

# SSEAC Research Conference

A conference for postgraduate students  
and early career researchers

Monday 24 June 2019

Lecture Theatres 2090 and 2140  
Abercrombie Business School  
The University of Sydney



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

—  
Sydney Southeast  
Asia Centre

# Program

8:30	Registration	
9:00	Welcome ABS Lecture Theatre 2090	
9:15	Session 1: Environment and Resources A ABS Lecture Theatre 2090	
	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Natali Pearson</p> <p><b>The role of sacred forests in conservation: the case of Kajang people in Sulawesi</b> Ms Paula Camarero* - The University of Sydney, School of Geosciences</p> <p><b>Lessons from the Transformation of Bangkok's Treescapes</b> Mr Chieh-Ming Lai* - The University of Sydney, School of Geosciences</p> <p><b>Skin and Wetness: Changing Bodily Ecologies in the West Papuan Oil Palm Nexus</b> Dr Sophie Chao* - The University of Sydney, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry</p>	
10:30	Morning tea	
11:00	Session 2: Environment and Resources B ABS Lecture Theatre 2090	Session 3: Economic and Social Development ABS Lecture Theatre 2140
	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Natali Pearson</p> <p><b>Hierarchical Social Networks of Cocoa Extension Support Services in Indonesia</b> Mr Abner Yalu*, The University of Sydney, Faculty of Engineering</p> <p><b>Disease Investigation in Hybrid Grouper (Epinephelus spp.) Aquaculture in Indonesia</b> Mr Cahya Kurnia Fusianto*, The University of Sydney, School of Life and Environmental Sciences</p> <p><b>Finite Element Simulation of Member Buckling of Cold-rolled Aluminium Alloy 5052 Chanel Columns</b> Mr Ngoc Hieu Pham*, The University of Sydney, Faculty of Engineering</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Sophie Chao</p> <p><b>"Yeah, this is an idea. Any others?" A comparative study of Lecture Observation in Teacher Education in Australia and Vietnam</b> Ms Anh Duong, The University of Sydney, School of Education and Social Work</p> <p><b>Curriculum Design for Citizenship Education in Indonesian Pesantren</b> Mr Ahmad Saifulloh*, The University of Sydney, School of Social Work</p> <p><b>From Policy Change to Livelihoods Strategies: A Story of the New Rural Development Model in Vietnam</b> Ms Yin Li*, The University of Sydney, School of Social and Political Sciences</p>
12:30	Lunch	

<b>13:30</b>	<b>Session 4: Heritage and the Arts</b> <i>ABS Lecture Theatre 2090</i>	<b>Session 5: State and Society A</b> <i>ABS Lecture Theatre 2140</i>
	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Natali Pearson</p> <p><b>King Vajiravudh's Bilingual Translations and the Thai Cultural Project in the Colonial Era</b>  Mr Faris Yothasamuth* - The University of Sydney, School of Languages and Cultures</p> <p><b>Unconventional Means: Using Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing to Safeguard Southeast Asia's Underwater Cultural Heritage</b>  Dr Natali Pearson - The University of Sydney, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</p> <p><b>The Life of the Cakranagara Lontar Collection</b>  Mr Jarrah Sastrawan* - The University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Sophie Chao</p> <p><b>Authoritarianism in Institutionalisation: The Rise of Illiberal Practices in Southeast Asia</b>  Mr Kihong Mun* - The University of Sydney, Department of Government and International Relations</p> <p><b>Participatory Democracy and Youth Engagement in the Philippines</b>  Mr June Arvin Gudoy - The University of Sydney, Department of Media and Communications</p> <p><b>Silencing the Critics: (Un)Free Media in the Time of a Strongman Regime in the Philippines</b>  Mr Mario Urrutia* - The University of Sydney, Department of Media and Communications</p>
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	
<b>15:30</b>	<b>Session 6: State and Society B</b> <i>ABS Lecture Theatre 2090</i>	
	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Natali Pearson</p> <p><b>Feminisation of Childcare and Kinship Support in Childcare in Cambodia</b>  Mr Sambath My - The University of Melbourne, School of Social and Political Sciences</p> <p><b>Labour Activism in Cambodia</b>  Dr Kristy Ward* - The University of Sydney, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre</p> <p><b>Support Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking: An Exploration of State and Society Responses</b>  Ms Jessica Gillies - The University of Sydney, School of Education and Social Work</p> <p><b>Sert Has Gone: Reconciling Cosmological Conundrums on a Ridgetop in Laos</b>  Mr Paul-David Lutz* - The University of Sydney, Department of Anthropology</p>	
<b>17:15</b>	<b>Event ends</b>	

