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THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



SOUTHEAST ASIA

LSE Saw Swee Hock
Southeast Asia Centre

Annual Report

2021 — 2022



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ANNUAL REPORT
2021/22

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Message from the Director



I am delighted to report on a busy and successful year for the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre (SEAC). While the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have still been felt this year, we are increasingly regaining a sense of normalcy. Academics have cautiously recommenced fieldwork in Southeast Asia, Dissertation Fieldwork Grants are again supporting students undertaking fieldwork in the region, and I was able to make a trip to Thailand and Singapore to meet with various friends of SEAC and pursue a joint research project with colleagues at Chulalongkorn University: Modelling Flood Risk and Community Resilience in Rayong Province, Thailand. This time of reconnection has been meaningful and helped SEAC to deepen its relationships within Southeast Asia.

Particular highlights of the year include the launch of the Southeast Asia Working Paper Series. The Series, launched in April 2022, is an open platform for critical and constructive dialogues on region-related affairs. It is open to contributions from all disciplines that SEAC engages with and has thus far featured the work of three SEAC Visiting Fellows (further details can be found in this report), with more papers expected in the coming academic year.

The Centre's research project COVID-19 and Southeast Asia successfully concluded with the publication of the edited volume COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a post-pandemic world, co-edited by the project team: SEAC Director, Professor Hyun Bang Shin, Dr Murray McKenzie, and Dr Do Young Oh. The book features the work of 38 contributors, who represent a range of disciplines and approaches, bringing together reflections on the following three themes (1) Urbanisation, digital infrastructures, economies, and the environment; (2) Migrants, (im)mobilities, and borders; and (3) Collective action, communities, and mutual action.

SEAC continues to see strong engagement with SEAC Schemes. We have hosted several visiting fellows from Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United States, some of whom paid a visit in person while others joined us remotely due to the pandemic. Student support schemes, including Dissertation Fieldwork Grants, the Undergraduate Research Fellowship, and Postgraduate Dissertation Prize, were well received. SEAC has particularly focused on supporting PhD Students through fieldwork support grants, conference attendance grants, and dedicated events.

I am immensely grateful, as always, for the contributions of SEAC Associates, who participate in our events, review applications to our schemes, and both support and champion SEAC. In particular, our Management Committee supports the effective running of the Centre, and alongside Centre Staff, ensure that this important work continues. The SEAC Advisory Board convened its first meeting in early June. Chaired by Prof Jonathan Rigg (University of Bristol and former SEAC Associate), Prof Anne Booth (SOAS), Prof Chua Beng Huat (NUS and former SEAC Associate), and Dr Suraya Ismail (Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia) came together to provide advice and support to SEAC and I look forward to their continued contributions.

As we look ahead to the new academic year of 2022-23, I wish you and your loved ones happiness, health and well-being.

Prof. Hyun Bang Shin

Director

LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre

People at the Centre



Hyun Bang Shin
Centre Director and
Professor of Geography
and Urban Studies in the
Department of Geography
and Environment at LSE

Professor Shin's research centres on the critical analysis of the political economy of urbanisation with particular attention to cities in Asian countries such as China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, and South Korea. His research themes include urban political economy; gentrification; real estate speculation; social justice; megaevents as urban spectacles; circulation of urbanism and policy transfer.

Professor Shin has published in major international journals such as the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Antipode*, *Urban Studies*, and *CITY*, and has contributed to numerous books on the above themes. His most recent books include: *Covid-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a Post-pandemic World* (LSE Press, 2022); *Exporting Urban Korea? Reconsidering the Korean Urban Development Experience* (Routledge, 2021); *Neoliberal Urbanism, Contested Cities and Housing in Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019); *Planetary Gentrification* (Polity Press, 2016); *Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement* (Policy Press, 2015).

Professor Shin is an editor of the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, a trustee of the Urban Studies Foundation, sits on the international advisory board of the journal *Antipode*, and serves on the editorial boards of the journals: *China City*

Planning Review (in China); *City*; *City, Culture and Society*; *Dialogues in Urban Research*; *Space and Environment* (in Korea); *Transactions in Planning and Urban Research*; *Urban Geography*. He is also a co-organiser of the Urban Salon, an interdisciplinary London forum for architecture, cities and international urbanism, and edits the LSE Southeast Asia Blog and Field Research Methods Lab Blog.



Katie Boulton
Centre Manager

Katie is SEAC's Centre Manager and oversees the Centre's day-to-day operation, including administration of financial, human and physical resources, implementation of events and programmes, and managing communications and outreach strategies, including publications, in addition to supporting the Centre Director with strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and reporting.

Katie has worked in Higher Education for the past nine years, particularly supporting postgraduate and extended education study, most recently for the International Inequalities Institute at LSE.



Charles Toccock
Interim Centre Manager

As Interim Centre Manager between September 2021 and February 2022, Charles held responsibility for the Centre's day-to-day operations, including administration of financial, human and physical resources, implementation of events and programmes, and managing communications and outreach strategies, including publications, in addition to supporting the Centre Director with strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and reporting.



Murray McKenzie
Research Officer

Dr McKenzie assisted the British Academy-funded research project, The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences, and Alternatives for Urban Futures, and SEAC's project on COVID-19 and Southeast Asia. He holds a PhD in Geography and Urban Studies from UCL and an MA in Community and Regional Planning from the University of British Columbia.

His research focuses on the roles of the arts, culture, and their contestation in processes of urban growth and change. His doctoral thesis investigated how collaborative artistic practices have served as platforms for community building in urban villages of outer Beijing. Prior to joining LSE, Dr McKenzie was a Postgraduate Teaching Assistant at UCL; resided as a Visiting Senior Scholar at Peking University; and performed as a touring musician in Europe, North America, and East and Southeast Asia.



Tanyamai Anantakoraneewat
Graduate Intern:
Administration

Tanyamai supported the Centre's administration and funding schemes. Tanyamai is currently an MSc Local Economic Development student at LSE.



Tianzi Liu
Graduate Intern:
Communications
and Events

Tianzi (Tansy) supported the Centre's events and communications. Tansy is currently an MSc Media, Communication and Development student at LSE.

SEAC Management Committee

The Management Committee convenes meetings to discuss prioritised agendas and help ensure that the Centre's activities and resources are effectively managed in accordance with the Centre's objectives and the School's policies and guidelines. The Committee is also expected to provide consultation for the Centre's direction and development and make contributions to the Centre's activities.

Members

- Professor Hyun Bang Shin (Chair; Centre Director)
- Katie Boulton (Centre Manager)
- Professor Catherine Allerton (SEAC Associate; Department of Anthropology)
- Professor Kent Deng (SEAC Associate; Department of Economic History)
- Professor John Sidel (SEAC Associate: Department of Government & Department of International Relations)
- Professor Steve Gibbons (ex-officio; Head of the Department of Geography and Environment)

SEAC Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides independent and external advice and general guidance to SEAC to help ensure robust programming, research agendas, outreach, and increased support for the Centre.

Members

- Professor Jonathan Rigg (Chair; Chair in Human Geography, University of Bristol)
- Professor Anne Booth (Emeritus Professor of Economics, SOAS)
- Professor Chua Beng Huat (Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore)
- Dr Suraya Ismail (Director of Research, Khazanah Research Institute)
- Professor Hyun Bang Shin (Centre Director)
- Katie Boulton (Centre Manager)



Jonathan Rigg is Chair in Human Geography at the University of Bristol and Professor in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore. Prior to that, he was Head of the Geography Department at Durham University in the UK. He was also a lecturer at the School of Oriental & African Studies, London University, a British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and PhD student. He was Director of the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore from 2016–2019.



Anne Booth is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (SOAS). Anne graduated from Victoria University, Wellington, and then did graduate work at the Australian National University. She subsequently taught at the University of Singapore for three years before returning to the ANU as a research fellow. In 1991, she accepted a chair at SOAS, University of London. She was awarded a Lee Kong Chian fellowship in 2015/16. Anne has had a long-standing interest in economic development in Asia, with a particular focus on Indonesia. Her most recent book, *Living Standards in Southeast Asia: Changes over the Long Twentieth Century, 1900-2015*, is published by Amsterdam University Press.



Chua Beng Huat received his PhD from York University, Canada. Concurrently he is the Provost Chair Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, and Head of the Department of Sociology, at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also the Research Leader of Cultural Studies in Asia Research Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Temenggong Artists-in-Residence, a non-profit visual arts institution in Singapore.



