



Politics in Action: Updates from Southeast Asia

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

19 May 2017



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Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

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With more than 300 academics across 15 faculties working on and in Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world.

Program

Time	Topic	Presenter	Institution
9.45 – 10.00	<i>Arrival for 10am start</i>		
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome	Professor Michele Ford	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney
10.15 – 11.00	Keynote address	Professor Duncan McCargo	University of Leeds
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Morning tea</i>		
11.30- 12.30	Session 1		
	Timor-Leste	Dr Maj Nygaard-Christensen	Aarhus University
	Myanmar	Professor Ardeth Maung Thawng	University of Massachusetts, Lowell
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch</i>		

Program

Time	Topic	Presenter	Institution
13.30 – 14.30	Session 2		
	Philippines	Dr Aries Arugay	University of the Philippines, Diliman
	Indonesia	Mr Thomas Power	Australian National University
14.30– 15.00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
15.00 – 16.00	Session 3		
	Vietnam	Dr Paul Schuler	Arizona State University
	Thailand	Dr Patrick Jory	University of Queensland
16.00 – 16.30	Wrap-up	Dr Nicole Curato	University of Canberra

Keynote

Professor Duncan McCargo, University of Leeds

Duncan McCargo is Professor of Political Science at the University of Leeds, and is Visiting Professor of Political Science at Columbia University every spring semester. Although he is best known for his agenda-setting contributions to current debates on the politics of Thailand, his work is centrally concerned with the nature of power. McCargo has spent several years in Thailand, has lived in Singapore, taught in Cambodia and Japan, and published on Indonesia and Vietnam. Time magazine wrote of his work, “No armchairs for this author... McCargo is the real McCoy.” Foreign Affairs cited his Pacific Review 2005 article “Network monarchy and legitimacy crises in Thailand” as a must-read primer on the country’s politics. McCargo’s ninth book, *Tearing Apart the Land: Islam and Legitimacy in Southern Thailand* (Cornell University Press 2008) won the Asia Society’s inaugural Bernard Schwartz Book Prize. During 2015-16, McCargo was a Visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. He is one of the co-founders of the New York Southeast Asia Network (nysean.org), and the elected President of the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies.



Timor-Leste

Dr Maj Nygaard Christensen, Aarhus University

Maj Nygaard-Christensen holds a PhD in anthropology and has carried out research in Timor-Leste over more than a decade. She is particularly interested in policy processes and the (unintended) effects of development interventions. Among others, this has led to the completion of a post-doctoral project on democracy promotion practices in Timor-Leste. With recurring co-writer Angie Bexley, she is the editor of the volume *Fieldwork in Timor-Leste: Understanding Social Change Through Practice*, which has just been published by NIAS Press, as well as numerous other publications which can be viewed at <https://antipodev.wordpress.com>. Maj is currently employed at the Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research at Aarhus University.

Myanmar

Professor Ardeth Maung Thawng, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Ardeth Maung Thawng is Professor and Chair of Political Science Department at University of Massachusetts Lowell. Her areas of specialisation are on Myanmar/Southeast Asian politics, ethnic politics, and political economy. She is the author of *The "Other" Karen in Myanmar* (Lexington Books 2012), *Beyond Armed Resistance* (East West Center 2011), *Karen Revolution in Burma* (2008), and *Behind the Teak Curtain: Authoritarianism, Agricultural Policies and Political Legitimacy in Rural Burma/Myanmar* (2004). Her articles appeared in *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Asian Ethnicity*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *Asian Survey*, *Asian Journal of Political Science*, *Southeast Asian Affairs*, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Sojourn: Contemporary Southeast Asian Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*, and in edited volume published by Stanford University Press, Oxford University Press, and Cambridge University Press. Ardeth has received fellowships from Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad, the Australia National University, Asian Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, East West Center Washington DC, and Southeast Asian Institute Singapore. She is also a recipient of 2007 Outstanding teacher of college of Arts and Humanities.



Philippines

Dr Aries Arugay, University of the Philippines, Diliman

Aries A. Arugay is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He has conducted research on comparative democratisation, electoral politics, civil-military relations, contentious politics, security sector reform, and international relations in the Asia-Pacific. He was previously a visiting fellow at the Institute of Security and International Studies (Thailand), Carter Center, Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (Bolivia), Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney, the Jeju Peace Institute (South Korea), and the National Institute for Defence Studies, Japan Ministry of Defence. He serves as Senior Editor of Asian Politics & Policy and Associate Editor of the Philippine Political Science Journal. In 2015, he was selected as a Young Southeast Asian Fellow by the Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG). He obtained his PhD in Political Science from Georgia State University in Atlanta and his MA and BA (cum laude) in Political Science from the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

@ariesarugay

Indonesia

Mr Thomas Power, Australian National University

Tom Power is currently undertaking his doctoral research at the Australian National University's Department of Political and Social Change, having commenced in 2014. He was awarded an Endeavour Research Scholarship to complete an extended period of field research in Indonesia in 2015-16. Tom's doctoral research looks at the effects of alternation in government upon Indonesia's post-authoritarian political parties, with a particular focus on state patronage and party change. He previously completed his Bachelor of International Studies with first class Honours at the University of Queensland, where he was also awarded the University Medal for 2013.

@tpjpower

Vietnam

Dr Paul Schuler, Arizona State University

Paul Schuler studies authoritarian regimes and political institutions with a particular focus on East and Southeast Asia. His current book project compares the evolution of the Vietnam National Assembly to the Chinese National People's Congress. In addition to his book project, he has published several papers on Vietnamese politics in journals such as the *American Political Science Review*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and *The Journal of East Asian Studies*. He has also appeared in regional journals such as *Southeast Asian Affairs* and *ISEAS Perspectives*.

Thailand

Dr Patrick Jory, University of Queensland

Dr Patrick Jory is Senior Lecturer in Southeast Asian History and Convenor of the History Discipline at the University of Queensland. His research interests are in Thai and Southeast Asian political and cultural history, and Islam and ethnicity in Southeast Asia. His recent monograph published by SUNY Press in 2016, *Thailand's Theory of Monarchy: the Vessantara Jataka and the Idea of the Perfect Man*, won a CHOICE award in the United States. He has strong in-country experience in Southeast Asia, having headed a Southeast Asian Studies program at Walailak University in southern Thailand from 2001 to 2009.



Closing remarks

Dr Nicole Curato University of Canberra

Nicole Curato is a Discovery Early Career Research Award Fellow at [the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance](#). She is currently completing a manuscript entitled *Democracy in a Time of Misery*, which examines how widespread suffering enables and constrains democratic action in disaster-affected communities in the Philippines. She is the associate editor of the journal *Political Studies*, issue editor of forthcoming special issues in *Critical Asian Studies* and *Philippine Sociological Review*, and editor of the forthcoming edited collection *The Duterte Reader*. Her work on the Philippines has been published in journals including *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, *Current Sociology*, *International Political Science Review*, and *Qualitative Inquiry*, among others.

[**@NicoleCurato**](#)



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