

SCHOLARSHIP  
ADVANCEMENT  
PROGRAMME  
**SAP 2022**



*CONTINUITIES IN  
TIME OF CHANGE*

Department of  
Political Science

13 Sep 2022

Tuesday, 13 September 2022  
 Al-Tabari, AHAS KIRKHS, International Islamic University Malaysia

10.00 – 10.20 am

**Remarks:**

Prof. Dr. Shukran Abd Rahman  
 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haslina Ibrahim  
 Dr. Ainul Azmin Md. Zamin  
 Dr. Rohana Abdul Hamid

Panel 1: Education and Sustainability  
 10.20 – 11.40 am



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Danial Yusof

**The National Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism in Malaysia (NAPPCVE 2022-2025): Opportunities for Peace Education and Engagement of Communities at Risk**

On 1 July 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus, resolution (A/RES/70/291) on the Fifth Review of Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reinforcing global consensus in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. On 15 November 2020, 11th ASEAN-UN Summit, Malaysia expressed commitment towards a Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism. Following this, the development of a national plan of action (NAPPCVE) began with collaboration between the Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Institute of Public Security Malaysia (IPSOM) and researchers from various public universities in Malaysia. The plan is to provide renewed strategic impetus to the realm of security and public safety in Malaysia, drawing from contemporary approaches of securitization and resilience of society. Now awaiting its launch after the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the plan covers four thrust areas i.e., reinforcement or nation-building, intervention, enforcement: and rehabilitation and reintegration. This paper will focus on the reinforcement/nation-building and intervention thrusts of the plan which leverages on the all-of-society approach of peacebuilding in an age of violent extremism (VE) and its manifestations. The thrusts cover concerns for general society as well as communities at risk - incorporating strategic focus of civic education and nation-building; knowledge and civility of family, youth, and society; religious values in peacebuilding and PCVE; increasing awareness and intervention of vulnerable communities and individuals; and strategic synergy and collaboration of authorities and stakeholders including civil society

organizations (CSOs) of the new eco-system. The paper will also suggest the complexity of education for sustainable development (ESD) for PCVE of different locations in Malaysia e.g., Selangor, Kelantan, and Sabah, for example, to create effective narratives, programme content, and monitoring and evaluation for the sustainability of the NAPPCVE itself.



Dr. Amelia Yuliana Abd Wahab

### **An Ideal Halal Food Ecosystem: Towards Sustainable Internationalization of Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia**

Internationalization of higher education has become a strategic agenda of the development in Malaysia. In the age of globalization, higher education sector experiences rapid growth with the increasing number of international students choosing Malaysia as a destination in pursuing their tertiary education. One of the crucial roles for Malaysian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is to successfully transform Malaysia to be the international hub for higher education. However, Covid -19 Pandemic has changed the landscape of higher education not only in Malaysia, but globally. One of the strategies to maintain the sustainable internationalization of higher education in Malaysia is using the societal backdrop of a Muslim Friendly environment.



Dr. Zahid Zamri

### **Continuities in Times of Change: Islamization of Human Knowledge amongst the AHAS KIRKHS' Academics during the Sejahtera Academic Framework Period**

Islamization of Human Knowledge (IoHK) has been the philosophical foundation of the International Islamic University Malaysia since its inception. However, the advent of the Sejahtera Academic Framework requires the revision of the University's philosophy. The study attempts to look at how the proponents of Islamization of Human Knowledge, particularly amongst the academics of the AbdulHamid AbuSulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, coped with the theoretical revisions that are happening at the University. Data are collected through intensive interviews with these academics and from documents related to them. Grounded theory is deployed as the research methodology. The study focuses on the academic activities and the revisionist discourse conducted by these IoHK proponents as well as on matters related to the privacy of thoughts of these academic-intellectuals. The study found that the IoHK agenda continues to flourish albeit in/through new "forms" of academic exercises and activities as carried out by the IoHK espousers during the revision period.



Dr. Normala Adnan

### **Punctuation Of Equilibrium in Malaysia's Higher Education Digital Transformation and The Way Forward**

Digital transformation in higher education around the world is currently facing a variety of challenges and pressures for change that are greater than ever before. These multiple challenges and forces, if strong enough, could disrupt the current equilibrium. This paper examines the digital transformation of Malaysian higher education in dealing with a prominent force of change, namely the Covid 19 pandemic's disruption of innovation. This force has undeniably diverted Malaysian higher education from its previous equilibrium path, thus providing the opportunity for meaningful change to take place. The analysis is done by using a path dependency framework. The framework explores the state of higher education transformation before Covid-19 and the implications of punctuation of equilibrium which includes its present pending condition. The objective is to uncover the reality of digital transformation as framed in the Malaysian Education Blue Print 2015-2025(MEB) and the way higher education institutions are realizing it. The focal point of the analysis is on the outcomes and enablers to produce learned values-driven talent in terms of higher education quality and efficiency as stated in the MEB. Based on the trends, possible pathways are identified to serve as the way forward for Malaysia's higher education. It is assumed that digital transformation in Malaysian higher education in the face of punctuation is sticky, but this does not mean it affects all Malaysian higher education institutions equally.

**Panel 2: Disruption in Governance and Politics**  
 11.40 am – 1.00 pm



Dr. Lee Pei May

**The Renegotiation of the East Coast Rail Link**

China has accelerated its 'going out' strategy with massive funding and excessive workforce since 2013 under President Xi Jinping's One Belt One Road (OBOR) before renaming it as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2015. In this paper, we look at China's going out strategy using infrastructure diplomacy to build railways in Malaysia. This paper aims to explain this puzzle: who are the main actors and how they influence each other during the negotiation process. Specifically, we are examining the renegotiation process from a Malaysian perspective. To answer this part of the puzzle, we engage with Actor Network Theory (ANT) and state capitalism which can explain the interactions between different actors (including the relations between state and businesses) and how that has led to the outcome of the renegotiation. Elite interviews were conducted during the years 2021 and 2022. Secondary sources were derived from South China Morning Post, China Daily, and local newspapers such as The Star and Berita Harian. Other sources include books, journal articles and relevant organisations' websites.