Suraya Ismail is Director of Research at Khazanah Research Institute. Before joining the Institute, she was Program Director at Think City (a city-making initiative of Khazanah Nasional Berhad), where her role involved developing urban regeneration initiatives through a public grants program in Kuala Lumpur. She has previously served as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of Malaya as well as the Head of the Department of Quantity Surveying.

SEAC Associates



Catherine Allerton is Professor in the Department of Anthropology, LSE. She is a specialist in the anthropology of island Southeast Asia, with research interests in children and childhoods, migration, kinship, place and landscape.



Katherine Brickell is Professor of Human Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London. She holds 15 years of area-focused expertise in Cambodia, where she researches the gendered geographies of domestic and working life, including violence against women, forced eviction, and, most recently, 'modern slavery' in the construction industry.



Kent Deng is Professor in Economic History in the LSE Department of Economic History. He leads the LSE postgraduate module "Economic Development of East and Southeast Asia", and his research interests and writing include the rise of the literati in the economic life of pre-modern China and the maritime economic history of Asia.



Fenella Cannell is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and is a specialist in Southeast Asian anthropology. Her research explored the ways in which people came to think about "culture" in postcolonial society and focused on women's lives and arranged marriage, spirit-mediumship, saint's cults and religion, and popular performances, including transvestite beauty contests. She has since carried out historically-based work on the Philippines, especially education, kinship, and gender in the American colonial period.



Tim Forsyth is Professor of Environment and Development at LSE. He has six years' work and professional experience within Southeast Asia and is fluent in Thai with skills in Indonesian Bahasa and Burmese. His research focuses on the politics of environmental policymaking, with a particular interest in understanding local environmental risk and livelihoods and reflecting this knowledge in global environmental policies and assessments.



Sin Yee Koh is Senior Assistant Professor in Asian Migration, Mobility and Diaspora at the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and also Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia. She was a Co-Investigator for the SEAC Research Project 'The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences and Alternatives for Urban Futures'.



Nicholas Long is Associate Professor in Anthropology at LSE. Dr Long is a specialist in the anthropology of Indonesia and the Malay world, with a particular focus on the ways political change influences the experience of self, agency and relations. Dr Long's monograph, *Being Malay in Indonesia*, offers a new framework for the study of political decentralisation: one which foregrounds the effective and experiential dimensions of political change.



Duncan McCargo is Director of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies and Professor of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen. He is also Professor of Political Science at the University of Leeds. Since 2015, he has held a shared appointment at Columbia University, where he is a Visiting Professor of Political Science. In 2010, Professor McCargo was awarded an honorary doctorate by Maharakham University in Thailand.



Catalina Ortiz is Associate Professor in Building and Urban Design in Development at The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, UCL. Dr Ortiz holds a PhD in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago as a Fulbright scholar, in addition to an MA in Urban and Regional Studies and a BA in Architecture from the National University of Colombia.



Deirdre McKay is Professor in Social Geography and Environmental Politics at Keele University and Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK (ASEAS UK). Professor McKay's research draws on both social/cultural geography and social anthropology to explore people's place-based experiences of globalisation and development. Her fieldwork is in areas of the global South and with migrant communities from developing areas who have moved into the world's major cities.



James Putzel is Professor of Development Studies at LSE. Professor Putzel is well-known for his research in the Philippines, where he has maintained active research since 1984. His book, *A Captive Land: the Politics of Agrarian Reform in the Philippines* (1992), is recognised as a classic on the topic and remains influential in current policy actions and debates in the country. His research also includes work on nationalism, comparative politics of development in Southeast and East Asia, democratic transition, and the role of foreign aid and NGOs in development.



Danny Quah is the Dean and Li Ka Shing Professor in Economics at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Professor Quah's research interests include income inequality, economic growth and international economic relations. Professor Quah is Commissioner on the Spence-Stiglitz Commission on Global Economic Transformation; Member of the Executive Committee at the International Economic Association; and Senior Fellow at the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economics Research.



Kirsten Schulze is Associate Professor in International History at LSE. She works on communal and separatist conflicts as well as Islamism in Indonesia and the Middle East. Her publications on Indonesia include *The 'Ethnic' in Indonesia's Communal Conflicts: violence in Poso, Ambon and West Kalimantan* (2017), *The Islamic State and Southeast Asia* (2016) and *Transforming the Aceh Conflict: From Military Solutions to Political Agreement* (2013).



John Sidel is the Sir Patrick Gillam Professor of International and Comparative Politics at LSE. He is a specialist on Southeast Asia and has conducted extensive research in Indonesia and the Philippines in particular. He is the author of several books including most recently *Thinking and Working Politically in Development: Coalitions for Change in the Philippines* (with Jaime Faustino) (2020), and *Republicanism, Communism, Islam: Cosmopolitan Origins of Revolution in Southeast Asia* (2021).



Thomas Smith is Assistant Professor in Environmental Geography at LSE. He teaches a number of environmental courses, focusing on innovative technology-enhanced experiential learning and field-based education in geography. He joined the Department in 2018, having previously been a Lecturer at King's College London. He holds a PhD in Physical Geography from King's College London and has held Visiting Fellow posts at the National University of Singapore, Monash University Malaysia, University of Wollongong (Australia) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam.



Hans Steinmüller is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at LSE and a specialist in the anthropology of China. He has conducted long-term fieldwork in the Enshi region of Hubei Province in central China, focusing on family, work, ritual and the local state. The main object of his research is the ethics of everyday life in rural China and an anthropological approach to the study of sovereignty, which involves ethnographic works in the Wa State of Myanmar.



Qingfei Yin is Assistant Professor of International History (China and the World) at LSE. As a historian of contemporary China and inter-Asian relations, her research focuses on China's relations with its Asian neighbours, Asian borderlands, and the Cold War in Asia. She is particularly interested in how the global Cold War interacted with state-building in marginal societies. She is currently working on her book manuscript, *Comrades and Competitors: State-Building at the Sino-Vietnamese Border during the Cold War*.



Yimin Zhao is Assistant Professor in Urban Planning and Management at the School of Public Administration and Policy at the Renmin University of China and was a Co-Investigator for the SEAC Research Project 'The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences, and Alternatives for Urban Futures'. He is an editor of the journal *City: Analysis of Urban Change, Theory, Action*.

Visiting Fellows

SEAC's Visiting Appointment scheme provides an opportunity for visiting researchers to spend normally 6-12 weeks at SEAC and LSE, benefitting from access to LSE facilities and events, along with opportunities for networking and collaboration across the LSE community. Visiting researchers form an integral part of SEAC's research culture and community, each giving a SEAC Seminar, alongside writing for the Southeast Asia blog and SEAC working papers, while also forming

SEAC's growing global community. SEAC offers both a Standard Visiting Appointment scheme for applicants who have secured their own funding and a Stipendiary Visiting Appointment Scheme, which provides funding to enable those without funding of their own to apply. All applications go through a rigorous panel assessment, and opportunities are competitive. Applicants are selected based on the strength of their proposal.

“

The pandemic made it difficult to interact with other researchers and was quite an isolating experience for many people, myself included. Being a Visiting Fellow at SEAC provided an opportunity to be part of an active academic community. I gave a talk about my ongoing research on Jakarta's water crisis, which gave my work more exposure. I also developed new professional relationships by organising a panel discussion on comparative urbanism for the SEAC community. Regular meetings with other fellows and Hyun Bang Shin helped me to develop my ideas and learn about the work others are doing. Being located in London, rather than on my own campus, also provided me with the space I needed to make progress on my research and writing. I look forward to submitting the working paper I prepared while in residence as a journal article.”

– Dr Emma Colven

SEAC was delighted to welcome six Visiting Fellows during the 2021/22 year:

- **Dr Junjia Ye** was a Visiting Fellow from 4 October 2021 to 3 January 2022 and is Assistant Professor in Human Geography at Nanyang Technological University.
- **Dr Jayde Roberts** was a Visiting Fellow from 27 September to 31 December 2021 and is Senior Lecturer in the School of Built Environment at UNSW Sydney.
- **Dr Emma Colven** was a Visiting Fellow from 27 September to 17 December 2021 and is Assistant Professor of Global Environment at the University of Oklahoma.
- **Dr Shanthi Thambiah** was a Visiting Senior Fellow from 15 July to 15 October 2021 and is Associate Professor in the Gender Studies Program at the University of Malaya.
- **Dr Lin Hongxuan** is a Visiting Fellow from 31 January 2022 to 30 January 2023 and is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.
- **Dr Joseph Scalice** was a Visiting Fellow from 15 November 2021 to 30 April 2022 and was a Postdoctoral researcher at Nanyang Technological University.

