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MALAY COSMOPOLITANNESS AND RECIPROCITY: BETWEEN ADAT AND RELIGION

Dr. Rosila Bee Mohd Hussain

Abstract

This article discusses how Malay postgraduate students prepared themselves to undertake overseas study and the various new challenges with which they need to deal upon arrival. It explores some situations relating to their efforts to reinforce their ethnic and religious identities in relation to their interactions with others. What is highlighted throughout this experience is the fact that decisions made by the Malay students prioritise their religious identity compared to other forms of identity. Discussions indirectly show how the Malay postgraduate students reveal they are still negotiating their traditional culture/adat and new environment. The idea of reciprocity between traditional culture/adat and new/modern culture is much anticipated in their adjustment process. This study is part of an empirical research conducted among the Malay postgraduate students in Western Australia.

Introduction—An overview of Malay Adat

In discussing Malay society, it is essential to develop an understanding of the cultural formations and constructions of Malay adat (traditional
This book has outlined many aspects of traditionalism and modernity, although the topics here are divergent; the consistent part of it is that all of the authors mostly come from the same disciplines of Sociology and Social Anthropology. The main concern is to find out the socio-cultural changes that have occurred due to modernization and development. From that perspective, the book is very useful to understand Sociology and Social Anthropology from diversities based on traditionalism and modernity. It contains eleven articles contributed by a few renowned sociologists and social anthropologists from a number of countries around the world, focusing on diversified issues on traditionalism and modernity.

The papers are written on the basis of each author's expertise in their respective field which are compiled to make them a suitable document in the field of Sociology and Social Anthropology. The book seems to be very useful for the students seeking knowledge on traditionalism and modernity having based in Sociology and Social Anthropology. The concepts of traditionalism and modernity are very important and are related issues in Sociology and Social Anthropology that many theoretical discussions have been carried out in these areas and several theoretical paradigms have been conceptualized in this regard which have been highlighted in the book in the form of descriptive-analytic discussion.

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**DR. A.H.M. ZEHADUL KARIM** has been teaching in the universities for more than thirty five years and presently he has been serving at the International Islamic University, Malaysia. He received his MA and Ph.D. degrees in Anthropology from Syracuse University, USA. Dr. Karim studied Sociology at Lakehead University for one year in Canada, he also received his M.A. in Sociology from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. As of now, he has written about 120 articles, which includes published papers in professional international journals, research reports and contributions to international conferences abroad.

**DR. NURAZZURA MOHAMAD DIAH** is Head of Department in Sociology and Anthropology at the International Islamic University, Malaysia. She obtained her PhD in anthropology from the University of Western Australia, Perth.