



>Table of Contents

Editor's note.....1
Periodicals1
Books5
Websites & opportunities...11
Amnesty International12
Prospectus12
Research Staff12

>Editor's note

By February, 2010, *Berita's* format will become exclusively electronic, delivered by an email attachment that you can save as a file or/and print it. Ron

>PERIODICALS PERIODICALS periodicals periodicals

Archipel N.77 2009 – 1) A report of “A symposium on Malay/Indonesian linguistics, ‘Hot’ and ‘cool’ languages, ‘dressed’ and ‘undressed’ ones” -- And more (Leiden, 26-28 June 2008), pp 3-7.

Asian journal of social science

V.37,n.2 2009 – 1) Nilanjan Raghunath, review of Brij Lal, general editor, 2006, *The Encyclopedia of Indian Diaspora*. Singapore: Editions Didier Millet, 415 pp. ISBN: 981-4155-65-9, pp [From the review – Synthesizes a great wealth of knowledge previously dispersed through various academic and non-academic channels – Uses multiple forms of expertise on India, including that of historians, area study specialists, and cultural specialists as well as leading members of overseas Indian communities – Starts with the pre-colonial age of Indian merchants traveling the seas for trade and commerce, followed by the historical advent of British colonialism, and the colonial politics in India and elsewhere in the world where British colonialism spread indentured labor, such as Latin America, Southeast Asia, East Africa, Europe, Australia, the Pacific, United Kingdom and the United States – The encyclopedia is comprehensive in the facts it produces about a wide range of Indian migration routes, their professions, such as the indentured labor of Malaysia to tap rubber and the Indian laborers in the sugar colonies in the West Indies; as well as the Indian IT revolution, silicon Valley entrepreneurs and billionaires such as Lakshmi Mittal.] pp 315-316.

Borneo research bulletin (List of contents)

V.39 2008 -- 1) Clifford Sather (ed), “Notes from the editor: in this issue” [Provides a 15 page introduction/*precis* of the entire (400 page) volume -- 2) a) G N Appell, “Memorials: Reed L Wadley, 1962-2008, with bibliography, pp 16-22 ; b) Carol Colfer, “In honor of Reed Lee Wasley”, pp 23-24; c) Christina Pomianek, “Remembering Reed Wadley ... and you will”, p 25; d) Chur-Hansen, “A passionate love: the contributions of the late Professor Robert John Barrett” (First published in the Oct 2007 issue of the *Monash Bioethics Review*, with permission), pp 26-34 -- 3) A V M Horton, “Negara Brunei Darussalam: Obituary”, brief memorials/obituaries of 37 notable persons, bibliography, pp 35-52 -- 4) Danny Wong Tze Ken, “In search of Simon [Sindurang Bulakang]: a pioneer defender of Kadazan rights in colonial North Borneo”, pp 53-70 -- 5) F Andrew Smith, “Daniel Smith's last

seven years: hardships in country trade in the East Indies in the early nineteenth century”, pp 71-90 -- 6) Bob Reece, “An interview with Dr Hj Zaini Ahmad, Kuala Lumpur, 1985”, pp 91-103 -- 7) Jennifer Alexander, “The Lahanan of the Balui, 1963-2006”, 104-127 -- 8) Jayl Langub, “Penan and the Pulong Tau National Park: historical links and contemporary life”, pp 128-165 -- 9) Henry Chan, “The Punan Vuhang belief system: cosmology and rituals”, pp 166-183 -- 10) Mika Okushima, “Ethnohistory of the Kayanic peoples in Northeast Borneo (Part 2): expansion, regional alliance groups, and *segai* disturbances in the Colonial Era”, pp 184-238 -- 11) G N Appell, “The strange case of the missing village rights to land: G C Wooley's compilation of customary law in the colony of North Borneo”, pp 239-254 -- 12) Dawn Tanner & Ryan Kirk, “Matrix to mosaic: habitat fragmentation from 1982-1999 in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo”, pp 255-268 -- 13) Roger Kershaw, “Contesting convention in Malay-World historiography” (as in Anthony Milner's *The Malays*, 2008, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN 978-0-631-17222-2), pp 269-273 -- 14) Clifford Sather, “Material from the Dutch colonial archives deposited by Reed L Wadley in the Tun Jugah Foundation Archives, Kuching, Sarawak”, pp 282-284 -- 15) Cristina Eghenter & Jayl Langub, “Past meets future: a trans-border forum for a sustainable future for the highlands of Borneo”, pp 286-294 -- 16) Matthew Minarchek, “Notes on an Iban community in Danau Sentarum National Park”, pp 295-296 -- 17) Nestor T Castro, “A preliminary report on the University of the Philippines' anthropological research in Kota Belud, Sabah”, pp 297-303 -- AND much more, such as: a) BORNEO NEWS, pp 308-312; b) BOOK REVIEWS, pp 313-339; c) ABSTRACTS, pp 340-357; d) A V M Horton, BORNEO BIBLIOGRAPHY 2008; & ENDNOTES].

City & society

V.21,n.1 2009 – 1) Chris K K Tan, “‘But they are like you and me’: Gay civil servants and citizenship in a cosmopolitanizing Singapore” [From the Abstract – In July 2003, Singapore's then-Prime Minister triggered public outrage by declaring that the state would now employ openly gay Singaporeans as civil servants – The author asked why the state had reversed its previously homophobic stance, and argued that, as a city state with aspirations to become a global city, Singapore attempted to market the ‘difference’ of its sexual minorities to appear cosmopolitan and attractive to the ‘creative class’ of professional labor – By contradicting the sexual exclusivity inherent in normative notions of citizenship, however, this cosmopolitanizing drive triggered the moral outrage – Furthermore, the author asserts that despite its apparent message of tolerance, the state's declaration remained an empty marketing ploy – While it has enabled homosexual Singaporeans to assess their status as citizens, the state has neither legalized it nor struck down existing anti-sodomy legislation that fundamentally contradicts it – By exposing the declaration as only an exploitative façade that discursively conscripted gay and lesbian Singaporeans into cosmopolitanizing the country for the state – Author highlights the limits of discourses of difference in Singapore], pp 133-154.

Commonwealth & Comparative Politics

V.47,n.1 Feb 2009 – 1) Matthew Lange, “Development crises: a comparative-historical analysis of state-building in colonial Botswana and Malaysia” [From the Abstract – The construction of states with the capacity to provide collective goods is a common

developmental goal, yet state-building is a very difficult process that cannot be accomplished at will – Investigates factors that make possible punctuated state institutional change through a comparative-historical analysis of two former British colonies – Provides evidence that crises have the potential to break institutional inertia and thereby create openings for relatively rapid and extensive state-building – In particular, crises can promote reforms by transforming incentives, readjusting power relations, and forging a political consensus -- Both cases also show that these changes occurred during the late colonial period and therefore provide evidence that colonial transitions had the potential to adjust the institutional legacies of colonialism], pp 1-27.

Contemporary Southeast Asia

V.31.n.1 Apr 2009 -- 1) Michael O'Shannassy, "Beyond the Barisan Nasional? A Gramscian perspective of the 2008 elections [From the Abstract – The March 2008 elections in Malaysia have been characterized as a political 'tsunami' with opposition parties enjoying stunning electoral success both at the federal and state levels – In the aftermath further upheavals in political landscape have occurred – But maybe Malaysia is witnessing a truly progressive moment, one that is long-term and structural, or is it instead a short-term, regressive, 'restorative' moment? – What do the 2008 elections mean as far as the continuing evolution of Malaysia's national identity? – By adopting a Gramscian perspective and drawing on some Gramsci's key concepts this article offers a more nuanced analysis of the recent elections and their meaning regarding conceptions of national identity – In the process, the article explores the development and complex operation of hegemony with particular reference to notions of national identity in contemporary Malaysia], pp 88-109; 2) Marc Askew, review of Michael J Montesano & Patrick Jory (eds), 2008, *Thai south and Malay north: ethnic: ethnic interactions on a plural peninsula*, pp 413, Singapore: NUS Press], pp 111.

