchy
 in The Girl from the Coast
 (1991) by Pramoedya Ananta
 Toer* by Dk Nur Hazirah Pg
 Hassani**

Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *The Girl from The Coast* (1991) is a novel about women's struggles under Javanese patriarchy, highlighting the controversial culture of polygamy and 'practice wives' in colonial Indonesia.

Previous studies of the novel have situated the character of The Girl as the victimised female under the Bendoro's dominance due to her gender and class position.

However, these reviews overlook the other female characters – mBok, Mardinah and the mother – and their

relationships with The Girl.

This paper questions whether the female relationships in the novel perpetuate internalised oppression and misogyny, or do they offer solidarity and resistance for the women living under the structure of Javanese patriarchy?

The paper focuses on the female characters by exploring the relationships between The Girl and her servants, mBok and Mardinah, and her mother through the lens of intersectionality.

In the conclusion, the paper proposes that assessing these relationships through the lens of intersectionality will uncover the significant role of women in replicating and reinforcing Javanese patriarchy.

**Precarity Matters:
 Conceptual Travails in
 Southeast Asia**

Paul J. Carnegie
 IAS, Universiti Brunei
 Darussalam

Institute of Asian Studies
 Universiti Brunei Darussalam
 Gadong 2024

**IAS Working Paper No 77:
*Precarity Matters: Conceptual
 Travails in Southeast Asia* by
 Paul J. Carnegie**

Marginality, vulnerability and disadvantage are key concerns of the social sciences. Nevertheless, state-business-investment agendas, policies, and practices in Southeast Asia regularly downplay these issues.

This paper examines the applicability of a precarity framework for deciphering the forces, processes, and interests shaping contemporary forms of jeopardy in the region.

Using a selection of illustrative examples, this paper demonstrates that conceptualising precarity enhances the efficacy and scope of

research on everyday marginality, disenfranchisement, and inequality.

By focusing on the interplay of political, economic, social, and psychological factors, the precarity lens provides a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of current vulnerabilities and insecurities in Southeast Asia.



ASIA IN TRANSITION BOOK SERIES

The successful “Asia in Transition” book series that IAS publishes with Springer currently has the following three volumes in production:

Understanding China’s Belt and Road Initiative by Hong Yu

Corruption and Illegality in Asian Investment Arbitration edited by Nobumichi Teramura, Luke Nottage, and Bruno Jetin

Critical Insights on Colonial Modes of Seeing Cattle in India (1850-1980): Tracing the Pre-History of Green

and White Revolutions by Himanshu Upadhyaya

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

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 Chang Yau Hoon (changyau.hoon@ubd.edu.bn).

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES

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

Lisa Joy Arensen (IAS), "When the Bombs Fell: An Analysis of Incidents on the Kulen Plateau during the Nixon Administration's Bombing of Cambodia."

Angela Tritto (IAS), "China's BRI: Examining State Capitalism and Global Value Chains in Two Southeast Asian Countries."

Lian Kwen Fee (IAS), "Who are the Dusun in Brunei? Representation and Deconstruction of an Ethnic Identity."

Jonathan Rigg (University of Bristol), "Less Poverty, More Precarity:

Squaring the Circle of Southeast Asian Development," joint seminar with FASS.

Dk Dr. Noor Hasharina binti

Pengiran Haji Hassan (IAS),

"Climate Change and the Sustainable Development of Kampong Ayer: Its History, People, and Environment."

Bruno Jetin (IAS), "Electric Vehicles and Critical Materials Dependency: A Geopolitical Analysis."

Alex Westcott Campbell (Springer Nature), "Book Publishing With Springer," joint seminar with FASS.

Hannah Ho Ming Yit (FASS), "The Rise of China and Chinese Language Education in Brunei Darussalam."



CONFERENCE



Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** co-organized an international conference together with IAS Research Associate, Senior Professor **Phan Le Ha** of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE) in Hue, Vietnam, 1-6 August 2023.

Called “**Engaging With Vietnam**” (EWW), this is an annual conference that Professors Kelley and Phan co-organize. The 2023 conference was the 14th time the conference was held, and it drew over 700 registered participants.

