

**INTRODUCTION
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The latest issue of JATI reflects the confused and confusing times we live in. South East Asia, like the rest of the world has been destabilised by the rise of populism and beset by a pandemic whose longevity has undermined globalized trade and communications. Several papers in the current edition focus on these trends as they affect South East Asia and Malaysia in particular. Two papers examine the fourteenth general election and its impact on Malaysian politics. Muhamad Helmy Sabtu and his colleagues discuss the surprising resilience of PAS as a political and cultural force in federal politics whilst Tunku Nashril-Abaidah and Mohammad Agus Yusoff examine how the election reinforced the power of the office of the Prime Minister in Malaysian politics, further illustrating, if illustration were needed, of the asymmetrical power vested in the office.

The devastating impact of COVID-19 on the political economy and particularly the tourism industry in Malaysia is discussed by Azni Zarina Tahq and her colleagues, whilst Edward Laurence Opena draws attention to the continuing and neglected impact of HIV on regional health and development. Meanwhile Ariel Defino and Josefina Dizon examine the impact of climate change on female headed households in the Philippines. All these papers then draw attention to the impact of climate and infectious disease on the political economy of the region.

The remaining papers in this issue address more familiar regional anthropological and cultural concerns. Azima AM and her colleagues draw attention to customary practices and land disputes in Sabah, and Rodney C. Jubilado examines heritage education amongst the second generation Filipino community in Hawaii. Finally, Ying Qi Wu and Yue Cao reveal the impact of gentrification and wall art on the cultural heritage site of George Town. The issue makes for a revealing provocative read.