



Abstracts of 9th International Conference on Asian Studies 2021



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9th International Conference on Asian Studies 2021

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Dr. Sadequl Islam

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Lessons from Selected Asian countries”**

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**"Can we Keep English Language Education from Promoting Social Injustice? A 21st
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RMIT University, Vietnam

“Government-Business Relationships in East Asia in the Post-Pandemic Era?”

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**Reflections on the Healthcare system and Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic:
Lessons from Selected Asian countries**

Dr. Sadequl Islam

Professor of Economics, Laurentian University, Canada

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated unprecedented economic and health crises. It has laid bare strengths and weaknesses in the healthcare system across countries. This presentation concentrates on a comparative analysis of the healthcare systems and management of the pandemic in selected Asian countries such as South Korea, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Singapore, and India. It addresses a broad question: How and why have preparedness, detection, containment, and treatment of COVID-19, and the economic impact varied so much across countries?

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a possible short-run trade-off between public health and economic activity: protection of people's lives leads to economic crises. The nature of trade-offs, however, has varied significantly across countries because of the nature and capacity of healthcare systems and strategies undertaken by countries.

This presentation integrates issues relating to public health, the nature of the political regime, and management of the pandemic and focuses on the nature of political regimes and stage of economic development in shaping the healthcare system. In exploring the nature of political regimes, it takes a nuanced approach which goes beyond the trimodal taxonomy : liberal market economies, coordinated market economies, and authoritarian, state-driven market economies.

The presentation highlights a point that health, being a public good, can't be left to market forces. The quality of the public health system and preparedness for and management of a pandemic like COVID-19 require an active government that is trustworthy, inclusive, anticipatory and proactive rather than reactive.

Television in Japan: The Enduring Gaze?

Associate Professor Sebastian Brooke

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Japan is a land of screens, from the large, billboard-sized public screens promoting the latest musical talent in the trendy areas of Shibuya and Shinjuku, to the brand-name, digital, flat-screen televisions to be found in every house and apartment throughout the country. Television connects all 126 million inhabitants, with extremely high levels of saturation and viewing time, even in the face of competing media channels and platforms. This paper investigates television broadcasting history in Japan from its humble beginnings to its current levels of saturation, to understand this phenomenon of almost 100 percent of homes tuned in to television screens (NHK, 2020), even as other media channels try to chip away at television's dominance and younger audiences rapidly move away from television and to the internet. Is this enduring gaze, however, coming to an end, as surveys show television viewing becoming fractured along generational lines.

Keywords: *Japan, Television, Media*

The Ombudsman System of Thailand and its Roles in Thai Politics

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This paper intends to study the organic composition of ombudsman system in Thailand and explore their roles in Thai politics. Due to the aims to transfer the ruling power from the administrative branch to people, the term “Ombudsman” was first mentioned in the draft Constitution in 1974, and the enactment of the Organic Act on Parliamentary Ombudsman to support and define practical details for implementation were approved by the parliament of Thailand in 1999. The purpose of the establishment of the ombudsman system is aimed to deploy special legislative institutes to investigate and redress grievances of people.

In the status quo, additional duties and powers are granted to the "Ombudsman" and they have the power to “to recommend the relevant State agencies to revise any law, rule, regulations, rules or order or any operative procedure that causes grievance or unfairness or imposes an unnecessary or undue burden on the people” under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (2017) section 230 and 231.

The Ombudsman system is particularly distinguished in Thai political situation, by studying it’s organic composition and its roles, we will have a better understanding to the Thai political situation and be able to predict its development in the future in a more precise manner.

Keywords: *Ombudsman system, Thai politics, military coup, Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (2017)*

**Socio-political mutual understanding between Western liberal democracies and the
People's Republic of China**

Gustavo Juan Álvarez Castro

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Spain*

Text: This thesis focuses on the ideological interaction between Western liberal democracies and the People's Republic of China from a political, philosophical and socioeconomic perspective. This analysis starts from the identification of the two different socio-political entities starting from their theories. Then it follows with what theories are necessary for a socio-political mutual understanding concept framework, to ultimately provide an overall perspective on the elements that unites and separates them through a political, social and cultural deconstruction process. This framework has been key to conclude that Western liberal democracies and the People's Republic of China are separated by a cultural gap, socially proximate because of the role of individual towards the state and politically aligned in a long-term democracy-oriented process.

