



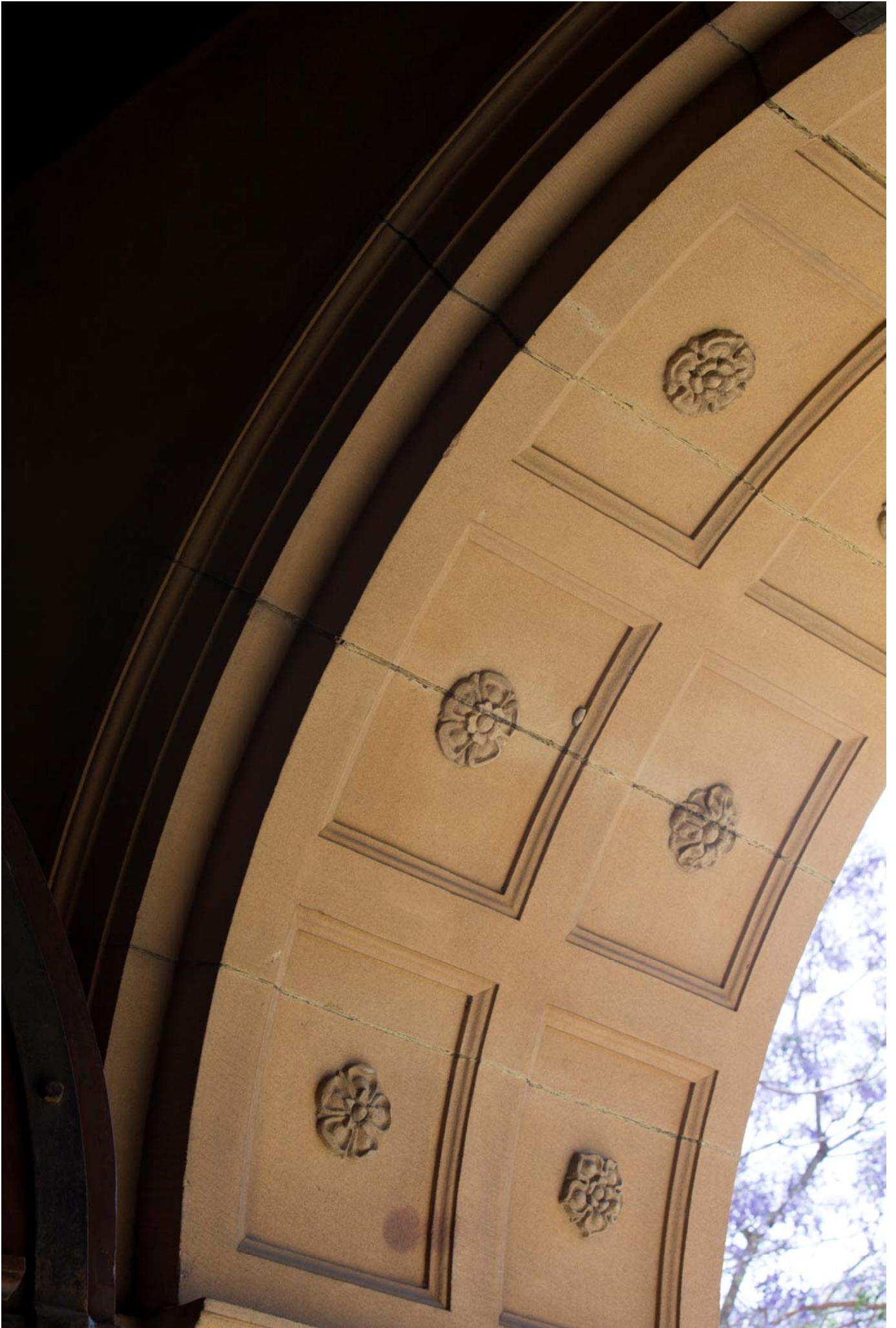
Thailand in Comparative Perspective

An International Symposium

September 26-27 2016



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



Welcome

Professor Michele Ford

Director

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

Welcome to Sydney and the University of Sydney



On behalf of the University of Sydney and the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, I welcome you to this international symposium on Thailand in Comparative Perspective. The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is excited to host this event, which brings together a diverse range of academics and students seeking to understand Thailand in a time of important national, regional and global change.