Dr Junjia Ye reflects on her time

as Visiting Fellow at SEAC:



What did you work on during your time as SEAC Visiting Fellow?

I worked on an ongoing project on surveillance and borderings that are in process in migrant enclaves. More specifically, this work situates surveillance not only through technology but also through everyday human encounters that reproduce borders in migrant enclaves. This project analyses qualitative data I collected in Paya Lebar new town, which is towards the east of Singapore and especially popular with Indonesian migrant domestic workers. Some of my initial findings have been that state surveillance is not experienced negatively or as oppressive for many of these migrant users of Paya Lebar. Rather, being gazed upon legitimises their claims to space and subjectivities as well-behaving migrants. Often, the enforcement and reminders of rules and regulations are enforced by migrants themselves as a form of care work towards other migrants. Surveillance is hence pastoralised, and borderings of who counts as a good migrant are reproduced through interactions with various stakeholders of the space.

Why was being a Visiting Fellow at SEAC important to you?

I was delighted to be awarded the fellowship as it would provide the opportunity to connect me to other scholars who are also thinking through and from Southeast Asia. Even though I was a virtual Visiting Fellow because of Covid19 travel restrictions, I still found it a very productive time of intellectual exchange.

How have you used LSE resources, and how have you contributed to SEAC during this time?

I was able to participate as a panellist in a roundtable discussing the importance of theorising comparatively

“
The people I’ve encountered through and worked with at the Center have been very generous with their time and efforts.”

from Southeast Asia. I also presented early findings of my current project that centres the migrant in a seminar on surveillance in the Singaporean context. This presentation led to the publication of my working paper in the LSE SEAC Working Paper series. The Centre also organised an informal chat that I had with current graduate students at various stages of their programmes from around the world. I contributed a blog post, examining the new precarities of part-time, platformised domestic work carried out by low-waged female migrants in Singapore.

What have you gained from the experience?

Throughout these different forms of engagement, the people I’ve encountered and worked with at the Centre have been very generous with their time and efforts. I very much enjoyed learning from other Visiting Fellows at the meetings we had. Prof. Hyun Bang Shin read my work very closely, and this helped sharpen my arguments. Charles Tocock and Katie Boulton were also steadfast in ensuring communications and Zoom connections went smoothly.



Dr Shanthi Thambiah reflects on her time

as Visiting Senior Fellow at SEAC:

“
The fellowship provided
me opportunities for a rich
exchange of information
and knowledge.”

Why was being a Visiting Fellow at SEAC important to you?

Being a Visiting Fellow at SEAC provided me with the opportunity needed for a professional and academic experience at LSE. I had to postpone the fellowship due to the Covid-19 lockdowns in Malaysia. However, I decided to take up the fellowship when travel was not easy, and therefore, I opted to accept the fellowship from the 15th of July to the 15th of October 2021 as a remote (virtual) fellowship. The fellowship at SEAC was important for me because I needed a dedicated amount of time to focus on analysing and presenting the findings of my research on “The Emo-Scapes of Indonesian and Malaysian State Discourses on Migrant Domestic

Workers: Emotional Inter-Connectedness and Governance of Migrant Domestic Workers” at the Centre’s seminar.

How have you used LSE resources, and how have you contributed to SEAC during this time?

I gave a seminar at the SEAC. I also met up with graduate students at the LSE and had an interesting conversation about their work and, where necessary, gave them some feedback. I also answered some of their questions about issues faced during fieldwork in Southeast Asia.

What have you gained from the experience?

The fellowship provided me with opportunities for a rich exchange of information and knowledge. I learned from other fellows about their interesting research in Southeast Asia. There were rich intellectual exchanges at the Centre’s online seminars. Fellowships often provide the resources, support and professional networks to pursue goals that you might not otherwise be able to achieve. I am happy to have met and discussed my work with Professor Catherine Allerton from the Department of Anthropology at LSE, and she was very supportive of my work. I presented the results of my research at the Centre’s seminar and received valuable feedback from Professor Allerton and the seminar’s audience.

LSE-Southeast Asia Early Career Researcher (ECR) Network

SEAC's ECR Network has continued to grow in the past year, with just under 200 members, who have research interests across the region, and actively engage via dedicated events, ECR newsletters, and social media promotion.

ECR Network Members

Interest in/by Country:

	ASEAN	38
	Cambodia	10
	Indonesia	56
	Laos	5
	Malaysia	24
	Myanmar	16
	Philippines	28
	Singapore	23
	Thailand	14
	Vietnam	12
	Timor Leste	2





Above is a screenshot of the SEAC interactive global map of network members (accessible at lse.ac.uk/seac/people/ECR-Network), which permits anybody to search by country specialism, locate researchers with similar interests, and promote increased collaboration and scholarly work on Southeast Asia.

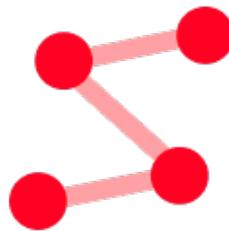
Southeast Asia Research

SEAC generates and supports interdisciplinary research on Southeast Asia by bringing together researchers and providing a platform for critical debates to analyse the region in global contexts. The Centre encourages wider perspectives, paying attention not only to intra-regional

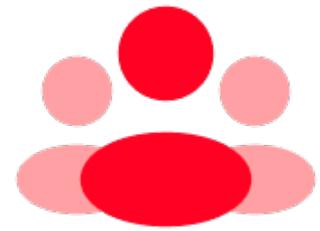
or local dimensions but also to the ways in which Southeast Asia can enter into conversation with its neighbouring regions and the world. SEAC's focus is on three key, intersecting themes: urbanisation, connectivity and governance:



Urbanisation: to enquire into urbanisation beyond demographic transformations and examine contemporary and historic experiences that encompass the politics and the economics of urbanisation/city-making. Topics of interest, for example, may include, but are not limited to, the promotion of urbanisation as a state project; the politics of land use; critical discourses on the use of Asian cities as reference points for (re-) developing cities in the Global South.



Connectivity: to examine trans-regional or international connectivity in terms of people, built environments and the nature. The theme may possibly concern, for example, policy networks; infrastructural connections; special economic zones as nodal points for cross-border investments and trades; transnational real estate drives; trade relations; historic and contemporary migration; kinship or religious links; interconnected ecosystems such as the Mekong River basin.



Governance: to explore the governance that involves transnational, national and sub-national actors who play their roles directly and/or indirectly in the process of making decisions that may have socio-economic impacts upon people and places. Topics include, for example, state-business relations; transnational or regional cooperations; grassroots politics of democratisation; gender politics; ethnic and cross-border relations; communal conflicts.

Centre Projects

Modelling Flood Risk and Community Resilience in Rayong Province, Thailand

One of the top ten countries most severely affected by extreme weather over the last 20 years, Thailand has experienced first-hand global climate emergency with its high propensity to flooding. As such, it needs solutions for itself that have international applicability.

A pioneering and expansive research partnership programme among Chulalongkorn University (a team of geographers led by Dr Pannee Cheewinsiriwat), University of Sussex (Dr John Barlow and Dr Yi Wang), London School of Economics and Political Science (Prof Hyun Bang Shin), and University of Bristol (Prof Jonathan Rigg) is on course to apply innovative methodology and world-leading practice to solve local and global challenges of flooding and climate change impact. Combining expertise in climate science, physical geography, social science, and economics, the partnership team will use high-resolution climate modelling to develop flood risk maps and research how government policies have shaped communities' responses to flooding. The team also aims to examine how community knowledge and resilience can be applied to better flood management policies for Thailand's government and private sector.

In addition to pilot research, postgraduate researchers from Chulalongkorn University will join the project. It will establish a more robust teaching and learning environment and position Chulalongkorn as a world-class centre of geography and climate science research and education. The project empowers knowledge exchange, with UK partners able to learn more about Thailand's hydrological modelling and flood management policy. On course to be completed in 2023, this project offers sustainable benefits for both countries. It is creating a platform for shared understanding to enable future collaborative joint research, teaching and exchange projects between Thailand, the UK and regional partners in South East Asia, where climate change and its effects, such as flooding, are of paramount concern.



