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Editor's note

I hope to see many of you at the annual AAS meetings, 3-6 April in Atlanta. rp

PERIODICALS PERIODICALS periodicals periodicals

>American anthropologist

V.109.n.4 Dec 2007 – 1) Alex Bentley, review of Marc Oxenham & Nancy Tayles (eds) –2006-- *The bioarchaeology of Southeast Asia*, 360 pp, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [From the review – Bio-archeology, the biologically informed study of archeology, provides evidence about prehistoric human demography, health, and well being on an individual scale that the genetics of modern regional populations cannot resolve – The authors succeed in sparking wider interest in the bio-archeology of Southeast Asia – Replete with fascinating, even startling insights about human prehistory in the region, all derived primarily from physical study of skeletons – Part I is about human dispersal from the last 10,000 years; Part II on skeleton evidence regarding human health – Suggests a model more complex than simple migration], pp 775-776.

>American ethnologist

V.34.n.4 Nov 2007 – 1) Marcel Vellinga, "Review essay: Anthropology and the materiality of architecture" [A review essay based on a) Stephen Sparkes & Signe Howell, eds, 2003, *The house of Southeast Asia: a changing social, economic and political domain*, xiv +271 pp, London: Routledge Curzon,; b) Victor Buchli, ed, 2002, *The material culture reader*, xi + 274 pp, Oxford: Berg; c) Daniel Miller, ed, 2005, *Materiality*, 294 pp, Durham, NC: Duke University Press – From the Abstract – Anthropological writings have helped secure ' the Southeast Asian house' as a category in architecture and society – These studies provide new perspectives on the cultural significance of architecture and kinship systems in the region, but they haven't answered calls for an anthropological approach to architecture focusing on the interrelationship of its material, social and symbolic aspects – Argues that that approach can be realized only if the agency and materiality of architecture are taken into account], pp 756-766.

>Archipel

74 -- 2007 -- 1) *Le deuxieme colloque international de l' Association Malaisienne de litterature comparee*, Kuala Lumpur, 7-9 juin 2007 (The Twelfth International Colloquium of the Malaysian Association of Comparative Literature, 7-9 June 2007) -- Session 1: Vladimire Braginsky, "*Bersahut-sahatan Sepanjang Zaman: Perpaduan Manusia dan Laut dalam Puisi Hamzah Fansuri, Kemala dan Latiff Mohidin*" , pp 7-12; **2)** Annabel Teh Gallop, "Exceptions to the rule: Malay seals in manuscript books" [The use of seals in Islamic manuscripts is reasonably common -- But a recent study of inscriptions from

Southeast Asia in Arabic script or in Malay language has yielded over 1,600 seals from all over the Malay archipelago dating from 1600 AD to the early 20th century (Annabel Teh Gallop, 2002, "Malay seal inscriptions: a study in Islam epigraphy from Southeast Asia" (Ph.D. thesis, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), but only 35 of the Malay seals documented are impressed in books... the vast majority are on documents such as letters and treaties -- Sections on: "The various functions of Malay seals in books"; "... Raja Ali's seal in the *Mukhtasar Tawarikh al-Wusta*"; "... the seals of Muhammad Cing Saidullah"; "Seal designs by Tuanku Raja Keumala of Aceh"; "Chancery practice in Ternate"; and "Conclusion" (98% of all known Malay seals are found on letters and documents, Malay seals in manuscript books are so rare as to be regarded as exceptions to the rule)], pp 139-164.

>Asian survey

V.xlvii.n.4 Jul/Aug 2007 1) Diana K. Mauzy & Brian L. Job, "US policy in Southeast Asia: limited re-engagement after years of benign neglect" [From the Abstract -- American foreign policy in SEA from 1975 to present is characterized by varying degrees of neglect, with episodic attention to perceived security threats -- Current policies narrowly focused on anti-terrorism; their perceived anti-Muslim overtones, while engendering instrumental cooperation, have tended to alienate Southeast Asian publics -- US influence in Southeast Asia appears to be waning, with China capitalizing on opportunities to expand its influence -- No sections on Singapore/ Malaysia; but something on both in the various sections of the article], pp 622-641.

>Bulletin of the School of Oriental & African Studies

V.70.n.2 2007 -- 1) Carool Kersten, review of Greg Fealy & Virginia Hooker (eds), 2006, *Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia: a contemporary sourcebook*, 540pp, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, ISBN 981-230-367-7 [Reviewer begins with the note that the release of this volume "... can be regarded as an indication that the academic study of Islam in South-East Asia, which is after all the largest Muslim nation in the world, has come of age" -- Briefly describes the doubts of some earlier scholars that Islam in Southeast Asia was a 'thin veneer', and how that view was reversed by more recent scholars -- Six broad themes: a) personal expressions of faith; b) Sharia; c) Islam, state and governance; d) gender and the family; e) Jihad; f) Interactions... global and local Islam, and Muslims and non-Muslims -- Book also a source of far-reaching political issues -- And more], pp 451-453.

>Critical Asian studies

V.39.n.3 Sep 2007 -- 1) Sheila Nair, "The limits of protest and prospects for political reform in Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- The 1997 Asian currency crisis affected Malaysians in many ways, complicating national, ethnic and modernity narratives centered on the economy, stability of ethnic relations, and Malaysia's political landscape -- The ouster and imprisonment of Anwar Ibrahim and the *Reformasi* movement and its decline -- Analyzes the challenges encountered by *Reformasi* in confronting dominant narratives and reframing political discourse -- By 2001 the movement was in decline; how can that be explained? -- Nair situates its decline in the struggles with the dominant *Barisan Nasional*-led state as well as the complex relationships between different elements of the movement -- Also explores the movement's inability to provide an alternative discourse that takes into account the ethnicized

divisions in Malaysia, and how the tensions between the party's political and movement aspects of protest politics have contributed to *Reformasi's* demise], pp 339-368; **2)** Teo You Yenn, "Inequality for the greater good: gendered state rule in Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Singapore, with demographic trends of later marriage and lower fertility, has many institutions aimed at 'protecting' the family as a unit -- Many of the policies place disproportionate burdens on women, particularly insofar as the policies reproduce 'traditional' gendered divisions of labor within the household at the same time that they encourage women to participate in the formal workforce -- We might expect contradictory demands on women and gender inequalities to lead to resistance in ways that could undermine the state's legitimacy -- But the policies seem instead to be integral to and enhancing the state's capacity for rule -- This article shows that gendered family policies reproduce state power thru 3 interconnected mechanisms by: establishing regular relationships between state & society; articulating particular identities and interests of Singaporeans as members of families, thereby undercutting gender and ethnic identities and giving content to notions of 'tradition' and 'modernity' that solidify the state's claim to being the only agent able to balance the twin tensions that are at the core of the nation's survival], pp 423-445.

>Crossroads (Thanks to Dr. Naimah Talib, Editor of *Crossroads*, who invites submission queries, which should be directed to her at ntalib@niu.edu or seapeditor@niu.edu.)

V.18.n.2 2007 – **1)** Patricia Sloan White, "Why Malays travel: middleclass Malay tourism and the creation of social difference and global belonging"; **2)** Mohammad A. Quayum, "My country' /'Our country': race dynamics and contesting nationalisms in Lloyd Fernando's 'Green is the colour' and Shirley Geok-lin Lim's 'Joss and Gold'"; **3)** Robbie B.H. Goh, "Singapore's 'Two YMCAs': Christianity, colonialism and ethnic fault lines"; **4)** Yasmin Ibrahim, "SARS and the rhetoric of war in Singapore"; and **5)** Ian G. Baird, "Contested history, ethnicity, and remembering the past: the case of the Ay Sa Rebellion in Southern Laos". **V.19.n.1 2008** – (Forthcoming special issue on recent political developments in Thailand ... the title is "Thaksin and after: the eclipse of democracy in Thailand", and is guest edited by James Ockey – Includes: **1)** James Ockey's introduction, titled "Alternative explanations for the 2006 Thai coup"; **2)** Robert B Albritton & Thawilwadee Bureekul, "Public opinion and political power: sources of support for the coup in Thailand"; **3)** Thak Chaloehtiarana, "Distinctions with a difference: the despotic paternalism of Sarit Thanarat and the demagogic authoritarianism of Thaksin Shinawatra"; **4)** James Ockey, "Professional soldiers and coup-making"; **5)** Allen Hicken, "The 2007 Draft Constitution: a return to politics past"; **6)** S.P. Harish & Joseph Liow, "The coup and the conflict in Southern Thailand"; and **7)** Chaiwat Satha-Anand, "Reflections on Oct 6, 1976: time and violence". **V.19.n.2 2008** – (will be a general issue forthcoming this year). **V.20.n.1 2009** – (A special issue, titled "Southeast Asian diasporas: memory, nostalgia and the representation/recreation of homelands", guest edited by Nathalie Nguyen (University of Melbourne).