This symposium builds on the University of Sydney's enduring connections with Thailand and on past successful events such as the 12th International Conference on Thai Studies, which we hosted in 2014. It provides an opportunity for scholars to discuss and debate Thailand's current challenges and opportunities in comparative context, with a view to generating novel insights.

On all our behalf, I sincerely thank the symposium co-convenors, Dr Aim Sinpeng from the Department of Government and International Relations, and Professor Philip Hirsch from the School of Geosciences who have worked tirelessly to bring this symposium to fruition. Thanks also to the members of my team, who have supported the convenors in their endeavours.

I am delighted to welcome you to this symposium, and I hope this is a stimulating and enjoyable event for you all.

Welcome

Dr Aim Sinpeng

Department of Government and
International Relations,
University of Sydney

Convenor

Following the success of the International Conference on Thai Studies (ICTS) convened by Professor Philip Hirsch in 2014, we are pleased to be able to host another major international symposium on Thailand at the University of Sydney.



Given the challenges faced by many Asian studies programs around the world over the past decade, this symposium demonstrates our commitment to the advancement of research on Thailand. We invest in bringing together scholars working on Thailand to share their knowledge and ideas in a wide range of fields. Our theme for this symposium, "Thailand in Comparative Perspective," aims to rejuvenate and widen scholarly interest in Thai studies by encouraging a comparative analysis on Thailand. We believe the comparative approach to studying Thailand will help scholars gain greater theoretical, empirical and methodological insights into the many issues faced by this Southeast Asian nation.

We hope this symposium will provide an excellent platform for you to present your research, network with other researchers and find new opportunities for future research collaboration. We are honoured to have you participate in this event with us. Welcome.

About

The University of Sydney is hosting a two-day international symposium on the theme of **Thailand in Comparative Perspective**. Join us to share insights on the comparative outlook of recent developments in Thailand from a diverse body of knowledge in the social sciences and humanities.

For scholars and students of Thailand, taking a comparative perspective – whether comparing across different theoretical issues, historical periods, the region, or the world – can provide greater insights into the challenges and opportunities facing this nation of 67 million people.

The international symposium seeks to encourage a more systematic comparative analysis of Thailand by examining 8 core themes:

- Politics and society
- Geography and environment
- Political economy
- Language and education
- Arts and culture
- Religion and society
- History and historiography
- Law and society

Convenors

Dr Aim Sinpeng

Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney

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Professor Philip Hirsch

School of Geosciences, University of Sydney

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Schedule

Monday 26 September 2016

Time	Location	Session
9.00 – 9.15	Eastern Ave Lecture Theatre	Welcome
9.15 – 10.15	Eastern Ave Lecture Theatre	Thai Studies in Comparative Perspective: A Roundtable Discussion
10.15 – 10.30	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10.30 – 12.00	Session 1	
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310	Politics and Society I
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311	Arts and Culture I
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312	Geography and Environment I
12.00 – 13.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.00 – 14.00	Session 2	
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310	History and Historiography I
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311	Political Economy I
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312	Language and Education I
14.30 – 15.00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
15.00 – 16.30	Session 3	
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310	Politics and Society II
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311	Geography and Environment II
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312	Book Launches

Schedule

Tuesday 27 September 2016

Time	Location	Session
9.15 – 9.30	<i>Morning tea</i>	
9.30 – 11.00	Session 4	
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310	Religion and Society I
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311	Politics and Society III
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312	Political Economy II
11.00 – 12.30	Session 5	
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310	History and Historiography II
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311	Law and Society II
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312	Arts and Culture II
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Session 6	
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310	Geography and Environment III
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311	History and Historiography III
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312	Politics and Society IV
14.45 – 15.00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
15.00 – 16.30	Session 7	
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310	Law and Society III
	Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311	Political Economy III

