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**Editor's note**

Some members of MSB-SG are interested in publishing a separate journal devoted to publishing original scholarly works. We can easily do it if it is strictly an e-journal. It could be limited to no more than 2 issues annually, each limited to 12 compact *Berita* style pages (each issue about 8,000 words each), and be a mix of 2 or 3 terse articles and/or brief review essays. The format would be like *Berita* e-mail attachments; no expensive paper, ink or postage. It should have a separate editorial board whose members represent the major scholarly interests of Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Studies Group scholars; and when the board lacks full expertise regarding an unusual subject of a manuscript, it could be reviewed as well by one or two appropriate scholars not on the editorial board. rp

**PERIODICALS PERIODICALS periodicals periodicals**

**>Asia- Pacific review**

**V.14,n.2 Nov 2007** – 1) Mirzan Mahathir & Fazil Irwan, "Malaysia's role in Asian regional cooperation: a look at foreign policy themes" [From the Abstract on the Routledge website at [www.informaworld.com](http://www.informaworld.com) -- Despite some shortcomings, Malaysia is one of few countries which have been relatively successful building a competent economic model based on a complex formula of multiracial unity, balancing national imperatives with ethnic and religious realities -- It is this understanding of and response to a uniquely pluralistic demographic landscape that has served as the underlying philosophy of Malaysia's foreign policy that has allowed Malaysia to forge close cooperation with many Asian countries over the years], pp 97-111.

**>Asian folklore studies**

**V.66,n.1-2 2007** -- 1) Tan Chee-Beng, review of Jean DeBernardi, 2006, *The way that lives in the heart: Chinese popular religion and spirit mediums in Penang, Malaysia*. xx + 372 pp. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, Hb ISBN 0-8047-5292-3 [From the review – Reviewer notes that unlike other studies that concentrate on spirit-mediums as folk healers, DeBernardi also studies them as teachers, masters, moral guides, and charismatic leaders – Provides a systematic and rather thorough description, chapter by chapter, of the structure and content and the book – The review is generally very favorable, especially regarding the selection and description of the mediums, which provides readers a good

sense of the diversity of mediums, and regarding the ability of the mediums to teach in addition to performing mediumship and how these activities are influenced by their intellectual background – An interesting book and review ], pp 275-276.

**>Asian journal of social science**

**V.35,n.3 2007** -- 1) Alexius A. Pereira, "Attitudes towards entrepreneurship in Singapore: the role of the state in cultural transition" [From the Abstract -- Because of the low level of entrepreneurship in Singapore, the state introduced an economic policy know as the technopreneurship 21 program -- Accompanied with many economic incentives and structural changes, the state also began a ideological campaign to create a more pro-entrepreneurial society -- Study examines attitudes of undergraduates regarding entrepreneurship as a way to understand the state's ability to change mindsets – The major finding is that although respondents feel that the state is currently still un-entrepreneurial, they are very positive about the future -- Students felt that the best way for the state to become pro-entrepreneurial was more state intervention], pp 321-339; **V.35,n.4-5 2007** -- 1) Zawawi Ibrahim, "The beginning of neo-realist imagining in Malaysian cinema: a critical appraisal of Malay modernity and representation of Malayness in Rahim Razali's films" [From the Abstract -- An attempt to position Rahim Razali's films in the context of the evolution of the new Malaysian cinema since the heydays of P. Ramlee -- Argues that his works usher a new phase in Malaysian cinema... the beginning of neo-realist imagining on the question of Malay identity in post-colonial Malaysia -- His films are the earliest critical commentaries on the culture and values of the new Malay corporate class, whose emergence followed closely the Mahathir-led 'Malay modernization' project of the New Economic Policy -- Essay critically examines Rahim's portrayal of Malay modernity and his representation of Malayness in both urban and rural cultural landscape of a transforming nation-state], pp 511-527; 2) Eric C. Thompson, "Internet-mediated experiences of underdevelopment: a four-country survey of academia" [From the Abstract – Professional academician in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia have significantly different subjective experiences of internet use -- Difference not only in substantial inequalities of access, but also in a higher level of expectation and value placed on the Internet among Indonesian and secondarily Malaysians -- Results, from a survey and interviews of teachers and researchers in the social sciences and humanities are analyzed in the context of dependency theory within knowledge economics -- Emphasis on both infrastructural development and de-centered production of knowledge is called for], pp 554-574; 3) Terenjit Sevea, "'Islamist' intellectual space: 'True Islam' and the *Ummah* in the East" [From the Abstract -- Revisits the narratives of select 'Islamists' from South and Southeast Asia to explore what their narratives offer for a discussion on Islamist intellectual space -- Focuses on a realm of Islamist self-understandings that reveal a consciousness of being important interlocutors of Islam -- These Islamists blatantly exercised their intellectual authority by deriding a larger *Ummah* that had become divorced from a 'true Islam' that they were aware of -- Highlights facets of Islamist contact that occurred between these regions through Islamist Third World discourses -- Also emphasizes South and Southeast Asian Islamist reconstructions of Islam into a system and/or

polity through returning to, and reconstructing orthodox texts, Prophet-hood and earlier Islamic periods -- Implications for the study of regions often reduced to 'peripheries' in discourse], pp 575-607; **4)** Azhar Ibrahim, "Contemporary Malay Studies: diverging visions, competing priorities and its implications: a critique" [From the Abstract -- Delineates and evaluates various intellectual trends and visions as espoused by some prominent intellectual figures in Malay Studies by highlighting their ideas on Malay Studies and some of its problems and challenges -- Four primary concerns: a) linguistic-language affection; b) ethnographic and documentation pursuit; c) the clamor for a wider Malay world studies; and d) the interest in the search of indigenous theories in Malay literary studies], pp 657-680; **5)** Daniel PS Goh, book review of Souchou Yao, 2007, *Singapore: the state and the culture of excess*, 209 pp, London: Routledge, ISBN: 9780415417112 [Reviewer begins with 'Finally, a book on the miraculous Singapore state that is a worthy successor to Chua Beng Huat's' *Communitarian ideology and democracy* -- Proclaims that the importance of the quest to understand the Singapore state cannot be underestimated -- States that in "Yao's unfolding, the state is neither a social fact nor a political institution, but the Hegelian Idea manifested as a magical Fanonian mask that hides the deep cultural scars informing political practice in an almost-stillborn post-colonial nation" ... "Yao begins with a visceral resurrection scene: Lee weeping on television on Singapore's expulsion from Malaysia, his six-week disappearance into the government barracks and his recuperation as the National Father exemplifying moral fortitude" -- The reviewer's one small quibble: "Yao locates the trauma at the point of Singapore's divorce from Malaysia, but the traumatic post-coloniality of Singapore has its roots in the colonial era in at least two ways... Lee and his English-educated lieutenants were part of the Straits Chinese *Peranakan* elite stratum that had developed a form of political-cultural hybridity in their collaboration with the British" and that had worrisome consequences -- Reviewer's review certainly as interesting as an interesting book], pp 709-711.

#### >Asian journal of women's studies

**V.14,n.1 2008** -- **1)** Lynette J. Chua, "Law, state control, and women's movements" a review article on Lenore Lyons, 2004, *A state of ambivalence: the feminist movement in Singapore*, The Netherlands: Brill [Sections on: a) Direct control by laws and state policies; b) Engaging the state; c) Gender and class; d) Gender and sexuality; e) Gender and race; f) Co-option and ideological buy-in; g) Some outcomes; h) Gender equality and the principle of meritocracy; i) further directions: the centrality of law and broader comparative work; j) Broader comparisons; k) Conclusion], pp 120-141.

#### >Asian survey

**V.xlvii,n.6 Nov/Dec 2007** -- Issue concerned with the Asian Financial Crisis -- See especially **1)** Lee Poh Ping & Tham Siew Yean, "Malaysia ten years after the Asian Financial Crisis" [From the Abstract -- The Asian financial crisis caused economic and political turmoil in Malaysia, but not as severely as their neighbors, Indonesia and Thailand -- Considers the impact of the crisis on the Malaysian economy, Malaysian Chinese business, and the Malaysian political system], pp 915-929; **2)** Alan Chong, "Singapore's political economy, 1997-

2007: strategizing economic assurance for globalization" [From the Abstract -- Singapore's reaction to the crisis suggests that while there were deepening signs of liberalization, there was little evidence of profound retreat from the developmental state paradigm -- The crisis caused an obsession with 'globalization compatibility'... aggressive externalization of private and state-led economic activities and gradualist strategy for building economic community abroad], pp 952-976. **V.xlviii,n.1 Jan/Feb 2008** -- **1)** Lowell Dittmer, "Asia in 2007" [Nationalism has lost most of its mobilizational appeal in much of Asia... replaced by ethno-religious solidarity, fostering formidable latent political blocs where one group is dominant -- Deep cleavages where more than one ethno-religious grouping... as in Malaysia with Malay Muslims are a majority and Chinese a substantial minority -- And more], pp 1-4; **2)** William Case, "Malaysia in 2007: high corruption and low opposition" [From the Abstract -- A year of political and economic continuity -- Government won 3 by-elections; economy grew 5.6%; Tensions in ethnic relations and Islamization simmered; foreign relations were smooth; And, in an extraordinary scandal, a prominent political advisor went on trial for abetting the murder of his former mistress], pp 47-54; **3)** Chua Beng Huat, "Singapore in 2007: high wage ministers and the management of gays and elderly" [From the Abstract -- The PAP raised top officials' salaries (already highest in the world); Cultural liberalization has finally encouraged the gay community to invoke a seldom used parliament process to petition Parliament to repeal the Victorian law that criminalizes homosexuality; And government began to deal with some issues for an impending aging population], pp 55-61.

