Friday 4th June 2021

STRAND: SOCIOLOGY
Sub-theme: Social Inequalities: Persisting Challenges and New Horizons

KEYNOTE 1: SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MALAY LESBIAN'S SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR IN MALAYSIA
Dr Novel Lyndon Anak, National University of Malaysia
4pm (MYT) / 9am (BST)
Click here to view all keynote abstracts

KEYNOTE 2: COVID-19, SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND WELLBEING IN A COMPARATIVE CONTEXT
Dr Yang Hu, Lancaster University
7pm (MYT) / 12pm (BST)
Click here to view all keynote abstracts

STUDENT PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Sarah Lees, Lancaster University
HOW CAN LGBT FANS CHALLENGE IDEAS ABOUT NORMATIVE SEXUALITY AND GENDER THROUGH FAN PRODUCTION?
In today's world, we are more connected than ever before, allowing fans to easily connect with other fans through the production of new content. For Queer fans, this creates the opportunity to create a community around their identities and shared love of a media text. For many players of video games, these communities form a safe space to replicate Queer identities which have been marked as "different" to the mainstream. In this talk, I draw on netnography of online fan forums to explore questions around fan production and identity, asking how fans use production practices to challenge the concept of a "normal identity".

Jinxian Wu, Lancaster University
#METOO AND THE NEW GENERATION OF FEMINISTS IN CONTEMPORARY URBAN CHINA
The #MeToo movement, an international feminist movement against sexual assaults, has gained global attention. This study is interested in the generation that were born in 1990s and 2000s in urban China with the gradual abolishment of 'one child policy' (1979–2015), and the deepening market-oriented economy reform. How has a popular feminism emerged in this context in China? This project will conduct interviews with this generation of emerging feminists to examine the awakening of the third generation under the influence of #MeToo. As nascent feminists, or feminist believers, they may have not taken as much direct action as the first and second generations, and may only be active online as followers of some events about gender inequalities, or reposting articles in their social media accounts, and commenting online. This project aims to analyse what potential this feminist awakening might have for the development of gender equality in China.

Azizah Adib Rahim (with colleague), National University of Malaysia
THE WORLDVIEW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TOWARDS INTERNAL BORDER CONTROL IN MALAYSIA
This study aims to identify the worldview of illegal immigrants towards internal border control in Malaysia. The qualitative study is carried out through in-depth interview by using phenomenology approach. Meanwhile, the informants are chosen according to purposive and snowball sampling. The finding has shown that the theme of bribery, not committing crime and not afraid to law enforcement receive the highest response from them. Further research has shown that employers, colleagues and neighbours are the important agents of socialization in determining the illegal immigrants to feel comfortable to stay in Malaysia. To conclude, the illegal immigrants view the implementation of internal border control in Malaysia as weak. In addition, law enforcement and agents of socialization do not share the same objective with the government to curb the influx of illegal immigrants in Malaysia. The study is expected to provide extensive literature review on illegal immigrants and crime apart from improving the enforcement strategies towards the undocumented immigrants in Malaysia.

Fikriyah Yahya (with colleague), National University of Malaysia
THE SARAWAK MALAY ETHNIC VIEW ON SARAWAK EXITS MALAYSIA
The concept of federalism used in discussing this study shows the impact of marginalization that is caused by the

separation of powers by federal and state government which led to conflicts and dissatisfaction, eventually led to the formation of separatist movement demanding for Sarawak seceding Malaysia. There are three main views on the Sarawak exits Malaysia: to demand the autonomy of Sarawak, to urge the federal government to respect the 20-point agreement and to express their dissatisfaction against the federal administration. In addition, the discussions include factors that influence the Sarawak Malay ethnic's perspective on matters pertaining to 'Sarawak Exits Malaysia' movement such as the oil royalty issue, imbalanced development of infrastructure, slow economic growth and religious issues. These issues arise due to the state nationalism and to demand autonomy to run things in their state.

Kwok Chin Hoe (with colleagues), National University of Malaysia
RURAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SELF-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
This study aimed to determine the relationship between socioeconomic factors (occupation, income, and level of education) and community participation in self-development programs organized under the Welfare Development Scheme (WDS), Malaysia. A quantitative research design was used to carry out the study within Song District, Sarawak, Malaysia. A total of 260 respondents of the Iban community residing in longhouses participated in this research. Results indicated that of all the three socioeconomic factors evaluated, only occupation type significantly correlated (p-value ≤ 0.05) with four levels of participation (decision-making, implementation, sharing of benefits, and evaluation). Occupation type factor should be considered in efforts to encourage community participation at different levels in self-development programs conducted among the longhouse Iban community members.

Tan Say Peng (with colleagues), National University of Malaysia
USING SOCIAL MEDIA APPLICATIONS ON OIL PALM EXTENSION SERVICES IN MALAYSIA
This study's main objective is to examine the role of information and communication technology as a tool for developing new norms in conveying information and empowering smallholders' knowledge. This study uses a qualitative approach through content analysis of several reports from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and a systematic review of previous studies. The study results found that the application of social media platforms by the Malaysian people is high. Two conclusions can be resulted in this study: the adoption of palm oil technology and information needs to be improved by smallholders through social media applications. Second, the development of more new social media applications to be easily understood and accessed by smallholders. This study implies that information and communication technology will change agricultural extension patterns, especially the palm oil sector in the future.

Daisy May Barker, Lancaster University
MOTHERING THE CRISES: AN EXPLORATION OF THE EXPERIENCES OF MOTHERS WORKING FROM HOME IN THE FIRST U.K. 'LOCKDOWN' DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
On the 23rd of March 2020, the United Kingdom went into 'lockdown' in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic; this meant restrictions on UK residents, the closure of many facilities including schools and childcare services, and where possible, the shift to working from home (WFH). The central objective of this talk is to document and analyse the experiences of mothers who managed productive and reproductive labour whilst WFH in lockdown. It draws on empirical data generated by interviews with six middle-class mothers. Applying a Social Reproduction Theory framework, it considers how the collapse of both the political economy of social reproduction and spatial separation between the home and work impacted mothers' labour and responsibilities whilst WFH. Particularly, it focuses on the increased amount and variety of reproductive labour that mothers completed whilst WFH in lockdown, and three forms they identified: home schooling, emotional labour, and taking responsibility for lockdown decisions.

Mariam Abouelenin, Lancaster University
INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT STABILITY IN EGYPT
Previous research on the intergenerational transmission of women's employment outcomes has, for the most part, relied on one-off measurements of employment participation. As a result, it remains unclear what the impact of parental employment is on women's long-term employment stability. Applying structural equation modeling to nationally representative longitudinal survey data, this study (a) examined the role played by mothers' employment in shaping the employment stability of their adult daughters, (b) assessed the mediating role of women's education, and (c) explored the moderating effects of mothers' and daughters' employment sectors. The results support the hypotheses that parental resource transfers and gender-specific modeling explain the intergenerational transmission of women's employment outcomes. Women's education mediated the effect of mothers' employment on the stability of daughter's employment. The employment sector moderated this relationship, with stronger transmission in the public than private sector. The results provide evidence of the lasting influence of maternal employment on women's working lives and highlight the role of the mothers and daughters' employment sector in limiting or promoting the intergenerational transmission of women's employment outcomes. Policy implications and suggestions for future research are discussed.