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Editors Note

V.27,n.1 began my tour of duty as editor & producer of

Berita. This issue of *Berita* (V.29,n.4) is my 12th issue. And, while I am willing to devote another year to the cause, if necessary, it is time for another member of MSB-SG to assume the role of editor. Also, we as modern scholars and researchers need to finally plan and establish our own active website that will inform us and others of the history and current activities of our members. *Berita*, as our on-going journal, should be a prominent part of the website. Particularly, it would be useful to post notices of recent MSB publications as these are discovered, rather than having to wait for the next quarterly *Berita*. Also, we need to produce *Berita* in its traditional quarterly format (paper & electronic), which I would favor. And each completed issue, in traditional format, would be posted permanently in another part of the website. Not only would we have a library of all the past issues, we would have an "issue-in-progress". This would be a lot of work, but not if each of us contributed regularly; and it would be a marvelous tool for members of MSB-SG, and might even attract new members. Ron Provencher

Periodicals (Relevant to M/S/B Studies)

> Asian ethnicity

V.6,n.2 -- Jun 2005 -- 1) Rosey Wang Ma, "Shifting identities: Chinese Muslims in Malaysia" [From the Abstract - Attempts to explain the shift in identities towards either religion or ethnicity -- Chinese Muslims upon entering Malaysia are overwhelmed between a majority non-Chinese Muslim community and a non-Muslim Chinese community, and have (for survival or political design) rather quickly assimilated to one group or the other -- Gives a few examples from Chinese Muslim clans or families in different regions of Malaysia -- Brief narration of the situation of Chinese converts and the development of their status from 'a social anomaly that exists in an ethnic limbo' to a small community of Malaysian Chinese who are Muslim, accepted as such by all segments of society], 89-107; **2)** Giok Ling Ooi, "The role of the developmental state and interethnic relations in Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Singapore's

polyglot population has lived often cheek by jowl in high density urban conditions generally without major problems, but there have been incidents of racial rioting stimulated by political opportunists and political tensions related to transitional periods in government, particularly during the change from colonial rule to self rule in 1950s to 1960s -- Discusses the role that the state has played and the status of relations between Chinese and Malays], pp109-120.

V.6,n.3 -- Oct 2005 -- 1) Michael D. Barr & Jevon Low, "The case of Singapore's Malays" [From the Abstract -- Myths of meritocracy and multiracialism 'explain' both the 'fairness' of the Singapore system and the subordinate role of the non-Chinese minority races, while purporting to assure minorities full status as members of the nation-building project and that their cultures and religions are protected -- Using the Malay minority case, this article argues that the Singapore system has not been primarily concerned with inter-communal tolerance since the 1970's, but with programs of assimilation of minorities into a Chinese dominated society], pp 161-182; **2)** Tan Kim Eng & Thia Jang Ping, "Comment on 'The economic marginality of ethnic minorities: an analysis of ethnic income inequality in Singapore'" [From the Abstract -- Comments by two authors, who work in the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry, on the original article by William Lee (in V.6,n.1 -- Feb 2004) -- State that Lee's conclusion that differences of level of education of Chinese, Malays and Indians account for only a small part of income differences... the remaining differences attributed to ethnic discrimination... is based on unreliable data, simplistic framework of analysis, poor results of diagnostic tests, and non-intuitive results], pp 245-247; **3)** William Lee, "Counter-response", [Agrees' with his two critics that the study addresses a 'complex issue', but believes that his study offers useful insight into understanding the topic of economic marginality of ethnic minorities in Singapore], pp 249-251; **4)** Hjørleifur Jonsson, review of Colin Mackerras (ed), *Ethnicity in Asia*, 2003, London & NY: RoutledgeCurzon, xvi-232 pp, Pb ISBN 0-415-25817-0 [Ch on Malaysia by Liew, and on Singapore by Chua -- As an introduction to the subject it is suitable for classroom use and for journalist in the region -- Book's up-to-date coverage is its great strength... likely to bring renewed interest to the comparative and historical study of ethnicity], pp 253-254; **5)** Jeffrey Gill, review of Michael E. Brown & Sumit Ganguly (eds), *Fighting words: language policy and ethnic relations in Asia*, 2003, Cambridge & London: MIT Press, 480 pp, Pb ISBN 0-262-52333-7 [Notes that book looks at 15 countries, including Malaysia and Singapore, and that Ganguly compares and contrasts the language policies of Malaysia and Singapore, but that the presentation of the Singapore case is unduly brief, only six and a half pages], pp 254-256.

>Asian journal of social science

V.33,n.1 -- 2005 -- 1) Petra Dannecker, "Bangladeshi migrant workers in Malaysia: the construction of the 'Others' in a multi-ethnic context" [From the Abstract -- Concerns a dilemma, observable world-wide, of nation-state seeking to maximize opportunities from economic globalization

processes and transnational cooperation, while simultaneously closing doors to forms of migration that these economic shifts have stimulated -- In Malaysia migrant workers have contributed to the nation's remarkable economic success, but are rarely mentioned in analyses of the 'miracle economy' -- In times of economic restructuring and downturns, migrants are made scapegoats -- Analyzes the 'othering' of the Bangladeshi migrant community in relation to renegotiation and challenges to such concepts as industrial growth, national identity, citizenship and culture], pp 246-267; **2)** Ruhanas, review of Stephen Douvert & Remy Madinier, *Les Musulmans en Asie du Sud Est face au vertige de la radicalisation*. Bangkok: IRESEC. 146 pp. ISBN 284-65041-1 [From the Review -- An account of the development of Muslim communities and Islamic resurgence in 5 ASEAN countries, based on notes of 17 specialists of different countries of ASEAN -- Two themes explored: Islam as a rallying point in the face of the aggressive West; and, the response of authorities to the Islamic militant movements in their respective countries -- Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar], pp 341-346.

> Asian perspectives: the journal of archaeology for Asia and the Pacific

V.44,n.1 -- Spr 2005 -- **1)** See especially -- Graem Barker, Tim Reynolds & David Gilbertson, "The human use of caves in Peninsular and Island Southeast Asia: research themes [An overview and introduction to the volume], pp 1-15; **2)** "Results from Niah Cave research": **a)** David Gilbertson, Michael Bird, Christopher Hunt, Sue McLaren, Richard Mani Banda, Brian Pyatt, James Rose & Mark Stephens, "Past human activity and geomorphological change in a guano-rich tropical cave mouth: initial interpretations of the Late Quaternary succession in the Great Cave of Niah, Sarawak", pp 16-41; **b)** Mark Stephens, James Rose, David Gilbertson & Mathew G. Canti, "Micromorphology of cave sediments in the humid tropics, Niah Cave, Sarawak", pp 42-55; **c)** Huw Barton, "The case for rainforest foragers: the starch record at Niah Cave, Sarawak", pp 56-72; **d)** John Krigbaum, "Reconstructing human subsistence in the West Mouth (Niah Cave, Sarawak) burial series using stable isotopes of carbon", pp 73-89; **e)** Graeme Barker, "The archaeology of foraging and farming at Niah Cave, Sarawak", pp 90-106].

> Asian studies review

V.29,n.1 -- Mar 2005 -- **1)** Leon Comber, review of Tim Hatton, *OBE Tock Tock Birds. A spider in the web of international terrorism*. Sussex, England: The Book Guild Ltd., 2004, 366 pp. [From the review -- About the Malayan Police Special Branch and the important part it played in defeating the communist uprising in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency (1948-60) -- Because of the 30-year rule governing the release of official documents, Special Branch records remained closed, but as a person who held many senior positions in the Special Branch before and after independence, the author was privy to many of the details

concerning the Malayan Emergency ... an autobiographical account], pp 97-98.

