



SEARCC

Southeast Asia Research Centre

Highlights of SEARCC events

July 2016 to June 2017

Public Lecture

One-Belt-One-Road: Opportunities for HK and for the development of Southeast Asia

28 November 2016

Prof. Zhao Lei
Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC

SEARC organized an inspiring lecture on “One-Belt-One-Road (OBOR): Opportunities for Hong Kong and for the development of Southeast Asia” on 28 November 2016. This lecture was co-organized with the Research Centre on One-Belt-One-Road, Sustainable Hong Kong Research Hub and Global China Studies. Our speaker was Prof ZHAO Lei from the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China. This was a successful event with a full house. Simultaneously interpretation service was arranged from Putonghua to English so more of our CityU community could attend the talk.

Video in English Version: please click [here](#)
Video in Putonghua version : please click [here](#)



Seminar Series

Under the Boot: Military-Civil Relations in Thailand since the Coup

12 September 2016

Dr Paul CHAMBER
Director of Research, Institute of Southeast Asian Affairs (ISEAA)

Thailand's May 2014 military putsch has ushered in a period of authoritarian control not seen in the country for 40 years. A spiraling number of Thais suspected by the ruling junta of subversion have been arrested for “attitude adjustment” with the number of political prisoners soaring to over 1000 persons. Allegations of torture and sexual abuse of prisoners by soldiers have grown. Political rights and liberties have been quashed. Military courts have become the dominant judiciary of Thailand. Soldiers and junta leaders act with legal impunity. Finally, the junta has sought to enact a new constitution which enshrines a greater political role for the military across the country. In mid-2016 the junta has become even more repressive as opponents in Thai civil society increasingly test the limits of their resistance. How successful has the junta been in establishing mechanism to ensure their perseverance in power? What are the internal and external challenges to the junta? What is the future of Thai military rule or the beginning of demilitarization? This presentation addresses these questions.

Please click [here](#) for the video of Dr. Chambers' seminar.



Operationalizing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in South East Asia

17 October 2016

Professor Amy BARROW
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) on 31 October 2000, the international community has seen the emergence of a normative framework on women, peace and security. National Action Plans have been adopted as one mechanism to strengthen the operationalization of SCR 1325. The substantive content of SCR 1325 appears highly relevant in Asian contexts given that several states have suffered significant instability and upheaval as a result of territorial disputes and protracted armed insurgency movements. Compared with other regions however, the development of National Action Plans across the region has lagged behind. Within South East Asia, ASEAN Member States have taken proactive steps to develop resolutions pertaining to women's rights, particularly in relation to the prevention of violence against women. Individual member states have also adopted laws on gender-based violence, but regional and national responses to the UN's series of resolutions on women, peace and security have not gained significant traction to date. This seminar analyses the operationalization of Security Council Resolution 1325 in South East Asia, focusing primarily on the Philippines, the first ASEAN member state to adopt a National Action Plan.

Please click [here](#) for the video of Prof. Barrow's seminar.



Revolusi! Rebolusyon!:

A Filipino Revisiting of Benedict Anderson's "The Languages of Indonesian Politics" (1966)

31 October 2016

Professor Ramon GUILLERMO
Professor, University of the Philippines

The essay "The Languages of Indonesian Politics" (1966) was one of the first published works in Benedict Anderson's long and distinguished career. In that seminal work, he introduced the concept of "revolutionary Malay" which he asserted was the basis for the construction of Bahasa Indonesia as a national language. According to him, the prerequisite for the development of "revolutionary Malay" was the appropriation of Dutch as the "inner language" of the bilingual nationalist intelligentsia. From its explosive rise, Anderson then traces the fate and vicissitudes of "revolutionary Malay" through the immediate post-revolutionary era, the downfall of Soeharto and the advent of Soeharto's Orde Baru. This paper proposes that the concept of "revolutionary Malay" could be employed as a comparative tool in understanding the earlier Philippine experience of language and revolution at the turn of the twentieth century. This study will therefore delve into the three vocabularies (i.e., nationalist, bureaucratic and radical) in Tagalog which Anderson saw as constituting a "revolutionary" vernacular. The different fates and trajectories of revolutionary Tagalog and Malay will be reflected upon.

