

# Foreword

Welcome to the **First Issue 2017** 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 **31 articles**, of which **two** are review articles, **one** is a short communication and **18** are regular research articles. This issue also features **10** selected papers from the USM International Conference on Social Sciences 2015 (USM-ICOSS 2015). The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Indonesia** and **Iran**.

The first review article in this issue discusses soldiers returning to the barracks, and considers military reform as the crucial first step in democratising Thailand (Siwach Sripokangkul and Paul Chambers) while the second is on gaps pertaining to evaluation of built heritage conservation with special annotation on the Malaysian context (Firzan, M., Keumala, N. and Zawawi, R.). The short communication in this issue reports briefly on psychosocial work environment and wellbeing in relation to job demands, looking at resources from on the perspective of Malaysian public health (M. Umair Javaid, A. S. N. Isha and Z. Ghazali).

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics. The first is on strengthening women through group participation, trust and networks, and it studies women's self-help groups in Bangladesh (Faraha Nawaz). The following articles look at: The role of peers and cultural tools in supporting autonomous learning behaviours among Malay tertiary learners (Naginder Kaur); a process model framework for strategic management and innovation area of AACSB standards (Kundu, G. K. and Bairi, J.); the impact of SHRM on manpower sustainability in the manpower agency of the International Airport in Tamil Nadu, India as examined through an empirical study (A. Vasumathi and Colin Crispin C.); the use of authority as wielded by the character, 'Daddy', in Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy" (Etemadi, O. and Tabasi, E.); a comparison of structural and functional lexical bundles in MUET reading tests (Christina Ong Sook Beng and Yuen Chee Keong); a Derridean exploration of Tolkien's *The Hobbit* (Pedram Lalbakhsh and Ali Ghaderi); self-identity creation through the coming-out process among same-sex attracted men of Chinese ethnicity in Penang, Malaysia, conducted as a qualitative analysis and using Foucault's concept of *sophrosyne* (Felix, M. S.); occupational stress among Thai immigrant employees in Bangkok, done as a cross-sectional study (Chonticha Kaewanuchit); ESL undergraduates' patterns of plagiarism in academic essays based on print or internet sources (Samaneh Zangenehmadar and Tan Bee Hoon); the disjoint between intention and implementation with regards to safe sex among gay men in Penang, Malaysia (Felix, M. S.); the speech act

of complaint by contrasting its main components in English and Persian (Hosseini, S. M., Panahandeh, S. H. and Mansoorzadeh, N.); current perception and willingness towards organ donation and transplantation, examined through a survey of undergraduate students at University of Malaya (Hasmah Zanuddin, Tham Jen Sern and Siti Nur Shahira Zakaria); posthumanism in Octavia Butler's "Amnesty" as feminist theological analysis (Mohammadi, A. E. and Leon, C. E.); banking liquidity and stock market prices in three ASEAN countries (Tin-fah Chung, M. Ariff and Shamsheer M.); the role of human resource management practices on labour productivity in Libyan national oil corporations (Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed, Mahazan Abdul Mutalib, Adel M. Abdulaziz and Mikail Ibrahim); the identity politics of being and becoming of the 'chetti Melaka' in Singapore (David Neo and Mary Varghese); and politics as presented in the Indonesian national language, considered from a sociolinguistic perspective (Setiono Sugiharto).

This issue concludes with 10 articles from the USM-ICOS 2015 international conference. The articles look at: The "ambiguous regime" as manifested in Malaysia's political experience (Razali, S. Z.); equitable income distribution and if it has an influence on environmental quality using evidence from the four developing ASEAN countries (Abdul Rahim Ridzuan, Nor Asmat Ismail, Abdul Fatah Che Hamat, Abu Hassan Shaari Md Nor and Elsadig Musa Ahmed); the finance-growth nexus in Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria to consider if the proxy of financial development matters (Kizito Uyi Ehigiamusoe, Hooi Hooi Lean and Ramez Abubakr Badeeb); the lived experience and narratives of de-facto single mothers in Penang, Malaysia (Nor Hafizah, S., Farah Syazwani, H. A. and Noraida, E.); "crippled", creeping and crawling towards enlightenment in this life (Khu, L. H.); thinking empirically about the McDonaldization thesis in Penang (Ong, B. K.); youth engagement in meaningful activities and happiness, examined by comparative study of Chinese undergraduates from Taiwan and Malaysia (Lee, M. N.); the effect of perceived racial discrimination on aggression (Chng, B. Z. and Tan, C. S.); racism where it might lurk in the Malaysian university setting as racial microaggression (Lino, M., Hashim, I. H. M. and Ricardo, R.); and the perception of locals of the economic impact resulting from the influx of Indonesian workers in rural areas in rural Johor (Suziana, M. Y., Ibrahim, N., Siti Rahyla, R., and Razlini, M. R.).

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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