>Bijdragen tot de taal, land- en volkenkunde

161.2/3 - 2005 -- **1)** Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied, review of Peter Borschberg (ed), *Iberians in the Singapore-Melaka area and adjacent regions (16th - 18th century)*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2004, xi, 192 pp [South China and Maritime Asia Series 14] ISBN 3-447-05107-8. [From the first paragraph of the review -- An exciting volume located at the intersection of history, geography, economics, politics, international relations, security and ethnic studies that questions assumptions and notions that so far have dominated the historiography of early modern Southeast Asia], pp 350-351; **2)** Ben Derudder, review of Tim Bunnell, *Malaysia, modernity and the multimedia super corridor; a critical geography of intelligent landscapes*. Abingdon: RoutledgeCurzon, 2004, xxi, 203 pp [Routledge Pacific Rim Geographies 4] Hb ISBN 0-415-25634-8. [From the first paragraph -- Analyses the way Malaysia's 'Multimedia Super Corridor' can and should be understood... that the development of MSC-like projects can't be adequately understood as either an expression of a paradigmatic shift to a new techno-economic era or in terms of the expansion of a modern west into a non-western periphery -- Does not engage in detailed description of main features of MSC, focuses on the way human geographers should frame such phenomena], pp 362-363; **3)** Santo Koesoebjono, review of Aris Ananta & Evi Nurvidya Arifin (eds), *International migration in Southeast Asia*. Singapore: ISEAS, 2004, xvi, 374 pp. Pb ISBN 981-230279-4. [Revised papers presented in an ISEAS sponsored workshop 'International migration in Southeast Asia: impacts and challenges' in 2002 -- [Discussions on all aspects of migration make this book indispensable for those working in the field of international migration: policy makers, government organizations, NGOs, private sector and researchers], pp 371-373; **4)** Jennifer Lindsay, review of Fiona Kerlogue (ed), *Performing objects; museums, material culture and performance in Southeast Asia*. London: Horniman Museum and Gardens, 2004, xiv, 188 pp [Contributions in critical museology and material culture] Pb ISBN 1-903338-01-8. [Discusses collecting and display in and of Southeast Asia -- Strongly focused in relation to the colonial world -- Sits squarely within writing in museology and anthropology over the past 3 decades -- Innovative in including writing on other kinds of display contact between objects and their viewers in Southeast Asia such as puppets, parades and performance -- Kerlogue's introductions and 11 essays by Christina Kreps, Katharine McGregor, Nicole Tarulevicz, Laurens Bakker, Antonio Guerrero, Sudeshna Guha, Genevieve Duggan, Poh Sim Plowright, Matthew Cohen, Laura Noszlopy and Andy West - - 2 of the essays deal with Malaysia and 1 with Singapore], pp 381-382.

> Comparative sociology

V.4,n.1-2 -- 2005 -- **1)** William Case, "Political mistrust in

Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- Analysis focuses on a number of contemporary 'leaderships' and 'mass-level mistrusts' including those in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines], pp 81-100.

>Contemporary Southeast Asia: a journal of international and strategic affairs

V.27,n.2 -- Aug 2005 -- 1) M.C. Abad, Jr., "A nuclear weapon-free Southeast Asia and its continuing strategic significance" [Regional view... not much regarding interests of particular countries, but Malaysia & Singapore mentioned], pp 165-187; **2)** Jurgen Haacke, "'Enhanced interaction' with Myanmar and the project of a security community: is ASEAN refining or breaking with its diplomatic and security culture?" [Some content particular to Singapore and Malaysia], pp 188-216; **3)** Clive Schofield, "A 'Fair go' for East Timor? Sharing the resources of the Timor Sea" [Mentions Malaysia's help in training the defense force of East Timor], pp 255-280; **4)** Denny Roy, "Southeast Asia and China: balancing or bandwagoning?" [From the Abstract -- SEA states employ 2 strategies to protect against domination by China: a modest level of defense cooperation with the US, most clear in the Philippines & Singapore, and more subtle in Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia], pp 305-322; **5)** Diane K. Mauzy, review of Timothy P. Barnard (ed), *Contesting Malayness: Malay identity across boundaries* (Singapore University Press, 2004, 319 pp) -- From the review -- A book for specialists, it is erudite, dense, and packed with information -- Preface by the editor and Henrik M.J. Maier, opening and closing chapters respectively by Anthony Reid and Anthony Milner -- Other chapters by Adrian Vickers, Leonard Y. Andaya, Heather Sutherland, Timothy P. Barnard, Jan van der Putten, Samsul A.B., Virginia Matheson Hooker, James T. Collins, Will Derks, and a translation of a Malay language Tenas Effendy poem by Timothy P. Barnard & Rohayati Paseng Barnard], pp 323-326

>Far eastern economic review

V.168,n.8 -- Sep 2005 -- **1)** Edmund Terence Gomez, Research Coordinator at the U.N. Research Institute for Social Development, explores the unintended consequences of Malaysia's affirmative action policies in "The perils of pro-Malay policies" [Poses the question "Should Malaysia once again turn to affirmative action to promote social justice and the development of a Malay business class?" -- Begins with Hushamuddin Hussein's (Min. of education & head of the youth wing of UMNO) renewal of the debate over "positive discrimination" and former PM Mahathir's 'vision of 2020' and his business ally Daim Zainuddin], pp 36-39; **2)** Pasuk Phongpaichit & Chris Baker, "Thailand's malaise under Thaksin" [One of four major 'charges' or political problems for Thaksin is his inability to control the Malay rebellion in the South], pp 44-47; **3)** Farish A. Noor, "India's embattled madrasahs" [Notes the weaknesses of the madrasah education system of India are similar to those of Malaysia, Indonesia & Pakistan], pp 53-56; **4)** Fred Armentrout, review

of Christopher Bayly & Tim Harper, *Forgotten armies: the fall of British Asia, 1941-1945*, pp 74-76.

>Global networks: a journal of transnational affairs

V.5,n.4 -- Oct 2005 -- 1) Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Shirlena Huang & Theodora Lam, "Transnationalizing the 'Asian' family: imaginaries, intimacies and strategic intents" [Some Singapore/Malaysia content -- From the Abstract -- Emphasizes the significance of considering the politics and practices of transnationalism as they impinge on the social morphology of transnational 'Asian' families -- Three strands of work in this subject discussed: a) transnational families draw on ideologically laden imaginaries to give coherence to notions of belonging despite the physical dispersal of their members; b) they are also realized through lived experiences, where degrees of intimacy are negotiated across transnational spaces; and c) families may assume transnational morphologies with the strategic intent of ensuring economic survival or maximizing social mobility, and in this context childrens' education has emerged as an important project -- Some Singapore/Malaysia content] , pp 307-315; **2)** Shilena Huang & Brenda S.A. Yeoh, "Transnational families and their children's education: China's 'study mothers' in Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Examines the common case of transnational relocation of 'sacrificial study mothers' ('non-citizen sojourners') who, in the process, become separated from their husbands in China, in order to accompany their children to Singapore where their children can receive better educational opportunities than are available to them in China], pp 379-400

>Harvard review

V.ix,ns.1&2 -- Win/Spr 2005 -- 1) Niklas Swanstrom, "Southeast Asia's war on terror: who is cooperating across borders?" [Basically a report on cooperation among ASEAN members -- Notes that combating traffic in women and narcotics was more important than combating terrorism before the 11 Sept 2001 Bali bombing -- Good marks for Malaysia-Singapore cooperation], pp 4-12; **2)** Gwee Li Sui, "Poetry and the renaissance machine in Singapore" [One of the first serious attempts to explain, not simply observe, Singapore's recent resurgence of interest in English-language poetry -- Traces struggles of poets since independence -- Links writers, historical public decisions, and current challenges to nation-building in economic and cultural terms], pp 33-41.

