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UTM SEBUAH UNIVERSITI



Issue #4 | Oct. 2024

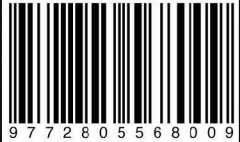
# RISE

Catalysing Global Research Excellence

magazine

*Changing Lives*  
and **Empowering  
Humanities**

eISSN 2805-5683



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Pemangkin Idea



# Esteemed Senior Academics,

# Beloved Young Scholars



**Dr Mohamad Firdaus Ahmad**  
Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation,  
UITM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, Seremban Campus

**Nur Syazwani Zulaikha Safwan**  
Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation,  
UITM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, Seremban Campus

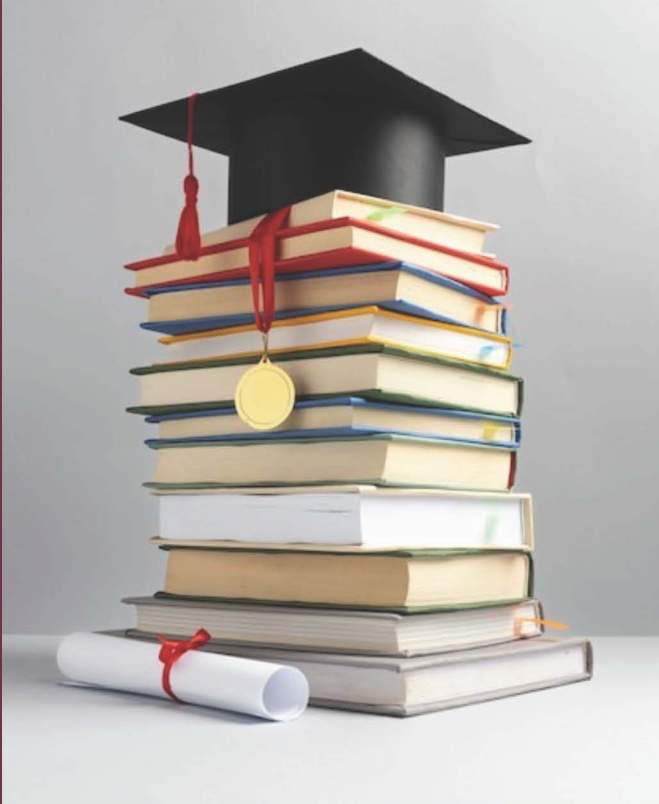
**Muhamad Hafiz Hassan**  
College of Creative Arts, UITM Sarawak Branch,  
Kota Samarahan Campus

**T**he collaboration between senior and junior academics is not just a question of tradition. It is a foundation that not only stimulates progress and innovation but also provides the basis for the progress toward humanity's triumph. Given that experienced scholars are the new generation's torchbearers, they must not only continue the legacy but also form a reliable union of respect and collaboration. This essay highlights the importance of fostering a culture of respect and collegiality between the two generations: seniors and junior academics. It sheds light on how culture ultimately propels societies to the point of acquiring new knowledge and serving the very same communities that facilitated the development.

The academic landscape has a continuum formed by wise scholars with their experience and creativity and young academia with new ideas with a fresh breeze. Whereas senior scholars with long-standing knowledge of specific cases are highly competent and already established in their fields, junior academics are newcomers to scholarship and bring to the table fresh ideas, innovative approaches, and a strong will to carve their niche. Through the involvement in different aspects of learning and development, students can become gifted and creative critical thinkers who can solve the challenges faced in today's world. Celebrating and appreciating each other's differences regardless of age gap is mandatory for all to cultivate a collaborative attitude that results in the productivity of the environment. The sages, and the senior academics, serve as apostles, ensuring that the beginners know the ins and outs of research, teaching, and professional development. The treasury of their experience works as a lighthouse, removing the darkness and providing us with priceless knowledge resulting from years of students and teachers doing research together.







However, the greatest contribution to academia cannot be overemphasized for they introduce vigor and fresh insights. They discard previous ideologies, surpass scientific limitations, and bring new ideas to life while achieving research objectives. A willingness to unburden themselves from their comfort zone drives innovations and use of new technologies that succeed in channeling intellectual development in the era of frequent changes. Respect, as the basic principle, is essential for senior/junior academic collaboration to be successful. Respect has no limit - it can be for the young or very old person, rank or tenure - it all depends on the knowledge, vision, and experience a person brings to the table. The more senior academics should fully accept the vitality in their juniors and enable them to express their views with confidence. In this environment, every idea should be given an equal ground to flourish.

