Foreword

Welcome to the First Issue 2018 of the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (JSSH)!

JSSH is an open-access journal for the Social Sciences and Humanities that is published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide social science community.

This issue contains 35 articles, of which three are review articles, one is a short communication and 31 are regular research articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, Malaysia, Pakistan, Netherlands, Russia, Nigeria, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Japan, South Africa, the Czech Republic and Iran.

The first review article in this issue discusses the influence of religiosity on safety behaviour of workers through a proposed framework (Mahmud, M. and Yusof, S. M.) while the second is on common issues and challenges of breast cancer awareness in Malaysia, focused on the contemporary scenario (Mohamed Samsudeen Sajahan and Azizah Omar). The last review is a narrative review article that discusses psychological and social factors of depression recovery (Jin Kuan Kok, Kai-Shuen Pheh and Gaik Lan Hor). The short communication in this issue reports briefly on tourists with dementia, a condition that poses a unique challenge for the tourism industry (Blanka Klímová).

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics. The first is on factors influencing juveniles’ perception of the police in Karachi, Pakistan (Abdullah Khoso, Pasand Ali Khoso and Ghulam Mujtab Khushk). The following articles look at: the resistance of local wisdom towards radicalism in a study of the Tarekat community of West Sumatra, Indonesia (Welhendri Azwar); the identification of the gender of the author of a written text using topic-independent features (Tatiana Litvinova, Pavel Seredin, Olga Litvinova and Olga Zagorovskaya); the characteristics of entrepreneurs with successful and sustainable small businesses in northeastern Thailand (Nath Amornpinyo); debunking the myth of money as a motivator in a multigenerational workforce (Lee Su Teng, Sharmila Jayasingam and Khairuddin Naim Mohd Zain); the effect of self-transcription and expert scaffolding on the accuracy of the oral production of EFL learners (Shirin Abadikhah and Masoome Valipour); recent challenges for the enforcement of wildlife laws in east Malaysia (Mariani Ariffin); smartphone usage capabilities among younger and elderly users (Raywadee Sakdulyatham, Somjaree Preeyanont, Rajalida Lipikorn and Rewadee Watakakosol); students’ perspective on the impact of English teacher development programmes on teaching quality in Indonesia (Azkiyah, S. N., Doolaard, S., Creemers, Bert P. M. and Van der Werf, M. P. C. (Greetje)); Orang Asli student icons as an innovative teaching method for Orang Asli students (Rohaida Nordin, Muhamad Sayuti Hassan @ Yahya and Ibrahim Danjuma); impact of commuter families on adolescent development, focussing on an evaluation of the adolescent from Peninsular Malaysia (Siaw Yan-Li, Samsilah Roslan, ...
Maria Chong Abdullah and Haslinda Abdullah; an empirical study on the influence of demographic profile on work-life balance of women employees in the tannery industry (S. Prithi and A. Vasumathi); wartime rape in Judith Thompson’s Palace of the End (Elaff Ganim Salih, Hardev Kaur, Ida Baizura Bahar and Mohamad Fleih Hassan); the role of images and the imagination in the nature of ‘nature tourism’ in an exploration of ecotourism (Kalpita Bhar Paul); gender differences in behaviourally fractionated omitted stimulus reaction time tasks using visual, auditory and somatosensory stimuli (Hernández O. H., Alfonso-Arguello J. I. and Hernández-Sánchez J. A.); the effect of phase-based instruction using a geometer sketchpad on geometric thinking regarding angles (Poh Geik Tieng and Leong Kwan Eu); overcoming shadow worlds and achieving individuation through a hero’s journey in Tunku Halim’s “A Sister’s Tale” (John Helvy Akam and Wan Roselezam Wan Yahya); the integration of values and culture in Malay folklore animation (Normaliza Abd Rahim, Awang Azman Awang Pawi and Nik Rafidah Nik Muhammad Affendi); Iranian medical students’ perception of classroom participation in a general English course and its grading criteria (Laleh Khojasteh, Nasrin Shokrpour and Reza Kafipour); the shadow worlds that run parallel to the real world: Deleuzian time-IMA and virtualities in Paul Auster’s Sunset Park (Nasser Maleki and Moein Moradi); assessing cyberloafing behaviour among university students in a validation of the cyberloafing scale (Koay, Kian-Yeik); the effectiveness of toybox intervention to reduce sedentary behaviour among pre-school children, looking specifically at a case in Malaysia (Hon, K. Y., Chua, B. S. and Hashmi, S. I.); the Palestinian realities of exile in the works of Sahar Khalifeh (Priyanka and Shashikantha Koudur); the curious incidence of individual empowerment (Taraneh Houshyar and Bahee Hadaegh); an economic valuation of urban green spaces in Kuala Lumpur city (Nur Syafiqah, A. S., A. S. Abdul-Rahim, Mohd Johari, M. Y. and Tanaka, K.); the preliminary assessment and prioritisation of demand management strategies for reducing train overcrowding (Nor Diana Mohd Mahudin); SME development and ASEAN economic integration in an analysis of Singapore and Malaysia (Thanawat Pimoljiinda and Ritthikorn Siriprasertchok); the impact of the school context on the construction of female mathematic teachers’ professional identity in a South African primary school (GM Steyn); export tax policy in Indonesia and its impacts on competitiveness and price integration of cocoa products (Abdul Muis Hasibuan and Apri Laila Sayekti); a path analysis of the relationship between job stress and care for ageing parents in Thailand, focussing on a case study of Thai migrant workers (Kaewanuchit C. and Kanwal, N. D. S.); and “Kahoot!”, an educational computer game for use in higher education (Tan, D. A. L., Ganapathy, M. and Manjet Kaur).

I anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.
I would also like to express my gratitude to all the contributors who have made this issue possible, as well as the authors, reviewers and editors for their professional contribution. Last but not least, the editorial assistance of the journal division staff is also fully appreciated.

JSSH is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

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