> International migration

V.43,n.3 -- 2005 -- 1) See the 'cluster' of the first 4 articles devoted to sub-ethnicity in the Chinese diaspora" with an "Introduction" by Janet W. Salaff, pp 3-7; especially, **2)** Constance Lever-Tracy & Davip Ip, "Diversification and extensible networks: the strategies of Chinese businesses in Australia" [A study of personal networks of 28 ethnic Chinese businesses in Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth -- Some hints of Brunei and Malaysia networks], pp 73-96; & **3)** Judith Nagata, "Christianity among transnational Chinese: religious versus (sub)ethnic affiliation" [Deals with the problem of diaspora Christian Chinese faced with the question of

whether religious or sectarian affiliation takes priority over Chinese unity or sub-Chinese identity -- Large sections on Malaysia and Singapore as well as Indonesia and Canada], pp 99-130.

>Islamic law and society

Itinerario

V.xxix,n.2-- 2005 -- Of interest as contexts of Malay world history: **1)** Zoltan Biedermann, "Portuguese diplomacy in Asia in the sixteenth century: a preliminary overview", pp 13-37; **2)** Janny De Jong, "Negotiations in Bismarkian style: the debate on the Aceh War and its legitimacy, 173-1874", pp 38-52; **3)** N.A. Bootsma, "The recuperation of sovereign rights by Asian countries, circa 1870-1945: from capitulations to equal relations, the Dutch experience", pp 53-72.

> *Journal of the economic and social history of the Orient*

V.48,pt3 -- 2005 -- **1)** Himanshu Prabha Ray, review of Ian Glover & Peter Bellwood, (eds) 2004, *Southeast Asia. From prehistory to history*. NY: RoutledgeCurzon. xxi, 354 pp, Hb. [Reviewer notes that this volume deals with the major paradigm shift in the study of the ancient past in Southeast Asia, brought about in the last five or six decades by new discoveries and scientific re-evaluations of previous discoveries -- Provides a commendable overview of recent discoveries in the region relevant to a period beginning with the emergence of settled Neolithic food-producing cultures (3rd-2nd millennium BC) to establishment of Islamic trading principalities (14th century AD) -- Covers mainland through island SEA -- The review is itself a remarkably compact synopses of prehistory and early history of SEA, and a critique of the scholarship that produced it], pp 468-471.

> *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*

V.lxxviii,pt.1 -- 2005 -- **1)** M.R. Fernando, "The lost archives of Melaka: are they really lost?" [From the Abstract -- A succinct survey of the extant large holdings of archival documents relating to the history of the Malay Peninsula by the Dutch in Melaka during their occupation of the Straits of Melaka from 1641 to 1824, which cover political, economic and social affairs of local people indispensable to students of the history of Malaysia -- Examines the extent and contents of records and ways records help scholars study history of the region from new perspectives], pp 1-36; **2)** Geoff Wade, "The Zheng He voyages: a reassessment" [From the Abstract -- A revisionist account of Admiral Zheng Ho, not as explorer-ambassador of friendship to other nations, but as an imperial aggressor attempting to dominate trade routes in Southeast Asia and the Middle East -- Shades of maritime proto-colonialism], pp 37-58; **3)** G.L. Koster, "Of treaties and unbelievers: in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Malay historiography" [From the Abstract -- Malay historiography in reaction to the Dutch VOC -- Portrays the Dutch in a way that defends the native world view... including *kerajaan* and Islam ... a sort of 'damage control' -- Comparative readings of the *Hikayat Hang Tuah* from Johor (ca. 1690), *Syair Perang*

Mengkasar (ca. 1670) and the *Misa Melayu* (ca. 1760)], pp 59-96; **4)** Haryati Hasan, "Malay women and prostitution in Kota Bharu, Kelantan, 1950s-1970s" [From the Abstract -- Based on reports of the police, welfare departments, and the Council of Religious Affairs in Kelantan -- Data on experiences of prostitutes from Interviews of former and practicing Malay prostitutes in selected areas of Kota Bharu in 2001-2003 -- Causitive factors: divorce, poverty and lack of education -- Legislation, religious counselling, and other measures have not reduced incidents of prostitution], pp 97-120; **5)** Henry Barlow, book review of Wendy Khadijah Moore, 2004, *Malaysia: a pictorial history, 1400-2004*, Kuala Lumpur: Editions Didier Millet in association with Arkrib Negara Malaysia & New Straits Time Press, 340 pp, ISBN 981-4068-77-2 [1200 photos of the earliest days of photography ... earliest an etching of Melaka from 1515 ... etc, etc.], pp 121-122; **6)** C.M. Turnbull, review of John N. Miksic & Cheryl-Ann Low Mei Gek (eds), 2004, *Early Singapore 1300s-1819: evidence in maps, text and artefacts*, Singapore: Singapore History Museum, 148 pp, ISBN 981-05-0283-4 [Notes that some of Kwa's theories are open to debate, and that much of Singapore's early history is still a history -- Volume brings together all the information now available in a handsome production], pp 122-124; **7)** Ahmad Murad Merican, review of Abu Talib Ahmad, 2003, *The Malay Muslims, Islam and the Rising Sun, 1941-45*, K.L.: *Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 288 pp, ISBN 967-9948-28-5 [Influenced by Harry Benda's *The Crescent and the Rising Sun* -- Attempts to resolve the problem of Malaysian historiography during the period under study by reference to the semantics of heroism and heroic acts, collaboration and resistance, while providing a voice to those marginalized in mainstream historiography], pp 125-127.

> *Malaysian business*

Jul1st-15th -- 2005 -- **1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Is it the beginning of a clean-up?" [The guilty verdict on Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad and a 6-year suspension from UMNO signals the unwavering commitment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to rid the party of money politics... the question is will more suffer the same fate?], pp 6-8; **2)** Charles Raj, "Price penalty: why are consumers being penalized for lax enforcement? [It is a worrying scenario... we are helpless in fighting fuel smugglers just as we are in eradicating VCD pirates and drug dealers... have they become so powerful and organized in their crime network?], p 10; **3)** Datuk Mohd Salleh Majid, "The blame game: who is responsible for the recent margin financing fiasco which led to a market meltdown?" [Shades of 1997-8 -- Malaysia & Singapore are probably the only markets in the world today where you can buy first and pay later... aaahhh, that is the rub!], pp 11-13; **4)** Gurmeet Kaur, "Time and time again" [Looks like problem child Time dotCom is in for another round of restructuring, courtesy of Khazanah Nasional... will this round fully end its woes?], pp 14-15; **5)** James S, "Battle of the investment banks" [Gigantic investment banks are set to be the trend in Malaysia as financial institutions prepare for full liberalization of the sector], pp 18-22; **6)** Clarence Y K Ngu,

"Fighting fraud" [The KPMG fraud survey 2004 reveals that corporate fraud in Malaysia is on the rise... what can we do about it?], pp24-25; 7) Bhupinder Singh, "Is the roar really back" [Following the financial crisis of 1997-98, the Lion Group was fast sinking under a more than RM twelve billion debt -- The Lion Group took the bitter pill of selling some assets and some debts were paid as cash flows improved -- But the feel-good sentiment was compromised by the group's latest list of corporate proposals and the reaction of many that it is a convenient attempt to shuffle assets and money to meet rising needs -- Minorities and investors must hope for the best over the long term as the the Lion Group struggles to take its place among Malaysia's largest corporations], pp 27-36.

>**RELC journal** (A journal of language teaching and research in SEA)

V.35.2 -- Aug 2004 -- 1) Bernadette Foo & Cynthia Richards, "English in Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- The use and importance of English in Malaysia from the time of British rule to the present], pp229-240.