Plenary Session

Thai Studies in Comparative Perspective: A Roundtable Discussion

Monday 26 September | 9.15 – 10.15

Eastern Ave Lecture Theatre

Professor Philip Hirsch (University of Sydney)

Philip Hirsch is Professor of Human Geography in the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney. He specialises in natural resource management, rural change and the politics of environment in Southeast Asia. Phil leads the Mekong Research Group. He has been working on and in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia since the early 1980s.



Dr Patrick Jory (University of Queensland)

Patrick Jory is a Senior Lecturer in Southeast Asian History in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at the University of Queensland. He is author of the forthcoming book, *Thailand's Theory of Monarchy: the Vessantara Jataka and the Idea of the Perfect Man* (New York: SUNY Press, 2016).



Dr Arjun Subrahmanyan (Murdoch University)

Arjun Subrahmanyan teaches Southeast Asian history, and joined Murdoch University after teaching in the US at Utah State University and Binghamton University. He received a PhD in History from the University of California-Berkeley in 2013. His research specialises in Southeast Asian, and specifically Thai, history.



Dr Tyrell Haberkorn (Australian National University)

Tyrell Haberkorn's academic and human rights work has been focused on understanding and working against the recent past and present of state and para-state violence in Southeast Asia. She received her BA in Cultural Studies and Creative Writing from UNC-Chapel Hill (1997) and her MA (2003) and PhD (2007) in Sociocultural Anthropology from Cornell University.



Key Speakers

Dr Anjalee Cohen (University of Sydney)

Anjalee Cohen completed a PhD in the Department of Anthropology at Macquarie University in 2006. Her fieldwork was undertaken in northern Thailand on Thai youth culture, focussing on consumerism, drugs and gangs in urban Chiang Mai. Dr Cohen's dissertation explores how young Thai people construct a sense of community and identity at the intersection of global capitalism, national ideologies and local culture.



Dr Bjoern Dressel (Australian National University)

Björn Dressel is a Senior Lecturer at the Crawford School of Public Policy, and also currently holds an Australian Research Council Early Career Research Award (2013–16). Dr. Dressel received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, where he also received his M.A. in the same field. In addition, Dr. Dressel holds a law degree from the University of Trier School of Law in Germany.



Professor Peter Jackson (Australian National University)

Peter Jackson has written extensively on modern Thai cultural history with special interests in religion, sexuality, and critical theoretical approaches to mainland Southeast Asian cultural history. He currently holds an ARC Discovery Grant for the project “Critical Thought in Thailand After Marxism” and is consultant for the “Cultural Pluralism and Sexual Diversity in Thailand” project at the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre in Bangkok.



Dr Chavalin Svetanant (Macquarie University)

Chavalin Svetanant is a Lecturer in Japanese Studies in the Department of International Studies, Macquarie University. Having been awarded the Japanese Government Scholarship (Monbukagakusho) in 1997, she completed MA and PhD in 2003 at Kyoto University in Japanese linguistics. Before joining Macquarie in 2008, Chavalin was an Assistant Professor at the Department of Eastern Languages, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok; and a visiting research scholar at the Japanese Research Centre for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto.



Program

Monday 26 September 2016



9.00 – 9.15 | **Welcome** | **Eastern Ave Lecture Theatre**

Professor Philip Hirsch, Convenor

9.15 – 10.15 | **Thai Studies in Comparative Perspective:
A Roundtable Discussion** | **Eastern Ave Lecture Theatre**

Moderator: Dr Aim Sinpeng, Convenor

- Professor Philip Hirsch
- Dr Patrick Jory
- Dr Arjun Subrahmanyam
- Dr Tyrell Haberkorn

10.15 – 10.30 | **Morning tea**

10.30 – 12.00 | **Session 1**

POLITICS & SOCIETY I | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310**

Discussant: Dr Jacob Ricks (Singapore Management University)