>Cultural critique

V.65.wntr 2007 -- **1)** Maureen Sioh, "Pricing race, circulating

anxieties, and the fate of Malaya's currency reserves at independence" [Argues that the fledgling Malayan government's decision to exchange its export income in US dollars for sterling, which resulted in a loss of value for the Malayan currency, was less the product of poor economic judgment than of the racial anxieties that underpinned its understanding of the value of currency reserves -- Shows that the negotiations took place against the domestic backdrop of the military conflict labeled 'The Emergency', and the international backdrop of the 'Cold War' -- Asks the question 'When is an economic decision bad?' -- Sections on: "Unwritten codes of value exchange"; "Malay and sterling"; "Passing the superpower torch"; "Britain's debt to Malaya"; "Pricing racial dignity"; and "Conclusion: past the post (colonial).", pp 115-139.

>Environment and planning A

V.39 2007 -- **1)** Jieming Zhu, Loo-Lee Sim, Xuan Liu, "Place remaking under property rights regimes: a case study of Niucheshui, Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Evaluates the place-remaking process of Niucheshui -- Found that since the 1960s redevelopment of Niucheshui has been shaped by property rights regime over land and buildings -- As property rights are defined by the state in the forms of statutory, land-use planning, compulsory land acquisition, rent control, land leasing, and conservation of historical buildings, the free market for land redevelopment is reined in heavily by the state - - Argues this not warranted by public rhetoric participation; pluralism and diversity in the built environment are protected by a diverse structure of land property rights which should be incorporated into the place-remaking process], pp 2346-2365.

>Far Eastern economic review

V.170.n.8 Oct 2007 -- **1)** Greg Rushford, "Asia drags down the free trade cause" [7 years ago there were 130 Free Trade Agreements causing a few economists who accurately forecast that FTA would create a serious threat to the world's trading system, because such agreements confer advantages to their partners and not others -- And 300 FTAs have been struck since 2000, including every Asian country (Asians call it the 'noodle bowl') except Mongolia (Asia has more than half of all world trade flows thru preferential routes) -- At the turn of the century, Japan (the world's 2nd largest economy) had long detested discriminatory trade, but changed course to counter USA's striking a deal with Mexico and Canada, in 2000, by bargaining FTAs with Singapore, Mexico, Malaysia, and the Philippines... this year another deal with Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand & Chile -- Other Asian countries joined the fun; Creating rival trade blocks that damage the global trading system and even provoke more trade wars -- And more], pp 29-33; **2)** Simon Montlake, "Singapore's failing bid for brainpower" [Singapore's latest tilt at performing arts... with a class of 33 graduate students (2 are Singaporeans & half are Americans) -- They will spend 3 years learning about film and television production -- The college is Tisch School of the Arts Asia, a branch of NYU's Tisch School -- Singapore's economic planners can now point to modern advances on 2 fronts: a) turning Singapore in a 'global schoolhouse' and b) shedding its reputation as a stodgy, scripted society, where creativity is dulled by overzealous government regulation -- History about Singapore's ambitions to be a world class school house... even if it has to import the students], pp 46-48. **V.170.n.9 Nov 2007** -- **1)** Christian Aspalter, "The Asian cure for health care"

[Aging and the rise of health-care costs are threatened less by the size of aged populations compared to working populations than the speed of such demographic changes -- Societies most threatened by high speed of aging include Singapore, South Korea & Thailand (increasing ca. 400% in the first 50 years of the 21st century); and, somewhat less, in Malaysia and Hong Kong (increasing 250% in the same period); And Japan less -- But 'In health care, there is nothing more efficient than government involvement'], pp 56-57. **V.170,n10 Dec 2007** --

1) Greg Rushford, "Is Wal-Mart good for Asia?" [Wal-Mart compared to China, Malaysia and Singapore -- MalayWal-Mart revenues are larger than the combined GDP's of Hong Kong and Malaysia -- Wal-Mart imported ca. \$27 billion in merchandise from China in 2007... about the same as Singapore], pp 22-26; 2) Danny Lim, "Rallying for rights in Malaysia" [Begins with an account of the early AM 25 Nov 2007 raid by 5,000 armed police Malaysian police on a Hindu temple on the outskirts of KL, where about 2,000 Indian Malaysians had gathered to participate in temple-related events -- The police used tear gas and water cannons to scatter a crowd of about 10,000 protestors in the vicinity of the British High Commission, some of whom were beaten and arrested; Then the crowd increased to about 20,000 and refused to disperse -- Basically, a testament of minority ethnic communities' anger about the government's affirmative action for the majority Malay population, and the government's demolition of Hindu temples for development -- The latest street protest was organized by the Hindu Rights Action Force, a coalition 30 Hindu NGOs among other minority ethnic communities -- And more], pp. 40-42; 3) The FEer editor(s), "From the Archives", both articles about Malaysia: a) "Sifting the ashes", in V.64,n.22, 25/32 May 1969, 479; b) "Malaysia: uneasy alliance", in V.64,n.23, 1/7 [Both about the perils of confrontation of the largely Chinese-based Opposition and a Malay Administration], pp 78-79.

>International Herald Tribune

10 Nov 2007 -- 1) Imran Imtiaz Shah Yacob, "Malaysian petitioners defy police" [From the website -- Central KL turned chaotic Saturday as baton-wielding riot police used water canon and tear gas to stop an attempt by tens of thousands of marchers to deliver a petition to Malaysia's king, asking for royal intervention in delivering electoral reform -- Even a heavy rain did not dampen the turn out for the march -- As many as 40,000 people struggled to make their way to the city's center, in defiance of the police ban, to demand change and an end to corruption -- The confrontation of the nine sultans and the government appears to be deepening ... The King ordered his royal guards to stand aside so that the marchers could deliver the petition despite the fact that the police had refused to grant a permit for the rally -- The largest protest by far since the anti-government protests in 1998 that led to the arrest and jailing of former deputy PM, Anwar Ibrahim -- And more]

>Journal of comparative family studies

V.xxxviii,n.4 Autumn 2007 -- 1) Steven Eric Kraus, Rozumah Bahyarudin, Zarinah Arshat, Mohd. Ibrani Shahrimin B. Adam Assim, Rumaya Juhari, Siti Nor Yacoob, "A comparison of component structures for the Australian Inventory of Family Strengths (AIFS) between an Australian and Malaysian

sample" [From the Introduction -- Neither formal research on family strengths in Malaysia nor family strengths measures have been developed or adapted from non-Malaysian contexts for the purpose of measuring family strengths in Malaysia -- Exploratory component analysis was used to identify the component structures of the Australian Inventory of the AIFS scale for a rural population of families from Malaysia (n=200) -- The findings on component structure were invariant with those from the original Australian sample obtained during development of the AIFS -- Findings help to highlight similarities and differences in key areas of family strengths across 2 culturally diverse populations -- Findings using exploratory component analysis help determine AIFS' level of compatibility for use with non-Australian sample], pp 589-604.

>Journal of Islamic studies

V.18,n.3 Sep 2007 -- 1) William R. Roff, "Onomastics, and taxonomies of belonging in the Malay Muslim World" [From the Introduction -- Asks the question "... what contribution an inquiry into the onomastics of Muslim names in the Malay world (i.e., ... peoples of the Malay peninsula, Sumatra, the Borneo littoral, Sulawesi, and the southern Philippines) might make to studies of Islam and society in this area -- Begins with two contrasting examples of expressions of interest in Muslim names, which have possible relevance to Southeast Asia: the first example relates to a participant's complaint at an international conference on Islamic movements, about how Muslims from non-Arabic-speaking countries mangled Islamic names -- Not just about erroneous orthography and transliteration or whether Abdul or Zainal can be stand-alone names; but of an ignorance amounting to impiety, implying that unless you had a properly constructed Islamic name you were not a good Muslim -- Is this in fact so? -- Gives another example of this question, citing Richard W. Bulliet (*The Patricians of Nishapur: a study in Medieval Islamic social history* (Harvard Univ. Press, 1972) on how in outliers of the Muslim heartland, following conversion, it was customary to give one's children Arabic-Islamic first names (rather than own language names) ... a 'means' of the 'curve of conversion' in a given society from family histories or a series of censuses -- The few other scholarly sources noted on the subject -- Sections on "The elementary structure of Islamic names", "Beyond the Medieval Middle East", "South Asia", "Southeast Asia: conversion narratives", "The *Sejarah Melayu* (ca. 1612)", "The *Tuhfat al-Nafis* (18th - early 19th Century)", "The bibliography of Malay periodicals (late 19th-20th Century)", "Discussion and conclusions"], pp 386-405.

>Journal of multilingual & multicultural development

V.28,n.4 2007 -- 1) Rani Rubdy, "Singlish in the school: an impediment or a resource?" [The use of Singlish is viewed as an obstacle to development of students' literary skills in standard English, so the practice of classroom code-switching between the 2 varieties is strongly discouraged, yet the vernacular continues to be robust -- Paper examines whether and the extent Singlish is used -- 3 parts: a) collective findings of a group of teachers; b) reports the findings of a related project involving a comparison of the incidence of features of Singlish in student talk; and c) explores the use of Singlish as a pedagogical resource rather than an impediment], pp 308-324.

