

CSEAS Gender Seminars 2024

with Dr. Humairah Binte Zainal

Research Fellow, Singapore General Hospital; Associate Lecturer, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



February 21 Fri 25 Tue 2025

Seminar on Gender Issues in Academia

**Negotiating Gender Equality:
The Singapore Malay-Muslim
Women's Struggle for
Empowerment and Social Justice**



February 21 Fri 2025
16:00-17:30 In person only



Research Commons
1st Floor, East Building, CSEAS, Kyoto University



Moderator

Chika Obiya (CSEAS)

Special Seminar Frontiers of Gender Studies in Asia

**The Irony of Islamization:
Sexuality, Piety and Power on
Malaysian Screens**



February 25 Tue 2025
9:30-11:00 In person only



Research Commons
1st Floor, East Building, CSEAS, Kyoto University



Moderator

Kisho Tsuchiya (CSEAS)



Speaker **Humairah Binte Zainal**

Dr. Humairah is a Research Fellow at Singapore General Hospital and an Associate Lecturer at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from NTU, where she won the School of Social Sciences' Alumni Star of Social Impact Award. This award recognizes her exceptional post-graduation achievements and her dedication to transformative change within her community and beyond.

Dr. Humairah has published extensively in the fields of gender, Islam, Malay culture, and medical education, focusing on the impact of digital health on clinical practice. She is the author of *The Primordial Modernity of Malay Nationality: Contemporary Identity in Malaysia and Singapore*, published by Routledge in 2022.

For five years, Dr. Humairah served as an Executive Committee Member of the research arm of the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) in Singapore. She was also a member of the Steering Committee spearheading AMP's Fourth National Convention. Beyond academia, Dr.

Humairah has been an active voice in public discourse, addressing critical issues such as youth leadership in community organisations, majority-minority relations, and the rights and empowerment of women. In 2022, Dr. Humairah was recognised as one of the *Successful People in Singapore* by the British Publishing House, a testament to her contributions and impact on society.

February 21, 2025

Seminar on Gender Issues in Academia

Negotiating Gender Equality: The Singapore Malay-Muslim Women's Struggle for Empowerment and Social Justice

This presentation focuses on public debates on gender equality and gender-related issues within Singapore's Malay-Muslim community. It discusses the progress made in gender equality and empowerment in the last decade, highlighting areas of improvement, as well as aspects that remain unchanged in the pursuit of gender parity. The presentation also sheds light on the barriers to advancing women's rights and empowerment in both the public and private spheres, including cultural norms, religious interpretations, and systemic inequalities. Additionally, it explores how global trends and phenomena, such as 'woke' culture, influence the Malay-Muslim community's attitudes towards gender roles, feminism, and social justice, and how these attitudes are negotiated within the local socio-religious context. The presentation also offers recommendations on how the Muslim community can help women reconcile their faith and identity in a 'feminist' struggle for gender equality and in a world divided by dichotomies.



February 25, 2025

Special Seminar: Frontiers of Gender Studies in Asia

The Irony of Islamization: Sexuality, Piety and Power on Malaysian Screens

This presentation examines the complex relationship between film reception and gender dynamics in Malaysia, particularly within the context of religious and social hierarchies. Despite the state's emphasis on Islamization, Islamic-themed films produced in the country often fail to resonate with local audiences, while Malay-language dramas and commercial films that feature physical intimacy enjoy significant popularity. This presentation problematizes the extent to which the local audiences' preferences for sexually provocative productions indicate a wavering commitment to Islam. It also explores how the portrayal of intimacy in these films, framed by social hierarchies, contributes to their appeal and broader social acceptance, even when they appear to challenge religious norms and teachings. The presentation highlights how the audience's attraction to productions with sexual content reflects local interpretations of Islam and their intersections with Malaysian cultural identities, gender norms, and ethnic-based expectations.



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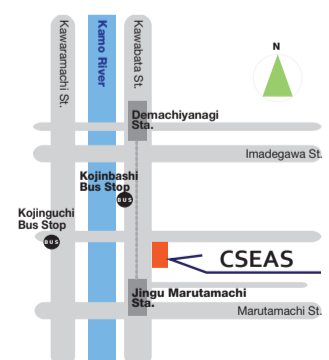


Access

<https://kyoto.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access-2/>



From "JR Kyoto" Station
Take No.4, No.17 or No.205 bus
and get off at "Kojinguchi". Then
walk for five minutes to the east.
From "Jingu-Marutamachi" Station
of Keihan Railway.
Walk for five minutes to the north.



Contact obiya@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp