

Assoc Prof Sumit MANDAL

Education

- PhD (History) Columbia University
 - MA (History) Columbia University
 - BA (History) Columbia University
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Professional Experience

2015 – 2024

Associate Professor of Transregional History, School of Politics, History and International Relations, University of Nottingham Malaysia

1996 – 2014

Research Fellow/Senior Fellow, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

2008 – 2012

Research Associate, Collaborative Research Centre on Representations of Changing Social Orders, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

- Transregional History
 - Malay World
 - Indian Ocean
 - Muslim Societies
 - Cosmopolitanism
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Short Biography

Sumit Mandal has been Visiting Associate Professor and Muhammad Alagil Chair in Arabia Asia Studies at ARI since July 2024. He is a transregional historian who researches the outcome of longstanding inter-cultural and inter-religious interaction in the Malay World—understood as a flexible and expansive cultural geography. His current research explores *keramat* (Muslim shrines) in the Indian Ocean as the built archives of a little-known past enmeshed in individual acts of intellectual and political leadership, inter-cultural interaction, transregional connections, piety, and miracles. This research has taken him to Java, Sumatra, Singapore, the Malay Peninsula, and the Cape Peninsula (South Africa).

Publications

Book

Becoming Arab: Creole Histories and Modern Identity in the Malay World. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2018).

Refereed Articles (Selected)

“An Arab Indonesian singing preacher, an Islamic mass concert, and the historic capture of a public space in Malaysia.” *Asian Studies Review*, vol. 48, no. 1, pp. 36–53 (2024).

“Charting a Malay-Islamic past: An emerging transnational geography of meaning and the consolidation of an exclusivist identity in Malaysia.” *History and Anthropology*, vol. 34, no. 5, pp. 762–778 (2023).

“Pathways of the *Umma*: The flow of faith tourists from Peninsular Malaysia to Aceh in Indonesia,” *The Muslim World*, vol. 109, no. 3, pp. 261–277 (2019).

“Cultural geographies of the Malay world: Textual trajectories in the Indian Ocean,” *Philological Encounters*, vol. 1, no. 1-4, pp. 370–395 (2016).

Edited Journal Special Issue

“Global Conjunctions in the Indian Ocean, Malay World Trajectories,” *Indonesia and the Malay World*, vol. 41, no. 120 (2013).

Edited Books

Ariel Heryanto and Sumit K. Mandal, eds. *Challenging Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia: Comparing Indonesia and Malaysia*. London: RoutledgeCurzon (2003).

Norani Othman and Sumit K. Mandal, eds. *Malaysia Menangani Globalisasi: Sebagai Peserta atau Mangsa?* [Malaysia Engages Globalisation: As Actor or Victim?]. Bangi: Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (2000).

Book Chapters (Selected)

“Hadrami connections with the Malay world: Creole histories, transcultural Islam and racialization,” In D. Abdelhady and R. Aly, eds., *Routledge Handbook on Middle Eastern Diasporas*. London: Routledge, pp. 383–393 (2022).

“Creole Hadramis in the Malay world in the 1800s: Fragments of biographies and connected histories,” In S.P. Gabriel and F. Rosa, eds., *Cosmopolitan Asia: Littoral Epistemologies of the Global South*. London: Routledge, pp. 69–81 (2016).

“Arabs in the urban social landscapes of Malaysia: Historical connections and belonging,” In Khoo Gaik Cheng and Julian C.H. Lee, eds., *Malaysia’s New Ethnoscapes and Ways of Belonging*. London: Routledge, pp. 31–70 (2016).

“Popular sites of prayer, transoceanic migration, and cultural diversity: Exploring the significance of *keramat* in Southeast Asia.” In Tim Harper and Sunil Amrith, eds., *Sites of Asian Interaction: Ideas, Network and Mobility*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press, pp. 127–143 (2014).

Op-Eds and Other Publications (Selected)

“The built archives of popular Islam in Singapore and Cape Town,” *post: notes on art in a global context*, <https://mo.ma/3Adu2J3>, 20 July (2022).

“On becoming Arab and being creole,” with Zoe Butt and Lee Weng-Choy, in Zoe Butt, ed., *Journey Beyond the Arrow - Sharjah Biennial 14: Leaving the Echo Chamber*, New York: Prestel, pp. 76–83 (2019).

Awards/Grants and Distinctions (Selected)

The Barakat Trust, London, “Major Award” for research on “*Keramat: The Built Archives of Popular Islam in the Malay World*” spanning historical archives and sites in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and South Africa (2023).

Harry J Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies for *Becoming Arab: Creole Histories and Modern Identities in the Malay World* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).