Critical Asian Studies

V.41.n.1 March 2009 – 1) Lenore Lyons, "Transcending the border: transnational imperatives in Singapore's migrant worker rights movement" [From the Abstract – In the last 5 years interest among civil society actors in the issues migrant domestic workers face in Singapore has exploded – NGOs, informal networks, and faith-based groups have formed to address the needs and interests of these workers – Most are welfare-oriented, providing support services, training programs, and social networking opportunities – Some engage in advocacy and research, etc – They focus on the local level through the Singapore government, employment agencies and employers, but are changing as they attempt to develop better and more transnational networks and support regional and international campaigns – Examines the reasons behind the interest in cross-border organizing through case studies: two advocacy-oriented NGOs – Explains that although 'transnational imperative has begun to shape the activities of the 2 NGOs, they have different motivations for engaging beyond the border – Article contributes to the broader scholarly understanding of the complex nature of transnational organizing and the challenges], pp 89-112

English world-wide: a journal of varieties of English

V.30.n.1 2009 – 1) Nadjah Nesselhauf, "Co-selection phenomena across

new Englishes: parallels (and differences) to foreign learner varieties" [From the abstract – Similarities of the phraseology of institutionalized second language varieties have gone almost completely unnoticed so far – In this article, different types of co-selection phenomena are examined across ESL, and EFL varieties on the basis of the ICE-corpora of Kenyan, Indian, Singaporean, and Jamaican English and of ICLE, the *International Corpus of Learner English* – Among the features investigated are the use of competing collocations such as *play a role and play a part*, the noun complementation of collocations (*HAVE + INTENTION + of -ing vs. to + infinitive*), and non-L1 (or "new") prepositional verbs such as *comprise of, demand for or emphasize on* – The exploration shows that many co-selection phenomena do indeed recur not only across individual institutionalized L2 variety types – Certain kinds of language-internal irregularity in the phraseology of Standard English are shown to be a major reason for the observed parallels], pp 1-26; 2) Joybrato Mukherjee & Stefan Th. Griess, "Collostructional nativisation in new Englishes: verb-construction associations in the international corpus of English" [Investigates the strength of verb-construction associations across various New Englishes on the basis of comparable corpora – In contrast to previous studies into verb complementation in New Englishes, starts from three basic constructions in English ... the intransitive construction, the mono-transitive construction and the di-transitive construction, and analyze the co-occurrences of the three constructions and a wide range of verbs – Based on the Hong Kong, the Indian, and the Singaporean components of the International Corpus of English (ICE) because the three varieties represent markedly different stages in the process of the evolution of New Englishes with British English as the historical input variety – And more], pp 27-51; 3) David Deterding, review of Andy Kirkpatrick, 2007, *World Englishes: implications for international communication and English language teaching*, pp 257, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-052-161-687-4, [Reviewer discusses the Malaysian and Singaporean 'Englishes'), pp 99-102; 4) David C S Li, review of David Prescott, 2007, *English in Southeast Asia: varieties literacies and literatures*, pp vii+374, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, ISBN:978-184-718-224-1, [All about Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Englishes – In the first chapter, the similarities and the differences between Chinese, Malay and Indian "Englishes" – Also, Englishes in Hong Kong and the Philippines – And more], pp 103-108.

Intellectual discourse

V.16.n.2 2008 -- 1) Marzuki Mohamad, "Religion, Human rights and constitutional-contract politics in Malaysia"; [From the Abstract – The debate about human rights in Malaysia took a new turn in the early 20th century – It started to focus on the issue of religious freedom – Proponents of secular-liberal notion of religious freedom argued that religious and racial harmony would better achieved if Malaysians of all races and religions enjoy absolute religious freedom, which includes the right to renounce Islam – However, the secular-liberal approach to religious freedom, contrary to the expectation of its proponents, accentuates religious and racial division in Muslim-majority Malaysia], pp 155-186; 2) A Rahman Tang Abdullah, "Modernisation or Westernisation of Johor under Abu Bakar: A historical analysis" [From the Abstract – The transformation of Johor under Abu Bakar has been variously described as modernization or westernization – Westernization argument is flawed because during the period under consideration, Johor was not yet fully under the control of the West – Archival records show that Johor's transformation was self-initiated to promote the welfare of the people – The reforms Abu Bakar brought about in Johor affected more the Malay culture than Islamic rules and practices – Even then these

BERITA – V.33, n.3 – 3rd Qtr – 2009 -- PAGE 3

reforms not simply modernized but elevated the position of certain aspects of Malay culture – It is, therefore, appropriate to describe Abu Bakar as the father of modern Johor], pp 209-231.

Inter-Asia cultural studies

V.10,n.1 March 2009 -- 1) Ashraf Jamal, "Of lost fathers and broken sons": Farish Noor on the politics of love and the new thought in Malaysia" [From the Abstract – Addresses the polemical and intimate writings of one of Malaysia's leading public intellectuals, Farish Noor – Straddling secularism and Islamism, Noor's ideas are informed by a compassion that seeks to bypass monotheism and an ethnically informed nationalism – He advocates a multiethnic and plural society, and he does not merely reject Islamism, instead, his thinking seeks to reconcile and transcend what he perceives as a false dichotomy between a system of reason and a system of belief -- The achievement of this transcendence is fraught because it sometimes seems that he involuntarily contradicts himself – To resolve this contradiction the author of the article turns to Gille Deleuze's work "Pure Immanence", which provides a key in-road into understanding the complexity of Noor's thought, particularly his valorization of love and his canny and novel attempts to interpret what he calls an 'other Malaysia'], pp 154-164

Journal of anthropological research

V.65,n.2 Summer 2009 -- 1) Avram Bornstein, review of Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good & Sandra Teresa Hyde & Sarah Pinto & Byron J. Good (eds) –2008– *Postcolonial disorders*, 480 pp. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pb & Hb [From the review – A collection of 15 essays and an Introduction, and is the 8th volume in the Ethnographic studies in subjectivity series – This volume continues earlier volumes of the intersections between psychiatric understandings of trauma and understandings of subjectivity by focusing on "disorders", individual and sociopolitical, among formerly colonized peoples -- The essays are grouped into 3 sections: disordered states, subjectivity in the borderlands, and 'Madness, alterity and psychiatry' -- The case studies are drawn from many parts of the world, including: the Middle East, China, South America, and Southeast Asia (such as Vietnamese, Karen, Javanese and other Indonesians, as well as Indonesian maids working in Singapore)], pp 340-342; 2) Dolores R Piperno, review of Tim Denham & Jose Iriarte & Luc Vrydaghs (eds) –2007–*Rethinking agriculture : archaeological and ethnoarchaeological perspectives*, 464 pp. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press. Hb [From the review -- This volume from the 5th World Archaeological and Ethnoarchaeological Congress-- Non-Eurasian regions (Island Southeast Asia, Africa and the Americas) were the geographical focus, allowing an examination of how agricultural origins and dispersals in these often lesser-studied places – 5 of the 21 chapters deal with the ethnographic, linguistic and/or ethnohistoric insights into food productions emergence, and others deal with archaeological, paleoecological, and molecular data – The first two chapters take up questions relating to how agriculture is conceptualized and defined – Ch3 explores these in more detail – And later chapters explore agricultural origins and spatially diffusion and diversification – Additional chapters provide good case studies or summaries of foraging and early farming in such places as Malaysia, New Guinea, Africa, Ecuador, Uruguay, highland Peru, and North America – And Barton and Paz demonstrate through starch grain and carbonized plant remains that the tropical forests surrounding Niah Cave in Sarawak 45,000 years ago were not inimical environments for hunters and gatherers – And more], pp 348-350; 3) Osbjorn M Pearson, review of Mark Nathan Cohen & Gillian M M Crane-Kramer (eds) –2007–*Ancient health: skeletal indicators of agricultural and economic intensification*, 512 pp.

Gainesville: University Press of Florida. Hb [From the review – Intended as a supplement and update for Cohen & Armelagos's *Paleopathology at the origin of agriculture*, this volume succeeds on both counts and stands as a valuable contribution to ongoing research of the effects of the changes in subsistence and population size and density on humans throughout the past 10,000 years -- Carefully solicited contributions from a diverse set of researchers... 21 chapters', each dedicated to patterns of health change and all worthy, covering virtually the whole Earth for thousands of years -- And nine of the chapters focus on very particular time/places: Malaysia (Krigbaum), Bahrain, the United Arabs Emirates, southern Africa in the later Stone Age, India, early nomads in Mongolia, Neolithic northern China, the Bronze and Iron Age in northeastern Thailand, and agricultural intensification in the same region – And there is more: the New World! – Some complaints: the chapters do not handle the problems of the osteological paradox in a uniform way; and not all chapters present analyses of the same skeletal indicators of "health"... annoying, but not fatal flaws], pp 350-352.

Journal of multilingual and multicultural development

V.30,n.3 May 2009 -- 1) Wendy D Bokhorst-Heng & Imelda Santos Caleon, "The language attitudes of bilingual youth in multilingual Singapore" [From the Abstract -- About the language attitudes that bilingual youth in Singapore have towards their mother tongue and English, and towards code switching between the two -- Language attitudes of 443 primary school students were investigated using a variation of the matched-guise technique -- Status and solidarity dimensions of attitudes, with ethnicity and socio-economic status as independent variables, were used in the analysis – Chinese and Indian children's attitudes toward English on both attitudinal dimensions were found to be lower towards their mother tongue and code switching, while the Malay children expressed no significant difference -- Children from lower socio-economic groups were found to have generally more positive attitudes towards all three languages than those from the middle and upper socio-economic groups – The findings are discussed in relation to language ideology and policy in government discourse, as well as the children's own understanding of the meanings of language], pp 235-251

Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

V.81,pt2,n.295 Dec 2008 -- 1) J M Gullick, "The making of a monarch: Raja Muda Sulaiman of Selangor (1865-1898)" – [From the Abstract – For the general theme of this paper, the position of the heir to a Malay throne, the author has found Kobkua (1993) a lucid guide to the general rules and practice on the choice of a successor – Clifford's tale (1889) is fiction-based on his observation of events in Perak and in Pahang – Sulaiman's son, Tunku Musa'eddin, would provide another example in the 1930s (Musa'eddin forfeited the office of Raja Muda in 1934 {Yeo 1971: 170} though he reigned during the Japanese Occupation) – Events in Johore in 1895 and in Trengganu (1918-1920) are also pertinent but each case had its own special circumstances], pp 1-18; 2) Bob Reece, "My Dear Treasurer": Raja Charles Brooke's correspondence with F H Dallas, 1902-1917" [From the Abstract – Rajah Brooke's life, during the last 2 decades of it, going back and forth between Sarawak and an estate near Cirencester, Gloucestershire – Sarawak's Treasurer, F H Dallas, was one of the few people the aging Rajah could take into his confidence – The Rajah's single-minded campaign to acquire more and more territory, absorbing North Borneo and what was remained of the Sulttanate of Brunei, is documented at every move; but at the same time he describes his life as a country squire – The picture emerges from all of this is of a highly intelligent and energetic

BERITA – V.33, n.3 – 3rd Qtr – 2009 -- PAGE 4

man totally dedicate to Sarawak, but equally intent on preserving his persona as a member of England's landed gentry], pp 19-44; **3)** Abu Talib Ahmad, "State museums and their representation of the past in Malaysia" [From the Abstract – In Malaysia museums function as the protectors of heritage besides projecting visually and in print form the official version of history – But these roles are increasingly contested by many groups – Attempts to evaluate museums and their representations of the past, and to ascertain whether they recognize progress in historical research – Based on a study of museums in Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah, Penang, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, and Sabah, as well as museum publications and brochures], pp 45-70; **4)** Peter Borschberg, "Jacques de Coutre as a source for the early seventeenth-century of Singapore, the Johore River, and the Straits" [From the Abstract – His name may not yet appear in any of the school text books in Singapore and Malaysia, he has gained for himself an entry in the recently published *Singapore Encyclopedia* – Article is about Jacques de Coutre, who is described as a 'merchant traveler and adventurer allied to the Spanish crown, and who in the early 17th century suggested both the fortification of Singapore and the founding of a Spanish colony there – Who actually was this man? – Why and in what ways are his writings relevant for reconstructing and understanding the history of early modern Singapore, Johore, and the adjacent Straits?], pp 71-97; **5)** P Lim Pui Huen, review of *Chronicle of Malaysia, 1957-2007: fifty years of headline news*, Kuala Lumpur: Editions Didier Millet, 2007, 384, ISBN 978-981-4217-17-0, and of *Malaysia at fifty: the country that could*, Kuala Lumpur: Sime Darby, 2007, 206 pp ISBN 978-983-9846-06-5; **6)** Obituary: Professor Mary Turnbull, a distinguished Malayan historian, and professor emeritus (Hong Kong) died at Oxford in September 2008. Her obituary and listing of literary works are on pp. 99-103.

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society 3rd Series, V.19, Prt 2

April 2009-- 1) Stefan Halikowski-Smith, "Insolence and pride": problems with the representation of the South-East Asian Portuguese communities in Alexander Hamilton's 'A new account of the East Indies' (1727)" [From the Abstract – One of the most influential European printed sources on Southeast Asia at the turn of 18th century was the Scottish sea captain, Alexander Hamilton's memoirs – The picture that he paints of the Portuguese communities that had existed since the period of Portuguese ascendancy in the 16th century is very negative; but a close textual and empirical analysis of his text shows that not only was he frequently misinformed in terms of the historical developments relating to that community, but that he merely conforms to a set of standard rhetorical tropes we can associate with the 'Black Legend', which had grown up in Protestant countries of northern Europe since the 16th century to denigrate Portugal and her achievements – This article urges that this key text consequently be used with far greater circumspection than has hitherto been the case], pp 213-235

The economist

May 9th-15th 2009 – 1) "Singapore's NGO furor... Taken unawares... Liberals rally to take on the Christian right" [A bloodless coup by a septuagenarian 'feminist mentor'; a death threat sent to the new president's husband by a self-proclaimed 'jihadist sleeper'; a 3,000-person showdown" -- The tiny world of Singapore's usually timid NGOs

has never seen anything like it -- In March a secretive group of conservative Chinese Christian women took over the executive council of AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research), which has promoted women's rights -- Half of the new council attend the same church, and were jolted into action by AWARE's alleged pro-gay agenda in courses of some schools; and Ms Thio's disciples snatched control from a group of liberals who had served AWARE for years; and the old guard tabled a no-confidence motion, forcing an extraordinary general meeting – Politicians called for tolerance, and some religious leaders did the same – But most Singaporeans polled did not care about it... they were worried about the worst recession in history], p 46 **May 16th-22nd**

2009 – 1) "Malaysian politics: practicing in Perak" [When three legislators in Perak, one of five of opposition-ruled Malaysian states switched sides in February, overturning a narrow majority in the 59 seat assembly, UMNO was 'cock-a-hoop' – After a big electoral setback last year, the long time dominant UMNO was at last taking the fight to the opposition, led by its nemesis, Anwar Ibrahim -- But Perak was not the rollback of Malaysia's opposition as foreseen by UMNO and its ruling coalition partners: Instead it snowballed into a constitutional crisis revealing the wobbly underpinning of a democracy yet to be tested by a handover of power at the federal level -- On May 7th at Perak's parliament, UMNO's man was installed as chief minister, but there was a scuffle (the Speaker of the House complained that there was not a vote for Chief Minister) and scores of other people were arrested – On May 11th the High Court ruled that the opposition's man, Nizar Jamaluddin, was still the Chief Minister as he had been appointed by Perak's Sultan, not by his peers, as is usual in parliamentary systems; and so his peers could not remove him -- But the next day UMNO successfully obtained a stay from an appeals court against the reinstatement of Mr Jamaluddin, which allowed Zambry Kadir, UMNO's candidate to return on May 13th as caretaker chief minister – In a blog posting, Mr Kadir likened his 'grubby' power play to the struggles of Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi! – And more], pp 48-49. **June 20th-24th 2009 -- 1)** "Asia: politics in Thailand...fading colours" [opposition members of parliament grumbled about mounting public debt, but the Democrat Party, led by the PM, Abhisit Vejjajiva, who took office in December 2008, emerged from the debate unruffled, which gave hope that his administration can outlast its short-lived predecessors – But complicating Thai political party mix is the upsurge in violence in Thailand's Muslim-dominated far south, where a mosque shooting on June 8th has triggered a bloody round of sectarian, tit-for-tat killings – Local Muslims accused security forces of the shooting; the army claimed that militants did it to discredit the authorities -- Since January 2004, more than 3,500 people in the area have died by the violence between insurgents and soldiers; Successive peace in the South is said to be more worthwhile than finding money for the northeast to build roads to nowhere], p 39.

The journal of Asian studies

V.68,n.2 May 2009 – 1) Edwin Zehner, review of Sebastian C H Kim (ed) –2008—*Christian theology in Asia*, xiii+310 pp. Cambridge University Press. Pb ISBN: 13-9780521681834 [From the review – Recently Christian churches of the global south have grown rapidly, and now they represent a majority – Also, Asian Christians are a large segment of that growth, especially in Singapore, China and Korea; and the majority of Asian Protestants belong to theologically conservative styles of Christianity – The 13 chapters of the book focus on those liberal theologies, but 1 is devoted to Evangelicals and Pentecostals – There are some chapters that have a single-country chapters; not even Singapore was given its own chapter -- India has 2

BERITA – V.33, n.3 – 3rd Qtr – 2009 -- PAGE 5

chapters; Indonesia, Japan, China, and Korea each have 1 chapter – There are some thematic chapters on the ecumenical movement, evangelicals and Pentecostals; and religious pluralism and dialogues, and more – The reviewer, nonetheless, was as a whole ... 'disappointed' by the author's advocating points of view rather than providing the descriptive analyses suggested by the title and preface ... wonders why the book deals almost exclusively with the 'left wing of the left wing' ... and question why the author of the book overlooks the Philippine and Singaporean and Chinese diasporas of Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand – But, nevertheless, there is much to recommend], pp 583-585.

The Pacific review

V.22.n.2 May 2009 – 1) Ralf Emmers, "Comprehensive and resilience in Southeast Asia: ASEAN's approach to terrorism" [From the Abstract – Explores how ASEAN has tackled the threat of terrorism since 9/11 and the Bali bombings – Claims that ASEAN has applied its traditional approach to security, based on comprehensive security and the principle of resilience, when addressing this challenge – The resilience concept underpins the nexus between national and regional security and emphasizes domestic regime consolidation, re-enforced by regional consultations – Member states have sought to address terrorism domestically through a mixture of security, law enforcement, socio-economic, ideological, and educational policies – Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore have tackled terrorism more comprehensively than Thailand and Malaysia – ASEAN has operated as an umbrella organization meant to complement domestic and sub-regional efforts – However, the article is not overly optimistic.], pp 159-177.

