

List of Contributors

Aslam Abd Jalil is a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland. His research interests are refugee studies and labour migration. Aslam has also completed a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Malaya and a Bachelor's degree in Business from the Australian National University.

James Alin has been a member of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, since 2003. His journal publications are related to issues of seaweed economics, labour issues and the conservation of wildlife and natural areas. James also writes for local newspapers and Internet news portals. He holds two external appointments: as a Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor in the Center for Strategic Policy and Governance, Palawan State University, the Philippines and as an Adjunct Professor and Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Local Government, University of New England Business School, Australia.

Asraf Sharafi Mohammad Azhar (Asraf Sharafi) is from Kedah and is currently residing in Tuaran, Sabah. He is the Bersih 2.0 Programme Coordinator and has been active in social movements in Sabah since 2011. He writes poetry as well as analyses on politics and electoral reform.

Auzellea Kristin Mozihim currently works in the government sector as a teacher and has been teaching for five years. She is now enrolled in a Master's in Administrative Science researching the policy process of the Kadazan-Dusun language in schools. Apart from being the researcher for Undi Sabah, she is also the co-founder for Edufication, a platform where teachers can engage in education discourse. Her passion in education, politics, and policies looks at how youths as young as 15 should be empowered in obtaining political literacy and inculcating mature political judgment. Working in the education sector has opened her eyes to acknowledging the potential that youths have, if only they are given the proper knowledge and tools to evaluate government policies and political affairs.

Tony Paridi Bagang has a Master's degree in Public Administration from Universiti Sains Malaysia and is currently attached to the Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA Sabah. He has contributed to several edited volumes including *Electoral Dynamics in Malaysia: Findings from the Grassroots* (2014), *Constitutional Asymmetry in Multinational Federalism. Federalism and Internal Conflicts* (2019) and *The Defeat of Barisan Nasional: Missed Signs or Late Surge?* (2019). He is now completing his PhD at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kuching.

Chan Tsu Chong is a socio-political activist currently based in Melaka, Malaysia. He recently gained his Master's in Asian Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Formerly, he was the Outreach Officer in Bersih 2.0 and has been involved in various electoral reform campaigns. He continues to contribute towards political reforms in Malaysia at the policy and grassroots level.

Nelson Dino is a poet and social activist. Raised in Sandakan, he uses his love for the literary arts, particularly poetry, short stories and novels, to promote social change. He has written extensively about Suluk visual arts and culture. His Master's thesis, which is an iconological study of various motifs found on the *ukkil*, the Suluk art of carving, is now being turned into a book and will be published soon. He is passionate about learning the arts and culture of many other races in Malaysia. He believes in cultural knowledge building as a way towards achieving awareness, appreciation, and harmony among different peoples. He is a recipient of the Sabah Literary Prize, 2018. His two novels are published by the Institute of Language and Literature, Malaysia (DBP): *Janikar Oh Janikar* (2020) and *Sapi Mandangan dan Apuk Dagan* (2018). His three books of poetry were published in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Fiqah Roslan currently works as a reporter at a local news daily. Her experience in journalism catalysed her interest in advocacy, particularly involving youths. Prior to entering the workforce, she first gained exposure to advocacy through Green Leaf Theatre House, a Sabah-based non-governmental organisation. In her involvement with Green Leaf, she works with youths to create awareness and foster a better understanding of societal issues, using theatre as a medium. Together with a group of

journalist colleagues, she is also a writer and contributor for Borneo Speaks, a platform founded by Sabahan journalists as a form of alternative media telling Sabahan and Bornean stories. Most recently, she serves as a Research and Content Engineer for Undi Sabah.

Philip Golingai is a news editor at The Star Media Group. He writes two columns, 'One Man's Meat' on Wednesdays for *The Star Online* and 'It's Just Politics' for *The Star* on Sunday. He was the Asia News Network editor and *The Star's* Thailand correspondent in Bangkok from 2006 to 2010. He has won four Malaysia Press Institute Awards.

Yi Jian Ho is a Research Associate at the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia. His areas of focus are on governance, international relations and comparative politics. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the Australian National University under the Hedley Bull Scholarship and a Bachelor's in Political Science from the National University of Singapore as an ASEAN Scholar. He has experience in advocacy and think tank work, with selective publications on Malaysian socio-economics, migration, electoral politics, energy and South China Sea security.

Benjamin YH Loh is a media scholar who employs digital ethnography to study emergent cultures and the digital public sphere. Having received his PhD in Communications and New Media from the National University of Singapore, he focuses much of his work on the confluence of technology and society, with a particular focus on minority and marginalised communities. He is currently a senior lecturer at the School of Media and Communication, Taylor's University.

Beverly Joeman is a Kadazan from Penampang who believes in defending fundamental civil liberties. She is a mom to three gorgeous children, the Program Coordinator for the CSO Platform for Reform under Pusat Komang, the current BERSIH 2.0 (Sabah) Vice Chair, a Supreme Council Member of Kadazan Society Sabah (KSS), and an Executive Committee Member of Gabungan Bertindak Malaysia, in that order. She also dabbles in writing satirical prose and poems that reside in her notebook.

