ASSESSING THE 2023 ELECTIONS IN THAILAND: A PANEL DISCUSSION

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Abstract:
The 2023 general elections in Thailand are potentially the most consequential for this Southeast Asian nation in more than two decades. Ever since Thaksin Shinawatra’s party won a landslide victory in the 2001 general elections, Thai politics has been a struggle between Thaksin’s populist forces and the conservative establishment. The result has been repeated electoral victories by pro-Thaksin parties and a series of open or behind-the-scenes coups against them, most recently in 2014. But a strong showing by the pro-Thaksin and another opposition party, Future Forward, in the 2019 elections and sustained youth protests in 2020-21, alongside criticisms of poor governance, put civilianized military rulers under growing pressure. How the pro-establishment and opposition parties performed at the polls as well as whether the 2023 election is likely to lead to the return to genuinely civilian rule, will be among the themes discussed by a panel of distinguished scholars of Southeast Asian politics.

Dr. Pitch PONGSAWAT is an assistant professor, a director of the MA program in Government, and head of the Department of Government, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. He received his B.A. (Government) from Chulalongkorn University, M.Phil. (Land Economy) from the University of Cambridge, and Ph.D. (City and Regional Planning) from the University of California at Berkeley (with a Doctoral Scholarship from the Harvard-Yenching Institute). He was previously a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford and Harvard University, a visiting assistant professor at the University of Michigan, and a guest professor at the University of Passau. His research currently centers on the politics of urban development electoral politics in Bangkok.

Dr. Federico FERRARA is an Associate Professor at the City University of Hong Kong, Department of Public and International Affairs, and a core member of the Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC), City University of Hong Kong. A graduate of Harvard University, where he was awarded a PhD in political science in 2008, Dr. Ferrara has published on Thailand’s political development and on comparative political institutions more generally in a variety of books and academic journals. Most prominently, he is the author of the monographs The Political Development of Modern Thailand (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and The Development of Political Institutions: Power, Legitimacy, Democracy (University of Michigan Press, 2022).

Dr. Mark R. THOMPSON is a professor of politics in the Department of Public and International Affairs and director of the Southeast Research Centre (SEARC) at the City University of Hong Kong. He received a B.A. from Brown University, a M.A. from Cambridge University, and a Ph.D. from Yale University. He is the co-editor of Governance and Democracy in East Asia (Routledge 2020), co-editor of and an author in the special issue “Locating Liberalisms in Southeast Asia”, (Asian Studies Review 2023), and author of The Philippines: From “People Power” to Democratic Backsliding (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2023).

1 June 2023 (Thursday)
4:00-5:30 PM (HKT)
Room G5-216 (YEUNG)
5/F, Yeung Kin Man Academic Building (AC1)
City University of Hong Kong

How to attend this seminar:
Via zoom
https://bit.ly/3LKJkIC
Passcode: 921886

or in-person (pre-registration and visitor QR code are needed)
https://bit.ly/3HNnCwQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the seminar.

All are welcome
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