



INSTITUT KAJIAN MALAYSIA & ANTARABANGSA (IKMAS)  
UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

*Majlis Pengiktirafan Penyelia  
dan Pemakaian Jubah  
Graduan **IKMAS***

**APPRECIATION OF SUPERVISORS AND ROBINING CEREMONY  
FOR IKMAS GRADUANDS**

**Khamis, 3 November  
Bilik Majlis, Aras 5 Bangunan Canselori  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia**

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**FOREWORD BY  
DIRECTOR OF IKMAS**

Assalamualaikum, Greetings from IKMAS

The Robing Ceremony for IKMAS Graduands 2016 is a very meaningful program for IKMAS because we will be celebrating the success of our students and their supervisors, in a combined effort to reach a certain goal, i.e. receiving the scroll for a Master or a Doctoral degree.

The journey requires tremendous motivation, patience, perseverance, and effort. This is because both students and supervisors are continuously interacting in the information of logical thinking through data extraction and arrangement of ideas and analysis to achieve high quality academic writing in the form of thesis.

May I therefore, I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of IKMAS, their supervisors, and family members of graduands. I hope this achievement, which is an important milestone in the life of a student will be the basis for greater achievement in the future. I wish you all the best for your future.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUANDS AND SUPERVISORS OF IKMAS!**

Prof. Dr. Rashila Ramli  
Director  
Institute of Malaysia and International Studies (IKMAS)  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

3 November 2016



## **KATA PENGANTAR OLEH PENGARAH IKMAS**

Assalamualaikum, Salam Sejahtera dari IKMAS

Majlis Pemakaian Jubah Graduan IKMAS 2016 adalah satu majlis yang amat bermakna bagi IKMAS kerana kita akan meraikan kejayaan pelajar dan penyelia yang bersama-sama bertungkus lumus bekerja dalam satu jangka yang lama bagi mencapai matlamat, iaitu menggenggam segulung ijazah di peringkat Sarjana ataupun Kedoktoran.

Perjalanan ini memerlukan motivasi, ketekunan, kesabaran dan kekentalan. Ini kerana kedua-dua belah pihak berinteraksi kearah pembentukan pemikiran yang sistematik melalui penggalan data dan maklumat, seterusnya penyusunan idea dan analisis dalam satu bentuk penulisan akademik yang berkualiti tinggi.

Oleh itu, izinkan saya mengambil peluang ini untuk mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada para graduan, para penyelia dan keluarga graduan sekalian. Semoga kejayaan ini akan menghasilkan kejayaan seterusnya dan kecemerlangan di masa hadapan.

**TAHNNIAH KEPADA PARA GRADUAN DAN PENYELIA IKMAS!**

Prof. Dr. Rashila Ramli  
Pengarah  
Institut Kajian Malaysia dan Antarabangsa (IKMAS)  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

3 November 2016

# APPRECIATION OF SUPERVISORS AND ROBING CEREMONY FOR IKMAS GRADUANDS

NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016  
BILIK MAJLIS, BANGUNAN CANSELORI, UKM

TIME	PROGRAMME
2.00 pm	Registration of Graduands and Supervisors Arrival of Invited Guests
2.30 pm	Arrival of Director of IKMAS
2.45 pm	Academic Procession Enters the Hall National Anthem and Varsiti Kita Recitation of Al-Fatihah Announcing the Purpose of Ceremony Speech by Director of IKMAS Robing Ceremony Speech by IKMAS Graduands (2 representatives)
4.00 pm	Photography Session Hi-Tea End of Ceremony

# MAJLIS PENGIKTIRAFAN PENYELIA DAN PEMAKAIAN JUBAH GRADUAN IKMAS 2016

3 NOVEMBER 2016  
BILIK MAJLIS, BANGUNAN CANSELORI, UKM

MASA	PROGRAM
2.00 pm	Pendaftaran Graduan dan Penyelia Ketibaan Tetamu Jemputan
2.30 pm	Ketibaan Pengarah IKMAS
2.45 pm	Perarakan Akademik masuk ke dewan Lagu Negaraku dan Varsiti kita Bacaan Al-Fatihah Pengumuman Tujuan Majlis Ucapan oleh Pengarah IKMAS Ucapan Pemakaian Jubah Ucapan Graduan IKMAS (2 wakil)
4.00 pm	Sesi Bergambar Jamuan Minum Petang Majlis Bersurai