- Professor Dan Slater (University of Chicago) and Professor Joseph Wong (University of Toronto)

Development militarism and democracy through strength: Thailand, Burma/Myanmar and Indonesia compared and contrasted

- Ms Chontida Auikool (Thammasat University)

Indonesia and Thailand's memories on anti-community purge

- Mr YoungKoon Koh (independent researcher)

Formation and maintenance of traditional elite groups: the Philippines and Thailand in comparative perspective

Monday 26 September 2016

ARTS & CULTURE I

| Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311

Discussant: Professor Peter Jackson (Australian National University)

- Dr Anjalee Cohen (University of Sydney)

Youth gangs, violence and local culture in Chiang Mai

- Mr Steve Dodds (University of Sydney)

Coup tank happy snaps: the 'aesthetic dimensions of power' in contemporary Thailand

- Professor Garry Fry and Dr Songsiri Putthongchai (Thammasat University)

Correspondence and discontinuity

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT I

| Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312

Discussant: Professor Philip Hirsch (University of Sydney)

- Dr Vanessa Lamb (University of Toronto)

Maps and promises

- Dr Sarinda Singh (University of Sydney)

Upland development in Laos and the implications of governance

- Dr Hironmoni Borgohain Gogoi (Sonali Probhat)

The Thailand-northeast India connect with special emphasis on tourism sector

12.00 – 13.00 | **Lunch**

13.00 – 14.30 | **Session 2**

HISTORY & HISTORIOGRAPHY I

| Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310

Discussant: Dr Tyrell Haberkorn (Australian National University)

- Dr Arjun Subrahmanyam (Murdoch University)

History and interpretation of the 1932 revolution

- Dr Greg Raymond (Australian National University)

Orphan histories and conflicting narratives: explaining Thailand's official silence on World War II

- Ms Rebecca Townsend (Cornell University)

Cold fire: psychological warfare and nation-building in Thailand, South Vietnam and the Philippines

Monday 26 September 2016

POLITICAL ECONOMY I

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Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311

Discussant: Associate Professor Evelyn Devadason (University of Malaya)

- Professor Luke Nottage (University of Sydney) and Professor Sakda Thanitchul (Chulalongkorn University)

The past, present and future of international investment arbitration in Thailand

- Mr Popkarn Arwatchanakarn (University of Newcastle)

Macroeconomic modelling for Thai monetary policy analysis under two exchange rate regimes

- Ms Piyanoot Putthawong (Thammasat University)

Thai-Lao border trade for AEC: comparative study of Nong Khai and Mukdahan provinces

- Ms Tantima Tungjaipongtham (Thammasat University)

Thailand aviation development towards ASEAN Single Aviation Market 2015: a comparative study of Thailand public and private sector in the aviation industry

LANGUAGE & EDUCATION I

|

Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312

Discussant: Professor Nick Enfield (University of Sydney)

- Dr John Knox (Macquarie University)

Communicative differences in spoken exchanges: Thai learners with Thai and foreign teachers

- Associate Professor David Evans (University of Sydney) and Dr Kanokporn Vibulpatanavong (Srinakharinwirot University)

Examining a framework for supporting the all Thai students in learning to read

- Dr Assunta Hunter (University of Melbourne)

Citizenship and the making of modern traditional medicine practitioners: a comparison of Thailand, India and Australia

- Mr Nitipong Pichetpan (Thammasat University)

Playing with 'shit': an analysis on compound words headed by an excrement meaning component in central Thai and northeastern Thai

14.30 – 15.00

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Afternoon tea

Monday 26 September 2016

15.00 – 16.30 | Session 3

POLITICS & SOCIETY II | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310**

Discussant: Dr Chavalin Svetanant (Macquarie University)

- Ms Ladawan Khaikham (Australian National University)

From stateless to citizen: stateless youths in Thailand and Japan

- Dr Nicole Jenne (Catholic University of Chile)

