



RACHEL YONG YUEN MAY

Australia Malaysia Virtual PhD
Internship Program - 2023

Interplay of Social Practices and
Actor-Networks in the Adoption
of Digital Storytelling for
Safeguarding Taman Selera's
Hawker Culture in Malaysia

Thesis Outline

Investigating how social media and digital stories can help keep hawker culture alive, blending old food traditions with new tech in a fast-moving world.

Supervisors & Institutions

Dr. Chua Bee Lia
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Dr. Angela Cruz
Monash University Australia

Future Goals

Looking ahead, the goal is to research and uncover Malaysia's hidden cultural gems, collaborating with tourism and state organizations to highlight lesser-known destinations, safeguard heritage and promote sustainable tourism.

AMVPIP Experience

This internship deepened my cultural awareness, research ethics and collaborative skills across diverse academic settings. Guided by exceptional mentors, I explored the intersection of cultural heritage and digital storytelling, gaining practical research insights. The experience reshaped my role as a researcher, making me more reflective, responsible and globally engaged while preparing me to make meaningful contributions to both academia and society.

Key Takeaways

- 1) I've learned that research is both a technical process and interconnected journey that involves cultural, ethical, and social responsibility. This perspective allows me to make meaningful contributions to academic and local communities.
- 2) The internship has emphasized the critical role of ethical decision-making, especially when working with diverse cultures. It's essential that our work respects, preserves, and accurately represents the communities we study.
- 3) Through collaboration and mentorship, I experienced the power of networking. The relationships formed, have taught me the value of mutual support and knowledge-sharing in fostering both personal and professional growth.