

THAI-TAG 2019

«Thailand and her Neighbours»



Programm

- 10:00** Begrüßung durch Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky
- 10:15** Eröffnung durch Frau Chomquan Pinyowit, Gesandte Botschaftsrätin der Königlich Thailändischen Botschaft Berlin und Honorarkonsul Stefan Karsten Krohn, Königlich Thailändisches Honorarkonsulat Hamburg
- 10:30** Traditioneller Thai-Tanz, aufgeführt von Thaiistik-Studierenden
- 10:45** Vortrag "Awkward Neighbours: Siam and Burma in the Early Modern Period (16th–18th Century)" von Prof. Dr. Sven Trakulhun (Universität Konstanz)
- 11:30** Vortrag "Thailand and Vietnam: Competitors in ASEAN: Historical Continuities vs. Ideological Disparities?" von Prof. Dr. Andreas Stoffers (Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, Hanoi)
- 12:15** **Mittagspause**
- 13:30** Vortrag "The Development of Unidentical Twins. Thailand and Burma/Myanmar after World War II" von Dr. Hans-Bernd Zöllner (Hamburg)
- 14:00** Vortrag "Thailand and Cambodia: Unruly Neighbours and their Nationalist Discourses" von Pheakdey Boramy Pong (Universität Hamburg)
- 14:30** **Kaffeepause**
- 14:50** Vortrag "Kith and Kin: Thai-Lao Relations in Historical Perspective" von Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky (Universität Hamburg)
- 15:20** Thai-Musik und -Tanz, präsentiert von Thaiistik-Studierenden
- 15:50** Verabschiedung durch Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky



Vorträge und Kulturprogramm
in Raum 221

Kulinarische Verwöhnung
in Raum 222



Asien-Afrika-Institut



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7. Dezember 10–16 Uhr

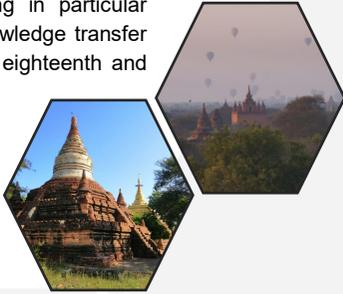
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Ostflügel

20146 Hamburg

Awkward neighbours: Siam and Burma in the Early Modern Period (16th – 18th century)

This talk will provide a survey on the difficult relations between the Siamese kingdom of Ayutthaya and her Burmese neighbour. From the second half of the sixteenth century until the destruction of the Siamese capital Ayutthaya in 1767, the history of the relations between the two rival kingdoms was shaped by war and political competition. The presentation will shed some light on the political rationale behind the conflict, the role of foreign mercenaries in Thai-Burmese warfare and on how the Burmese enemy defined Thai (and Burmese) narratives of national identity in the 20th century.

Prof. Dr. Sven Trakulhun, University of Konstanz, Germany
Sven Trakulhun teaches history at the University of Konstanz. He has published widely on European travel in Asia and on the history of early modern Thailand. His current research is in the field of religious encounters, focusing in particular on the interplay between knowledge transfer and the Christian mission in eighteenth and nineteenth-century Siam.



Developments of Non-Identical Twins.

Burma/Myanmar and Thailand after World War II

The presentation is based on the assumption that the present states of Myanmar and Thailand inherited – almost – the same political culture from the time of royal rule. This heritage, it is argued, still shapes the major political developments on both sides of the Tenasserim Range. Such conformity might be hidden by the many differences developing after World War II. After presenting some personal observation highlighting such differences in the last decades, two inter-related aspects of the political developments will be outlined: the prominent role of the military and the difficulties of coming to terms with “democracy”. It will be suggested that both phenomena are related to the traditional Buddhist concept of a “just-ruler.” Finally, some remarks will be offered on the obviously very different assessments of both countries within the foreign, particularly western, public arena.

Dr. Hans-Bernd Zöllner, Hamburg

Hans-Bernd Zöllner is a freelance researcher in the field of South-East Asian Studies. His research focuses on the political culture of the Theravada Buddhist countries.