Dr. Norhaslinda Jamaiudin

**Addressing Multidimensional Child Poverty in Malaysia: Are We Doing enough?**

This research paper examines multidimensional poverty among children living in low-income and poor households in Malaysia. Over the years, policymakers have shown increased attention towards the issue of child poverty. However, in spite of being included in numerous policy agendas, the most pressing areas of child deprivation are not sufficiently addressed. Children are exposed to multidimensional poverty and deprived in many aspects including limited access to education, healthcare, basic communication, nutritious food, proper shelter, supply of clean water and sanitation. This paper argues that the current measures battling child poverty are essentially inadequate. Decelerated policy development, low public expenditure and policy gaps have resulted in persistent deprivation across a wide range of child rights domains. These issues have focused the study towards assessing the policy problem from the perspective of policy actors. Through the garbage-can model, the study seeks to examine the expectations of policy actors in addressing child poverty and its importance as an issue



of concern for policy. This paper proposes a garbage-can model to understand the breadth and the depth of the policy problem from a policy making perspective.

### **Social Media Use by Young Political Representative: An Empirical Analysis of Instagram**



Dr. Rohana Abdul Hamid

Social media such as Instagram can create potentials for direct connections between political representatives and citizens. This is not a surprise as political representatives are seen as the mediators between them and the government. The study focuses on the use of Instagram by two young political representatives from Parti Ikatan Demokratik Malaysia (MUDA). Instagram is perceived as an equalizing force for young political representatives to engage with potential voters. Therefore, this paper will address two research questions. The first research question will investigate the extent Instagram is employed by the political representatives to interact with public in terms of the issue representation. Further, this paper will examine how political representatives use the Instagram as a platform to form an opinion by posting on non-mainstream or alternative issues. Last but not least, this paper also will also compare the popularity of the personalized posts and political posts. For this purpose, the researcher will be using two indicators: likes and comments.



Dr. Rabi'ah Aminudin

### **Malaysian Women Political Representation in State Elections During Covid-19**

Malaysia is categorized as middle high-income country by the World Bank and is expected to transition into a high-income economy between 2024-2028. Despite the commendable economic growth, Malaysia is still lagging in terms of women political representation. Malaysia slips away in Global Gender Gap Index's ranking in 2021 at 112th out of 156 countries measured. In 2020, Malaysia was at the 104th out of 153 countries. Despite scoring well in two out of four indicators used (educational attainment and health survival), Malaysia still falls behind for economic participation and opportunity (at 97th) and political empowerment (at 117th). According to the statistics produced by the Department of Statistics Malaysia, women representation in parliament is only at 10.8% which is lower than the global average of 21.8% and regional average of 18.4%. There have been various factors that hamper women's active participation in politics such as socio-cultural values, public perception, and economic constraints. One of the most critical institutions that influences

women's political participation is political parties and the state that act as gatekeepers to the democratic process in society. In 2020, Malaysian women's political representation was met with further challenges as the country faced triple-fold crises namely, health, political, and economic crisis. This paper seeks to analyse the representations of women in the state elections that occurred during COVID-19 by using data on political parties' selection of state electoral candidates and women representation in the state legislative assemblies. This research extends to the growing studies on female political representation in political institutions during COVID-19 pandemic.

### Lunch break

1.00 – 2.00 pm

### Panel 3: Islam and Continued Hegemony

2.00 – 3.00 pm



Dr. Syaza Shukri

#### Evolving Visions of Paradise: How Mahathir Mohamad used Islam

Mahathir Mohamad is Malaysia's longest-serving and only twice-elected prime minister. As a skilled politician, he comprehends the needs of the public. Since the 1970s, when he became the education minister, even though he is primarily a Malay nationalist, Mahathir has always injected Islam into his politics. In a semi-democratic Malaysia, the leader employs Islam deftly to justify his policies and win the public's support. According to Mahathir, a good Muslim is one who prioritises hard work in this world in parallel with spirituality; his emphasis on the mundane distinguishes him from other Islamists in Malaysia. Although various books and articles have been written about Mahathir's Islamization agenda, this study examines his political career from 1964 to the third decade of the twenty-first century by looking specifically at Mahathir's use of Islam especially as part of a larger populist strategy. This paper contends that Mahathir's various priorities, including Malay nationalism, economic liberalism, worldwide champion of Islam, and anti-establishment populism, are all tied to his use of Islam to incite the public to construct the Malay society he envisioned.



Dr. Lau Zhe Wei

### The Impact of Islamic Law and Islamic Public Policy on Chinese community

The Chinese community finds it difficult to differentiate between Islamic law and Islamic public policy. These terms are coined unconventionally by the researcher to show that while Islamic law is discriminatory, the execution of public policy based on Islamic teaching cut across the involved jurisdiction. This paper argues on how Islamic law will have no direct impact on the Chinese community from the legal perspective while it is the implementation of Islamic public policy which lies on the pleasure of the authorities that affects the Chinese community. Apart from that, this paper also intends to explore on how it is political unlikely for the status quo on Islamic law and Islamic public policy to be changed. By employing virtual mode of participant observation through live events, this two-way communication occurs not only with the elite panelists, but also from the comments left of the viewers. It covered most of the media platform that organised live talk virtually.

**Discussion on next steps**

3.00 pm