Expected outputs:

- One joint pilot research project with seven trained Thai researchers
- One research proposal based on the pilot research project ready for research grant application
- Co-publication of the findings from the catalyst grant

Project dates:

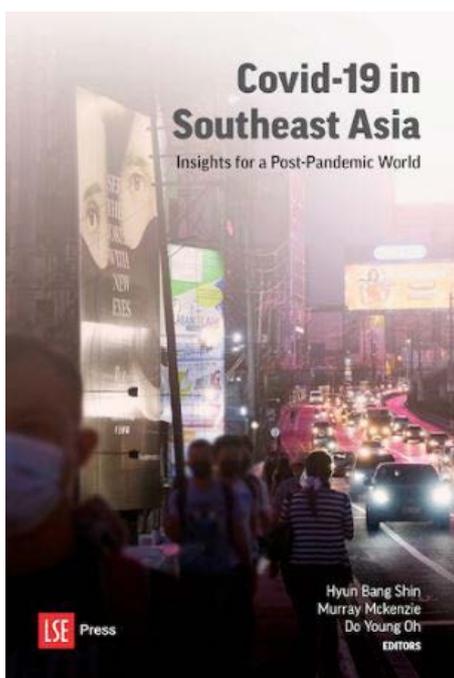
1 Feb 2022 – 31 Jan 2023

Project team:

Dr Pannee Cheewinsiriwat and team (Chulalongkorn University), Dr John Barlow and Dr Yi Wang (University of Sussex), Prof Hyun Bang Shin (SEAC, London School of Economics and Political Science), and Prof Jonathan Rigg (University of Bristol).

Funding:

Thai-UK World-class University Consortium, British Council



Covid-19 and Southeast Asia

During the pandemic, SEAC undertook a project to compile the initially published responses to the COVID-19 crises, reflect upon what the crises mean for urbanisation, governance and connectivity in Southeast Asia, and work with researchers and experts in and of the region to contemplate the post-COVID-19 urban futures through desk-based archival research. The project responded to the enormous challenges presented by COVID-19 to governments, businesses, civil societies and people from all walks of life, whose impact has been very much uneven and variegated. COVID-19 also reveals our society's existing contradictions and inequalities and compels us to question what it means to return to the 'normal'.

The project concluded in 2021 with the publication of the edited volume: Covid-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a Post-pandemic World by LSE Press. Edited by SEAC Director Professor Hyun Bang Shin, alongside Dr Do Young Oh and Dr Murray McKenzie, this book features the work of 38 contributors, more than 30 of whom originate from Southeast Asia or are based therein. This new edited volume compiles reflections on the following three themes: (1) Urbanisation, digital infrastructures, economies, and the environment; (2) Migrants, (im) mobilities, and borders; and (3) Collective action, communities, and mutual action.

Outputs:

- Two SEAC COVID-19 Seminars were held on 19 and 21 October on Marginalised and vulnerable groups in Southeast Asia, and Migrant workers, Asylum seekers, and Refugees.
- SEAC hosted a roundtable as part of the Southeast Asia Forum on 26 October on the Politics and Economics of COVID-19 in Southeast Asia and an LSE Festival event on 1 March 2021 on Life in a Post-COVID World: learning from Southeast Asia.
- Thirty-nine blog posts have been published on the Southeast Asia blog discussing experiences, insights, and critiques of the pandemic and pandemic responses.
- A co-edited volume (edited by Hyun Bang Shin, Murray Mckenzie and Do Young Oh and containing 38 contributors) entitled COVID-19 in Southeast Asia; Insights for a Post-Pandemic World published by LSE Press
- A multi-disciplinary archive of emerging scholarship on the pandemic in development studies, human geography, planning, and urban studies, reaching 1,100+ texts.

Project dates:

1 June 2020 – 31 December 2021

Project team:

- **Principal Investigator:** Professor Hyun Bang Shin, Director of SEAC and Professor of Geography and Urban Studies in the Department of Geography and Environment, LSE
- **Research Officers:** Dr Murray Mckenzie and Dr Do Young Oh, LSE SEAC

The Urban Spectre of Global China: Mechanisms, Consequences and Alternatives for Urban Futures

SEAC Director, Professor Hyun Bang Shin, was awarded a British Academy grant in 2019 as part of its 'Tackling the UK's International Challenges' programme. The project examines four large-scale property development projects of the Chinese capital to question the ways in which China's global expansion has reconfigured the urban. The four sites are located in London, Iskandar Malaysia, Beijing and Foshan. This project draws on comparative urbanism and multi-sited ethnography methods, aiming to uncover the differentiated models of urban production in the Global China era and generate new insights for inclusive approaches to urban space, nature and modernity. This international collaborative project critically examines the dynamics of urban political economy and contemporary urban living in a rapidly shifting geopolitical setting. By focusing on the local, national and global mechanisms and impacts of Chinese urban spectres, the project aims to deepen our understanding of interrelated urban future issues.

Outputs:

- Publications including:
 - Koh, S.Y., Zhao, Y. and Shin, H.B. (2021) "Moving the mountain and greening the sea: The micropolitics of speculative green urbanism at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia." *Urban Geography* DOI: 10.1080/02723638.2021.1999725
 - Koh, S. Y., Zhao, Y., & Shin, H. B. (2021). The micropolitics of speculative green urbanism at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia (No. 21; Geography and Environment Discussion Paper Series). Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/108216/2/Paper_21_new_.pdf
 - Zhao, Y., Koh, S.Y. and Shin, H.B. (2021) "Green urbanism and speculative urbanisation at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia." *LSE Southeast Asia*

Blog, 22 February. URL: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/seac/2021/02/22/green-urbanism-and-speculative-urbanisation-at-forest-city-iskandar-malaysia/>

- Shin, H. B., Zhao, Y., & Koh, S. Y. (2020). Whither progressive urban futures? Critical reflections on the politics of temporality in Asia. *City*, 24(1–2), 244–254. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13604813.2020.1739925ii>
- A Conference panel The Urban Spectre of Global China and Critical Reflections on its Spatiality at RC21 Conference 2019, New Delhi, India, 18-21 September 2021
- Two SEAC workshops: 'The Urban Agency of Global China: Tales from Four Cities in the UK, Malaysia and China', 25-26 Jan 2022; and The Urban Spectre of Global China, 19 Jun 2019.

Project dates:

January 2019 – January 2022

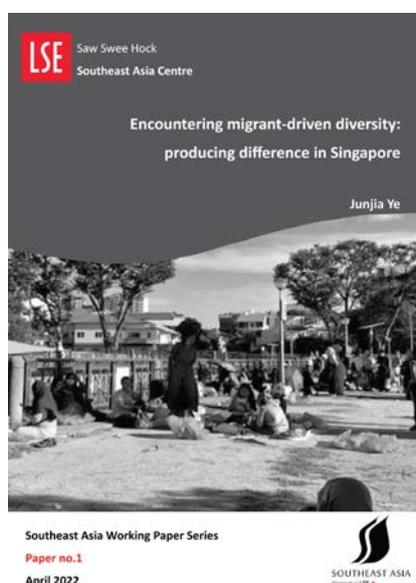
Project team:

- **Principal Investigator:** Professor Hyun Bang Shin, Director of SEAC and Professor of Geography and Urban Studies in the Department of Geography and Environment, LSE
- **Co-Investigators:** Dr Sin Yee Koh, Senior Lecturer in Global Studies, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia, Dr Yimin Zhao, Assistant Professor in Urban Planning and Management, School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China
- **Research Assistants:** Dr Yi Jin (April 2019 – January 2020), Dr Murray McKenzie (March 2020 – Present)
- **Project Advisors:** Professor Ching Kwan Lee, Professor of Sociology at University of California Los Angeles, Dr Choon-Piew Pow, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore

Southeast Asia Working Paper Series

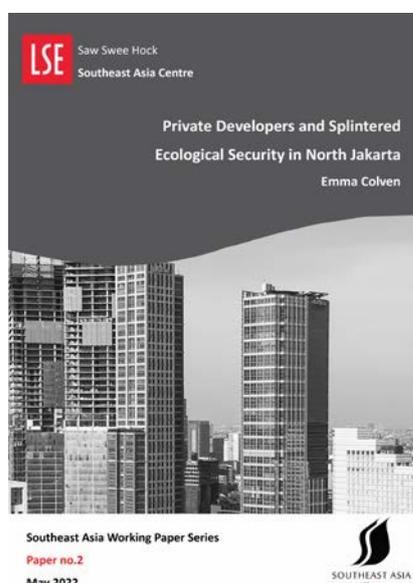
The Southeast Asia Working Paper Series was launched in April 2022, showcasing work-in-progress research by the SEAC community. Working papers published under this Series are treated as ‘work-in-progress’, pre-publication versions of academic papers, and therefore

as ‘drafts’ that receive feedback and are subject to future revision. The Series is an open platform for critical and constructive dialogues on region-related affairs and is open to contributions from all disciplines that SEAC engages with.