V.35.3 -- Dec 2004 -- 1) Gloria Poedjosoedarmo, "English in Brunei Darussalam: portrait of a vital language with an elusive role" [From the Abstract -- Another case of when a language becomes a second language in a country... took on some unique local characteristics, despite official condemnation... Can the balance of roles between English and Malay be maintained without each unduly influencing the other... Roles of local versus international varieties of English], pp 359-370.

V.36.2 -- Aug 2005 -- 1) Peter Crompton, "'Where', 'in which', and 'in that': a corpus-based approach to error analysis" [From the Abstract -- Analyses the use of "where" in text written by Malay-speaking learners of English compared with the use of "where" in writing of native English-speaker writers], pp 157-176.

>**Singapore journal of tropical geography**

V.26.n.2 -- July 2005 -- 1) Tina Svan Hansen, "Spatio-temporal aspects of land use and land cover changes in the Niah catchment, Sarawak, Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Focuses on large-scale land use and cover over the period 1972-2002 using LUCS satellite imagery, questionnaire surveys and interviews -- Successive waves land cover changes include forests logged and replaced by oil palm plantations up to 40% of the catchment area -- Concurrently, formerly dominant Iban shifting cultivation practices replaced by cash crops on permanent fields, etc.], pp 170-190; 2) Alice M. Nah & Tim Bunnell, "Ripples of hope: Acehese refugees in post-tsunami Malaysia" [Begins with quote from a field interview of a Acehese refugee in Kuala Lumpur, February 2005, who asked "Can you tell me why Malaysia will not give us shelter [as refugees], and why 'third countries' like Denmark, Norway and Canada are willing to? What is the point of sending ... assistance to Aceh ... when the Acehese people are suffering here ... And help us to end the violence in Aceh so that we can go home" -- Recounts

the tsunami crisis and some of the history of Aceh-Malay relations and Malaya as a historical place of refuge from other Indonesians, and current Malaysian attitudes toward would-be immigrants], pp 249-256; 3) P.P. Wong, "A wave of geographical research" [A response to the editorial in the preceding issue of the journal -- Comment on how human geographers can contribute to geographical research on the aftermath of the recent tsunami], pp 257-261.

>**Sojourn: journal of social issues in Southeast Asia**

V.20.n.2 -- Oct 2005 -- (Special focus on "Democracy and civil society: NGO politics in Singapore"... issue editors Terence Chong, James Gomez & Lenore Lyons) ... From the Abstracts: 1) Lenore Lyons & James Gomez, "Moving beyond the OB markers: rethinking the space of civil society in Singapore" [An introduction to the six other articles in the volume, all of which extend the analysis of civil society in Singapore, including a brief identification of 'OB markers' ("areas where civil society activists dare not venture because they are deemed too politically sensitive and thus 'out-of-bounds'") for the uninitiated...], pp 119-131; 2) Terence Lee, "Gestural politics: civil society in 'New' Singapore" [A short history on the term 'New Singapore' and a discourse on the civil society of Singapore from its promulgation by then Minister of Information and Arts, George Yeo as 'civic society' in the 1990s, to 2004 and third PM Lee Hsien Loong's buzz words such as 'openness' and 'inclusiveness'], pp132-154; 3) Kersty Hobson, "Considering 'green' practices: NGOs and Singapore's emergent environmental-political landscape" [Details research undertaken with Singaporean environmental NGOs to examine their actions, motives, and impacts on the political landscape], pp 155-176; 4) James Gomez, "International NGOs: filling the 'gap' in Singapore's civil society" [Argues that since the mid-1990s the internet has increased accessibility to information generated by such external organizations, thereby creating greater global and local awareness and activism of 'freedom' concerns in Singapore], pp 177-207; 5) Lenore Lyons, "Transient workers count too? The intersection of citizenship and gender in Singapore's civil society" [In November 2002, a group of Singaporean activists established a group called 'The working committee 2' (TWC2) to advocate for the rights of foreign domestic workers in Singapore -- By limiting its lifespan and scope of activities it avoided the requirement that all NGOs register under the Singapore Registrar of Societies... but after its first year, the group signaled its intention to continue its advocacy... so the new TWC2 (now named 'Transient Workers Count Too') was registered in August, 2004 -- The group's experience is a mixture of low level of effectiveness, but some success in raising the profile of foreign domestic workers and some significant improvements], pp 208-248; 6) Ooi Can Seng, "State-civil society relations and tourism: Singaporeanizing tourists, touristifying Singapore" [The Singapore government has been able to close, absorb, re-define and open up civil spaces... the line separating state and civil society is blurred -- Examines how tourism in Singapore has not only played a central role in shaping Singaporeans' own understanding of

their own national and ethnic identities, but also helped open important civil and social spaces -- 3 examples: the re-branding of Singapore, the decision to have 2 casinos in Singapore, and the promotion of educational and medical tourism], pp 249-272; 7) Terence Chong, "Civil society in Singapore: popular discourses and concepts" [Concludes by suggesting that Singapore civil society be examined as a series of 'reciprocal' relationships between activists and state representatives situated in different locations of power and resources able to engage with each other when their interests converge and also disengage when they diverge], pp 273-301.

>The Brown journal of world affairs

V.xii, is.i -- Sum/Fal 2005 -- 1) Elizabeth William, "Asian culture and AIDS" [Begins with quote from Nafis Sadik, UN Special Envoy to AIDS in Asia ... "The HIV/AIDS pandemic is spreading through Asia/Pacific societies in the same way termites attack a house, invisible at first, catastrophic in the end" -- Notes that Marina Mahathir, President of the Malaysia AIDS Council, recently reported that the Malaysian government is making efforts to bring in cheap generic drugs to provide treatment to infected individuals... but article mostly about AIDS in India], pp 209-223.

>The economist

Jul30th-Aug5th -- 2005 -- 1) "Emerging-market indicators: exchange rates against the dollar" [On July 21st, China abandoned its long-standing currency peg of 8.28 to the dollar, revaluing the yuan by 2.1%... Malaysia followed suit, dropping its 7 year-old dollar peg and letting the ringgit appreciate by more than 1%], p 90.

Aug6th-12th -- 2005 -- 1) "Asian currencies: follow the leader" [Notes that few Asian currencies have risen with the Chinese yuan -- So far the knock-on effects from China's currency adjustment have been modest, in part because its currency revaluation of 2.1% was tiny -- With the exception of Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore most Asian countries already had flexible exchange rates -- Malaysia took advantage of China's move to scrap its own currency peg and like China adopted a managed float based on a basket of foreign currencies, but the ringgit has risen only 1.4% against the dollar -- Singapore has managed a float since the 1980's and has a total gain over the dollar of 12% since 2002], p.60.

Aug13th-19th -- 2005 -- 1) "South-East Asian and oil: the black and blue stuff" [Last year the Asian Development Bank's gloomiest scenario for the effect of high oil prices on Southeast Asian economies was \$40 a barrel throughout 2005; but in the first 7 months prices averaged \$50+ ... which took a toll on the region's economies... Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand consume 2 to 4 times more per unit of output than rich countries ... the result is rapid inflation -- Even for Malaysia, the region's largest exporter ... the benefit of higher oil revenues is outweighed by the reduction in demand for the country's other exports as the the world

economy slows ... and the government raised domestic fuel prices the 4th time in a year on July 31st, reducing, but not eliminating its subsidies], p 35.

