

# Foreword

Welcome to the **First Issue 2016** 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 **33 articles**, of which **two** are review articles, **one** is a short communication and **thirty** are regular research articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Thailand, United Kingdom, Nigeria, India, USA, the Philippines, Indonesia, Iran and Pakistan.**

The first review article in this issue discusses the potential of ASEAN in *halal* certification implementation (*Baharudin Othman, Sharifudin Md. Shaarani and Arsiyah Bahron*) and the second review article is on conceptualising culture, identity and the region in recent reflections on Southeast Asia (*Victor T. King*). The short communication in this issue reports on the challenges of action research implementation in Malaysian schools (*Norasmah, O. and Chia, S. Y.*).

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics. The first article is on the construction and development of a quantitative scale to measure source credibility in maternal mortality (*Che Su Mustaffa and Salah Saudat Abdul Baqi*). The following articles look at: a therapeutic approach in implementing psychosocial intervention to improve the neuropsychological functioning of students with learning disabilities (*Preeti Tabitha Louis and Arnold Emerson Isaac*); Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*, studying Levi's basic anxiety, conflict and the search for glory (*Shima Shokri, Ida Baizura Bahar and Rohimmi Noor*); the voices of the Burmese Rohingya refugees in the everyday politics of survival in refugee camps in Bangladesh (*Kazi Fahmida Farzana*); efficiency of commercial banks in India as a DEA approach (*Mani Mukta*); a comparative study of the portrayal of the girl child in short stories by selected Indian women writers (*Alla Ratna Malathi*); the preparation, knowledge and self-reported competency of special education teachers regarding students with autism (*Toran, H., Westover, J. M., Sazlina, K., Suziyani, M. and Mohd Hanafi, M. Y.*); teaching presence in an online collaborative learning environment via Facebook (*Annamalai, N., Tan, K. E. and Abdullah, A.*); debate as a pedagogical tool to develop soft skills in the EFL/ESL classroom as a qualitative case study (*Aclan, E. M., Noor Hashima Abd Aziz and Valdez, N. P.*); a case study of blog-based language learning, an investigation into ESL learners' interaction (*Zarei, N. and Supyan, H.*); the Malaysian Chinese diaspora in Melbourne in terms of citizenship and a sense of belonging (*Low, C. C.*); the impact of healthcare expenditure and infectious diseases on labour productivity performance in Africa, with a consideration of the importance of institutions (*Hassan, A. M., Norashidah, M. N. and Nor, Z. M.*); dissecting nature and grotesque elements in Tunku Halim's *Juriah's Song* (*Nur Fatin, S. A. J., Wan Roselezam, W. Y. and Hardev*

*Kaur*); the rise of Jewish religious nationalism and the Israeli approach to the Palestinian conflict (*Javadikouchaksaraei, M., Bustami, M. R. and Farouk, A. F. A.*); language attitude and motivation of Islamic school students, focussing on how *Madrassa* students of the academic year 2013-2014 in Indonesia perceive English, English teaching and learning and native speakers of English (*Ag. Bambang Setiyadi and Muhammad Sukirlan*); correlation between social capital and entrepreneurship for Posdaya empowerment (*Saleh, A., Metalisa, R. and Mukhlisah, N.*); employability, mobility and work-life balance and how they relate for MBA holders in Malaysia (*Samuel, R. and Ramayah, T.*); forensic linguistics in the light of crime investigation (*Farshad Ramezani, Arefeh Khosousi Sani and Kathayoun Moghadam*); genre-based and process-based approaches to teaching news articles (*Jeneifer C. Nueva*); students' coping strategies for free-riding in group work (*Priscilla Shak*); the impact of English language proficiency on interpersonal interactions among students from different nationalities in a Malaysian public university (*Sarwari, A. Q., Ibrahim, A. H. and Nor Ashikin, A. A.*); preference of conventional degrees by educational institutions, which investigates two cases from Pakistan and India (*Hussain, N. and Mirza, A.*); a human rights lesson from selected Malay proverbs (*Mohd Faizal Musa*); self-help groups as an empowerment and financial model for women in Nadia district, West Bengal (*Sharmistha Bhattacharjee*); social networking sites that can negatively impact academic grades (*Shakiratul Hanany Abd Rahman and Stephen, J.*); Sadegh Hedayat's *Stray Dog* in exploring 'unhomely moments' (*Oroskhan, M. H. and Zohdi, E.*); a conceptual model of tourist satisfaction (*Kwok See Ying, Ahmad Jusoh and Zainab Khalifah*); the concept of a social organism as seen in the response of Javanese society to modernism in the Serat Wedhatama by Kangjeng Gusti Pangeran Adipati Arya (K.G.P.A.A.) Mangkunegara IV (*Sahid Teguh Widodo*); the fall of national identity in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (*Abdalhadi Nimer A. Abu Jweid*); and Project Zero, a benchmark for developing an analytical framework (*Dass, L. C., Arumugam, N., Dillah, D. and Nadarajah, D.*)

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.

**Chief Executive Editor**

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