

JATI

Volume 30, No.2

ISSN 1823-4127/ e-ISSN: 2600-8653

December 2025



JOURNAL OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITI MALAYA

<https://jati.um.edu.my>

JATI

Volume 30, No.2

ISSN 1823-4127/e-ISSN 2600-8653

December 2025

- Fifty Years of Southeast Asian Studies in Malaysia: Navigating Perspectives, Pedagogies and Practices** 1-11
Mala Rajo Sathian
- (Re)Measuring the Socio-Economic Status of Vulnerable Communities in Malaysia: A Case Study of Batek in Taman Negara** 12-35
*Muhammad Fuad Abdullah, Badli Esham Ahmad, Mohamad Pirdaus Yusoh
Agus Purwoko, Seca Gandaseca, Siti Aekbal Salleh, Cecep Eka Permana &
Nur Azirah Zahida Mohamad Azhar*
- Workplace Meals and Industrial Relations: Taiwanese Factories in Vietnam** 36-63
Vu Le Toan Khoa
- Local Tourists' Perception of Ecotourism Development in Labuan Marine Park, Malaysia** 64-95
*Wei Yien Lua, Nor Hafzan Abd Rasid, Safuan Che Din Mohd, Abdul Rahman Abdul Latip,
Wan Izatul Asma Wan Talaat, Nurashiqin Salih Udin, Mohd Zaki Harun & Nazli Aziz*
- A Philosophical Perspective of the Fourth Industrial Revolution's Impact on Vietnam's Spiritual and Cultural Life** 96-120
Nga Thi Khuat & Ha Van Thi Ta
- Behind The Walls of Pesantren: A Review of the Hidden Psychological and Academic Impacts of Bullying in Indonesia** 121-145
*Umi Muzayanah, Wasino Wasino, Sandy Arief, Agus Wahyudin, Aji Sofanudin,
Moch. Lukluil Maknun & Scientia Inu Kirana*
- The Impact of Angklung Art-Based Intervention on the Health of Senior Citizens in Malaysia** 146-169
*Muhammad Asyraf Mohd Bakri, Mohammad Kamal Sabran, Asrenee Ab Razak, Rosalam Che Me,
Saiful Hasley Ramli, Muhammad Jameel Mohamed Kamil & Siti Suhaily Surip*
- Beyond Religious Motivation: Southeast Asian Students' Arabic Learning Experiences in Brunei Darussalam** 170-194
Ahmad Maghfurin, Achmad Yani, Nasikhin, Naifah & Nugroho Eko Atmanto
- Factors and Actors for Strengthening and Sustaining Performing Arts Education in Central Java, Indonesia** 195-214
Restu Lanjari, Eny Kusumastuti, Hartono & Halimah Agustina

Editor-in-Chief

Hanafi Hussin (Universiti Malaya)

Associate Editor

David Martin Jones (King's College)

Co-Editors

S. Thirunaukarasu (Universiti Malaya)

Hanizah Idris (Universiti Malaya)

Mala Rajo Sathian (Universiti Malaya)

Low Choo Chin (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Ederson Delos Trino Tapia (University of Makati, Philippines)

Francisco P. Dumanig (University of Hawai'i)

Kim Hyung Jong (Yonsei University, South Korea)

Lili Yulyadi Anarkim (Bina Nusantara University, Indonesia)

Lowell B. Bautista (Western Sydney University)

Mary Susan Philip (Universiti Malaya)

Language Editors

Rodney C Jubilado (University of Hawai'i, U.S.A)

Desiree Quintero (Researcher, U.S.A)

Wayland Quintero (University of Hawai'i, U.S.A)

Board of Advisors

Elizabeth Collins (Ohio University)

MCM Santamaria (University of the Philippines)

Ainin Sulaiman (Universiti Malaya)

Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)

Stephanie Pillai (Universiti Malaya)

Technical Team

Chong Wu Ling (Universiti Malaya)

Mazlan Majid (University of Malaya)

Business Manager

Department of Southeast Asian Studies Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Universiti
Malaya

FIFTY YEARS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES IN MALAYSIA: NAVIGATING PEDAGOGIES, PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES

Mala Rajo Sathian
Department of Southeast Asian Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Universiti Malaya
(malarajo@um.edu.my)
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.1>

Abstract

The article discusses the development of Southeast Asian Studies or more broadly area studies in Malaysia through the lens of the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the Universiti Malaya. The experiences and trajectories of the department as a pioneer institute in the region offering a degree program in Southeast Asian Studies merits a close analysis. Through the intersections of pedagogies, perspectives and practices implemented by the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, the article delineates key achievements and challenges for area studies, both at the national and regional levels. The article concludes with some observations to move area studies forward, suggesting a region-plus framework that embraces existing and emerging subregions in the region and wider East and South Asian regions.