Third World quarterly

V.30.n.3 2009 (Special issue: putting labour into the international division on labour) – 1) Juanita Elias, "Gendering liberalization and labour reform in Malaysia: fostering 'competitiveness' in the productive and reproductive economies" [From the Abstract – Examines how and why gender needs to be brought into the analysis of state developmentalism in Asia – Focuses on ongoing processes of labor market and industrial relations reform that have accompanied Malaysia's economic development since the early 1970s – Understanding these reforms from a gender perspective means that we must recognize both the significant contribution that women make the growth of export manufacturing industries and the role that social relations of reproduction play in underpinning economic reform and transformation – Explores how gendered social relations have been central to the labor politics of Malaysia's state-led developmentalism and how ideas of maintaining competitiveness through the attempts to transition to a more knowledge-centered economy have entailed competitiveness through the attempts to transition to a more knowledge-centered economy have entailed particular roles and responsibilities for women – Attempts to maintain economic competitiveness in Malaysia have rested upon ideas concerning the need to integrate women more fully into the formal labor market and a greater recognition of the contribution of social relations of reproduction to capitalist accumulation – Discusses some of the tensions and contradictions that have emanated from this policy shift], pp 469-483.

>BOOKS BOOKS books books

Aljunied, Syed Muhd Khairudin –2009—**Colonialism, violence**

and Muslims in Southeast Asia, 208 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0415-48594-4 [From the catalog – Deals with the genesis, outbreak and far-reaching effects of a legal controversy and outbreak of mass violence that determined the course of British colonial rule after post WW II in Singapore and Malaya – Of interest to scholars of British colonial history, decolonization, and Asian history – Contents: a) "Remembering violence"; b) "The colonial setting and outbreak of riots"; c) "Proscription"; d) "Surveillance"; e) "Self-criticism"; f) "Reconciliation"; g) "Reform"; h) "Conclusion: the aftermath of violence".]

Bagshaw, Dale & Elisabeth Porter (eds) –2009—**Mediation in the Asia-Pacific region: transforming conflicts and building peace**, 208 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge advances in international relations and global politics series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-48967-6 [From the catalog -- Examines mediation in connection with peacemaking and peace-building in the Asia-Pacific region, providing practical examples which either highlight the weaknesses within certain mediation methods or demonstrate best-practice – See especially, ch7, "Mediation of marital disputes in Muslim families in Malaysia".]

Bautista, Julius & Francis Lim Khek Gee (eds) –2009—**Christianity and the State in Asia: complicity and conflict**, 240 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-48069-7 [From the catalog – Examines how Christians in Asia express their religion under the specter of the nation state and processes of globalization – Considers Christianity's growing prominence, and the various ways Asian nation states respond to this growth; this book brings into sharper analytical focus the ways in which the faith is articulated at the local, regional, and global levels – Contents: a) Evangelism, the state, and subjectivity; b) Protestant conversion as a form of protest: urban and upland protestants; c) Post-Japanese Christian historians, democracy and the problem of wartime 'Christianity on Japanese terms'; d) Negotiating 'foreignness', localizing faith and Tibetan Catholicism in the Yunnan-Tibet borderlands; e) Conversions, complicity and the State in post-independent India; f) Transcending the local... Chinese Indonesians, the State, and Pentecostal charismatic Christianity; g) The issue of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines... the Roman Catholic Church and the Philippine government; h) Christian reactions to government-led cremation in South Korea; i) Subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates; j) Christianity in Singapore: the voice of conscience?; k) About face: Asian Christianity in the context of southern expansion.]

Beng, Ooi Kee –2009—**Arrested reform: the undoing of Abdullah Badawi**, 211 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. ISBN: 978-983-43722-5-5 [From the website www.bookshop.iseas.edu.sg -- This the 3rd book of Ooi's collection of commentaries on Abdullah Badawi's 5 years in power -- 1st was *Era of transition: Malaysia after Mahathir*; 2006; 2nd was *Lost in transition: Malaysia under Abdullan*, 2008 – These commentaries don't only illustrate the downfall of Abdullah Badawi, but also how voters punished the country's leaders for supposing that the fortune of the country did not extend beyond the fate and fortune of the dominant party... UMNO and its allies – Contents of the 3rd book:: a) Preliminary pages; b) "As March 8 approaches"; c) "After March 8"; d) "After 100 days"; e) "After 200 days"; f) "Epilogue".]

Butcher, Melissa & Selvaraj Velayutham (eds) –2009—

Dissent and cultural resistance in Asia's cities, 224 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Contemporary Asia series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-49142-6 [From the catalog – Seeks to document urban experiences of dissent and emergent resistance against disjunctive global and local flows that converge and intersect in some of Asia's fastest growing cities – Cities: Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing, Urban Philippines, and Delhi -- See especially: [ch4](#), "Singapore's public housing spaces: alter – 'native' spaces in transition"; [ch5](#), "'Talking cock': everyday dissent through complaint and humor in Singapore"; [ch7](#), "The streets of Kuala Lumpur: city-space, 'race' and civil disobedience."]

Caballero-Anthony, Mely (ed) –2009—*Political change, democratic transitions and security in Southeast Asia*, 240 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge security in Asia Pacific series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-49353-6 [From the catalog -- Examines the nature of political transitions in Southeast Asia and why political transitions toward political liberalization and democracy have failed to take off – Considers political systems in the region that have gone through significant periods of transition but continue to face serious periods of transition but continue to face serious challenges toward democratic consolidation – the cases considered are: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore – See especially, 1) Lee Hock Guan & Helen E S Nesadurai, [ch4](#), "Unpacking the nature of political transitions in Malaysia"; & 2) [ch7](#), Cherian George, "Understanding network autocracy: consolidating Singapore's political system".]

Chua, Morgan –2008—*My Singapore*, 136 pp. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions. ISBN: 9789812616142 [From the website: www.marshallcavendish.com – Born in Singapore, the cartoonist first found fame in Hong Kong when he joined the *Far Eastern economic review*, where his wit and observation was transformed into keen and humorous single panels of political cartoons; and he has created caricatures of newsmakers around the world, including those in Singapore – He has now returned to live in the Lion City, and has produced a revised edition of his earlier published *My Singapore*, which tells the history of the nation in his own way: with barbed perceptiveness, concisely but 'impactful' imagery and a visual eloquence that is unmatched in the region.]

Donald, Stephanie Hemelryk & Theresa Anderson & Damien Spry (eds) –2009—*Youth, society and mobile media in Asia*, 200 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Media, culture and social change in Asia series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-54795-6 [Stephanie Hemelryk Donald, "[Introduction](#)" – Section 1: has [chs 1, 2 & 3](#) about mobile design – Section 2: has [chs 4, 5, 6, & 7](#) on ubiquity and locality – And Section 3: has [ch 8 & 9](#) about panics and popular media – [Ch 8](#), Sun Sun Lim's chapter on "The representation of the mobile phone in Singaporean teen magazines" is the only chapter in the book that is directly related to *Berita* – Other Asian states represented in the book are: China (Beijing), Indonesia, Australia, Japan, and Korea.]

Ford, Michele & Lenore Lyons (eds) –2009—*Masculinities in Southeast Asia*, 256 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-48223-3 [Brings together extensive recent innovative research on the study of men and masculinities in Southeast Asia, drawing on ethnographic fieldwork from

Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia – Examines both dominant constructions of masculinity and the ways in which marginal men engage with these – See especially: a) [ch4](#), Anne-Marie Hilsdon, "East Malaysian masculinities: negotiating 'Malayness'"; b) [ch6](#), Alexander Horstmann, "Masculinities, religion and militarism in Southern Thailand"; c) [ch8](#), Lenore Lyons & Michele Ford & Sophie Williams, "Masculinities across borders: Singaporean men in the Riau Islands"; and d) Pattana Kitiarsa, "Migrant intimacies: the private life of Thai workmen in Singapore".]

Forth, Gregory –2008—*Images of the Wildman in Southeast Asia: an anthropological perspective*, 360 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-7103-1354-6 [From the catalog – Examines 'wildmen' such as *Homo floresiensis* and *ebu gogo*, images of hairy humanlike creatures known to rural villagers and other local people in Southeast Asia and elsewhere, and explores the sources of these representations and their status in local systems of knowledge – Contents: 1) Introduction; 2) The story of *Ebu Gogo*; 3) Other Florenese Hominoids; 4) Other eastern islands; 5) The 'Short Man' (*Orang Pendek*) of Sumatra; 6) Wildmen of Western Indonesia and Mainland Southeast Asia; 7) Other Asian Hominoids; 8) Outside Asia; 9) Pacific images; 10) What were the *Ebu Gogo*?]

Frisk, Sylva –2009—*Submitting to God: women and Islam in urban Malaysia*, 252 pp. NIAS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-87-7694-048-5 [From the catalog – Challenges preconceptions of the nature of Islamization – Counters common representations of Muslim women as victims – A contribution to discussions on women's religious agency that challenges current theories of female agency and power – In Malaysia, women play an active part within KL's affluent, Malay middle class – Women play an active part in the Islamization process by heightened personal religiosity; and by organizing and participating in public programs of religious education – By organizing new forms of collective ritual and assuming new public roles as religious teachers, these religiously educated women are transforming the traditionally male-dominated gendered space of the mosque and breaking men's monopoly over positions of religious authority – Book challenges preconceptions of the nature of Islamization as well as current theories of Muslim female agency and power.]

