

Successful Strategic Research Grant (SRG)

Project Title:

The Political Ecology of Urban Flooding in Thailand: A Three City Analysis

Brief Abstract:

This research asks how state institutions and socioeconomic processes create, distribute, and reduce vulnerability of the poor to urban flooding in Thailand. Answering this question requires three questions: (1) How vulnerable to floods are Thailand's urban poor? (2) What is the current governance of floods at multiple scales—national, provincial, and local? (3) What actions are currently occurring to improve flood governance and justice for the poor? I seek to answer these questions by studying the physical structure of urbanization and the development of water infrastructure, and governance of both land and water in cities and surrounding basins. The three research sites are the megacity of Bangkok and the secondary cities of Nakhon Si Thammarat and Khon Kaen. All three cities have experienced heavy flooding recently, including in the past twelve months, and therefore this research is of high relevance. Conducting a comparative study will enable me to see the effects of different variables on urban flooding, including city size, centre versus the periphery in terms of resource allocation, local government capacity, and local community responses.

Investigator: Dr Danny MARKS

Biography:

Dr. Danny Marks is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the Department of Asian and International Studies of City University of Hong Kong. Dr. Marks has spent a number of years conducting research and working on environmental governance in Southeast Asia. He has worked for a number of organizations in the region, including the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Governance Hub, the Rockefeller Foundation, ActionAid and the NGO Forum on Cambodia. Dr. Marks completed his PhD dissertation, *An Urban Political Ecology of the 2011 Bangkok Floods*, at the University of Sydney. He received his MA in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. His research interests are climate justice, urban political ecology, and disaster governance.