

Die Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik e.V.  
in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Arbeitsbereich Thaiistik  
der Abteilung Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens des AAI  
lädt Sie zu folgendem Online-Vortrag ein:

## The Survival Politics of Three Tai Nüa Polities in the Upper Mekong Basin: A study of 18th—19th century relations between Southeast Asia and China



This lecture will examine how the three major Tai Nüa polities in the Upper Mekong River region maintained their autonomy through survival politics and cultural negotiation strategies during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. By analyzing the historical cases of Moeng Laem, Kung Ma, and Moeng Bò, the lecture will demonstrate how these polities navigated external pressures within the Qing dynasty's frontier governance framework, employing diplomacy, cultural identity, and local governance approaches. Special attention will be given to the roles of the Mandala system and the Chinese imperial *tusi* system in shaping political interactions in the region and influencing relationships with China and Southeast Asian neighbors. By analyzing the cultural and political interactions of these polities, the lecture aims to provide deeper historical insights reflecting on the relevance of these experiences for contemporary frontier governance and the construction of cultural identity.

(Photos by Hanli Zhou)

## Online Lecture *via Zoom & in English*



**Hanli Zhou** is an Associate Professor at Pu'er University, China, specializing in Southeast Asian history, with a particular focus on the political and cultural interactions of Tai ethnic groups with China. She holds a PhD in Southeast Asian History from the University of Hamburg, where her research concentrated on the survival politics of Tai Nüa polities in the Upper Mekong Basin during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Her work integrates history, political science, and ecology, and she has led a national project on Tai Nüa regions under Qing rule and their relationships with mainland Southeast Asia. Hanli is committed to interdisciplinary teaching and research, with expertise in local history, political systems, and cross-cultural exchanges.

**Friday, 6 June 2025**  
**14:00—16:00 (CEST)**  
**19:00—21:00 (Thai time)**

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Meeting-ID: 645 6352 1222 || Passcode: hgtlecture