Gin, Ooi Keat –2009—*The Japanese occupation of Borneo*, 256 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-45663-0 [From the catalog – Examines the Japanese occupation of British Borneo (Brunei, Sarawak & North Borneo) and also Dutch Borneo in 1941-45, which is understudied – Contents: 1) Introduction; 2) Borneo under Western Colonialism; 3) Prewar Japanese interest of Borneo; 4) Borneo in Imperial and Japanese Strategic and military design; 5) Invasion and occupation of Borneo, 1941-1942; 6) Borneo Japanese strategic and military design; 7) End of an era; 8) Conclusion.]

Goh, Daniel P S & Philip Holden (eds) –2009—*Race and multiculturalism in Malaysia and Singapore*, 256 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-48225-7 [From the catalog – Explores race and multiculturalism in Malaysia and Singapore from a range of different disciplinary perspectives showing how race and multicultural works in practice, and how attitudes towards race, multiculturalism; and how they developed over time – [Introduction](#), Daniel P S Goh & Philip Holden, "Postcoloniality, race and multiculturalism" – [Part I](#)

– Postcolony and cosmopolis : 1) Philip Holden, “A literary history of race: reading Singapore literature in English in an historical frame”; 2) Helen Ting, “Malaysian history textbook and the discourse of *ketuanan Melayu*”; 3) Daniel P S Goh “Eyes turned towards China: postcolonial mimicry, transcultural elitism and Singapore Chineseness”; 4) Angelia Poon, “Pick and mix for a global city: race and cosmopolitanism in Singapore”; 5) Vijay Devadas, “Makkal Sakti: the hindraf effect, race and postcolonial democracy in Malaysia” – Part II – Representing race, performing multiculturalism : 6) Gaik Cheng Khoo, “Reading the films of independent filmmaker Yasmin Ahmad: cosmopolitanism, Sufi Islam and Malay subjectivity”; 7) Kenneth Paul Tan, “Racial stereotypes in Singapore films: commercial value and critical possibilities”; 8) Matilda Gabrielpillai, “The Singapore Indian woman: a symptom in the quest for Chinese identity”; 9) Kelly Fu & Liew Kai Khun, “Deghettoizing subcultures: the multicultural evolution of Mat Rock in Singapore”; 10) Charanpal S Bal, “Bhangra and the reconstruction of ‘Punjabi-ness’ in multiracial Singapore”; 11) Michelle Antoinette, “The art of race: rethinking Malaysian identity through the art of Wong Hoy Cheong”; 12) Daniel P S Goh, “Conclusion: toward a critical multiculturalism”.] **Gong, Ting & Stephen K Ma (eds) –2009—Preventing corruption in Asia: institutional design and policy capacity**, 224 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group, Contemporary Asia Series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-48408-4 [From the catalog -- Focuses on the choice of of institutional design in preventing corruption, rather than treating corruption as a practical or technical problem to be connected by political will and good anti-corruption policy measures – Part 1: Anticorruption reform in the People’s Republic of China (6 chs) – Part 2: Corruption and institutional design: learning across regions (6 chs) – See especially, ch9, Curbing corruption in a one-party dominant system: learning from Singapore’s experience.] **Graf, Arndt & Chua Beng Huat (eds) –2008—Port cities in Asia and Europe**, 240 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Studies in the modern history of Asia. Hb ISBN: 978-0-7103-1183-2 [From the catalog – A comparative study that identifies many parallels between local histories and developments in the Asian and European port cities as well as new opportunities for sharing experiences and learning from the developments and decisions in similar situations in other port cities – 5 Parts: Pt I History 1) “The Port of Osaka from ancient times to today”, 2) See especially, Laurent Metzger’s “Relations between Marseille and East and Southeast Asia”; Pt II Contemporary developments, 3) “Three harbor cities... an exploration of the ports of Umuiden, Banjul and Jakarta”; 4) See especially, Dirk Schubert’s “Ever changing waterfronts: urban developments and transformation processes in ports and waterfront zones in Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai”; 5) “The 1999 decentralization policy, local politics and local of the port city of Surabaya”; 6) See especially, Morshidi Sirat’s “The future lies in the past”; Pt III Contact zone, 7) See especially Yong Mun Cheong’s “When port cities encounter revolution: the Hong Kong and Singapore experiences”; 8) “Port cities in northern Japan and Pacific Russia: relations and exchange”; Pt IV Representation, 9) “Representation and nostalgic reinvention of Shanghai in Chinese films”; 10) See especially, Arndt Graf’s “Marketing a city-state: Hamburg and Singapore in comparison”;

11) See especially, Chua Beng Huat’s “Eclipse of the port: cultural industry and the next phase of economic development of Singapore”; 12) See especially, Tan Tai Yong’s “Singapore’s story: a port city in search of hinterlands”.]

Harding, Andrew & Pip Nicholson (eds) –2009—New courts in Asia, 432 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge law in Asia series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-47005-6 [From the catalog – Examines the numerous new courts created throughout Asia during the last 20 years, covering important jurisdictions including human rights, intellectual property disputes, bankruptcy petitions, commercial contracts, public law adjudication, personal law, labor and industrial disputes – Evaluates their performances, and considers the broader economic, social and political implications – See: ch13, Ann Black, “Family disputes in Brunei: transition from Qadi Courts to Syariah Courts”; and ch15, Hoong-Phun Lee, “Royalty and the Special Court in Malaysia”.]

Hjorth, Larissa & Dean Chan –2009—Gaming cultures and place in Asia-Pacific, 342 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-99627-3 [From the catalog --Drawing from micro ethnographic studies to macro political economy analysis of techno-nationalisms and trans-cultural flows of cultural capital, it provides an interdisciplinary model for thinking through the politics of gaming – There is a beginning, “Locating the game: gaming cultures in/and the Asia-Pacific Region” – And there are 4 sections of the book -- Section 1, “Industries”, has 4 chapters, the 4th of which is “The dynamics of new media globalization in Asia: a comparative study of the online gaming industries in South Korea and Singapore” by Peichi Chung ... it is the only chapter in the book directly relevant to *Berita* -- Section 2 is “Localities” with 3 chapters; Section 3 is “Genres and new rubrics”; Section 4 is “Players, playing, and virtual communities” – Countries represented: Singapore, South Korea, Australia, Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan.]

Howard, Elizabeth (ed) –2000—The changing face of retailing in the Asia Pacific, 160 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-48342-1 [From the catalog – Retailing in the Asia Pacific is being transformed, with growth of large and Asia international retail firms and development of new stores and shopping centers – Studies the trends and the implications for retailers, consumers and governments – A series of studies in different countries: Singapore & Japan, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, US-Japan-China, and Korea – Hendrik Meyer-Ohle, “Two Asia malls: urban shopping center development in Singapore and Japan”.]

Jones, Russell (Gen ed) & C D Grijs & J W de Vries (eds) – 2007—Loan-words in Indonesian and Malay, xxxix+360 pp. APSEA (Academic publishers on Southeast Asia) KITLV Press. ISBN: 978-90-6718-304-8 [From the catalog’s abstract -- A register of twenty-thousand loan words in Indonesian and Malay from Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Tamil, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, English and Japanese – Given for each are the Indonesian or Malay headword, the word in the source language, and, for foreign scripts, the page where it is found in a bilingual dictionary of the source language – Since each headword is provided with an English translation, this is a potentially convenient reference base for compilers of dictionaries in European languages, who will find it useful to draw on this material to improve their etymologies -- Provides a resource for researchers into the etymologies of other languages of Asia, an

undeveloped field – Accompanying are a DVD with a facsimile of Carstairs Douglas' *Amoy dictionary*, with Chinese characters written in by hand, and Thomas Barclay's *Supplement* to the dictionary.]

Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir & Alexi A Pereira & Bryan S Turner –2009—*Muslims in Singapore: piety and politics in a secular society*, 176 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-47647-8 [From the catalog – Examines Singapore Muslims, analyzing their habits, practices and dispositions towards everyday life as well as their roles within the broader framework of the secularist Singapore state and the cultural dominance of its Chinese elite, who are predominantly Buddhist and Christian – Contents: a) "Introduction: rituals of intimacy in a secular society"; b) "State management of piety: a socio-historical background"; c) "Class status and power"; d) "Muslim piety in Singapore: an overview"; e) "Piety in a secular environment: defensive dining"; f) "Piety in schools: Madrasas"; g) "Piety and the body: courtship, sex and marriage"; h) "Social distance: measuring subjective distance in a multicultural environment"; i) "Conclusion: social enclavement".]

Lall, Marie & Edward Vickers (eds) –2008—*Education as a political tool in Asia*, 272 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Contemporary Asia series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-45259-5 [From the catalog – Countries represented: Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan – 10 chapters -- See especially: [ch5](#), Christine Han, "Creating good citizens, or a competitive workforce, or just plain political socialization?: tensions in the aims of education in Singapore"; and [ch6](#), Elwyn Thomas, "Reverse! Now play fast forward: education and the politics of change in Malaysia".]

Lim, Suchen Christine –2009—*A bit of Earth*, 424 pp. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions. ISBN:97898126118955 [From the website: www.marshallcavendish.com – For centuries, the Malayan peninsula has attracted fortune hunters, money-grabbing pirates and migrants seeking a better life – Among those whose lives are rooted in the Malayan soil are three families: 1) the Wongs, sons of the Chinese earth; 2) the Wees, subjects of the English gods; and 3) the Mahmuds, scions of the Malayan soil – Each have different dreams for the bit of earth they live on; and their destinies meet and clash, and inevitably lead to tragedy.]