\* Speakers marked with an asterisk are graduates of the SSEAC Public Speaking Workshop.

## Sessions and paper abstracts

### **Session 1: Environment and Resources A**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

#### **The Role of Sacred Forests in Conservation: The Case of Kajang People in Sulawesi**

*Ms Paula Camarero - The University of Sydney, School of Geosciences*

There is a growing interest in the literature on the role of natural sacred sites as significant actors in forest and biodiversity conservation, especially in Asia. Natural sacred sites are areas of land and water with special spiritual significance to peoples and communities. Among these sites, sacred forests and sacred groves seem to have an important role in forest conservation. However, most of the current literature in Southeast Asia fails to assess the impacts on conservation in terms of biological and ecological outcomes and fails to explain how religious beliefs link to forest use practices affecting forest conservation. The purpose of this research project is to understand this missing element and to assess the contribution of case study sacred sites to forest conservation. My main case study is located in Tanah Toa, South Sulawesi, where the Kajang people live. Within their territory there is a sacred forest of 314 hectares subject to management practices based on religious beliefs. My research methodology will have a double perspective by combining socio-cultural and biodiversity aspects. First, I will carry out semi-structured and informal interviews and participant observation to understand forest use and management. Second, I will compare the forest canopy cover, vegetation diversity and forest regeneration of the sacred forest with a nearby non-sacred one to quantify biodiversity and conservation outcomes. Thus far, my review of the literature found that less than 10 per cent of the reviewed case studies are based in Southeast Asia and none of these have looked at this approach. My case study will contribute to a better understanding of how religious beliefs influence people's behaviours regarding forest use and management and how they impact biodiversity outcomes.

## **Session 1: Environment and Resources A**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Lessons from the Transformation of Bangkok's Treescapes**

*Mr Chieh-Ming Lai - The University of Sydney, School of Geosciences*

Clashes between nature and infrastructures are common in cities, and rapid urban growth meets flourishing vegetation in Southeast Asia. The messy tangling of tree branches and telecommunication cables has been an unpleasant view in Bangkok for decades, but this aesthetic breakage escalated to a serious safety risk when a row of power poles was dragged down by a sizeable tree in central Bangkok in May 2017. Apart from putting the cables underground, the Bangkok government and Thai citizens are collaborating to introduce a series of "Tree Care Training Programs," which brought together tree workers, officials, NGO workers, forestry academics, and foreign arborists to learn the climbing and pruning technique. In so doing, it is expected the safety risks resulting from trees will decrease, and the trees in Bangkok's public spaces can be pruned in a less harmful way. This paper investigated the extent the Tree Care Training Programs can transform Bangkok's treescapes by analysing primary data from auto-ethnography, interviews, and field observations. It is suggested that these urban learning experiments overlooked the differences among green spaces, which have varied needs and limitations for tree maintenance. Moreover, the foreign expertise was prioritised and the tree workers' experiences were marginalized, hindering the employment and localization of the arboricultural technique. Despite the advance on knowledge transfer, the above deficiencies detracted from the learning outcomes envisaged.

