Annual Meeting of the Society of Thai Studies in Hamburg (Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik, e.V., HGT)  
On 15 October 2022, the members of the Society of Thai Studies in Hamburg gathered for their annual meeting, at the University of Hamburg. Professor Dr. Volker Grabowsky, the president of the society, informed the members about the Thai Culture Day organized on 2 June 2022 to celebrate the 101st anniversary of Thai language study in Germany and the 160th anniversary of Thai-German relations. In addition, the members discussed academic contributions, book publications, financial issues, and plans for future events. In the afternoon, Dr. Peera Panarut, a postdoctoral researcher on Thai manuscript cultures, and Ms. Sutheera Satayaphan, a PhD candidate, gave a special lecture on the topic Thai Manuscripts in Germany. On a Quest for a New Manuscript Catalogue. The talk was arranged in a hybrid setting to allow a broader public to discuss and exchange their knowledge and experience. We kindly remind that students of Thai Studies are most welcome to apply for HGT membership (the annual membership fee for students is only 15 EUR). See also our website: https://thaiistik-gesellschaft.de.

On 3 February 2023, the Chair of Vietnamese Studies and the Hamburger Gesellschaft für Vietnamistik (HGV e.V.) will jointly host a public reading and discussion concerning the newly published German translation of the Vietnamese novel “Số đỏ” (‘Das große Los’).

Dr. Dang Le Nhieu Hoang has worked as a chemist and is a renowned translator of Vietnamese literature. Dr. Rudolph Eiblhoegensen is a journalist, book author, and a publisher of the Tailand-Verlag, and at the same time the Managing Editor of the Department of Deutsche Welke Bonn. They will present their publication and discuss the main topics of the novel. The novel “Số đỏ” (German title: ‘Das große Los’) was written by Vũ Trọng Phụng in 1936. It provides an insight into the effects that French colonialism had on Vietnamese society during the 1930s. Confronted with the shock of colonialism, members of the new bourgeoisie and intellectuals in Vietnam saw no other way out than to give a special lecture on the topic Thai Manuscripts in Germany: On a Quest for a New Manuscript Catalogue. The talk was arranged in a hybrid setting to allow a broader public to discuss and exchange their knowledge and experience. We kindly remind that students of Thai Studies are most welcome to apply for HGT membership (the annual membership fee for students is only 15 EUR). See also our website: http://thaiistik-gesellschaft.de.

Tet-Fest (Tết Quý Mô)  
3 February 2023, 18:00 to 20:00 (CET)  
Book reading and discussion about the Vietnamese Novel “Số đỏ” (“Das große Los”) by Vũ Trọng Phụng (in German)

On 2 December 2022, the Society of Thai Studies in Hamburg e.V. (HST), hosted an online lecture by Assistant Professor Watcharaporn Distapan from Thammasat University (Thailand) on the topic Dynamics of Rituals and Traditions of Upagupta in Thailand.

Upagupta or Phra Upahat (in Thai) is an archetypal monk who appeared in the time after Lord Buddha’s Parinibbāna. He is believed to be still alive and to reside under the sea. Various rituals and traditions about Phra Upahat are found in the northern and northeastern regions of Thailand. For example, the invitation of Phra Upahat to promote Buddhist ceremonies, the Phra Upahat midnight almsgiving ritual on a full-moon Wednesday, and the floating of pavilions in the worship of Phra Upahat. Nowadays, new elements are continuously introduced as part of the ritual to promote local tourism. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion and gained much attention and interest from the audience.

What are the challenges faced by the communities in those countries? How do they cope with rapid social changes and political upheavals?

Austroasian Research Seminar, 16 January 2023, 10:00 to 12:00 CET  
Reading a Colonial Bureau: The Politics of Cultural Investigation on the Non-Christian Filipinos

Dr. Mary Jane Rodriguez-Tatel  
Associate Professor of Philippine Studies, University of the Philippines Diliman

To join the seminar: https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/69233494963?pwd=QTRPWHFzTm9EcktlNGtBaWdjQT09
Meeting-ID: 692 3349 4963
Code: 8496431

MOVIE CYCLE

What does living in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam or the Philippines mean in the 21st century?

Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 16:00  
ESA O 221, University of Hamburg

“LOLA,” a film by Brillante Mendoza, retells the story of two grandmothers living in the slums areas of Manila, Philippines who are facing a similar, but somehow opposite, destiny in the rooms of a public court. The first grandmother is seeking justice for her grandmother who has been killed, and the other one is committed to getting her grandson out of jail after being wrongly accused of murder. This movie is 110 minutes long in Tagalog original language and English subtitles.

Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 16:00  
ESA O 221, University of Hamburg

“Thiên Thanh Ho Mệnh” or in English “The Guardian” focuses on the story of the Pop singer Lam Phuong, her suicide, and the sex scandal she get involved in after that a sex tape featuring her was released by the media. After the death of Lam Phuong, a big fuss is created by the media over the Kumuthong doll, a special magic doll, that the singer was holding when she took her life away. The finding of Lam Phuong’s dead body with the strange and magic doll gives the start to a series of mysterious facts, such as the unexplainable death of a series of figures, related and not to the dead singer. This movie is 127 minutes long in Vietnamese original language with English subtitles.