From World City to the World in One City. Liverpool through Malay Lives. Studies in Urban and Social Change

Description: From World City to the World in One City examines changing geographies of Liverpool through and across the lives of Malay seamen who arrived in the city during its final years as a major imperial port.

Tim Bunnell demonstrates how local and transitional Malay social networks were anchored in specific sites in Liverpool for more than half a century. The life histories and memories of the people who met at two successive Malay Club sites, initially in the south docks and subsequently in the Liverpool 8 area of the city, provide a novel window into Liverpool's changing urban geography and long distance connections. Bunnell begins by tracing the seafaring lives and labour of young Malay men in the mid-twentieth century when the commercial reach of maritime world city Liverpool extended to the Malay World region. He then examines Liverpool's post-imperial commercial demise and the intertwined economic "rise" of parts of Southeast Asia that Malay seamen had left behind. Finally, the book considers recent culture-led economic development strategies in Liverpool – particularly its branding as the "world in one city" – and their implications for Malay ex-seamen, their families and Malaysian citizens.

From World City to the World in One City draws upon interviews and participant observation in Liverpool, Malaysia and Singapore, as well as a range of archival, documentary, literary and popular cultural sources.

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