The theme of the conference was “Living with Heritage, (Re)creating Heritage: Vietnam and the World,” and it featured keynote presentations by Senior Assistant Professor **Rui Oliveira Lopes**

and Assistant Professor **Van Dao Truong** of FASS, and was attended by staff and students from IAS, SHBIE, FASS and the Academy of Brunei Studies.

The conference was jointly organized by Engaging With Vietnam, the Department of Culture and Sports under Thua Thien Hue People’s Committee, and the University of Arts – Hue University.

It was supported by The Lighthouse Hải Đăng – Studio & Events, Quốc Học Huế High School, Huế Museum of Fine Arts, ACCESS design lab, HITO Entertainment, the Center for the Protection of the Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Huế, Thừa Thiên Huế History Museum, Arts Teacher Training Club, Springer Nature, and University of Amsterdam Press.





PROFESSOR VICTOR T. KING PRIZE IN BORNEO STUDIES

On 1 March 2024, IAS held the first Professor Victor King Prize in Borneo Studies Prize Giving Session.

Professor King has devoted over 40 years of his academic career to teaching, researching and publishing on the Sociology and Anthropology of Borneo.

He was appointed as the first Professor of Borneo Studies at the Institute of Asian Studies in 2018.

Upon his retirement in February 2022, Professor King was appointed Distinguished Professor of Borneo Studies at IAS.

In recognition of his contribution to scholarship on Borneo, IAS named a student research prize after him called

the Professor Victor T. King Prize in Borneo Studies to honor the best undergraduate student papers on Borneo.

The prize is awarded each semester to a UBD undergraduate student with the best final year project (original thesis) in the Social Science and Humanities fields.

Because of the exceptional quality of multiple papers in this first round of the award, it was decided to recognize one winning paper and two other papers for honorable mention.

WINNER

Name: Dayangku Amirah Izzati binti Pengiran Mohd Japar

Faculty: FASS

Programme: Sociology & Anthropology

Final Year Paper Topic: Polygamy in Brunei: Examining the Structure and Experiences of Half-Siblings

Supervisor: Dr Shariza Wahyuna binti Hj Shahrin (FASS)

HONORABLE MENTION

Name: Aida Afiqah binti Jaya

Faculty: FASS

Programme: Sociology & Anthropology

Final Year Paper Topic: Exploring the Presentation of Self and Identity among Female Bruneian Video Game Streamers on Twitch

Supervisor: Associate Professor Dr. Liam Christopher Kelley (IAS)

HONORABLE MENTION

Name: Hajah Nur Hazirah binti Haji Awang Hamdani

Faculty: FASS

Programme: Geography, Environmental and Development

Final Year Paper Topic: Living with Landslide Risk in Penanjong, Tutong

Supervisor: Gabriel Yit Vui Yong (FASS)

Congratulations to the students as well as to the supervisors!!



GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

The Institute of Asian Studies held a colloquium for IAS graduate students to share their work with IAS staff and each other.

IAS currently has a number of graduate students in the MA and PhD by research programmes, and they are all at various stages in their studies, with some currently

conducting research in the field.

In the colloquium, the graduate students were able to share their findings to date.

Please see a list below of the students who presented and their research topics.

Zhao Kaili (PhD), "Cultural Encounter, Social Interaction and Localization: A Study on PRC Chinese Enterprises in Brunei Darussalam"



Adi Ailin Mohd Addly (MA), "Through the Bruneian Lens: Transnational Crime During the COVID-19 Pandemic"



Le Cong Duc (MA), "A Re-evaluation of Myanmar's Political Reform: Democracy and Reconciliation"



Westly Lo (MA), "Traversing Land Borders; the Migration Experience of West Kalimantan Chinese in Brunei"



Tran Bich Ngoc (MA), "A Study on the Vietnamese Community in Brunei"



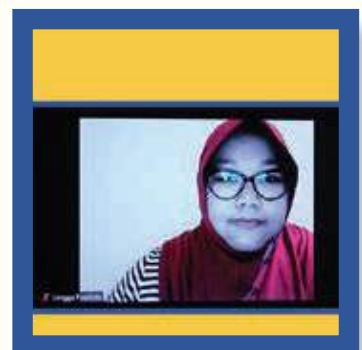
Napak Serirak (PhD), "Local History: Ulu Temburong before Ulu Temburong National Park"