# **MEDICAL TOURISM FROM NORTH SUMATERA TO PENINSULAR MALAYSIA: TREND, CONTRIBUTING FACTORS AND IMPACT**

DESTANUL AULIA (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Shahadan & Prof. Dr. Azizah Kassim

Indonesia is the biggest contributor of medical tourists to Malaysia. Most of Indonesian medical tourists are from North Sumatera. With the growth of the number of medical tourists from North Sumatera to Malaysia reached 10.68%, it can be said that there is an increasing trend in number medical tourists from North Sumatera. Based on this condition, this study analyzed medical tourism from North Sumatera to Peninsular Malaysia in three aspects, first, the trend in number of medical tourism from macroeconomic aspects. Second, the sociodemographic and personnel characteristic of medical tourists, the journey process, the destination and type of treatment choose; and contributing factors that affect the decision of medical tourists. Third, the impact of medical tourism on hospitals in North Sumatra and on the the health system in North Sumatra. The data used are secondary and primary data. The study of trend in number of medical tourists using secondary data for the independent variable of macroeconomic condition of origin and destination country, namely, income per capita (GRDP/capita) and inflation rate of North Sumatera, GDP Malaysia and currency exchange rate Malaysia-Indonesia, the independent variables of health seeking behavior in North Sumatera, namely life expectancy, the number of health facilities, the number of doctors and education levels, as well as dependent variables the number of medical tourists. Duration of study began in 2000 until 2011, quarterly data, resulting in a total of 48 sample observations. The primary data used for the study of sociodemographic, trend of the destination and type of treatment, contributing factors and study the impact of medical tourism. Samples collected a total of 527 medical tourists and 30 respondents from Dinas Kesehatan Provinsi Sumatera Utara. The result of multiple regression shows that the number of North Sumatran medical tourist significantly affected by GDP Malaysia, level of education and number of health facilities in North Sumatera. The sociodemographic characteristics of respondents are most of them male, married, in the productive age range, the most general ethnicity is Batak, has higher education and most of them is businessman. Respondents feel they have personal characteristics somewhat open, somewhat adaptable and quite like to travel. The most wanted type of treatment found is medical checkup. The destination visited the most is Penang, while the hospital is Lam Wah Ee. The factors that contributed significantly in decision making are the contributing factors that come from origin country and the satisfaction factor to the hospital cared. Positive impact found from the competition that will contribute to the improvement on health care, improvement on technology, facilities and high quality of services but cheaper. Negative impact including the decreasing number of patient in the origin country, if this is happened then there is no incentive on making the improvement and probably there will be a brain drain. Positive impact for the health system in the country of origin are increased attention from government to the hospital especially its competitiveness, attention will be emphasize on education for health services. On the contrary, negative impacts for the country and health system are the competition between the hospital in the origin and destination country, it also can cause the differences in healthcare received for wealthy and poor patient and this condition can be seen as a result of disability of government on managing its own hospital. This study suggest to Indonesia government to increase the quality level of health services to attract patient to seek treatment in the country with international standard of services.

# **SOCIAL CATEGORIES IN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION: A STUDY OF THE INTERACTIONS OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN MALAYSIA**

ONG SUE LYN (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Rashila Ramli & Prof. Dr. Shanta Nair Venugopal