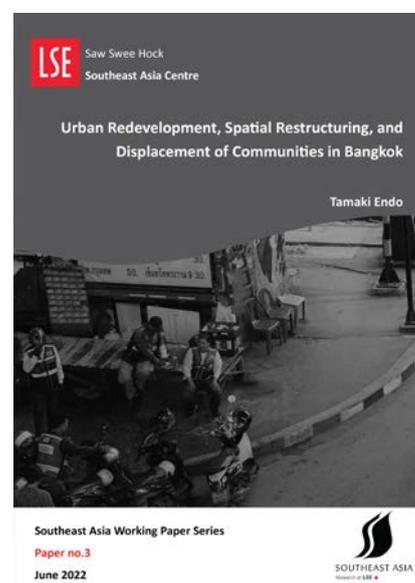
Encountering migrant-driven diversity: Producing difference in Singapore

Junjia Ye
Paper No. 1, April 2022



Private developers and splintered ecological security in North Jakarta

Emma Colven
Paper No. 2, May 2022



Urban Redevelopment, Spatial Restructuring, and Displacement of Communities in Bangkok

Tamaki Endo
Paper No. 3, June 2022

Research Fund

SEAC's Research Fund is available to all LSE academic staff at Assistant Professor/Assistant Professorial Research Fellow level or above, in addition to SEAC Associates outside LSE. The aim is to fill a gap in the support available to LSE academics and researchers

and to promote high-quality research on the region. In the 2021/22 academic year, a new project has been awarded, the details of which are provided below, along with the details of the ongoing projects awarded previously.

“
Singapore's tech industry has been the envy of much of the world. We want to understand how it has developed, what role policy has played, and what the consequences have been for Singaporean people. This is also a great opportunity for me to work with an exciting Singaporean scholar on an issue of wide interest.”

– Prof Neil Lee

Tech beyond Silicon Valley: Examining the development of Singapore's high-tech ecosystem

Project Summary:

Economic geographers have long sought to explain the development of new, innovation-based industries. To do this, they have drawn particularly on the US technology sector in general and the concentration of digital technology industries around Silicon Valley in particular. This project will be a detailed case study of the development of Singapore's digital technology sector, understood as firms which use digital tech as part of their growth. It will investigate the political economy of the development of Singaporean digital tech, the wider policy lessons of the approach, and the problems it raises.

Project team:

- **Principal Investigator:** Prof Neil Lee (Assistant Professor, LSE Dept of Geography and Environment)
- **Co-Investigator:** Augustin Boey

Proposed project dates:

May 2022 – May 2023



Seasonality in the Anthropocene: social constructions of Singapore's 'haze season'

Project Summary:

Widespread burning of tropical peatlands is now considered to be an annual event in equatorial Southeast Asia. The fires cause poor air quality ('haze'), affecting the health of millions and leading to diplomatic disputes between places that burn and the places downwind that suffer in the smoke. Our project focuses on the emerging social construction of Singapore's 'haze season'. Seasonality is a conceptual tool for societies to make sense of their surrounding physical environment. The expectation of recurring seasons allows people to organise their livelihoods around these environmental changes. Through analysis of traditional and social media and surveys, we aim to investigate the emergence of the haze season and how it has been defined by society. Our research seeks to evaluate the extent to which a new seasonality may lead to normalisation (e.g., desensitisation) of the phenomena and how this has impacted haze mitigation efforts (e.g., activism) and adaptation behaviours (e.g., wearing masks, staying indoors).

Outputs:

- Presentation at Southeast Asia Forum on 25 October
- Presentation to the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in May 2022
- Forthcoming submission to academic journal

Project team:

- **Principal Investigator:** Dr Thomas Smith (Assistant Professor, LSE Dept of Geography and Environment)
- **Co-Investigator:** Felicia Liu (PhD Student, Dept of Geography, Kings College London)

Proposed project dates:

June 2021 – June 2022



The Kleptocrat's Accomplice? The Political Economy of Professional Intermediaries and the Plunder of Poor Countries

Project Summary:

This project examines the role played by lawyers, accountants and other professional service providers in enabling the transfer of illicit money out of resource-rich but people-poor countries and into the financial systems of developed economies in the West and, increasingly, the East. High-profile investigations by journalists exposing the 1MDB, Luanda Leaks and Panama Papers scandals have highlighted the part played by professional intermediaries, sometimes internationally-branded firms operating in major financial centres, in helping globally mobile elites move, launder, and protect ill-gotten gains. The project asks what drives the decisions and behaviours of these professionals as they manage the tension between the pressure to bring in new client revenue and the obligation to comply with anti-money laundering requirements. It analyses and compares four jurisdictions: Singapore, Hong Kong, London and Dubai. It examines how the behaviour of professional service providers in each jurisdiction changed in response to the historical evolution in the institutions regulating money laundering and to major media investigations exposing professional service provider complicity.

Project team:

- **Principal Investigator:** Dr Omar Shahabudin McDoom, Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics, LSE Department of Government

Proposed project dates:

June 2020 – June 2022

Support for Students

PhD Support

SEAC provides dedicated support to LSE doctoral students focusing on Southeast Asia. This support is not limited to any particular department but doctoral students in any discipline and includes financial support for fieldwork and conference participation, alongside dedicated events.

SEAC provides financial support to LSE doctoral students through the Fieldwork Support Fund and the Conference Fund. The Fieldwork Support fund provides up to £2000 for fieldwork based in the Southeast Asia region to cover travel, accommodation, subsistence, local services (e.g., transcription/ translation) and/or purchase of research materials. The Conference Fund provides up to £500 to enable conference participation (for example, presenting a paper or speaking) and covers conference fees, travel, and accommodation. These two funds are intended to help doctoral students advance their research and networks and to support the next generation of Southeast Asia scholars. In 2021-22 two fieldwork support awards were made to Dominique Dillabough-Lefebvre (Dept of Anthropology) and Jonathan Doherty (Dept of Anthropology), and two Conference support awards were made to Juan Jose Rivas-Moreno (Dept of Economic History) and Yorga Permana (Dept of Geography and Environment).



“
Academics are increasingly expected to conduct research with limited support, which produces significant barriers to entry”



Dominique Dillabough-Lefebvre (Dept of Anthropology)

What is the topic of your PhD?

My ethnographic research has examined the politics of agrarian change and ethno-nationalist conflict in Myanmar through the lens of the Karen people - a highland minority ethnic group living largely along the Thai/Myanmar border in an area called the Mutraw (Hpapun) hills. The site for this research was among Karen smallholder farming communities, environmental activists, as well as soldiers and administrators from the armed wing of the Karen National Union (KNU/KNLA), a political organisation that claims de facto control of the Mutraw Hills. This organisation has been engaged in armed conflict with the Burmese State military since 1949 and is one of the largest non-state armed groups active in Myanmar. Within this context, I am interested in religious transformation and the intertwined dynamics of conflict and development and how these transformations have been reshaping the lives of those living in these rural upland areas.

How did you use the PhD Fieldwork Grant?

The PhD Fieldwork grant was used in helping to cover critical research expenses, such as food, travel, visa expenses, accommodation and costs for a research assistant in the final period of my fieldwork. The PhD Fieldwork grant was very valuable, as it helped pay for important research costs, allowing for the smooth completion of a multi-year fieldwork project.

Why is supporting Early Career Researchers important?

Academics are increasingly expected to conduct research with limited support, which produces significant barriers to entry for those without substantial additional funds to support themselves. Increasing precarity is an issue many Early Career Researchers face, and any additional help can make a big difference for students and researchers who are often left in precarious working situations.