Keywords: *Mutual understanding, deconstruction, socio-political, culture.*

Buddhism in the works of Lawrence Durrell: *The Alexandria Quartet*

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This paper discusses Lawrence Durrell as an author influenced by Buddhist thought and practice, and puts forward an interpretation of one of his major works, *The Alexandria Quartet*, in terms of its direct references and subtle allusions to Buddhism. These include references to the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*, the *Diamond Sutra* and the *Immutable Sutra*, which I have elsewhere discussed in their relation to the Indian-born Durrell's sense of exile from his 'Tibetan' homeland; they should, however, also be seen as integral to structure of the *Quartet*. I also put forward here a new interpretation of the *Quartet* based on a key to be found in the name of the hotel in which one of Durrell's *alter egos*, Pursewarden, commits suicide: Mount Vulture, which recalls the Vulture Peak or Gādhraakūta, a site mentioned in many Buddhist texts as the place where the Buddha preached his sermons, and which is equated in the Lotus Sutra with the Pure Land. I argue that Mount Vulture occupies a central symbolic position in the discourse of blindness, insight and enlightenment in the novels.

Keywords: *Buddhism, Lawrence Durrell, hermeneutics*

**A Preliminary Study on Ethnic Relation
between Pribumi and Chinese Indonesian Students in Taiwan**

Chun-Yeh, LIN

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As ethnic minority in Indonesia, at only about 1.2 per cent,¹ Chinese Indonesians faced and are facing many challenges and changes in the society of Indonesia after Reformasi period (Reform Era). Some literatures indicate that the situation getting improvement nowadays, however, negative ways still remain on certain issues. Since ethnic Chinese's parents prefer to send their children to private Chinese schools in Indonesia to learn more Chinese culture and to maintain their Chinese identity, Chinese Indonesians and pribumi have little interaction while they were in the school. Based on the review of Pettigrew, Tropp, Wagner, and Christ (2011) from 515 studies,² intergroup contact is believed to reduce prejudice and tension. Yet the evidence also shows that the situation may even worsen according to different conditions. But the argument also points out that only individual but not group level is able to operate. However, it's still obvious that cross-group contact is an indispensable element. On the basis of the latest statistics, there are 8,534 Indonesian students seeking degrees in Taiwan's universities,³ including Chinese and native Indonesians (also known as "pribumi".) Under this circumstance, these two groups ought to have more chances to contact with each other in the campuses or school occasions than they were in Indonesia. This study tries to examine the relation between pribumi and Chinese Indonesians studying in Taiwan in order to understand how their contact experience is and impressions to each other. The survey will be conducted by a questionnaire -compiled by Mustapha, Azman, Karim, Ahmad, and Lubis.⁴ This paper will conduct a preliminary analysis of the survey data in order to evaluate the contact theory proposed by previous scholars.

Keywords: *ethnic minority, ethnic relation, intergroup contact*

¹ Coppel, Charles, A. 2017. "Reassessing Assumptions about Chinese Indonesians". <https://indonesiaatmelbourne.unimelb.edu.au/reassessing-assumptions-about-chinese-indonesians/>

² Pettigrew, T. F., Tropp, L. R., Wagner, U., & Christ, O. (2011). Recent advances in intergroup contact theory. *International journal of intercultural relations*, 35(3), 271-280.

³ Source: The Ministry of Education, Taiwan

⁴ Mustapha, R., Azman, N., Karim, F., Ahmad, A. R., & Lubis, M. A. (2009). A Survey of Social Interaction among Diverse Students in Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions. *International Journal of Learner Diversity*, 1, 93-112.

Multiple Intelligence Strategies: Developing Reading Comprehension Skills among Junior High School Learners

Floreibel C. Gultiano

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Multiple Intelligences has become an essential aspect of creating a difference in the levels of reading comprehension. This was anchored on the theory of Howard Gardner on his Multiple Intelligence which examined its effectiveness in the improvement of reading comprehension skills of the learners. This investigated the following: Profiles of the respondents in terms of: gender, age, parent's occupation and, reading materials available at home; Specific intelligences most of the respondents' exhibit; Reading comprehension proficiency level of the learners before and after the intervention; Significant difference in reading comprehension skills before and after the intervention; and Enhanced Multiple Intelligences intervention strategies to improve the reading comprehension skills. This study used the pretest- posttest design with descriptive qualitative and quantitative data gathering procedure to 293 Grade 9 Junior High School students from Bukidnon National High School.

Findings reveal that most of the respondents exhibit musical, bodily kinesthetic and verbal linguistic intelligences. The reading comprehension proficiency level of the respondents during the conduct of the pretest belongs to frustration level. After the intervention, most of the reading skills were on the independent level. It obviously denotes that with the teachers have a vital role in the selection of the activities in improving the reading level proficiency of the students. Careful planning and determining the weaknesses of the learners will help develop the learner's' capacity to do more and increase their reading level proficiency. Thus, the use of MI strategies helped the learner in the improvement of their reading level proficiency.

