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.

Contents:

Series Editors    Preface vii
List of Figures viii
Abbreviations and Acronyms ix
Glossary of Non–English Terms xi
Acknowledgements xiv
Prologue 1
1 Introduction: Locating Malay Liverpool 5
Worlds of Connection, Worlds in Cities 10
Sites and Routes of Fieldwork 14
Organization of the Book 20
2 From the Malay World to the Malay Atlantic 27
World City Liverpool in the Alam Melayu 28
Malays in the New York of Europe and in New York 39
The Malay Atlantic 45
3 Home Port Liverpool and its Malay Places 56
Somewhere Worth Staying? 57
Remembering Cosmopolitanism and its Limits 62
Home and Away 68
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