

MASSA 2023 FINAL PROGRAM

The Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia (MASSA) Symposium 2023
'Who Are You, Malaysia? Representations of Malaysia's Past, Present and Future after 60 Years of Nationhood.'
Friday and Saturday, 7 and 8 July 2023
New Era University College, Kajang.

LEGEND: **DAY 1**. **DAY 2**. Panel Chair.

DAY 1 FRIDAY, 7 JULY 2023

TIME	EVENT & VENUE	PRESENTER(S)	PAPER TITLE
7.30 AM	NG AH CHOO MULTIPURPOSE HALL FOYER – Registration		
8.30 AM – 8.50 AM	Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall	Jason Ng (MASSA 2023 Convenor) to open; Yeow-Tong Chia (MASSA President) to welcome.	Welcome Remarks & Information on Conference.
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	PANEL 1 (Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall) Institutional Reforms	Maha Balakrishnan	Dewan Rakyat in Democratisation: How Our Past Informs Our Future.
		Wong Chin Huat	From Party-Hopping to Party-based Government: Malaysia's Bumpy Journey in Strengthening Multiparty Democracy.
		Sri Murniati Yusuf	Advocating for Greater Budget Transparency, Oversight and Public Participation in Malaysia: Identifying Future Areas of Advocacy.
		Thomas Fann	BERSIH - Taking the Fight for Institutional Reforms From the Street to Parliament.
		Jason Ng Sze Chieh	Panel Chair.
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	PANEL 2 (B 202) Identity, Ideology and Regime	Thomas Pepinsky	Confederalism and the Politics of Ethnicity in Contemporary Malaysia.
		Ratna Rueban Balasubramaniam	The Malaysian Social Contract as Ideology.
		Diego Fossati	The Meaning of Democracy in Malaysia.

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		James Chin	Panel Chair
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	PANEL 3 (B 203) Multiple Faces of Islamisation in Malaysia (1)	Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid & Che Hamdan Che Mohd Razali.	Doctrinal differences among distinct Islamist strands of thought and their influence on Malay-Muslim political behaviour.
		Azmil Tayeb	Islamism Manifest or Simply a Flash in the Pan? Making Sense of the Green Wave in GE15.
		Teo Ann Siang	The Role of Islamic NGOs in GE15: ABIM and IKRAM.
		Hew Wai Weng & Nicholas Chan	The Long Afterlives of Mat Kilau: Pop Culture and the Mainstreaming of Malay Muslim Majoritarianism.
		Hew Wai Weng	Panel Chair
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	PANEL 4 (B 205) Malaysia's GE15 – The Aftermath.	Walid Jumblatt Abdullah	2018 and 2022 Malaysia's General Elections: Two Sides of the Same Coin.
		Bridget Welsh	Understanding Elections in Malaysia: Lessons from GE15.
		Arnold Puyok	Emergence of Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) and Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS): Regional Power Blocs in the Making?
		William Case	What's Next for UMNO? Coping With Loss.
		Yeow-Tong Chia	Panel Chair
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	PANEL 5 (B 206) Being 'Other': The place of and for marginalised identities and	Nithiya Guna Saigaran	Marginalised Indian Population: Some Critical Insights from Fieldwork.
		Nadira Illana	Channelling the Void: Bringing Borneo's Oral Traditions Back to Consciousness.
		Khoo Ying Hooi	The Marginalisation – Human Rights Nexus in Malaysia.