>Journal of the economic and social history of the Orient

V.50,pt2-3 2007 -- Whole issue on "Spatial and temporal

continuities of merchant networks in South Asia and the Indian Ocean" -- Guest editors: Bhaswati Bhattacharya, Gita Dharampal-Frick, Jos Gommans -- See especially: 1) Prista Ratanapruck, "Kinship and religious practices as institutionalization of trade networks: Manangi trade communities in South and Southeast Asia" [Examines social and religious institutions that create and sustain a trade network among Nepali traders in South and Southeast Asia; looks at how kinship and religious practices sanction a system of social and economic cooperation by pooling labor, information, material and financial resources; ensured by trust and mutual obligations -- Extended kinship relations in societies abroad, such as marriages with women in distant places, provide access to distant trade networks -- Based on field research in Nepal, India, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore], pp 325-346 (map & photos in Kathmandu & Kuala Lumpur); and 2) Eng seng Hop, "Two arms of Cambay: diasporic texts of ecumenical Islam in the Indian Ocean" [Examines Islamic material from the Indian Ocean region, including the Malay archipelago, the early trading activities of Muslim Gujaratis, and trading centers such as Melaka over the past 500 years], pp 347-361.

>Malaysian business

Apr16th-30th 2007 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "The Iranian lesson for the Muslim World" [Applies the way that Iran handled the capture and release of 15 British Royal Navy seamen as lesson to the Muslim world in general and particularly to Malaysia -- In the post-Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad era, the Muslim World in general and Malaysia in particular is without an effective spokesman -- Particular examples: the *bumiputra* ownership requirement being shelved and also talk about giving passport-free to foreigners entering the so-called Free Access Zones within the Iskandar Development Regions -- And a bit on 'Global Bumiputras'], pp 8-110; 2) Charles Raj, "Of crime and public perception" [... There should be no reason why any good cop in the country would want to oppose something that is good for the image of his own profession... why are certain parties opposed to the idea of a Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission?], p 11. **May1st-15th 2007** -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "PPB-Wilmar deal sets a precedent" [The transfer of a huge Malaysian plantation company to a foreign bourse is a significant event for Malaysia's financial and capital market, and it also opens the doors to more such deals... does anybody care that there are so many foreign investors... do the people in power think Robert Kuok transferring ownership and control of his Malaysian assets to Singapore is not important?], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Rewriting the Constitution" [Sadly, after 50 years of independence, national unity and nation-building seem to be still a hazy notion; Malaysians continue to bicker over basic issues, e.g. race and religion -- Perhaps amending the Constitution might help; first, politicians from politicizing the issue -- Should we change the constitution to serve chauvinistic and vested interests, or to what it should be?], p 10. **May16th-31st** -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Of Ijok, Shangri-la and everlasting contentment" [The PM early declared an open door to *damai abadi*, but not to Shangri-la -- The ruling party will now do all it can to cling to power, with a new breed of ambitious politicians -- We can expect BN to capitalize more brazenly on the party's financial and manpower superiority to keep the opposition at

bay -- Amidst criticism that the bureaucracy and its retinue of the so-called 'little Napoleons' are sabotaging the government's development efforts, the government suddenly announced their pay increase -- The PM, who until recently was vocally critical of the civil service, now says the majority of them deserve an increase in pay], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Steely Problems" [Why are there restrictions still being imposed on the import of hot rolled coils if such curbing is distorting supply, pricing and quality? -- Your guess is as good as mine.], p 9; 3) S C Chan, "Political rumblings" [Word has it that there is a lot of unhappiness with the way Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman is running Sabah -- Given the history of political volatility, anything can happen in the resource-rich East Malaysian state -- While Musa might have happily rid himself of Chong, clashing over a proposed master plan to develop the Pulau Sipadan dive site, he has to contend and worry about the rising opposition from within Sabah Umno itself -- And some of the many details], pp 10-11; 4) Nor Zahidi Alias, "The US still matters: decoupling theory notwithstanding, Southeast Asian countries, including Malaysia, still rely on the United States for their economic well-being" [Repercussions of the US slowdown on ASEAN economies cannot be underestimated -- While some ASEAN countries have reduced their independence of the US Market, a significant drop in US economic activity would still hamper ASEAN exports], pp 44-45. **Jul1st-15th 2007** -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: when taking to the streets produces results" [Rising crime rates in the country are making people anxious and angry, as epitomized by a recent demonstration by a disgruntled Johor Baru group at the Menteri Besar's residence - Couple this with falling productivity and waning people-friendliness and we are treading on thorny grounds -- The results of the June 17 demonstration so far have been brilliant... the Cabinet took up the matter and ordered 400 additional policemen to patrol the streets of the city -- I for one would give Johor Baru a skip until such a time that it becomes safer -- The crimes are not only increasingly violent; But also violent and also senseless... where a simple robbery can lead to rape and even murder], pp 8-10; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: neverending flood woes" [Despite constant assurances and a flood mitigation project after another, KL seems to be plagued by flash floods -- Will there ever come a day when city folk can live in peace without fearing water gushing into their homes and offices after a downpour?], p 12; 3) Nor Zahidi Alias, "Economy: all set for a good year if..." [While domestic demand looks set to propel the Malaysian economy this year, what could scuttle the numbers is external demand, principally from the United States?], pp 14-15; 4) S C Chan, "Maid in Malaysia" [Sarawak's 'Able Maids Training Centre' -- Malaysia's first ISO-certified maid training center ups the ante in providing reliable maids to both Malaysian and overseas clients], pp 40-41. **Jul16th-31st 2007** -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: time to be innovative and informative" [Like it or not, the ICT (Information, Communication & the Arts) Age is here to stay, in relation to information dissemination in particular... hence, it would be best that the government catches up on the trend or risk being outdated ... the Singapore authorities concede that it is nearly impossible to control internet traffic... So, instead of using the force of law, they have resorted to the powers of persuasion by participating in blog discussions], pp 8-10; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: let

common sense prevail" [The decision to get Bank Negara Malaysia to come up with its own Credit Reference Agency-type body following the controversy surrounding these agencies once again shows up our penchant for knee-jerk reactions as opposed to sound, logical problem-solving skills -- Are we implying that Bank Negara Malaysia would have a data base that is more accurate and timely? -- The thinking seems to be that the current credit reference agencies are unable to provide accurate and timely data], p 12.

>Pertanika journal of social science & humanities

V.13.n.2 Sep 2005 -- 1) Surjit Singh S/O Uttam Singh, Rahim M. Sail, Bahaman Abu Samah, Raja Ahmad Tajudin Shah & Linda A Lumayag, "Making volunteering visible" [From the Abstract -- Volunteer work never accounted for in the national data of Malaysia -- Argues that it should be, according to its economic value -- Article based on research conducted in 2003 regarding tangible and intangible contributions of public service retirees who belonged to the Professional and Managerial group within the Malaysian civil service, premised on belief that providing a liveable monetary value to the retirees' voluntary contributions in community development would encourage retirees to engage in meaningful and productive work during a transition period between work and retirement], pp 117-130; **2)** Ezhar Tamam, Zanariah Mohd Nor & Zamree Yaacob, "Benchmarking best practices in youth associations in Malaysia: a case study" [From the Abstract -- Analysis of a youth association that received the best youth association national award in 2004 -- Data analyzed using qualitative statistical methods and 9 key enablers: a) environment that supports youth development needs & capacities; b) sound, integrated need-based program that attracts members and the community; c) support of the community; d) strong linkage and partnership/collaborative approach with government & non-government agencies on youth work; e) commitment of members thru engagement in youth work; f) committed & competent leadership with shared objectives; g) reliable administration & supportive infrastructure; h) continuous monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities; i) sustainable funding], pp 147-158; **3)** Surjit Singh S/O Uttam Singh, Rahim M. Sail, Bahaman Abu Samah, Raja Ahmad Tajudin Shah & Linda A Lumayag, "Debunking the myth: the involvement of Malaysian retirees in volunteerism" [From the Abstract -- An exploratory study involving the Malaysian retirees from the premier and managerial and professional sectors of the Malaysian Public Service -- Examines extent of retirees' involvement, motivation and preference in relation to engaging in volunteerism in the country -- Data from a mailed survey questionnaire to elicit information and opinions of 261 retirees throughout Malaysia, including Sabah & Sarawak], pp 159-171; **4)** Steven Eric Krauss (@Abdul-Lateef Abdullah), Azimi Hj Hamzah, Rumaya Juhari & Jamaliah Abd Hamid, "The MRPI (Muslim Religiosity-Personality Inventory): Toward understanding differences in the Islamic religiosity among the Malaysian youth" [From the Abstract & article -- Life styles of Malaysian Muslim youth are changing and there is a need to understand and assess the key areas of the religious commitment among the youth -- The Institute for Community and Peace Studies at UPM, along with researchers from UKM