This study investigates the influence of the specific social categories of age, gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, mother tongue and English language ability on group work interactions. The study was informed by work on social identities (Deaux 2001; Hogg & Abrams 1988, 1993; Jenkins 2008a; Tajfel 1981, 1982), and studies (Clarke et al. 2007; Esmonde et al., 2009; Ituarte & Davies 2007) on the social categories of age, gender, ethnicity, and English language ability which were found to affect students' behaviour in group work. It aims to find out which of the social categories of age, gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, mother tongue, and English language ability, selected for study, impact on the formation of self-selected groups and influence the group work interactions of the students in the study. The study employs an integrated conceptual framework comprising Intercultural Communication (Gudykunst & Kim 1997; Holliday 1999, 2011; Martin & Nakayama 2013, 2014; Ting-Toomey & Chung 2005), Language and Intercultural Communication (Nair-Venugopal 2003, 2009, 2015; Piller 2007, 2011, 2012), and Social Identity Theory (Jenkins 2008a ; Tajfel 1981, 1982). It also employs Pragmatics (Thomas 1995; Yule 1996) as the broad explanatory apparatus that relies on Goffman's (1967) notions of Face, and Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness Theory as the main analytical approach. Specifically, the study examines Goffman's (1967) face-work strategies of 'avoidance process' and 'corrective interchanges', and Brown and Levinson's (1987) positive and negative politeness strategies in face-to-face interactions. For Goffman, interaction occurs when two or more individuals are physically in one another's presence which involves the construction of identities. Because 'face' is 'self-image' (Brown & Levinson 1987; Cheng 2003; Cupach & Metts 1994; Goffman 1967; Spencer-Oatey 2007), it is also a reflection of an individual's identity. It is posited that the negotiation of face-needs through various face-work and politeness strategies, reflect the influence of social categories on interactions. The study was conducted on groups comprising a total of 193 culturally diverse international and local undergraduate students in a management programme at a private university in Malaysia. Using an ethnographic approach, the participants were observed during group work sessions and the interactions were audio-taped. The data corpus comprised transcripts of audio-taped recordings, close-ended survey questions, self-reports from post-hoc interviews, feedback from expert informants, and field-notes from direct participant observations. The study found that the identified social categories of age, sex/gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, mother tongue and English language ability impact on the interactions in the groups studied. In the formation of self-selected groups, age ( $M = 3.28$ ,  $SD = 1.272$ ) and English language ability ( $M = 3.65$ ,  $SD = 1.246$ ) are significantly influential. In addition to that, the social category of mother tongue ( $M = 2.65$ ,  $SD = 1.350$ ) is fairly significant as well. In face-to-face group work interactions, the identified social categories of age, gender, mother tongue, and English language ability influenced the interactions more than nationality, ethnicity and religion did. Age influenced the selection of group leaders. The influence of gender was seen in interactions where male participants showed dominance in the mixed-sex group whereas female participants tended to employ collaborative talk to indicate solidarity. As for mother tongue influence, which is closely linked to those of ethnicity and nationality, it was evident in the frequent use of code switching to display in-group solidarity. English language ability also influenced interactions. Participants chose to belong to groups of similar levels of proficiency. Interactions became difficult and frustrating for some when they interacted in the English language because of varying levels of proficiency. The study showed that not only do the social categories of age, gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, mother tongue, and English language ability impact on group work interactions, but that the most salient were those of age, gender, mother tongue and English language ability.

# **JUSTICE WITHOUT COURTS: AN ANALYSIS FOR FULFILLING MARKET DEMAND OF ISLAMIC FINANCE IN MALAYSIA**

NUR KHALIDAH BINTI DAHLAN (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Rizal Palil & Prof. Dr. Mohamad Abdul Hamid

