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Intellectual Discourse

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Note from the Editor

This issue of Intellectual Discourse (Vol. 30, No. 2) presents six articles, a research note and a conference report. The articles range from mediation as an alternative mechanism to resolve family disputes to mental well-being and religious values among Muslims, and from factors influencing crime prevention information on social media to the effects of news frame as a risk factor of radicalisation. These articles are the outcomes of research carried out by academics from different parts of the world. For this edition, all but one of the articles are collaborative efforts among authors, some from the same institution while some others from different ones. The topics and contents of the articles reflect the diverse disciplines in Islamic revealed knowledge and the human sciences.

The first article (Mediation as an Alternative Mechanism to Resolve Family Disputes in Malaysia: A Comparative Analysis with Australia and New Zealand)—written by Nur Ezan Rahmat, Muhammad Ikhwan Mohd. Zain, Hartini Saripan, Daleleer Kaur and Muhammad Fikri Othman—compares family mediation practices in Malaysia with those in Australia and New Zealand. It suggests that family mediation practices in the two countries can be a reference for the Malaysian government to learn from. This article argues that compared to court settlement, mediation is more suitable for dispute settlement because of the sensitive nature of family issues, and that mediation can avoid the glare of publicity and keep family disputes low-key and private.

In the second article, (Understanding Factors Influencing Crime Prevention Information on Social Media), Nurzali Ismail, Shuhaida Md. Noor, Jamilah Ahmad and Mohamad Hafifi Jamri surveyed active Malaysian social media users—among the highest users of social media in Southeast Asia—between the age of 18 and 34, and find that interest in crime prevention information on social media was primarily

motivated by information seeking and sharing. The survey also finds that videos, written texts and infographics are the most preferred social media content. The public also has positive perception on the authority's crime prevention information on social media. The factor that most significantly influence public's perceived impact of crime prevention information on social media is credibility. Finally, the study also finds that public perception can influence behaviour intention to access and share crime prevention information on social media.

The third article (Examining the Effects of News Frames as a Risk Factor of Radicalisation), written by Nurul Miza Mohd. Rashid and Noor Aqsa Nabila Mat Isa, is an online experiment to examine whether news frames could cause radicalisation. The participants in this study read and summarised news articles which contained either positive, negative or neutral news frames pertaining to Islamist extremism. Their study finds that news-framing content that narrates the goodness of Islamist extremist group could be a factor in the radicalisation process through media. The authors recommend improved news content regulation, especially during times of crisis which could increase the public's vulnerability to extremism.

In the fourth article (The PRC's Military Strategies on the Security Architecture of East and South China Sea under President Xi Jinping), Lokman Karadag analyses the four main military strategies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in East and South China Sea—the militarisation of the South China Sea and the nine-dash line, the establishment of an air defence identification zone over the East China Sea, the reunification of Taiwan and the breach of the first island chain. This article demonstrates that the PRC under President Xi Jinping seeks to reorder the regional security architecture to its favour. It also argues that the successful conclusion of the rising power's strategies over East and South China Sea will translate the current geopolitical rivalry into a power transition to the detriment of the established power.

Nik A. Hisham Ismail, Mustafa Tekke, Ismail Fatah and Shazmin Rafeeq collaborate in a comparative study for the fifth article (Mental Well-Being and Religious Values Among Muslims Across Four Cities) in this edition. This article investigates mental well-being among the

diverse Muslim groups in Istanbul, Kuala Lumpur, Lagos and London. This study finds that several factors such as self-acceptance, social interest, and self-development, significantly correlate to mental well-being among the Muslim respondents of different nationalities, cultures and values. Because of the diversity of the respondents, the study shows varying degrees of correlation among the Muslim groups in the selected cities. This article also finds that religious values such as piety and hope, however, were moderately correlated with mental well-being among the Muslim groups.

On the subject of employee happiness, the sixth article (Unravelling the Roles of Social Media Usage, Individual Well-Being, and Working Environment on Happiness at the Workplace), the authors—Aini Maznina A. Manaf, Tengku Siti Aisha Tengku Azzman and Syed Arabi Idid—examine the factors that contribute to happiness at the workplace. They examine three contributing factors to employee happiness, namely; social media usage, individual well-being and working environment. In their survey of employees of manufacturing companies in Malaysia, they find that social media—Facebook, Instagram and YouTube—is not a significant predictor to employee happiness despite their high usage. Nevertheless, the other two factors—individual well-being and working environment—are proven to be the significant predictors to happiness at work.

This edition also features research notes (Orientalism and the Globalised Muslim World: Decolonising "Exotic" Narratives of Eurocentrism in the Era of Post-colonial Studies), written by Mohd. Irwan Syazli Saidin and Nadhirah Zainal Rashid. The authors emphasise decolonisation of history as important in post-colonial studies as a condition to achieve unbiased knowledge production. This article explores the origins of Orientalism, and applies the work of Edward Said to demonstrate that not only is Orientalism a field of study about the Eastern World, but it is also a critique of the biased views of the globalised Muslim World. This article argues that Said's critiques on Orientalism produce an important foundation for post-colonial studies, namely: to identify the stereotypes in media, writing and literature; to unravel fictional narratives among Eurocentric scholars; and to debunk myths when researching the globalised Muslim World.

The publication of this edition would not be possible without the contribution of the authors, the anonymous reviewers, and the editorial team. On behalf of Danial Mohd. Yusof, the Editor-in-Chief, I would like to express our utmost appreciation to everyone who is involved in this publication.

Tunku Mohar Mokhtar
Editor

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