Domestic mobilisation and the political constraints on conflict: evidence from the Thai-Cambodian border, 2008-2011

- Ms Alisa Hasamoh (James Cook University)

Natural disaster and conflict research methodologies: a case study of Aceh, Indonesia and the deep south of Thailand

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT II | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311**

Discussant: Dr Yayoi Lagerqvist (University of Sydney)

- Dr Tubtim Tubtim (Chiang Mai University)

Class and agrarian change in comparative perspectives: a case study of peri-urban Chiang Mai

- Ms Ming Li Yong (University of Sydney)

Assembling transboundary decision-making arenas and hydropower development in the Lower Mekong River Basin: the cases of Thailand and Cambodia

- Dr Shekh Mohammad Altafur Rahman (Thammasat University)

Thailand's initiative against haze problem: a rejection of the dichotomy between the traditional farming practice and environmental protection

BOOK LAUNCH | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312**

Thailand's Theory of Monarchy: The Vessantara Jataka and the Idea of the Perfect Man

by Patrick Jory (SUNY Press, 2016)

Discussant: Mr Thanapas Dejpawuttikul

First Queer Voices from Thailand: Uncle Go's Advice Columns for Gays, Lesbians and

Kathoey by Peter Jackson (HK University Press, 2016)

Discussant: Dr Tyrell Haberkorn

Program

Tuesday 27 September 2016

9.15 – 9.30 | Morning tea

9.30 – 11.00 | Session 4

RELIGION & SOCIETY I | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310**

Discussant: Dr Patrick Jory (Australian National University)

- Professor Peter Jackson (Australian National University)
Living across religious and gender differences in Thailand: context and hierarchy as regimes of power over ethno-cultural multiplicity in Southeast Asia
- Ms Natcharee Suwannapat (Thammasat University)
Negotiating 'modern' and 'traditional' values in Thai newlywed marriages
- Associate Professor Wanwadee Poonpoksini and Professor Azlinda Azman (University Sains Malaysia)
The cultural health aspects of the Muslim world: an exploring
- Mr Zulfadhli Hilmi Bin Mohamad (National University of Singapore)
Expanding the Islam in Islamic arts: a study of the Patani contemporary arts scene

POLITICS & SOCIETY III | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310**

Discussant: Dr Aim Sinpeng (University of Sydney)

- Dr Jonathan Rante Carreon (Huachiew Chalermprakiet University) and Dr Chavalin Svetanant (Macquarie University)
I AM THE BOSS: a critical analysis of Thai PM's political discourse on TV program 'Returning happiness to the people'
- Ms Wimonsiri Hemthanon (Mahidol University)
Framing on Facebook: case studies on Thai virtual public sphere during the transitional period
- Ms Rotjaret Narongrach (Waseda University)
Fighting for righteousness: economic foundations and regionalism in southern women's demonstrations against the Shinawatra Government
- Mr Thannapat Jarernpanit (Chiang Mai University)
Pa Sia Daeng vs. Pa Sia Luang: the different perspectives in two sides of politics and regions

Tuesday 27 September 2016

POLITICAL ECONOMY II

|

Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312

Discussant: Professor Gavan Butler (University of Sydney)

- Dr Monthien Satimanon (Thammasat University) and Dr Thasanee Satimanon (National Institute of Development Administration)

Dynamic systemic vulnerability and middle income trap: comparative study of Singapore and Thailand

- Dr Veerayooth Kanchoochat (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies)

The middle income curse: the making and mutation of Thailand's developmental state

- Dr John Walsh and Dr Petcharat Lovitchakorntikul (Shinawatra University)

Industrial policy, special economic zones and the middle income trap: Thailand's economic in comparative perspective

11.00 – 12.30

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Session 5

HISTORY & HISTORIOGRPAHY II

|

Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311

Discussant: Dr Arjun Subrahmayan (Murdoch University)

- Dr Patrick Jory (University of Queensland)