ventured into a IRPA initiative to develop knowledge of the religiosity 'norms' of selected groups of Malaysian Muslim youths as a first step toward understanding their religiosity in a broader context -- Sections on: a) 'Islam and nation building'; b) 'Mixed method approach'; c) 'sampling'; d) 'MRPI Religiosity model and instrument development'; e) 'Development of the MRPI sub-dimensions'; f) 'Psychometric analysis of the MRPI'; g) 'Results'; h) Discussion (subsections of religiosity dimensions, Islamic worldview, & religious personality; religiosity subdivisions... the Islamic worldview & religious personality; i) conclusion; j) 22 items in the bibliography] pp 173-186; **5)** Ezhar Tamam, Wendy Yee, Fazilah Idris, Azimi Hamzah, Zainal Abidin Mohamed, Wong Su Luan & Mansor Mohd Noor, "The relationship of exposure to news media with attachment to the national ethos" [From the Abstract -- Tests the assumption that national media played an important role in promoting a strong national ethos among Malaysians -- A total of 606 students from 10 universities and colleges aged between 18-27 years interviewed in a national survey with a self-administered questionnaire -- 3 dimensions of the national ethos emerged (shared identity and future/destiny; shared history and value; and shared loyalty/commitment) and students had positive perceptions toward selected characteristics of the country -- But a significant difference among the 3 ethnic groups in terms of their attachment to the 3 dimensions of the national ethos] pp 187-198; **6)** Surjit Singh S/O Uttam Singh, Rahim M. Sail, Bahaman Abu Samah, Raja Ahmad Tajudin Shah & Linda A. Lumayag, "To volunteer or not to volunteer: the case of Malaysian Public Service retirees" [Attempts to decipher the difference between volunteer and non-volunteer retirees in terms of psychosocial and altruistic factors, and what the difference would imply], pp 199-209; **7)** Wendy Yee, Azimi Hamzah, Jegak Uli & Turiman Suandi, "Self-esteem of youth participating in theatre performance: a Malaysian scenario" [Aims at identifying the extent of the self-esteem development among youth as a result of participating in theatre performances and identifying the most influential theatre performance elements that contributed to the development of self-esteem], pp 211-218; **8)** Surjit Singh S/O Uttam Singh, Rahim M. Sail, Bahaman Abu Samah, Raja Ahmad Tajudin Shah & Linda A. Lumayag, "Encouraging voluntary work among public service retirees: how policy intervention can help" [Argues that for volunteerism to be a permanent feature in society there must be a public policy that encourages, motivates & appreciates the value of volunteerism that is acknowledged in the community], pp 219-230. **V.14.n.1 Mar 2005 -- 1)** Ezhar Tamam & Wan Anita Wan Abas, "Exposure to the US news media, religion and the Malaysians students' attitudes towards the United States" [From the Abstract -- A total of 133 male and 158 female students (181 Muslim and 105 non-Muslim) participated in a self-administered survey assessing their attitudes toward the US -- Findings showed that a majority of the students seemed to reflect dislike of American ideas and values; but that the 'concept of democracy' is slowly seeping into the Malaysian way of life, and that the same respondents welcomed American music & movies, technological & scientific advancement, and the American work ethic that American capitalism claims to adhere to -- No significant difference was found on all 4 items regarding attitudes toward the US between respondents who

were exposed to CNN and US News magazine from those who were not exposed to these US media, except on attitudes towards US technological and scientific advancement -- The influence of religion seemed more prominent: Muslim and non-Muslim respondents differed significantly in preferences for American ideas, customs, music and movies, and technological and scientific progress], pp 1-9; **2)** Asnarulhadi Abu Samah, "Participation and quality of life: a study on the people's empowerment in a Malay village community" [From the Abstract -- Empowerment is not only a process of collectively organizing the weak and poor to fight against the powerful and rich; It is also within the processes of how individuals take control over their individual lives and organize themselves into various different groups and communities -- This article illustrates and portrays people empowerment thru their participation in a Malay village community], pp 11-26; **3)** Ahmad Atory Hussain & Malike Brahim, "Administrative modernization in the Malaysian local government: a study in promoting efficiency, effectiveness and productivity" [From the Abstract -- Closely examining the Malaysian administrative modernization and reform initiated by Mahathir Mohamad, PM from 1981 to 2003, the authors identify the administrative reform efforts that were introduced at the local government level, based on research in 2002-2003, to gauge the opinion of senior officers then currently in various units in local governments in 8 states: Perlis, Penang, Kedah, Kelantan, Sabah, Sarawak, Pahang & Terengganu -- Result shows that not all reform efforts introduced and adopted in those states were effective and successful], pp 51-62; **4)** Idris Jajri & Rahman Ismail, "Elasticity of substitutions between foreign and local workers in the Malaysian manufacturing sector" [From the Abstract -- About the issue of foreign laborers filling job vacancies at various levels and their lower job rank than Malaysian citizens for the same work -- Investigates the substitutability or complementarities with the local laborers -- The data from the Manufacturing Survey of 1985 to 1996, collected by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia -- 4 job categories covered in this analysis: a) local semi-skilled workers; b) foreign semi-skilled workers; c) local skilled workers; and d) foreign skilled workers -- 5 industry categories: a) wood-based; b) paper products; c) chemical products; d) non-metallic mineral products; and e) basic metal products], pp 63-76.

>Population and development review

V.33,n.3 Sep 2007 -- **1)** Gavin Jones, "Delayed marriage and very low fertility in Pacific Asia" -- The general decline of fertility levels in Pacific Asia is in its vanguard countries, where fertility rates are among the lowest in the world -- A related trend is toward delayed marriage and non-marriage -- Asian countries in the samples are: Japan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore (Chinese & Malays & Indians), Malaysia (Chinese & Malays & Indian), Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Taiwan -- And a full list of European states -- No long sections on Malaysia or Singapore, only mentions and examples; But an important topic for MSB], pp 453-478.

> rima (Review of Indonesian and Malaysian Affairs)

V.41.n.1 2007 -- **1)** Ron Witton, "Indonesian and Malay loan words in Australian English" [Documents the *Macquaries Dictionary's* current edition (4th edition), a dictionary drawn

from Australian English that provides evidence of Australia's historical and modern links to Australia's near north, Indonesia and Malaysia -- Some examples: *wayang, rupiah, gamelan, kretek, pasar, malam, ringgit,, durian, kebaya, and nasi goreng* -- Approximately 200 words in all noted], pp 149-177; **2)** "Panel discussion of Henk Maier's *We are playing relatives: a survey of Malay writing*": **[a)** Joost Cote, "Some initial responses", pp 179-184; **b)** Harry Aveling, "An overview contained in a metaphor, both wrapped in a theoretical attitude", pp 185-193; **c)** Julian Millie, "We are playing: a review", pp 193-197; **d)** Andy Fuller, "Discussing Henk Maier's *We are playing relatives*", pp. 197-201; **e)** "References", pp 202-203].

>Sojourn: journal of social issues in Southeast Asia

V.21,n.2 2006

1) Mohamed Effendy Bin Abdul Hamid, "Understanding the Cham identity in Mainland Southeast Asia: contending views" [From the abstract and content of the article -- Cham people have established extensive and intense webs of relationships encompassing activities in the economic, religious, cultural, and political spheres throughout maritime Southeast Asia from the time of early states into modern times -- Asks what qualities the Chams possess that allowed them to successfully participate in the cultural and social dynamics in societies other than their own, such as Malaysia and Indonesia as well as Vietnam and Cambodia -- Key words & topics: Cham identity, contending views, Cham history, contemporary issues, Cham ethnicity, Barth's 'interaction' theory, 'historical layer', 'religious layer', Cham Muslims, marriage, education, and 'oppressed minority layer'], pp 230-253; **2)** Ho Khai Leong, review of E. Kay Gillis, 2005, *Singapore civil society and British Power*, [From the review -- Gillis's book is one of few that utilizes much existing literature and presents a reasoned and coherent argument in rethinking the development of associational and interest groups in Singapore's history, covering the period from 1819 to 1963, which she called 'the era of British power', including the Japanese occupation from 1942 to 1945 -- The general argument posits that under the British authoritarian administration, civil society was able to grow and become vibrant, even exciting -- A major turning point in 1963 when the PAP negotiated the transfer of power from the British colonialists -- Focus on the political activities of associational groups, but misses an opportunity to demonstrate the energies of non-state actors in the discussion on the Nanyang University, which is mentioned only in passing], pp 271-274.

>Sudostasien aktuell

5 -- 2007 -- **1)** Tham Siew Yean, "Outward foreign direct investment from Malaysia: an exploratory study" [From the Abstract -- Although Malaysia is well known as a host country, there is little research on its investment abroad even though this has been steadily increasing -- Using a case study based on Dunning's OLI framework, 7 firms are studied to understand their motivations to invest abroad as well as home, and host country policies that have facilitated or hindered their investments -- Main motivations for these firms to invest abroad range from the low labor cost advantage in the host country, saturation of the domestic Malaysian market, as well as the need to enhance their explore-competitiveness in 3rd country markets and to exploit the domestic market potential in other countries -- Main home policy that benefits the companies in overseas investment is the full tax exemption on income

earned overseas -- And more], pp 45-72.

