

UWA Conference 2023

From the 27th to the 29th of September 2023, the University of Hamburg hosted the international conference “Studying Written Artefacts: Challenges and Perspectives”, organized by the Cluster of Excellence “Understanding Written Artefacts”.

The conference provided a vibrant forum for sharing experiences and perspectives among scholars working on written artefacts, showcasing pioneering research and developing new ideas. In total, 142 participants presented their research.

Several members of the department were involved in the conference. Prof. Dr. Elsa Clavé (Austronesian Studies) was part of the organizing committee, together with Prof. Dr. Stephan Seifert (Chemistry), Dr. Michael Kohs (Jewish Studies, CSMC), and Giulia Dovico (CSMC).

Dr. Silpsupa Jaengsaewang (Thai Studies) participated in the panel “Paracontent and its Different Scopes”, where she presented a paper on handwritten notes found in the printed *anisong* manuscripts stored in two monasteries in Luang Prabang. She argued that the addition of these notes was meant to create a sense of uniqueness in the printed copies, hence showing the higher esteem that handwriting continued to have despite the spread of the texts printed copies, which are slowly replacing manuscripts.



Photo: Silpsupa Jaengsaewang

Roberta Zollo (Austronesian Studies) presented a part of her doctoral research in the panel “Crossing the Threshold: Accessing Written Artefacts”. She discussed the case of the *pustaha* of the Batak people (North Sumatra), those manuscripts which contain magical recipes and instructions for divination rituals. She explained the different ways through which access to the *pustahas’* texts was prevented for non-initiated readers such as the use of a specialized language. She pointed out the difficulties faced by researchers in studying and translating texts meant not to be accessed, and in reconstructing the transmission processes of texts in a culture where orality played a major role. Finally, considering the ‘epistemic fracture’ that happened when the manuscripts were brought to European collections, she highlighted the importance of doing research, and “restituting the contents” of the texts to reconnect the community with knowledge that has been lost.



Photo: Zakariya Pamuji Aminullah



Winter Term 2023/24: Forum of Vietnamese Culture/Diễn đàn văn hóa Việt Nam/
Forum der vietnamesischen Kultur

Individual Self, Common Kingdom, and Cultural Identity in Buddhist Writings from the Lý and Trần Dynasties

No. 4, Online

Friday, October 27th, 2023
14-16 h CEST

Webinar-ID: 625 5120 4824

Password: 87774944

Although practicing Buddhism whose Three Dharma Seals emphasize on Impermanence, Unsatisfactoriness, and No-Self, the Royal leaderships and literati from the dynasties of the Lý (1009-1225) and Trần (1225-1400) must work with their people to stabilize their kingdom and to reconfirm its independence diplomatically and culturally. The talk will examine the two dynasties' writings founded on Buddhist philosophy to figure out how kings and their subjects expressed themselves and connected their politico-religious ideology with their state-building missions.

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/62551204824?pwd=YUZadmNveUxTT1pCb3NiVWhoeUN3dz09>

Photo of the speaker source: <https://fulbright.edu.vn/our-team/nguyen-nam/>



Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Nam,
Director, Vietnam Studies Center,
Fulbright University Vietnam,
Ho Chi Minh City

Information about the speaker:
Doctoral Degree in East Asian Languages
and Civilizations (Chinese Literature)
earned from Harvard University (2005)

Current research focus:
Digital Humanities, Conceptual History
of Early Modern Vietnam in East Asian
Contexts and in Connection with the so-
called Sinosphere

Lola Amaria Production and Bumi Karya Lestari Foundation
presents

Indonesia is my homeland.
I was born there.
I'd do everything to defend it.
But they kick me out
of my own country.

EKSIL

a film by Lola Amaria

RESEARCHER: LOLA AMARIA, GUNIHAN SUHARJO, ADDITIONAL CAMERA OPERATOR: SHALAHUDDIN SIREGAR,
LINE PRODUCER: SARI DELYANI, GRAPHIC AND MOTION DESIGN: HARYO RAMANDHA PUTRO, KEN TERANWA,
SALANG MUSIC PLAYER: AJAMEN ADICK SUWANDI, EDITOR: SHALAHUDDIN SIREGAR,
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY: LOLA AMARIA.

