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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:

How Drinking Killed the Virus: Reflections on Irony, Knowledge, and Community among the Tai Lue of Sipsong Panna in Times of Coronavirus



According to resilient national conceptions of ethnicity, the Tai Lue of Sipsong Panna, in southern Yunnan Province of China, while 'backward' when compared to the more advanced Han Chinese, are in possession of a sophisticated culture, making thus for the perfect combination of an exotic yet 'civilized' minority (Ch.: shaoshu minzu) with a knack for singing, dancing, and romance. While this representation has put Lue culture at the centre of the booming tourist industry in the region, the majority of Tai Lue continue living in the rural countryside, engaged in the agricultural production of paddy rice as well as cash-crops.

Building on a one-month stay in a village in Sipsong Panna during the recent COVID-19 lockdown, in this presentation I will offer a glimpse of rural life under a national-level emergency. Using humour and irony as indexes of particular forms of imagining belonging, I will (perhaps frivolously) speculate on how stereotypes and hierarchies of knowledge may reflect actual epistemological paradigms and ways of relating to the world, materialized in this case in the diverse manners of approaching the viral threat on the part of different individuals and populations, both in China and in European countries.

Online-Lecture *via Zoom* *in English*

Roger Casas has lived and worked in Sipsong Panna and other areas of China for extended periods since 2001. After obtaining his PhD from the Australian National University in 2015 with a thesis on the connections between monasticism and masculinity among the Tai Lue, at present he is a researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna). His current project, 'Religion, economy and gender in the Upper Mekong region', an Austria-Japan cooperation, continues his long engagement with this area and its populations.



Monday, 27th July 2020

10h-12h (CEST)

via Zoom: *(Copy the link into your webbrowser to join)*

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/95147809561?pwd=WEhwbXhKUMFVVzdlG9uM29EWEdLUT>