Liow, Joseph Chinyong –2009—*Islam, education and reform in Southern Thailand: tradition and transformation*, 219 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. ISBN: 978-981-230-954-9 [From the website: www.bookshop.iseas.edu.sg (Three very positive reviews from critical and knowledgeable scholars: Raymond Scupin, Ebrahim Moosa, and Chaiwat Satha-Anand) -- Illuminates general and specific tendencies in Islamic education in South Thailand – Has an enormous and rich empirical detail as well as an excellent writing style – Debunks simplistic Orientalist conceptions of Wahhabi and Salafi influences on Islamic education in South Thailand – State of the art source for understanding the role of Islam and the on-going conflict in South Thailand – A significant source for scholars attempting to understand Muslim communities in Southeast Asia, and for those who want deep insights into Islamic education -- And more – Sections of the book: 1) Islam and Malay-Muslim identity in Thailand; 2) The structure of Islamic education in Southern Thailand; 3) The challenge of Islamic

reformism; 4) Pedagogies, curricula, and texts; 5) Networks and crosscurrents; 6) Conclusion: Islamic education in Southern Thailand: At a crossroads; & 7)Appendices; Glossary; Bibliography; Index; About the author.

Liow, Joseph & Nadirsyah Hosen (eds) –2009— *Islam in Southeast Asia*, 4 vols set, 1600 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group, *Critical concepts in Islamic studies series*. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-47680-5 [The Islamic faith as practiced in the region has historically been a syncretic blend of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and folk religions – The plural nature of Islam in the region today, where Muslims have generally lived peacefully in religiously mixed communities, even in areas where they constituted a large majority – But along with these pluralistic aspects there are some alternative streams of social-political activism that threaten traditionally inclusion and have voiced exclusivist attitudes towards non-Muslims – Vol.1 focuses on the historical, cultural, sociological, theological, and intellectual aspects of Islam in SEA; Vol.2 assesses trends in Muslim politics in South East Asia, investigating successes and failures of political Islam in the Muslim-majority cases of Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as the Muslim minority contexts of Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore – Vol.3 identifies and analyzes primary actors and agents involved in formation and development of a burgeoning pan-regional parallel civil society network parallel civil society network bringing together religiously-inspired Islamist NGOs, civil society actors and agencies, media, professionals associations and political parties... charting a virtual map of the new Islamist activist geography of South East Asia -- Vol.4 focuses on the nexus between Islam, politics, , and terrorism in the aftermath of the Bali bombings of 2002; and interrogates the interaction between mainstream political Islam and more extremist fringes of Islam in the region, as well as domestic and international factors driving radicalism.]

Mayaram, Shail (ed) –2008—*The other global city*, 258 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge advances in geography. Hb ISBN: 978-0-203-88765-3 [From the catalog – What is a global city? Through a historical-ethnographic exploration of inter-ethnic relations in the 'other global' cities of Cairo, Beirut , Istanbul, Bukhara, Lhasa, Delhi, [Singapore](#), [Kuala Lumpur](#), and Tokyo , the contributors of this book highlight cartographies of the Other Global City – See especially: [ch4](#), Aihwa Ong, "Intelligent city: from ethnic governmentality to ethnic evolutionarism; and [ch6](#), Yeoh Seng Guan, "Limiting cosmopolitanism: street 'Little India,' Kuala Lumpur".]

Midgley, James & Kwong Leung Tang (eds) –2009—*Social policy and poverty in East Asia*, 240 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge research on public and social policy in Asia. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-43485-0 [Looks at the role of social policy, particularly social security, in addressing the ongoing challenge of poverty in East Asia despite the region's spectacular experience of economic growth in recent decades – Part I (ch1 & ch2: Introduction and context); Part II (chs3-10: Country study & social assistance programs in Asia); Part III (chs11-13: Factors affecting policy design and policy impacts) – Country cases: Singapore, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Korea, and Hong Kong – See, [ch7](#), "Social assistance programme in Singapore".]

Mok, Ka Ho & Ray Forrest (eds) –2008—*Changing governance and public policy in East Asia*, 384 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Comparative development and Policy in

Asia series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-41596-5 [Offers critical analysis of the search for new governance in Asia, comparing and contrasting the experiences of different Asian societies, including: Singapore, Malaysia, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Thailand – Pt 1, “Changing policy paradigms”; Pt 2, “Changing policy instruments and regulatory regimes”; Pt 3, “The changing role of the private sector in public policy”; Pt 4, “The challenge for urban governance”.]

Patke, Rajeev & Philip Holden –2009—*The Routledge concise history of Southeast Asian writing in English*, 256 pp. Routledge:: Routledge Concise Histories. Pb ISBN: 978-0-415-43569-7 [From the catalog -- Traces the development of literature in the region within its historical and cultural contexts, establishing connections from colonial, early modern through contemporary writing across nations such as Malaya, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and China – Inter-weaves text and context; examines language use and variation with examples from speech, poetry and prose; traces the impact of historical, political and cultural events; engages current national consciousness, globalization and post-modernism; contains useful features such as a glossary, further reading section and chapter summaries – Guides readers through key topics and presents an original synthesis of the history and practice of the subject – See especially: ch2, “Southeast Asia historical contexts”; ch4, “Malaysian & Singapore writing to 1965”; ch6, “Narrative fiction 1965-90”; ch7, “Poetry 1965-90”; ch8, “Drama 1965-90”.]

Peerenboom, Randall & John Gillespie (eds) –2009—*Regulation in Asia*, 352 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge law in Asia Series. Pb ISBN: 978-0-415-49003-0 [From the catalog – Focuses on the role of the state and how local actors influence regulatory change; exploring the complex economic and regulatory factors that generate social demand for state regulation, and show how local networks and courts function -- Democratic processes and civil society have a huge influence on regulatory system – Examines the particular circumstances in a wide range of Pacific and Asian countries: Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, China, and Australia – See especially: [ch13](#), Aishah Bidin, “Law reform and corporate governance in Malaysia”.]

Rahim, Lily Zubaidah –2009—*Singapore in the Malay World: building and breaching regional bridges*, 240 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge studies in Asia’s transformations series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-48410-7 [From the catalog – This new appraisal of the relation of the two states offers groundbreaking insights into the way Malaysian and Singapore states see both themselves and each other – 1) *Singapura: Siapa nama kamu? Di-mana awak tinggal?* ; 2) Remembering and forgetting: *Nusantara* Malays in the Singaporean National imagination; 3) Competing and comparable paradigms of authoritarian nation-building; 4) The frightened country and the geopolitics of insecurity; 5) The politics of economic competition and cooperation; 6) The *Singa* and the Garuda: from *Kiasu* to soft power diplomacy? ; 7) Conclusion: paradoxes and diplomatic blowbacks.]

Ramesh, M & Scott Fritzen (eds) –2008—*Tranforming Asian governance: rethinking assumptions, challenging practices*, 256 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Research on public and social policy in Asia. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-47478-8 [Uses

case studies of governance from across Asia to examine how good governance principles translate into local settings, how local settings influence the conception of what is good governance and how the debate over good governance is deployed as a political or administrative strategy – States represented as cases: Malaysia, India, the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Rajasthan, Balochistan Province of Pakistan – See especially, ch2, Hong-Hai Lim, “Improving administrative performance in Malaysia”.]

Read, Benjamin L & Robert Pekkanen (eds) –2009—*Local organizations and urban governance in East and Southeast Asia: straddling state and society*, 224 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Studies on civil society in Asia. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-49299-7 [Brings together enterprising pieces of new research on the many forms of organizations in East and Southeast Asia that are sponsored or mandated by government, but engage widespread participation at the grassroots level -- Straddling the state-society divide, these organizations play important roles in society and politics, yet are dimly understood -- Countries represented: Singapore, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, China, and Taiwan -- See especially, ch8, “State shaping of community-level politics: residents’ committees in Singapore.”]

Resurreccion, Bernadette P & Rebecca Elmhirst (eds) – 2009—*Gender and natural resource management: livelihoods, mobility and interventions*, 268 pp. ISEAS www.bookshop.iseas.edu.sg . Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-976-1 [From the website – About the gender dimensions of natural resource exploitation and management, focusing on Asia – Explores the uneasy negotiations between theory, policy and practice that are often evident in the realm of gender, environment and natural resource management, particularly when gender is understood as a political, negotiated and contested element of social relationships -- Offers a critical feminist perspective on gender relations and natural resource management regarding contemporary policy concerns: decentralized governance, the elimination of poverty and the ‘mainstreaming’ of gender – Combines strong conceptual argument and empirical material from a variety of political economic and ecological contexts, including [Malaysia](#), Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam – Examines gender-environment linkages within shifting configurations of resource access and control – Provides a stimulating collection of ideas for professionals looking to incorporate gender studies and natural resource management.]

