

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the September newsletter. Malaysia has been seeing some great progress in its vaccination rollout and, in addition to a more Campus oriented Semester 3, we are also hoping that, on the School's annual away days in early December, we will actually be 'away' in some small sense of the term. Staff may be able to meet up in groups to celebrate the end of the year, and to plan for 2022. In our weekly drop-ins (Fridays at noon) the conversation has relentlessly turned to food, to the relative pleasures of Langkawi and Penang, and even the nostalgic joys of plastic chairs. In other words, there is huge anticipation for the return to banana leaf restaurants, Mamak and hawker stalls. For those of you who are still eating at home and have not yet used your Grab vouchers – remember Emily is eagerly awaiting your photos.

We are moving forward with invitations to the new Industry Advisory Group, with membership drawn from the corporate sector, NGOs, start-ups, and alumni. More on that development next month, but in the meantime, we are collating the annual return on events and industry-alum, public-facing related activities. If they have not appeared in the Newsletter and if others may not know about what you have been doing – please let Emily know asap, so she can add to our Engagement Co-ordinator's list (Rizwanah of course). On which, although it is a rest day and you will be recharging, – if you need to be inspired on the 28th September, Tan Meng Yoe has organised a fascinating and important webinar with partners in Malaysia and the UK, (see below).

We have our Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences Review coming up at the end of this month. I would like to thank Dr Jonathan Driskell for leading the Self Review team. The work involved has been substantial and he has done it with amazing good humour. Our fantastic new Deputy Head, Associate Professor Michael Connors, will lead the response to the Review's findings, and thanks to him are also due for hitting the ground fast in a busy few weeks.

Stephi

**Content:**

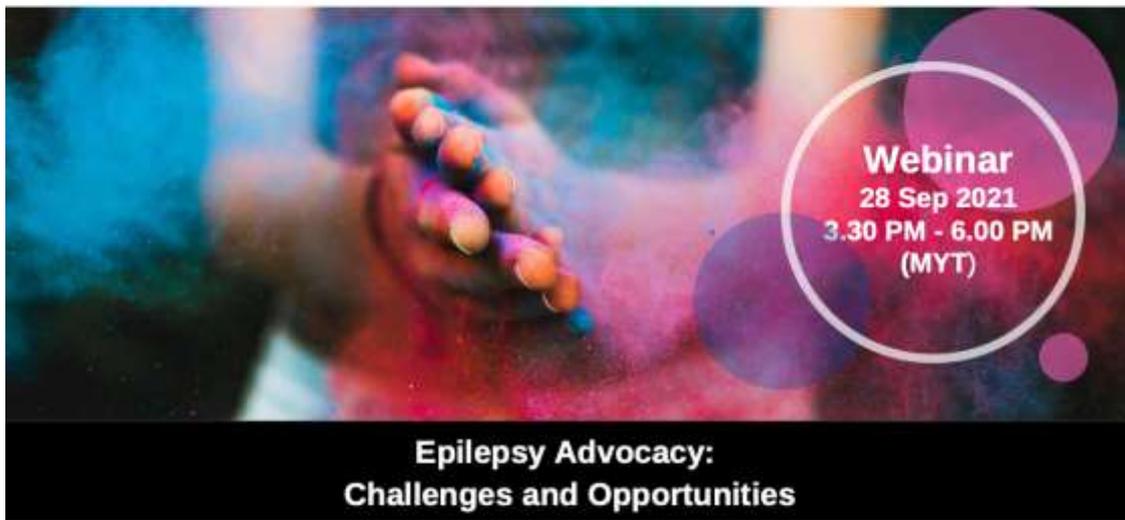
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About the Webinar

For people living with epilepsy, the complexity they face lies not only in the medical condition itself but also in the socio-cultural issues associated with it. Join us as we discuss scientific efforts in understanding epilepsy, socio-cultural factors that perpetuate stigma toward patients, current best practices in the healthcare industry, and most importantly - hearing and learning from people with epilepsy.

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Opening Remarks

Speakers:
Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald (Monash University Malaysia)
Mr. Alastair Kent (Congenica)
Dr. Sherrini Bazir Ahmad (Malaysian Society of Epilepsy)
- 

Hearing from the Patient

Speaker:
Ms. Nur Safriha Mohd Safawati Hossain
- 

Engaging Epilepsy Through Religion

Speakers:
Dr. Aiedah Khalek, Associate Professor Mohd Farooq Shaikh, Dr. Tan Meng Yoe (Monash University Malaysia)
- 

Genomics and Epilepsy

Speaker:
Dr. Charles Stewart (Congenica)
- 

Managing Epilepsy

Speaker:
Professor Raymond Azman Ali (Epilepsy Council of Malaysia)

Get in Touch:

Ms. Hema Malini
malini.gunasakran@monash.edu

Registration:

Please go to:
<https://forms.gle/DM3zLc2UsyQCYdWD9>
OR
scan the QR code to register by 24 September 2021.