Aug20th-26th -- 2005 -- 1) "The world this week: pushing the limits" [Singapore hosted a 13-nation exercise in the South China Sea to practice stopping vessels suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction under the US sponsored 'proliferation security initiative'], p 6; **2)** "(More) pushing the limits" [Choking smog from forest fires in Sumatra enveloped Kuala Lumpur and other Malaysian cities... PM Abdullah Badawi told people to pray for rain], p 6; **3)** "Business: the Malay way of business change" [Azman Moktar, head of Khazanah (a Malaysian government holding company), has set out to overhaul more than 40 government-linked companies (GLCs) -- Last year his appointment caused their shares to soar in value, but as the difficulties of change are becoming more apparent shares are now losing value -- Azman Moktar's solution has been a strong dose of corporate discipline... appointing young foreign-educated professionals to run Tenaga and Telekom, putting senior executives on fixed term contracts and basing pay on performance -- But the government shys away from other proposed reforms -- Yet, Azman Moktar is not trying to end the government's association with the GLCs, but to rationalize it -- Etc.], p 50.

Aug27th-Sep2nd -- 2005 -- 1) "Race in Malaysia: failing to spread the wealth" ["The world's most notorious system of positive discrimination" has had only limited success, and hardly any recently... What, if anything, should replace it? -- After 35 years of affirmative action for majority Malays, the Malay professional class has grown rapidly from a tiny base, but the percentage of Malay shares in Malaysian firms is stuck at about 20% -- Malaysians of all stripes are disenchanted with affirmative action], pp 34-35.

Sep3rd-9th - 2005 -- 1) "Asian consumer credit: turning Anglo-Saxon" [Are Asians spending more and saving less? -- Asia a known region of dedicated savers, yet in Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan annual growth in household credit has averaged 15-20% and Singapore 10% in the past 6 quarters, p 67.]

Sep10th-16th -- 2005 -- 1) Ron Davidson, "Letters: out of Malaysia" [Former Fulbright scholar in Malaysia complains that the *The economist* article on Malaysia's racial preferences (Aug 27th) does not consider their impact on ethnic Chinese emigration... specifically the cases of highly qualified Chinese Malaysians being refused admission to Malaysian universities, who emigrate to foreign universities with no intent to return to Malaysia], p 17.

Oct1st-7th 2005 -- 1) "Emerging market indicators: overview" [Singapore's industrial-production growth accelerated to 11.8% in the year to August], p 98.

Oct15th-21st -- 2005 -- 1) "South-East Asia's economies: still the driver" [Merchandise exports as % of GDP -- Singapore leads the increase, followed by Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia], p 44-45.

>*The journal of conflict studies*

V.xxv,n.1-- Sum 2005 -- 1) Barry Dexter & Elena Pavlova, "Comparing the European and the Southeast Asian response to global terrorism" [From the Abstract -- Examines mechanisms for combating global terrorism in Europe and Southeast Asia in the aftermath of 11 Sept, Bali bombing, 2 Jakarta bombings and the Madrid train bombings -- Argues that the most successful examples of cooperation in combating terrorism have been at bilateral and trilateral levels; and that the main difference between European and Southeast Asian approaches is based on how the threat is perceived -- Some Singapore & Malaysia content], pp 7-26; 2) Kumar Ramakrishna, "'The Southeast Asian approach' to counter-terrorism: learning from Indonesia and Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- U.S. approach based on undermining terrorist networks requires increasing state capacities and promoting intelligence cooperation, while promoting good governance -- While U.S. approach is necessary, the Malaysian and Indonesian long-term approach, designed to neuter the ability of terror networks to regenerate is also important], pp 27-47; 3) David A. Charters, review of Raffi Gregorian, 2002, *The British Army, the Gurkhas and Cold War strategy in the Far East, 1947-1954*. London: Palgrave. [Book deals with the "secrets" of the Malayan success -- Earlier literature focuses on campaign strategies, operations and tactics... What was missing from most studies was the wider strategic context of the campaign... How did the Malayan Emergency fit in British strategy... The reviewer states that this book more than adequately answers the question.], pp 183-185.

>*The journal of imperial and commonwealth history*

V.33,n.3 -- Sep 2005 -- 1) Sarah Stockwell, review of Nicholas J. White, 2004, *British business in post-colonial Malaysia, 1957-1970: 'neo-colonialism' or 'disengagement'?* London & NY: RoutledgeCurzon. xvi, 256 pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-32320-7 [From the review -- This study breaks new ground in that 'end of empire' historians generally focus on developments leading to transfer of political power... this book breaks new ground, investigating British business in Malaysia in the aftermath of Malayan independence in 1957 - - Using an impressive range of business and government sources, White dissects, chapter after chapter, a neo-colonial interpretation of post-colonial settlement advanced by some Malaysian writers, and demonstrates that British business was less than able in directing Alliance policy, while the Malaysian state was more interventionist economically than commonly assumed -- Some points in support of his argument revisit those of his earlier work], pp 493-495; 2) Matthew Jones, review of A.J. Stockwell (ed), 2004, *British documents on the end of empire, series B, volume 8, Malaysia*. London, The Stationary Office for the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. cxiii, 723 pp. Hb ISBN 0-11-290581-1 [From the review -- Tackles one of the final and most

complex acts of British decolonization in Asia, including the variously devised new states, commissions and international and local politics], pp 495-497.

>*The Pacific review*

V.18,n.2 -- Jun 2005 -- 1) William Case, "How's my driving? Abdullah's first year as Malaysian PM" [From the Abstract -- New literature attributes the resilience of hybrid regimes to ways institutions & procedures can be manipulated -- Case contends that manipulable institutions are less crucial for the resilience of hybrid regimes than are the distinctive relations between elites, mass publics and foreign investors -- Malaysia as test case, through comparison of last years of former PM Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership of Malaysia and the first year of his successor, PM Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi.], pp 137-157.

V.18,n.3 -- Sep 2005 -- 1) Natasha Hamilton-Hart, "Terrorism in Southeast Asia: expert analysis, myopia and fantasy" [From the Abstract -- Despite the plurality of terrorism studies, flaws and omission across four issues are common: a) the nature of the terrorism links & information about them; b) Islam; c) the United States; d) and the causes of terrorism -- Most of the leading experts on terrorism in the region are engaged in academically unproductive attempts either to reconstruct the trail of terrorist activity on the basis of official information or explain terrorist violence as individual pathology -- Some Malaysia & Singapore content], pp 303-325.

Books Books books books (Relevant to M/S/B)> **Ariff, Mohamed & Ahmed M. Khalid**

2005 *Liberalization and growth in Asia: 21st Century challenges*. Cheltenham, UK & Northampton, MA. xxiv, 399 pp. Pb ISBN 1-84376-791-0. [See especially: 1) Ch1, "Liberalization: Asia's new-found development strategy", pp 1-23; 2) Ch2, "Asian financial markets: from crisis to recoveries", pp 24-60; Ch7, "Malaysia: liberalization with exchange and capital controls", pp 188-218; 3) Ch9, "Singapore: continual reforms to maintain financial centre status", pp 257-294; 4) Ch11, "Lessons for development through liberalization", pp 325-355.]

>**Ganesan, Narayanan**

2005 *Realism and dependence in Singapore's foreign policy*. NY: Routledge (Politics in Asia series). 224 pp. Hb ISBN 0-41535076. [Charts the philosophical underpinning of Singapore's foreign policy output and the institutions responsible for it and examines importance of economic and defense diplomacy.]

>**Kumar, Raj & Eugene Gherman & Hiren Sarkar & Amarakoon Bandara, et al**

2005 *Economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific*. New York: United Nations, ESCAP. xx, 263 pp. Pb ISBN 92-1-120420-8, ISSN 0252-5704 [See especially, "II Macroeconomic performance, issues and policies: South-East Asia, developing countries in the subregion", which has quite a bit on Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei content, pp 145-189.]

>Lin, Angel M.Y. & Peter W. Martin (eds)

2005 *Decolonisation, globalisation: language-in-education, policy and practice*. Clevedon, Buffalo & Toronto: multilingual matters ltd. xix, 204 pp. Pb ISBN 1-85359-824-0. [See especially: 1) Ch4, Rani Rubdy, "Remaking Singapore for the New Age: official ideology and the realities of practice in language-in-education", pp 55-73; 2) Peter Martin, "'Safe' language practices in two rural schools in Malaysia: tensions between policy and practice", pp 74-97.]

