

Playing around the RIVER Perak : Readings of an eighteen-century Malay State

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Abstrak

This essay questions the construction of cartographic, historical, and literary artifacts underlying the cognitive foundations of an eighteenth-century Perak by exploring alternative modes of reading. Through a narratological and historiographical exploration of nonconventional textual elements in *Misa Melayu* and several other primary and secondary sources, I seek new, alternative, more playful, and enlightening ways of navigating and thinking about a Malay(sian) geopolitical entity beyond prescribed Cartesian maps and boundaries.