Co-Organisers:





Research News

Events

Dr Koh Sin Yee presented a paper entitled "Reflections on the Hierarchies of Citizenship and Mobility Deservingness" at the panel "Mobile Racism(s)", RGS-IBG (Royal Geographic Society with the Institute of British Geographers) Annual Conference 2021, on 2 September 2021.

Associate Professor Yeoh Seng Guan participated in a stakeholder consultation on the Asia-Pacific Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. Organized by UNESCAP for Asia and the Pacific and the UN Regional Network on Migration. Held on 23 September, 2021.

Ms. Nadiah Ahmad featured in The Star Special: "Understanding the gender dimensions", 7 Sept 2021: <https://www.pressreader.com/malaysia/the-star-malaysia-star2/20210907/281805697041375>

Publications

Koh, S. Y., & Sin, I. L. (2021). Race, Whiteness and Internationality in Transnational Education: Academic and Teacher Expatriates in Malaysia. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. [DOI: 10.1080/01419870.2021.1977362](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2021.1977362)

Dr Jia Yen Lai co-authored a paper exploring the roles and relationships of emotions in the promotion of critical development geographies through student field trip. Sam Staddon, Clare Barnes, Jia Yen Lai, Margherita Scazza & Ryan Wilkie (2021) A "Token of Love": the role of emotions in student field trips teaching critical development geographies, *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, [DOI: 10.1080/03098265.2021.1977918](https://doi.org/10.1080/03098265.2021.1977918)

Michael K. Connors (2021): Towards a History of Conservative Liberalism in Thailand after the 1932 Siamese Revolution: An Ideological Analysis, *Asian Studies Review*, [DOI: 10.1080/10357823.2021.1973366](https://doi.org/10.1080/10357823.2021.1973366)

Upcoming Research Seminar Series:

Research Seminar Series (11/2021), 5th October 2021, 5-6 pm

"Migration intermediaries: Lessons from the Nepal-Malaysia Corridor" by Ms. **Yvonne Khor Gee Weon**, a researcher at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia. Prior to joining Monash University Malaysia, Yvonne was a Senior Researcher at a local think tank in Malaysia. She was involved in various research projects related to the drafting of national policies on development by Members of Parliament and Senators. Please click [here](#) for more details of the seminar. To attend, please register [here](#).



Graduate Research News

New PhD student

Name: THERESA SYMONS

Title of project: Going beyond spiritual, ecological and social divides: Tracking relational system change in moving from a needs-based to rights-based approach for the Good Shepherd sisters in Asia.

Supervisors:

Associate Professor Sharon A Bong (main supervisor, School of Arts and Social Sciences)

Dr Thaatchaayini Kananatu (associate supervisor, School of Business)

Project Description:

The project examines the contemporary systemic interventions to a faith-based organisation in its efforts to move from a charity and needs based approach to a rights-based approach in addressing social injustice.

About Theresa:

Currently working with the Good Shepherd sisters, a faith-based organisation which is present in 70 over countries globally. I am looking forward to embarking on this learning journey with Monash, meeting new people and engaging at different platforms - how exciting.

Commencement Date: 13th September 2021



Education News / Staff Achievements

Associate Professor Michael Connors

It has been a busy education month for SASS staff. Just as the Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences completed its Course Self Review evaluation, led by Dr Jonathan Driskell, a new team led by Associate Professor Emma Baulch has taken up the task of completing a Course Self Review for the Bachelor of Digital Media and Communication. The reviews are an opportunity for Monash to ensure its degree is world best and at the cutting edge of the disciplines they cover. Once the respective External Review Panels meet with the degree's Self Review teams and offer recommendations, SASS will work on introducing changes in consultation with staff, students and external stakeholders. It's the kind of busy work that makes a difference to the degree experience and is well worth the time.

In the August newsletter, I noted that SASS was in the process of identifying two units that would move to fully online delivery next year. The two units are AMU1325 Introduction to World Politics and History and AMU2453 Research Methods in Social Sciences, taught by Dr Marek Rutkowski and Associate Professor Yeoh Seng Guan, respectively. They are now working with online educational designers to develop the units for online delivery.

While universities around the world are getting ready to return to campuses, it will be inevitable that some students will not be able to attend campus for various reasons. Such students will study online. SASS will be holding a workshop in October on synchronous hybrid teaching. This mode of delivery ensures that online students, who are unable to come to campus, can join an on-campus class via various learning and video platforms.

