

Dr. Amanda Katherine Rath

as New Lecturer for the Department of Austronesian Studies



The Department of Austronesian Studies has welcomed Dr. Amanda Katherine Rath as new lecturer for the current Winter Semester (2023-2024). Dr. Amanda Katherine Rath received her Ph.D from Cornell University in the Department of History of Art and Visual Studies, becoming an expert of Southeast Asian art, especially of modern and contemporary art of Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Her recent research topics include artist societies in pre-WWII, experimental artistic practices, and art collectives from the revolutionary phase, up to the *reformasi* period (Indonesia).

Since 2012, she is a Lecturer in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies and in the Institute of Art History, as well as the Curatorial Studies Program at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. Among her long list of publications, we would like to mention: "Constructions of 'Indonesian-Ness' in Modern Art and Artistic Identity in a Politically Fraught Terrain during the 1950s" (2022); "Post-Berlin Expressionism of Latiff Mohidin" (2018); "Latiff Mohidin: Pago Pago" (2018); "Taboo and Transgression in Contemporary Indonesian Art" (2005). She has also coordinated and edited the special issue of the journal *"Southeast of Now. Direction in Contemporary and Modern Art in Asia"* (2022).

In our department, she is currently delivering a seminar entitled *"Modern art of Southeast Asia: Between the colonial, revolutionary and decolonial"*, which aims at discussing some issues of modern art in the region of Southeast Asia across a complex terrain, within socio-political and cultural contexts. Especially, she is inviting the students to reflect upon the idea that concepts and arguments of modern art are integral to the colonial, revolutionary, and decolonizing process, and also processes of modernization, including Cold War choices. In such reflection for her is especially meaningful the role played by art, artists, collective of artists, and manifestos written by some of them.

We would like to remind that, even if the official registration phase on Stine is already closed, students who interested in the topics proposed by Dr. Amanda Rath, are still very welcomed to take part into the seminar. For accessing the calendar of the next appointments, please check the Stine webpage at the following link:

<https://stine.unihamburg.de/scripts/mgrqispi.dli?APPNAME=CampusNet&PRGNAME=COURSEDETAILS&ARGUMENTS=-N352379025333468,-N000695,-NO,-N387284073350519,-N387284073337520,-NO,-NO,-NO>



*Herzlich Willkommen,
Selamat Datang Amanda!*

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THE WINGS

Sunday,
3 December 2023,
7 p.m

Hamburg University
of Music and Theater (HfMT),
multifunctional studio

FREE
ENTRY

In the 60-minute concert, 3 artists living in Hamburg: Tam Thi Pham, Goran Lazarevic, and Vlatko Kucan will have the opportunity to play together with the guest from Vietnam, the renowned Dan Bau player and teacher Ngo Tra My. Each of the performers brings a unique cultural and musical background, from classical to folk, ancient to contemporary, traditional to experimental - and brings them into a dialog that transcends the boundaries of language. The audience will be able to discover and enjoy the sounds of an unlikely combination of instruments: 2 Dan Baus, electronics, clarinet/saxophones, and accordion.



Registration is necessary and can be done via eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.de/e/the-wings-tickets-760265463467?aff=oddtcreator>

Film Screening

Join us in screening a selection of
Southeast Asian films on campus!

Austronesian Film Screening



A FILM BY BABY RUTH VILLARAMA

Best Documentary
(Gawad Urian 2017 of the Filipino
Film Critics Association)
Best Picture (Metro Manila Film
Festival 2016)

Empowerment, elegance,
and endurance shine in
this 2016 award-winning
documentary on Filipina
domestic workers claiming
their space and
celebrating life in the
heart of Hong Kong

Date and Time:
Thursday
14 December 2023
16:00 – 18:00 CET

Place:
Room 120-W
Flügel West ("West Wing"),
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1
20146 Hamburg

in Tagalog with English Subtitles

West Papua/Indonesia Film Screening

Öffentliche Veranstaltung!

Abteilung für Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens, Asien-Afrika-Institut,
Universität Hamburg, in Zusammenarbeit mit dem *Westpapua Netzwerk*,
Pazifik-Informationsstelle und *Stiftung Asienhaus*.



Donnerstag, 21.12.2023
Raum 221-O
18-20 Uhr

Universität Hamburg
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Flügel Ost
20146 Hamburg

Sprache: Indonesisch mit englischen Untertiteln



Online lecture on oral histories about Vietnam among Cambodian political actors

Hosted by Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik (HGT), e.V., Keo Duong, a PhD candidate at Bundeswehr University Munich and a history lecturer at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, gave an online lecture titled *“Like a Python Wraps Its Prey”*: *Competing Oral Histories about Vietnam among Cambodian Political Actors* on 17 November 2023. The main objective of the lecture was to analyze competing oral history narratives related to Vietnam and told in Cambodia by current Cambodian political actors. Based on empirical data gathered from interviews with 51 actors, it is seen how the narratives of these actors are influenced by their political affiliation and mediated by geographical spaces and past personal experiences. Memory politics in Cambodia about Vietnam are influenced by a macro-political context that is embedded in, but also mediated by individual factors at the micro level. The micro level context of geographical spaces and the individual experiences also determine which memories are remembered and which are deemed appropriate in particular spaces and in the context of particular experiences.