## **Session 1: Environment and Resources A**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Skin and Wetness: Changing Bodily Ecologies in the West Papuan Oil Palm Nexus**

*Dr Sophie Chao - The University of Sydney, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry*

Over the last decade, vast swaths of savannah and forest in the Indonesian province of West Papua have been razed to make way for agro-industrial oil palm plantations. Drawing from long-term ethnographic fieldwork in the rural district of Merauke, this paper examines how the proliferation of capitalist natures reconfigures bodies and selves among indigenous Marind communities. I begin by outlining how Marind make and become anim, or human, through their relations to each other and to other-than-human organisms within the forest. In particular, I examine how the 'skin' and 'wetness' of the body - manifest as sweat, blood, tears, and flesh - constitute central expressions of individuals' social and moral standing, that are enhanced through different forms of bodily contact and exchange. I then analyze how deforestation and the expansion of industrial oil palm plantations undermine the capacity of Marind to become and remain anim by contaminating and depleting the flesh and fluids of the landscape and its multispecies inhabitants. I describe how Marind attribute these adverse transformations to the anti-social and rapacious nature of oil palm itself as an agentive being. Drawing from Marinds' conception of personhood as a multispecies trait, I consider the implications of conceiving capitalism as a concomitantly dehumanizing and more-than-human force.

## **Session 2: Environment and Resources B**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Hierarchical Social Networks of Cocoa Extension Support Services in Indonesia**

*Mr Abner Yalu - The University of Sydney, Faculty of Engineering*

Environmental Management is becoming more crucial in the face of rising populations, decrease in natural resources abundance and awareness in food safety. There is increasing ecological stewardship in consumer demands in developed countries to ensure health and ecological sustainability standards are followed in supply chains in developing countries. Diffusion of extension information on ecological sustainable-improved management practice (ESIMP) to farmers is affected by interaction of Governments role as intermediary coordinator between external demand and internal quality control of supply chains. Often this relies on Service providers of extension services to farmers. Extension support provide technical advice to farmers in their farmer groups or marketing groups and ensure production compliant to certification standards. Both Government and extension Service providers, usually NGOs, provide this support through farmer to farmer trainers. The effectiveness of extension services resulting in adoption of ESIMP depends on understanding the different social hierarchy as social networks. Farmers interaction to development partners, at various levels of the value chain, will have different bearing on production practices, sustainable ecological practices, organic production and sustainable supply of certified product. This is the research hypothesis we explore to understand how farmers beliefs, cultural practice or needs for food security, income generation and other socio-economic factors, and accessibility to technical advice affect their management practice. In this paper we follow the Sustainable Cocoa Production Program in Indonesia (SCPP). We begin by reviewing environmental management issues pertinent in cocoa supply chains. We survey multiple level clustering and hierarchical statistical analysis techniques. We suggest an analysis framework using social network hierarchical cluster analysis together with qualitative contextualization. We point the weakness in the current approach, and we make recommendations targeting higher adoption of ESIMP and a more ecological sustainable cocoa Industry into the future.

## **Session 2: Environment and Resources B**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Disease Investigation in Hybrid Grouper (*Epinephelus* spp.) Aquaculture in Indonesia**

*Mr Cahya Kurnia Fusianto - The University of Sydney, School of Life and Environmental Sciences*

Aquaculture production of food fish in Indonesia has grown from 2.6-6.2% of global production between 1995 and 2016. This sector is predominated by small-scale farmers creating employment, income and a source of nutrition for local communities. Grouper species are a high value commodity with increasing market demand. A novel disease was reported by farmers producing the hybrid groupers ""cantang"" (â™‰ *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* x â™‰, *E. lanceolatus*) and ""cantik"" (â™‰ *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* x â™‰, *E. polyphekadion*) in sea-cage farms in north Bali, Indonesia, in 2016. Farmer and networks were connected with aquatic health researchers through a series of workshops where it was reported that acute mass mortality disease outbreaks were killing 90% of newly introduced fish from land-based hatcheries at the majority of farms in Pegametan Bay. Farmers reported an unusual blue-green discoloration of the affected fish. Research staff were stationed in the region and liaised with farmers to encourage reporting and investigation of the disease. The objective of this study was to obtain a diagnosis using targeted disease surveillance to access samples of clinically affected fish. Disease was detected in the rainy season of 2016 at all 9 participating farms. Necropsy and parasitological examination of 342 fish identified a high abundance (77%) of leech infestation (*Hirudinea* spp.), which farmers were treating frequently. A high prevalence of *Megalocytivirus* infection (83%) detected by qPCR was considered relevant with characteristic megalocyte lesions in the spleen and liver of 65% of sampled fish. Unbiased sequence generated using Illumina Miseq and taxonomically labelled using BlastN+ did not detect novel pathogens. A complete genome sequence for the *Megalocytivirus* was consistent with previously described Infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV). This is an example of a thorough disease investigation to supported evidence based improvement of grouper aquaculture, identifying the importance of MCV vaccination and integrated parasite management.