Staff Achievements

Dr Joseph N. Goh's book *Becoming a Malaysian Trans Man: Gender, Society, Body and Faith* (2020) was longlisted for, but did not win the ICAS Book Prize 2021 English (Best Book in the Social Sciences). Nevertheless, it received the 'Ground-Breaking Subject Matter Accolade' in the ICAS Book Prize 2021 Accolades in the Social Sciences section. The committee referred to it as 'a nuanced monograph about transgender identity as collectively negotiated and embodied. Goh's chapters bring us into the fine grain of the everyday of Malaysian transgender men, navigating religious and secular narratives. In this excellent account, Goh takes the time to coherently articulate the constitutive elements of the struggle to belong beyond medical transitioning as becoming, and down to state failure'.

Dr Joseph N. Goh was quoted on his views on cisnormativity and heteronormativity, the persecution of transgender Malaysians, third-gender legislation, and the evils of conversion therapy in 'Malaysia's transgender community trapped by toxic religious ideals,' a news article written by Ashley Yeong, a MUM alumna and currently a junior reporter with Globe Media Asia. The article can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3kZ4Gpf>



About Us

Dr Dyah Pitaloka

I started learning traditional Balinese dance when I was 5 years old and I grew up loving the dance. What I love from Balinese dance is that it has such strong characteristics. The body movement, the gamelan orchestra and costumes. The richness of the dance is expressed through face expressions (a slight move of the eye balls, a thin smile) and movement of the body in a beautiful way. I love playing both male and female characters. So, during my spare time, between teaching and doing research, and writing, I will dance. Either teach dancing online or learn dancing online, but I will dance. I found dancing helps balance both my inner soul and my physical wellbeing.

Working with issues of marginalization, inequity and inequality in communication practices within health-related settings bring me closer to communities in various different places. I have learned how arts can be used by community members to address various challenges. From singing, to drawing, to dancing, to theatrical performance, I found my love for Balinese dance helps me a lot in doing my work and in 'communicating' with participants.

If you don't see me dancing, then perhaps you can find me in my kitchen cooking Indonesian foods such as 'Soto Ayam' (clear turmeric chicken soup,) 'Gudeg Yogyakarta' (young jackfruit stew), or 'Gado-Gado' (Indonesian peanut vegetable salad). I hope this pandemic situation will get better soon, so I can finally look forward to spending time with everyone and perhaps to invite you to taste my cooking.



Introducing our new staff



[Associate Professor Michael Connors](#)
Associate Professor in Global Studies
Deputy Head of School (Education)



[Dr Mark Balnaves](#)
Senior Lecturer in Creative Industries



About Us

Industry Advisory Group (IAG)

The School of Arts and Social Sciences prepares students for the challenges of the global economy and an evolving workplace. We believe also that our graduates are culturally literate and equipped with an adaptive, mature, and progressive mindset that equips them for leadership in the contemporary world. We do this with the help of wise advice from our Industry Advisory Group. The IAG is comprised of leaders and innovators from the corporate sector and start-ups, from social enterprises and NGOs, and our own outstanding alumni.

IAG members are appointed for two years, with some staying longer to help us with continuity. The School also seeks conversations and focussed advice when we are undertaking course reviews or when we seek to introduce or update our curriculum. The IAG helps the School remain in touch with employers, with the best practices of a professional environment, and with the outside world of social endeavour. Our IAG affords a vital link between our students and how we may best prepare them for a fruitful and successful future after graduation.

External members: (non-chronological order)

Professor David S G Goodman
Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney

David S G Goodman is Director of the China Studies, University of Sydney, where he is also Professor of Chinese Politics. Until early 2021 he was Vice President Academic Affairs at Xi'an Jiaotong-Livepool, Suzhou, China; and had previously been DVC International at University of Technology, Sydney. He was the IDP Australia International Educator of the Year in 2001. In his academic life, Professor Goodman researches local social and political change in China. He is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of China Studies at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, and also in the Australia-China Research institute at University of Technology, Sydney.



Dr Jasmine Begum
Director, Legal & Government Affairs, SEA and New Markets
Microsoft

Based in Kuala Lumpur, Jasmine oversees corporate affairs, government relations and policy engagement for Microsoft businesses in South East Asia and the emerging markets.

Jasmine joined Microsoft with over 20 years of award-winning experience that uniquely straddles both legal/policy engagement and communications, that included leadership and regional stints at companies such as Dell Malaysia, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary-General in New York as well as having been a corporate litigator.

Jasmine has broad educational qualifications, having completed a double degree in Law at the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur. Jasmine then pursued post-graduate studies in both Law and Communications in the UK and earned her Ph.D. in business and human rights. Jasmine has also been admitted to practice in Washington State.





