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# Book Review: Postcolonial Masculinities: Emotions, Histories, and Ethics

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**Amalan Kepimpinan Transformasi dalam Masyarakat Iban di Sarawak**

*Laying Ak Anggum, Haris Abd. Wahab, William Bunyau, Kwok Chin Hoe*

**Cetakan Visual Sejarah pada Era Pemerintahan British di Sarawak: Suatu Analisis Koleksi Balai Seni Visual Negara**

*Azian Hj Tahir, Arba'iyah Mohd Noor, Suffian Mansor*

**Profesion Aktuari Kerajaan dalam Sejarah dan Era Moden**

*Haslifah Mohamad Hasim*

**Exploring Challenges and Needs of Sex Workers' Children**

*Mathavi Nadarajah, Kamal Solhaimi Fadzil*

**Cabaran dalam Penjagaan Tidak Formal di Malaysia**

*Fatimah Abdullah, Siti Hajar Abu Bakar Ah, Mohd Suhaimi Mohamad*

**Exploring Challenges and Needs of Sex Workers' Children**

*Mathavi Nadarajah, Kamal Solhaimi Fadzil*

**The Path to Malaysia's Neutral Foreign Policy in the Tunku Era**

*Ito Mitsuomi*

**Identity and Selfhood in the Metaphors of Travel and Movement in Kincaid, Rushdie, and Anzaldua**

*David Cheng Eng Tneh*

**Book Review**

**Book review: Politics of the Temporary: An Ethnography of Migrant Life in Urban Malaysia**

*Shalini Teresa Fernandez*



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Alicia Izharuddin

## Abstract

There are strong arguments to support the tenacity of (post)colonial narratives surrounding the white European male and his masculine Other; the shadowy, darker-skinned man whose untameable sexual virility, or sometimes, paradoxically, feminised asexuality, become the hallmarks of his inferior status in the hierarchy of privilege. Such narratives continue to play out in anti-immigration rhetoric, inter-racial pornographic discourse, and countless of other instances deeply embedded in racist ideas. In Amal Treacher Kabesh's monograph, *Postcolonial Masculinities: Emotions, Histories, and Ethics* (2013, Ashgate), Egyptian and white British men's masculinities are seen as mysterious hinterlands. As an Egyptian woman, Treacher Kabesh argues, perhaps rather naively and conservatively, she cannot fully understand these two groups of men although her husband, father, stepfather, brothers, and cousins belong to them. Psychosocial approaches are adopted alongside fictional narratives in contemporary Egyptian and British novels to make sense of the emotional hinterlands of men whose collective ancestral memory is intertwined with colonialism, the aftermath of 9/11, and the Arab spring. Rather than reinforcing the apparent oppositions between British and Egyptian masculinities, Treacher Kabesh's book aims to question them, bringing to light instead the commonalities that exist in the inner lives of these men.

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[Current](#)

[Archives](#)

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