## **Session 2: Environment and Resources B**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Finite Element Simulation of Member Buckling of Cold-rolled Aluminium Alloy 5052 Chanel Columns**

*Mr Ngoc Hieu Pham - The University of Sydney, Faculty of Engineering*

Aluminium alloys have been progressively applied to structures due to their excellent corrosion resistance and light weight. Extrusion is the conventional manufacturing process of aluminium alloy sections, but recently a new method called roll-forming has been proposed by an Australian Corporation (BlueScope Lysaght) to successfully produce cold-rolled aluminium sections. Roll-forming has been found to be faster and more cost-effective than extrusion, and may also enhance the strength of aluminium alloys. Cold-rolled sections have attracted attention in the worldwide market, but limited studies have been conducted on this new product. Therefore, an Australian Research Council Linkage Research Grant was established between BlueScope Lysaght and the University of Sydney to conduct research on cold-rolled aluminium members. An experimental program with a limited test number was performed at the University of Sydney to investigate the strength and behaviour of cold-rolled aluminium members. A detailed Finite Element (FE) model was then developed to simulate the experimental program. The accurate FE model was used for my PhD research to extend the data range for the development of the design guidelines for cold-rolled aluminium members. This paper presents how to construct the FE model with the support of ABAQUS and MATHLAB softwares.

## **Session 3: Economic and Social Development**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2140*

Chair: Dr Sophie Chao

### **"Yeah, this is an idea. Any others?" A comparative study of Lecture Observation in Teacher Education in Australia and Vietnam**

*Ms Anh Duong - The University of Sydney, School of Education and Social Work*

Formative assessment is shown to improve student understanding and achievements in the learning process (Heritage, 2018; McManus, 2008). The study presented here examines the implementation of formative assessment in teacher education in Australia and Vietnam by looking at lecturers and students' interactions to see its similarities and differences in two cases. Observation and focus groups were employed in the research, involving four lecturers and approximately 100 students. The study found that formative assessment is being conducted efficiently and effectively among classes in teacher education. Formative assessment strategies were implemented in the lecture observation, consisting of but not limited to (1) sharing learning expectations and assessment criteria, (2) collecting learning evidence, (3) providing feedback, (4) self-assessing, and (5) peer-assessing. The first three techniques were practiced equally in both countries. However, self-assessment and peer-assessment techniques were not used as much in Australia as in Vietnam, a finding that I attribute to differences in social culture. Observed lecturers have applied many pedagogical approaches to involve students in developing their learning autonomy and learning competence. They have kept saying "this is an idea" and tried to provoke more ideas by saying "any others?" As this paper argues, it is crucial in formative assessment to provide constructive feedback to students during their learning.