Keywords: *Southeast Asian Studies, Malaysia, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, pedagogy, perspective, practice*

(RE)MEASURING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA: A CASE STUDY OF BATEK IN TAMAN NEGARA

Muhammad Fuad Abdullah^{1,4*}, Badli Esham Ahmad^{2,4**}, Mohamad Pirdaus Yusoh³, Agus Purwoko^{5,6}, Seca Gandaseca⁷, Siti Aekbal Salleh^{4,8}, Cecep Eka Permana⁹ & Nur Azirah Zahida Mohamad Azhar¹

*First author, **Corresponding author

¹Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA, 42300 Puncak Alam, Malaysia.

²Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA Jengka Campus, 26400 Bandar Tun Razak, Pahang, Malaysia.

³Faculty of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, 16100, Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia.

⁴Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), 40450 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia.

⁵Fakultas Kehutanan, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Kampus 2 USU Kwala Bekala, Deli Serdang, Indonesia.

⁶Pusat Unggulan Iptek Koeksistensi Manusia-Satwaliar, Fakultas Kehutanan Universitas Sumatera Utara, Kampus 2 USU Kwala Bekala, Deli Serdang Medan, Indonesia.

⁷Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, 40450 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia.

⁸Faculty of Built Environment, UiTM, Shah Alam, Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA, 40450 Shah Alam, Malaysia.

⁹Fakultas Ilmu Pengetahuan Budaya, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia (fuad.abdullah@uitm.edu.my, badli@uitm.edu.my, pirdaus.y@umk.edu.my, agus9@usu.ac.id, seca@uitm.edu.my, aekbal@uitm.edu.my, cecep1permana@yahoo.com, azirahazhar@uitm.edu.my)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.2>

Abstract

The Orang Asli are frequently associated with poverty, but conventional unidimensional measures like the Poverty Line Income (PLI) fail to capture the full scope of their complex deprivation. This study employs the UNDP-Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the profound socio-economic challenges faced by the Batek community in Taman Negara Pahang, with a specific focus on severe deprivation in the dimensions of standard of living, education, and health. Through in-depth interviews and field observations with 17 informants, the research reveals the community grapples with severe deficiencies in their standard of living, lacking basic necessities such as adequate housing, clean water, and sanitation. These material shortfalls coexist with and exacerbate significant, persistent barriers in accessing equitable education and healthcare services, creating an interlocking cycle of disadvantage. The study documents a nuanced reality; while the establishment of village clinics has demonstrably improved healthcare access and utilisation, substantial obstacles remain. The findings underscore the critical need for collaborative, multidimensional interventions from policymakers, governmental agencies, and non-governmental organisations. These interventions must be specifically tailored to the community's unique cultural context to prioritise holistic development and effectively break the cycle of poverty.

Keywords: *indigenous community, socioeconomics, Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), protected area, Taman Negara Pahang*

WORKPLACE MEALS AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: TAIWANESE FACTORIES IN VIETNAM

Vu Le Toan Khoa

Department of Southeast Asian Studies

National Chi Nan University, Taiwan

School of Social Studies

The Sai Gon International University, Vietnam

(vuletoankhoa@siu.edu.vn)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.3>

Abstract

Vietnam is a nation in significant transition, characterised by a youthful, dynamic population with high literacy rates and substantial human capital potential for sustained economic growth. Since the implementation of the “Đổi Mới” economic reforms, Vietnam attracted significant foreign direct investment (FDI). However, the influx of FDI has presented both opportunities and challenges, including labour disputes and strikes, particularly in foreign-invested enterprises. This study explores the importance of meals at work as a focal point of labour strikes, examining the broader implications for industrial relations, Taiwanese factory management practices, and the role of trade unions in Vietnam. The study draws on data from in-depth interviews with 25 Vietnamese informants and 13 Taiwanese informants, who have been working in Binh Duong province. The study shows that, with changes in Vietnamese government policies, the context of globalisation, and the shortage of unskilled labour, industrial relations and the management policies of Taiwanese factories in Binh Duong province have changed. This research emphasises the need for improved meal quality for workers, urging factories to select better meal providers to help reduce strikes. It also recommends that government agencies strengthen grassroots trade unions by providing legal training and helping mediate between workers and employers to reduce conflicts and prevent strikes.

