

ACADEMIC FIELD

My expertise is in the field of psychology. There are many branches in the world of psychology, and my area is in Child and Family Psychology. I was also there at the beginning of this branch of study in UMS, and assumed the first Program Head Position (*Ketua Program*). I took charge of all its works and requirements until it was finally accredited by Malaysia's Department of Public Services (*Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam*). I remember the first batch very clearly, there were only 24 students. Our class group was very small, and thus we became very close until now.



CHILD AND FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY

Child and Family Psychology are studies on children's development phases which are grouped in three main domains. The three domains are the physical aspect, social-emotional aspect and the cognitive aspect. Cognitive is more commonly known as the mental development such as a child's language learning and Intelligence Quotient (IQ) apprehension. Why did I choose to delve in this area? Simply because I believe that the foundation of all human's development is in the childhood timeline. It is during this stage that a human starts forming its views and behaviors. What happened in this short time is very important because it will dictate how a person understand the world and the chosen way of behaving in it. I see a lot of importance in this. Family is also the first contact, so this two words cannot be separated. And it is how we have this Child and Family Psychology.

YOGYAKARTA

My place of study was in Yogyakarta. Yogyakarta is a city and the capital of Yogyakarta Special Region in Java, Indonesia. It is a very beautiful place. Peaceful and harmonious. The people there are very friendly. The world famous Borobudur is located here. The food I would say it about the same as Malaysia. The popular ones are the Gudeg (dish) and Bakpia (*kuih*).



Bakpia

Gudeg



Ms Agnis Sombuling in a multisensory environment for Autistic Children Therapy

MY ADVICE

I have seen the start of Universiti Malaysia Sabah until now. I was at the very beginning and experienced all the growth the developments of new areas. I think this university is a good place to work. The key criterion that I emphasize on is firstly, work with responsibility, and secondly, never ever belittle (*memperkecilkan*) anyone, students or staffs. To my dear students, my advice is to read more. Read academics, read general knowledge. Just be hardworking in reading and it will gain and develop you.

MY TIME OF STUDIES IN INDONESIA

Maybe if I could put down a few words for students aspiring to study in Indonesia. Firstly, students must learn and pass its Bahasa Indonesia. This language is very different from Bahasa Malaysia. It is a university prerequisite in that country and I am glad I have learn it well. If you want, I could teach you how to speak this language. I find it quite exhilarating that I have learnt another country's language. Secondly, students preparing to go to Indonesia for studies must have knowledge of its natural disaster. Unlike Malaysia, Indonesia have earthquakes and volcanoes. We are always on alert and prepare to evacuate on a moment's notice. It is a really different lifestyle compared to Malaysia, where over here we have occasional typhoons and floodings, Indonesia has an earth shaking level of natural phenomenon.

CLOSE CALL WITH A VOLCANO

Yogyakarta also have the most active volcano called the Gunung Merapi. It had erupted before in 1994 and 2006. So when I was there I thought, what are the chances of my time here and this volcano decided to erupt. Well, it did. It erupted in 2010 when I was there, and the government of Indonesia issued the highest warning and alert to the population within its vicinity. The Shaman (*Pemegang Kunci*), guardian of the mountain perished during its eruption. All Malaysian students were promptly evacuated by the Malaysian Government and a Royal Malaysia Navy Aircraft was sent to get us. I want to say thank you here, to the Malaysian Government for rescuing us in 2010. *Terima Kasih*.



Gunung Merapi



Universitas Gajah Mada

Universiti Gajah Mada (UGM) is the oldest university in Indonesia. I was in the Faculty of Psychology whilst doing my Ph.D in 2007. The style and system of education here is abit more like the United States in terms of its prerequisites. You would need to take a course work for 2 semester, which consists of 4 compulsory subjects. After successfully completing these, then you could start on your proposal paper. I had a total of 3 supervisors during my Ph.D phase. The main supervisor is Professor Dr. Thomas Dicky Hastjarjo. I remember him as a very serious professor and he always has a very detailed explanation especially in research methods. My second supervisor is Dr. M.G. Adiyanti. This lady is very soft-mannered, gentle and is very concern for her students. I remember every time when I meet her, she always ask "When can you finish?". My third supervisor is Dr. Supra Wimbarti. This lady is very sophisticated and modern. A lady of the future. I remember her ways of no 'hardcopy'. No paper please. Only softcopy digital material. I remember her little laptop very well, and she always explained the digital age of mobility is the future. She is right. I hope they will pick up this magazine and I extend my warmest regards and hellos from Malaysia.



Yogyakarta during Gunung Merapi Eruption in 2010

Malaysia's Army plane evacuating Malaysians