## **Session 3: Economic and Social Development**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2140*

Chair: Dr Sophie Chao

### **Curriculum Design for Citizenship Education in Indonesian *Pesantren***

*Mr Ahmad Saifulloh - The University of Sydney, School of Social Work*

As an emerging democratic country, Indonesia with its multicultural society has some challenges such as disintegration, radicalism, terrorism, and building harmony and peace among its diverse society. In education context, many scholars believe that citizenship education is one of effective solutions since it could foster democratic values, maintain democratic society, and create good citizens. However, the curriculum design for citizenship education in Indonesia, especially in Islamic boarding schools (*Pesantren*), is still contested. *Pesantren* is considered as the indigenous Indonesian Islamic education institution which has a significant role in educating Indonesian youth since pre colonialism era. This research aims to investigate the curriculum design for citizenship education in three Indonesian *Pesantrens* in the context of addressing the challenges of Indonesian multicultural society. The research found that the three *Pesantrens* share the similar model of curriculum by combining formal, informal, and hidden curriculum. This is because they employ full boarding system that enables them to develop formal, informal, and non-formal education in an integrated campus. However, their approach to formal curriculum of citizenship education is different. The first, second, and third *Pesantren* employ integrated approach, cross curricular approach, and separate subject approach respectively. Regardless this different approach, *Pesantren*-based model of citizenship education curriculum might enable students to be engaged in a collaborative learning since they live together with their friends and teachers in the integrated campus. As a result, they potentially have more citizenship competencies than day students which will be very useful for them to address the challenge of Indonesian multicultural society.

## **Session 3: Economic and Social Development**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2140*

Chair: Dr Sophie Chao

### **From Policy Change to Livelihoods Strategies: A Story of the New Rural Development Model in Vietnam**

*Ms Yin Li - The University of Sydney, School of Social and Political Sciences*

Since the Doi Moi (Reform) era in 1986, rural development policies in Vietnam have followed a market-based development approach that only focused on the improving cumulative growth and lacked any consideration for social equity and human development. The top-down bureaucratic structure in policy planning and implementation has also failed to engage the community and understand the realities of local contexts. As a result, farmers often find it more difficult to support their livelihoods on agriculture. Many rural areas also continue to experience rising socio-economic inequalities, low human capital development, and lack of social infrastructures. At the same time, the literature on rural development states that rural people also have different response strategies to cope, adapt or resist government policies to protect and maintain their livelihoods on a day-to-day basis. Combining field work and a wide range of primary and secondary sources, I contend that while rural development policies are implemented in a top-down process, they could also be influenced by livelihood strategies on the ground from the bottom up. I illustrate this through the implementation of the new National Target Program on New Rural Development (NTP-NRD) in a rural commune in rapidly industrializing province of south-eastern Vietnam. On one hand, rural development policies fail to deliver full benefits to the community due to the reasons illustrated above. On the other hand, people in the commune also try to maintain their agricultural-based livelihoods by specialising in crops that are land and labour efficient. Their initiatives are then picked up by the local government as a pillar of success for the NTP-NRD, which paved the way for new development outcomes such as technology transfer and infrastructure improvement.

## **Session 4: Heritage and the Arts**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **King Vajiravudh's Bilingual Translations and the Thai Cultural Project in the Colonial Era**

*Mr Faris Yothasamuth - The University of Sydney, School of Languages and Cultures*

In 1917, King Vajiravudh of Thailand translated a French farce by Tristan Bernard, *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle*, to an English and a Thai versions. In the original play, the story features comical situations of miscommunication as the interpreter character, a French man who could not understand English, mischievously interpreted between English and French for English-speaking foreigners. In the English translation, Vajiravudh altered the setting from Paris to Kuala Kedah in Malaysia, while the setting in Thai version is Songkhla, a southern province of Thailand. In the English version, the locals spoke English, while the foreigners spoke Thai. In the Thai version, the locals spoke Thai, while the foreigners spoke English. In this convoluted multilingual situation, Vajiravudh tactfully asserted the importance of Thai language and placed Thai culture in par with Western cultures. This paper argues that these bilingual translations served Vajiravudh's cultural projects of national pride which were formulated to cope with Thai semi-colonial contexts. While the French-Thai translation was a channel of self-assuring, the French-English translation functioned as a showcase for the foreigners which suited Vajiravudh's ambition to be recognized among the international spectacles. Moreover, his translations also evidenced the ironic sentiment of Thai elites toward the West that the Western influences needed to be reduced in the public sphere but were highly admired in the private sphere.