Please click [here](#) for the video of Prof. Guillermo's seminar.



Contemporary Cambodia Cinema and the Afterlife of War

23 January 2017

Dr Y-Dang TROEUNG
Assistant Professor, Department of English, City University of Hong Kong

Refugee testimonies of human rights abuses are often treated with distrust as a means of sustaining regimes of exclusion and denial. As part of a larger investigation of the relationship between the figure of the refugee and public discourses of distrust, this talk will consider the role of contemporary Cambodian cinema in countering ongoing legacies of denial related to the history of war and genocide in Cambodia. Although over four decades have elapsed, these events continue to haunt twentieth-century historical memory since state mechanisms such as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (also known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal) have proved to be limited in their capacity or will to redress the injustices of the past. In this context of non-reconciliation, Cambodian artists such as acclaimed filmmaker Rithy Panh have sought to forge an alternative space where truth can be pursued. This talk will focus specifically on Panh's 2011 film *Shiiku*, *The Catch* and his 2013 Oscar-nominated film *The Missing Picture*, considering their experimentations with film form as well as their relevance to the current global refugee crisis.

Please click [here](#) for the video of Dr. Troeung's seminar.



Marital dissolution and transnational householding in Indonesia

23 March 2017

Dr Lucy JORDAN
Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong

Transnational householding is an increasing phenomenon globally, and within many Southeast Asian countries families experience "doing family" across international borders. To date, there is little systematic longitudinal research that allows for close examination of how families, children and parents, sustain relationships over time and distance. This paper explores the relationship between migration and marriage in Indonesia. We draw on two waves of data collected from the CHAMPSEA (Children Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia) survey (2008, 2016), with a baseline sample of circa 1,000 households. The analysis contextualises an understanding of continuity and change in marital relationships and examines how aspects of the migration experience impact on marriage. A fixed-effect model is applied to capture the possible causal relationship between migration and marital dissolution within the couples and to compare couples that have not been separated by migration with those that have.

Please click [here](#) for the video of Dr. Jordan's seminar.



The 'Magic' of Modern Malaya: Remembering Histories of Muhammad's Guns

3 April 2017

Dr Teren SEVEA

Assistant Professor, South Asia Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

This talk explores Malay manuscripts pertaining to Muslim miracle-workers, or 'magicians' who were key intermediaries of guns in modern Malaya. These manuscripts are analysed to recount a history of worlds and environments wherein socioeconomic activities were associated with the Islamic esoteric science. I introduce here, professional miracle-workers who venerated as heirs of prophets and saints from earlier Islamic periods. Having inherited esoteric senses, and as direct 'technological' heirs of the Prophet's guns, these miracle-workers were esteemed for their rituals and miracles in contemporary forests, mines, 'workshops' and stockades. This talk analyses elaborate Islamic genealogies and popular historical traditions, and investigates how 'magical' manuscripts are prime sources of socioeconomic histories and are informative about religio-economic sensibilities. This talk further presents my explorations into the cosmopolitanism of the Malay *frontier*.

Please click [here](#) for the video of Dr. Sevea's seminar.



Designing the early-American Colonial City in the Philippines, 1898-1916

10 April 2017

Professor Ian MORLEY

Assistant Professor, History Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The importation of modern American urban design practices into East Asia during the opening decades of the twentieth century fundamentally redefined the environmental form of cities. Whilst it is acknowledged that the introduction of the City Beautiful led to the endorsement of spatial forms dissimilar to what had hitherto existed, not much is currently known about why city planning became such a fundamental component of governance at that time, and what impact urban design had upon the local civilization and the construction of nationhood. Consequently this presentation explains the form and meaning of the first generation of Asian City Beautiful projects implemented between 1905 and 1916 as part of America's early colonial administration of the Philippines

Please click [here](#) for the video of Prof. Morley's seminar.