Author meets ECR events

In Michaelmas Term, SEAC continued our 'Author meets' events, which are small informal discussion groups that help PhD students to connect with academics from the region and ask timely questions about research techniques, career opportunities, and navigating country differences, from experts, alongside providing a space for networking.

Postdoctoral Associate Scheme

In 2021, SEAC also launched the Postdoctoral Associate Scheme allowing recently graduated LSE PhD students to retain their affiliation with SEAC and the LSE. Providing continued access to LSE facilities alongside opportunities for engagement with SEAC, including via the Southeast Asia Blog and SEAC events, the Postdoctoral Associate status enables both the individual and the Centre to stay connected and build networks.



Dr Do Young Oh is a Research Assistant Professor at the School of Graduate Studies, Lingnan University. He was previously a Research Officer, based jointly at the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre and the Middle East Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he finished his PhD in Regional and Urban Planning. His research interests focus on comparative urbanism and

postcolonialism in East Asia. His doctoral thesis investigated the evolving university-city relationship through a comparative analysis of East Asian urbanisation processes. His thesis was short-listed for the biennial ICAS Book Prize in 2019 (Dissertation in the Social Sciences). Oh has published in major international journals including the Journal of Urban History and Cities.

Dissertation Fieldwork Grants

SEAC was delighted to receive many competitive applications for the 2021/22 Southeast Asia Student Dissertation Fieldwork Grants. The nine student awardees were selected based on the strength of their applications and their proposed dissertation fieldwork and research. The grant provides up to a maximum

of £500 per awardee towards research expenses, which can go towards categories like accommodation, subsistence, and local services such as translation or transcription. The Dissertation Fieldwork Grant scheme is supported by Arvind Khattar, whose generous gift has helped SEAC to further develop its research activities.



Alexia Faugeroux

Degree: MSc Development Management

Proposed fieldwork location: Cambodia

Topic: *Impact evaluation of single-sex schooling on gender equality in education: a case study of Toutes à l'école in Cambodia*



Michelle Yue Huang

Degree: MSc Conflict Studies

Proposed fieldwork location: Myanmar

Topic: *Mobilisation and Resistance Post-Democratisation: Continuity, Change, and Learning in Myanmar's Spring Revolution*

“

The SEAC dissertation grant allowed me to execute difficult field research on digital inequalities between the western and eastern parts of Indonesia that may not have come to fruition due to the costs it incurs. I am especially passionate about Southeast Asia, and I think as a sub-region with unique peoples and sub-cultures, it is still under-researched. Through this research, I hope to demonstrate the complexities that account for the different outcomes Indonesian Papuans and Sundanese obtain from engaging with digital media, which may be unforeseen for people from the other hemisphere.”

– Michelle Yue Huang



Chen En Lee

Degree: MSc Sociology

Proposed fieldwork location: Singapore and Malaysia

Topic: *Is it just for the money: A look at Malaysian cross-border workers in Singapore*



Dianwidhi Michelle Pranoto

Degree: MSc in Media and Communications (Data and Society)

Proposed fieldwork location: Indonesia

Topic: *Exploring the Influence of Socio-cultural Predictors of Digital Exclusion on Outcomes of Digital Engagement between the Western and Eastern Part of Indonesia*



Xiao Tong Quek

Degree: MSc International, Social and Public Policy

Proposed fieldwork location: Indonesia and Malaysia

Topic: *The socio-economic impacts of mitigation policies implemented post-ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution on smallholder farmers in Indonesia and Malaysia*



Pavla Yzabelle Tan

Degree: MSc Gender, Media and Culture

Proposed fieldwork location: Philippines

Topic: *Nationalist Discourses in the 2022 Philippine Elections: The (Re) Construction of the Nation by Leading Presidential Candidates Leni Robredo versus Bongbong Marcos*

“

For my dissertation project, I am utilising the fieldwork grant funding towards the transcription and the translation of online audiovisual campaign materials from the recent 2022 Philippine presidential elections. I aim to contribute to ongoing discussions on Philippine politics and nationalism by highlighting alternative insights that draw from gender studies and media & communications studies. As a Filipino student at LSE, I am incredibly grateful to SEAC for supporting this project that is specific to my personal context, but also a significant opportunity to share research on my country to a global audience.”

– Pavla Yzabelle Tan



Jeffrey Tong

Degree: MSc Regional and Urban Planning Studies

Proposed fieldwork location: Singapore

Topic: *Governing Urban Nature-based Solutions: An Analysis of High-rise Green Infrastructure Regulation in Singapore*



Myra Torcheux

Degree: MSc Human Rights and Politics

Proposed fieldwork location: Cambodia

Topic: *Transnational Justice and Politics in the Cambodian Diaspora*



Sophie Worrall

Degree: MSc Environmental Policy and Regulation

Proposed fieldwork location: Malaysia

Topic: *Drivers of sustainable palm oil certification? Case study of Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) and barriers for smallholder uptake*

Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The SEAC Undergraduate Research Fellowship scheme seeks to engage LSE undergraduate students with the research by SEAC's Centre Associates. Undergraduate Research Fellows (URFs) are expected to gain important insight into the work of an academic in planning, conducting and disseminating scholarly research,

while offering the opportunity for 75 hours of paid work with the project lead. The Southeast Asia Undergraduate Research Fellowship scheme is supported by Arvind Khattar, whose generous gift has helped SEAC to further develop its research activities.

Migration and Childhood in Sabah and beyond

URF: Kesha Menon Jayadeep, BA Anthropology and Law, Department of Anthropology

Kesha is working with SEAC Associate Professor Catherine Allerton (Dept of Anthropology, LSE) for her project entitled, "Migration and Childhood in Sabah and beyond"

Project Summary:

Sabah, an East Malaysian state in the north of the island of Borneo, is home to thousands of children who have been born across borders to migrant parents from eastern Indonesia and the southern Philippines. Such cross-border births are unauthorised by the Malaysian migration regime, which treats unskilled and semi-skilled foreign workers as a mobile, single and ultimately expendable labour force. The descendants of such workers are, in many respects, Sabah's 'impossible children'. They are denied access to public education and healthcare and spend much of their lives in workers' housing or squatter villages, out-of-sight of Malaysian citizens. At constant risk of arrest and deportation, many of them begin work at a young age in Sabah's factories and plantations. The lives of these children, therefore, have much to teach us about the reproduction of inequality and exclusion in migrant families, as well as the ways in which children come to feel a sense of (linguistic, cultural, and place-based) belonging.



This URF project will provide essential bibliographic assistance to Professor Catherine Allerton as she completes publications based on child-focused ethnographic research with children of migrants in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah, carried out from 2012-13. The URF project will help to highlight the most relevant work by Malaysian and Indonesian scholars writing in Malay/ Bahasa Indonesia.

URF reflections from 2020-21 awardees:

“

The URF programme has been a wonderful opportunity for me to actively participate in some of the valuable research that the Southeast Asia Centre is doing whilst working with supportive and engaging supervisors. As an undergraduate, opportunities that would allow me to contribute to scholarly research are very limited, which makes the work done by SEAC all the more important. As my time as an Undergraduate Research Fellow is coming to an end, I feel like I have a clearer sense of my own research interests in terms of both my dissertation, as well as my plans for pursuing a Master’s degree.”

– Angbeen Abbas, BSc Sociology

“

I am extremely grateful that I have access to the rare opportunity of working as a research assistant. Through the URF, I am developing important transferable skills such as project planning, liaising, and many others. The programme is especially valuable since I am able to learn practical research skills and refine my thought process, on top of gaining subject-specific knowledge. I notice myself becoming less fearful of bringing my academic ideas into life. This experience consolidated my wish to stay in academia for graduate studies.”

– Jimin Oh, BSc International, Social, and Public Policy

Postgraduate Dissertation Prize

The LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre Postgraduate Dissertation Prize on Southeast Asia showcases outstanding social science research on Southeast Asia from LSE postgraduate students. Submissions were received from across LSE departments, all of which were at first-class level.



Winner

Gray Brakke

MSc programme in Urbanisation and Development, Department of Geography and Environment

Ambivalent Insurgencies: Citizenship, Land Politics, and Development in Hanoi and Its Periurban Fringe examined the Vietnamese state and urban citizenship, focusing on the city of Hanoi.