Rydestrom, Helle (ed) –2009—*Gendered inequalities in Asia: configuring, contesting and recognizing women and men*, 336 pp. NIAS Press www.niaspress.dk . Pb ISBN: 978-87-7694-047-8 [From the catalog & website -- Global processes with flows in money, commodities and people have made it increasingly varied and blurred what it means to be a female or male in Asia today – Socio-economic and cultural patterns in Asia intersect with one another and, in doing so, they translate into power relations that create both possibilities and constraints for women and men – Focuses on unequal access to political and religious power, occupations and health facilities, as well as different options regarding family life and sexuality – Insightful and enriching contributions that consider how gender relations are affected by neo-liberalism, globalization and economic

growth, security, multiculturalism, race and class, family life, life, power and intergenerational support, religious discourses and enterprises activism, and by male norms in politics -- There are 11 interesting chapters: 1) The introduction is about gendered inequalities in Asia; 2) Gendering Asia after modernity; 3) The real and the true... neo-liberalism and gender governance in Vietnam; 4) Gender, multiculturalism and religious discourses... women as symbols in Hindu nationalism; 5) Globalization, growth and gender...poor workers and vendors in urban Vietnam; 6) Shades of gender and security in Cambodia; 7) Struggle for recognition and justice... gender inequality and socially engaged Buddhism in Thailand; 8) Compromised ideals... family life and the recognition of women in Vietnam; 9) Gendered expectations and intergenerational support among Chinese Singaporeans by Kristina Goransson; 10) Gendered parties... making the male norm visible in Thai politics; 11) The cultural constructions of masculinity among working-class Malaysian Chinese in the intersections of race, class and gender, by Ulf Mellstrom.]

Steele, Stacey & Kathryn Taylor (eds) –2009—*Legal education in Asia: globalization, change and contexts*, 256 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge law in Asia Series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-49433-5 [From the catalog -- Includes: Singapore, China, Korea, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taiwan; as well as cross-country comparative material, including Western legal education systems, and a detailed coverage of Japan – See especially : ch7, Kee Yang Low, “Legal education in Singapore: a new chapter begins” .]

Takashi, Shiraishi & Pasuk Phongpaichit (eds) –2008—*The rise of middle classes in Southeast Asia*, x+307 pp. Kyoto University Press (Kyoto area studies on Asia, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, vol 17/Trans Pacific Press. Hb ISBN: 978-1-920901-17-2 [From “Contents” of the book -- Shiraishi Takashi, “Introduction: The rise of middle classes in Southeast Asia” -- Ch1) Pasuk Phongpaichit, “Thailand under Thaksin: a regional and international perspective” – Ch2) Tamada Yoshifumi, “Democracy and the middle class in Thailand: the uprising of May 1992” – Ch3) Ukrist Pathmanand, “Thaksin and the re-politicization of the military”-- Ch4) Suehiro Akira, “Business leaders in contemporary Thailand: politics, business circles, and the Chinese community” -- Ch5) Patricio N Abinales, “Notes on the disappearing ‘middle’ in post-authoritarian Philippine politics” - - Ch6) Teresa S Encarnacion-Tadem, “Situating NGO advocacy work in middle class politics in the Philippines” -- Ch7) Wakabayashi Masahiro, “Democratization and ethno-politics in Taiwan: a tentative interpretation of the ‘New Party phenomenon’ and ‘Song Chuyu phenomenon’” -- **Ch8)** Jamalunlaili Abdullah, “Economic growth, expansion of the middle class and the suburbanization of Kuala Lumpur’s metropolitan area, Malaysia” - - Ch9) Nissim Kadosh Otmazgin, “When culture meets the market: Japanese popular culture industries and the regionalization of East and Southeast Asia” -- **Ch10)** Chua Beng Huat, “Placing Singapore in East Asian popular culture”.]

Tambunan, Tulus –2009—*Development of small and medium in ASEAN countries*, vi+390 pp. New Delhi: Readworthy Publications Pvt Ltd. ISBN: 8189973983 [Thanks to kagencies, at kka1996@vsnl.net – From the description – In developing countries, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have a crucial role in their potential contributions to employment generation,

improvement of income distribution, poverty reduction, export growth, and development of rural economy – This book is about SMEs of the ASEAN countries: Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Myanmar – The research focus and reporting is about growth in out-put and number of units, export growth, subcontracting and supporting industries, and development of clusters – The major constraints in the development of SMEs have also been dealt with -- Contents: 1) Introduction; 2) Pattern of small and medium enterprises development, a theoretical consideration; 3) Recent development of SMEs in ASEAN countries: an overview; 4) Exports, competitiveness and innovation; 5) Foreign direct investment, sub-contractive, and supporting industries; 6) Some supplemented case studies on subcontracting in Indonesia; 7) Development of SMEs clusters; 8) Constraints – Bibliography, and Index.]

Trivedi, Poonam & Ryuta Minami (eds) –2009—*Re-playing Shakespeare in Asia*, 256 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Routledge Studies in Shakespeare Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-99240-4 [From the catalog – Leading scholars examine the performance of Shakespeare in Asia, in 16 chapters, divided into four parts: 1) Re-playing intercultural performance; 2) Re-playing textual/theatrical languages; 3) Re-playing ethnicity, identity and postcoloniality; and 4) Re-playing genre and gender – The book focuses specifically on the work of major directors in the central and emerging areas of Asia: Singapore, Japan, China, India, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines – This volume encompasses a broader and more representative swath of Asian performances of Shakespeare and locations in one book than has been attempted until now.]

Wan Hamzah, Wan Arfah –2009—*A first look at the Malaysian legal*, 000 pp (not given). Oxford University Press. Oxford Fajar. ISBN 978 9834505004 [From www.oxfordfajar.com.my – A textbook for undergraduate law students – Can be used by business, banking, finance and economics students taking law as a subject – Four parts: 1) Malaysia’s legal history, crucial to understanding the primacy of common law tradition, crucial to understanding the primacy of common law tradition in Malaysia’s national legal system; 2) Explains legal rules to which Malaysian courts refer to and apply in resolving disputes, e.g. the chapter on sources of Malaysian Law that explains how these rules came into being or in the case of customary laws and how they survived British colonization, and the introduction of English Law and how they are interpreted, applied and developed; 3) Focuses on the primary institutions... the courts as well as personnel of the law; and 4) Outlines the trial process (civil & criminal), and the schemes for granting legal aid which strive to make the courts accessible to all regardless of financial means.]

Willnat, Lars & Annette Aw (eds) –2009—*Political communication in Asia*, 248 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. LEA’s communication series. Pb ISBN: 978-0-414-96285-8 [Provides a critical review of political communication research conducted in Asia over the past 20 years – Each chapter focuses on studies published in a specific Asian country, selected according to the level of contribution made to the field of political communication in Asia – Countries: Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and India – See especially, ch4, Terence Lee and Lars Willnat, “Political communication in Singapore”; And ch6, Ezhar Tamam &

Manimaran Govindasamy, "Political communication practices and research in Malaysia: An overview".]

Winter, Tim & Peggy Teo & T C Chang (eds) –2008—*Asia on tour: exploring the rise of Asian tourism*, 376 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Pb ISBN: 9780-415-46086-6 [From the catalog – With the vast majority of academic theory on tourism based on 'Western' tourists, *Asia on tour* illustrates why the rapid growth of travel for leisure and recreation in Asia demands a reappraisal of how tourism is analyzed and understood – Examining domestic and intra-regional tourism, the book reveals how improvements in infrastructures, ever increasing disposable incomes, liberalized economies, the inter-connectivities of globalization and the lowering of borders, both physical and political, are now enabling millions of Asians to travel as tourists – The 23 essays (the editors' introduction and the other 22 essays) indicate why rigorous essays in this volume indicate why a critical study of Asian tourism must become integral to both our analyses of this rapidly transforming region and our interpretations of global tourism in the 21st century -- The book has 6 parts: "Introduction: rethinking tourism in Asia"; Pt 1 "Challenging conventions"; Pt 2 "Emerging markets, (Re)scripting places"; Pt 3 "National imaginings and tourism development"; Pt 4 "Revis(it)ing heritage: dissonance or harmony?"; Pt 5 "Tourism and new social networks" – All the 23 titles of the chapters are intriguing, but see especially: a) Tim Winter, Peggy Teo & T C Chang, "Introduction: rethinking tourism in Asia"; and b) Peggy Teo & T C Chang, "Singapore's postcolonial landscape: boutique hotels as agents".]

Wolters, O W (Craig Reynolds, ed) –2008—*Early Southeast Asia: selected essays*, xii+236 pp. Cornell University: Southeast Asia Program Publications [11 classics parsed by 4 parts: Part I: Southeast Asia as a Southeast Asian field of study -- Part II: The long duree of Malay history – Part III: Mainland mandalas – Part IV: Vietnamese historiography and literature.]

Wong, Joseph & Edward Friedman (eds) –2008—*Political transitions in dominant party systems*, 320 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Politics in Asia series. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-46843-5 [From the catalog – Using country-specific case studies, top-rank analysts in the field focus on the lessons that dominant parties might learn from losing and the adaptations they consequent make in order to survive, to ultimately regain power – Some of the cases: Malaysia, Singapore, India, Taiwan, West Africa, East Central Europe, Japan, USSR, Korea, South Africa, China – See especially, ch12, Diane K Mauzy & Shane J Barter, "Learning to lose? Not if UMNO can help it"; and, ch13, Garry Rodan, "Singapore 'exceptionalism'? Authoritarian rule and state transformation".]

