

# Foreword

Welcome to the fourth issue of 2025 for the *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (PJSSH)*!

PJSSH is an open-access journal for studies in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 17 articles; five review articles; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely China, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Nga Thi Tuyet Phan and colleagues investigate the Vietnamese University Students' Research Anxiety and Perceptions of Supervisor Support. This study examined differences in research anxiety levels among undergraduate students as well as the correlation between research anxiety and perceived supervisor support. Three hundred and ninety undergraduates completed online questionnaire surveys, and 20 participated in focus group discussions. A weak, positive relationship between anxiety and perceived support was identified, with qualitative data offering further insights into individual experiences and perceptions. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 1569.

A regular article titled "Examining the Psychometric Properties of the Westside Test Anxiety Scale Using the Rasch Model: Evidence from Nigerian Undergraduates" sought to investigate the psychometric qualities of the 10-item WTAS in a sample of 300 undergraduates at a public university in Nigeria. The results reveal indicated satisfactory outcomes for most of the criteria, including DIF, construct validity, and reliability evidence. However, it was discovered that the WTAS items were unable to target responders with higher abilities at the top of the assessed instrument on the Wright map. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 1661.

An article entitled "Sacred Symbolism in the Ritual Healing Ceremony of Magombok: An Analysis of the Panangsang Dance" explores gestures within the Panangsang dance to unravel the intricate tapestry of symbolic meanings. The findings reveal seven animal-inspired movements in the dance, including representations of the Eagle, Rooster, Stingray, Turtle, Spider, Python, and Cobra.

These zoomorphic gestures symbolically convey that the patient is afflicted by sorcery or ancestral curses. Further details of the study can be found on page 1703.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent *Pertanika*'s stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers and Editorial Board Members of *PJSSH*, who have made this issue possible.

*PJSSH* is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

**Editor-in-Chief**

Puvaneswaran Kunasekaran