Film Screening

Join us for the screening of "Eksil" by Lola Amaria as we welcome new
Universität Hamburg students at the beginning of the Winter Semester
2023/2024.

Thursday, October 19th, 2023
05.00 pm – 07.30 pm

Universität Hamburg
Room 221, Flügel West ("West Wing")
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1,
20146 Hamburg

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Brot für die Welt gefördert

In collaboration with:



mit Mitteln des
Kirchlichen
Entwicklungsdienstes



Asien-Afrika-Institut



WELCOME

to the Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia!

In order to make it easier for new students to start their
studies, an orientation week will take place from:
October 9th to 13th, 2023.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

<https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/en/soa/aktuelles/23-09-03-orientierungseinheit.html>



Ignasius Dicky Takindare | The Garden Series : Mama Fortress | pen on paper | 30 x 42 cm | 2020

Location:

Universität Hamburg
Asien-Afrika-Institut (AAI),
in the hallway on the 2nd floor
and in room 121
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Flügel
Ost ("East Wing")
20146 Hamburg

Opening:

Thursday, October 12th, 2023
from 06.00 pm - 08.00 pm

Duration:

Winter Semester 2023/2024

Exhibition of the Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia
Department, Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg

Contemporary Art, Culture, and Resistance in West Papua, Indonesia

The conflict in West Papua - the most eastern province(s) of Indonesia - is perhaps one of the World's least noticed. Its origins can be traced back to 1962 when West Papua still was a Dutch colony and the U.S. facilitated what became known as the New York Agreement, which handed the area to the United Nations and then to Indonesia. From 1963 - when Indonesia took over until today - the conflict is evident in the various forms of oppression by the Indonesian government against the indigenous Papuans. They have been subjected to violence and human rights abuses, environmental and cultural dispossessions, as well as mass immigration. The latter have been resisting ever since.

This exhibition aims to discuss human rights and social issues faced by the region's inhabitants portrayed through their powerful resistance movement, particularly through various forms of art. The event will feature elements such as music, flags, sculptures, paintings, and even traditional cuisine, offering a holistic understanding of rich cultural heritage and the challenges they encounter.

D. Wira Atmaja, Vylqi Okensyah, E. Hellen Kustanti, Happy Yulfarida Arini,
Fachri Aidulsyah, Apryanti Madah M The, Astrid Martz, Laura Hirsch.

Marion Struck-Garbe is a lecturer in Austronesian Studies
and specializes in the Pacific.

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Malaysian Film Screening: **Maryam**

Director: Badrul Hisyam Ismail
Writer: Badrul Hisyam Ismail, Faisal Terani
Stars: Sofia Jane, Vanida Imran, Pekin Ibrahim

Universität Hamburg
Room 221, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1,
Flügel West ("West Wing")
20146 Hamburg

Saturday, October 21st, 2023
10.30 am – 01.00 pm

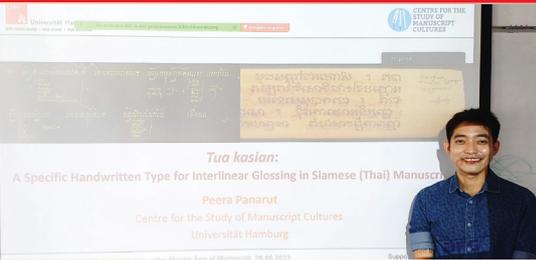
More information:

<https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/soa/news-aai/23-10-21-maryam.html>

Languages and Cultures of Southeast
Asia Department, Asien-Afrika-Institut,
Universität Hamburg in collaboration
with Global Bersih and Malaysians in
Germany (MIG).

