

Two Alumni Meetings in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi

Prof. Dr. Thomas Engelbert, Head of the Vietnamese Studies Section, Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia at the Asia Africa Institute (AAI), Universität Hamburg, was present at two alumni meetings in Ho Chi Minh City (southern Vietnam) on 12 March 2023, and in Hanoi (northern Vietnam) on 6 April 2023.

In Saigon, there are several former BA and MA students from the University of Hamburg who currently work in different areas. Benjamin Göhring, a former BA student, for example, manages a social café in Bình Thạnh Ward. Our former MA students also have their own career in different fields: Cao Quang Đạt succeeds in working in Vietnam's booming property business; Châu Khánh will start her own bio-restaurant in the posh Thảo Điền ward of the city; and Trần Trọng Hải Minh works as a journalist at the *Tuổi Trẻ* newspaper and translates English literature into Vietnamese. Our former PhD students pursue their career paths in academia. For instance, Dr. Trịnh Thị Mai Trinh is a lecturer at Hồng Bàng University. Dr. Trần Tịnh Vy, who is also our DAAD guest lecturer for Summer Semester 2023, currently works at the Department of Literature, National University of Ho Chi Minh City. Julian Huesmann is in the progress of preparing his application for a PhD at the University of Hamburg.

The Hanoi gathering was even more academic. All former alumni from Hamburg work at universities and academic institutions. Dr. Lê Hoài Ân has long been the Director of the German Department of Hanoi National University. Dr. Vũ Đức Liêm currently serves as deputy chair of the Department of History at the National University of Education. Dr. Trần Thị Minh is a scientific assistant at Nguyễn Tất Thành University. Dr. Trương Thùy Dung works at



Alumni meeting in Hanoi



Alumni meeting in Saigon

the Department of World History, Institute of History of the National Center for Social Sciences and Humanities. Our former holder of the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt scholarship, Dr. Phạm Phương Chi, works at the Institute of Literature of the same National Centre.

We cordially congratulate our alumni who have started their promising career paths in different fields. In the upcoming years we aim at organizing other follow-up meetings to which, hopefully, even more graduates and former guest lecturers would attend. •

Professor Engelbert's lectures about theories and methods of history



During his stay in Vietnam, Professor Engelbert gave a lecture in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi about theories and methods of history, a topic, which is also taught in our own MA classes. The lecture was titled: "What is history?" The special emphasis was on the liberal approach.

From around the end of the 19th century historians in Europe no longer contented themselves with collecting and evaluating sources or establishing the historical truth of

facts and figures. They wanted to give history an all-encompassing meaning. There must be forces, factors, categories that span over the ages. For Marxists, the problem is simple: those categories are social formation, class struggle and revolution. This ideology even has an ultimate goal of human history: the class-less society, where everybody is cared for, a paradise on earth, an old dream of mankind since the dawn of time

and of different civilizations (e.g., the ideas of Jianai, Dadong of Mozi, 470-391 BC).

At that turn of the 19th century, there were other academic schools that found the alleged 'red thread' of history in national, religious, economic, social or other factors. So, what is history? How history became a science or an academic subject. Is there objectivity in history and what means historical truth? Those are the questions the historiographers of the Hellenistic era have already raised, and historians have always been concerned about, at the latest from the early 19th century onwards, when source criticism has led to the development of historical science as an academic discipline with its own theories and methods. >>



This lecture was presented first at the Department of History, University of Education, Ho Chi Minh City (21 February 2023), where more than one hundred participants, both staff and students, attended. Secondly, it was presented at the Department of History, National University of Education, Hanoi (3 April 2023) and thirdly at the Institute of History, National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi (4 April 2023).

All three institutions were interested in a continuation and deepening of this subject. Both Vietnamese students and researchers know very well that the Marxist and especially the Marxist-Leninist approach is interesting, but only one method, which is, in addition, based on a specific world-view (*Weltanschauung*). They want to know more about Western theories and methods. •



Professor Engelbert's lectures about Sam Bram in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

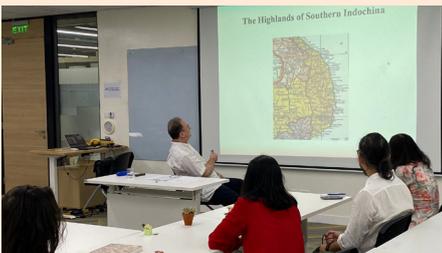
During his research stay in Vietnam, Professor Thomas Engelbert visited several Vietnamese universities and research institutes. He gave lectures attended by staff and students.

The first lecture was titled: "Millenarism in Indochina's Highlands: The Sam Bram Movement". It was about an anti-colonial movement of the peoples who live in the so-called Southern Indochinese Highlands.

In 1937/38, the French colonial administration got wind of a millenarian movement among many different native ethnic groups who settled in the highlands of Southern Laos, Northeastern Cambodia, Annam and Cochinchina. The movement started among the Rhade in Darlac, but soon spread to the Jarai in Pleiku-Kontum and the Mngong Biat in Mondulkiri. It was nipped in

the bud. Was it important at all, or only a side-show of history? What were the origins and consequences? How do we assess this particular event in the long duration of highland history?

This lecture was presented first at Fulbright University, Ho Chi Minh City on March 2, 2023, where our former DAAD guest lecturer (2013), Professor Nguyễn Nam, chairs the Department of Vietnamese Studies. Secondly, it was presented at the Department of History, National University of Hanoi on 5 April 2023, where staff and graduate students attended. Professor Engelbert's approach to the history of that area is different from the writings of Vietnamese specialists on that topic. This stimulated interesting, controversial debates. •



Honorary Lecture by Professor of Thai Studies

Prof. Dr Volker Grabowsky, Head of the Thai Studies Section, Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia at the Asia Africa Institute (AAI), Universität Hamburg, was invited by the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Mahidol University, Thailand, to give a special lecture (in Thai) titled *Significance of Paratexts in the Study of Tai-Lao Manuscript Cultures* (see the original Thai title in the flyer) as an honorary guest speaker on 20 March 2023. Characteristic features and categories of paratexts in Tai-Lao manuscripts were inspiringly introduced by the speaker and discussed among the participants who lively posted questions and shared their own contributions. Historical and socio-cultural contexts of the upper Mekong River region were the core setting. As the methodological approach to manuscript studies remains relatively novel in Thailand, Prof. Grabowsky's special lecture gained a broad attention among researchers and scholars in Thailand and beyond. •

Workshop Talk by Lecturer of Thai Studies

On 24–25 March 2023 the workshop "The Body of the Spoken Word: The Interconnection of ritual, text, and manuscript in Bon and Naxi traditions" was hosted by the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), Universität Hamburg. Dr Silpsupa Jaengswang, a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the Asia Africa Institute (AAI), gave a lecture titled *A ritual leader's manuscript: Manual of interaction prayers*. She presented a paper manuscript containing selected prayers written by a senior laywoman from Ban Vat Saen in the peninsular town of Luang Prabang in northern Laos. This laywoman played a prominent role as local ceremonial expert due to a declining willingness among young men to enter monkhood as they are increasingly seeking their own professional careers. The main texts of manuscript and para-contents were discussed. Production, use, setting, and pattern were applied as heuristic tools to get a clearer understanding of the interconnection between manuscripts and religious rituals associated with the copied texts. •



The Body of the Spoken Word: The Interconnection of Ritual, Text and Manuscript in Bon and Naxi Traditions
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 24-25 MARCH 2023

A workshop hosted by THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF MANUSCRIPT CULTURES, UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG
REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www.csmc.uni-hamburg.de/register-workshop/>



Austronesian's Visiting Doctorate Fellow

Rucitarahma Ristiawan, a PhD student from the Cultural Geography Research Group at Wageningen University Research, The Netherlands, has been working as a visiting research fellow at the Indonesia/Malaysia/Philippines Section of the Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia, Universität Hamburg. Mr. Ristiawan is working on his doctoral research on landscape commodification and rural gentrification through the cases of Gunungsewu and Ciletuh UNESCO Geoparks, Indonesia. His research explores how the landscape commodifications in Indonesian Geoparks have engendered rent gap creation through particular grassroots patrimonial governance in managing the land tenure system and negotiated displacement. He



argues that the roles and impacts of the regional patrimonial governance system should be examined as being mutually co-constitutive in opening and closing the rent gap, and determining land

valuation. His project aims to provide a theoretical and empirical understanding by showing how patrimonial systems of governance at the regional level contribute to the particular processes of rent gap creation, displacement, and subordinated inclusion through built-to let gentrification in Indonesian Geopark areas.

In this visiting research program, Mr. Ristiawan, who is also a lecturer at the Department of Geography at the Gajah Mada University, Indonesia, will collaborate on a research project with Prof. Elsa Clavé for three months (April–June 2023). Their research addresses a particular form of subordinated inclusion happening in Gunungsewu and Ciletuh UNESCO Geoparks, Indonesia. In running the tourism development program in geopark areas, practices of governing are often assumed inducing several practices of land grabbing and exclusion towards local communities. While planetary land grabbing activities are reported to threaten local community well-being, Indonesian rural dwellers show tolerance and peaceful acceptance of land grabbing through tourism as destinations develop and/or change. The output of this

collaborative project is a research paper, which analyzes this particular case of non-resistance by Indonesian rural dwellers in Geopark areas. Through examining diverse rural community responses to the tourism development in Indonesian geoparks and the perceived socio-economic transformation experienced by rural communities, the paper addresses how terms of inclusion affect the politics of land dispossession and exclusion in tourism development. •



SoSe 2023 Film Screening

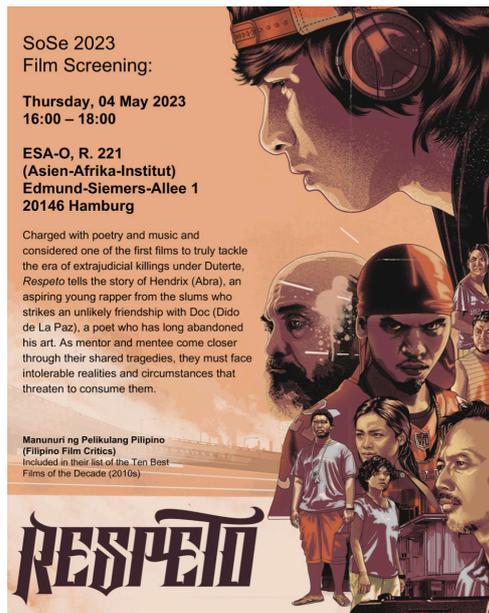
SoSe 2023
Film Screening:

Thursday, 04 May 2023
16:00 – 18:00

ESA-O, R. 221
(Asien-Afrika-Institut)
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1
20146 Hamburg

Charged with poetry and music and considered one of the first films to truly tackle the era of extrajudicial killings under Duterte, *Respeto* tells the story of Hendrix (Abra), an aspiring young rapper from the slums who strikes an unlikely friendship with Doc (Dido de La Paz), a poet who has long abandoned his art. As mentor and mentee come closer through their shared tragedies, they must face intolerable realities and circumstances that threaten to consume them.

Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino
(Filipino Film Critics)
Included in their list of the Ten Best Films of the Decade (2010s)



SoSe 2023 Film Screening:

Thursday, 11 May 2023
16:30 – 19:30
ESA-O (Asien-Afrika-Institut), R. 221
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1,
20146 Hamburg

"Bumi Manusia"

Director: Hanung Bramantyo
Scriptwriter: Salman Aristo



"Bumi Manusia" is an adaptation of the critically-acclaimed historical novel of the same title by the late Indonesian author Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The narrative is rooted in the history of colonialism from Indonesia. And the low-story dwells in the concepts of being an "outsider" or "insider" – based on the historical notes of Dutch-ruling in their country.

An inter-racial relationship is at the center of the film, which becomes the crux of what the society around them dares to question. A purebred Javanese royal Minke (Iqbaal Ramadhan) gets attracted towards Indo mixed-Dutch girl Annelies Mellema (Mawar Eva de Jongh). Since this relationship didn't fit the cruel customs of the Dutch regime of the time, it was bound to cause controversy. Having a mutual attraction was not enough for them to stay in a healthy communion. There was a pressure of societal expectations.

"Bumi Manusia" addresses the injustice through the eyes of the two lovers. It expresses the need for freedom and of an educated mind to address it to the wide population that is unaware of this oppression because of their lenience. It shows a protagonist fuelled by the social differences while also clinging to his romantic desires. A struggling mind such as his is conveniently placed along with his partner, who stands beside him through all the thick and thin.

Open to Public! No admission!

Language: Bahasa Indonesia with English Subtitle

Snacks will be provided!

This is a special 3 hours movie. Please, come on time!

A collaborative event between the Austronesian Studies of Universität Hamburg and the Indonesian Students Association (PSI) in Hamburg!

SoSe 2023 Film Screening:

Thursday, 08 Juni 2023
16:00 – 18:00

ESA-O, R. 221
(Asien-Afrika-Institut)
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1
20146 Hamburg

Kisapmata (In the Blink of an Eye) is a classic from the 2nd Golden Age of Philippine Cinema. It is regarded as Mike de Leon's best work and is one of the masterpieces of world cinema. A crime-drama-suspense genre film not often seen in the Philippines, *Kisapmata* tells of a controlling patriarch and ex-police officer and his daughter's struggle to break free from his control. Even after more than 40 years, the film, digitally restored in 2020, still resonates with its psychological and social relevance.

Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino
(Filipino Film Critics)
Included in their list of the Ten Best Films of the Decade (1990s)

Geward Urian 1991
Winner of seven awards including:
Best Actor
Best Supporting Actor
Best Supporting Actress

Critic Reviews:
Even after all this time, the film continues to unsettle, not only because de Leon gives us a very real monster that participates many of the paternalistic cogs that continue to dominate our lives — is one form or the other — today, but rather because it shows us a world where he can exist: our own.
Lila Star (RAW Philippines)

De Leon's film is an allegory or a symbolic story of Filipino life under fascism. Nerissa S. Balce
(*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

...very bit as chilling and unsettling as a Stanley Kubrick film... (e) beautifully orchestrated psychological nightmare.
Gina Turiso (*The Movie Clubbers*)

In *Kisapmata*, [De Leon] drew a line between then-dictator Ferdinand Marcos and ... ex-police officer Dadong Cerdano (*McSiaren*). Today, monstrous Dadong now resembles Duterte in HK.
Aaron E. Pluta (*FilmMaker Magazine*)

KISAPMATA

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