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UBD RISES ONCE AGAIN IN TIMES HIGHER RANKINGS

Building on the success of rising up the QS rankings (now QS 254th in the world, a jump of 44 places since last year) UBD has made great strides for the second year running in the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021. Rising from last year's position in the 401-500 band, the university is now placed in the 351-400 band, making it the 4th highest university in ASEAN. UBD performed particularly well in International Outlook and Research Impact, positioned at 123rd in the world, which recognises the international nature of UBD's staff, student body and collaborative research.

SHBIE staff are proud to have been able to contribute to these impressive achievements.



SHBIE NEWS

Students as co-authors / Comics in the classroom

SHBIE's MTeach teacher candidates have successfully published four papers in 2020 exploring the use of comics in the teaching and learning of mathematics and science. Published together with SHBIE's **Dr Masitah Shahrill, Dr Roslinawati Roslan and Dr Hardimah Mohammed Said**, the papers co-authored by MTeach students have appeared in the *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1470(1) and *Formatif: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan MIPA*, 10(2). The papers report on action research projects to improve teaching effectiveness in primary and secondary schools, carried out by the teacher candidates in the course of their MTeach teaching practice. The papers examine the impact of using comics in teaching, student perceptions and interaction in the classroom and demonstrate positive outcomes.

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Students as co-authors / E-portfolios

A former SHBIE MTeach teacher candidate, Dr Syazana Hj Ebil, has successfully published a paper in a Q1 journal, based on her Research Exercise module during her MTeach studies. The paper, entitled "The use of E-portfolios for self-reflection to promote learning: A case of TVET students" has been published in *Education and Information Technologies*. The journal, published by Springer, is ranked by SCOPUS as 89th percentile in the Social Sciences (Education) category. The paper employed the Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) construct (a feature of the MTeach degree), to investigate the use of

students' structured reflection through digital learning portfolios (e-portfolio), and was co-authored by SHBIE's **Dr Sallimah Salleh and Dr Masitah Shahrill**.
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IJLLS / Journal recognition

Prof Keith Wood's role as Editor-in-Chief and co-founding editor of the *International Journal for Lesson and Learning Studies* has been recognised by the recent inclusion of the journal in Clarivate Analytics' Social Science Citation Index. *IJLLS* is published by Emerald Publishing and is the first journal of its kind to publish research on lesson and learning studies aimed at fostering a democratic, discursive and action orientated inquiry process. The journal aims to promote interdisciplinary and cross-national collaboration between groups of teacher educators, educational researchers and schoolteachers.

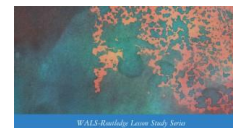
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Research grant / Digital literacies

SHBIE's **Dr Sallimah Salleh** and Dr Noraisyikin Sabani of Curtin University (Sarawak Campus) have been awarded a major research grant for their joint proposal entitled 'Development of personalised learning hub framework: Means to assist East Malaysia's rural learners in HEI'. The study's long term objective is to aid future undergraduates from rural areas who are transitioning into higher education institutions. The research will examine digital affordances, digital skills exposure and literacy skills, perceived usability and importance of digital literacy and devices in the personalisation of learning.

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SHBIE BOOK NEWS



CHANGING TEACHING,
CHANGING TEACHERS
21ST CENTURY TEACHING AND LEARNING
THROUGH LESSON AND LEARNING STUDY

Keith Wood and Sarath Sithamparam



Changing Teaching, Changing Teachers: 21st Century Teaching and Learning through Lesson and Learning Study is a new book written by SHBIE's **Professor Keith Wood** and former SHBIE Associate **Professor Sarath Sithamparam**, published this November by Routledge. The book focuses on engaging teachers themselves in changing teaching as a way to bring about teacher change through lesson study and learning study. This approach to professional development is not about telling teachers what and how they should teach but about empowering them to make their own decisions about what needs to change. Without teacher empowerment, the authors argue, top-down curriculum development is almost bound to fail. The book presents cases of collaborative professional development, in which teachers are intended to be the subjects and not the objects of research into teachers' professional development. The authors' new book builds on the success of their earlier edited collection, *Realising Learning: Teachers' professional development through lesson and learning study*, also published by Routledge.