Duong Van Bien (PhD), "The Localization of Religion in Vietnam: The Case of Marian Devotion"



Lengga Pradipta (PhD), "Indigenous People and Kalimantan Transformation; From Rainforest, Extractive Industries to the New Capital"





MA & PhD in Asian Studies

INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES
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NEWS FROM VICTOR T. KING

Inaugural IAS Distinguished Professor **Victor T. King** is currently serving as Deputy Director of the Southeast Asia Museum at Hull University and has been continuing work on various projects that he initiated while serving as Professor of Borneo Studies at IAS.

Professor King has completed four papers that are in the process of being published. One is on the revival of tourism in the Lao People's Democratic Republic following the Covid-19 pandemic.

A second paper is a conceptual piece that examines the current status and

future position of Borneo, as both a geographic and lived reality and as a subject of study, while a third paper is an overview of scholarship on Kalimantan, both past and present.

Finally, Professor King has written another paper on correspondences between Professor Rodney Needham, a leading anthropologist who worked on Borneo, and Dr. King between 1971 and 1997. This paper provides an intimate view of scholarly discussions on the anthropology of Borneo during that time period.

IAS STAFF NEWS

Assistant Professor **Lisa Arensen** conducted a second round of fieldwork in the Phnom Kulen National Park in Siem Reap in July as part of her on-going research project on “Watershed Control and Spiritual Geography on the Kulen Plateau.”

Dr. Arensen conducted follow up interviews with twenty-eight villagers on environmental and social history, documented the remains of bomb craters in a village bombed during the destruction of the reservoir construction projects of the early 1970s, and recorded GPS coordinates for a canal project from the same era that intended to direct water from an Angkorian reservoir to a lowland padi rice location.

Associate Professor **Paul J. Carnegie** presented a paper entitled From Mundane to Meaningful: a Sociology of the Everyday in Brunei Darussalam at the Association of Southeast Asian Studies (ASEAS) Conference, 27-30 Nov. 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Professor **Chang-yau Hoon** was an invited keynote speaker at the Southeast Asia Forum International Conference & Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Industry-Education Integration Innovation Forum, South China Normal University, 18-20 November 2023, as well as an invited keynote speaker at the Global Interfaith Leadership Lecture at the Centre for Inter-Faith Understanding (CIFU), Singapore, 30 November 2023.

In addition, Dr. Hoon spoke on “The Role of Youth in Nation Building” as an invited plenary speaker at the Youth Congress, International Interfaith Peace Conference, Furama Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, 15 July 2023.

Dr. Hoon also presented the following talks as an invited speaker:

- Studying China and the Chinese Diaspora in Brunei: Potentials and Prospects.” Presentation as an invited speaker at the International Workshop on Developing Chinese



Associate Professor Paul J. Carnegie at ASEAS in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Studies from Southeast Asia: Past and Present. National University of Singapore, 1 December 2023.

- “Brunei-China Economic Connectivity under the BRI,” International Conference, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, 1 November 2023.
- “Religious Minorities in Borneo,” Workshop on Religious Diversity in Borneo, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, 23-24 August 2023.

Associate Professor **Bruno Jetin** presented a paper on “Electric Batteries and Critical Materials Dependency: a Geopolitical Analysis of the USA and the European Union” at the GERPISA 31st International Conference, “Towards Sustainability, the Electrification of the Automobile Industry,” 27-30 June 2023, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** together with IAS Research Associate, Senior Professor Phan Le Ha (SHBIE) launched a new book series with Springer Nature called “Global Vietnam: Across Time, Space and Community.” The series has already published four volumes. <https://www.springer.com/series/17025>

Senior Assistant Professor and Deputy Director of IAS **Sin Yee Koh** presented a paper entitled “The Right to Have Rights: Crisis Experiences of Existing and Aspiring Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Migrants” at the Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia (MASSA) 2023 Conference, New Era University College, Malaysia, 7-8 July 2023.