> Mahmud, M. Ghazemy (ed)

2005 *Asian defence yearbook 2005*. (An annual publication of *Asian defence journal*) Kuala Lumpur: Percetakan Osacar Sdn Bhd. 108 pp. Pb ISSN 0126-6403. [See especially: 1) "Section two: country and armed forces profiles" for a) Brunei, pp 37-38; b) Malaysia, pp 43-44; c) Singapore, p 48 & 2) "Section three: defense industry profiles by country" for a) Malaysia, pp 76-82; b) Singapore, pp 87-89 & 3) "Section four: "Asia-Pacific military balance 2003-2004" (tabular format) Brunei, p 95; Malaysia p 98; Singapore p 101.]

> Meskell, Lynn & Peter Pels (eds)

2005 *Embedding ethics*. New York: Berg (Oxford International Publishers Ltd). ix, 326 pp. Pb ISBN 1-84520-047-0. 1) See especially Ch4, Joel S. Kahn, "Anthropology's Malaysian interlocutors: toward a cosmopolitan ethics of anthropological practice", pp 101-120 [From the introductory paragraph -- Argues that the project of the anthropology of modernity in Malaysia now faces ethically fraught relations with individuals and groups that do not fit easily into either traditional publics or those studies and that we are now compelled to broaden our ethical practice to include the way we negotiate such relations.]

Moore, Bob & Barbara Hatley-Broad (eds)

2005 *Prisoners of war, prisoners of peace*. Oxford & NY: Berg. xviii, 270 pp. Hb ISBN 1-84520-156-6. [No particular chs on MSB, but bits and pieces in a) Ch11 (Barbara Hatley-Broad, "Coping in Britain and France: a comparison of family issues affecting the homecoming of prisoners of war following World War II"), pp 141-150; b) Ch12 (Mariska Heijmans-Van Bruggen, "After the Burma-Thailand railway: the 'homecoming' of Dutch prisoners of war"), pp151-162; c) Ch14 (Christina Twomey, "Retaining integrity? Sex, race and gender in narratives of Western women detained by the Japanese in World War II"), pp 175-183; and d) Ch15 (Joan Beaumont, "Prisoners of war in Australian national memory"), pp 185-194.]

> Redclift, Nanneke (ed)

2005 *Contesting moralities: science, identity, conflict*. London: UCL Press. x, 200 pp. Pb ISBN 1-84472-014-4. 1) See especially Ch8, Michelle Lee Guy, "Moralities in conflict: ambiguities of identity and social control for Filipina domestic helpers in Malaysia", pp 135-151 [From the introduction -- Explores the relationship between identity and morality

through an ethnographic analysis of Filipina migrants' experiences as domestic workers in Malaysia, in which Filipinas are subject to the social values and moral judgments based on their gender.]

>SarDesai, D.R.

2006 *Southeast Asian history: essential readings*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 320 pp. Pb ISBN 0-8133-4337-2 [From the publisher's promo – This volume designed to accompany the author's *Southeast Asia: past and present*, 5th edition, or as a stand-alone supplementary text – Includes classic and recent works on the history of Southeast Asia, and covers the entire range of Southeast Asian history from ancient to contemporary times.]

>Savage, Victor R. & May Tan Mullins (eds)

2005 *The Naga challenged: Southeast Asia in the winds of change*. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Academic. 489 pp. [From a minimalist list of new books... book not seen.]

>Slocum, David J. (ed)

2005 *Terrorism, media, liberation*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers, The State University. ix, 353 pp. Pb ISBN 0-8135-3608-1 [See especially, Susan Carruthers, "Two faces of 1950s terrorism: the film presentation of Mau Mau and the Malayan Emergency", pp. 70-93.]

Tagliacozzo, Eric

2005 *Secret trades, porous borders: smuggling and states along a Southeast Asian frontier, 1865-1915*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press. Hb ISBN 0-300-08968-6. xvi, 437 pp. [From the Introduction -- Major questions asked in this book include: a) What is the nature of goods in transit... is there a fixed nature of commodities as they travel across unstable spaces such as international boundaries; b) How do time, geography and other factors determine when goods are considered to be contraband or not; c) What is the role of culture in smuggling; d) How and when are partnerships formed to undertake these activities; e) Who gets involved; f) What roles do ethnicity, language and class play; g) How do states 'see'; h) What are the roles of technology; i) What avoidance mechanisms do smugglers usually use to avoid the state's far superior resources? -- Chronicles the nature, practice and extent of various 'secret trades' along the Anglo/Dutch frontier in five decades temporally centered around the turn of the 20th century, and spatially centered in Singapore, Penang, Melaka and Labuan.]

> Tessensohn, Denyse

2005 *Singapore heads and tales*. Singapore: Dagmar Books. 200 pp. Pb ISBN 981-05-2660-1. [From the backcover -- A searchingly observant collection of short stories about people of Block 108, Clementi -- Whe the loving daughter, a very successful call girl, generously decides to perk up the marital lives of nine of the good wives in Block 108, the lessons will be remembered and talked about for a long time -- Ethnic characteristics colorfully displayed and the lilt and idiom of the local languages that make up Singapore English special are sensitively portrayed.]

Trocki, Carl

2005 *Wealth, power and the culture of control*. NY: Routledge (Asia's Transformations series) 224 pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-26385-9. [Attempts to understand and analyze the culture of control in Singapore, where the state offers the paradox of a free enterprise economy alongside one of the world's most rigorously policed and closely directed social formations.]

>Vernardos, Angelo M.

2005 *Islamic banking & finance in South-East Asia: its development & future*. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pb ISBN 981-256-152-8. xvii, 247 pp. [From the backcover -- Takes readers through a variety of linked elements as they relate to Islam... history, law, economic development, culture, finance and banking within a variety of countries in Southeast Asia... a book about a mature modern banking system and its adaptation to a changing business environment characterized by globalization of the financial industry and increasing sophistication of banking business -- See especially: **a)** Ch6, "Islam in South-east Asia", sections on Malaysia, Brunei, and Islam in SEA today, pp 132-137; **b)** Ch7, "Colonial legacies: Islam and state law in South-east Asia"... mostly relevant to Malaysia, pp 138-153; **c)** Ch8, "Islamic banking in Malaysia", pp 156-171; **d)** Ch10, "Labuan: a niche in the Islamic money market", pp 186-192; **e)** Ch11, "Islamic banking in Brunei", pp 193-203; **f)** Ch12, "Banking in Singapore", pp 204-217.]

> Vickers, Edward & Alisa Jones (eds)

2005 *History education and national identity in East Asia*. NY & Oxon: Routledge - Taylor & Francis Group. x, 348pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-94808-8. [See especially, Goh Chor Boon & Saravanan Gopinathan, "History education and the construction of national identity in Singapore, 1945-2000" -- (From the authors' introduction) Explores changes in the assumptions and practice of history education in Singapore's secondary and junior colleges, examining the sociopolitical factors that influenced history curriculum development and the needs that drove the curriculum decision-making process -- Changes to history curriculum content are analyzed from the perspective of identity formation, recognizing that identity is contested and changes over time -- The questions are: what version of history should be in the curriculum; why did the subject become particularly problematic in the last quarter century; and what are the challenges and issues facing Singapore's history teachers at the start of the 21st century?], pp 203-225.