>**The economist**

Oct6th-12th 2007 -- 1) "Economic and financial indicators: doing business" [Singapore retained its ranking as the easiest place to do business in the World Bank's 'Doing business 2008', report, the 5th in an annual series], p 112. **Oct13th-19th 2007 -- 1)** "Indonesia and Malaysia: no brotherly love" [Indonesians were gobsmacked (Is that a word in any language?!) to hear the Malaysian tourism board's new advertisements, which features the old song *Rasa Sayang* -- Hey, they cried, that's our tune! -- Indonesian critics did not have "Feelings of love" for Malays "stealing" other parts of their cultural heritage, such as *batik* (Ed: Whoever wrote this one does not know that Malay language is the basis of Indonesian language!... the dateline is Bangkok) -- The 'stolen' tune provided background music to a rising discord, mainly over how Malaysia treats the millions of Indonesians working there, legally and illegally -- In June Indonesian newspapers published a foto of an Indonesian maid clinging to a rope of bed sheets to descend from an apartment in KL and escape her 'abusive' employers -- The Indonesian embassy in KL said there were 1,200 cases of abuse of Indonesian maids last year -- Other Indonesian protests: In August anti-Malaysian protests spread across Indonesia after Malaysian plain-clothes police beat up the Indonesian referee of the Asian Karate Championship held in KL -- This week, Indonesia lodged a complaint for 2 of its citizens, one a diplomat's wife, allegedly mistreated by the *Rela* volunteer force that tracks illegal immigrants -- The two countries leaders have tried to calm things, but relations are brittle -- The author of this piece, or an editor, notes the relationship between Malay and Indonesian languages at the end], p 47; **2)** "Economic and financial indicators" [GDP in Singapore rose by 9.4% in the year to the 3rd quarter], p 113. **Oct27th-Nov2nd 2007 -- 1)** "Singapore's economy: high-flyer" [The strong global economic tide has lifted the boats of most SEA countries, with Singapore perhaps the most impressive performer -- National income per person is higher than Spain's & New Zealand's, and 5 times that of its nearest neighbor: Malaysia -- And more details ... booming, bustling and bursting at the seams] pp 51-52. **Nov3rd-9th 2007 -- 1)** "Economic and financial indicators: competitiveness" [The World Economic Forum, a think-tank based in Switzerland, in its latest *Global competitiveness report*, grades 131 countries in 12 categories -- Singapore, Japan and South Korea are the most competitive economies in Asia, ranking well above China and India], p 114. **Nov17th-23rd 2007 -- 1)** "The world this week: politics" [Kuala Lumpur saw its largest anti-government demonstrations since 1999, protesting dubious election procedures and alleged corruption within the electoral commission], p 9; **2)** (Dateline Bangkok), "Malaysia: not mellow yellow" [The largest anti-government protests for a decade -- Last weekend tens of thousands of Malaysians wore canary-yellow shirts to defy a government ban and march in KL, calling for fair elections -- Riot police blocked routes into the city & fired water cannon to break up the rally -- Pundits predict that the PM, Abdullah Badawi, will go to the polls early next year, which adds the urgency of calls to overhaul the electoral system... which met a cool response -- Yellow is the color of

royalty in Malaysia as in Thailand, an echo of Thailand's political problems last year -- And recently, the 9 Malaysian Sultans refused to approve Badawi's choice for chief justice of the federal court... an unusual action for the 'rubber stamp' Sultans -- Malaysian lawyers staged their own march thru the streets of the administrative capital in September regarding alleged meddling in the selection of judges -- But UMNO still strong], p 53. **Nov24th-30th 2007 -- 1)** "South-East Asia: fifth from the right is the party-pooper" [Welcoming Myanmar's bloodstained PM to their summit...they, too, have problems with human rights... ASEAN leaders further undermine their credibility with a toothless new charter -- ASEAN countries still do three-quarters of their trade with non-members -- Likewise with investment: A UN study found that in 2005 Thailand's main investment destination was Hong Kong, while Singapore's was mainland China], pp 43-44. **Dec1st-7th 2007 -- 1)** "Economic and financial indicators" [Malaysia left their benchmark interest rates unchanged], p 113. **Dec15th-21st 2007 -- 1)** "Disputes in the South China Sea: whales and Spratlys" [China has become less strident in asserting its claims to sovereignty over islands in the South China Sea, but wariness persists -- During a meeting in November in Singapore, China's PM, Wen Jiabao, told his Vietnamese counterpart that efforts to demarcate their land border should be speeded up -- The new Sansha city embraces the Spratlys, where the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan also have claims... but the contenders have remained quiet... and parceling the South China Sea oil and gas reserves among the claimants is in abeyance], pp 51-52. **Jan12th-18th 2008 -- 1)** "The world this week: business" [Singapore Airlines still wants to pursue alliance with China Eastern Airlines after its proposal to buy a 24% stake in Shanghai-based carrier was rejected by China Eastern's minority shareholders -- In a rare tussle in corporate China, China Eastern investors were swayed by promise of a higher offer from Air China... its larger rival], p 9.

>**The journal of comparative Asian development V.6,n.2**

Fall 2007 -- 1) Juliana Abdul Wahab, "The more the merrier? Current trends and future directions of the Malaysian television industry in the era of marketization" [From the Introduction -- Television was introduced in Malaysia in 1963; 6 years later a 2nd channel added; both run by the state government to the present; 4 commercial channels later; Also 3 subscription-based TV stations, all privately owned -- In the beginning, it was hard to find locally produced programs... lack of local expertise and limited funds to run the service, so imported programs in order to fill -- After 2 decades of government monopoly, in 1984, the first Malaysian private television was added -- But, many locally produced programs available are pale copies of western genres -- Also, government policy and economic forces (locally & inter- nationally) impinge upon and influence further development, and the supposed diversity should not be taken as real -- Sections on "The early years", "The beginning of commercial broadcasting", "Intensification of competition", "Contemporary scenario", "Findings and analysis" (regarding the 6 stations ... % of local & imported content), and "Future directions and implications"], pp 219-245.

BOOKS BOOKS books books

>**Andaya, Leonard Y. --2008--Leaves of the same tree: trade and ethnicity in the Straits of Melaka. 352 pp + 6**

maps. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i. Hb ISBN 978-0-8248-3189-9 [From the website – A history not merely of ethnicity, but of economy, politics and culture – Very close to a total history of the western and central archipelago during 2 millennia – Geography, economics, commercial organization, political culture, elite family networks, literary production, and religious currents, together with his control of the diverse secondary literature and expertise in Dutch and Malay primary materials, makes this a work of unique authority – Privileging ethnicity as an analytical tool, Andaya examines the ethnic groups along the Straits to document the manner in which they responded to the vicissitudes of the international marketplace, focusing on the *Melayu*, whose dominance contributed to the 'ethnicization' of other groups in the straits, by deliberately politicizing differences within their own community, such as the Minangkabau, Achinese and the Batak; while the *orang laut* and the *orang asli* on the other hand retained their distinctive yet complementary cultural markers.]

>Bacus, Elizabeth A. & Ian C. Glover & Vincent C. Piggot (eds) –2006-- ***Uncovering Southeast Asia's past: selected papers from the 10th International Conference of the European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists.*** 464 pp. Singapore: Singapore University Press. Pb ISBN 9971-69-351—8 [From the website – A collection of 36 chs selected to give an overview of recent research into prehistoric and early historic archeology in SEA – Princess Maha Chakri Siridorn of Thailand comments on the significance of the inscriptions from the Khmer temple, Prasat Phnom Rung in N.E. Thailand; followed by Prof. Charles Higham's original and insightful survey of the prehistoric links between south China and the countries of modern S.E. Asia – Other authors range from senior to junior academicians, all engaged in archaeological and historical research in the region – Essays organized into 7 broad themes: a) late Pleistocene and early Holocene communities; b) new perspectives on the Neolithic; c) Bronze & Iron ages mortuary practices; d) Iron Age landscapes and cultures; e) emerging early states & trading ports; f) urban landscapes; g) and regional and long-distance exchange relations – A significant contribution to the knowledge of a complex, dynamic and multiethnic region whose peoples have roots deep into the past.]

>Bansal, N. S. –2007—***The World Trade Organisation: from Singapore to Hong Kong.*** 1st ed. 2 vols: v.1, xii+ 424 pp; v.2, xii+ 425-923 pp. New Delhi: Mittal Publications. v.1 ISBN: 81833241646; v.2 ISBN: 8183241654 [From K.K.Agencies website -- See especially Ch6 (which is the first chapter in v.2) 1st Ministerial Conference Singapore].