About Us

External members: (non-chronological order)

LING MING CHOO

Global Beauty & Personal Care Human Resource Director
Unilever

My purpose is “creating positive change”.

Senior leader with more than 20 years HR and generalist experience. Served as Board business partner and spearheads overall strategic talent, organization, culture and capability agenda.

Experience spans across diverse businesses leading strategic planning, organisation design, talent acquisition, employer branding, culture transformation, mergers and acquisition, hr technology and recently driving organizational transformation in digital, data and future of works.

Also, an appointed Diversity Advocate of Talent Corp and Industry Advisors for Taylor, Monash and Inti Universities. Passionate in people growth; enjoys mentoring coaching, bringing out the best in people through conversations and building diverse teams. Mother of 3 young teens who enjoys coffee, food and love to be on-trend with the digital natives and in-trend with K-pop & K-beauty. Gets energy from 10K steps daily routine and a curious learner!



Daniel Teoh

Founder of Native

Daniel is the founder of Native, a social enterprise which co-creates business ventures with indigenous communities in Malaysia to grow their economic capacity and cultural confidence. Seeking to build on the heritage of their partner communities, Native specialises in community-based tourism ventures and ventures selling indigenous products such as fruits and crafts.

Growing up in the island town of Penang, Daniel found himself drawn to community work through his first encounter with the Orang Asli people while still a student. Experiencing their natural hospitality and gaining a new appreciation for Malaysian heritage through their unique culture, the idea for Native was conceived. With a passion for marrying business with social good, he repurposed his training as a civil engineer and has dedicated his entire early career to building partnerships with local communities to grow social entrepreneurship within the country.



Through his work, he has worked with multiple local indigenous communities in hosting hundreds of guests from all over the world to experience Malaysia in a new way: as both celebrated guests and thoughtful contributors. Deeply curious and fervent that the biggest beneficiary of his work is himself, Daniel remains determined to embark on a life-long adventure that includes and uplifts.

Outside of Native but with the same spirit for creating impactful ventures, Daniel is also a venture builder with the Zero Waste Living Lab in Malaysia where he is working on creating new business models to eliminate the need for single use plastics in various industries.



About Us

External members: (non-chronological order)

Camelia Harahap

**Head of Arts and Creative Industries
British Council Indonesia**

Camelia Harahap is the Head of Arts and Creative Industries at British Council Indonesia since 2019. She first joined British Council in 2011, working on creative enterprise programmes with a special focus on Fashion, Design and Music sectors, and recently oversaw the showcasing activities of the *UK/Indonesia 2016-18* programme, a three-year season celebrating new relationships between Indonesian and UK artists and cultural organisations – including curating and managing the annual UK/ID Festival.

Prior to the British Council, Camelia worked as a writer and journalist at various publications in Southeast Asia. She also freelances as a copywriter and a fashion business consultant.

Camelia studied Communications, International Studies and holds a masters degree in International Business from Monash University. In 2015, she joined the cohort of the Advanced Cultural Leadership Programme, a joint programme held by Hong Kong University and Clore Leadership UK. Her main interests include Cultural Diplomacy, Creative Enterprise and Sustainable Fashion.



Ameer Sobhan

**Programmes and Partnerships Analyst
UNOPS Bangkok**

Ameer Sobhan is Programmes and Partnerships Analyst at the regional office of UNOPS in Bangkok where he supports the strategic positioning of the organization within Asia. Some of his current areas of focus at UNOPS include building new partnerships, facilitating external outreach to promote gender mainstreaming within resilient infrastructure systems, and attending meetings with regional offices of other UN agencies on issues related to human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ameer has previously worked in a variety of different roles within the international development realm. He has conducted research on the technical framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a focus on policy coherence. He has also worked with UNDP on engaging the private sector to contribute to the national implementation of SDGs through an adoption of alternative business models and financial inclusion schemes.

Ameer's industry experience spans education, NGOs, think tanks and the UN system. Before being based in Thailand, Ameer previously lived in China, Malaysia, the USA and the UK.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Monash University Malaysia, Ameer obtained a Master of Science (MSc) in Global Governance and Diplomacy from the University of Oxford.





About Us

External members: (non-chronological order)

Hannah Reshma Jambunathan (*she/her*)
Capacity Building Officer
Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)



Members from School of Arts and Social Sciences

[Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald](#)
Head Of School (Co-Chair of IAG)

[Associate Professor Michael Connors](#)
Deputy Head of School (Education)

[Associate Professor Yeoh Seng Guan](#)
Deputy Head of School (Research)

[Dr Rizwanah Souket Ali](#)
External Engagement Coordinator

[Dr Tan Meng Yoe](#)
Master in Communications and Media Studies coordinator

[Dr Mark Balnaves](#)
Work-integrated-learning representative