Keywords: *Multiple Intelligence, Reading Proficiency, Intervention, Reading Comprehension Skills*

Trend of Vietnamese migrants in Japan and Vietnam

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According to the latest census by the Immigration Bureau of Japan, the number of foreign residents in Japan as of the end of 2020 was about 2.88 million, a decrease of about 46 thousand from the end of 2019. However, in the top 10 foreign groups, only the number of Vietnamese was increased (up about 36 thousand (8.8%)), and Vietnamese became the second major one. Recent surveys and research focusing on Vietnamese have been conducted since around 2015. These previous research are for each region in Japan and does not look over the national trend.

Moreover, the social science field especially in law, sociology, and economics has been the center of immigration research in Japan. The main themes are:

- + Law: protecting the human rights of immigrants
- + Sociology: elucidating the actual conditions of workers' employment and daily life
- + Economics: analysis of labour supply and demand

Therefore, we consider that the novelty of this research is to analyse quantitatively the issues that have been dealt with mainly in the humanities and social sciences using GIS (Geographic Information System) from the national level macro view.

Through this research, we ultimately aim to clarify the backgrounds and purposes of foreign residents in Japan for contributing to better multicultural symbiosis policies of the national and local Japanese governments. For this, we analyzed prefectural and chronological residence status of the top 5 major foreign groups in Japan, and the domestic migration flow of Vietnamese in Vietnam with using Natural Breaks (Jenks) on GIS.

Keywords: *Migration, Labour Export, Japan, Vietnam*

Kashmir and Palestine: Parallel Situations or Contrasting Fates?

Leoni Connah

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UK

For decades, the situations in Kashmir and Palestine have often been compared and contrasted. The purpose of this paper is to explore the parallels that may be drawn from the situations in Kashmir and Palestine, two conflicts that are in separate parts of the world. It will discuss some of the themes that emerge when discussing the two conflict zones, in order to determine if they are similar and “removed only by continents” (Zia, 2020: 357), or if they are in fact two unique situations that can only be compared in a broad context. Comparing the two situations is essential to try to understand what the future holds for both Kashmiris and Palestinians. Further, by comparing the two conflicts, we can assess possible pathways to peace.

Keywords: *Kashmir, Palestine, Colonialism, Human Rights.*

Insurtech: Challenges and Opportunities for Insurance industry from Vietnam case study

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The pandemic and the 4th industrial revolution have unintentionally created many opportunities for development as well as big challenges for the insurance industry which is based on statistics and data analytics with strict regulatory bodies and compliance standards. Insurtech - a combination of the words “insurance” and “technology,” has increasingly become a popular term and is re-shaping the insurance industry. InsurTech has been taken a considerable part in increasing investment trends in recent times with a total fund of over 24 billion USD during 2010 – 2020 (Insurtech global Outlook). In that context, existing insurances companies need to find a reasonable strategy to take the opportunities which are expected to help them to improve the efficiency of operation and management. The question is how the insurance industry, particularly the insurance companies have reacted to the difficulties and ensure corporate profit, sustainable growth while still protect customer’s right.

The research, by providing a practical perspective of InsurTech with a review of the potential or importance of new technologies to the core value of insurance, figures out the business trend that need to comply with the policy and regulatory framework. The research question will particular be carried out from the Vietnam case study where the insurance market has rapid growth and also has strong financial technology development in Asia.

Keywords: *Insurtech, the pandemic, insurance company, 4.0, regulatory framework*

Political Warfare Involving Active Measures Using Propaganda and Disinformation on Papuan Conflict by Non-State Actors Against Indonesia

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The escalate of conflict in Papua has intensified due to destabilization effort carried out by the TPNPB. Non state actor's such as Veronica Koman and Benny Wenda also polarized the escalation of the conflict with provocative content and discredited the Indonesian Government through propaganda and disinformation activities. Those phenomenon indica1, the existence of political warfare actions involving active measures through massively offensive and systematic efforts using disinformation, propaganda, deception and destabilization in the Papuan conflict against the Indonesian Government. This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive analysis approach that aims to reveal the alleged existence of active measures by using propaganda and disinformation on the Papuan conflict by non-state actors who threaten national interest of the Republic of Indonesia. Data collection was obtained through interview techniques, social media observations and literature study. The results of the study reveal that the political war involving active measures carried out systematically proves the intervention of foreign parties to attack the Indonesian Government with the aim of creating domestic political destabilization and decaying of the image of the Indonesian nation in order to threaten the sovereignty and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

Keywords: *Active Measures, Propaganda, Disinformation, Non-State Actor*

Understating Cultural Landscapes of ancient cities of Angkor: Text and Context

Prof. Ujjwala Khot- Palsuley

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Cultural beliefs have played a vital role in developing habitat. Ancient cities worldwide demonstrate the places of cultural importance developed as the city centers and settlements forming around it.