## **Session 4: Heritage and the Arts**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Unconventional Means: Using Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing to Safeguard Southeast Asia's Underwater Cultural Heritage**

*Dr Natali Pearson - The University of Sydney, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre*

From looted sculptures to stolen shipwrecks, the industrial scale of the illicit trade in Southeast Asia's heritage has been matched in recent years only by the attention such activities have received from governments, scholars and the public. Some Southeast Asian states have updated or introduced legislation to protect heritage within their borders. But these efforts have proven to be inadequate in stemming the illegal flow of heritage objects within and beyond the region. Stepping away from archaeological valuations of heritage objects, this paper instead frames such objects primarily as modern-day commodities. This approach enables broader consideration of alternative measures to protect and preserve Southeast Asia's cultural heritage, in particular the extent to which basic anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) legislation can be applied effectively to crimes against heritage in Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia. This paper argues that the nature of AML/CTF legislation, widely implemented around the world, could be used in the absence of – or even together with – effective heritage legislation to target traffickers, dealers and collectors in Southeast Asia and beyond.

## **Session 4: Heritage and the Arts**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **The Life of the Cakranagara Lontar Collection**

*Mr Jarrah Sastrawan - The University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*

This paper offers a critical biography of the Cakranagara palm-leaf manuscript collection, which is currently held in the Leiden University Library. This group of Indonesian manuscripts entered the Library's possession in 1906, as the result of Dutch military action against the Cakranagara palace in west Lombok twelve years earlier. But before the Dutch intervention, the Cakranagara collection had another life under a different kind of imperialism: the centuries-long Balinese occupation of Lombok. I examine the collection's birth as a 19th-century palace library that housed copies of ancient Javanese and Balinese texts, its integration into Dutch manuscript collections that formed the basis of the orientalist field of Javanese philology, and finally, its implications in the postwar period as an emblem of Indonesian national heritage and the question of repatriation from the Netherlands to Indonesia. My study highlights the centrality of Balinese agency in the creation of the Cakranagara collection, as well as the various kinds of imperial, colonial and postcolonial relationships that shaped the collection's trajectory in the 19th and 20th centuries. By unpacking this particular Asian library, I engage with the historical and political complexities inherent to the act of collecting.

## **Session 5: State and Society A**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2140*

Chair: Dr Sophie Chao

### **After the electoral defeat: the study of general elections in Myanmar**

*Mr Kihong Mun - The University of Sydney, Department of Government and International Relations*

Elections under authoritarian contexts provide favourable competition environment for incumbent authoritarian rulers. This widespread trend leads to concepts of electoral authoritarianism and competitive authoritarianism. However, even under authoritarian regimes, the opposition can win in an election. While accepting electoral defeats under democracy is rarely contentious, the results of elections in authoritarian contexts are often controversial or not accepted. In such cases, what are the consequences of the opposition winning in the election? This research focuses on general elections in Myanmar and analyses the aftermath of elections in which authoritarian incumbents fail to win. I argue that subsequent power transfer from authoritarians to civilians after the election generally would not happen without the protection mechanism for outgoing military authoritarians. The research compares general elections in Myanmar and asks why would the military authoritarian accept the electoral defeat in the 2015 election without resistance but not after the 1990 election? The 1990 and 2015 elections produced the same results – a landslide victory of the opposition – but brought about two different outcomes in terms of transferring power to the civilian winner. By analysing three factors in each election (institutional protection for outgoing authoritarians, viable oppositions, and the freedom and fairness of the election), the tentative research findings reinforce the argument that the presence of the protection mechanism for outgoing authoritarians is necessary for authoritarians to accept electoral defeats and relinquish power. Authoritarians can entrench their illiberalism further in society by institutionalising their influence into formal political institutions.



## **Session 5: State and Society A**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2140*

Chair: Dr Sophie Chao

### **Participatory Democracy and Youth Engagement in the Philippines**

*Mr June Arvin Gudoy - The University of Sydney, Department of Media and Communications*

