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**Cultural Participation and Practices in Politics: A Rethinking of the Role of Political Party in the Post 2008 Malaysian Politics**

This is a preliminary study that places cultural politics as another “terrain” of politics in Malaysia society. The argument goes that to understand Malaysian politics; it requires us to capture the “cultural” sites of politics rather than limiting to the role of political parties per se.

Deriving from the observations of the ebbs and flows of political party in 1999, 2004, 2008 general election, this paper argues that the “political” site of Malaysian society has expanded beyond party politics. The “terrain” of politics can be located in culture and arts, such as cartoon and arts performances by the artists, committed social actors and academicians. Their language of politics does not manifest into political ideologies or policies but construction of ideas, non-official histories, lives stories, and alternative citizenry. This “terrain” of politics has-been-formed within Malaysian society and it is made more critical and obvert in post 2008 Malaysia politics due to the “opening” of space for expression and also derive from the unexplored space of “politics” within Malaysian political studies.