

[REPORT] INSTALIVE INTERVIEW

FLUTTERING WITH LEPIDOPTERANS

GUEST: SOFWAN BADR, POSTGRADUATE OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

MODERATOR: SYUHADA SAPNO

25 APRIL 2020, 2-3PM

Sofwan is a postgraduate candidate from Imperial College London and a proud alumni of University of Malaya. In this interview session, Sofwan brought us into his world of butterflies and moths. The session began with some clearing of myths regarding the butterfly versus moth distinctions as he talked about the difference in body structures, vibrancy of colours, time of day in which they are active and the resting posture of each respective insect. An interesting fact that was brought up is the incorrect usage of the local Malay name between rama-rama and kupu-kupu. The correct terms are rama-rama is meant for moths whereas kupu-kupu for butterflies.

Sofwan showed a Rajah Brooke's birdwing (*Trogonoptera brookiana*) specimen and introduced it as the national butterfly of Malaysia, which is also the butterfly hologram we can see on Malaysian identity cards. The audience inquired on where this species can be found and how we can attract them to our gardens.

Other points that were addressed are on the pupae stage of their life cycle, species that are endangered in Malaysia, and the effects of climate change towards these insects. Crickets are well-known as a source of protein hence a question rose on the consumption of lepidoptera. Sofwan explained that these lepidopterans are a toxic to be consumed. It may not be fatal but it has an unpleasant taste. That is how some bird species avoid feeding on it.



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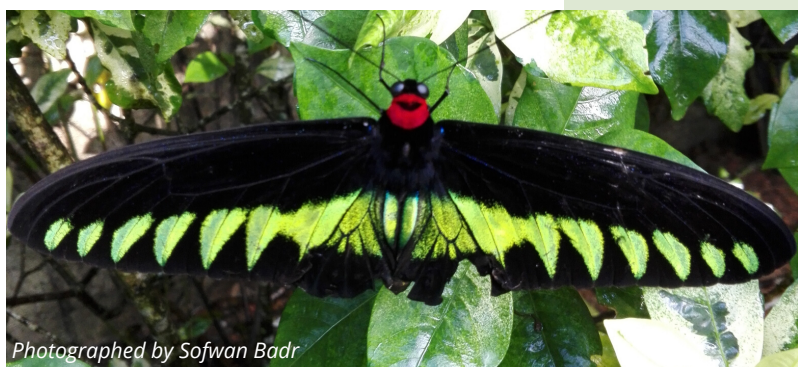
Common birdwing (*Troides helena*)
Photographed by Sofwan Badr

FLUTTERING WITH LEPIDOPTERANS

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He also talked about certain behaviours of moths and butterflies, for example how they act under stress and how their ability to taste with their feet makes them have flower preferences. Another fascinating aspect of lepidoptera which was brought up and discussed is their significance in traditional cultures.

Sofwan also shared on what he thinks is the most aesthetically beautiful lepidoptera and revealed that he has started his own butterfly collection. The Instagram live stream ended with him sharing his experience on working with Dato' Henry Barlow at Genting Tea Estate and gave audience a tour around the estate.



Photographed by Sofwan Badr

◀ **Rajah Brooke's birdwing**
(*Trogonoptera brookiana*)