Mahirah Marzuki just passed her Bar in Sabah and currently works as a civil litigation lawyer. She is the Program Coordinator of Undi Sabah as well as a researcher. Her interest in activism was sparked when she joined the Sabah Human Rights Centre, understanding and assisting on issues of marginalised communities. She is also passionate about parliamentary reforms, being involved in the Senate 18 Campaign aiming to lower the age of eligibility for the Senate. Her involvement in the Policy and Research Team in the Malaysian Youth Delegation, which focuses on climate change, helps her understand that a lot of issues plaguing society are, more often than not, intersectional. She constantly strives to listen, understand and empower the people around her to be more involved in shaping the direction of her beloved home state.

Marcilla Elmy Malasius graduated with a Master's degree in Economics in 2018 from the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, Universiti Malaysia Sabah. She is now in her second year as a PhD candidate in Human Resource Economics, working on the Beveridge Curves for Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. Her more recent publication was on solid waste management in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Arnold Puyok is currently the Deputy Dean (Research and Commercialisation) and Senior Lecturer in Politics and Government Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. Dr Puyok's research articles on contemporary Malaysian politics, especially Sabah and Sarawak have been published in *Asian Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Kajian Malaysia*, *Asian Politics and Policy*, and *Journal of Borneo-Kalimantan*. Dr Puyok's first book is *Electoral Dynamics in Sarawak: Contesting Developmentalism and Rights* (SIRD/ISEAS, 2017) which he co-edited with Meredith L. Weiss. In 2014, together with like-minded Sabahans from various professional backgrounds, Dr Puyok established the Society Empowerment and Economic Development of Sabah (SEEDS) an NGO dedicated to creating a moderate and progressive society in Sabah (<https://www.facebook.com/seedssabah1/>).

Oh Ei Sun is senior fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and Principal Adviser to the Pacific Research Center of Malaysia. He was visiting professor at Hang Seng University of Hong Kong and senior fellow

at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Previously Ei Sun was political secretary to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. A justice of the peace, Ei Sun is a council member of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association. He is also an avid commentator and columnist on politics, economics and current affairs for various international media. Ei Sun was Administrative Officer at the International Telecommunication Union, and scientific and legal consultant to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva, Switzerland. Ei Sun studied at the University of California, USA, where he earned his JD, MBA, MSc, BSc (aeronautical and mechanical engineering) and BA (German).

Mohd Rahimin Mustafa is a business entrepreneur. He is currently a student at the School of Distance Learning, University Sains Malaysia, pursuing a Bachelor of Social Science Research (Honours). He has been active in Sabah politics and his current research interests are electoral politics and the politics of Islam in Sabah. He is a Research Associate of Institut Kajian Strategik Negeri Sabah (IKSAS or Sabah Strategis Studies Institute) affiliate the PAS, Parti Islam Malaysia or Malaysian Islamic Party.

Vilashini Somiah is a Sabahan anthropologist who received her PhD from the National University of Singapore. Currently a Senior Lecturer at the Gender Studies Programme at the University of Malaya, her work focuses primarily on underrepresented narratives of women, youth, migrants and marginalised Borneans living in the interiors. With over a decade of research experience behind her, Dr Somiah has also produced interdisciplinary research in the fields of history, politics and socio-economics. Outside of academia, she writes ethnographic articles on the local socio-political landscape.

Trixie Tangit is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia. She received her PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University, her Master's in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii and her Bachelor's in Child Development, emphasising in community services, from Michigan State University. Prior to her foray into academia, she worked extensively with NGOs both in Malaysia and Australia in the areas of language rights and

indigenous advocacy (Kadazan-Dusun Language Foundation; Reconciliation Australia), and the empowerment of women and female children (Good Shepherd Services Malaysia). Realising that the ballot box does not solve problems; rather, people do, Trixie's keen engagement with youths is aimed at bringing their voices to the fore, encouraging youths to spark a new consciousness in the Sabahan and Malaysian political landscapes.

Bridget Welsh is an Honorary Research Associate with University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute Malaysia (UoNARI-M), a Senior Research Associate of the Hu Feng Center for East Asia Democratic Studies of National Taiwan University and a Senior Associate Fellow of the Habibie Center. She specialises in Southeast Asian politics, with a focus on Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Indonesia. After receiving her PhD in political science from Columbia University, she taught at John Cabot University, Ipek University, Singapore Management University, SAIS (JHU) and Hofstra University. She is a Senior Advisor for Freedom House, a member of the NED's International Research Council and a core member of the Asian Barometer Survey.

Amanda Yeo Yan Yin is a Research Analyst at EMIR Research, Malaysia. Prior to researching socio-economic issues in Malaysia, she served as Private Secretary to both the Minister of Youth and Sports of Sabah and Minister of Health and People's Well-Being of Sabah. Amanda's thought-leadership articles and research pieces have been published by the likes of *Bernama*, the *Malay Mail*, *The Star*, *Focus Malaysia* and *Singapore International Foundation*. With her passion for integrating Malaysia and ASEAN into China-United States interactions, she was selected as the Malaysia Founding Chapter Leader at the Young SEAkors and as one of the 100 Southeast Asian delegates for the YSEALI Good Governance and Civil Society Regional Workshop. Amanda earned her Master's in International Relations at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and a Bachelor's in Economics and Finance from the University of London.