

0022-4634

Volume 54 | Number 2 | June 2023

# Journal of SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES



## Editorial Board

Department of History, National University of Singapore

Maitrii Aung-Thwin EDITOR

Portia Reyes ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kelvin Lawrence ASSISTANT BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Peter Borschberg, Chia Meng Tat Jack, Bruce Lockhart,

Joey Long, Maurizio Peleggi, Seng Guo Quan

Claudine Ang, Yale-NUS College

Jamie S. Davidson, Department of Political Science, NUS

Yoshinori Nishizaki, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, NUS

Eric C. Thompson, Department of Sociology, NUS

Shen Yanling Eileen MANAGING EDITOR

## International Advisory Board

Patricio Abinales, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Cynthia Chou, The University of Iowa

Gregory Fealy, Australian National University

Christopher Goscha, Université du Québec à Montréal

Anne R. Hansen, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Vincent Houben, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin

Abidin Kusno, York University, Canada

Tomas Larsson, University of Cambridge

Oona Paredes, University of California, Los Angeles

Ardeh Maung Thawngmung, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Sun Laichen, California State University, Fullerton

Keiko Tosa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Andrew Walker, Australian National University

## Honorary Advisory Board

Abu Talib Ahmad, Universiti Sains Malaysia

Barbara Watson Andaya, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Reynaldo Iletto, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Paul Kratoska, NUS Press

Anthony Milner, Australian National University

Anthony Reid, Australian National University

Merle Ricklefs, Australian National University

Keith Taylor, Cornell University

Wang Gungwu, East Asia Institute

Dayaneetha De Silva COPYEDITOR

*The Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* is published for the Department of History, National University of Singapore, by Cambridge University Press. Contributions are invited from scholars working in all disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and should deal with the Philippines, Timor Lorosae, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos or Vietnam.

The preferred length of article is between 9,000 and 12,000 words, inclusive of footnotes. Articles which exceed or fall short of this length will be considered only at the Editor's discretion. The articles must be oriented toward a readership composed of scholars working in various disciplines, but written to be accessible to non-specialists.

Materials should be fully documented and have enduring value. Analyses of current affairs that may quickly fall out of date, and pieces containing policy prescriptions, are rarely accepted.

Before a manuscript can be published, it must conform to the Journal's style sheet, which is available upon request from the editor or at <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/hist/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/06/JSEAS-STYLE-SHEET-Articles.pdf>

Submission of an article will be taken to mean that it has not been previously published and that it is not on offer to any other publisher.

Contributors are encouraged to submit articles by electronic mail whenever possible.

Authors receive a complimentary copy of the issue of the Journal in which their piece appears and a PDF offprint file.

Material appearing in the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* may not represent the views of the editors or of the publisher, and responsibility for opinions expressed and the accuracy of facts published in articles rests solely with the individual authors.

Editorial correspondence, requests for permission to reprint articles, and contributions should be directed to:

The Editor

*Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*

c/o Department of History

National University of Singapore

11 Arts Link, AS1 #05-27,

Singapore 117570

JSEAS Fax: (65) 67742528

JSEAS Tel: (65) 65166670

JSEAS Email: [hisjseas@nus.edu.sg](mailto:hisjseas@nus.edu.sg)

JSEAS Style-sheet <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/hist/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/06/JSEAS-STYLE-SHEET-Articles.pdf>

JSEAS Homepage:

[http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid\\_SEA](http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_SEA)

## Subscriptions

*Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (ISSN 0022-4634; E-ISSN 1474-0680) is published four times a year in March, June, October and December. Four parts form a volume. Single parts are £63 (US \$99 in USA, Canada and Mexico) plus postage. The subscription price, which includes postage, of Volume 54 (excluding VAT) is £218 (US \$342 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions print and electronic; £177 (\$295 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions electronic only; £220 (\$343 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions print only; £53 (\$85 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for individuals ordering print only direct from the publisher and certifying that the journal is for their own personal use. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Japanese prices are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd., P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan. Prices include delivery by air. Subscription enquiries can also be made to [journals@cambridge.org](mailto:journals@cambridge.org).

Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or direct to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8RU, UK; in the USA, Canada and Mexico, Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 100 Brook Hill Drive, West Nyack, New York, 10994-2133, USA. Application to mail at Periodical postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

**The *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* and all other Cambridge journals can be accessed via <http://www.cambridge.org>**

© The National University of Singapore 2023

# Journal of Southeast Asian Studies

volume 54 | number 2 | June 2023

- 173 **Editorial Foreword**  
Maitrii Aung-Thwin

## Articles

- 175 **The flower, then the sword: The militarisation of Burma's most beautiful book**  
Alexandra Kaloyanides
- 200 **Co-opting the stars: Divination and the politics of resistance in Buddhist Thailand**  
Edoardo Siani
- 220 **Folk magic in the Philippines, 1611–39**  
Stephanie Joy Mawson
- 245 **Making disciples of all nations: Bishop Carlo van Melckebeke and his apostolate to overseas Chinese 1953–77**  
Bibiana Yee-ying Wong
- 271 **Temoq, Semelai, Semaq Beri and Jakun: Using Orang Asli ethnonyms to reconstruct Orang Asli ethnohistory**  
Rosemary Gianno
- 298 **The Yunnan–Burma railway, 1860s–1940s: Imagining, planning and rejecting a railway that was never built**  
Yin Cao

## Review Article

- 316 **Rendering visible monks in the shadow of power: A review essay on *The Irish Buddhist and Monks in Motion***  
Thomas Borchert

## Book Reviews

### *Southeast Asia*

- 329 **Fabian Graham *Voices from the underworld: Chinese Hell deity worship in contemporary Singapore and Malaysia***  
(Daniel P.S. Goh)

*Indonesia*

- 331 Kathryn M. Robinson **Mosques and imams: Everyday Islam in eastern Indonesia**  
(Robert W. Hefner)
- 333 Tania Li Murray and Pujo Semedi **Plantation life: Corporate occupation in Indonesia's oil palm zone**  
(Helena Varkkey)
- 335 C.W. Buijs **Personal religion and magic in Mamasa, West Sulawesi: The search for powers of blessing from the other world of the gods**  
(Michaela Budiman)

*The Philippines*

- 337 Allan Punzalan Isaac **Filipino time: Affective worlds and contracted labour**  
(Valerie Francisco-Menchavez)
- 340 Gideon Lasco **Drugs and Philippine society**  
(William N. Holden)

*Thailand*

- 342 Justin McDaniel **Wayward distractions: Ornament, emotion, zombies and the study of Buddhism in Thailand**  
(M.L. Pattaratorn Chirapravati)
- 344 Giuseppe Bolotta **Belittled citizens: The cultural politics of childhood on Bangkok's margins**  
(Edgar Liao)

*Timor Leste*

- 346 Christopher J. Shepherd **Haunted houses and ghostly encounters: Ethnography and animism in East Timor, 1860–1975**  
(Andrew Alan Johnson)

*Vietnam*

- 349 Merav Shohet **Silence and sacrifice: Family stories of care and the limits of love in Vietnam**  
(Lynn Kwiatkowski)