

# SEA- NEWSLETTER



Photo: Pixels

## Nonton bareng, yok!

For the Fantasy Film Festival, "White-Night", the cinema "Savoy" will screen the Indonesian and Philippine horror movies "Satan's slave" and "Nocebo". Both movies are in the original language with German subtitles.

For further information, check the program on the following link: <https://savoy.premiumkino.de/veranstaltung/fantasy-film-fest-white-nights>

## Austronesian Research Seminar

Concurrently with the end of the Winter Semester 2022-2023, on 16 January 2023, the Austronesian Studies Program at the University of Hamburg hosted the last appointment of the permanent Austronesian Research Seminar.

Building up from the series of appointments held during the last summer semester, which discussed topics such as colonial dynamics and knowledge production, this semester's lectures focused on Austronesian shared concepts of religion, cosmology, and philosophy, in ancient and contemporaneous times.

Experts of anthropology, philology, and ethnomusicology were invited to present their research on local expressions of the mentioned broader themes produced by various communities across the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

This aimed at questioning whether applying a broader "Austronesian" conceptual framework could help develop

new intellectual resources and theoretical models for the region's present-day political and socio-ecological challenges.

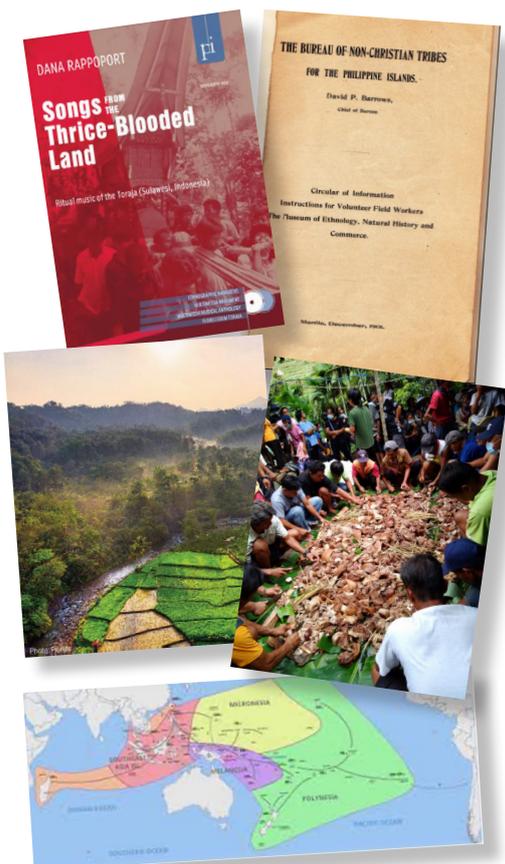
A total of 102 participants attended the various online meetings of the seminar, including Master's and PhD students of the Austronesian Department, as well as researchers and professors from various external universities.

The seminar was hosted by Prof. Elsa Clavé, Adonis Elumbre, and Prof. Jan van der Putten from the University of Hamburg in collaboration with Andrea Malaya Ragragio and Myfel Paluga from the University of the Philippines Mindanao/Leiden University and Ramon Guillermo from the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

The following table lists the various appointments, with the names of the invited speakers and the titles of their presentations.

No.	Date	Lecture
1 <sup>st</sup>	17.10.2022	   <b>Dr. Victor Paz, Prof. Dr. Zeus Salazar, and Dr. Carmen Peñalosa</b> Concepts of soul and the afterlife in pre- and non-predominantly Christianized Philippines—Views from archaeological, historical, and ethnological reconstructions
2 <sup>nd</sup>	21.11.2022	 <b>Aditia Gunawan</b> Tracing Sudanese Religion: Between Ethnography and Philology
3 <sup>rd</sup>	05.12.2022	 <b>Dr. Dana Rappoport</b> Songs from the thrice-blooded land (Sulawesi, Indonesia): Toraja ritual space and socio-cosmic organization
4 <sup>th</sup>	19.12.2022	 <b>Prof. Dr. Christoph Antweiler</b> Sulawesi Concepts: Urban Spatial Concepts in Makassar
5 <sup>th</sup>	09.01.2023	 <b>Dr. Leah Enkiwe-Abayao</b> Persistence of Death Rituals in Mayoyao
6 <sup>th</sup>	16.01.2023	 <b>Dr. Mary Jane Rodriguez-Tatel</b> Reading a Colonial Bureau: The Politics of Cultural Investigation on the Non-Christian Filipinos

For further information, please contact Prof. Elsa Clavé ([elsa.clave@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:elsa.clave@uni-hamburg.de)) or Adonis Elumbre ([alelumbre@up.edu.ph](mailto:alelumbre@up.edu.ph)).



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## NEWSLETTER

### Representatives for the Advisory Board meeting of the Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage wanted:

**Date:** March 02, 2023 (Thursday)

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m

**Location:** Berlin State Library (Unter den Linden 8, 10117 Berlin)

If you use CrossAsia regularly for your studies, research and teaching and would like to actively share your experience, please email a short CV, stating the regional focus of your interests, to: [x-asia@sbb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:x-asia@sbb.spk-berlin.de) by February 2, 2023.

