

KOLOKSIUM SISWAZAH KITA

PEMBENTANGAN DERAJAT AKHIR
DOKTOR FALSAFAH (PENGAJIAN ETNIK)

YIN SHUANG (P121790)

*Preservation, Transformation and
Sustainability:
Observation of the Yunnan Torch Festival
Between Two Decades
(1980s-1990s and 2000s-2010s)*

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BILIK MESYUARAT KITA, ARAS 4,
KOLEJ KERIS MAS, UKM



Nama: YIN SHUANG
No. Matrik: P121790
Program: Doktor Falsafah (Pengajian Etnik)
Penyelia Utama: Dr. Shazlin Amir Hamzah
Penyelia Bersama: Prof. Dr. Kartini Aboo Talib@Khalid
Dr. Adil Johan
Tajuk: **Preservation, Transformation and Sustainability:
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This research explores the cultural evolution of the Torch Festival in Yunnan during two significant periods, the 1980s to 1990s and the early 21st century. It examines its impact on the Yi community and the socio-cultural landscape of Yunnan Province. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach to understand the adaptive mechanisms of the festival within the context of modernization and globalization, and to examine its implications for cultural sustainability. Key issues investigated include: (1) how core ritual elements of the Torch Festival have been symbolically reconstructed in modern contexts; (2) the complex interactions among government, market, and private sectors during the festival's evolution; and (3) the sustainability of the ethnic cultural-economic system amid globalization. The theoretical framework of this study is rooted in symbolic interactionism and sustainable development, emphasizing shifts in cultural identity and the continuity of cultural heritage within changing social environments. Methodologically, this research integrates qualitative and quantitative methods, combining longitudinal comparative analysis with cross-sectional approaches. Qualitative data were gathered through in-depth interviews, participant observation, and a literature review to identify subtle changes in the festival's cultural significance and social functions. Quantitative analysis involved surveys, statistical analysis, social network analysis (SNA), and a dynamic evaluation matrix to quantify the festival economic impact and social cohesion, thereby ensuring robust findings. Findings indicate that the Torch Festival underwent significant symbolic transformation, including ritual simplification, commercialization, and tourism-driven adaptations, significantly increasing community participation since the early 2000s. While government involvement and commercial activities enhanced local economic benefits, they also introduced challenges such as the standardization of traditional rituals and the dilution of cultural meanings. Moreover, younger generations exhibit lower engagement with conventional ceremonies, thereby posing a risk to cultural continuity. In conclusion, this study contributes theoretically by elucidating the adaptive mechanisms of ethnic minority cultures in modernizing contexts. It also provides practical guidance for formulating cultural policies, safeguarding traditional rituals, enhancing community participation, and ensuring the sustainable development of the Torch Festival in Yunnan.