#### >Chulalongkorn journal of economics

**V.17,n.3 Dec 2005** -- **1)** Suan Wee Foo & Boon Tiong Lim, "Rational bubbles and the Singapore private housing market" [From the Abstract -- Looks into whether the Singapore property market exhibits rational bubbles in the 1990s -- Model a rational bubble and tests for its presence in the Singapore housing market during the mid 90s' overvaluation period, between the 2nd quarter of 1991 and 2nd quarter of 1998, and detected the presence of a postulated bubble between the 2nd quarter of 1991 and the 3rd quarter of 1994 -- Further, tested unsuccessfully for postulated bubbles (including one which undergoes a structural change) between the 2nd quarter of 1991 and the 2nd quarter of 1996 (when overvaluation reached its peak) -- In the interpretation of results: cited interest rate changes, government policies and positive investment sentiments as likely factors for the observed trend in overvaluation -- And more], pp 283-303.

#### >Commonwealth & comparative politics

**V.46,n.1 Feb 2008** -- **1)** Scott Cooper, "Monetary blocs on the periphery: small state choice or great power hegemony" [See especially the section "Britain in Southeast Asia" pp 40-48"], pp 29-53.

#### >Comparative politics

**V.40,n.2 Jan 2008** -- **1)** John T. Sidel, "Social origins of dictatorship and democracy revisited: colonial state and immigrant in the making of modern Southeast Asia" [From the introduction and the abstract -- Article returns to Barrington Moore's *Social origins of dictatorship and democracy: lord and peasant in the making of the modern world*, to retrieve one key formulation for deployment in the continuing debate on cross-

national patterns of variance in dictatorship and democracy around the world, focusing on Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) -- The analysis draws on Moore's work to develop an analytical framework for explaining the patterns of dictatorship and democracy of these countries in Southeast Asia, before concluding with some observations of broader relevance to the study of democratization around the world -- Southeast Asia offers a particularly interesting subset of cases with which to reexamine a set of important recent arguments concerning dictatorship and democracy -- Sections on: a) "Chinese immigrant and colonial state: the plural society and its vicissitudes"; b) "Nationalist struggles and neocolonial residues: state and foreign capital"; c) "Assimilated Chinese capitalists and democracies: The Philippines and Thailand"; d) "Pariah capitalists and authoritarian regimes: Malaysia and Indonesia"; e) "Conclusion: the structural preconditions for dictatorship and democracy" -- A comparative analysis through a comparative analysis of class formation in Southeast Asia -- Colonial era state policies concerning immigrant Chinese merchant minorities shaped the diverging capacities and inclinations of capitalist classes in the region to assert themselves in political life and to assume control over state power -- The identities and strengths of the capitalist classes in Southeast Asia prefigured enduring authoritarian rule in most countries in the region over the past several decades, while enabling democratic rule in the Philippines, Thailand & eventually in Indonesia], pp 127-147.

**>Current history: a journal of contemporary world affairs**

**V.107,n.708 April 2008 -- 1)** "The month in review, February 2008: East Timor" [Feb 11: President Jose Ramos-Horta is shot and critically injured in an assassination attempt -- PM Xanana Gusmao present but not wounded -- The following day a state of emergency declared] p 191; **2)** "The month in review... Thailand" [Former PM Thaksin Shinawatra returns to his country after 17 months of exile... granted by the civilian government that replaced the military junta that deposed him], p 192.

**>Economic geography**

**V.83,n.4 2007 -- 1)** Henry Wai-chung Yeung, "Remaking economic geography: insights from East Asia" [Including Malaysia and Singapore -- Sections on "Critical engagements: how does East Asia matter (again)"; "(Re)Made in East Asia: how to 'theorize back'"; "Globalizing economic geography: why bother"; and "References"], pp 339-348; **2)** Nicholas A. Phelps, "Gaining from globalization? State extraterritoriality and domestic economic impacts --The case of Singapore" [From the Abstract -- States have authored elements of globalization by deploying strategies to exert themselves extraterritorially, dimensions of state strategy that are intimately connected to economic interests -- Examines an important example of this phenomenon...the rapid industrialization of Singapore at a time of rapid international economic integration that has created a unique degree of urgency, depth, and breadth among contemporary state strategies of extraterritoriality -- Draws on original research on joint-venture industry and technology parks in China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and India; Examines the extent and nature of economic benefits to the Singapore economy,

leveraged through this particular strategy of extra-territorialization], pp 371-393.

**>European journal of East Asian studies**

**V.6,n.2 2007 -- 1)** Hidetaka Yoshimatsu, "Regional integration and business interests: a comparative study of Europe and Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- Articulates business representation in the process of creating a unified market by comparing regional integration processes in Europe in the 1980s and in Southeast Asia in the 2000s -- Both EC and ASEAN adopted the creation of a single market as a feasible strategy as a response to economic hardship -- In the process, US business associations played a crucial role identifying problems and issues in promoting actual integration -- Existing business associations did not function effectively and a new association comprising individual business executives was formed -- The new association came not from the private sector in Europe but from the member states in Southeast Asia, and this difference led to disparities in the relative influence of the two associations -- ASEAN focus with minor MSB mention], pp 217-243.

**>Far Eastern economic review**

**V.171,n.1 Jan/Feb 2008 -- 1)** David Jay Green, "Sweating it out about Asean growth" [The middle-income SEA countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines & Thailand) experienced GDP growth rates between 5.2% to 5.7% in 2006, a bit higher than in 2000-2005 (4.6%-5.1%) ... the world as a whole had a 2.8% growth rate of GDP -- But while beating many other countries in GDP, SEA countries are not growing as fast as they say they should -- E.g. Malaysia has targeted 6% average annual growth, and the Philippines development calls for growth to accelerate to 7 to 8% in 2009-10... they may or may not achieve it -- Middle income members of ASEAN did have faster growth in the 1990s, before 1997-98; but since then growth have been lower, because investment rates have been lower than in the early 1990s... a failure of investment to recover from the Asian financial crisis -- A recipe for success: accept some pain and make sure everyone knows you are committed -- And more], pp 34-36; **2)** Barry Wain, "Manila's bungle in the South China Sea" [The Philippine government is breaking ranks with ASEAN by agreeing with China and Vietnam to shelve separate sovereignty claims temporarily and establish joint development zones to share the ocean's fish, hydrocarbon and other resources... ASEAN as a bloc is supposedly dealing with China -- And more], pp 45-48; **3)** Alvino-Mario Fantini & Hugo Restall, "The Far Eastern economic review's 2008 Barometer of Asian development" [The booming economies of Asia continue to raise millions of people out of poverty and improve the standard of living for billions more; but there is considerable diversity within this overall positive picture -- An index of indexes: human capital (10 possible points), gender equality (25), civil liberties (30), press freedom (30), institutionality (30), governance (30), corruption (40), property rights (15), competitiveness (20), business climate (35), freedom (35) and other indexes (taxes, access to credit, sources of capital, travel and shipping, trade, integration, technology, communications, and politics -- Supposed best to worst in Asia: New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, India, etc], pp 55-59. **V.171,n.2 Mar 2008 -- 1)** Simon Montlake, "Race politics hobbles Malaysia" [In multi-

racial Malaysia where federal and state elections take place in March, race is the electoral x-factor, and it does not whisper: it screams... to cast a vote along racial lines is habitual and expected, hard-wired into a race-based party political system that has endured, almost unaltered -- PM Abdullah Badawi is betting that the system can deliver victory on March 8... The question is at what cost to Malaysia's long-term prosperity and dynamism -- Explains the recent uproar over the emergence of the Hindu Rights Action Force (Hindraf), an Indian activist network the mobilized tens of thousands of angry Indians last November, turning the tables on Samy Vellu's Malaysian Indian Congress, a junior partner in the governing Malaysian coalition -- Mentions Bridget Welsh's argument that Abdullah has allowed Malay chauvinism to choke off the pragmatism that has guided the country's policymakers, instead of trying to smooth worsening race relations -- And more], pp 36-39; **2)** Garry Roden, review of C J W-L Wee, *The Asian modern: culture, capitalist development, Singapore*, 224 pp. Hong Kong University Press [Book's theme: until recently, Singapore's ruling People's Action Party saw local culture and traditions as hindrances to growth... leaders sought to subordinate societal values to the goal of economic progress and did far more than colonialists to downgrade and suppress ideas about Asian authenticity -- But over time, PAP leaders spear-headed an international campaign for so-called 'Asian values' and embraced local cultural diversity... but author says this is not a 'turn-around' but a change in PAP strategy toward cultural identity and social engineering -- Reviewer says that the author's analysis falters in his failure to distinguish between the rhetoric and substance of neo-liberalism -- And more], pp 72-74.