Keywords: *industrial relations, workplace meals, Binh Duong province, Taiwanese factory management, Vietnam*

LOCAL TOURISTS' PERCEPTION OF ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN LABUAN MARINE PARK, MALAYSIA

Wei Yien Lua^{1*}, Nor Hafzan Abd Rasid¹, Safuan Che Din Mohd¹, Abdul Rahman Abdul Latip², Wan Izatul Asma Wan Talaat¹, Nurashiqin Salih Udin³, Mohd Zaki Harun³ & Nazli Aziz^{1,2,4**}

*First author, **Corresponding author

¹Institute of Oceanography and Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia

²Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia

³Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Wisma Tani, Federal Government Administration Centre, 62628 Putrajaya

⁴Blue Economy Research Interest Group, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030, Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia

(wylua950305@gmail.com, norhafzanrasid@gmail.com, chedinmohdsafuan@umt.edu.my, rahmanlatip@umt.edu.my, wia@umt.edu.my, nurashiqin@dof.gov.my, mohdzaki@dof.gov.my, nazli_aziz@umt.edu.my)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.4>

Abstract

Marine parks in Malaysia are designated protected areas where human activities are restricted to conserve marine ecosystems. These parks promote ecotourism and increase public awareness of the marine environmental importance. Understanding local tourists' perceptions of ecotourism development in marine parks is essential for balancing conservation objectives with visitor expectations. This study investigates local tourists' perceptions of ecotourism development in Labuan Marine Park (LMP) using a questionnaire survey. Data were analysed with SPSS employing both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. The results indicate that most respondents recognised the park's conservation purpose, and approximately half strongly agreed that Labuan Marine Park had deteriorated due to surrounding development. While respondents expressed general satisfaction with ecotourism services in LMP, they recommended improvements to certain infrastructure. Therefore, marine park development should be carefully planned and regulated to align with tourist expectations while safeguarding the ecosystem. The study highlights the potential of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) to enhance marine ecotourism in LMP.

Keywords: *Labuan Marine Park, ecotourism development, Marine Spatial Planning, local perception, conservation awareness*

A PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION'S IMPACT ON VIETNAM'S SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

Nga Thi Khuat* & Ha Van Thi Ta

* First & corresponding author

Faculty of Political Theory, Thuongmai University, Hanoi, Vietnam

(nga.kt@tmu.edu.vn, vanha@tmu.edu.vn)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.5>

Abstract

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is transforming Vietnam's economic, cultural, and spiritual landscape through the accelerated adoption of artificial intelligence, automation, and pervasive digital connectivity. This article investigates how key 4IR dynamics—global cultural flows, platform-mediated communication, data-driven governance, and shifts in labour regimes—intersect with Vietnam's philosophical and cultural traditions rooted in Confucianism, Buddhism, and Marxist humanism. Drawing on an integrative qualitative thematic review of peer-reviewed literature and policy documents (2015–2025), combined with interpretive philosophical analysis, the study identifies four overarching themes: first, tensions between cultural continuity and the commodification of heritage; second, changing youth values and the emergence of digital subjectivities; third, ethical challenges associated with automation, datafication, and surveillance; and (4) the mediating influence of education and cultural policy. The findings argue that while 4IR poses significant risks of cultural erosion, it also presents opportunities for renewal through digitisation, creative industries, and community-centred cultural technologies. The paper introduces a Vietnam-specific analytical framework that links technological drivers, institutional mediators (education, policy, and digital platforms), and resulting impacts on cultural identity and spiritual well-being. It concludes with recommendations for human-centred AI governance, curriculum reform integrating digital citizenship and cultural literacy, strengthened support for the digitisation of intangible heritage, and community partnerships that sustain spiritual practices in hybrid online–offline forms. Achieving a balance between modernisation and cultural stewardship is essential if Vietnam is to harness the benefits of 4IR without compromising the values that underpin its social cohesion and spiritual life.

Keywords: *cultural identity, Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), modernisation, spiritual life, Vietnam*

BEHIND THE WALLS OF *PESANTREN*: A REVIEW OF THE HIDDEN PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ACADEMIC IMPACTS OF BULLYING IN INDONESIA

Umi Muzayanah^{1*}, Wasino Wasino^{2**}, Sandy Arief³, Agus Wahyudin⁴, Aji Sofanudin⁵,
Moch. Lukluil Maknun⁶, Scientia Inu Kirana⁷

First Author *, Corresponding Author**

¹ Doctoral Programme in Education Management, Postgraduate School, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

^{2,3,4} Postgraduate School, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

^{1,5,6} National Research and Innovation Agency, Jakarta, Indonesia

⁶ Doctoral Programme in Humanities, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

⁷ RSJ Menur, Surabaya, Indonesia

(umimuza78@students.unnes.ac.id, wasino@mail.unnes.ac.id,
sandy.arief@mail.unnes.ac.id, aguswahyudin@mail.unnes.ac.id, ajis004@brin.go.id,
mochlukluilmaknun1984@mail.ugm.ac.id, scienkirana@gmail.com)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.6>

Abstract

Bullying is still a significant problem in Indonesia, especially in *pesantren* (Islamic boarding schools), in which hierarchical structures and cultural norms contribute to its prevalence. This study aims to systematically review the psychological and academic impacts of bullying and identify its contributing factors. Using a thematic review approach, this study synthesised findings from 48 scholarly articles across academic databases such as Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Lens, applying rigorous selection criteria and thematic analysis. The findings discover that peer influence, seniority-junior hierarchy, family instability, and cultural acceptance of aggression exacerbate bullying behaviour in *pesantren*. Additionally, consequences for victims include increased anxiety, depression, social withdrawal, and academic decline, highlighting the need for more effective anti-bullying policies. Despite existing interventions, law enforcement remains inadequate; thus, it requires a more comprehensive, community-inclusive approach that integrates parental involvement, mental health support, and cultural transformation in *pesantren*. This study also provides critical insights into the underlying mechanisms of bullying in *pesantren*, emphasising the urgency of developing appropriate policy frameworks and interventions to mitigate bullying.

Keywords: *bullying, intimidation, pesantren, psychological impact, academic impact*

THE IMPACT OF ANGKLUNG ART-BASED INTERVENTION ON THE HEALTH OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN MALAYSIA

Muhammad Asyraf Mohd Bakri^{1*}, Mohammad Kamal Sabran², Asrenee Ab Razak³, Rosalam Che Me⁴, Saiful Hasley Ramli⁴, Muhammad Jameel Mohamed Kamil⁵ & Siti Suhaily Surip¹

¹Department of Product Design, School of Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

²Department of New Media Design and Technology, School of Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

³School of Medical Sciences, Health Campus Kubang Kerian, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kelantan Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia

⁴Department of Industrial Design, Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia

⁵Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

(asyrafbakri@usm.my, kamalsabran@gmail.com, asrenee@usm.my, rosalam@upm.edu.my, shr@upm.edu.my, mkmjameel@unimas.my, suhaily@usm.my)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.7>

Abstract

This study explores the therapeutic potential of angklung a traditional bamboo musical instrument as an art-based intervention to enhance the well-being of senior citizens in Malaysia. Despite angklung being commonly played for recreational purposes in group settings, its specific health applications remain underexamined. Thus, this study aims to identify the benefits of angklung as an art-based activity for the elderly and to analyse its impact on their physical, psychological, cognitive, and social well-being. This study employed the qualitative descriptive method, and data were collected through literature review and semi-structured interviews. Participants included angklung experts, medical professionals, caregivers and elderly residents from two care centres in Penang. The Angklung Healing Art Project was used as the primary intervention. The collected data were then analysed thematically using the WHOQOL framework, and purposive sampling was employed to ensure sampling diversity. The findings revealed that angklung activities helped improve the participants' physical and psychological health, independence, social interactions and their overall engagement in daily life. The elderly participants expressed enjoyment, increased motivation, and a sense of accomplishment after being involved in the sessions. Some also reported reduced anxiety and improved memory recall following the intervention. In this light, despite cognitive limitations faced by some of the participants, most were able to participate meaningfully, demonstrating the angklung's accessibility. The melodic and calming tones of the angklung, along with its lightweight and easy-to-play design, make it a suitable tool for therapeutic and recreational purposes in aged care environments. This study has highlighted the importance of incorporating culturally relevant, low-barrier, and enjoyable