Thailand's civilising process

- Mr Kittisak Sujittarom (Waseda University)

The history of Thailand's Mother's Day and its politics in comparative perspective

- Ms Estrella Montient (Silpakorn University)

The challenges of developing a shared history of Thai-Dutch relation into a museum: collaboration, curatorial voice and practice: a case study of Baan Hollanda

- Dr Jason Lim (University of Wollongong)

The status of the overseas Chinese merchant in nation-building: Thailand and South Vietnam

Tuesday 27 September 2016

LAW & SOCIETY II



Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311

Discussant: Professor Luke Nottage (University of Sydney)

- Dr Bjoern Dressel (Australian National University) and Dr Khemthong Tolsakulrungruang (Chulalongkorn University)

Who is doing the judging? A look at the Thai Constitutional Court (1998-2015)

- Ms Kwanchanok Kittivanich (University of Manchester)

The politicisation of the judiciary under the authoritarian regimes: the comparative studies of Egypt and Thailand

- Ms Sarah Bishop (Australian National University)

The judicialisation reconsidered: individual petitions before the Thai Constitutional Court 2007-2014

- Ms Jutha Saovabha (Georgetown University)

Ending impunity for the coup in Thailand: the People's Tribunal for Justice

ARTS & CULTURE II



Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312

Discussant: Dr Anjalee Cohen (University of Sydney)

- Dr Natanaree Posrithong (Mahidol University)

Siamese modern girl and women's consumerist culture in Siam 1920-1935

- Mr Purinut Phumitharanon (University of Sydney)

Behind the smiles: a study of cultural factors and employee silence in Thai manufacturing

- Ms Suriyaporn Eamvijit (Chulalongkorn University)

Haunted homelands: the domestic uncanny and fractured national identity in Rattawut Lapcharoensap's Sightseeing and James Joyce's Dubliners

12.30 – 13.30



Lunch



Tuesday 27 September 2016

13.30 – 15.00 | Session 6

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT III | Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310

Discussant: Dr Sarinda Singh (University of Sydney)

- Professor Philip Hirsch (University of Sydney)
Agrarian change across space and time: studying Thai land in comparative regional perspective
- Mr Rattawit Ruangprakhon (Thammasat University)
Comparative perspectives on lands and natural resources conflicts: from civilian to junta governments in the past five years
- Mr Poome Petkanjanapong (Kyushu University)
Social capital and environmental management after decentralisation in Thailand

HISTORY & HISTORIOGRAPHY III | Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311

Discussant: Dr Tyrell Haberkorn (Australian National University)

- Ms Preeyaporn Kantala (Waseda University)
Mapping Champasak as part of the Lao nation: looking through historical relations between Siam and France
- Mr Joseph Rickson (Macquarie University)
On people, places and things: Kachin and an alternative politics of bare life
- Mr Thanapas Dejpawuttikul (Waseda University)
From archenemy of the nation to the intimate other: Prince Damrong's 'Journey through Burma' and the colonial ecumene

POLITICS & SOCIETY IV | Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312

Discussant: Ms Alisa Hasamoh (James Cook University and Prince of Songkla University)

- Mr Nguyen Huy Hoang (Chulalongkorn University)
Thai foreign policy's continuities and changes: a comparative analysis from 2008-14
- Dr Nicole Jenne (Catholic University of Chile)
Hegemonic distortions? The securitisation of separatist movements in Thailand and Indonesia
- Ms Amie Liebowitz (University of Sydney)
Human trafficking: a Thailand and China comparison

Tuesday 27 September 2016

14.45 – 15.00 | **Afternoon tea**

15.00 - 16.30 | **Session 7**

LAW & SOCIETY II | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 310**

Discussant: Dr Bjoern Dressel (Australian National University)