Various patterns of development have been demonstrated in accordance with the religious beliefs of the region, e.g., city of Uruk (3300BC), City of Varanasi (2000BC), City of Madurai (350 BC), Vatican City (40 AD), etc. where the city center is formed by a ziggurat, temple or a Church. Historical cities demonstrate various planning principals wherein the socio-cultural structures became the focal point of the city. In this process, the landscape of the place along with the cultural beliefs played a vital role in shaping the city. In India, temples were not only religious centers but also served as a social- administrative centers in the past. These temples have always played a major role in shaping up the cities leading to the typology of “Temple towns”.

History of Southeast Asia exhibits the Indian influence evidently, wherein the cities developed with specific planning principles using the landscape within a specific context. The impact of “Indianization”¹ has led to the city planning guided by the belief systems of the region.

This research paper focuses on the planning principles of Cities of Khmer civilization using the example of cities in the Angkor region. The evolution of cities started from 5th AD and reached its peak in 13th C AD with Angkor Thom in Cambodia. Various cities conceptualized and established by Khmer kings had specific planning principals and a belief system to strengthen their existence. These capital cities have played a vital role in manifesting the architecture with the help of the location of the site, the context which they selected to construct the capital, and the location of temples within the cities, etc which is highly influenced by the Indian Philosophy. This paper is an attempt to get an insight into these planning principles used to conceptualize the ancient cities of Angkor and their manifestation in the architecture.

Keywords: *City centers, planning principles, temple cities, Philosophies, Manifestation*

COVID 19 and Its Implications on International Trade Relations and Global Legal Order

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The COVID -19 pandemic becomes a worldwide fitness crisis and revolutionized the manner we had long gone approximately engaging in our lives. The governments of various countries undertook numerous measures that allow to control virus from spreading, consisting of declaration of lockdown and maintaining social distance, making using longer most effective been declared as project that humanity has ever faced since the second world war. Ultimately, its evolution into a worldwide crisis not solely non-contiguous the economy however additional modified a nation's perceptions of the world order. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic rakes basics problems such as how the pandemic will influence the international order in the future, how the pandemic might reshape the world order, which in turn will affect the prospects for international cooperation. The main research objective is to examine the international impact of COVID-19 in legal order and trade affairs. In addition, the impact of the pandemic on Asian nations will be discussed in relation to the Sri Lankan situation. This highlights some of the identified and perceived impact of the COVID-19 crisis on development aspect interconnected with the international trade sector, with a particular emphasis on the impact on the production and trade of different products. It proposes a series of recommendations as a basis for policy development in the aftermath of crisis and highlights potential opportunities to leverage the progress achieved so far, to ensure that decades of advances are not reversed. This article is important because it provides researchers, policymakers, and academics, as well as development practitioners and students, with further knowledge on the paradigm for policymaking, decision-making, and future research. Reports from the United Nations served as guidance for the study. Secondary data was gathered through reviewing relevant publications on the internet, such as papers, theses, conference presentations, and other documents. The materials were discovered using a combination of keyword and phrase searches related to the issue.

Keywords: *covid 19, pandemic, international, legal order, local*

**Repeating Ineffectiveness:
The Strategy of Eradicating Bribery in The Jokowi Administration**

Dr. Sri Yunanto

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Bribery has been rampant in Indonesia since the kingdom and colonial time. It has become severe impediments to implementing good governance, especially in promoting satisfactory public services. From the Old Order era to the reformation era, the Indonesian government has adopted various strategies to combat bribery. Some of them have inserted the system of eradicating bribery in eradicating corruption. This study aims to analyse the Jokowi administration's approach to eliminating the prevalence of bribery mainly coordinated by Satgas Saber Pungli (The Bribery Eradication Task Force). It employs qualitative method with data collected from primary resources such documents, news and interview and secondary resources. Using the principal-agent theoretical framework, this study concludes that Jokowi's strategy in combating bribery is ineffective. It repeats the ineffectiveness of the Indonesian government before Jokowi and is similar to that of Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria.

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ⁱ Prof Georges Coedès, (1886- 1969), a scholar of South-East Asian Archaeology and History, who defined it as ‘the expansion of an organized culture’