Thailand and Vietnam: Competitors in ASEAN – Historical Continuities vs. Ideological Disparities?

Within ASEAN, Thailand and Vietnam are two major power players in terms of both population size and economic performance. Both countries (once again) increasingly perceive themselves as competitors in the ASEAN environment, be it in the struggle for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or in the export of their own industrial goods and commodities. Looking back in history, this Thai-Vietnamese competition is nothing new: besides periods of intense cooperation, frictions and wars between the two countries have occurred again and again in recent centuries. In Thai history, Vietnam plays an important role as the major rival in Southeast Asia. Thus, the last, “real” war that Siam fought was the war of the Chakri troops against the soldiers of the Nguyen Dynasty from 1841 to 1845 for influence over Cambodia. And in the Vietnamese city of Dien Bien Phu – well-known for the devastating defeat of the French colonial army in 1954 – Siamese garrison troops were stationed before the French conquest of Indochina in the 19th century.

In his lecture – which has historical and current economic elements – Andreas Stoffers addresses this Thai-Vietnamese rivalry, which has shaped and still shapes the past and present of both countries beyond all ideological boundaries.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Stoffers, Friedrich-Naumann Foundation for Freedom, des. Head of Office, Hanoi/Vietnam (Professor of International Management, University of Applied Languages SDI Munich/Germany)

Andreas Stoffers studied history, political science and completed his PhD on German – Thai relations. He has many years of practical management experience as banker in Germany and Vietnam. Since 2014, Andreas Stoffers is Full Professor of Business Administration and International Management at the University for Applied Languages in Munich. Moreover, he is Visiting Professor at University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia and at Vietnamese-German University in Saigon/Vietnam. Since September 2019, he is on leave in order to work in Hanoi as Director Vietnam for Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom.



Kith and Kin: Thai-Lao Relations in Historical Perspective



Thailand and Laos are countries which are linguistically and culturally closely related to each other. Though the Kingdom of Thailand has a population ten times larger than the Lao People's Democratic Republic, more than one-quarter of Thailand's population, notably in the country's northeast, or Isan, speak Lao dialects as mother tongue. Whereas the political elite in Thailand views their Lao kins on the left bank of the Mekong river as “younger siblings” (*nông*) and themselves as the economically more advanced “elder siblings” (*phi*), their Lao counterparts insist on the kith-oriented notion of “good-neighbourly relations” (*ban klai müang khiang*). The presentation traces the beginnings of a Thai sense of superiority back to the territorial expansion of the Siamese kingdom since the late 18th century and the nationalist discourses on both sides of the Mekong during the 20th century. It will provide an outlook of the future of Thai-Lao relations in the framework of ASEAN.

Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky, University of Hamburg

Volker Grabowsky is since 2009 Professor of Thai Language and Culture at the Asia-Africa-Institute of the University of Hamburg. He has specialised in the history and culture of the Tai peoples in mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China. He has embarked on long-term research projects pertaining to the manuscript cultures and Buddhist literary traditions of the Tai Lü and Lao.

Thailand and Cambodia: Unruly Neighbours and their Nationalist Discourses



The collective psychology of the Cambodians as a nation is shaped by the country's fate as a buffer state squeezed between its more powerful and more populous neighbours Vietnam and Thailand. Significant Khmer minorities live not only in the Mekong delta of southern Vietnam but also in the lower parts of northeastern Thailand (Surin, Buriram, Sisaket). Territorial disputes between Cambodia and Thailand have evolved as a legacy of colonial border demarcations. Taking the border conflict surrounding the world heritage site of Preah Vihear as a case study, this lecture analyses how different perceptions of history shapes potentially antagonistic nationalist discourses in Thailand and Cambodia.

Pong Pheadkey Boramy, M.A.

Pong Pheadkey Boramy is lecturer of History at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. He has a Master of Arts in Southeast Asian Studies from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Since April 2019 he is enrolled in the PhD programme “History of Southeast Asia” at the Asia-Africa Institute of the University of Hamburg.