#### >Harvard international review

**V.xxix.n.4 Wntr 2008** -- **1)** Anna Hopper, "Squashing the Skull and Bones: reforming the international anti-piracy regime" [Piracy currently poses a serious threat to trading ships, which carry about 90% of the world's cargo, according to the International Maritime Organization -- Greatest number of incidents in Southeast Asian waters... article features picture of men of Indonesia's navy guarding men arrested for an attack on a Singaporean ship -- Flaws in the system: a) piracy is unpredictable and data are often inaccurate, making prevention difficult... and some companies (fearing rising insurance costs) and fishermen choose not to report attacks (fearing prosecution for fishing in illegal fishing zones)], pp 28-31

#### >Inter-Asia cultural studies

**V.9.n.1 2008** -- **1)** Jeremy E Taylor, "From transnationalism to nativism? The rise, decline and reinvention of a regional Hokkien entertainment industry" [From the Abstract -- Explores ways in which the production of commercial Hokkien popular culture (including film, music & TV) has transformed over the last half century from a regional industry into something now associated with 'nativist' Taiwan -- Draws on and contributes to debates about Diaspora, trans-nationalism and cultural expression in the wider East Asian regions, such as Singapore and Malaysia], pp 62-81; **2)** Felicia Chan, "When is a foreign-language film not a foreign-language film? When it has too much English in it: The case of Singapore film and the Oscars" [From the Abstract -- In Dec 2005, a film "Be with me" by a

Singapore director was disqualified from entering the *Best foreign language film* category on grounds that it contained 'too much English' ... An Academy spokesperson explained that "English is not a foreign language" -- Situation indicates a continued ambivalence in the role of English in the making of a cultural identity: the perennial 'post-colonial' conundrum that shows no sign of going away -- And more], pp 97-105; **3)** Francis Kok Wah Loh, "Procedural democracy, participatory democracy and region networking: the multi-terrain struggle for democracy in Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- SEA experienced rapid economic growth in the 1980s & early 1990s because of emergence of the developmental state, which adapted to the thrust of neo-liberal globalization by adopting economic liberalization, deregulation & privatization policies... but a 'roll-back' in 1997-1998 -- Traces the rise and evolution of the NGOs and consolidation of civil society in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines -- Central to the discussion is the extent to which the civil society organizations promoted a deepening of democracy and more equitable development -- And more], pp 127-141; **4)** Peter W Preston, "Sitting on the dock of the bay: partial views of change -- Singapore, Tokyo and Hong Kong" [Cities embody political projects of elites; spaces frame the lives of their inhabitants; within these spaces ordinary people make their lives -- Cities are always in flux, and their transience marks their elites' responses to change and change has its benefits and costs -- E.g. : 'The old canteen of the World Trade Centre, Singapore'; 'The coffee shop of the Tokyo Edo Museum, Tokyo'; 'The fast ferry from Central to Hung Hom'; 'Any lessons?'], pp 142-150.

#### >International journal of comic art

**V.10.n.1 Spr 2008** -- **1)** Muhammed Shahriar Haque, "Kee's world': reflections of evolving identity" [From the article -- "Kee's World" is created by cartoonist C W Kee of *The Star*, a Malaysian newspaper -- It is a world that could appeal to the younger generation at a very elementary level, but not most children -- It is addressed to a mature adult audience -- Its scripts contain various kinds and layers of meaning and humor ... cartoon characters, caricatures, over and under statements -- What makes *Key's World* different from many other comic strips in Malaysia is that it deals so much with situations 'from' and 'of' Malaysian life, rather than the antics of particular individual characters, in so much an exaggerated manner as to evoke laughter at regular experiences in various aspects of the Malaysian ways of life -- Sections: a) "Excessive happiness?"; b) "Underlying implication"; c) "Critical Discourse Analysis"; d) "C W Kee"; e) "CDA and C W Kee"; f) "Theoretical assumptions"; g) "Data"; h) "Analysis of 'Kee's world'"; i) "Social reflections"; j) "Moral implications"; k) "Principles of the CDA in perspective"; l) "Social implications"; m) "Conclusion"; n) "Endnotes"; n) "References" -- Concludes that the social discourse of Malaysian society is (re)produced in "Kee's World"], pp 482-497.

#### >Itinerario

**V.xxxi.n.3 2007** -- **1)** Lennart Bes, "Records in a rival's repository" (Archives of the Dutch East India Company and related materials in the India Office Records {British Library}, London {and the National Archives of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur}) [From the Abstract -- Presents an overview of the relatively unknown and unexplored materials derived, copied, or translated from the VOC and stored -- Apart from a few

papers, 3 groups of records are described: a) the remaining archives of the VOC establishment at Melaka (in Malaysia); b) VOC documents in the Mackenzie collections; and c) relevant materials in the archives of the EIC -- The bulk of the first group of records and parts of second and the third group are unique -- Also, the few Dutch records from Melaka that still remain in Malaysia are dealt with in an appendix] pp 16-38.

>**Journal of East Asian studies**

**V.8 2008** -- 1) Jason Brownlee, "Bound to rule: party institutions and regime trajectories in Malaysia and the Philippines" [From the Abstract -- Revisits the electoral emphasis of hybrid regime studies, arguing instead that the impact of elections is structured by variations in prior political institutions, particularly the dismantlement or maintenance of a ruling party -- Duration tests on 136 regimes indicate that ruling parties reduce the chance of regime collapse, while 'electoral autocracy' has no significant effect -- A paired comparison of Malaysia and the Philippines shows how variations in party institutions propelled divergent courses of authoritarian dominance and democratization -- More details], pp 89-118.

>**Journal of economic development**

**V.32,n.2 Dec 2007** -- 1) Mansor H Ibrahim, "Sectoral effects of ringgit depreciation shocks" [From the Abstract -- Addresses 2 questions: a) Is exchange rate depreciation expansionary or contractionary; and b) Are there distributional consequences of exchange rate shocks for the case of Malaysia? -- Considers relations between aggregate output as well as 8 sectoral outputs and real effective exchange rate in multivariate setting - - Using multivariate co-integration test, there is evidence for co-integration among the variables for all sectors; and both real output and real exchange rate contribute significantly to the co-integration space, affirming the presence of long run relation between the two focused variables -- In most cases, the estimated co-integrating vectors suggest expansionary currency depreciation; and impulse responses further substantiate this finding especially over longer horizons; however, over shorter horizons, exchange rate depreciation can be contradictory for certain sectors particularly for the construction sector -- Evidence indicative of the differential effects of the currency shocks -- Comparatively, the manufacturing sector, transport, storage and communication sector, and finance, insurance, real estate and business services sector seem to be affected more by exchange rate fluctuations], pp 135-156.

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

**V.80,pt.2,n.2 93 Dec 2007** -- {All from the abstracts} 1) J.M. Gullick, "A short history of Ulu Langat to 1900" [Ulu Langat's lack of large tin deposits a key factor as well as the awkward reaches of the middle Langat River a factor in development of the upper Klang and Selangor river valleys -- But from the early 19th century there were miners and other settlers in Ulu Langat -- Describes the situation at that point and moves on to the more rapid development of the 19th century] pp 1-18; 2) Danny Wong Tze Ken, "The Petagas War Memorial and the creation of a heroic past in Sabah" [The individuals buried at Petagas belonged to a local guerrilla force known as the Kinabalu Guerrillas, who took part in the uprising against the Japanese

