

From the Editor



As we are nearing the end of the year with the holiday season just round the corner, I invite all colleagues and friends to browse the third and final issue of the ISA eSymposium for 2013. In this issue's line-up, we have an interesting bundle of essays addressing topics including music and identity, blogshops, knowledge and policy-making, and Chinese business history.

The issue opens with an article contributed by Crystal Abidin who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Western Australia. In her paper, she analyses the relation between commercial blogging and 'taste' in mass market consumption. The next piece, written by senior researcher Anna-Katharina Hornidge from the University of Bonn, interrogates 'knowledge' vis-à-vis development discourses on a global scale with Malaysia and Indonesia as case studies. Koh Keng We, an assistant professor from Seoul National University brings to us in the third article, his thoughts on Chinese business history in the context of British colonial Asia. He deliberates upon how remittance businesses as well as the organisation of traditional Chinese medicine were strategically managed in a climate of global political and economic transitions taking place in twentieth century British Malaya.

Based on her doctoral research, Meagan Sylvester from the University of the West Indies shares with us her insights on how music and its lyrics are connected to national identity, ethnic affiliation and group identity in her analysis of carnival music in Trinidad and Tobago. The final piece that rounds up this issue features a conversation between former Vice-President (Programme, 2006-2010) of the ISA, Hans Joas, and Sarbeswar Sahoo, who presently teaches at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

I warmly invite contributions for future issues and also welcome feedback on these featured articles. Thank you very much for your support of the ISA eSymposium. Happy holidays and here's to a great 2014 ahead!

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