Photo credits: Keo Duong

Online lecture on Northern Thai meditation

Also hosted by Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik (HGT), e.V., Asst. Prof. Phrakhu Kowitarttawatee (PhD), the abbot of Wat Ban Kōng and the Deputy Director of Academic Affairs at Lamphun Sangha College, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand, gave an online lecture (in Thai) titled *Mental Exercise in Lan Na* on 24 November 2023. In Lan Na (Northern Thailand) Buddhism, “mental exercise” is a meditation training to gain mental stability and sharp wisdom. It is also used as a way to troubleshoot and seek sensible decisions. Two types of meditation are *Samatha-kammaṭṭhāna* and *Vipassanā-kammaṭṭhāna*. *Samatha-kammaṭṭhāna* is a means to tranquility development; *Vipassanā-kammaṭṭhāna* is a means to insight development. Each has Nibbāna or Enlightenment as the ultimate goal. According to the Four Foundations of Mindfulness (*Satipaṭṭhāna*), one can meditate through contemplation of body (*Kāyānupassanā*), contemplation of feeling (*Vedanānupassanā*), contemplation of mind (*Cittānupassanā*), and contemplation of mind-objects (*Dhammānupassanā*). Such meditation is seen as a way to actively develop practitioners’ spirits and achieve health.

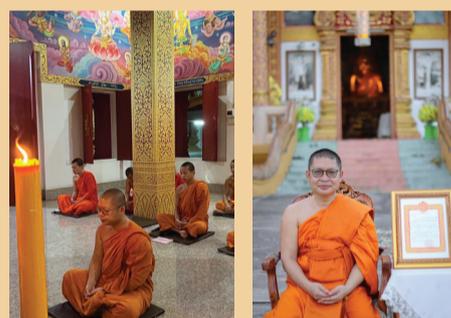
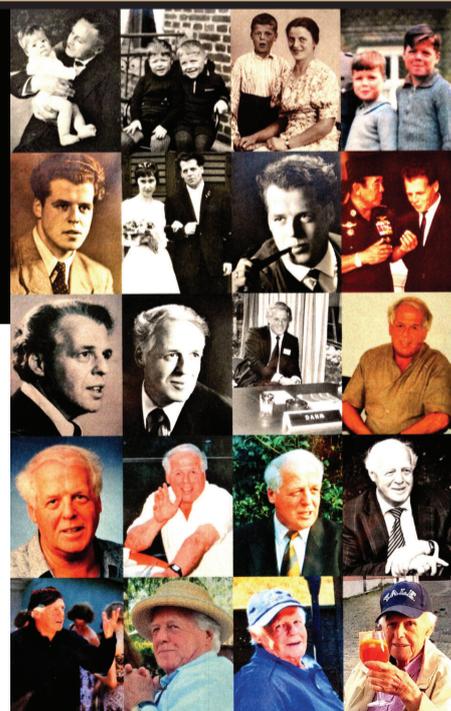


Photo credits: Phrakhu Kowitarttawatee

Obituary of Prof. em. Dr. Bernhard Dahm (1932–2023)



Image by mdjaff on Freepik



On 14 October 2023, Prof. em. Dr. Bernhard Dahm, founder of the Chair of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Passau, passed away at the age of 91. Though he had retired more than a quarter of a century ago his passing was mourned by many of his former long-term associates and students near and far. Even in Vietnam several of his former PhD students organised a memorial ceremony to honour their highly respected and beloved teacher. Bernhard Dahm was born on 30 August 1932 as the second son of a Protestant pastor in the district of Siegen in Westphalia. His interest in Southeast Asia was aroused

by his mother who had spent her early childhood as the daughter of a Lutheran missionary in Sumatra but died in childbirth when the young Bernhard was only ten years old. Later Bernhard studied History, Philosophy, German and English Literature at the universities of Marburg and Kiel. In 1964, he earned his doctorate in Kiel with a dissertation *“Sukarnos Kampf um Indonesiens Unabhängigkeit: Werdegang und Ideen eines asiatischen Nationalisten”*. This work which was published in 1969 in English by Cornell University Press was a milestone in academic discourse about the importance of intellectual and cultural traditions of post-colonial states in Southeast Asia after World War II.

Throughout his long and rewarding academic life, Bernhard Dahm focused his research on the persistence of indigenous cultural influences on the formation and development of modern Southeast Asian states and societies. After his Habilitation on *“Emanzipationsversuche von kolonialer Herrschaft in Südostasien”* (Attempts at emancipation from colonial rule in Southeast Asia) – with a focus on Indonesia and the Philippines –

Bernhard Dahm became first a lecturer, then a professor of Asian History (1976–1984) at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel before he moved to the newly founded University of Passau in 1984 where he built up a thriving department of Southeast Asian Studies over the following thirteen years. I have known Professor Dahm since my first year of undergraduate studies in Kiel later becoming his scientific assistant in Passau (1990–1994). I am mourning a great teacher, scholar, and friend, whose sincerity, honesty and humanity I highly appreciate. Southeast Asian Studies in Germany has lost one of its founding fathers.