Also, it is the place of junior scholars to take seriously the experience and instructions that may be offered by senior scholars who means to see another generation succeed. The spirit of humility and open-mindedness can act as key ingredients aiding junior people to utilize the mentorship inputs of their seniors and discover the way to thrive in this complex sector. The cooperation of both seniors and juniors in universities extends beyond professional and academic borders and is versatile enough to prove its influence on society. In comparison to individual scientists, scholars have a multitude of advantages such as joint knowledge, funds, and connections, as well as the capacity to deal with latter-day troubles like climate change, global pandemics, poverty, and job opportunities in the world of technology. Cross-disciplinary collaboration, supported by mutual worth and trust among scientists makes it possible to approach such issues from different dimensions, promoting the birth of innovations with sweeping effects that are of global significance.

Further, the supervision by the senior fellows in the domains of academic knowledge and ethics, as well as their compassion, cannot be overlooked. The academics who are seniors are raising the future generation by shaping the brains of these young individuals into critical thinkers, empathic leaders, and agents of positive change. In this way, a generation becomes better prepared to tackle the 21<sup>st</sup> century's big problems. In the intricate tapestry of academia, where knowledge is both revered and sought after, there exists a subtle yet profound divide that impedes progress: the divide of academics in the two groups, senior academics vs junior academics. We, as people who also have gone or are going through these complicated relations, see this issue as not just a matter of age or expertise as neither experience is higher than the other; rather, it reflects a certain "academic culture" that divides a "young" and "new" from "old" and "experienced" people.

The nature of this problem stems from an unequivocal respect for the existing culture which is hierarchical with the perspective of, "I am a senior, and you have no option but to give in to my former status". Looming senior academics, often wrapped up in their long-standing and strong authority, can unintentionally pave the way for the crumbling of confidence for those beginning to establish positions of lower rank which in particular may look more like a meek gesture rather than a constructive exchange of ideas. While from one perspective the juniors in academia, with their ambition and fresh ideas, sometimes neglect to appreciate the cultural nuances and customs of their more senior staff, they are the ones who bring in new ideas. These different approaches can trigger conflicting beliefs and shut down ideas; as a consequence, the only road to real collaboration is lost in a swirling mist of misconceptions and breakdowns in communication. Also, the academic ground is filled with people who stick to their positions and titles, which in turn raises the barrier and thus makes it extremely difficult for those aiming to establish relationships within the academic circle. Therefore, within this ecosystem, trust is destroyed, and transferred knowledge, support, and collaboration are missed.

Nevertheless, the doorway for renewal as well as for turning challenges into chances is still there. Participation in an inclusive and lively academic community can be done by junior and senior academics by understanding and addressing the barriers to collaboration to build an academic environment that is vibrant and collegial. This, in turn, suggests that for senior academics, such mentality should be one of humility and openness, which is conducive to the understanding that wisdom cannot be the sole extraction of age but is the product of people's receptivity of various data and perspectives as well. Senior academics can become active players in the development of junior academics via experience exchange, nurturing of their skills, and constructing respective cultures among them with respect and collaboration. Likewise, junior scientists need also make an effort to absorb the intricacies of academic norms and have enough compassion to avoid the hardships of their senior counterparts. By depicting their eagerness to take lessons from either their experiences and knowledge, novice academicians could go on to build trust and linkages established outside the hierarchical cone.

The gap between senior and junior is a significant loss to the academic world. The culture of respect between both can be the anchor that determines how fast the modern scholar advances. When one fails to drop his or her ego or title for that matter, it is unfortunate. Imagine working closely with senior research persons and having a chance to share the dinner table with them some evenings after long days at their workstations. It is astonishing not to imagine how the intellectual conversation would be.

This concludes that the synergy and respect between senior and junior academics are vital for the future of knowledge, innovation, and humanity. In learning from each other's strengths and maintaining mutual respect between all parties, academia can become a bastion of enlightenment, leading mankind into a new golden age. In our increasingly chaotic global environment, we must all remember that we can only achieve collective greatness if we work together, respect one another, and be guided by the principles of respect, good behavior, and mutual respect.

# RISE

*Catalysing Global Research Excellence*

Published by

**Unit of Research Communication & Visibility**

Department of Research & Innovation,  
Level 5, Bangunan Canseleri Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA, 40450 Shah Alam, Selangor



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