

# Preface

The social sciences and humanities continue to provide meaningful perspectives in understanding culture, identity, heritage, and community life within an increasingly globalised world. As societies experience rapid transformation through modernisation, migration, technological advancement, and changing social values, the need to document, interpret, and preserve cultural knowledge has become increasingly important. This special issue brings together scholarly contributions that examine diverse dimensions of cultural heritage, local identity, oral traditions, performing arts, architecture, and museum practices within Malaysian and regional contexts.

The studies featured in this issue highlight the significance of both tangible and intangible heritage in shaping collective memory, social values, and cultural continuity. They demonstrate how traditional knowledge, folklore, myths, customs, performance traditions, architectural forms, and public cultural spaces continue to function as important markers of identity. At the same time, these contributions show that heritage is not static, but constantly negotiated, adapted, and redefined in response to contemporary realities such as globalisation, cultural change, tourism, disaster risk, and sustainability concerns.

This special issue focuses on recent developments in social sciences and humanities research, particularly in relation to cultural heritage and identity. It covers a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

- Oral narratives, folklore, myths, and local belief systems
- Cultural identity, customs, and intangible heritage preservation
- Traditional performing arts, music, dance, and shadow puppetry
- Vernacular architecture, public design, and representations of local identity
- Museum practices, disaster risk management, and heritage sustainability
- Community-based cultural transmission and preservation strategies

The contributions in this issue aim to advance scholarly discourse on the role of heritage in sustaining cultural identity and community resilience. It is hoped that the insights presented will serve as valuable references for researchers, practitioners, cultural institutions, policymakers, and heritage stakeholders who are committed to safeguarding cultural traditions while ensuring their relevance for future generations.

## **Guest Editor:**

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