Further information is available on the website: <https://blog.crossasia.org/bewerbungen-fuer-das-fachbeiratstreffen-gesucht/>

## Public defense (in German) of a dissertation on Thursday, February 2, 2023



**Place:** Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1 (OST), AAI, R. 232

**Candidate:** Minh Kha Nguyen

**Topic:** “Phạm Đình Hồ und seine Werke „Vũ Trùng Tuy Bút“ und „Tang Thương Ngẫu Lục“ als Paradigmen des literarischen Genres Pinselaufzeichnungen (bút ký)”. English title: Phạm Đình Hồ and his works “Vũ Trùng Tuy Bút” and “Tang Thương Ngẫu Lục” as paradigms of the literary genre brush notes (bút ký).

Kha treated two collections of short prose of ancient Vietnamese literature: the collection “Vũ Trùng Tuy Bút” (VTTB, engl.: Brush Notes, Written in the Rain) by Phạm Đình Hồ and “Tang Thương Ngẫu Lục” (TTNL, engl.: Accidental Notes of Mulberry Tree and Ocean), written by Phạm Đình Hồ and Nguyễn Án as paradigms of the literary genre brush notes (ký).

He correctly emphasised that the “long 18<sup>th</sup> century” (which historians commonly reckon to 1803, when Nguyễn Phước Ánh ascended the throne in Huế and founded the Nguyễn dynasty) was an exciting and turbulent period in Vietnamese history. The “long 18th century” was also an exciting period for Vietnamese literature.

Literary scholars in Vietnam and abroad commonly speak of the culmination of ancient or classical Vietnamese literature: verse romances in Vietnamese written in the native demotic script Chữ Nôm and prose literature written in literary (“classical”) Chinese. It is true that many works were not written until after 1803 (such as the verse novel Truyện Kiều, ca. 1810-15).

The most outstanding authors of ancient Vietnamese literature, such as the poet Nguyễn Du (1765-1820) or the prose writer Phạm Đình Hồ (1768-1839), who was treated by the candidate, were essentially 18<sup>th</sup>-century men. They came from famous Mandarin families of the previous Lê dynasty and often still took their Mandarin exams under that dynasty. A life of prosperity and importance was actually preordained to them by their origins. They then experienced first-hand the twists and turns of history, that is, “mulberry tree and ocean”, a famous quote from the work “Shenxian zhuan” (Thần tiên truyện) by Ge Hong (Cát Hồng, 280-340 AD), Vietnamese Authors of that time often used, as it can be found in the first four lines of the most famous Vietnamese verse novel, the “Truyện Kiều” by Nguyễn Du.

These life experiences, shaped by the experiences of rise and fall, civil war and war, prosperity and poverty, happiness and loss, flowed into her works. Because of their knowledge, they were used by the new Nguyễn dynasty, which they served loyally, just as their ancestors had served the Lê dynasty. However, they witnessed the demoting of the old capital, Hanoi, to the status of a northern provincial city, the demolition of the palaces there, and the new dynasty’s preferential treatment of “southerners”, especially the families of south-central Vietnam. In their literary works, they wanted to find answers to the question “why?”.

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## Recent book publication: Klaus Behling (2022), “Zwischen Bruderbund und Todfeindschaft – Kambodscha und Vietnam in den Jahren 1970 bis 1979 vor dem Hintergrund ihrer Beziehungen zum Ostblock”

Zenos Verlag, Segnitz bei Würzburg, 2022, ISBN 978-3-931018-30-6  
Hamburger Südostasienstudien No. 17, edited by the Department of Languages  
and Cultures of Southeast Asia, Universität Hamburg, ISSN 1866-3982, 20 EUR

Embedded into the Cold War context, Cambodia and Vietnam's relationship dramatically turned in the 1970s and started to be characterised by war and mass violence.

The Soviet Union initially welcomed the post-war developments in Vietnam and the rise of radical nationalist communists in Cambodia (Kampuchea), perceiving these as progressive acts. Soon however, the conflicts between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Democratic Kampuchea and the diverging interests of the Soviet Union and China in Southeast Asia contributed to the first war between two socialist states, culminating in the temporary occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam. This book by Behling analyses the origins, development, and results of the Cambodian-Vietnam conflict in the 1970s and its political dimensions. This historical overview shows the limits of military power for solving political conflicts; it traces back the reasons for a genocide committed in the name of Communism.



For more information and to order a copy of the book: [suedostasien@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:suedostasien@uni-hamburg.de).

## New discovery of ancient palm-leaf manuscripts in Laos

During her research trip to Luang Prabang in August 2022, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Dr Silpsupa Jaengsawang, a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), Universität Hamburg, discovered at Vat Visunarat, a monastery under royal patronage since ancient times, two wooden book chests containing hundreds of palm-leaf manuscripts, which had never been officially registered. The manuscripts, the oldest of which probably date back to the eighteenth century, contain mostly religious texts and were mainly inscribed by hand.

In cooperation with the Buddhist Archives of Luang Prabang and its director Dr Khamvone Boulyaphonh, the manuscripts were cleaned and prepared for official registration and digitisation. They will be included in the ongoing EAP project “Hidden and Endangered Manuscript Collections Connected to the Supreme Patriarch and the Royal Family of Laos” led by Dr Khamvone Boulyaphonh and Prof Dr Volker Grabowsky.