Malaysian Film Screening:





Invited Guest Lecture in France

Dr. Peera Panarut, a postdoctoral researcher and Principal Investigator (PI) at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), was invited to give a lecture for a seminar on interlinear glosses in different book cultures from the medieval until the modern periods (Séminaire HTL 2022-2023: L'annotation entre Moyen Âge et Modernité) at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) and Université Paris Cité on 26 May 2023. His lecture, entitled "*Tua kasian: A Specific Handwritten Type for Interlinear Glossing*

in Siamese (Thai) Manuscripts," presented a few remarkable cases of Thai miniature writing, which are traditionally called *tua kasian* and found between the lines of the Siamese manuscripts. With the help of interlinear miniature writing, one can trace the method of reading, learning and interpreting texts in traditional Siamese writing culture. In addition, Dr. Peera's lecture stimulated and exchanged of knowledge with scholars who conducted research on interlinear glosses from different writing traditions.

Photo: Peera Panarut



Participation in Buddhist Conference in the United States

Dr. Silpsupa Jaengsaewang, a postdoctoral researcher and Principal Investigator (PI) at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), was cordially invited by Dr. Justin McDaniel, Professor of Buddhist Studies and Chair of Religious Studies, to join *The Theravada Civilizations Project Conference* at the University of Pennsylvania on 8–10 June 2023. A number of famous scholars in Buddhist Studies from other universities came together: John Strong, Katherine Bowie, Pattaratorn Chirapravati, Alicia Turner, and Steve Berkwitz, to present their recently launched publications and discuss some topics related to on-going research projects. The conference's four sessions were: Discussions of recently published books in Theravada related studies, Presentations and discussions of emerging issues in the field, New contributions in the field, and Recent dissertations. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the Penn Museum and had a tour of Pali manuscripts. At the end of the event, Dr. Silpsupa's published dissertation, *Anisong Manuscripts and Rituals: A Comparative Study of the Lan Na and Lao Traditions* was introduced.

Photos: Silpsupa Jaengsaewang

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Book Review

Reading South Vietnam's Writers:
**The Reception of Western
Thought in Journalism
and Literature**

This book comprises revised contributions to the conference "Literature and Journalism in the Republic of Vietnam (1955-1975) and the Reception of Western Thought," co-organized by Thomas Engelbert and Chi P. Pham.

This book of 215 pages comprises 11 contributions which might be divided into two major sections. The first six chapters present articles concerning the reception of Western thought in RVN society and literature, while the remaining five chapters delve into case studies of outstanding South Vietnamese authors.

The book starts with an analysis by Trương Thùy Dung concerning the changes in the RVN system of higher education. The concepts of academic freedom and open education were introduced, facilitating remarkable changes in the intellectual environment. The influence of personalism, especially in the First RVN, is debated by Duy Lap Nguyen. Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox wrote on Continental philosophy and Buddhism in the journal "Tư Tưởng" during the years 1967-1975. Both authors selected different historical periods for their research, but their

intriguing and innovative analyses contribute to a vivid picture of dynamic ideological shifts in South Vietnamese society. The next three chapters comprise presentations on feminism and portrayals of children by Hồ Khánh Vân, Thai Phan Vang Anh, Nguyễn Thị Thanh Hương and Nguyễn Minh Thu. Hồ Khánh Vân and Thai Phan Vang Anh choose to address the presence and transformations of feminism (a highly novel concept within Vietnamese society at that time), whereas Nguyễn Thị Thanh Hương and Nguyễn Minh Thu offer new analyses and evaluations of the history of Vietnamese children's literature.

The second half of the book comprises chapters devoted to specific case studies of South Vietnamese authors such as Nguyễn Đình Toàn, Vũ Hạnh, Phạm Công Thiện, Nguyễn Mạnh Côn, and notably, an analysis of nationalism by examining the

vulnerability of Indian migrants in South Vietnam (in the last chapter).

Through the open and diverse approach, the contributors aim to highlight the position and role of South Vietnamese writers and journalists in addressing issues that were, and still are, socially, culturally, politically, and philosophically significant to Vietnam and the world. This book will hopefully contribute to change outdated and antiquated judgments on South Vietnamese literature, not only regarding the historical context but also the present, as many authors have migrated abroad after 1975. Quite a few of them continue(d) to write literature and journal articles in Vietnamese in their new home countries.

Jörg Thomas Engelbert
Chi Phuong Pham *Editors*

Reading South Vietnam's Writers

The Reception of Western Thought in
Journalism and Literature

 Springer