In this presentation, I argue that Malaysia's brain drain (i.e. the migration of tertiary-educated Malaysians with transnational migration experience, whom I call mobile Malaysians) can be understood as an outcome and consequence of British colonial legacies—of race, education, and citizenship as state-citizen relationship—inherited and exacerbated by the post-colonial Malaysian state. Departing from previous studies explaining such migration as an ‘exit’ response to race-based affirmative action policies privileging * bumiputera * (*sons of soil*) Malaysians, I adopt a postcolonial perspective to show how legacies of colonialism initiate, facilitate, and propagate migration in a multi-ethnic, post-colonial migrant-sending country beyond the end of colonial rule.

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME