

Diversity and Solidarity in Social Movements: Thailand's 2020-2021 Democracy Movement and Beyond

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Abstract: This presentation reflects on collective identity and solidarity within social movements, focusing on Thailand's 2020-2021 pro-democracy protests. Beyond its popular characterisation as an "anti-monarchy youth movement," the movement was more diverse and fragmented than often portrayed in international media. Along with shared political demands, it brought together a diverse range of agendas, spanning feminism, poverty, education, economic reform, and freedom of artistic expression. How did different social groups form collective identity and solidarity and see themselves as part of the pro-democracy movement? Combining interviews and visual artifacts, this presentation will discuss how different groups within the recent Thai movement interacted, collaborated, and negotiated their political demands, while throughout these processes developing and maintaining a sense of collectivity. The presentation approaches political protest as more than just a venue for expressing political demands and grudges, but also a platform for socialisation, pedagogy, and consequently collective identity formation. It will also examine the importance and limitations of diversity in social movements, as well as reflect on what "democracy" meant for the Thai protestors. Exploring the Thai movement may also allow us to explore how solidarity and collective identity developed beyond national borders, such as through the "Milk Tea Alliance," a collaboration with activists in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Myanmar.

Wichuta Teeratanabodee is a PhD student at the Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge. Her doctoral project focuses on transnational solidarity and activism in East and Southeast Asia. Previously, she was a Senior Analyst at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.



28 October 2024
(Monday)
4:00-5:30 PM (HKT)

Room 3500

3/F, Li Dak Sum Yip Yio Chin Academic
Building, City University of Hong Kong

How to attend this seminar:

Via Zoom
<https://shorturl.at/Xw4Ni>

Passcode: 680871

or in-person (pre-registration and visitor QR code are needed):

<https://shorturl.at/dGH17>

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



All are welcome

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