

DR. VILASHINI SOMIAH (NUS, PhD)
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Education

PhD	National University of Singapore Southeast Asian Studies	2014-2018
MA 2014	Ohio University Southeast Asian Studies	May
MA	University of Malaya Media Studies	May 2013
BA	University of Malaya, English Lit & Media Studies	August 2008

Selected Publications

Books

Somiah, V., "Pelagic Alliance: Irregular Migrants and the Sea at the Borders of Sabah, Malaysia," Palgrave Macmillan: New York (Q1 2022)

Welsh, B., Somiah, V. & Loh, B.Y.H., "Sabah From The Ground: The 2020 Elections and the Politics of Survival, " SIRD/ISEAS: Kuala Lumpur & Singapore (2021)

Book Chapters

Somiah, V., "Romance Through Digital Avatars: Online courtship, representation and catfishing amongst irregular female migrants in Sabah " Loh, B.Y.H. & Chin, J. (eds.) *New Media in the Margins: Lived realities and experiences from the Malaysian peripheries* (Under Review -Palgrave McMillan)

Somiah, V. & Jalil, A., "Incessant Political Narratives: Perilous Migrants and the Treacherous East" Welsh, B., Somiah, V., Loh, B.Y.H. (eds.), *Sabah From The Ground: The 2020 Elections and the Politics of Survival* (SIRD/ISEAS: Kuala Lumpur & Singapore, 2021)

Somiah, V., Usman, M.R., & Baltazar, A."Remembering the undocumented of Sabah in a panicked Malaysia" Baysa-Barredo, J.M., Khoo.Y. H. & Wiratraman, H.P. (eds.) *Southeast Asia, Infected and Interrupted: Elevating Critical Voices on the State of Human Rights and Peace in the Time of COVID-19* (SHAPE-SEA, 2021)

Journal Publications

Somiah, V., "The Sea is Indigenous 'Land' too: Negotiation of Presence and Rights of Indigenous Maritime Communities in Sabah, Malaysia," *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, Special Issue, (accepted for publication, Q4 2021). SCOPUS

Working Papers

Somiah, V. & Sto. Domingo, J.R, (2021) *Sabah's Unrelenting Exclusionary And Inclusionary Politics* (RSIS Working Paper, no. 334) S. Rajaratnam School Of International Studies : Singapore

Grants and Awards

The Henry Luce Foundation - LuceSEA initiative

2021-2025

The Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network 2.0: Communities of Learning, Research and Teaching Collaborative

Role: Co-Researcher

Impact Oriented Interdisciplinary Research Grant (IIRG)

2019-2021

Dis/Empowering Socio-cultural, Religious & Legal Aspects Towards Early Diagnosis of Cancer Among Urban B40 Women

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Role: Co-Researcher

Faculty of Arts and Social Science Book Grant Award

2020-2021

States and People in Plight: Interdisciplinary Discourses on Recovery, Survival and Politics during Pandemics

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Role: Primary Investigator

University of Malaya Book Grant Award

2020-2021

Pelagic Alliance: Irregular Migrants and the Sea at the Borders of Sabah, Malaysia

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Role: Primary Investigator

Ongoing Research

- *Intolerable Coastal Hinterlands: State Interferences in the Indigenous Mangroves of Pitas, Sabah* (Ongoing Research)
- *Early Diagnosis of Cancer Among Urban B-40 Women* (Ongoing Research)
- *An Ethnography of Silence: Lives of Indigenous Women in Borneo* (Ongoing Research)

Languages

- English: Native Language
- Bahasa Malaysia: Native Language
- Bahasa Malaysia Sabah: Native Language
- Cantonese: Intermediate oral skills, no writing skills

Paper Presentations

“Romance Through Digital Avatars: Online courtship, representation and catfishing amongst irregular female migrants in Sabah ” Brunei-Malaysia Forum 2021 (Universiti Brunei Darussalam), September, 2021

“Imagined Affinity, Veridical Effects: An exploration of Taiwan’s ancillary impact on network and survival amongst irregular migrants living in Sabah, Malaysia,” International Workshop on Culture Politics in Taiwan, (National Chung Hsing University), November 2019

Seminars

Presenter, “Sabah and Sarawak’s Political History & Self -Determination Theory,” New Naratif’s Sekolah Democracy, June 2021.

Panelist, “Sabah State Election Primer: Borneo Goes to The Poll,” University of Nottingham’s Asia Research Institute, Sept 2020.

Invited Lectures

“King Makers/King Breakers: Anthropological Perspectives on Sabah and Sarawak Politics” XPLORE: The International Young Scholars Xchange 2019, (Kyoto University) December 2019.

Workshops

Panelist, “Hanging out with Islamist, Gangsters and Revolutionaries: The Art of (not) Being Prepared for Fieldwork,” CSEAS, Kyoto University, Dec 2019.

Contributions to Society

Media Appearances

Interview, “Sabah From the Ground: The 2020 Elections & the Politics of Survival,” BFM, April 2021. <https://www.bfm.my/podcast/evening-edition/evening-edition/access-to-education-for-stateless-children>

Interview, “Consider This: Sabah | Lessons from 2020 election’,” Astro Awani, April 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYHFsf2Y08U>

Interview, “Consider This: PH Plus - Playing The Sabah Card?,” Astro Awani, Sept 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/BernameTV/videos/334460871197932/>

Interview, “#LTSK: Sabah Bangkit - More Than Youth Anthem?” Astro Awani, Sept 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/astroawani/videos/1369941209881610/>

Interview, “Tea with Tehmina - Episode 20 - Educating Sabah's Stateless Children,” Bernama News Channel, August 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/BernamaTV/videos/tea-with-tehmina-episode-20-educating-sabahs-stateless-children/3560836650606973/>

Interview, “Consider This: PH Plus - Playing The Sabah Card?,” Astro Awani, June 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyhYio5_Fv4

Interview, “Consider This: Kimanis By-Election - 'Down to the Wire',” Astro Awani, Jan 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EePP2Ye_99U

Interview, “Ideal Malaysia: Real or Utopia?,” Bernama News Channel, Sept 2019. <https://www.facebook.com/BernamaNewsChannel/videos/443100352970983/>

Interview, “Science and Math in English,” Bernama News Channel, Aug 2019. <https://www.facebook.com/BernamaNewsChannel/videos/445981459321737/>

Opinion Pieces

Loh, B.Y.H., Somiah, V., “The right to cyberbully?,” *Malaysiakini*, May 2021.

Loh, B.Y.H., Johan, A., Somiah, V., Varkkey, H., “The right to cyberbully?,” *Malaysiakini*, Feb 2021.

Somiah, V., “What Is the MA63? And Why it Is Important to Sabah and Sarawak,” *New Naratif*, September 2020.

Somiah, V., Usman, M., Baltazar, A. “Remembering Sabah's undocumented in a panicked Malaysia,” *Malay Mail*, March 2020