Equitable economic development is an essential element in order to achieve justice and equality in a multi-ethnic society. Malaysia is already known as an Islamic country. In a country of multi-ethnicity, multi-religion and multi-cultural societies, needs a concept of justice and equality that is different from other countries, particularly the ones with homogenous societies. The highest law of the land places Islam, the religion associated with one of the main ethnic groups, as the official religion of the nation and allowed a dual economic system, in particular in the banking system, whereby conventional banking system exists side-by-side with the Sharia-compliant, Islamic banking. The research will review the pertinent literature on the development of Islamic Finance, that pertain court cases for Islamic banking product and also the Alternative Dispute Resolution method for problem-solving especially pertaining to Islamic finance and its contributions to Malaysian society, regardless of ethnicity and religion. The discussion in this research therefore will be directed towards highlighting the laws and mechanisms of solution on Islamic banking and its implication to enhance the application of Islamic banking laws to consumers regardless of ethnicity and religion, in order to maintain fairness and justice in a multi-ethnic society. In addition, the implications is also to improve the application of laws relating to Islamic finance to users regardless of race and religion and to maintain justice and equality among the various ethnic groups in Malaysia. The study was applying the content analysis dan observation method. By applying the case coding projects and 'keycite' techniques in content analysis method, all the relevant documents were examined and analyse. The content analysis method and observation method also emphasized in analysing the related documents based on the element of themes such as Islamic finance, business, culture and behavior of Islamic finance as well as alternative dispute resolution for issues in Islamic finance. Among the major findings highlighted in this study is that all cases related to Islamic finance can be arranged and finalized by the Sulh method without reference to specific criteria. Sulh method emphasize the implementation of the dispute resolution process within 3 months (a short period). The Sulh method is considered as a fair, transparent of dispute resolution process and in which it is also based on mutual agreement between the parties involved. No costs imposed by the court on the petition of the parties involved, in relation to any proceedings during the procedure of sulh. Finally, Sulh method is known as an Islamic method of dispute resolution, where it can be adopted by various races and religions without prejudice to resolve the cases related to Islamic finance.



## **INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS: SOMALIA AND SUDAN (DARFUR) AS A MODEL**

ALI OMAR MOFTAH MEDON (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sabri Haron & Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad

The study surveyed the international protection of human rights since the problem of the research signified the debatable relationship between the organized laws of human rights, and the debatable relationship between the universality of human rights and their privacy as well as the exposure of human rights in Somalia and Darfur for many of the violations. One of the main objectives of the study: the clarification the relationship between the international laws which are relevant to the protection of the human rights, clarification the similarities and differences and the commonalities and complementarities between them, the clarification of the concept of human rights between the cultural universality and privacy. Besides, the clarification of the Security Council viewpoint on the human crisis in Somalia and Sudan (Darfur), as well as the knowledge of the success or failure of the human intervention. The approach used in the research are: the historical approach where there will be a discussion of some of the events and developments that are related to the title of the study in preparation to explain the subject of the study. The comparative approach for a comparison between the human international law and the international human rights law as they are considered responsible for human rights protection. Moreover, the applied approach has also been adopted in the study of the international human intervention in Somalia, Sudan (Darfur). The most important results that have been reached at: it is not problematic in the relationship between the organized laws of human rights; both of them are the complement of each other and both the international human rights law, human international law and the international protection of human rights in peace and war. The universality of human rights and its privacy are facts that cannot be denied or neglected, but they are subject to the uses and investments of them. As there is no time to talk about human rights without the existence of the mechanisms that are working to implement the agreements. The United States did not obey the Security Council resolution (794) and its intervention's goals in Somalia. It showed a clear trend towards one of a Somali groups. And the resolution (1706) is illegal because it includes some items that are against the principle of non-interference in the internal core competence of the states, and the existence of a conflict between these items that are implied in the resolution . The goal or purpose of issuance of the resolution is to put an end to the enormous violations of human rights in the region and to ensure the implementation of the Darfur Peace agreement and the agreement of N'djamena to ceasefire and protect civilians in the region.

# **IRAN'S NUCLEAR ISSUE AND THE UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION**

RIKI RAHMAN (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zarina Othman, Prof. Dr. Kamaruzaman Yusof & Prof. Ruhanas Harun