Army in Jesselton on 9 October 1943, and were executed on 21 January 1944, along with their colleagues who died at Labuan -- Recounts the events leading to their execution and the memorial], pp 19-32; 3) Timothy P. Barnard, "Celates, Rayat-Laut, pirates: the Orang Laut and their decline in history" [Played vital roles in the rise and fall of states in the region for more than a thousand years -- Surveys role in supporting their patron thru knowledge of the sea, currents, and surrounding rivers -- Importance in securing rulers position's began decline in 18th C., when new migrants groups (Euro & Asian) displaced them -- Shattering their links with rulers was the first step in their decline], pp 33-49; 4) Arndt Graf, "German works on Malay culture and literature since the nineteenth century" [From the early 19th C. until the 1950s Malaya was mostly seen as a place of folk literature, fairy tales, and historical legends -- After WWII this legacy particularly revived in East Germany, where 'low genres' of 'folk tales' were given emphasis; Also a few scholars of West Germany continued to focus on traditional Malay culture -- This changed after 1969, when there were a larger number of publications on Malaysian literature (classical & contemporary, emerged -- And from 1981 onwards growth of scholarly cooperation between Germany and Malaysia], pp 51-65; 5) Ichiro Sugimoto, "Analysis of the State of Johore's finances, 1910-1940" [Examines the British administration's role in financial management of the state -- At the beginning of the 20th century Johore was bankrupted by collapse of gambier and pepper markets and mismanagement of state accounts -- British colonial government restructured the Chinese revenue farm system and implemented budgetary controls on revenue collection and expenditure -- Study offers an alternative view to the mainstream post-colonial narratives], pp 67-87; 6) John Funston, review of Ooi Kee Beng, 2006, *"The reluctant politician: Tun Dr Ismail and his time"*, xxvii + 311 pp, Singapore: ISEAS, ISBN 10: 981-230-424-X ["This book has tapped into deep current Malaysia concerns about issues such as democracy, corruption, and multiculturalism. In setting out the views and contributions in these areas of a distinguished founding father, it has made a significant contribution to this debate."], pp 89-91; 7) Kobkua Suwannathat-Pian, review of Barbara Watson Andaya, 2006, *The flaming womb: repositioning women in early modern Southeast Asia*, 335 pp, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, ISBN 10: 0-8248-2955-7 [Reading *The flaming womb* is very much like watching a talented artist applying his craft to create a beautiful still life, with every stroke of his brush adding a riot of colors, producing a scintillating play on lights and shadows, and evoking the subtle dimension of the subject finally emerging], pp 94-96. 7) Loh Wei Leng, review of Richard Mason & Abu Talib Ahmad (eds), 2006, *Reflections on Southeast Asian history since 1945*, 168 pp, Penang: Penerbit Universiti Sains Malaysia, ISBN 983-3391-49-4 [Each chapter a selection of papers presented at a conference at Universiti Sains Malaysia in 2004 -- The review indicates that many of the chapters are about the Malay world], pp 98-101.

>**Malaysian business**

**Aug1st-15th 2007** -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Don't kill the messenger: how does a magazine strive to present the truth when it is denied information?" [Answers readers' complaints, noting that the government did not allow him to participate at the briefing for last year's launch of the 9th Malaysia Plan on

grounds that his employer, *Malaysian Business*, is only a magazine, and not a newspaper, news agency, radio or television station -- Shares with his readers the story of the bulk sale of a magazine to a large government-linked company (GLC) and how it ruined the publication as journalism -- Comments on the government's getting a 'cheap' loan from China to build a second Penang bridge, and a Chinese firm rather than a Malaysian firm will be the contractor -- The lackadaisical attitude of Malaysians towards education, training and employment... some Malaysians cannot even compete with illegal Indonesian or Bangladeshi workers for jobs], pp 5-7; **2)** Charles Raj, "The spirit of the OSA" -- Has the spirit of the Official Secrets Act really been upheld in this country, and is it really to safeguard the public interest, national security and defense, or is it just a tool to shield government shenanigans?" -- Documents should not be classified as secret according to some official's whims and fancies -- Who defines public interest? ... e.g. is the recent decision by the government to keep toll concession agreements a secret in the interest of the public?] p 8. **Aug16th-31st 2007** -- **1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Memories of Merdeka: Malaysia has come a long way, so has its people" -- Who can forget that momentous day when the Tunku proclaimed Merdeka for the country? -- Whereas back in the 1960s, I enjoyed the distinction of being among the first boys from my kampung to attend an English school and was shown the respect an English-speaking gentleman should ...today nobody pays much attention when a village boy or girl receives a scholarship to study abroad -- Every other household in my village today boasts not one but several university and college graduates], pp 8-10; **2)** Charles Raj, "Just sack them!" [Let's stop mollycoddling underperforming or undisciplined civil servants with VSS (Voluntary Separation Scheme) and other treats -- Why on earth are we compensating or paying off those who deserve to be sacked in the first place? -- VSS introduced by a private sector company to rid itself of excess staff on a voluntary basis -- This is as opposed to a compulsory retrenchment exercise where staff are axed based on a given criteria such as first in, first out -- Civil servants are there to serve... If they don't, there should only be one option... leave amicably or be sacked], p 12; **3)** James S, "Cover story" [After a period of phenomenal rise, the local bourse recently took a heavy breather -- Does the market correction offer a chance for investors to pick up stocks at attractive prices... *Malaysian business* looks at the high flyers and assesses their price worthiness], 27-34. **Sep 1st-15th 2007** -- **1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: handle judiciously" [The judiciary has been under the spotlight lately for various issues including the still-unfilled post of Chief Judge of Malaya -- There is a need to handle this matter wisely to avert the possibility of another constitutional crisis], pp 6-8; **2)** Charles Raj, "Commentary: a sheer waste" [Ceiling collapses, burst water pipes... these are some of the million-ringgit defects plaguing a growing number of our public assets ... but despite a huge outcry every time something happens, no real action is taken... why?], p 10; **Sep16th-30th 2007** -- **1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: it might still be an election budget" [Judging from the sweeteners which have been offered to Malaysians, in particular, civil servants, in the recent budget and even earlier

than that, we are in for an impending general election... Will the crunch, as seen in the last one, come after that?] pp 6-8; **2)** Charles Raj, "Thugs at AGMs" [Recently, 2 stormy shareholders' meetings made headlines... one was alleged to have thugs attending to intimidate shareholders... if the law doesn't come down hard on those found guilty, things might regress to a more violent state, which we can ill afford], p 9. **>rima (Review of Indonesian and Malaysian Affairs) V.41,n.2 2007** -- **1)** Christine Campbell, review of Joel S Kahn, 2006, *Other Malays: nationalism and cosmopolitanism in the modern Malay World*, xxvi + 228, Asian Studies of Australia & Singapore University Press & NIAS Press, Pb ISBN 9971-69-334-8 [ Notes that "Malayness' has been an important, if not the central theme in Malay studies, and writers on this theme include Anthony Reid, Anthony Milner, Shamsul A B and Virginia Hooker." And that the latest Western contribution to this discourse began and subsequently was with researches in the mid-1970s in Rembau, Negeri Sembilan -- Discusses Joel Kahn's theme of non-Malayan roots in the current generation of peninsular Malays, whose ancestors include not only Malays born beyond the peninsula, but also Arabs, Indians and Chinese -- Last sentence is "Read this important book"], pp 279-82. **>Studies in conflict & terrorism V.31,n.1 Jan 2008** -- Justin Magouirk & Scott Atran & Marc Sageman, "Connecting terrorist networks" [From the Abstract -- Highlights initial findings from the *Global transnational terrorism (GTT) project* -- Draws on the database work for Southeast Asia and charts the rise of a militant minority within Jemaah Islamiyah, which was directly responsible for a series of attacks from 2000-2005 -- The important but restricted role of radical madrasahs and the importance of kinship emerge clearly from the study -- Shows how leadership 'niches' opened up by unplanned events create contingent opportunities that lead to new developments], pp 1-16. **>The American journal of Islamic social sciences V.24, n.3 2007** -- **1)** Rosnani Hashim, review of Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman & Lai Ah Eng (eds), 2006, *Secularism and spirituality: seeking integrated knowledge and success in madrasah education in Singapore*, 191 pp, Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies & Marshall Cavendish Academic [ A systematic overview of the development and challenges of Islamic education in Singapore -- a) Noor Aishah & Lai Ah, introduction; b) ch1, Chi Min Fui, on the historical evolution of madrasah education; c) ch2, Mukhlis Abu Baka, on the tension between the state's interest and the citizens' right to an Islamic education; d) ch3, Noor Aishah, elaborates on the fundamental problem of the madrasah's attempt to lay the educational foundation of both traditional and rational sciences; e) ch4, Azhar Ibrahim, surveys madrasah reforms in Indonesia, Egypt, India, and Pakistan; f) ch5, Afiza Hashim & Lai Ah Eng, narrate a case study of Madrasah Ma'arif; g) ch6, Tan Tay Keong examines debate on the national policy of compulsory education in the context of the madrasah; h) ch7, Syed Farid Alatas, clarifies the concept of knowledge and Islam's philosophy of education, which can be used to assess contemporary madrasah education -- Reviewer states that the book is important because little is known about Islamic education in Singapore, and it provides an account of a non-Muslim majority government's attempt to control its Muslim

minority through education], pp 116-118; 2) Carol Kersten, review of Greg Fealy & Virginia Hooker (eds), 2006, *Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia: a contemporary source book*, 596 pp, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asia Studies [This book is partly the outcome of a trend in scholarship on SEA Islam that has gained momentum from the mid-1980s which is corrective of the tendency to regard Islam as a 'thin veneer' over much older and supposedly more profound cultural deposits from the Indian sub-continent (see C. Geertz's *The Religion of Java*) – A younger generation of American anthropologists...such as John Bowen, Robert Hefner & Mark Woodward challenged that view beginning in the 1980s – This book also demonstrates the significance of the Australian scholars' role in furthering understanding of Islam in Southeast Asian studies –The work's sheer breath reduces some voices to sound bites, but the editors succeed in avoiding 'a cacophonous amalgam that would leave the reader confused instead of informed' – The extracts from primary texts are preceded by an introductory containing country overviews, an extensive glossary, and a transliteration table for Arabic – A fine compendium of present-day Muslim Southeast Asia], pp 118-121.