musical activities into elderly care programs. It also recommends the development of assistive tools to support angklung use among older adults with physical or cognitive limitations.

Keywords: *angklung, elderly, art-based intervention, quality of life, therapeutic benefit*

FACTORS AND ACTORS FOR STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINING PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION IN CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA

Restu Lanjari*, Eny Kusumastuti, Hartono & Halimah Agustina

*First & corresponding author

Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

(restulanjari1961@mail.unnes.ac.id, enykusumastuti@mail.unnes.ac.id,

hartono_sukorejo@mail.unnes.ac.id, agustinahalimah99@gmail.com)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.8>

Abstract

In the face of modernisation and technological advancement, traditional performing arts (theatre, puppetry, mime, music, and dance) education has faced challenges, and even its survival is at stake in Java, Indonesia. The local Javanese population has been taking measures to strengthen and sustain traditional performing arts education on the island. However, this research lacks information on local traditional factors, measures, or practices for improving and sustaining traditional performing arts education in Indonesia, especially on Java Island. Therefore, this research aims to identify and examine factors and actors that strengthen and sustain traditional performing arts education. To address this question, the research used a qualitative research approach, specifically in-depth interviews and participant observations in schools in the Yogyakarta and Central Java regions of Indonesia. It also used secondary data. The findings show that local Javanese communities are using traditional arts education local wisdom, which significantly strengthens students' character. In this educational process, values such as *gotong royong* (cooperation), *tepa selira* (harmony), *ungguh-ungguh* (respect), and *nguri-uri kabudayan* (cultural preservation) are taught and inculcated. The research also underlines the current state of performing arts education, relevant local wisdom values, and collaborative strategies to maintain the relevance and sustainability of arts learning in formal, non-formal, and informal settings. This research also found that multi-stakeholder collaboration, integration of local elements into the curriculum, contextual learning approaches, and selective use of digital technology were key to sustainability.

Keywords: *performing arts education, Javanese local wisdom, sustainability, contextual learning, Pentahelix collaborative*

BEYOND RELIGIOUS MOTIVATION: SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDENTS' ARABIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Ahmad Maghfurin,^{*1} Achmad Yani,² Nasikhin,^{**3} Naifah,⁴ Nugroho Eko Atmanto⁵

^{*}First author, ^{**}Corresponding author

^{1,3,4}Walisongo State Islamic University Semarang, Indonesia

²Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University, Brunei Darussalam

⁵National Research and Innovation Agency, Jakarta Indonesia

(maghfurin@walisongo.ac.id, achmad.yani@unissa.edu.bn, nasikhin@walisongo.ac.id, naifah@walisongo.ac.id, nugroho12@brin.go.id)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol30no2.9>

Abstract

This study aims to examine the motivation of international students from Asia in choosing Brunei Darussalam as a destination for learning Arabic. This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study design. Informants in this study include students from Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines who are enrolled in Arabic language programs at Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University. The results show that Southeast Asian students choose Brunei for its high-quality education, conducive multicultural environment, socio-political stability, and strong Islamic influence. Despite the gap between initial expectations (such as educational modernisation and Western cultural influence) and the reality on the ground, most students were able to adapt and achieve their learning goals. This is supported by effective strategies, such as joining study groups, interacting with native speakers, using digital resources, and participating in Arabic extracurricular activities. These strategies not only improve linguistic competence but also strengthen motivation and confidence. These results confirm that the combination of factors that encourage interest, local adaptation, and appropriate learning strategies makes Brunei an attractive and practical destination for Arabic language learning, while also contributing to the development of Arabic language education policy in ASEAN.

Keywords: *motivation, learning goals, learning strategies, international students, Arabic*