>Barr, Michael & Carl A. Trocki (eds) –2007—***Paths not taken: political pluralism in postwar Singapore.*** 304 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (distributed for National University of Singapore Press). Pb ISBN 978-9971-69-378-7 [From the website – Explores the political and cultural movements that characterized Singapore's era of pluralism from the 1950s to the mid-1970s, a time of extraordinary cultural, intellectual, and political dynamism when students, labor unions, ambitious political contenders & representatives of ethnic communities offered alternate visions of Singapore's future – Representing the entire political spectrum, they

generated a ferment of ideologies, priorities, perspectives and social visions that mainstream politics in the country had never before known and has not since – Presents an alternative vision of Singapore's postwar history by exploring the character and origins of Singaporean civil and political movements that operated outside the sphere of the People's Action Party.]

>Beinart, William & Lotte Hughes –2007—***Environment and empire.*** 416 pp. Oxford University Press. Hb ISBN-13: 978-0-19-926031-7 [From the website – A unique overview of environmental themes in the history of the British empire concerning social and political issues related to environmental change – See especially, Ch14, "Rubber and the environment in Malaysia.]"

>Bennett, James –2006—***Crescent Moon: Islamic art and civilization in Southeast Asia.*** 304 pp. Seattle: U. of Washington Press. Hb ISBN 0-7308-3030-6 [From the website – Introduces the beauty and complexity of Southeast Asian Islamic art and culture – Features major works of art from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, as well as extraordinary works from the National Gallery of Australia – Reveals the sophistication and splendor of Islamic courts in Southeast Asia, recalling a glorious past enriched by the spice trade and lavish ceremonies as testimonies of faith and power, as well as revelation of new forms of art in gold, silk, lacquer, porcelain & stone in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Muslim communities of Thailand, Burma, Cambodia & Vietnam – See especially, Othman Yatim, "Malay arts: viewing the dimensions of creative expression".]

>Booth, Anne E –2007—***Colonial legacies: economic and social development in East and Southeast Asia.*** 256 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Hb ISBN 978-0-8248-3161-5 [From the website – Compares performances and consequences between the colonial legacies of the Japanese Co-prosperity Sphere (Taiwan and Korea) and those of the European and American colonies (Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines): examining and critiquing various arguments regarding economic development in East and Southeast Asia from the beginning of the 20th century until the 1960's – In depth examination of the nature and consequences of colonial policies, including: a) growth of export-oriented agriculture and development of manufacturing industry; b) impact of colonial policies on growth and diversification of market economy and on welfare of indigenous populations; using indicators such as educational enrollments, infant mortality rates, and crude death rates to compare living standards across East and Southeast Asia in the 1930s – Also analysis of the impact of the Co-prosperity Sphere and the later invasion and conquest had on the region and living standards of its people.]

>Chin, James & Jayl Langub –2007—***Reminiscences: recollections of Sarawak Administrative Service officers.*** Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd. Pb ISBN 9679789438 [From the website – About the experiences of SAS officers who served in the period from colonial rule to the formation of Malaysia in the 1960s, and their adjustment to it, such as adjusting to new masters while maintaining the special characteristics of the SAS established during the Brooke period, the political turbulence in the region, the 'awakening' of indigenous peoples, the advent of political parties in Sarawak, the problems of elections

in inaccessible interiors, the challenge from the communist movement, and the Indonesian opposition to the formation of the Malaysian Federation.]

>**Constable, Nicole (ed)** –2005-- *Guest People: Hakka identity in China and abroad*. 294 pp. Seattle: U. of Washington Press. Pb ISBN 0-295-98487-2 [From the website – Essays analyze and compare what it means to be Hakka in a variety of socio-cultural, political, geographical, and historical contexts including Malaysia, Hong Kong, Calcutta, Taiwan & contemporary China.]

>**David, Maya Khemlani & Vanithamani Saravanan & Peter G. Sercombe & Gabrielle Hogan-Brun** –2008 (Nov)-- *Language, identities and education in Asia*. 160 pp. Palgrave USA. Hb ISBN 1-4039-9746-2 [From the website -- Examines the issues of language, education and identity in multilingual Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore – The main focus is the ways local institutional forces are affecting macro and micro-level language choices and the evolution of local identities in the face of increasing political and economic globalization – Table of Contents: a) P.G. Sercombe, "Introduction"; b) M.K. David, "Political, educational and socioeconomic reasons for language shift in multilingual Peninsular Malaya"; c) M.K. David, "Language choices of metropolitan Sino-Indians in the Klang Valley, Malaysia"; d) V. Saravanan, "Globalisation: asserting ownership over local linguistic and cultural identities"; e) V. Saravanan, "Reversing language shift: multilingual communities' responses to language maintenance"; f) P.G. Sercombe, "Brunei Darussalam: issues of language, identity and education"; g) P.G. Sercombe, "Language identity and education and the Penan in Brunei"; h) M.K. David, "Postscript"; i) "References"; and j) "Index".]

>**DeBernardi, Jean** –2006-- *The way that lives in the heart: Chinese popular religion and spirit mediums in Penang, Malaysia*. 392 pp. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. ISBN-10: 0804752923 ISBN-13:9780804752923 [From the website – A richly detailed ethnographic analysis of the practice of Chinese religion in the modern, multicultural city of Penang - Conveys an understanding of shared religious practices and orientations and a sense of how individuals imagine, represent and transform popular religious practices within their own lives – Introduction; Part One (Heaven on Earth): Ch1 (Mending luck); Ch2 (Spiritual collisions); Ch3 (Possessed by the past) – Part Two (Spirit mediums): Ch4 (Domesticating the dead); Ch5 (Self-cultivation and the dao); Ch6 (The teachings of a modern master); Ch7 (Drawing on the dark side) -- Conclusion; Notes, Bibliography, Chinese Glossary, Index.]

>**Devasahayam, Theresa W. & Brenda S. A. Yeoh (eds)** – 2007-- *Working and mothering in Asia: images, ideologies and identities*. 266 pp. Singapore: Singapore University Press (co-edition w/ NIAS Press). Pb ISBN 9971-69-348-8 [From the website – Many women in Asian countries engage in paid work outside their home to support their families or in the hope of developing careers; and to balance these conflicting roles they are negotiating, contesting and reconfiguring motherhood – The contributing authors (Daniele Belanger, Chen Xuan, Theresa W. Devasahayam, Arent Greve, Keiko Hirao, Anne-Marie Hilsdon, Santosh Jatrana, Debbie Ong,

Xavier Oudin, Janet W, Salaff, Carolyn I. Sobritchea, Maila Stivens, and Brenda S, A. Yeoh) approach the subject from the disciplines of anthropology, sociology, gender studies, demography and law with nonetheless some common themes: patriarchy, labor & relations, strategies of accommodation, conflict & emotion management, roles of fathers, definitions of 'good mothering', and political meanings of 'maternity' & 'family'.]

>**Doolittle, Amity A.** –2007—*Property and politics in Sabah, Malaysia: native struggles over land rights*. 232 pp. Seattle: U. of Washington Press. Pb ISBN 0-295-98762-6; 978-0-295-98762-0 [From the website – In 1990, after an announcement that Kinabalu Park, a tourist destination, was to be expanded to include a species rich forest, most of this 'new' addition was burned to the ground, allegedly by local people – The author explains this event by examining the history of the use of land and other natural resources, from 1881 to 1996, by local people -- Drawing also upon anthropology, political science, environmental history, and political ecology; she examines how control and access to resources were defined, negotiated and contested by state agents, the postcolonial state, and local people – Good reviews.]

>**Esposito, John L & John Voll & Osman Bakar** –2007— *Asian Islam in the 21st century*. 320 pp. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-19-533303-9 [From the website – Although more than half of the world's Muslims live in Asia, the most widely read books on contemporary Islam focus on the Middle East – The studies collected in this book look at changes both in Muslim majority countries and in societies where Muslims are a minority – Experiences of democratization, successful and unsuccessful, are examined – The rise of radical militant movements is analyzed, placed in historical perspective, and in the broader context of mainstream Islamic ideals – Among the prominent contributors: Fred von der Mehden, Vali Nasr, Hakan Yavuz, John Voll -- A successor tome to Esposito's influential 1987 collection, *Islam in Asia*.]

>**Gale, Bruce** –2007—*Mastering Malay*. 264 pp. Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd. Pb ISBN 967978942X [From the website – Designed to provide those who understand the basic grammar and structure of Malay with the additional vocabulary needed to easily read contemporary Malay language newspapers – 97 carefully selected readings, divided into 10 themes extracted from news reports issued by Malaysia's largest Malay language news organizations – Each passage accompanied by a vocabulary section giving the meanings of the more difficult words together with a set of comprehension questions – A separate chapter about differences between Malay & Indonesian.]

>**Girvin, Stephen D** –2007—*Carriage of goods by sea*. 766 pp. Oxford University Press. Hb ISBN-13: 978-0-19-876458-8 [From the website -- Documents of carriage, international regulation and the responsibilities and obligations of the skipper and carrier – Coverage of cargo claims including limitation periods, damages and arbitration – Principles from key UK and Commonwealth cases in one volume – Extensive cross-references to major common law jurisdictions of Singapore, Malaysia, Australasia, Hong Kong and South Africa.]