The decision of Iran, especially under the leadership of Ahmadinejad to reactivate the development of Iran's nuclear technology program led the United States to claim that Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons. Consequently, the United States urged Iran to terminate its nuclear technology development program. Nonetheless, the United States did not take the same action against countries that are confirmed to possess nuclear weapons, such as India, Pakistan, or Israel, which is a strong ally of the United States in the Middle East. The question is why the United States urged Iran to terminate its nuclear technology development program despite Iran announced it was designed to build an energy program, not nuclear weapons. By using neo-realism, this study argues that the action of the United States against Iran is merely because of strategic and economic interests in the Middle East region. This study has three objectives: first, to analyze Iran's foreign policy, the United States hegemony in the Middle East, and the Iranian nuclear issue. Second, to identify Iran's strategy in quest of strengthening the influence in the Middle East, to identify united states hegemonic strategy in the region and clash with Iran's foreign policy under Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The third and last objective is to analyze the United States strategic and economic interests in the Middle East over the Iranian nuclear issue. In order to meet these objectives, both primary data and secondary data were collected. Subsequently, qualitative descriptive and analytical approach were employed to identify the United States interests in the Middle East. The interviews were conducted as part of data collection in a well-structured and in-depth manner with academicians, policy makers, and Iranians in Malaysia. The data were also collected from literature such as books, monographs, journals, theses, reports, and authoritative websites. The finding of this study indicate that the Iranian nuclear issue is closely related to the United States interests in the Middle East region. The finding also shows that the insistence of the United States to terminate Iran's nuclear technology program is based on two main interests. First, it is closely related to strategic interests of United States, namely to curb the influence of China as a competitor to the United States in the region, preventing Iran from expanding its influence in the Middle East, providing military protection against the Arab oil producers in the Persian Gulf, and protecting Israel as a strong ally of the United States. Second, it is related to economic interest, namely to control oil resources in the Middle East and to gain profit from the sale of weapons in the region. Specifically, this study contributes to the treasures of knowledge about the Middle East political discourse and generally, security issues and international relations theory.

# **THE DETERMINATION OF TOURIST LOYALTY TOWARD MALAYSIA: THE CASE OF THE SAUDIS AND EMIRATIS TOURISTS**

ESMAEIL ARABZADEH (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Mohd Safar Hashim & Prof. Dr. Rashila Ramli

Tourism in Malaysia is one of the important revenue generating activities. One of the groups of tourists that have been increasing in number is the West Asian tourists. The study focused on the tourist loyalty from West Asia toward Malaysia. The objectives of this study are to identify influencing factors on loyalty of West Asian tourists toward Malaysia from the perspectives of West Asian tourists specifically from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and United Arab Emirates (UAE); to examine the relationship between values and satisfaction of West Asian tourists; and to analyze the needs of Malaysian tourist operations in terms of service improvement, with possible policy implications for Malaysian government. This study provides an integrated approach by using the concepts of Tourist Loyalty in relations to Tourist Destination Image, Tour Quality, Tour Values and Tourist Satisfaction in Malaysia from the perspective of marketing theory. Twelve hypotheses were constructed, and examined by utilizing Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to understand the relationship between the variables. The mixed method of sequential explanatory design consisting of two distinct phases, i.e. quantitative followed by qualitative methods were used in data collection. A total of 541 usable questionnaires out of 562 questionnaires were collected in the first phase, followed by an in-depth interview comprising of nine informants to understand the needs and views of the tourists. Interviews were also conducted with Malaysian tour operators. The results of this research are as follows: first, all direct hypotheses were supported for both countries; however three mediation hypotheses for KSA and two for UAE were not supported. Second, the UAE tourists stated that tourist satisfaction is the most important element in determining tourist loyalty; however, for the KSA tourists, development of family-oriented programs must be given emphasis to ensure tourist loyalty. Finally Malaysian tour operators highlighted the need to focus on the safety of tourists, cleanliness of streets, tourist sites and places most visited by Arabs. The study was completed with conclusion and discussion on the theoretical, methodological and practical implications and suggestions.

# **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICY AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME FOR ILLITERATE COMMUNITIES IN INDONESIA (A CASE STUDY IN FIVE DISTRICTS IN SOUTH SULAWESI)**

RIDWAN ISMAIL RAZAK (Ph.D)