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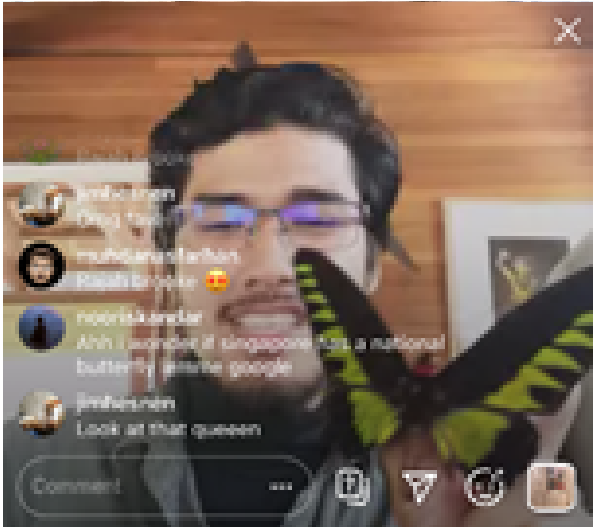
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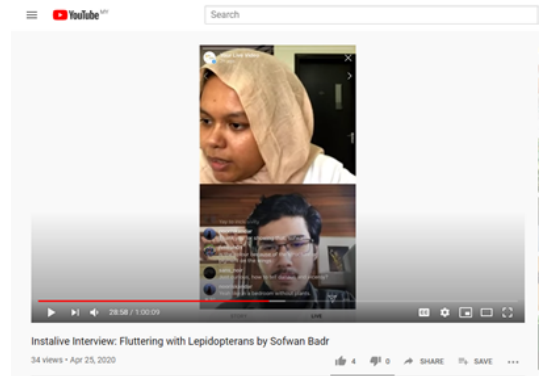
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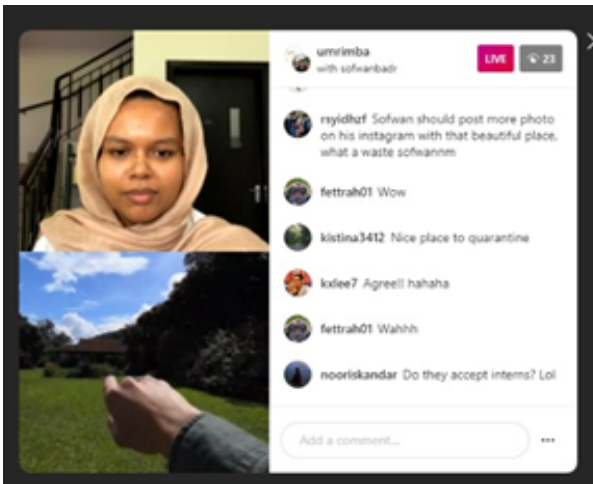




▲
Screenshot of the interview session on Instagram Live with Sofwan (below)



▲
Screenshot of the interview session uploaded on The Rimba Project's YouTube page



◀ **Screenshot of Sofwan showing audience a tour of Genting Tea Estate**



LINK TO THE YOUTUBE VIDEO

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=SAJUKPTNSR8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAJUKPTNSR8)

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[REPORT] INSTALIVE INTERVIEW SERIES 1

23.04.2020 - 26.04.2020

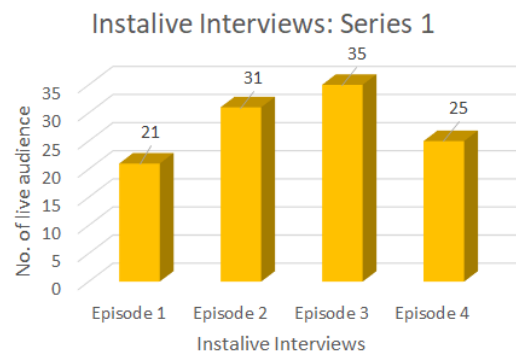


Instalive Interview is a conversation series discussing on various topics ranging from urban garden, environmental education, urban wildlife, volunteer enhancement/support and art. There are two series of these live streams. Here in the first series we had four invited guests, each of them has their own unique ways and experiences of conserving nature in the city.

Interaction with viewers where we addressed their questions in realtime allowed greater engagement as they became active participants that are directly involved in the discussion. The recorded Instalives were then uploaded to The Rimba Project's YouTube page. Time stamps with topic of discussion was added in the description for viewers to jump straight to their preferred topics of interest.

The series was a success as this form of networking has increased the audience for The Rimba Project on the social media platforms, especially on Instagram.

Bar graph shows the total highest number of viewers whom participated in the interactive interviews throughout all four sessions



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