>**Kaup, Katherine Palmer (ed)** –2007-- *Understanding contemporary Asia Pacific*. 473 pp. Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Pb ISBN 978-1-58826-086-4 [From the

Introduction (Ch1) by Katherine Palmer Kaup – Focuses on China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, East Timor and ASEAN (Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) – A region of the world with many different geographies, nationalities and cultures; but the countries have many common interests, as well as an area that has been characterized as threatened and threatening – While each of the chapters can be studied independently, read as a whole they provide uncommon insights on how culture, economics, politics and international relations intersect to shape the dynamics in Asia Pacific – Ch2, Ron D. Hill, “Asia Pacific: a geographic preface”; Ch3, Colin Mackerras, “The historical context”; Ch4, Katherine Palmer Kaup, “Asia Pacific Politics”; Ch5, Kailash Khandke, “The economics of Asia Pacific”; Ch6, Derek McDougall, “International relations”; Ch7, Robert Sutter, “Military and security issues”; Ch8, Peter Hills, “The environment”; Ch9, Dean Forbes, “Population and urbanization”; Ch10, Katherine Palmer Kaup, “Ethnicity”; Ch11, Yana Rodgers, “Women and development”; Ch 12, Keri Cole, “Religion in Asia Pacific”; Ch13, Fay Beauchamp & Ely Marquez, “Asia Pacific literature”; Ch 14, Brantly Womack, “Trends and Prospects”; Plus List of acronyms, basic political data, the contributors, & index.]

>Kheng-Hor, Khoo –2007-- *Mamasan*. 516 pp. Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd. Pb ISBN 9679789411 [From the website -- Plunges into the glitzy world of night clubbing, taking readers behind shocking and fascinating scenes within a large KL cabaret/ nightclub, where customers, mamasans, dance hostesses, managers and bouncers are in a ‘world’ where money, lots of it, is king, arousing greed, lust, violence, love, broken homes, and corruption – And yet these are ‘average guys’, as are we all.]

>Khun Eng Kuah-Pearce & Evelyn Hu-Dehart (eds) –2006— *Voluntary organizations in the Chinese diaspora*. 304 pp. Seattle: U. of Washington Press. Hb ISBN 962-209-776-6 [From the website – Argues that Chinese voluntary organizations continue to play a significant role in established and new Chinese communities in the Diaspora because of their ability to transform their organizational structure and functions while reinventing their own images to suit their co-ethnic community and the wider polity – Covers traditional voluntary organizations from Asia to Australia, North America & Europe... not only in Singapore & Malaysia but also in emerging communities in Canada and Eastern Europe – See especially: a) Ch2, P. Pui Huen Lim, “Between tradition and modernity: the Chinese Association of Johor Bahru; and b) Ch3, Khun Eng Kuah-Pearce, “The cultural politics of clan associations in contemporary Singapore”.]

>Kuhonta, Erik Martinez & Dan Slater & Tuong Vu –2007— *Southeast Asia in Political Science: theory, region, and qualitative analysis*. 448 pp. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford Univ. Press. Hb ISBN-10: 0804758107 [From the website – Argues that Southeast Asian political studies have made important contributions to theory building in comparative politics through a dialogue involving theory, area studies, and qualitative methodology – Provides a state-of-the-art review of key topics in the field, including: state structures, political regimes, political parties, contentious politics, civil society, ethnicity, religion,

rural development, globalization, and political economy -- Chapters allow readers to trace the development of the field of Southeast Asian politics and to appreciate central debates in comparative politics – Will serve as a reference for undergraduate and graduate students as well as scholars of Southeast Asian politics and comparativists in theoretical debates.]

>Lee Su Kim & Thang Siew Ming & Lee King Siang –2007— *Border crossings: moving between languages & cultural frameworks*. 240 pp. Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd. Pb ISBN 9789679789403 [From the website -- Border crossings are everyday occurrences; not only across cultures, but across social groups, social classes, generations, and discourses, in our globalized world – This book a collection of 8 articles that document different kinds of border crossings; 7 are research-based papers of crossings in various contexts in Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei; Japan and the UK, and another is a Malaysian author’s self-reflective personal narrative.)

>Matsumoto, Yoshiko & David Oshima & Orrin Robinson & Peter Sells (eds) –2007— *Diversity in language: perspectives and implications*. 250 pp. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press. Pb ISBN 978-1-57586-536-2 [From the website -- A renowned team of contributors assess the intricacies of linguistic variation – See especially Ch4, Mark Donohue, “Variation in voice in Indonesian/Malay: historical and synchronic perspectives”.]

>Milne, Paul –2007— *Where to watch birds in world cities*. 406 pp. Ithaca, NY: Yale University Press. Pb ISBN 978-0-30011-691-5 [Birding sites within 61 of the world’s most visited cities, including Singapore.]

>Ochial, Emiko & Barbara Molony (eds) –2007— *Asia’s new mothers: crafting gender roles and childcare networks in East and Southeast Asian societies*. 240 pp. Honolulu: U. of Hawaii. Hb ISBN 978-1-905246-37-3 [From the website – Authors consider historical & cultural differences and similarities among societies in the region, employing ‘thick’ field research of people’s everyday experiences – Research conducted between 2001 and 2003 in 6 societies: Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, China, South Korea, & Japan – Most essays focused on modernization and gender, and globalization and gender.]

>Patapan, Haig & John Wanna & Patrick Weller (eds) – 2005— *Westminster legacies: democracy and responsible government in Asia and the Pacific*. 288 pp. Seattle: U. of Washington Press. Pb ISBN 0-86840-848-4 [From the website – Examines ways the Westminster system has influenced shaping responsible government and democracy across Asia, Australasia and the Pacific – Includes chapters on Singapore, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and smaller Pacific island nations – Looks at conditions under which Westminster legacies have taken root and endured, and those conditions that have eroded or significantly changed its influence; and at Westminster-derived states in the survey teetering on becoming ‘failed states’, while others remain robust adversarial democracies – See especially: a) Ch5, Deborah A. Johnson & Anthony Milner, “Westminster implanted: the Malaysian experience”; & b) Ch6, Gary Rodan, “Westminster in Singapore: now you see it, now you don’t”.]

>Rowen, Henry S. –2006-- *Making IT: the rise of Asia inhigh tech*. 408 pp. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University

Press. Pb ISBN-10: 0804753857 [Examines causes and major consequences of the dramatic rise of Asia in High Tech, systematically analyzing each country's policies and results on national and national innovation region levels – Henry S. Rowen provides "An Overview" (Ch1); Part I, "The early developer: Japan" (Chs 2 & 3) is devoted to Japan; and Part II, to "Three Asian IT tigers" which includes Ch4 on Taiwan & Ch6 on Daeduk and Teheran – In Part II, see especially Chapter 5. Poh Kam Wong's "The re-making of Singapore's high-tech enterprise ecosystem".]

>**Sardar, Ziauddin** –2000 – **Consumption of Kuala Lumpur**. 280 pp. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (distributed by Reaktion Books – Dated but, until now, not in *Berita's* books list, and the description suggests an interesting point of view). Pb ISBN: 978-1-86189-057-3 [From the website -- KL a post-modern city writ large, transformed within a decade from sleepy capital to technological marvel – Traces KL's origins and charts: remarkable changes in the city and its people, including recent economic crisis, and the power struggle between PM Mahathir Mohamad and ex-Deputy Anwar Ibrahim – Shows how a collision of cultures (Malay, Chinese, Indian, indigenous, Western) has developed and re-emerged in the form of a new synthesis, inducing both a degree of disorientation and a unique sense of energy and excitement.]

>**Sheppard, Mubin** –2007—**Tunku: his life and times**. 252 pp. Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd. Pb ISBN 96797884959 [From the website -- The authorized biography of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj (1903-1990) –Chronicles his royal ancestry, early childhood, education, initiation into politics, and achievements as the main architect of Malaya's independence, and his patronage of soccer, horse racing and traditional Malay culture – And more.]

>**Shimizu, Hiroshi**–2007-- **Japanese firms in contemporary Singapore**. 328 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (distributed for National University of Singapore Press). Pb ISBN 978-9971-69-384-8 [From the website – Singapore is a major recipient of Japanese foreign direct investment in Asia, giving Japan a powerful economic presence and influence in the country – Drawing on English and Japanese sources, examines the value-added activities of Japanese multinational corporations in manufacturing, construction and retail sectors.]

>**Simpson, Andrew (ed)** –2007—**Language and national identity in Asia**. 476 pp. Oxford University Press. Pb ISBN-13: 978-0-19-922648-1 [Covers all countries of South Asia, East Asia, and SE Asia – Leading scholars & each chapter has historical and socio-political intro to the country – See especially: a) Ch15, "Malaysia" by Asmah Haji Omar; and b) Ch17, "Singapore" by Andrew Simpson.]

>**Singh, Nagendra Kuma (Ed-in-Chief)** –2005—**International Encyclopaedia of Islamic dynasties: a continuing series** (1st edition). Vols 31-45. New Delhi: Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd. ISBN 8126104031 (set) [From K.K. Agencies website – See especially vol. 39 "South East Asia and Malaysia", viii + 269 pp.]