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SHBIE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS



SHBIE has recently organised two Research Workshops to support and stimulate research collaboration among SHBIE staff. The workshops included plans for over 20 new projects, covering many different themes of education research, including disadvantaged children, road safety in curriculum development, the impact of Covid19 on special needs education, blended learning, scientific literacy and values education. Research Support Groups have now been established to carry the projects forward in the coming months.

TEACHER'S DAY CONFERENCE

SHBIE has recently co-organised the annual Teacher's Day Conference (TDC), together with the Brunei Darussalam Teacher Academy (BDTA) and the Ministry of Education. The event was held virtually on 28th September 2020, with working members of the committee stationed in the MoE and BDTA building.



The conference was held under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Guest of Honour, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, and featured 36 parallel presentations covering the major themes of 'Redesigning the curriculum', 'Pedagogy' and 'Assessment'. Also included were a panel forum with international speakers, 15 e-posters, and a keynote presentation and workshop by Andria Zafirakou, MBE, winner of the Global Teacher Prize, 2018. Abstracts, eposters and papers are available at <https://bdta.tech/tdc/>.

SELECTED RECENT PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

• **Dr Adeline Yuen Sze Goh** has recently published a paper in the renowned Q1 journal *Oxford Review of Education* (Taylor and Francis), entitled 'Learning cultures: understanding learning in a school-university partnership'. The paper presents an argument in favour of a cultural approach to understand learning at school placements and university in a school-university partnership, as part of an initial teacher preparation (ITP)

programme. Drawing on data from a completed qualitative field study of a group of student teachers enrolled in a one-year teacher training programme, the paper shows how learning through participating in the practices within the learning sites in a school-university partnership is central to becoming a teacher. The article also addresses ways in which we could advance our thinking in improving valuable learning experiences of student teachers through using a cultural approach.

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• **Dr Masitah Shahrill** participated as an invited keynote speaker at the 2nd International Seminar on Applied Mathematics and Mathematics Education 2020 (Online Conference), IKIP Siliwangi, Cimahi, Indonesia, on August 5, 2020. Her paper, entitled "Staying relevant with the challenges and opportunities of contemporary mathematics education research practices" can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNLajFG09Pg>

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• **Dr Abu Bakar Madin, Dr Rozaiman Makmun, Dr Suraya Tarasat, Noradinah Jaidi, Sri Kartika Abd Rahman** and Researcher **Dr Najib Noorashid** have recently had two papers accepted for inclusion in a new book to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in early 2021. Entitled *Globalization, Education, and Reform in Brunei Darussalam* and edited by SHBIE's Prof Phan Le Ha, Prof Keith Wood, Dr Rosmawijah Jawawi, Dr Hardimah Said and Dr Aisyah Kumpoh from FASS, the book will contain two chapters co-written by SHBIE staff members examining the implementation of Malay Islamic Monarchy Philosophy (MIB) in Year 7 Curriculum in Brunei Darussalam and the perceptions of Malay and MIB teachers of the Year 7 school curriculum.

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FEATURED RESEARCH PROJECT

SHBIE's Deputy Dean of Research, **Dr Andrew Littlejohn** (Principal Investigator) and Dr Sarah Boye and Dr Ishamina Athirah Gardiner, from UBD's Language Centre, have recently completed a funded research project entitled "Teachers' and learners' perceptions of classroom language learning tasks". Utilizing an innovative methodology with Personal Construct Repertory Grids, the aim of the research was to investigate how far teachers and learners share the same view of the purposes and value of common language learning tasks, and to thereby aid in understanding contributing factors which lead to success and failure in learning. The resulting data revealed significant 'hidden' differences in the ways in which the researched teachers and learners viewed classroom work. The most significant finding was that whilst teachers maintained a 'pedagogic orientation' to classroom work, the learners focussed almost entirely on a 'social orientation' and affective aspects in their engagement with classroom work. Learners' 'surface compliance' to teacher requests was evident, as they sought to manage the learning load and 'being taught'. An implication from the research findings points in the direction of involving learners more directly in classroom decision-making. The project has produced three research papers which are currently under review in Q1 journals. Further publication details will be reported in a future SHBIE Research Newsletter.

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