Supervisor: Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong

The functional Literacy Programme (PLF) in Indonesia is a programme meant to develop entrepreneurial skills of target groups which consist of writing, reading, thinking, observing, listening and speaking skills and is aimed at empowering the illiterate and poor members of the community. In south Sulawesi, this programme has been conducted for more than a decade, but illiteracy among the poor is still high at 9.84%. The overall objective of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of the policy and empowerment programme for illiterate members of society in South Sulawesi who participated in the programme. The study was conducted in five districts covering 300 respondents who participated in the programme in 2011-2012. The data were gathered through two ways namely library research for secondary data and field studies for primary data by carrying out surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions (FGD). This study used effectiveness and literacy theories as well as empowerment and measurement of effectiveness concepts as its frameworks. The results revealed that out of 300 respondents, 98% women and 2% men, 59% of them never attended school and 41% were school dropouts. The findings also showed that 56.3% of the respondents were under 44 years old, and at young and productive age, 32.3% were 45-59 years, and 11.3% were 60 years and older. This programme has succeeded in increasing the "Latin" literacy of participants whereby 68% of the participants reported that they achieved "good" category in terms of reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, 5.3% were in the "moderate" category, but 26.7% were not successful or in the "poor" category. In terms of skill mastery, the study found that a total of 84.3% of participants were competent at least in one skill, 8.3% participants were not competent in any skills, and 7.3% did not like the skills taught. However, in terms of the impacts of the policy and empowerment programme in improving the income and welfare of the respondents, the study discovered that only 21% of the respondents stated that there was improvement while 79% respondents stated that there was no improvement. These results mean that the policy and the programme were only successful in improving literacy but failed in increasing income and welfare of the participants. However, all respondents admitted that they benefited from the programme with 98% of the participants suggesting follow-up programme. This study contributes to the body of knowledge on human resources and can be a source of reference for efforts at empowering marginalized communities, especially illiterate groups both in South Sulawesi and other places.

# **TRANSFORMATION PLANS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM OF THE ROAD TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SELANGOR: CHALLENGES, IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS**

DIANA A/P K.NADAN (M.Phil)

Supervisors: Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Helen Ting Mu Hung

This thesis framed, within the field of public policy, studies the public service delivery transformation plans of the Road Transport Department (RTD) Selangor with respect to challenges, implementation and effectiveness of the plans. The transformation has been carried out to improve the efficiency of public service delivery system, addressing issues of corruption and reducing the rate of road accidents. In examining to what extent the transformation plans are able to address all the three issues, especially in the RTD Selangor, this study has three objectives: (a) to identify reforms in the government's transformation plans with respect to the RTD Selangor; (b) to review the effectiveness of the implementation of the transformation plan reforms; and (c) to study the factors that contribute to, or, on the contrary, hinder the reform measures in the transformation plans. In this study, primary data was obtained through a survey of 50 RTD enforcement officers, 50 non-uniformed government servants, 50 clients who deal with RTD counters, 15 representatives of registered companies and 25 representatives of the Driving School Academy. In-depth interviews were also conducted on 14 key informants, together with observations made by the researcher who has served for three years as an officer in RTD Selangor. Secondary data was obtained from reference materials such as journals, books, government circulars and policies, as well as previous thesis obtained from the library, and those provided by officers of RTD Selangor as well as RTD Malaysia, who participated in the interview for the study. This study found that the implementation of the transformation plans by the RTD Selangor has succeeded in improving the efficiency of the service delivery systems, as well as in reducing corruption and the rate of road accidents in Selangor. Based on the respondents' perceptions, 77.8 percent felt that the transformation has improved the efficiency of public service delivery system, 52.3 percent agreed that the transformation plan has effectively addressed the problem of corruption, while 51.2 percent agreed the rate of road accidents has been reduced. The study found that the improved level of competence within the organization was due to the support, responsibility and commitment shown by the staff; these are the main factors that have contributed to the successful implementation of reform measures in Selangor RTD. This study is an important contribution to the corpus of knowledge in public administration, and an important contribution to the various stakeholders (public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations) for strengthening governance and public service delivery system especially those related to enforcement and regulatory agencies.