With grassroots consultations and the concept of participatory democracy as core principles, the Sirib Express is the only youth program initiated by a local government of its scale and magnitude in the Philippines which can be considered as a practical and tangible blueprint in youth leadership development. Through the program, youth volunteers organically organised their ranks, actively participated in the formulation of public policy, influenced government agenda and created innovative solutions to age-old socio-economic problems. Consequently, the Sirib Express program resulted into the formation of the largest volunteer youth NGO north of Manila, the Sirib Ilokano Kabataan Association (SIKA Inc.) which has an alumni of active youth leaders creating meaningful impact both locally and internationally. Specifically, this paper will explore the theoretical foundations and current literature of participatory democracy and the political engagement of the youth sector in developing nations. Thereafter, the experience and features of the Kabataang Barangay (KB or youth village councils in the 1970s) and its successor the Sangguniang Kabataan (youth councils of the 1990s onwards) will be examined particularly on how they influenced the current agenda of state funded youth programs in the Philippines. Thirdly, the paper will focus on the implementation and impact of the Sirib Express youth program, a third-wave generation youth political movement, in the attempt to map out its best practices and how the project has radically influenced the review and drafting of the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2016 (RA 10742). Lastly will be the exposition of the recommendations and lessons from these three key programs (KB, SK and SIKA) and potentially exploring the future of active citizenship and youth engagement in the Philippines and the ASEAN.

*\*Sirib is Ilocano word for 'knowledge'.*

## **Session 5: State and Society A**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2140*

Chair: Dr Sophie Chao

### **Silencing the Critics: (Un)Free Media in the Time of a Strongman Regime in the Philippines**

*Mr Mario Urrutia - The University of Sydney, Department of Media and Communications*

Despite being known as one of the freest media communities in Asia, the current state of media autonomy in the Philippines is being marred by government pressures and intimidations. In fact, Filipino journalists are not spared from other forms of attacks, even violent ones. With the move to shut down Rappler, an independent online website, the threat to revoke the operations franchise of ABS-CBN, the country's largest broadcasting conglomerate and the suppression of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the leading national broadsheet, it is clear that the authoritarian regime of President Rodrigo Duterte will silence all those who dissent. Authoritarian governments that lack the trust of their constituency would devise ways to silence any opposing views at the expense of media independence. Through interviews and data analyses, the study sheds light on how the government weaponise digital disinformation to legally attack a critical media entity, impact political discourse to benefit the status quo and disenfranchise the credibility of the press. But when government intrusions and intimidations, as well as a state-organised system of public discourse manipulation become barriers to the democratic exercise of a free press, civil society groups, the people and the truth tellers must work together to amplify the dissenting voice and hold powers accountable.

## **Session 6: State and Society B**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Feminisation of Childcare and Kinship Support in Childcare in Cambodia**

*Mr Sambath My - The University of Melbourne, School of Social and Political Sciences*

This paper adopts an interpretive approach to policy analysis to investigate the ways in which Cambodia's National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development (thereafter known as policy) has constructed femininities and masculinities in childcare, and the ways in which women and men have reconfigured their femininities and masculinities in childcare. Drawing from a microanalysis aspect of a 'care mix' concept by Daly and Lewis (2000), this paper scrutinises how the state has reproduced socio-cultural norms in childcare through policy practices; and childcare distributions within the family members. The paper investigates a productive role by policy representations, suggested by Bacchi (2009) and Bacchi and Goodwin (2016). In this investigation, it scrutinises keywords in policy documents, suggested by Gasper and Apthorpe (2014) and spoken words of policymakers and practitioners, advised by Kleinman (2007). The research interviewed 104 respondents, 52 of which are community women and men. | This paper reveals that the policy has feminised childcare through the home-based childcare program to reproduce gender norms on childcare. Such reproduction has shaped the thoughts and practices of some young mothers to care for their children and older generation mothers to assume a caring responsibility for their grandchildren through co-residence, adjacent residence or distant residence. Nevertheless, some young mothers are negotiating with socio-cultural norms and the feminisation of childcare. This paper argues that women's education and capacity to earn incomes in the formal employment economy are constitutive factors in enabling young mothers to challenge their spouses to engage more in childcare and housework. This insight contributes to an understanding of constitutive factors enabling younger Khmer women to negotiate with traditional social norms, put forward by Brickell (2011) and of a women's role in shaping men's masculinity, theorised by Connell and Messerschmidt (2005).