Professional opportunities, Conferences, Workshops, Fellowships & Publication

>Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting – San Francisco, April 6-9, 2006 – Participants who wish to be listed in 2006 annual meeting *Program* must pre-register by December 9, 2005 (All program participants will receive pre-

registration packets by mail and must pre-register). As of today (November 11, 2005), *Berita* has only panel titles and authors of the 2006 annual meeting panels, but no abstracts -- The only clear-cut title that relates to MSB is panel 236, Alisa Jones, University of Leeds, "Learning to be Chinese? History education and national identity in the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore – More in the mid-February 2006 issue of *Berita* (V.30,n.1).

>Asian Migrations, Binghampton U., March 24-25, 2006 -- Paper submissions are invited for a conference on Asian Migrations to be held at Binghampton University, NY on Friday March 24 and Saturday March 25, 2006 – Plenary speakers are : **1)** Anand Yang, Jackson School of International Relations, U. of Washington: "19th century Chinese & Indian migration in comparative & global perspective"; **2)** Lisa Lowe, U. of California, San Diego: "Coolie, middleman, semi-periphery: reading discourses of Asian labor"; **3)** Wang Gungwu, National University of Singapore: "Coming and going: issues of in Chinese migration studies" – Thematic focus on the reconfiguring of Asian cultures, identities, and communities thru their migrations and Asian migrations outside of Asia – Potential topics include temporary transnational movements & permanent migrations, roles of states in facilitating and restricting migrations, ability of specific markets (e.g., for doctors, coolies, or sex workers) to create migrations; and the role of migration in the transnational flows of religion and popular culture – **Paper & panel proposals** should be sent to Professor John Chaffee, at migrations@binghampton.edu no later than December 1, 2005. Sponsored by: Asian and Asian American Studies Program, SUNY Conversations in the Dsciplines Program, Harper college Dean's Office, Binghampton Foundation Eckler Funds, Sociology Dept & History Dept. -- From URBanth-L mailing list.

>COMPAS (The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society) at Oxford University invites proposals for papers relevant to the 2006 annual conference theme: "International labour migration: in whose interests?". There are no restrictions on geographical regions to be discussed in the proposed papers. Papers should relate to one or more of the conference questions: **a)** what are the processes driving and shaping international labor migration; **b)** what are the impacts on receiving countries, migrants and their countries of origin; **c)** what should the objectives of labor migration be; **d)** how should the interests of receiving countries be balanced with those of migrants and their countries of origin; **e)** what policies and governance arrangements are best suited to effectively manage international labor migration? -- "Labor migration" should be interpreted broadly to include various kinds of migrants and forms of migration that may lead to employment in the host country, including (e.g.) students, refugees, dependents and irregular migrants – All proposals considered on their merits, but proposals for papers encouraged that discuss one or more of the following: **a)** roles of recruitment agencies, individual employers, and sub-contractors in shaping migration outcomes; **b)** impacts of

labor migration on migrants, such as living and employment conditions in the receiving country; c) impacts of sending countries policies on migration flows and outcomes; d) roles of employment policies as opposed to admission and selection policies in shaping the and outcomes of migration; and e) the roles of temporary and permanent migration programs in labor migration policy -- Papers and panels that take an interdisciplinary approach are encouraged -- No restrictions on geographical regions -- Extended abstracts of papers (max. 500 words) due Dec 15th 2005 ... Decisions on abstracts taken by Jan 31 2006 & notifications by early Feb 2006 ... Complete papers due May 15, 2006 – Papers presented in panel sessions of 90 minutes (3 speakers & 1 discussant) -- Accepted papers considered for inclusion in a special issue of an academic journal – Send extended abstracts via e-mail to emma.newcombe@compas.ox.ac.uk or, via snail mail, at:

Emma Newcombe

Centre for Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)

University of Oxford

58 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6QS, UK

>International Conference on Asian Comics, Animation and Gaming (ACAG 2006), York University, Toronto, Canada, May 18-19, 2006. Overview: The goal of the ACAG 2006 is to provide an international forum for presenting recent research on emerging cultural markets in Asian countries and to investigate transnational issues of Asian cultural products, focusing on comics, animation and digital games in relation to the world, and to promote scholarship and intellectual engagement between academics and cultural production professionals of various backgrounds concerning conference themes and topics – The keynote speaker will be Professor John Lent of the School of Communications and Theater, Temple University – Important dates: **1)** Submission of abstracts, no longer than 200 words, Nov 21, 2005; **2)** Acceptance of abstracts, Dec 7, 2005; **3)** Submission of full papers for review, no more than 3,000 words, Mar 1, 2006; **4)** Acceptance of full papers with revisions, Mar 15, 2006; **5)** Accepted papers, due, Apr 3, 2006; **6)** Conference, May 18-19, 2006, **7)** Selected abstracts and full papers will be published in the refereed conference proceedings -- For further information contact the conference chair, **Dr. Wendy Siuyi Wong**, Assoc Dir, YCAR, Dept of Design, Faculty of Fine Arts, York University, e-mail wsywong@yorku.ca .

>Tenth Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments. December 15-18, 2006, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand. -- Call for Abstracts – Deadline for receipt of abstracts and CVs = February 17, 2006 – For scholars and researchers interested in the study of traditional environments, the far-reaching transformations brought by globalization require not only a recalibration of the idea of tradition but also a substantial repositioning within a shifting intellectual environment. While

it is clear that contemporary forces of globalization have proven transformative, the transformations have largely defied prediction. Contrary to the expectations that globalization would act as a totalizing force, somehow erasing “tradition” and challenging “cultural coherence,” investigations reveal that globalization may be more accurately be said to have destabilized the idea of tradition as a repository of authentic ideas and customs. In this way, it has intensified the process of de-linking identity and place and, by extension, intensified the deterritorialization of tradition: a process that has challenged the idea of tradition as an authentic expression of geographically specific, culturally homogenous and coherent group of people. However, this process is not entirely new. Prior moments of globalization, such as colonialism, have also brought about the deterritorialization of tradition and provide useful points of comparison to the present moment. For the 2006 International IASTE Conference, participants are invited to investigate a new dimension of the transformation of tradition: hyper-traditions. “Hyper” refers to social and cultural realms, created and maintained through contemporary technologies of communication, transportation and information transfer that have radically transformed notions of time and space, changing the meanings of distance and immediacy.

Countless contemporary examples of phenomena can be seen as hyper-traditions: neotraditional towns whose history is invented by the developers who create them and embraced by their inhabitants; intensifying fundamentalisms that articulate a political agenda based on the perceived loss of heritage, customs, morality, and/or identity in a globalized world; the political struggles over sites of varying religious and historical significance; and the rise of global tourism and the desire of the hyper-tourist to see and experience the “traditions” of particular destinations without the inconveniences that actual exposure may require. Hyper-traditions cannot be separated from the apparatus and relations of political economy. They circulate through global networks and circuits of capital exchange and serve as mechanisms by which it is possible to encounter “traditions” from around the world.

Hyper-traditions arise in response and opposition to globalization, whilst their deployment and resonance depend on the same advanced communication and infrastructure and technology.

Scholars and practitioners from such fields as architecture, architectural history, art history, anthropology, archaeology, folklore, geography, history, planning, sociology, urban studies, and related fields are invited to submit papers that address on three main tracks: 1) From simulated space (‘real’ but “fictional” tradition as in popular TV ‘reality’ shows) to “real” (everyday lived) tradition ; 2) Hyper-traditions and “real places”; 3) Identity, heritage, and migration.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: submit a short, one-page abstract, not to exceed 500 words. Don’t place your

name on the abstract, but submit a one-page curriculum vitae with your address and name. All authors must submit an electronic copy of their abstract and short CV via e-mail. Abstracts and CVs must be placed within the body of the e-mail, and also as attachments. E-mail this material to iaste@berkeley.edu no later than February 17, 2006.