#### >The Australian journal of anthropology

**V.18,n.2 2007 -- 1)** Anne-Marie Hilsdon, "Transnationalism and agency in East Malaysia: Filipina migrants in the nightlife industries" [From the Abstract -- East Malaysia's nightlife is a lucrative industry employing many Filipina migrants -- Addresses the impact of Filipinas of discursive regimes of work, the state and family derived from national discourses of ethnicity, class and nation intertwined with dominant discourses of womanhood in both Malaysia and the Philippines -- Argues that in transnational space disciplinary regimes are heavily constraining, but resistance and negotiation are possible -- Follows a feminist post-structural approach that finds that disciplinary forces, rather than being coercive, are subtly inculcated in the migrant subject -- Ethnographic methods utilized in the research on tensions and constraints of Filipinas everyday experience of migration -- Through friendship and marriage with Malaysians, and integration into local communities, Filipinas are able to resist and negotiate their migrant status], pp 172-193; **2)** Pal Nyiri, review of Aihwa Ong, 2006, *Neoliberalism as exception: mutations in citizenship and sovereignty*, Durham, NC & London: Duke University Press, Pb ISBN: 0-8223-3748-7 [Reviewer notes that Aihwa "Ong is one of a few who are able to show the big picture, and that her every chapter is a challenge to what Nina Glick Schiller and Andreas Wimmer call 'methodological nationalism': the temptation to work with territorial nation as sufficient units of social analysis -- And more], pp 238-240. **V.19,n.1 2008 -- 1)** Anita Lundberg, "Material poetics of a Malay house" [From the Abstract -- Sociality is not solely a human function but necessarily involves environments and artifacts -- The notion of material poetics is a mutually shaping matrix that affects social life and thought, and this is explored through an encounter with a Malay house -- It is traditional, yet unique; it holds and expresses history, yet that history is everywhere and legendary; is Malay but with Chinese decorations, which articulate hybridity; is specifically local, yet involved in national and international flows -- And more], pp 1-16

#### >The economist

**Jan19th-25th 2008 -- 1)** "Leaders: the invasion of the sovereign-wealth funds" [The biggest worry about rich Arab and Asian states buying up Wall Street is the potential backlash -- The chairman of the US Federal Reserve once spoke of dropping money from helicopters to save an economy in distress, but did not envisage that choppers bearing insignia of oil-rich Gulf states and cash-rich Asian country would hover over Wall Street; Yet, such a squadron (Singapore, Kuwait and South Korea) flew to rescue 'capitalism's finest' (Citi group and Merrill Lynch which have lost fortunes in America's credit crises) on January 15th, 2008 to the tune of a \$21 billion lifeline -- A lesson in Singapore's Temasek fund in Indonesia], p 11; **2)** "Briefing sovereign-wealth funds: asset-backed insecurity" [Wall Street, the flagship of capitalism, has been bailed out by state-backed investors from emerging economies... That has people worried, for good or bad -- Latest league of nations sovereign-wealth fund: Singapore GIC ranked 3rd, Singapore Temasek Holding ranked 7th; US Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation ranked 11th; and Brunei Inv. Auth. ranked 12th], pp78-80. **Jan26th-Feb1st 2008 -- 1)** "Malaysia: Indian mutiny; a hitherto quiescent minority loses faith in the social contract" (rp: The header not entirely true) [Begins with: 'Some devotees had been fasting for weeks and shaved their heads'; 'The most zealous pierced their cheeks with skewers or attached large wooden icons to their bodies with dozens of flesh-piercing hooks' -- January 23rd tens of thousands of ethnic-Indian Malaysians gathered at the Batu Caves temple outside KL to celebrate *Thaipusam* -- This year, altho government officials denied it, the crowd was much thinner... a sort of boycott about how their minority is treated by the government -- The PM had announced that *Thaipusam* would henceforth be a public holiday in the capital... perhaps to dampen Hindu anger regarding last November's incident at a Hindu temple when a crowd of worshippers were trapped inside -- And more], pp 42-43; **2)** "Decoupling: emerging Asia" (An independent streak) [Some investors fear that America's weakening economy will drag down Asia -- Pakistan's stock market the world's most dangerous... an unlikely bolt hole for investors; but Mark Mathews of Merrill Lynch calls it 'the greatest information - arbitrage opportunity in the world' -- Graph shows the percentage of decline in Asian share prices (Jan 1-23, 2008) Japan 16%, S Korea 14%, Singapore 13%, Thailand 12%, India 11%, China 10%, Indonesia 9.5%, Malaysia 6%, Pakistan 2% (the world's most dangerous haven)], p 72. **Feb16th-22nd 2008 -- 1)** "Malaysia...Snap! It's an election" [The ruling coalition will win: but maybe not by enough for the PM -- Ethnic strife, rising prices and sagging approval ratings bring dissolution of parliament by PM Abdullah Badawi... a year short of its term expires... and suggesting that his strategists have some tricks up their sleeves -- As usual the calculus comes down to race and patronage -- And more], p 52 **Feb 23rd-29th 2008 -- 1)** "Asian price controls: in a fix" [Putting caps on prices is only a short-term solution -- Across Asia inflation is rising, largely because of higher food and energy prices: China's inflation rate surged to 7% in January and February will be higher; Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and India all have inflation rates above 4% -- Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines are considering new price controls or subsidies -- The inflation has been driven by food, as a result of supply

shocks, rather than by excess aggregate demand; but even if there may be a case for temporary price controls on food, the long-standing controls and subsidies that hold down fuel prices in the region need to be scrapped -- In Malaysia and Indonesia, which have the cheapest petrol in Asia, fuel subsidies account for over 10% of total government spending -- Prices of petrol in 11 countries, from highest price per liter: Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, India, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, China, U.S., Malaysia, and Indonesia], pp 91-92. **Mar 1st-7th 2008**

-- 1) "Briefing business in South-East Asia: the tigers that lost their roar" [Other emerging economies are producing world-class companies by the dozen... why aren't the countries of South-East Asia? -- Double bar graph of 'clawing back' that compares real GDP in 1988-97 period vs. real GDP in 1998-2007 period in China, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia -- Only India and Philippines have greater GDP growth in the 1998-2007 period than in 1988-97 -- The region's 5 main economies (Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand are still notable for the near absence of companies that could be called truly world-class -- In a recent book *Asian Godfathers*, Joe Studwell examines the failure in stark terms -- Other sections of *The Economist* article: a) "Class distinctions"; b) "Dicing with relegation"; and c) "Playing to your strengths"], pp 73-75.

**Mar15th-21st 2008** -- 1) "The world this week: politics" [Malaysia's ruling National Front suffered its biggest electoral setback since 1957 -- It returned to power, But lost the two-thirds majority in Parliament since 1969, winning only 8 of the 13 states -- In Penang the opposition said it would no longer follow the New Economic Policy that discriminates in favor of ethnic Malays], p 9; 2) "Anwar overturns the apple cart: a new political game--and the players struggle to work out the rules" [Umno still the biggest party, and the National Front coalition still has a 'thumping majority'; but the election result puts in doubt the system of racially-based politics -- Before the election only Kelantan was in opposition control; Now Penang, Perak, Selangor, and Kedah have joined Kelantan... 5 of Malaysia's 13 states and more than a third of the seats in Parliament -- Part of the Opposition's success came from PAS toning-down its Islamic rhetoric in order to prevent the National Front over-riding Opposition majority votes that fail the two-thirds standard], p 51-52; 3) "The internet and Malaysian politics: the perils of modernity" [On March 8 Malaysia's electoral upset unfolded at glacial pace on government television -- A half million Malaysians lost patience, turning to *Malaysiakini*, an independent online newspaper, with 35 staffers -- But the internet had already played a part in the election... with its almost 4m internet subscribers (among Malaysia's 28 m population)], p 52. **Mar22nd-28th 2008** -- 1) "Malaysia: shuffling deckchairs" [March 18, 10 days after suffering heavy losses in a general election, PM Abdullah Badawi shuffled his cabinet, hoping to stave off calls from within his own party to resign -- Removal of several scandal-tainted ministers and elevation of a judicial reformer showed that he was trying to solve his problem -- Umno got barely half of the votes in the national election, and ex-PM Mahathir Mohamad called on the PM to resign; and Mahathir's son was the first UMNO official to echo the call -- The PM's first move was to cut the list of people

in the cabinet from 90 to 68 (Samy Vellu, the only member who represented the Indian community, was cut; as was Rafidah Aziz, the world's longest-serving trade minister ... 20 years -- Also, the PM made a new rule that all ministers of government must disclose all their assets -- The shuffle has not entirely dispelled speculation that the PM may have to stand down in favor of his deputy, Najib Razak], pp 48-49.