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	communities in Malaysia's complex histories, present and future	Aslam Abd Jalil	Refugees as the Other: is Malaysia Home?
		Gerhard Hoffstaedter	Panel Chair
10.30 – 10.50 AM	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
11.00 AM – 12.00 PM	Keynote 1 (Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall) ¹	Professor Francis Loh	Trends in Malaysian Studies from the 1970s to the 2020s: Changes and Continuities
12.00 PM – 12.20 PM	Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall	Conference Photo Session	
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM	LUNCH & FRIDAY PRAYERS		
1.30 PM – 2.30 PM	Keynote 2² (Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall)	Professor Sharifah Munirah Alatas	Teaching and Learning in Times of Chaos: Reflections on University Reform in Malaysia
2.30 PM – 4.00 PM	PANEL 6 (Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall) Climate and Environmental Challenges.	Sharon Seah	Malaysia's Climate Ambition and Obstacles to Decarbonisation.
		Tom Özden-Schilling	Foreign Investment and Natural Resource Politics in Malaysia (the case of Lynas).
		Helena Varkkey, Felicia Liu & Thomas Smith	Seasons of the Anthropocene: Politicisation of Haze Season in Southeast Asia.
		Lye Tuck Po	Discussant

¹ Keynote address: 20 – 30 minute presentation, followed by 30 – 40 minute Q&A/discussion. MASSA 2023 Convenor to introduce and facilitate Q&A.

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		Helena Varkkey	Panel Chair
2.30 PM – 4.00 PM	PANEL 7 (B 202) Reflection on Covid-19 in Malaysia: Impact on Communities	Bridget Welsh	Suffering and Survival in Malaysia's COVID-19 Pandemic.
		Janice Nga	Youth and COVID-19 in Malaysia: The Case of Sabah.
		Aslam Abd Jalil	The COVID-19 Responses Towards Migrants in Malaysia: Reflections and Recommendations.
		Lee Min Hui	Women and COVID-19 in Malaysia
		Shamuni A/P Kunjiapu	Panel Chair
2.30 PM – 4.00 PM	PANEL 8 (B 203) Multiple Faces of Islamisation in Malaysia (2)	Aziff Azuddin	Islamism and the Reshaping of Urban Spaces
		Dina Zaman	Against Wahhabism: Tanjak and the Resurgence of Malay Islamic Cultural Identity
		Sumit Mandal	Charting a Malay-Islamic Past: An Emerging Transnational Geography of Meaning and the Consolidation of an Exclusivist Identity in Malaysia.
		Nurhuda Ramli.	Mainstreaming Ideal Muslimah: How Female Islamists Shape Religious Discourse on Gender Rights
		Hew Wai Weng	Panel Chair
2.30 PM – 4.00 PM	PANEL 9 (B 205) The Malaysian Economy	Tham Siew Yean	Deindustrialization and Reindustrialization: Rebuilding and Retooling Industrial Development in Malaysia.
		Evelyn Devadason	Rethinking Trade Policy and Trade Priorities in Malaysia.
		Shankaran Nambiar	Malaysia's Economic Engagement with China
		Firdausi Suffian	Sabah's economic development, decentralisation and party hopping in a

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			centralised federation.
		Alexander Tay Guan Meng	Panel Chair
2.30 PM – 4.00 PM	PANEL 10 (B 206) Discourse, Culture and Human Rights	Ho Ying Chan	Between Ethnic Supremacy and Cultural Diversity – Bangsa Malaysia as Malaysians' National Identity.
		Aliye Nur Kelesoglu & Khoo Ying Hooi	Challenging Ethnonationalism and Embracing Diversity: A Critical Discourse Analysis of ABIM, IKRAM, and Anwar Ibrahim's Malaysia Madani.
		Sheila Devi Michael & Choong Pui Yee	Human Rights Development in Malaysia Since Independence
		Kerstin Steiner	Personal Laws: Reconciling Islam and Human Rights in Malaysia?
		Kerstin Steiner	Panel Chair
4.00 PM – 4 .20 PM	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
4.30 - 6.00 PM	Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall	Kerstein Steiner	Early Career Research Workshop
6.00 - 8.00 PM	SYMPOSIUM DINNER Restaurant Fei Chui	Vice Chancellor of New Era University College, Professor Mok Soon Chong	Welcome remarks.