Dr. Koh also co-organised the “Decolonising Migration Studies?”



Professor Chang-Yau Hoon with Tan Sri Syed Hamid, Chancellor of the Asia eUniversity (AeU) and Former Malaysian Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department, Minister of Justice, Minister of Defense, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Home Affairs, speaking at the plenary session on “The Role of Youth in Nation Building” at the International Interfaith Peace Conference, Kuala Lumpur, 15 July 2023.

workshop at the Asia Research Institute, National University Singapore, 20-21 November 2023 where she presented a paper entitled “Post/Decolonising Migration Studies: Enduring and Emergent Challenges.”

Further, Dr. Koh also participated in the following workshops that are part of her on-going research projects:

- The Asia Regional Learning Workshop (part of the Women RISE Initiative) held at Monash University Malaysia, 26-27 July 2023, for the collaborative project entitled “Women Migrants’ Health and Work after COVID-19: An Intersectional and Comparative Study in Malaysia and Thailand.”
- The mid-term workshop for the collaborative project entitled “Belt and Road Initiative and Student-Mobilities in China-Southeast Asia (BRISM)” at

the Asia Research Institute, National University Singapore, 12-13 October 2023.

Senior Professor **Lee Cheuk Yin** presented keynote speech on “Ong Sum Ping and the History of Brunei” at the Fudan University conference on Peoples, Objects, and Images of Maritime East Asia: An International Colloquium, 2-3 December 2023.

Assistant Professor **Sanjeev Routray** was invited to give a talk on his book titled *The Right to Be Counted: The Urban Poor and the Politics of Resettlement in Delhi* at the Prentice Institute Speaker Series, Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, University of Lethbridge on July 12, 2023. Subsequently, the Hari Sharma Foundation and the Institute for the Humanities, Simon Fraser University co-sponsored a book panel/discussion at the Harbor Harbor Center, SFU on July 26, 2023. The Indian edition of Dr. Routray’s book was published by Bloomsbury India in December 2023.

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** made the following conference and workshop presentations:

- “Corruption and Illegality in Asian Investment Arbitration: Implications for the Mekong Subregion.” Presentation at the Mekong International Forum: Promoting Synergy among Mechanisms for Sustainable Growth,” organised by the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Vietnam (24 November 2023).
- “Corruption and Illegality in Asian Investment Arbitration.” Presentation at the International Conference

on Natural Resources Policy 2023 (ICNRP 2023) at Lambung Mangkurat University, Indonesia (4 November 2023).

- “Confidentiality and Privacy of Arbitration in the Digital Era: The Elephant in the Room?” Presentation at the conference Contract Law in Digital Environment at Brawijaya University, Indonesia (30 October 2023).
- “The History and Potential of International Arbitration in Japan.” Paper presented at the Comparative History of International Arbitration: Australia, Japan and Beyond seminar at the Sydney Law School (21 September 2023).
- “Cambodian Perspective on the 2015 Choice of Law Principles.” Panel presentation at the HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2023 – Access to Justice and Sustainable Development: The Impact of the HCCH in an Inter-Connected World at the University of Hong Kong (13 September 2023).
- Assistant Professor **Angela Tritto** participated in the Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong by invitation of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) through The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), 13-14 September 2023.
- Dr. Tritto also delivered a talk on “China’s Belt and Road Initiative and State Capitalism in Southeast Asia” at the Institute of Emerging Market Studies of HKUST on 20 September 2023.

- Additionally, Dr. Tritto was an invited speaker at the Asia Development Bank's (ADB) Workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration to Promote Sustainability and Digital Transformation of Tourism, at the ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong, Philippines, 6-7 November 2023.
- Finally, Dr. Tritto also participated in the Southeast Asia Vulnerable Deltas Workshop organized by the East West Center and the Wilson Center and held at Universitas Mulawarman in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia, 4-7 December 2023.



Assistant Professor Angela Tritto at the ADB's Workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration to Promote Sustainability and Digital Transformation of Tourism in the Philippines.



Assistant Professor Angela Tritto at the Southeast Asia Vulnerable Deltas Workshop in Indonesia.

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