>**Tan, Kenneth Paul (ed)** –2007-- **Renaissance Singapore?: economy, culture and politics**. 256 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (distributed for National University of Singapore Press). Pb ISBN 978-9971-69-377-0

[From the website – A collection of public intellectuals and civil society activists discuss Singapore's public rhetoric concerning liberalization and its association with the development of a creative economy.]

>**Tan Tarn How (ed)** –2007-- **Singapore perspectives 2007: a new Singapore**, xii + 133 pp, Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies, World Scientific, Pb ISBN-13 978-981-270-571-6 [The latest of an annual series of books -- IPS Chairman Tommy Koh, "Introductory remarks" -- Section 1: The new and dual economy: **a)** Chua Hak Bin, "Singapore economy: medium term outlook"; **b)** Manu Bhaskaran, "Singapore economy: medium-term outlook" -- Section 2: The new politics of identity : **a)** Brenda S.A. Yeoh, "Migration and social diversity in Singapore"; **b)** Kwok Kian Woon, "Just what is new about the 'New politics of identity'"; **c)** Beatrice Chia-Richmond, "The Singaporean artist" -- Section 3: New technologies and social change: **a)** Lim Sun Sun, "New media and the Singaporean: rediscovering the lost art of media literacy"; **b)** Cherian George, "Singapore's emerging informal public sphere" -- Section 4: A new ASEAN : **a)** Amitav Acharya, "ASEAN at 40: ascendant or decadent?"; **b)** Azmi Mat Akhir, "A new ASEAN"; **c)** Rodolfo Severino, "The ASEAN charter: milestone or illusion?"]

>**Teh, Lydia** –2007—**Life's like that**. 324 pp. Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd. Pb ISBN 9679788865 [From the website – A collection of amusing meditations on Malaysian life and its complexities and contradictions – Dives into the depths of Malaysian family life: family, pregnancies, babies, motherhood, hobbies, festivities, daily ablutions, pets and other calamities – Captures the home-spun ordinariness and nostalgia with luminous sheen, and the essence of being Malaysian with wit and honesty.]

>**Tisdell, Clem (ed)** –2007-- **Poverty, poverty alleviation and social disadvantage: analysis, case studies and policies**. 3 vols: v.1, x+412 pp; v.2, viii+413-768 pp; v.3, xii+769-1247 pp. New Delhi: Serials Publications, KKAgencies. ISBN 8183871112 (Set) [There are 70 chs in this 3 volume set, which begins with: 1) general issues of poverty; 2) proceeds thru the circumstances in India; 3) particular regions of India; 4) experiences of India's neighbors in South Asia; 5) Central Asia, East Asia and China; 6) South East Asia 7) Africa; 8) Europe, Australia & Brazil; and 9) Pacific Islands – See especially, volume 3, Part 6 - *South East Asia*, **a)** Ch46, Chew, Soon Beng & Rosalind Chew, "Poverty, poverty alleviation and social disadvantage in Singapore"; **b)** Ch47, Wankyo Chung & Pundarik Mukhopadhaya, "Inequality during an economic crisis: evidence from Singapore; **c)** Ch49, Renuka Mahadevan, "Poverty in Malaysia: new wine in old bottle?"; **d)** Ch50, Renuka Mahadevan, "How successful is poverty alleviation in Malaysia?"]

>**Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj**–2007--**Challenging times**. 558 pp. Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd. Pb ISBN 9679780945 [Addresses the perennial issues facing Malaysia, Islamic principles, the status of the hereditary sultans and need for fair play and common sense in the conduct of the nation's affairs.]

CONFERENCES, PAPERS, MANUSCRIPTS, POSITIONS, etc

>**Understanding conflicts—cross-cultural perspectives** – University of Aarhus, Denmark – Abstract deadline is March 1, 2008 – First of a series of large International inter-disciplinary

meetings bringing together researchers from different cultural backgrounds working on analysis and transformation of conflicts due to cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity – Conference papers will be published in an anthology and 2 special issues of international journals – filseibt@hum.au.dk & <http://www.understandingconflicts.net> – From URBANTH-L mailing list: URBANTH-L@lists.yzu.edu.

>**Central States Anthropological Society** – March 27-29, 2008, Indianapolis, Indiana (Adam's Mark Hotel – Distinguished lecturer, M Nazif Shahrani -- Online information and registration at http://puffin1.creighton.edu/CSAS/Annual_Meetings.htm.

>**Transnational cinema in globalizing societies: Asia and Latin America** – Audiences: film scholars and area scholars (Latin America & Asia); sociology, philosophy, anthropology – Abstract deadline is 1 April 2008; Venue: Conference will be in Mexico in August 2008 – Especially for Asian and Latin American cinemas, cinema was instrumental in nation building processes during the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century in conditions described as 'globalization' or 'flexible accumulation', which have wrought tremendous social change such as rising standards of living, increasing inequality, etc – Papers invited addressing the relationship between cinemas and (post) national identity, cinema and modernity/post modernity, exilic cinema, diasporic and border filmmaking, effects of digital technology on filmmaking and viewing Asia and Latin America and, more generally, the impact of globalization on film industries in the two regions – Send 300 word abstract to the organizers, Armida de la Garza and Claudia Magallanes, by 1 April 2008 to: Dr. Armida de la Garza; Lecturer in International Communication; University of Nottingham, Ningbo; 199 Taikang East Road, Ningbo, China 315100 – Email: armada.delagarza@nottingham.edu.cn and website at <http://lists.yzu.edu/mailman/listinfo.cgi/urbanth-1>.

>**ASPAC 2008** – “Crossing boundaries in the Asia-Pacific” presented by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria – Abstract deadline: April 15, 2008 (500 words max) – Paper deadline: June 1, 2008 – See www.aspac.info.

>**Conference & PhD course: Asian creativity in culture and technology**, Nov 12-16, 2008 at NTNU, Trondheim, Norway – Senior researchers, PhD students and other experts with special knowledge on Asian creativity invited to submit paper abstract before 15 April 2008 – Info at <http://nias.ku.dk/news>.

Positions

Arcadia University -- Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of assistant professor in cultural anthropology to commence August 2008 – The ideal candidate will have a specialty in the transnational production of urban spaces with a focus on at least one of the following: health and human rights; criminality and economics; immigration, public policy and governance – Area is open – Submit a letter of application describing teaching philosophy and research interests, curriculum vitae, teaching evaluation summaries, and 3 letters of recommendation to: Ana Maria Garcia, Chair, Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice, Arcadia University, 450 S. Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038, e-mail Garcia@arcadia.edu.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

(Abstracted by rp from reports by Margaret John, Amnesty International Canada, Coordinator for Malaysia & Singapore, e-mail: malaysiasingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca – 26 Oct 2007: **1**) Irene Fernandez won a defamation suit against Malay-language daily *Utusan Malaysia* and was awarded M\$200,000 in damages – The paper had claimed that she hadn't cooperated with the police investigation following her press conference in 1995 revealing allegations of torture and deaths in Malaysian detention camps for illegal immigrants – She successfully claimed that the paper's article was written with malice in that it stated she deliberately evaded the police, was a disloyal citizen, and it cited her for treason – Justice Tee Ah Sing ruled that the article was not responsible journalism – Nevertheless, she remains convicted of maliciously spreading false news about the alleged torture and deaths in detention camps, and she is appealing her 1-year prison sentence to the high court; **2**) Abdul Malek Hussin, detained without charge or trial under the ISA for almost 2 months in 1998 was awarded 2.5 million Malaysian dollars in compensation -- He had been deprived of legal counsel and, to quote Judge Hishamudin Mohd Mohd Yunus, had been subjected to 'vile assault, unspeakable humiliation, prolonged physical and mental ill-treatment... he had been arrested after the sacking and imprisonment of former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, who said that the recent decision "...potentially drives a dagger thru the heart of a notorious law"; **3**) Anwar Ibrahim held a press conference Sept 19 to publicize part of a videotape showing a prominent lawyer discussing judicial appointments with the (now) Chief Justice – Critics claim that the subsequent investigation launched by the Anti-Corruption Agency focuses on identifying persons who released the video and verifying the authenticity of the tape rather than the allegations of corruption that implicate prominent politicians, judges and businessmen – The Anti-Corruption Agency has ordered Anwar to hand over the entire tape... and if he does doesn't comply it may result in another imprisonment; **4**) Dr Munawar Anees, former advisor & speech-writer for Anwar Ibrahim, will appeal his own conviction and imprisonment on charges he had sexual relations with Anwar Ibrahim – His lawyer, Manjeet Singh Dhillon, made public Dr. Anee's grim testimony of torture and ill-treatment to which he was subjected which resulted in a false confession.

PROSPECTUS

Berita is a quarterly (beginning with volume 27) bulletin board, forum and publication for all of the scholarly disciplines concerned with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies. It is published and distributed mid-month in February, May, August and November.

The editor welcomes news of forthcoming or very recent scholarly research, publications and professional positions.

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