- Dr Darunee Paisanpanichkul (Chiang Mai University)
From the case of Nang Noom Mai send to Mr. Joe (without last name) and the partial precedent to uphold the right to workmen compensation of migrant workers
- Mr Isaree Tantasith and Mr Kobchart Jaraswimol (Australian National University)
The Thai polarity in LGBTQ+ rights and reality: reflections on Thailand's political and legal culture
- Mr Kitpatchara Somanawat (Chiang Mai University)
Thai lawyers and the literature: blurring the boundary of law and humanity
- Ms Katja Rangsivek (University of Freiburg)
Legislation of symbolic capital: medals of honor and law-making in Thailand

POLITICAL ECONOMY III | **Eastern Ave Seminar Room 311**

Discussant: Professor Gavan Butler (University of Sydney)

- Dr Jacon Ricks (Singapore Management University)
Delaying development: the politics of rice price policies and agricultural transformation in Thailand
- Mr Trin Aiyara (National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies)
The political economy of high speed railway in Thailand: comparison of Yingluck and Prayuth Government
- Ms Bronwyn Isaacs (Harvard University)
Photoshop Bangkok: Bangkok's advertising production workers, labor and value
- Mr Pakpoom Saengkanokkul (L'Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales)
Public health in Thailand, public health for the nation, religion (Buddhism) and King

Book Launches

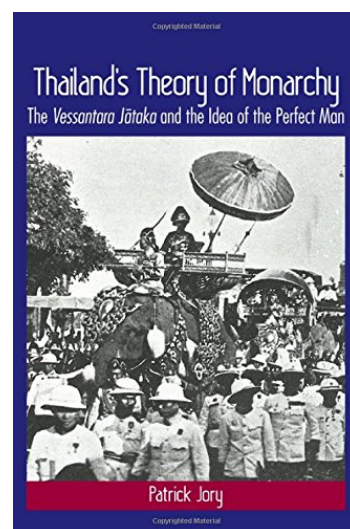
Monday 26 September, 15.00 – 16.30

| Eastern Ave Seminar Room 312

Thailand's Theory of Monarchy: The Vessantara Jataka and the Idea of the Perfect Man

By Patrick Jory (SUNY Press, 2016)

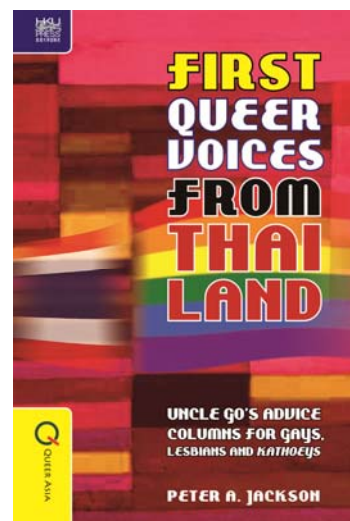
Since the 2006 coup d'état, Thailand has been riven by two opposing political visions: one which aspires to a modern democracy and the rule of law, and another which holds to the traditional conception of a kingdom ruled by an exemplary Buddhist monarch. Thailand has one of the world's largest populations of observant Buddhists and one of its last politically active monarchies. This book examines the Theravada Buddhist foundations of Thailand's longstanding institution of monarchy. Jory argues that the storehouse of monarchical ideology is to be found in the popular literary genre known as the Jātakas, tales of the Buddha's past lives.



First Queer Voices from Thailand: Uncle Go's Advice Columns for Gays, Lesbians and Kathoey

By Peter A. Jackson (HK University Press, 2016)

This is a fully revised and substantially expanded edition of Peter Jackson's highly regarded pioneering study of an Asian gay culture, *Male Homosexuality in Thailand* (1989). The hero of Jackson's fascinating narrative is "Uncle Go", which was the pen name of a popular magazine editor who, despite being avowedly heterosexual, was tolerant of all sexual practices and whose "agony uncle" columns in the 1970s provided unique spaces in the national press for Thailand's gays, lesbians and transgenders (*kathoey*) to speak for themselves in the public domain. By allowing the voices of alternative sexualities to be heard, Uncle Go emerged as Thailand's first champion of gender equality and sexual rights.





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For more information

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