Yamada, Teri Shaeffer (ed) –2009—*Modern short fiction of Southeast Asia: a literary history*, 360 pp. Ann Arbor, Michigan: AAS. Pb ISBN: 978-0-924304-52-1 [From the add in *Asian studies newsletter*, V.54,n.2,p 62 – Surveys the historical and cultural significance of modern short fiction in 9 SEA nations: Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar/Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.]

Zhao, Yong –2009—*Handbook of Asian education*, 911 pp. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. Pb ISBN: 978-0-8058-6444-1 [From the catalog -- Explains and interprets Asian educational practices from cultural, historical, and economic perspectives –

Documents accomplishments of Asian education, and discusses challenges its faces – Volume is structured in 5 sections, each devoted to educational practices in a particular Asian civilization (Islamic, Sinic, Hindu, Buddhist, Japanese) – Topics include both the formal schooling systems and out-of-school educational practices, education governance and management, curriculum and assessment, teachers and teaching, learners and learning, and home and community – Volume directed to education researchers as well as graduate students – Selected contents: i) Introduction, 'Asian education: a cultural perspective'; ii) Sinic education; iii) Japanese education; iv) Hindu education; v) Islamic education; vi) Buddhist education.]

>WEBSITES & OPPORTUNITIES

1) Image database to enhance Asian studies (IDEAS) [From *Asian studies newsletter*, V.54,n.2,p42 -- Designed to unify digitizing efforts at various college and universities into a shared and searchable database to make multi-media products widely available – Allows for submission of additional images, and contains bibliography of resources on teaching with images – Bibliography of resources on teaching with images: Streets of Singapore; Japanese religion; Asian cultures; Religious sites in Mahaashtra; Beijing 1988; etc -- www.ideasproject.org];

2) The Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore [From *Asian studies newsletter*, V.54,n.2,p42 -- Seeks to be a place of encounters for scholars around the world, focused on Asia, and on the themes of the changing family in Asia, Asian migration, cultural studies in Asia, religion and globalization in Asian contexts, connections and interactions between Southeast Asia and China, and sustainable cities – Includes links to calendar of events, publications, photo albums from ARI events, the *ARI working papers* -- www.ari.nus.edu.sg]

3) MSc Urban Studies at University College London -- From Profs Matthew Gandy at m.gandy@ucl.ac.uk & Nick Phelps at n.phelps@ucl.ac.uk information about MSc Urban Studies at University College London – This unique course is a collaboration between four UCL faculties (the Bartlett; Arts and Humanities; Engineering; and Social and Historical Sciences) – Students take 2 core modules in "Urban imaginations" and "City, space and powers" and then choose further courses from over 20 optional modules ranging from research training (for the dissertation) to specialist modules such as "Creative cities", "Spatial planning", "Urban design", "Asian cities in a globalizing South", Italian cinema and the city", and "Post-colonial theory and the multicultural city" – This advanced interdisciplinary program is aimed at 2 main groups of students: a) students from a professional background who wish to take an opportunity for critical reflection and skills enhancement for their career development, and b) students who wish to consider embarking on a research career in the urban field and see the MSc as a useful first step towards independent writing and research at PhD or postdoctoral level – Entry requirements are the equivalent of a first or upper-second class degree – Full time, part time and flexible study options are available – More details about the course at the website www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanstudies/ .];

4) 2nd Annual Public Anthropology Publishing Competitions (200) -- From Dr. Rob Borofsky, UC Press/Public Anthropology Book Competition 2008/2009 – The first competition focuses on professional anthropologists who have already earned a PhD,

BERITA – V.33, n.3– 3rd Qtr– 2009 -- PAGE 12

and the winner selected based on: 1) the public significance of the problem addressed; 2) the way the problem is approached; and 3) the author's ability to write for a public audience (as judged by one or more previous publications) – The winner will receive, in addition to a formal book contract from U C Press, a \$10,000 advance – The second competition focuses on graduate students who are preparing to conduct fieldwork or who have not, as yet, completed their doctoral dissertations and/or received their PhD – The winner will be selected based on: 1) the public significance of the problem being addressed; 2) the way the problem is being approached; 3) a sample of the student's writing; and 4) a signed agreement from the student's dissertation committee supporting the student writing up her or his research in a form readable by a broad, public audience rather than as a standard academic dissertation – The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2009 -- Direct questions regarding the competition to Dr Rob Borofsky at bookseries@publicanthropology.org.]

>AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (Abstracted from full reports by Margaret John, A I Canada, Coordinator for Malaysia & Singapore: malaysiasingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca) -- To: Singapore/Malaysia Network -- **1)** Three detained Hindu rights activists are now free, their integrity and commitment to human rights intact. . As P Uthayakumar ("Kumar") was greeted by the crowd outside the jail, he said "Freedom is incredible...the feeling overwhelms" -- Expressing his plans for the future, he added that detention "has only made me more determined and more resolved to continue fighting for the oppressed and marginalized Indians". -- His emergence from the prison is on a moving video at: <http://www.cijmalaysia.org>. I am privileged to have met this courageous human rights defender, together with other HINDRAF campaigners, as well as other caring Canadians in government and in Amnesty International -- All good wishes, Margaret John Coordinator for Singapore and Malaysia Amnesty International Canada -- **2) 11 May 2009** The Malaysian authorities released three human rights activists from the Hindu Rights Action Force (HINDRAF) on Saturday 9 May 2009 -- They were among a group of five HINDRAF activists arrested and detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) in December 2007 for organizing protest rallies without a permit -- Two of them were released on 5 April 2009 -- However, reports indicate that one of the detainees, T Vasanthakumar, has had conditions placed on his release, including a ban on speaking to the media and a curfew – Last week there was a wave of arrests in Malaysia as a part of a crackdown on dissent by the new government of PM Najib Abdul Razak – HINDRAF is a coalition struggling for the rights of marginalized Malaysians of Indian ethnicity -- They organized a rally in November 2007 to submit a petition at the British High Commission about Indian grievances after the colonial period. The police, who had refused to issue a permit for the rally, responded with excessive force against demonstrators, using water cannons, tear gas and baton charges, resulting in many injuries -- Those released on Saturday were lawyers Uthayakumar Ponnusamy and Manoharan Malayalam, plus HINDRAF secretary T Vasanthakumar -- The ISA remains in force and an unspecified number of people continue to be held in detention without charge -- ISA provisions allow for indefinite detention without charge or trial -- Amnesty International has

called for the ISA to be repealed or amended so as to abolish all forms of administrative detention within a week -- Last week, there was a wave of arrests in Malaysia as a part of a crackdown on dissent by the new government of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak -- "The recent spate of short term arrests of government critics is disappointing from the new Malaysian administration," said Donna Guest. -- The authorities appear to have arrested people merely for expressing their political views or gathering peacefully to protest government actions -- All of those arrested have been released and Amnesty International has urged the Malaysian government not to use arbitrary arrests of its critics as a way of suppressing peaceful dissent. – From Vinod F Ravindranathan Campaigner, Asia Pacific Program, Amnesty International Secretariat -- Working to protect human rights worldwide – **3) 1 July 2009** On 16-17 July, there will be a meeting of ASEAN's foreign ministers, in Thailand, which will be a vital development in ASEAN's decisions regarding the authority and independence in ASEAN's promised human rights body – The present TOR (Terms of Reference), as presently drafted, utterly fail to provide the essential protection mandate and independence of Southeast Asia's first regional human rights body – AI's recommendations include that the human rights body's TOR: reflect international standards over any national, regional, historical, cultural and religious factors; require the body's members have high standards of expertise and serve in their personal capacity; authorize on-site investigations; conduct periodic country reviews; accept individual complaints; and ensure that all future human rights standards within ASEAN are in full compliance with international standards – **4) 7 July 2009** Since amendments in Malaysia's to the country's Immigration Act came into force in 2002, 47,914 migrants have been sentenced to caning for immigration offences – According to government records, most of those caned were Indonesians (60.2%), with the rest: Philippines (14.1%), Myanmar (13.9%), Bangladesh (3.6%), Thailand (2.8%), and 5.4% from other countries, including India and Nepal – It is cruel, inhuman and degrading and prohibited by international human rights law – Amnesty International urges the Malaysian government to stop this cruel and illegal punishment -- More at www.aimalaysia.org - **5) 20 July 2009** AIM views with great concern the recent deaths in custody of Teoh Beng Hock and P Gunasekaran and the issues surrounding their deaths -- These are not isolated incidents, as there have been many reported cases of death in Malaysia while in the custody of the police, immigration department and prisons authorities – It raises a very serious gap in human rights protection – -- More at www.aimalaysia.org .

>PROSPECTUS

Berita is a quarterly (beginning with V.27, n.1) bulletin board, forum and publication for all of the scholarly disciplines concerned with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies. It is published mid-month in February, May, August and November. Address correspondence and submissions for publication to: rprovenc@juno.com or Ron Provencher, P.O. Box 13336, Burton, WA 98013.

>RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Barbara L. Provencher, M.A. (History)
Haron Omar Abdullah, B.A. With Distinction in Anthropology