# **THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE IRAQI KURDISH NATIONALIST MOVEMENT 1960-1975: THE US FACTOR**

KARWAN SALIH WAISY (M.Phil)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Rashila Ramli & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Helen Ting Mu Hung

This historical study examines the international dimensions of the Kurdish nationalist struggle in Iraq between 1960 and 1975, with particular reference to the US foreign policy in the context of the Cold War. This study contributes to a better understanding of how the Kurdish struggle fits into the wider historiography of the cold war dynamics and the US foreign policy in the Middle East. It brings to attention how regional powers and the US perceived and handled the Kurdish question based on their respective strategic considerations during this period. It uses declassified US intelligence sources, defense and foreign relations departments' documents, as well as Kurdish language official sources and memoirs. This study shows how the Kurdish issue featured in the evolving US foreign policy towards successive governments in Iraq. It shows how the Kurdish movement under the leadership of Mullah Mustafa Barzani lobbied for the United States support for their cause. It illustrates how the United States' action was aimed at reducing the Soviet influence over the Middle East and appeasing Iran. This was obvious in the Eisenhower administration's reaction to Iraqi government in 1960, when it was involved in a clandestine plan to destabilise the communist-inclined Qassim government through the Kurdish forces. Similarly the Kennedy presidency supported the first Baathist government during its war against the Kurds who enjoyed Soviet backing in 1963 and 1964. This dynamic of rivalry with the USSR also explains the Johnson administration's policy of non-involvement in the Kurdish movement; and in Nixon's decision to support the Iraqi Kurdish movement in 1972 -1973 after the second Baathist government drew Iraq into the Soviet bloc. The Ford administration also supported the Kurdish movement during its war against the second Baathist government, which enjoyed Soviet and French backing in 1974 and 1975. Ultimately, while the Iraqi Kurdish movement managed to exploit the USSR-US power struggle and regional tension to further their nationalist cause, they consequently were also at the mercy of the cold strategic calculation of their changeable sponsoring nation-states.

# **SOCIAL REPRODUCTION IN NEW MALAY MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES: A CASE STUDY IN THE KLANG VALLEY**

NORAINI BINTI DHIAUDDIN (M.Phil)

Supervisor: Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong

This exploratory study looks into social reproduction process between two generations of Malay new middle class families in the Klang Valley. As this is a new phenomenon in the country, there are very few studies on social reproduction of the new middle class. Their existence is a result of rapid economic and social transformations since the 1970s that contributed to the formation and emergence of a new Malay middle class. And in more than three decades, the new middle class has grown and reproduced itself. This study looks at the families' current and previous socio-economic conditions, life chances and factors contributing to the social reproduction process in the families. It then examines into opinions on how effective this process to both generations and their opinions on their lives and future directions. The study employs the use of life history interviews as its main method towards 14 families around Klang Valley. This study finds that first generation of new Malay middle class families played an active role in activities that they thought could contribute in maintaining or upgrading their children's middle class status. The second generation has shown appreciation over their parents' assistance, but they still negotiated to live their lives through their own ways. All those families exhibited their optimism on the future of their own families and the middle class. Even though there are doubts that second generation could sustain their social position, they are still confident that the new Malay middle class will flourish and expand. This study is a contribution to the corpus of knowledge and government policies that impact on the middle class and social reproduction.

# **THE IMPACT OF OIL COMPANY PETRONAS ON THE SOCIETY IN THIQAR PROVINCE OF IRAQ FROM THE HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE**

AHMED MUHSIN JODAH (M.A)

Supervisors: Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sabri Haron

The study addressed the social impact of the Malaysian oil company PETRONAS on the ThiQar province from historical geographical perspective, where it has been discussed the role of the Malaysian company PETRONAS and its direct and indirect impact on the society of study in the process of creating social change. The research problem is represented by decreasing agricultural land area, the lack of appropriate employment opportunities, lack of investment and the increasing in the number of unemployment in the surrounding region of Garraf oil field that invested by Petronas company. The most important objectives of the current study is to demonstrate the impact of the Garraf field on the agricultural side through the management and operation of the Garraf oil field by PETRONAS company. As well as, knowing the positive effect of Gharraf center for vocational training in the development of the skills of the trainees of the population to get the right job. Furthermore, to illustrate the role of infrastructure and development to develop the oil industry and the development of economy by attracting investment. The analytical descriptive method was used to know the effect of the presence of oil and PETRONAS company on ThiQar, and subjecting it to analysis by questionnaire form, interviews, and theoretical information. The historical approach was also taken to chronologically examine the phases of development relating to planning in the past, present and future. The findings of this study indicate that the existence of oil fields in ThiQar has led to wide range of difficulties and risks such as contestation and competition between local community and PETRONAS for local resources especially water. The geographical effect is the pollution of the environment such as air, water and land due to fume emission and fluid discharges from Garraf oil field. The findings also documented changes in land use from traditional agriculture activities to oil field activities thus impacting the life style of the community. The setting up of GVTC for professional training has a positive economic and psychological effects in developing the skills of the population that assure them of the qualification to work at the PETRONAS company or other affiliated companies. The most important result is the creation of a systemic two-way communication between ThiQar community and PETRONAS representatives in fostering awareness of local problems in order to find common solutions.



