

AIS GENERAL RESEARCH FUND (GRF) AND EARLY CAREER SCHEME (ECS) SUCCESS ROUND 2015-16

Project Title:

The Rise and Decline of Thailand's Royalist Order: A Study in the (De-) Legitimation of Power

Brief Abstract:

The project focuses on explaining the rise, the longevity, and the decline of Thailand's royalist political order. Its contribution is twofold. First, the project seeks to contribute to the general literature on "historical institutionalism," which has sought to make sense of the reproduction and decay of institutions through the workings of self-reinforcing processes. Second, the project seeks to contribute to the literature on Thailand's political development by assembling a social scientific explanation that transcends the tendency of much of the existing work to study the periodic fluctuations in the royalist order's legitimacy as a function of the effectiveness of ideological indoctrination efforts overseen by the state. The research will rely on a wealth of official documents and statistical evidence, as well as in-depth interviews aiming to ascertain the psychological mechanisms that drive the processes of institutional reproduction and institutional decay.

Investigator: Dr Federico FERRARA

Biography:

Dr Federico FERRARA was awarded a PhD in political science by Harvard University in 2008. He is the author of the book "The Political Development of Modern Thailand" (Cambridge University Press, 2015) as well as a number of publications dealing with the study of comparative political institutions and Thai politics.