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DAY 2, SATURDAY, 8 JULY 2023

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7.30 AM	NG AH CHOO MULTIPURPOSE HALL FOYER - Registration		
8.30 AM – 9.30 AM	Welcome (Day 2)	Jason Ng (MASSA 2023 Convenor) to welcome.	
	Keynote 3³ (Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall)	Professor James Chin	The Rise of East Malaysia
9.30 AM – 10.00 AM	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
10.00 AM – 11.30 AM	PANEL 11 (Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall) The Political Economy of Malaysia	Edmund Terence Gomez	Resisting Reforms: GLCs, Patronage and Power Consolidation.
		Pushpan Murugiah	Political patronage and consolidation of power through The Federal Land Commissioner (FLC) and land ownership.
		Teck Chi Wong	The Rise of GLICs and GLCs in Malaysia: A State Financialisation Perspective.
		Kerstin Steiner	Panel Chair
10.00 AM – 11.30 AM	PANEL 12 (B 202) Roundtable on Singapore's External Relations	Chong Ja-lan	TBC
		Walid Jumblatt Abdullah	TBC
		David Han	TBC
		Stephanie Kam	TBC

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		Chong Ja-lan	Roundtable Chair
10.00 AM – 11.30 AM	PANEL 13 (B 203): Perang Dingin Di Malaysia: Sejarah, Hubungan Etnik Dan Propaganda.	Ho Hui Ling	Risalah Sebagai Instrumen Kerajaan Dalam Memerangi Ancaman Komunis di Tanah Melayu Pada Zaman Darurat, 1948-1960
		Ruhana Padzil	Memori dan Pengalaman Aktivistik Politik Radikal Regimen 10, 1947-1989
		Lua Zyn Lan	Perkembangan Gerakan Kutub Khanah Di Malaysia (Persekutuan Tanah Melayu)
		Ho Kee Chye	Pandangan dan Tindak Balas Parti Komunis Malaya terhadap Isu Etnik di Malaysia semasa Perang Dingin: Kajian Skrip Radio "Suara Revolusi Malaya", 1969-1981.
		Wilbert Wong	Pengerusi Panel
10.00 AM – 11.30 AM	PANEL 14 (B 205) Ecosystems of Hate? Social Media and the Mainstreaming of Intolerance in Malaysia	Nicholas Chan & Hew Wai Weng	Manufacturing Hate: Social Media and Right-Wing Majoritarian Activism in Malaysia.
		Ooi Kok Hin & Caleb Goh	Manufacturing Polemics: Right-Wing Discourse, Cybertroopers, & Black Ops
		Syaza Shukri	Three Decades of Digital Authoritarianism in Malaysia: The Government's Role in Polarizing Society
		Wan Rohila Ganti, Aini Fatimah Roslam, Mohamad Shafiq Sulaiman	The TikTok Election: Fake News, Parody, and Slandorous Remarks, and How They Impacted First-time Youth Voters
		Nicholas Chan	Panel Chair
10.00 AM – 11.30 AM	PANEL 15 (B 206)	Cui Yii	Cultural identity as an expression of Chinese community: The modern ink painting of Malaysian artists

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	Culture & Identity	Sarena Abdullah	The Changing Malaysian Landscapes: From Western Representations to Malaysian Renditions.
		Wai Liang Tham	The Making of Malay(si)ans: Life-writing and Memory Work in Two Postwar Texts.
		Lee Yun Seh	Mapping the influences of the PRC and Taiwan in Kuching: Who are the local Chinese?
		Wong Yee Tuan	Panel Chair
11.30 AM – 12.30 PM	Private Meetings & Networking Sessions		
12.30 - 2.00 PM	LUNCH		
2.00 - 3.30 PM	PANEL 16 (Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall) Competing Histories	Jason Ng Sze Chieh	The Malaysian Communist Insurgency: Beyond A Conflict of Resistance.
		Amrita Malhi	The New Social History of the Malayan Emergency, 1948-60: Future Directions Beyond "Hearts and Minds".
		Wilbert Wong & Anthony Milner	Creating Malaysia – Colonialism and the History Wars.
		Kok Yin Chu & Yeow-Tong Chia	A Historical Review of the Official Chinese Cultural Promotions in Singapore within the 1980s and its Implications to Malaysia
		Diana Wong Ing Boh	Panel Chair
2.00 - 3.30 PM	PANEL 17 (B 202) 《谈马来西亚的国族建构》 On Malaysia's National	安焕然 Onn Huann Jan	《论马华文化与国族建构》 (On Malaysian Chinese Culture and National Construction)
		伍燕翎 Ng Yean Leng	《中华文化作为企业文化核心价值的承传——兼谈新冠疫情后马来西亚华

