

SEA-NEWSLETTER

The Department for Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

FEBRUARY 2024

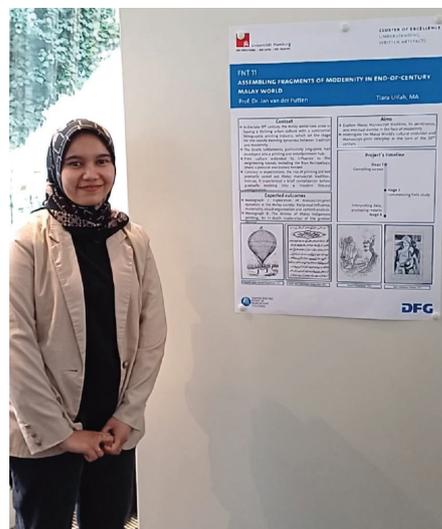
Research Day at The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)



On Friday, 12 January 2024, the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC) organised the first “Research Day” of the Cluster of Excellence: “Understanding Written Artefacts”. The Cluster is a cross-disciplinary research project that includes 11 Research Fields and Working Groups, comprising 64 individual projects. This initiative ‘Cluster Research Day’ was designed to foster communication within and beyond the Research Fields, providing an excellent platform for networking, idea exchange, and collaboration.

Several members of our departments participated in the poster session on that day. Prof. Elsa Clavé of the Austronesian department and the PhD student Tiara Ulfah presented their projects. Prof. Clavé investigates

>>>



Tiara Ulfah

SEA-NEWSLETTER

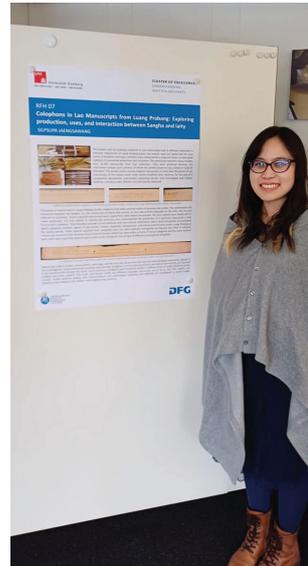
The Department for Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

FEBRUARY 2024

>>>

the Malay Peninsula's legal culture, focusing on original ownership documents and other authoritative texts. Meanwhile, Tiara Ulfah investigates the interaction of Malay manuscript tradition and lithographed texts in the Malay world in the late nineteenth century.

From the Thai department, Dr. Silpsupa Jaengsaewang's research focuses on the colophons in Lao manuscripts, delving into topics like production, use, and the interaction between Sangha and Laity. Dr. Peera Panarut's project focuses on 'the archival practices of the Thai Royal Court' in Bangkok. ●



Dr. Silpsupa Jaengsaewang



Dr. Peera Panarut

Fachri Aidulsyah's Research Life at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)



Fachri, from Tangerang (Indonesia), as a junior researcher at the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), graduated as a master's student in the Southeast Asian Studies Department, University of Hamburg.

BRIN is the main Indonesian Academic Research Institute mandated with a variety of research-related functions. Among others, it provides guidelines for research plans and ensures quality standards of the research. It regulates the use of research data, protects intellectual property, and is entitled to guarantee permission for high-risk research activities. Equally important is that it is an institution that offers various research career prospects on several administrative levels, which Fachri found promising and worth pursuing.

Fachri's research project at the BRIN dwells mainly on religious movements and ethnonationalism in Indonesia. He has conducted fieldwork in certain Indonesian regions like Riau and Bangka Belitung, Pontianak, Ternate and Seram in Maluku, and Jayapura in Papua. He published several of his findings in international and Indonesian journals. For example, one of his most recent papers entitled *The Rise of Urban Salafism in Indonesia: The Social-media and Pop Culture of New Indonesian Islamic Youth* appeared in the Asian Journal of Social Science in December 2023. We wish him all the best with his professional research life. ●

SEA-NEWSLETTER

The Department for Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

FEBRUARY 2024

Field Research in Tai minority areas in Yunnan

(August 2023)



The province of Yunnan in southwestern China shares borders with Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. With 394,000 km² and almost 50 million inhabitants Yunnan can be compared in territorial size and population with any major country in Mainland Southeast Asia, a region to which this province has close historical, ethnic and cultural links. Among the two dozen officially recognized ethnic groups (*minzu*) are also 1.5 million Tai (Chinese: Dai) who mostly live along the borders to Laos and Myanmar. The largest Tai settlements are in the autonomous prefectures of Dehong, the core area of the once powerful Shan federation of Moeng Mao, and Xishuang Banna (Tai: Sipsòng Panna) bordering Laos and the Shan State of Myanmar.

Over the last two decades, Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky has carried out in-depth research on the history and manuscript culture of the Tai Lü of Sipsòng Panna, which share many similarities with those of the Tai Yuan of Lan Na (Northern Thailand) and the Lao. In the second half of August 2023, he revisited various places of manuscript production in various districts of Sipsòng Panna, in the company of local Tai scholars and on 28 August, he gave a lecture in Thai at the prefecture's central library on particular features of Tai manuscript cultures in front of an audience

>>>

SEA-NEWSLETTER

The Department for Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

FEBRUARY 2024



>>>

of more than 40 local specialists, joined via Zoom by many more scholars from Fudan University in Shanghai. The field research included the visit of a large Wa community in Moeng Hai district where the villagers who speak an Austro-asiatic language produce mulberry paper manuscripts written in Tai Lü language and the Dhamma script. Another highlight was a research trip to Moeng Laem (Menglian), a Tai minority area outside the prefecture of Sipsong Panna where Prof. Grabowsky renewed previous contacts with local scribes and also investigated an impressive private collection set up by a local monk. ●



Photo 1: Temple building in Moeng Ma (Moeng Laem district) with famous old murals

Photo 2: Mural painting depicting representatives of various ethnic and social groups planning the founding of the first Tai village in Moeng Ma

Photo 3: Prof. Grabowsky delivering a lecture in the central library of Chiang Rung (Sipsong Panna)

Photo 4: Prof. Grabowsky reading mulberry paper manuscripts in a Wa village, Moeng Hai district

Photo 5: Prof. Grabowsky reading mulberry paper manuscripts in a Wa village, Moeng Hai district

Photo 6: Sand stupa in the compound of a monastery in Moeng Hai district

SEA-NEWSLETTER

The Department for Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

FEBRUARY 2024



Einladung zur Lesung und Diskussion des Romans **WO AUCH IMMER IHR SEID** mit



AUTORIN
Khuê Phạm



MODERATOR
Dr. Gerhard Will

Datum: 8. FEBRUAR 2024
Zeit: 18:00 – 20:00 UHR

Ort: Asien-Afrika-Institut – Raum 121
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg

HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR 2024

The Year of Dragon



Illustration by: zaie - Freepik.com

The SEA-Newsletter Team:

Board:

Prof. Dr. Jörg Thomas Engelbert
Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky
Prof. Dr. Jan van der Putten
JP Dr. Elsa Clavé
Dr. Silpsupa Jaengsawang

Vietnam studies:

Thanh Ha Nguyen
Quang Minh To

Thai studies:

Kornkanok Khetnongbua

Austronesian studies:

Roberta Zollo
Rangga E. Saputra
Tiara Ulfa
Syukri Rizki

Layout:

E. Hellen Kustanti

SUBSCRIBE: suedostasien.unihh@outlook.de

FOLLOW US:

 [@seastudies_hamburg](https://www.instagram.com/seastudies_hamburg)

 <https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/soa.html>