## **Session 6: State and Society B**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Labour Activism in Cambodia**

*Dr Kristy Ward - The University of Sydney, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre*

Why workers join trade unions has been a dominant concern of labour scholars. Theories of union membership, however, have been developed mostly in liberal democratic contexts. Labour relations in authoritarian regimes of Southeast Asia diverge in that they are often characterised by ineffective labour institutions, repression of organised labour and piecemeal regulatory enforcement. This landscape shapes what unions can do, what strategies they develop and, consequently, how they interact with members. This paper argues that the state-sanctioned blockage of labour rights in Cambodia has compelled unions in the garment manufacturing sector to focus on transnational labour alliances as a primary line of public accountability at the expense of sustained worker engagement and representation. It has also shaped the strategies available to unions, limiting them to service delivery for individual members over more contentious and politicised collective action. The paper proposes that by refocusing on workers as a primary constituency and power base, Cambodian unions may be able to regain some of their former political influence.

## **Session 6: State and Society B**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Support Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking: An Exploration of State and Society Responses**

*Ms Jessica Gillies - The University of Sydney, School of Education and Social Work*

This study set out to explore post-trafficking support services provided by both government (state) and NGOs in responding to the problem of human trafficking in Thailand and Australia. Successful interventions require a combination of prevention, prosecution and protection in both policy and practice. The state and the third sector (NGOs) share responsibility for the protection of persons with a lived experience of human trafficking. Protection in the post-trafficking context, generally delivered by NGOs, is a key factor in discontinuing the growing phenomenon of re-trafficking. In both countries human trafficking responses are taken seriously by government, likewise the third sector is active in both countries, in proportion to the scale of the problem. The aim of this study was to explore policy and practice in the post-trafficking context, in order to better understand how the UN recommended initiative of partnership is realised in this context. There is an absence of research that addresses both ends of the cycle simultaneously; therefore the dual focus on both the sending and receiving countries, coupled with attention to government and NGO partnerships, makes this study unique. Due to the gendered nature of poverty and economic migration that often precedes exploitation and trafficking, a deconstructionist framework was adopted. This included a discourse analysis, coupled with semi-structured individual interviews with key actors in country responses respectively. Data analysis, conducted with the assistance of Nvivo software, is in its early stages, however preliminary findings on the Thai portion of data will be reported. Recommendations are made regarding opportunities to strengthen essential partnerships within the complexity of the Thai context. It is hoped that the outcome of this research might better inform rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration policy and practice in order to help survivors of human trafficking in reconstituting their lives and in this way prevent re-trafficking.

## **Session 6: State and Society B**

*ABS Lecture Theatre 2090*

Chair: Dr Natali Pearson

### **Sert Has Gone - Engaging "Development" on a Ridgetop in Laos**

*Mr Paul-David Lutz - The University of Sydney, Department of Anthropology*

Laos is among the world's fastest growing economies and top recipients of both foreign investment and foreign aid. While analyses of the socio-economic and political impacts of "development" abound, there is a comparative dearth of studies on the deeper cosmological dynamics of change and "modernisation". This paper sketches the interplay of pre-existing politico-cosmological commitments with the political, economic, territorial and ontological claims emanating from the developmentalist Lao state and globalised capitalism. It draws on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in 2017-18 in the ethnic Khmu hamlet of Sanjing (a pseudonym) in northernmost Laos. As Khmu, the people of Sanjing have traditionally viewed their destinies as intimately intertwined with energetic forces/"spirits" ultimately embedded in the landscape of their mountain ridge. As long-standing supporters of Laos' socialist/high modernist revolution, the Khmu of Sanjing have increasingly intertwined their aspirations with the modernising states' promise of prosperity - even as efforts to fulfil this promise have faltered and/or transformed their "spiritual landscape". The paper examines the proactive ways local Khmu have sought to interpret, manage and mitigate the moral ambiguities and tensions arising from this conundrum. The paper suggests that the (precarious) persistence of key cosmological commitments have helped the Khmu of Sanjing reconcile the ambivalences inherent in their own role as harbingers, implementers, victims and beneficiaries of Laos' ongoing modernisation. In doing so, it sheds more light on how "development" actually plays out in rural Laos, Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

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