

Foreword

Welcome to the Second 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 21 articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, India, Iran, Indonesia, Australia, Russia, Nigeria and Thailand.**

The articles cover a wide range of topics from a study presenting students' perspectives of substance abuse among secondary school students in Malaysia (*Chan, Y. F., Sidhu, G. K., Lim, P.C. and Wee, E. H.*) to a study highlighting that adolescents continued to smoke despite knowing the risks of smoking (*Tohid, H., Omar, K., Muhammad, N. A., Jaffar, A., Md Monoto, E. M. and Mohd Ishak, N.*), a research conducted to examine the technical competencies of project managers required by Malaysia's Public Works Department (*Mohd Derus, M. and Abdul-Aziz, A.-R.*) and a study aimed at interpreting the period and level of usage of ICT tools and computing the relationship between income and current usage of ICTs among mechanised and motorised fishers of Kerala, India (*Sabu M and Shaijumon C S*) to a study examining Shaw's portrayal of Joan of Arc in *Saint Joan* that emphasises that the fulfillment of divine union is the supreme ideal of the Sufi (*Ali Taghizadeh and Mojtaba Jeihouni*).

The issue also contains a study that aimed to analyse the written performance of a number of English language learners over a year in a thick description to provide in-depth empirical data focussing on the performance of test takers in terms of complexity, accuracy and fluency constructs (CAF) (*Dahmardeh, M. and Shahmirzadi, N.*), a study that attempted to find out the effect of oral output and written output as two types of vocabulary instruction on Iranian EFL learners' listening comprehension and vocabulary learning (*Hossein Babaei and Touran Ahour*), a study that explored the benefits of implementing lateral thinking skills involving tertiary-level learners to improve second-language communication skills at a university in South India (*Nageswari R., Ravikumar B. and Stephen Jayamani T.*), a study on HIV-related stigmatisation and discrimination in Malaysia (*Mehrabi, D., Tamam, E., Bolong, J. and Hasan, H.*), a study on the indigenous people of Tengger and Baduy (*Jazim Hamidi*), a study that examined climate dynamics in the Himalaya based on the meteorological records of four decades (1971-2010) at three stations of the Kaligandaki Basin (*Pandey, R.*), a study that examined the factorial validity and reliability of the Malaysian version of the Revised Competitive State Anxiety Inventory-2 using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and the Cronbach alpha (*Hashim, H.A. and Baghepour, T.*), a study that analysed the main components of a national myth in Johan Fowles' novel *A Maggot* (*Khabibullina, L. and Zinnatullina, Z.*), a study of the effects of de-subsidised fertiliser input in the rice sector in Malaysia (*Umar, H. S., Abdullah, A. M., Shamsudin, M. N. and Mohamed, Z. A.*), a study that modeled land development in the 17 sub-districts of the Phuket province of Thailand from 2000-2009

(*Chuangchang, P., Sangkhaduang, T. and Tongkumchum, P.*), a study that proposed an optimal colour for the hostel environment of female university students based on their heart-rate response (*Ab Jalil, N., Yunus, R., Sheik Said, N. and Iqbal, M. I.*), a study that analysed Achille and the unhomely pull of the Atavistic Homeland in Derek Walcott's *Omeros* (*Zargarzadeh, H.*), a study that explored the essential strategies employed and preferred by EFL learners in dealing with integrated writing tasks (*Gholami, J. and Alinasab, M.*), a study that identified symptoms of hysteria among adolescents from the perspective of Islamic psychology (*Fariza Md Sham*), a study that investigated the factors influencing the doctoral completion success rate among staff of a public university in Thailand (*Watthanapradith, M., Choonpradub, C. and Lim, A.*) and a study that investigated whether the persistent difficulty in the use of the present perfect and the simple past is directly attributable to first language influence (*Kwan, Erica L.Y. and Wong, B. E.*).

I anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. 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, namely, the authors, reviewers and editors, who have made this issue possible. Last but not least, the editorial assistance of the journal division staff is 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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