>**The New York Times** (US edition Vol.CLVII.... No.54,194)

**Sat. Jan 19, 2008** -- 1) Keith Bradsher, "A new, global oil quandary: costly fuel means costly calories" [Front page picture (color) captioned "A worker on a plantation in Sungai Buloh, Malaysia, collects oil palm fruit. Malaysia is the center of the global palm oil industry" -- Article continues on the front page with Dateline Kuantan: "Rising prices for cooking oil are forcing residents in Asia's largest slum, in Mumbai India, to ration every drop (of cooking oil)... Bakeries in the US are fretting over higher shortening costs... And in Malaysia, brand-new factories built to convert vegetable oil into diesel sit idle, their owners unable to afford the raw material" -- Pictures and more text on page A7, titled "In a new oil quandary, costly fuel means costly food", and 3 interesting graphs, labeled 'Rising costs felt at the world's dinner tables: 'Food prices', 'Oil consumption', and 'Oil prices' ], pp 1&7A.

#### **BOOKS BOOKS books books**

>**Akashi, Yoji & Mako Yoshimura** --2008-- *New perspectives on the Japanese occupation of Malaya and Singapore*, 312 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (Distributed for NUS Press). Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-299-5 [From the website -- Based on interviews and materials gathered from archives and libraries throughout the world -- Contains articles by Japanese authors on a wide range of subjects relating to Japan's wartime occupation of Malaya and Singapore.]

>**Bacus, Elisabeth A. & Ian Glover & Peter Sharrock (eds)** -- 2008-- *Interpreting Southeast Asia's past: monument, image and text*, 400 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (Distributed for NUS Press). Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-405-0 [From the website -- 31 chapters selected from papers given at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists in 2004... see also similar entry in *Berita* v.32-1.]

>**Barr, Michael D & Zlatko Skrbis** --2008-- *Constructing Singapore: elitism, ethnicity and the nation-building project*, 320 pp. NIAS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-87-7694-029-4 [From the catalog -- Studies Singaporean nation-building by focusing on 2 processes: elite formation and elite selection -- Primary attention to the role that ethno-racial ascription plays in these processes; but also considers input of personal connections, personal power, class and gender -- A study of the progress of Singapore's state-sponsored nation-building project to its current status whereby a Singaporean version of Chinese ethno-nationalism has overwhelmed the discourse on national and Singaporean identity -- Based on archival research and interviews, unpacks the culture of elite governance in Singapore today.]

>**Baxstrom, Richard** --2008(Jul)-- *Houses in motion: the experience of place and the problem of belief in urban Malaysia*, 320 pp. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. Hb ISBN:13 9780804758918 [From the website -- About the transformation of urban space and the reordering of the demo-

graphic character of Brickfields, one of the oldest neighborhoods in KL – Ethnography of complex attempts by the state and the community to reconcile techno-rational conceptions of law, development, and city planning with local experiences of place, justice, relatedness, and possibilities for belief in an aggressively changing world – Links larger conceptual issues of ethics, belief, and experience to the concrete trajectories of everyday urban life in the region.]

>Connell, John & Barbara Rugendyke (eds) –2008— *Tourism at the grassroots: villagers and visitors in the Asia-Pacific*, 320 pp. Taylor & Francis Group, Routledge. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-40555-3 [From the website – A new collection that focuses on both the interactions between tourists & villagers and impacts of tourism at the local level, considering economic, social, cultural & environmental impacts – Traces changes in structures of vulnerability as tourism becomes more prominent; the role of tourism in community development and examines issues of governance; the role of tour operators as intermediaries; and cultural change & other local impacts – Includes case studies drawn from a broad geographical area across eastern Asia and the Pacific islands – See especially: ch13, “Ecotourism and indigenous communities: the Lower Kinabatangan experience in Borneo”; and ch14, “Adventures, picnics and nature tourism: ecotourism in Malaysian national parks”.]

>Daniels, PW & JW Harrington (eds) –2007-- *Services and economic development in the Asia-Pacific*, 262 pp. Ashgate. Hb ISBN: 978-0-7546-4859-8 [Explores various aspects of the relationship between service industries and economic development in Singapore, Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, India, Australia, and New Zealand; providing new sector-oriented and regional and national perspectives on services and development.]

>de Koninck, Rodolphe & Julie Drolet & Marc Girard – 2007—*Singapore: the perpetual revolution*, 100 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (Distributed for NUS Publishing): Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-397-8 [From the website – Centered on an extended series of diachronic maps, this book illustrates the nature and depth of the territorial changes in Singapore since the early 1960s.]

>de Koninck, Rodolphe & Julie Drolet & Marc Girard – 2008—*Singapore: an atlas of perpetual territorial transformation*, 104 pp, Singapore: NUS Publishing. Pb ISBN: 9789971-69-383-1 [From the website – Since 1965, Singapore has been a laboratory of economic, social and environmental transformation and innovation – It is too small, and the government has transformed and extended the lands under its control to serve needs of its citizens – Systematic overhaul of the environment and social system is a revolution controlled and monitored by government – The book's commentary and maps show how Singapore has used this transformation to support its position in a globalized economy, and as a tool of social and political management.]

>Fischer, Johan –2008—*Proper Islamic consumption: shopping among the Malays in modern Malaysia*. 272 pp. NIAS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-87-7694-032-4 [From the catalog – First book exploring how Malaysia's emerging Malay middle class was constituted through consumer practices and Islamic

revivalism – Examines powerful linkages between class, consumption, market relations, Islam and the state in contemporary Malaysia – Shows how diverse forms of Malay middle-class consumption are understood, practiced and contested as a particular mode of modern Islamic practice -- Illustrates ways the issue of 'proper Islamic consumption' for consumers, the marketplace and the state evokes a whole range of contradictory Islamic visions, lifestyles and debates articulating what Islam is or ought to be – The nature of religion, ritual, the sacred and capitalism in the new millennium.]

>Henders, Susan J –2007-- *Democratization and identity: regimes and ethnicity in East and Southeast Asia*, 276 pp. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Pb ISBN: 978-0-7391-0767-6 [See especially chapter 11, Judith Nagata, “Elusive democracy: appropriation of 'rights' ideologies in Malaysian ethnic and religious political discourse”.]

>Hollingsworth, David –2007-- *The rise, the fall, and the recovery of Southeast Asia's minidragons*, 252 pp. Rowman & Littlefield, Lexington Books. Hb ISBN: 0-7391-1981-8 [From the catalog – A documented study examining the contemporary histories of Southeast Asia's 'Asia's minidragons' rapid economic growth: Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Indonesia – Useful for graduate students in economic development, and economists interested in economic problems in 3<sup>rd</sup> World countries – Recommended by *Choice*.]

>Ishikawa, Noboru –2008-- *Between frontiers: nation and identity in a Southeast Asian border zone*, 321 pp. Singapore: NUS Publishing. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-355-8 [From the catalog -- Restores 'the nation' to the social field from which it has been abstracted by looking at how the concept shapes the existence of people in border zones, where they live between nations – Materials gathered over 2 years of archival research and fieldwork in the border zone separating Malaysian from Indonesian territories in western Borneo – Explores the national order that is implemented when the state materializes its territoriality, asking how the state maintains its national space, and how people strategically situate themselves as members of a local community, nation, and ethnic group in a social field designated as national territory – Examining such questions in the context of circumstances where village boundaries coincide with a national border, the author delineates the dialectical relationship between nation-state and borderland society both as history and process.]

>Jomo K S & Sau Ngan Wong (eds) – 2008—*Law, institutions and Malaysian economic development*, 340 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (Distributed for NUS Publishing): Pb ISBN 978-9971-69-390-9 [no description.]

>Kamrava, Mehran (ed) -2007- *The new voices of Islam: rethinking politics and modernity—a reader*, 302 pp. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pb ISBN: 978-0-520-25098-7 [From the website – A collection from some of the leading Muslim reformist thinkers whose voices have been often muted and marginalized – Introduces readers to nuances of the unfolding drama surrounding issues of religion, politics and the public space across the Muslim World, revealing richness and limitations of new attempts to synthesize Islam and modernity (Manochehr Dorraj) – Presents the global diversity of Muslim thinking from North Africa to Southeast Asia, Europe to America (John L. Esposito) – Contains not the voices of Muslim governments and Islamist oppositions but the

work of Muslim mavericks (Robert D Lee) – A timely volume, representing a broad cross-section of this reformist trend in countries ranging from Malaysia to Algeria and Morocco, it brings together the writings of 13 of the most renowned and influential Muslim thinkers alive today, arguing for reforms in Islamic theology, jurisprudence, and for reinterpretations of popular notions of Islam that are consistent with and supportive of the tenets of modern life – Three works by Muslim feminist intellectuals – And more.]