# **THE EXTERNAL AID AND ITS EFFECT ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PALESTINE (1994 – 2014)**

RAGHAD AZZAM INJASS (M.A)

Supervisors: Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sabri Haron

International aid is one of the most important sources of funding in Palestine, and a major part of the general budget of the Palestinian Authority. Supporting countries have provided huge amounts of money since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1994, but these funds did not occur a real economic development, and the supporting countries exploited these funds in order to blackmail the Palestinian Authority and to impose its dictates, as well as the inability of the Palestinian Authority's to exploit these funds optimally. So the purpose of this study is to highlight the role of External aid being offered to the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, and to show its impact on the reality of the economic development in Palestine, and the appropriateness of such aid with the requirements of the desired development. And it describes the most important possible alternatives to reduce the volume of foreign aid. This research relies on historical method which has been used to understand the Palestinian situation under Israeli occupation, and the descriptive method to describe the phenomenon of aid and its effects and its repercussions, and the analytical approach to understand and analyze the subject and reach the desired results from the search. There were four main findings for this research. First, the continued Israeli actions against the Palestinian people has caused the destruction of all aspects of economic and social life. Second, there is limited opportunity to make a real and sustainable development depriving the Palestinian economy of being subservient to the economy of Israel. Third, donor countries are seeking to achieve political and regional agendas, without worrying about the specificity of the Palestinian case, and without trying to improve the poor living conditions. Finally, despite receiving billions of dollars, the Palestinian Authority does not have the plans and programs to exploit the aid dollars to make a real economic development and strengthen the foundations of the local economy, and in supporting the case of the Palestinian steadfastness.

# **MURABAHA FOR PURCHASING ORDERS: THEORY AND APPLICATIONS IN ISLAMIC BANKING IN PALESTINE “A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS”**

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Financing using Murabaha purchasing order is one of the most commonly used methods in Islamic banking in Palestine, especially since this financing scheme helped solving many issues and allowed people to purchase goods and services they couldn't afford otherwise within Sharia laws that prohibits dealing with interest ( regular loans with high interest rates). Consequently, the researcher focuses on this financing scheme as to identify how it is being applied in Islamic banking. The study's goal is to clarify Sharia laws' regulations in regards to Murabaha financing as per Muslim scholars, and to identify the extent of applying these laws in Islamic banks. The study also aims to find the extent of the impact this new financing method has in Palestine, especially since it's still under occupation, and the effects of not applying it properly. The researcher adopts several methods, such as deduction to gather opinions and evidences related to the topic and deduce results out of, as well as a comparative approach as to test the extent of the conformance of this financing method to Sharia law, and at last through a survey that would be distributed to bank personnel and customers to get their feedback and analyze it, into addition to interviews with people responsible in banks. The study concluded that Islamic banks do apply Sharia law, and any issues that arise are mostly because of misunderstanding or misapplication of the scheme by both bank employees and customers. As for al-Mua'ada al-Mulzima, that obliges both parties to conform to the contract, some banks in Palestine make it mandatory for the scheme, and the researcher found out that it should not be mandatory for both parties (al-muwa'adah ghair mulzimah) and should be optional (al-khiyar). The influence of this study manifests in enhancing the Murabaha scheme mechanics in Islamic financing as it acts as a catalyst for people to request Islamic financing over traditional interest-based loans, introducing the society to Islamic banking and the role they play in serving them within Sharia law's boundaries.



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