Specify preference for one or two of the above tracks when submitting abstracts. Proposals for complete panels are welcome -- All papers must be in English -- Following a blind peer review, papers may be accepted for presentation in the conference and/or publication in the conference Working Papers Series -- Contributors whose abstracts are accepted must pre-register for the conference, pay registration fees of \$375 (registered students, \$175) and prepare a full-length paper of 20-25 double-spaced pages -- All participants must be IASTE members -- All other expenses (travel, meals, housing) are the responsibility of participants -- INQUIRIES should be directed to: IASTE 2006

Center for Environmental Design Research
390 Wurster Hall, #1839
University of California
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Website: www.arch.ced.berkeley.edu/research/iaste

>Workshop on pensioners on the move: social security and trans-border retirement migration in Asia & Europe.

5-7 January 2006, Furama River Front Hotel, Singapore. Co-organized by Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen & Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Supported by: Asia-Europe Foundation, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. This workshop brings together scholars from different disciplines (principally, law and social sciences) to investigate issues of social security and trans-border migration of retired people, with particular interest in comparing the specific policies and legal frameworks which enable (or obstruct) the geographical movement of the elderly, and explore strategies, behavior and the implications that condition migrants' options and choices. The workshop will examine the interplay of borders on the retirement options and choices. The presence of researchers conducting research in different sites in Asia and European regions will make it possible to draw various comparisons. It is hoped that it will also lead to original and innovative ideas for future collaborative research. The workshop will examine strategies and behaviors of both states and migrants, and will discuss two themes -- 1) Relationships between states and the notion of 'social citizenship' to: a) overview and compare states' policies and legal frameworks that enable or obstruct the geographical movement of the elderly in Asia and Europe; b) to investigate how and to what extent migrants' behaviors, options and decisions are conditioned by state

regulations on migration and the remittance of pensions; c) to examine the practice and discourses where the host and sending societies negotiate the ways in treating the cross-border movement of the elderly; d) how a retiree's mobility is related to the overall migration regimes in Asia and Europe; e) to explore the ways in which national identity is challenged and/or reinforced in this process -- 2) Elderly migrants' sense of 'home'/family' with regard to social security and residential strategies: a) to identify the problems that confront them with regard to social security and residential strategies: a) to identify the problems that they are confronted with in organizing their social and financial security; b) to examine the ways in which family and community members in the country of origin provide care for the elderly trans-nationally; c) what the socio-cultural implications of this new movement are on the general perception of aging and life cycle; d) to explore how gender affects the decision making process of the elderly on migration; e) to analyze the interplay between transnational retirement migration and other demographic and social transitions; and f) to investigate the emerging 'transnational household' as a result of the movement.

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>Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship Program 2006. The Library of Congress's Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship is made possible by the generosity of a former cataloguer in the Chinese Team of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division for 45 years -- The purpose of the fellowship is to provide individuals an opportunity to pursue research on East, Southeast, and/or South Asian communities, including overseas communities, using collections of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. -- The grants are for a minimum of 5 business days of research and are to be used to cover travel to and from Washington D.C., overnight accommodations, and photocopying -- Up to 15 awards are available from \$300 to \$2,500, based on demonstrated need. Graduate and upper-level under-graduate students, independent scholars, community college teachers, researchers without regular teaching appointments, and librarians with a demonstrated need for fellowship support are especially encouraged to apply -- Awards are announced in December -- The Asian Division's collections are among the most significant outside of Asia and comprise

almost two million books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts and microforms in the languages of East, South and Southeast Asia – The collections span a diversity of subjects from China, Japan, Korea, South Asia and Southeast Asia – Go to <http://www.loc.gov/rr/asian/> or contact Dr. Mi Chu Wiens, Head of Scholarly Services, Asian Division, Library of Congress, at mwie@loc.gov or tel. (202) 707-3626 – Go to www.lcasianfriends.org/fellowship for more information -- Applications accepted no later than Jan 15 – From Anchi Hoh, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship Committee, The Asian Division, Library of Congress, LJ 150, E-mail adia@loc.gov and/ or go to website <http://www.lcasianfriends.org/> .

>**Sudostasien aktuell** is a refereed bimonthly academic journal published by the Institute of Asian Affairs, Hamburg. It has a circulation of 750 copies to academia, administration and business. Articles submitted for publication should be written in German or English. The editors welcome contributions on contemporary Southeast Asia in the fields of international relations, politics, economics, society, education, environment or law that are theoretically grounded, empirically sound and reflective of state of the art in contemporary Southeast Asian studies. Articles should not exceed 10,000 words, should be submitted in electronic form (stylesheet = www.duei.de/ifa/stylesheet) . E-mail: buenste@ifa.duei.de , loewen@ifa.duei.de . Their website is: www.duei.de/ifa .

Amnesty International

(From Margaret John, Coordinator for Singapore and Malaysia, Amnesty International Canada, and edited by *Berita* to conserve space). From AI Malaysia Press Statement, 16 August 2005, regarding progress on the Malaysian Royal Commission's 125 recommendations on enhancements of operations and management of Royal Malaysian Police in mid-May 2003 – AI Malaysia urged the government to table a bill establishing an Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) at the September parliamentary session and that the PM should inform the public on progress in implementing the recommendations outlined by the Royal Commission, including: #7) establish reasonable grounds before arrest; #8) a code of practice on search and seizure; #9 a code of practice for proactive investigation; #12 a new code of practice for identification of suspects; #13 improved training for investigative officers; #15 record statements/confessions before magistrate pursuant to Section 115 of CPC; #18 involve public prosecutor early in police investigation; #25 encode Inspector General's Standing Orders as subsidiary legislation under Police Act 1967 – PM Abdullah Ahmad Badawi heads the cabinet task force on implementation.

Received from AI Malaysia, 5 September 2005 – Public debate over restrictions on the right to freedom of conscience and religious belief in Malaysia intensified in July when a

mob of unidentified men carrying machetes set fire to the commune of the Sky Kingdom religious sect in Trengganu state. 65-year-old ethnic Malay, Arrifin Mohamad (Ayah Pin), its spiritual leader, calls for a peaceful synthesis of all faiths, including Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and others. Following the attack, 58 sect members, including men, women and children were charged under Islamic *Shariah* law for practicing deviant or heretical beliefs. Only 2 of those suspected of attacking the commune were reported to have been arrested. Although Islam is the official religion of the Malaysian nation, and Malays are by constitutional definition Muslim, the religious choices of other Malaysians are protected by constitutional provisions and long as they practice religious peace and harmony. Moreover *Sharia* law is enacted and enforced at the state level rather than the federal level and it applies only to Muslims. The 'problem' is the apparent conflicts between *Sharia* law and principles of human rights enshrined in international law and the Malaysian federal constitution. And specifically, under *Sharia* law, Malaysians wishing to renounce Islam (apostasy) to profess other faiths or beliefs that deviate from those of Sunni Islam are subject to sanctions.

Two of the members of the Sky Kingdom arrested after the attack, a 54 year old Malay woman and a 74 year old Malay man, filed a habeas corpus petition to test the lawfulness of their detention, and were released on bail before their petition was heard. 13 years ago they and 2 other sect members were arrested and sentenced to prison for deviant Islamic practices, which was commuted on appeal, but were ordered to report regularly to religious authorities to repent. They didn't and the 4 of them were charged with apostasy and sentenced in 2000 to 3 years in jail. The 4 appealed to Federal Court, asserting their constitutional right to freedom of religion to leave Islam. The Court chose not to rule on the question, stating that jurisdiction of the *Sharia* court was legitimate because the case predated the four individuals' declaration of apostasy in 1998 (in effect, refusing to deal with the clear differences between Federal and State governments regarding freedom of religious choice).

Go to <http://www.aimalaysia.org> for more information; or e-mail aimalaysia@aimalaysia.org .

Prospectus

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