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	Construction		人家族企业的再创新》(Inheritance of Chinese Culture as the Core Value of Corporate Culture——Contemporary Discussion on the Re-Innovation of Malaysian Chinese Family Businesses after the COVID-19 Pandemic)
		鍾大榮 Zhong Darong	《马六甲勇全殿成功申遗与中马文化相似性》(Melaka Yong Chuan Tian Temple's Successful Application for Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO and the Cultural Similarity Between China and Malaysia)
		黃大志 Wong Tai-Chee	《低无技术外劳与中等收入陷阱》(Low and Poor Skilled Foreign Workforce and the Middle Income Trap)
		廖筱紋 Lew Siew Boon	Panel Chair
2.00 - 3.30 PM	PANEL 18 (B 203)	Kumaran Rajandran	Politics in Malaysia: Research Trends in Discourse Studies
	From the Periphery to the Centre?	Rohana Ariffin & Rachel Samuel	Women and the Political Culture of Malaysia
		Nicole Sim	Under the Clutches of Conflict Zones: A Comprehensive Comparison Between Foreign Correspondents and Citizen Journalists in Malaysia
		Faris Ridzuan	Transcending Cultural Identities Towards Building a Plural Masyarakat Through "Eclectic Inclusivism": Drawing from Progressive, Inclusive and Humanistic Traditions and Multicultural Resources.
		Walid Jumblatt Abdullah	Panel Chair
2.00 - 3.30 PM	PANEL 19 (B 205)	Sin Yee Koh	The Right to have rights: Crisis Experiences of Existing and Aspiring Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Migrants,
	Crisis and Resistance	Alicia Izharuddin	Trans-motherhood on the edge: Competing necro and biopolitics in the lives of transgender mothers
		Andrine Ong	Does language matter in mental health? A corpus-assisted discourse

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			analysis of mental health in the newspapers and public forum in Malaysia
		Charity Lee Chin Ai	#KitaJagaKita: (De)legitimising the Government During the 2020 Movement Control Order.
		Voon Phin Keong	Panel Chair
2.00 - 3.30 PM	PANEL 20 (B 206) Affirmative Action in Malaysia	Hidekuni Washida	State Dependency and Support for Political Reform: Evidence from Malaysia
		Lee Hwok Aun	Polarised Deadlock and Misguided Consensus: Why NEP Debates Get Nowhere.
		Muhamad M.N. Nadzri	The State of Malaysia's New Economic Policy after the Fall of a Dominant Party: Contestation, Change and Continuity.
		Edward Foo Loke Min	Panel Chair
3.30 - 3.50 PM	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
4.00 - 5.30 PM	Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall	Chair: Helen Ting. Hew Wai Weng. Siti Rahayu Baharin. Syahredzan Johan. Wan Ahmad Fayshal Wan Ahmad Kamal.	ROUNDTABLE: Youth and Identity Politics in Malaysia.
5.30 PM	Ng Ah Choo Multipurpose Hall	Yeow-Tong Chia Dr Steven Barraclough,	VOTE OF THANKS by MASSA President Closing Speech

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		Visiting Australian Senior Official, Australian High Commission to Malaysia	