

FOREWORD

In February 2021, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the Southeast Asian Media Studies Association held its first virtual international conference. The theme of the conference, “Histories, States, Theories, and Futures,” was intentionally chosen to be broad to appeal to a wide range of media practitioners and scholars. With three keynote lectures, one roundtable discussion, ten panels, forty-eight panel papers, and attendees from around the globe, SEAMSA’s first conference was a solid success. Several of the articles included in this special issue Vol. 4, No. 1 were presented at the conference.

The issue is thus comprised of four research articles that reflect the broad appeal of SEAMSA and the special interests of our contributors and SEAMSA members: “Inspiring Social Change through Independent Media: Case Studies on *Bulatlat* and *Konde.co*” by Dr. Levon Kwok (independent researcher), “Sounding Transnationalism: Popular Music in *Paris by Night* and *The Sympathizer*” by PhD candidate Clara Chin (University of California at Santa Barbara, USA), “Vietnam’s *Đổi Mới* Cinema: Navigating Gender Relations in Tony Bui’s *Three Seasons* (1999)” by Lan-Hanh Thi Nguyen (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan), and “Raikantopino: Globalization of the Boys’ Love Genre in the Philippines” by Erwin James A. dela Cruz (University of the Philippines Diliman). These articles are followed by Dr. Le Thu Mach’s (University of Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics) review of the Vietnam Sports Forum 2022 from a sports branding perspective.

The completion of this issue and its adherence to high quality standards were ensured by committed media industry experts and academics. First of all, many thanks and much appreciation go to the guest editor Dr. William F. Smith II. He is a media expert and an Associate Professor at the College of Communication and Media Science, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates. Having worked in leading higher education institutions in Thailand, China, and the UAE for well over a decade, Prof. Smith brought his professional experience and vast knowledge about media and communication to this SEAMSA special issue.

Many thanks also go to our external reviewers for their constructive comments and valuable suggestions on the articles presented here. They are Prof. Dr. Jimmy B. Fong (University of the Philippines, Baguio), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yeoh Seng-Guan (Monash University, Malaysia), Asst. Prof. Dr. Stephanie Jean Tsang (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong), Dr. Jonathan Benney (Monash

University, Australia), Dr. Poowin Bunyavejchewin (Thammasat University, Thailand), and Dr. Henrikus Yulianto (Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia).

Equally appreciated is the dedicated work of our assistant editors, namely, Dr. Jose Reuben Alagaran II, Mr. Herwin B. Cabasal, Mr. Martin Lukanov, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syamsul Zahri Subir, Asst. Prof. Dr. Orville B. Tatcho, and Asst. Prof. Mr. Jason P. Telles. They provided vital language corrections and recommendations for improvement of the articles at hand.

Following the 2022-call for new assistant editors and a careful selection process, four scholars are ready to join the SEAMSJ editorial board for the years 2023 and 2024. They are Dr. Swati Jaywant Rao Bute (Jagran Lakecity University, India), Dr. Muthukumaran Kanasan (Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology, Malaysia), Dr. Mary Anne DC Mallari (University of Santo Tomas, Philippines), and Dr. Maria Gwenetha Y. Pusta (Far Eastern University, Philippines).

SEAMSJ has become a member of the recently founded Asian Journals Network. On 15 November 2022, the editors of twenty Asian academic journals in the humanities and social sciences signed a Memorandum of Understanding, pledging their mutual support regarding quality assurance measures, best practice procedures, and knowledge production. Thus, SEAMSJ is now a member of a network that includes well-established and highly esteemed journals, such as *Unitas*, *Kritike*, *Kritika Kultura*, *Southeast Asian Studies*, and many more.

This is the seventh journal issue published by SEAMSA. Readers are encouraged to visit the website <https://seamsa.org/journal-issues> for free access to all previously published issues.

I wish you much intellectual pleasure while reading this latest SEAMSJ issue.

Alexander J. Klemm

Managing Editor-in-Chief

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