>King, Ross –2008-- *Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya: negotiating urban space in Malaysia*. 320 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-415-9 [KL, arguably SEA's most spectacular city, has just celebrated 50 years as national capital of Malaysia; but its 'twin-city', Putrajaya, the nation's new administrative capital is different – While KL is diverse, cosmopolitan, and multi-racial as reflected in the brilliance & diversity of its architecture and urban space; Putrajaya fulfils an elitist vision of a Malay-Muslim utopia and is an architectural homage to an imagined Middle East – Copious illustrations.]

>King, Victor T –2008-- *The sociology of Southeast Asia: transformations in a developing region*, 352 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, Pb ISBN: 978-0-8248-3229-2 [From the website – A lucid, comprehensive and challenging analysis of Southeast Asian sociology – The first sole-authored introductory sociology text on Southeast Asia that focuses on change and development in the region – An overview of the important sociological and political economy writings that considers the key concepts and themes in the field since 1945.]

>Lysa, Hong & Huang Jianli –2008-- *The scripting of a national history: Singapore and its pasts*, 320 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-433-3 [From the catalog – The PAP's unbroken mandate to rule in Singapore rests in no small part on how it has explained its lineage and record to the electorate – Book examines the constructed nature of the country's past as endorsed by the state, and the power vested in it – Traces state discourses on Singapore history starting with the decision for independence to recognize the 19<sup>th</sup> C. British acquisition of the island as its founding moment – Confucian heritage received official recognition under the guise of 'Asian values', and finally an emphasis on the history of racial fragility and harmony in response to the threat of terrorism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – Embedded in this is the story of PAP as the heir of the economic dynamics of the pax Britannica as an exponent of the morality and righteousness of the Chinese scholar-gentleman with a firm hand balancing interests of the majority Chinese against those of Singapore's national minorities – And more.]

>McGregor, Andrew –2008-- *Southeast Asian development*, 272 pp. Taylor & Francis Group, Routledge. Pb ISBN: 978-0-415-38152-9 [From the website – Divided into accessible thematic chapters with a unique perspective of equitable development to outline the strengths and weaknesses of the transformations taking place in Southeast Asia – Focuses on 4 key themes: a) equality & inequality; b) political freedom & opportunity; c) empowerment & participation; and d) environmental sustainability: which are used to explore Southeast Asian development and to trace impacts that the growing popularity of market-led and grassroots approaches are having

on economic, political & social processes – Table of contents: 1. Introducing Southeast Asian development; 2. Setting the scene for development, pre-colonial and colonial Southeast Asia; 3. Economic development; 4. Political development; 5. Social development; 6. Transforming urban spaces; 7. Transforming rural spaces; 8. Transforming natural spaces; 9. Towards equitable development; 10. references.]

>Montesano, Michael J & Patrick Jory (eds) –2008-- *Thai South and Malay North: ethnic interactions on a plural peninsula*. 440 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-411-1 [From the catalog – [Brings together research specialists working on this border zone who examine a broad range of issues relating to the turmoil afflicting the region – Drawing on a broad historical perspective, explores religious observances and national identity, the relationship between electoral democracy and separatist violence, and interactions between northern Malaysia and southern Thailand.]

>Ping, Chin Woon –2008-- *Hakka soul: memories, migration, and meals*, 216 pp. Singapore: NUS Publishing. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-400-5 [From the website – Chronicles the dreams, ambitions and idiosyncrasies of her family, from the death of her grandmother in pre-independence Malaya... a tumultuous period when the occupying Japanese army had just been defeated, the British colonial government was losing its grip on the country and a Communist guerilla insurgency had broken out in jungles of the Malay Peninsula – Author's stories follow the family's move to the USA and a journey to China to visit her father's ancestors... family's migrations as part of the global diaspora of the Hakkas... amusing accounts of Hakka history, language and mythology from literature research as well as oral history.]

>Rimmer, Peter J & Howard Dick –2008-- *The city in Southeast Asia: patterns, processes and policy*. 300 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-426-5 [From the catalog – Explores ways of moving beyond outmoded paradigms of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World/Southeast Asian city – Begins by contrasting the acknowledged world cities of Singapore & Hong Kong with the aspiring world city of Kuala Lumpur and the still disorganized cities of Bangkok, Jakarta & Manila, drawing comparisons with the national second cities of Chiang Mai, Surabaya, Penang and Cebu – Analyzes relationships between people and controlled environments, large-scale shopping malls, urban platforms for globalization strategies, and transformation of public and privation spaces; as well as public policy regarding markets, land use and urban planning, etc.]

>Roff, William R –2008-- *Studies in Islam and society in Southeast Asia*, 300 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (Distributed for NUS Publishing), Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-406-7 [From the website – This selection of articles ranges from historiographical and ethological studies to the development of Islam education and other institutions, the nature of the Arab presence in Southeast Asia, and the social significance of the *haji*, or pilgrimage, to Mecca.]

>Singh, Daljit (ed) –2008-- *Southeast Asian Affairs 2008*, 450 pp. Singapore: ISEAS, Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-789-7 [From the catalogue – A) The region: 1) Tim Huxley, "Southeast Asia in 2007: domestic concerns, delicate bilateral relations, and patchy regionalism"; 2) Malcolm Cook, "The regional economy: looking forward by looking back"; 3) C Raja Mohan, "India's geopolitics and Southeast Asian security";

4) Rodolfo Severino, "ASEAN at 40: a balance sheet"; 5) Mely Caballero-Anthony, "The ASEAN charter: an opportunity missed or one that *cannot* be missed?"; 6) Pushpa Thambipillai, "Brunei Darussalam: making a concerted effort"; 7) Lee Hock Guan, "Malaysia in 2007: Abdullah's administration under siege"; 8) Denis Hew, "The Malaysian economy: developments and challenges"; 9) Francis Hutchinson, "Developmental states and economic growth at the sub-national level in Southeast Asia"; 10) Bilveer Singh, "Singapore in 2007: success at home, challenges from abroad"; and 11) More on the other states in ASEAN.]

>**Singh Dhillon, Karminder** –2007-- *Malaysian foreign policy in the Mahathir Era (1981-2003): dilemmas of development*, 320 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (Distributed for NUS Publishing): Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-399-2 [From the website – Former PM Mahathir Mohamad is often portrayed as the sole author of the country's international profile – His personality, leadership style, and political ideology had a deep impact, but foreign policy was influenced by domestic concerns and external forces associated with globalization.]

>**Trocki, Carl A** –2007-- *Prince of pirates: the Temengongs and the development of Johor and Singapore, 1784-1885* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), 264 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-376-3 [This edition includes a new introduction that positions the study within more recent literature on Malaysian history, the Chinese migration, the opium trade and the history of the British Empire in Asia, and explains the role the book played in pioneering a number of important initiatives in Malaysian studies.]

>**Turnbull, C M** –2008-- *A history of modern Singapore, 1819-2005* (revised edition), 400 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN 978-9971-69-343-5 [1<sup>st</sup> edition published in 1977; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (to 1988) in 1989; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition fully revised to 2005 when Singapore celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an independent nation.]

>**Walter, Andrew** –2008-- *Governing finance: East Asia's adoption of international standards*, 256 pp. Cornell University Press. Hb ISBN: 978-0-8014-4645-0 [From the website – Explains why Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand... key targets and test cases of this international standards project... were placed under intense pressure to transform their domestic financial governance – Finds that the depth of the economic crisis, and more enduring aspects of Asian capitalism, such as family ownership of firms, made substantive compliance with international standards very costly for the private sector and politically difficult for governments to achieve – In spite of international compliance pressure, the result was varying degrees of cosmetic or 'mock compliance' – In a book containing lessons for any agency or country attempting to implement lasting change in financial governance, Walter emphasizes the limits of global regulatory convergence in the absence of support from domestic politicians, institutions, and firms – Positive reviews by Ngaire Woods, Gary Clyde Hufbauer, Gary Rodan, and Frances McCall Rosenbluth. ]

>**Wee, C J W-L** –2007-- *The Asian modern: culture, capitalist development, Singapore*, 228 pp. Singapore: NUS

Publishing. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-392-3 [From the website – Concerned with how to comprehend the phenomenon of modernization in a globalized East Asian context – An account of how modernization processes for postcolonial India, Malaysia and Singapore, which are fraught with collaborations and conflicts between different socio-political, historical, economic, and cultural agents... which is a revealing distortion of present models of Western modernity which is rooted in the politics of worldwide capitalism – And more.]

>**Welsh, Bridget & James Chin & Arun Mahizhnan & Tan Tarn How** –2007-- *Impressions of the Goh Chok Tong years in Singapore*, 380 pp. Honolulu: U. of Hawai'i Press.

(Distributed for NUS Publishing): Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-396-1 [From the website – These essays examine a wide range of subjects, including domestic politics, foreign policy, economic development, society, culture, and the arts and media during the Goh period, and assess the legacy of the man and his administration.]

>**Willford, Andrew C** –2007-- *Cage of freedom: Tamil identity and the ethnic fetish in Malaysia*, 360 pp. Singapore: NUS Publishing, Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-391-6

[From the catalogue – Author uses detailed ethnographic accounts of public and private rituals to examine a resurgence of Hindu religious practice within the Tamil minority community of Malaysia – Tamil minority employs idea of 'greater India' to blur ethnic boundaries and an ecumenical and transcendental Hinduism to counter the modernist Islam promoted by the state – Author argues that the logic of nationalism in Malaysia and a legacy of social divisions cause the Indian community to remain weak and disunited.]

>**Yusuf, Shahid & Kaoru Nabeshima** –2006-- *Post-industrial East Asian cities: innovation for growth*, 368 pp. Palo Alto:

Stanford University Press, Pb ISBN-10: 0804756732 [From the website – Drawing on a wide range of literature and on interviews with firms, explores such issues as growth increasingly coming from the strength of innovative activities rather than from factor accumulation as in the past, especially in producer services and creative industries concentrated in high tech clusters in globally linked cities' -- Focuses on Singapore, Shanghai, Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and Bangkok, suggesting how policies and institutions can induce and furnish an urban environment that supports innovative activities.]

>**Zheng, Yangwen & Charles Macdonald** –2008-- *Personal names in Asia: culture and identity*, 380 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (Distributed for NUS Publishing): Pb ISBN 978-9971-69-380-0 [Examines the relationship between Asian naming practices and colonization, state formation, and globalization.]

## WEBSITES

>**Malaysiakini.com**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 -- 1)** (A day of extremely heavy traffic that made the website almost incredible, but here are some excerpts): **a)** "Perak MB's swearing-in put off" [In yet another obstruction to the formation of a new state government, the swearing-in of the new MB has been put off]; **b)** PKR threatens to pull out of Perak state admin" [Just as one fire has been doused in Perak over the appointment of a PAS man as the new Menteri Besar, another one is taking place]; **c)** Fanwaz Abdul Aziz, "Khalid sworn in as S'gor MB [At last, he has been

sworn in , but the new Mb says he is in no hurry to name his deputy, which he says can be from any race]; **d)** “Umno Mbs: Shahidan in, Idris dropped?” [After days of uncertainty, Shahidan is expected to be sworn in in Perlis early next week; However, Idris might be dropped in Terengganu]; **e)** Beh Lih Yi, “Penang CM slams PM, denies stoking racial tension” [‘I said we will have an open-tender system... What’s the problem with that?... Unless Abdullah doesn’t like open tenders but corruption, cronyism and inefficiency’]; **f)** Beh Lih Yi, “Guan Eng: ‘These are not populist policies’” [The move to wave summonses and to appoint a Malay and an Indian as DCMs are not meant to be populist policies, says the new Penang chief minister]; **g)** Stanley Koh, “MCA leadership rooted in crisis” [What is more significant about calling for Ka Ting to graciously step down is that many of those who voiced this call were his former staunch supporters in ‘Team A’]; **h)** “PM expected to downsize cabinet” [Abdullah’s previous cabinet had a whopping 32 ministers, 39 deputy ministers and 20 parliamentary secretaries.]

>**Oxford Islamic studies online** [www.oxfordislamicstudies.com](http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com)

[Critically acclaimed content from John L. Esposito (editor in chief), *The Oxford encyclopedia of the Islamic World*; *The Oxford encyclopedia of the modern Islamic world*; *The Oxford dictionary of Islam*; *The Oxford history of Islam*; *The Islamic world: past and present*; *What everyone needs to know about Islam*; *The Koran interpreted* (A J Arberry); *The Qur’an* (M A S Abdel Haleem); and *A concordance of the Qur’an* (Hanna Kassis) [For more, sign up for a free 30-day trial or subscribe at the website.]

#### **CONFERENCES, PAPERS, MANUSCRIPTS, POSITIONS,etc**

**The 6<sup>th</sup> International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC6)** – Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia (Malaysian Social Science Association) will convene the 6<sup>th</sup> International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC) on 5-7 August 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak – The faculty of Social Science, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, is the co-convenor and host -- Special attention will be given to Borneo studies and the theme is “Engaging Malaysian modernity: 50 years and beyond” -- Some of the key issues: 1) Interrogating modernization & modernity; 2) Late capitalism, post-modernity & culture; 3) Globalization, indigenous communities & indigenous knowledge; 4) Economic development & social inequality; 5) Good governance, human security & environment; 6) Gender & modernity; 7) International relations & trade; 7) Social & cultural change; 8) Religion, ethnicity & identity; 9) Globalization & the nation state; 10) Urbanization, education & health; 11) Youth & modernity; 12) Media, IT & communication; 13) literature & history; and Imagining alternative futures – The conference program will consist of panels of papers, each consisting of 3-4 paper presenters with a common theme -- Closing date for registration for early or pre-registration is 15 June 2008, which provides reduced fees – All enquiries by email: Ms Azlina Abdullah, MSC6 Secretariat: [pssmalaysia@yahoo.com](mailto:pssmalaysia@yahoo.com) and cc to Ms Sharifah Zarina Syed Zakaria: [szarina@pkisc.cc.ukm.my](mailto:szarina@pkisc.cc.ukm.my) AND visit the homepage at <http://pssmalaysia.tripod.com> for further information.

**Malaysia and Singapore Society -- 15<sup>th</sup> Colloquium: “Malaysia and Singapore in the new millennium: contesting old paradigms - 5-6 December 2008 – Australian National University, Canberra –**

Members and non-members invited to submit paper proposals on a range of issues, such as: identity, Islam, secularism, 2008 elections, gender, ethnic politics, migrant labor, civil society, bilateral/regional relations, biography/autobiography, terrorism, human rights – Request to present a paper should reach the conveners no later than 24 October 2008 – Abstracts to be no more than 300 words – Requests to waive registration for postgraduates will be competitive... apply by 17 October 2008 to: Lily Zubaidah Rahim, [L.Rahim@usyd.edu.au](mailto:L.Rahim@usyd.edu.au) / John Funston, [jfunston@pcug.org.au](mailto:jfunston@pcug.org.au). (From Greg Felker)

**Whitman College, Religion Department: replacement position in Asian religions for AY 2008-2009 at the rank of Visiting Assistant Professor** – With the possibility of renewal -- Preference given to applicants with ability to teach courses in the religions of South and Southeast Asian, as well as General Studies; 3 courses per semester; competitive salary & benefits – Application: letter of application; curriculum vitae; 3 letters of reference; undergrad & grad transcripts; teaching evaluations and/or other evidence of excellence in undergraduate teaching; and separate statements on teaching interests and scholarly agenda – Send to: Professor Robert Morrison, Chair, Asian Religions Search Committee, Whitman College, 345, Boyer Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362 – Info on the College and Walla Walla area at [www.whitman.edu](http://www.whitman.edu) & [www.wallawalla.org](http://www.wallawalla.org).

#### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

(Abstracted by rp from reports by Margaret John, Amnesty International Canada, Coordinator for Malaysia & Singapore, e-mail: [malaysiasingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca](mailto:malaysiasingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca) 2 April 2008 -- Since massive peaceful demonstrations led by prominent politicians and human right groups defenders, took place in Malaysia in the Fall of 2007, and subsequent violent crackdown by police and government, the political balance of power has shifted in Malaysia, giving rise to increasing calls by many Malaysians for an era in which human rights are promoted and protected – An historic election on 8 March... Many opposition party candidates were elected, and ruling coalition was stripped of its two-thirds majority in Parliament so that it could no longer be able to freely amend the Constitution (more than 40 times since independence) and Opposition parties gained control of five state assemblies, and former prisoners of conscience have been elected; including Tlan Chua, Lim Guan Eng and Lim Kit Siang. Former prisoner of conscience Anwar Ibrahim, who was barred from contesting the election, called the result “a new deal for Malaysia – And much more.

#### **PROSPECTUS**

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

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

Address all correspondence and submissions for publication to [rprovenc@juno.com](mailto:rprovenc@juno.com) or to Ron Provencher, P.O. Box 13336, Burton, WA 98013. Submissions should be sent: (1) as an attachment to an e-mail message to the above e-mail address; OR (2) as a typed manuscript.

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