

Bio and Research Interests

Faizul is an anthropologist and a PhD fellow at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), Kyoto University. His research interests are in ethnicity, ethnic identity, Borneo studies, Dusun studies, social class, and food anthropology.

Education

| Kyoto University

Ph.D. Southeast Asian Area Studies | March 2028

Division of Southeast Asian Area Studies, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS)

Thesis: "Sembila and a Sense of Belonging: The Identity of the Borderland Bisaya of Sarawak and Dusun-Bisaya of Brunei"

MA Southeast Asian Area Studies | December 2024

Awarded a Master's degree under the 5-year integrated doctoral program.

Thesis: "Who are the Brunei Dusun: Indigenous Identification and Ethnic Group Formation"

| Universiti Brunei Darussalam

MA Anthropology (By Research) | June 2020

Thesis: "Understanding and Framing Middle-Class Bruneians Through Food Choices"

BA Sociology and Anthropology | June 2014

Thesis: "Understanding the Multifaceted Identity of the Brunei Dusun"

Academic Appointments

| Research Assistant to Special Academic Advisor | December 2019 - December 2021

Universiti Brunei Darussalam

| Research Assistant | November 2018 - March 2019

Centre for Advanced Research (CARE)

| Research Assistant | September - December 2015

Institute of Asian Studies (Universiti Brunei Darussalam)

Selected Publications

| Forthcoming Journals and Book Chapters

"Tribal Indigeneity and National Identity: State and Society in Brunei and Singapore"

Faizul Ibrahim and Tong Chee Kiong

"Being and Becoming: Contestation of Identity among the Dusun of Borneo"

Tariq Modood, Tong Chee-Kiong, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Lian Kwen Fee

"Accommodative Secularism and Cultural Homogenization in Singapore and Borneo"

Tong Chee Kiong, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Lian Kwen Fee

"Ethnic Formation and Social Change: The Lowland Dusun of Brunei 1950s – 1990s"

Lian Kwen Fee, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Tong Chee Kiong

| Journals

“Emergent Ethnicities in Borneo: The Standardisation and Institutionalisation of Adat for the Dusun of Brunei and the Saban of Sarawak, Malaysia” | 2027

Faizul Ibrahim and Sharon Bentley

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute

“Indigenous Authority, Ethnic Leadership, and Identity in Borneo: The Tatuwo of the Brunei Dusun” | 2027

Faizul Ibrahim, Dk Ain Pg Musa and Yabit Alas

Asian Ethnicity

“The Last Penan Family in Brunei” | 2026

Dk Ain Pg Musa and Faizul Ibrahim

Brunei Museum Journal

| Book Chapters

“Food Choices and the Malay Muslim Middle Class in Brunei Darussalam” | 2023

Faizul Ibrahim

Springer Nature Singapore

DOI: [10.1007/978-981-19-6059-8_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-6059-8_5)

| Working Papers

“Who are the Dusun in Brunei? Representation and Deconstruction of an Ethnic Identity” | 2022

Lian Kwen Fee, Yabit Alas, Tong Chee Kiong, Faizul Ibrahim

Institute of Asian Studies Working Paper

DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.26212.04487](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.26212.04487)

“Kitchen Anthropology: Understanding Food, Cooking and Eating in Bruneian Middle-Class Families” | 2018

Faizul Ibrahim

Institute of Asian Studies Working Paper

DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.26649.72802](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.26649.72802)

Fellowships and Grants

| Fellowships and Awards

MEXT (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship Recipient | April 2022 - March 2028

Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship (BDGS) Recipient | January 2012 - June 2020

| Grants

ASAFAS Budget Support Funding | 2026

ASAFAS Explorer Program Funding | 2024

Visiting Research Scholar

| Ethnography Section of Brunei Museum Departments | June 2024 - Present

Conferences and Presentations

| Poster Presenter

“Emergent Ethnicities in Borneo: The Standardisation and Institutionalisation of Adat for the Dusun of Brunei and the Saban of Sarawak”

108th OpenSEA Conference of the Southeast Asian Studies Association | December 2026

Japan Society for Southeast Asian Studies, Japan

| Panel Presenter

“Tribal Indigeneity and National Identity: State and Society in Brunei and Singapore”

| Individual Presenter

“People, Place, and a Sense of Belonging: The Ethnic Identity and Indigeneity of the Borderland Bisaya of Brunei and Sarawak”

6th SEASIA Biennial Conference “Forging Southeast Asia's Futures” | July 2026

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

| Individual Presenter

“Formations of Indigeneity in Brunei: The Dusun and Penan”

Transnational Seminar: Reorienting Borneo Studies | December 2025
Centre for Asian and African Area Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University, Japan

| Individual Presenter

“Who are the Brunei Dusun: Indigenous Identification and Ethnic Group”

Kinki Region Research Conference | February 2025
Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology, Japan

Teaching and Lectures

| Guest Lecturer

International Business Studies | 2025
Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts, Temple University (TUJ), Kyoto, Japan

| Guest Lecturer

AZ-4310 Anthropology of Food | 2019, 2020, 2021, 2025, 2026
Sociology-Anthropology Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Brunei

Fieldworks

| Puak Etnik Project with Ethnography Section of Brunei Museum Departments | 2024, 2025

| Making Sense of Dusunness Project with Universiti Brunei Darussalam | 2019 - 2020

| Elderly and Ageing Project with Centre for Advanced Research (CARE) | 2018

| Indian Migrants Project with Institute of Asian Studies | 2015

Languages and Skills

| Languages

English, Malay and Indonesian
IELTS Score – 7.5 (C1)

| Skills

Certified Trainer in peacebuilding and development (UNESCO) and gender dialogue (UN Women)
5 years of English teaching experience in Japan

Referees

| Professor Noboru Ishikawa

Professor, Centre of Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University
ishikawa@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp

| Professor Tatsuki Takaoka

Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), Kyoto University
kataoka.tatsuki.5u@kyoto-u.ac.jp

| Professor Tong Chee Kiong

Professor, Department of Public and International Affairs, City University of Hong Kong
cktong@cityu.edu.hk

| Professor Lian Kwen Fee

Retired Professor, Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam
domlkf@gmail.com