Gray Brakke is an alumnus of the MSc programme in Urbanisation and Development (Department of Geography and Environment) at the London School of Economics and most recently worked as a graduate intern for SEAC, working on the forthcoming edited volume *COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a Post-Pandemic World*. After graduating from Brown University with a BA with honours in urban studies, he worked as an English teacher in Hanoi, Vietnam, where he became interested in urban informality and the politics of land and development.

“

I'm humbled to receive this award, especially after such a challenging academic year coping with the lockdown. I am deeply indebted to my interviewees for sharing their insights with me and to SEAC for supporting me with the Student Dissertation Fieldwork Grant—as well as its flexibility with how I could utilise it during these uncertain times. Thank you so much to SEAC and the reviewers for the honour!”

SEAC Café

Piloting in the 2021/22 year, the SEAC Café was a series of informal small group sessions for open discussion on Southeast Asia topics. Over the course of the year, LSE students were given the opportunity to engage with

LSE SEAC Associates in an array of fields to learn more about their specialism and approach and to understand better pressing regional issues and insights.

“

I loved the SEAC Café series! It was all small groups, and that meant a lot of interaction with the professors, who were all very knowledgeable about SEA. The talks were all very interesting as well with short and precise presentations followed by opportunities to ask questions.”

– SEAC Café attendee

Students were able to meet with the following SEAC Associates:

Prof. Kent Deng
(Economic History)

Area of Expertise: Economic development in Southeast Asia
10 December and 25 March

Prof. Tim Forsyth
(International Development)

Area of Expertise: Southeast Asian politics, environment and development
10 November and 10 March

Prof. James Putzel
(International Development)

Area of Expertise: Agrarian reform and comparative politics in Southeast Asia
19 November and 17 March

Prof. Hyun Bang Shin
(Geography and Environment)

Area of Expertise: Urbanism, Southeast Asian cities, infrastructure, planning and urban development
14 October and 24 February

Prof. John Sidel
(Government/International Relations)

Area of Expertise: Southeast Asian politics, religion and nationalism
26 October and 10 February

Dr Tom Smith
(Geography and Environment)

Area of Expertise: Southeast Asian tropical environmental change, wildfires, agricultural practices and land degradation
18 October and 3 March



Academic Engagement

2021-22 Events

Each year, SEAC hosts wide and varied events that build upon a history of engagement between LSE and Southeast Asia. In 2021/22, the Centre continued to host all events online and featured a particularly diverse set of speakers as a result, alongside a broad audience from across the LSE, UK, Southeast Asia, and other countries. Events included roundtables, lectures, and seminars designed to showcase cutting-edge research on Southeast Asian matters and insights.

For the 2021/22 year, SEAC convened the Southeast Asian Waters Series featuring the latest research by experts across the world and convened by Professor John Sidel (SEAC Associate) and Professor Hyun Bang Shin (SEAC Director). The seminar series explored the latest empirical research and analysis and shed new light on the histories and contemporary trends of Southeast Asian waters.

The waterways and waterworks of Southeast Asia have long served as essential bedrocks and thoroughfares for the societies of the region, for fishing and agriculture, for the movement of goods and people, information and knowledge, language and discourse, beliefs and practices, and for the exercise, expansion – and evasion – of power. Scholars have long recognised the centrality of water in the history of Southeast Asia, but recent years have seen important new developments both in scholarship and in the ongoing – demographic, economic, physical, political, and social – transformation(s) of the region, which concern its rivers, sea lanes, and marine beds, and its dams, port harbours, and reclamation projects.



22 June 2022

**Counter-mapping in Southeast Asia:
Mapping with and For the People**

Anitha Silvia (Pertigaan)
Celcea Tifani (Pertigaan)
Zikri Rahman (LiteraCity)
Arnisson Andre Ortega (Syracuse
University)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



15 June 2022

**Sociological Portraits of the
Indonesian Office Corps:
Introducing the INDOMAG Dataset**

Dr Evan A. Laksmana (National
University of Singapore)
Prof. Terence Lee (National
University of Singapore)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



1 June 2022

**Southeast Asian Waters Series:
“Don’t Always Blame Climate
Change”: The Political Ecology
of Uneven Development and
Vulnerability to Flooding in
Southeast Asian Megacities**

Dr Danny Marks (Dublin City
University)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



25 May 2022

**Electoral Dystopias in the Philippines:
From Colonial Democracy to Duterte
and the Return of the Marcoses**

Prof. Vicente L. Rafael (University of
Washington in Seattle)
Prof. John Sidel (LSE)



18 May 2022

**Southeast Asian Waters Series:
Expanding transboundary water
governance: A mobile political
ecology of sand and shifting
resource-based livelihoods in
Southeast Asia**

Dr Vanessa Lamb (University of Melbourne)
Prof. John Sidel (LSE)

11 May 2022

**Doing Research in Cambodia:
Connecting the Dots, Spotting
the Interlinks**

Dr Nhim Tum (CDRI)
Dr Eng Netra (CDRI)
Dr Sabina Lawreniuk (University
of Nottingham)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



4 May 2022

**Muslim parliamentarians and the
allure of socialism: the case of
Indonesia's Masjumi, 1950 – 60**

Dr Lin Hongxuan (National University
of Singapore)
Prof. John Sidel (LSE)



6 April 2022

**Let It Burn Out: The 1957 Flu
Pandemic and Decolonisation
in Singapore**

Dr Loh Kah Seng (Chronicles
Research and Education)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



23 March 2022

**Southeast Asian Waters Series: The
importance of humiliation: 1974,
Vietnam and the South China Sea**

Bill Hayton (Chatham House)
Prof. John Sidel (LSE)



16 March 2022

**Southeast Asian Waters Series:
Urban Waterscapes and Global
Climate Justice: Views from Jakarta**

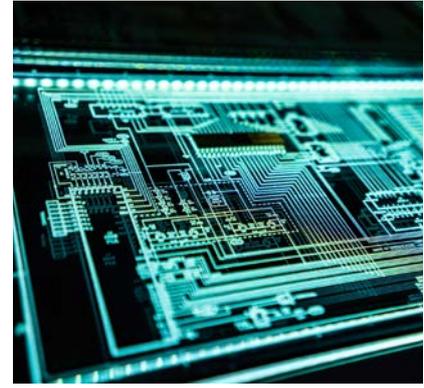
Dr Kian Goh (UCLA)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



9 March 2022

**Community-Led Development
as pathway to Urban Equality:
Perspectives from the ACHR
Network**

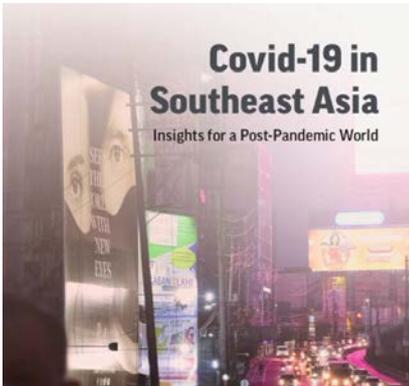
Marina Kolovou Kouri
Brenda Pérez-Castro
Phan Tran Kieu Trang (Danang
Architecture University)
Dr Supreeya Wungpatcharapon
(Kasetsart University in Bangkok)
Dr Barbara Lipietz (UCL)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



3 March 2022

**FinTech in Southeast Asia:
Observations across consumption
and production dynamics**

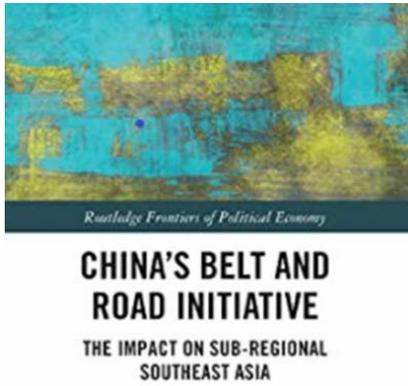
Dr. Karen Lai (Durham University)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



23 February 2022

**COVID-19 in Southeast Asia:
insights for a post-pandemic world**

Dr Rachel Gong (Khazanah
Research Institute)
Dr Sabina Lawreniuk (University
of Nottingham)
Dr Murray Mckenzie (SEAC)
Dr Do Young Oh (Lingnan University)
Abbey Pangilinan
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



9 February 2022

**China's Belt and Road Initiative:
the impact on sub-regional
Southeast Asia**

Dr Soavapa Ngampramuan
(Ramkhamhaeng University)
Dr Tao Song (Chinese Academy
of Sciences)
Dr Christian Ploberger (Rajamangala
University of Technology Tawan-OK)
Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak
(Chulalongkorn University)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



2 February 2022

**The Sino-Soviet Split from
the Periphery: The Philippines
as Case Study**

Dr Joseph Scalice (SEAC)
Prof. John Sidel (LSE)



25 January 2022

The Urban Agency of Global China: Tales from Four Cities in the UK, Malaysia and China

Dr Yimin Zhao (Renmin University of China)
Dr Sin Yee Koh (Monash University Malaysia)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



19 January 2022

Cultivating migrant-driven diversity and the production of difference in Singapore

Dr Junjia Ye (Nanyang Technological University)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



13 December 2021

Critical Voices from Myanmar: Contexts and Concerns after the 2021 coup d'état

Nyi Nyi Kyaw (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen)
Tayzar San (Yone Kyi Yar Knowledge Propagation Society)
Ja Htoi Pan Maran (National Unity Government of Myanmar)
Dr Jayde Roberts (UNSW)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



6 December 2021

Roundtable: Living heritage and urban informalities: perspectives from Southeast Asian cities

Marina Kolovou Kouri (UCL)
Dr Elizabeth Rhoads (Lund University)
Dr Jayde Roberts (UNSW)
Sri Suryani (Sheffield University)
Dr Supitcha Tovivich (Silpakorn University)
Dr Catalina Ortiz (UCL)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



24 November 2021

Southeast Asian Waters Series: Property, Profit & Risk: Jakarta's Real Estate Industry and the Ongoing Water Crisis

Emma Colven (University of Oklahoma)
Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



17 November 2021

Southeast Asian Waters Series: Ghosts in the Machine: Technology and Imperialism in Maritime Asia

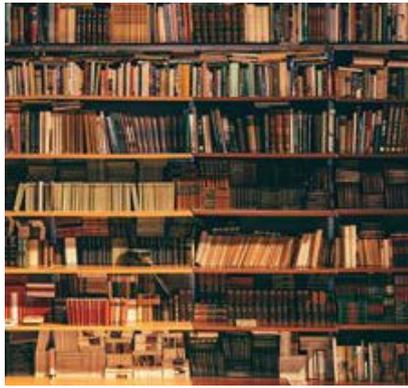
Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell University)
Prof. John Sidel (LSE)



10 November 2021

Roundtable: Southeast Asia's Contentious Polls: Electoral Management in Comparative Perspective

- Prof. Duncan McCargo (University of Copenhagen)
- Dr Petra Desatova (University of Copenhagen)
- Dr. Sarah Shair-Rosenfield (University of Essex)
- Prof. Chin Huat Wong (Sunway University)
- Dr Netra Eng (CDRI)
- Prof. John Sidel (LSE)



20 October 2021

Book Launch: Republicanism, Communism, Islam: Cosmopolitan Origins of Revolution in Southeast Asia by Prof John Sidel (SEAC Associate)

- Prof. John Sidel (LSE)
- Dr Hongxuan Lin (National University of Singapore)
- Dr Su Lin Lewis (Bristol University)
- Dr. Nicole Cu-Unjieng Aboitiz (University of Cambridge)
- Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



13 October 2021

With, without and/or against the state? Exploring the (re)production of space in the Global South

- Dr Jie Shen (Fudan University)
- Dr Ofita Purwani (Universitas Sebelas Maret)
- Dr Wangui Kimari (University of Cape Town)
- Dr Lina Martinez (Universidad Icesi)
- Dr Gilbert Siame (University of Zambia)
- Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (LSE)



6 October 2021

The Colliding Emo-Scapes of Indonesia and Malaysia Affecting Migration Governance: Emotional Connectivity and the Counter Narratives of Migrant Domestic Workers

- Dr Shanthi Thambiah (University of Malaya)
- Prof. Catherine Allerton (LSE)

Southeast Asia Forum

The LSE Southeast Asia Forum is SEAC's annual flagship event, designed to convene discussions around some of the region's most critical and pressing issues. In 2021 the Southeast Asia Forum focused on showcasing the high-quality and exciting research on Southeast Asia taking place at the LSE. In particular, the week featured: work supported by SEAC – our Research Fund awardees

and Undergraduate Research Fellowship projects; Southeast Asia PhD Research; a roundtable focused on one of the Centre's core themes of Urbanism featuring the work of Visiting Fellows; and a Public Lecture chaired by LSE Director, Baroness Minouche Shafik celebrating the legacy of Professor Saw Swee Hock the Centre's founding donor.



Monday, 25 October

Environment and Politics in Southeast Asia: Presentations by the awardees of the SEAC Research Fund

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin

(LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Dr Tom Smith (Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, SEAC Associate)
- Felicia Liu (Research Fellow, University of Oxford)
- Dr Omar Mcdoom (Department of Government, LSE)

Tuesday, 26 October

Roundtable: Comparative Urbanism for Southeast Asia

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin

(LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Dr Emma Colven (Oklahoma University, SEAC Visiting Fellow)
- Dr Junjia Ye (Nanyang Technological University, SEAC Visiting Fellow)
- Dr Shaun Sheng Kiat Teo (National University of Singapore)
- Dr Jeremie Molho (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies)





Wednesday, 27 October

The Role of Philanthropy in a New Social Contract

This event was hosted to pay tribute to the life and work of the late Prof Saw Swee Hock, whose generosity and friendship founded the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre.

Chaired by Baroness Minouche Shafik (Director, LSE)

- Prof. Stephan Chambers (Director, Marshall Institute)
- Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Prof. Hyun Bang Shin (Director SEAC)
- Patricia Yeo

Thursday, 28 October

Work and Life in the COVID-19 Era: (Preliminary) findings from the SEAC Undergraduate Research Fellowship Projects

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin

(LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Dr Sin Yee Koh (Monash University, SEAC Associate)
- Jimin Oh (LSE SEAC Undergraduate Research Fellow)
- Prof. Katherine Brickell (RHUL, SEAC Associate)
- Nirmala Arath Prabhakar (Monash University)
- Angbeen Abbas (LSE SEAC Undergraduate Research Fellow)



Friday 29 October

Society and Economy in Southeast Asia: Presentations by LSE PhD researchers

Chaired by Prof Hyun Bang Shin

(LSE SEAC; LSE Geography & Environment)

- Meghan Rose Donnelly (LSE Anthropology)
- Juan Jose Rivas Moreno (LSE Economic History)
- Yorga Permana (LSE Geography and Environment)
- Dr Omar Mcdoom (Department of Government, LSE)

EDI at the Centre

SEAC approached all its work with LSE’s principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in mind. This approach can particularly be seen in our events programme, where we welcome a diverse range of speakers to the Centre to discuss regional topics from a variety of backgrounds,

approaches, and academic disciplines. Decentring knowledge production and access to knowledge is core to the Centre’s approach. We are pleased to report on our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) at the Centre, and in particular, to share statistics on our speakers:

Academic Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of Events	17	17	38	30
Number of Speakers	73	33	88	81
By Gender				
Male	38	13	41	34
%	52.1%	39.4%	46.6%	45.7%
Female	35	20	47	47
%	47.9%	60.6%	53.4%	54.3%
By Region of home institution				
UK	43	16	40	25
%	58.9%	48.5%	45.5%	36.3%
EU	5	7	4	6
%	6.8%	21.2%	4.5%	6.7%
OS	25	15	44	50
%	34.2%	45.5%	50%	57%
(Southeast Asia)			(29)	(34)
%			(33.0%)	(38.0%)



Publications

SEAC is delighted to have published COVID-19 in *Southeast Asia: Insights for a Post-pandemic World*, co-edited by SEAC Director Professor Hyun Bang Shin. This book features the work of 38 contributors, more than 30 of whom originate from Southeast Asia or are based therein. This new edited volume compiles reflections on the following three themes: (1)

Urbanisation, digital infrastructures, economies, and the environment; (2) Migrants, (im)mobilities, and borders; and (3) Collective action, communities, and mutual action. The book is available to download free via LSE Press.

Books, Book Chapters and Edited Volumes

- **Long, Nicholas J.** (2022) Fieldwork, or family therapy? Kinship, status, and therapeutic ethnography in Sumedang, West Java. In: Haug, Michaela and Stolz, Rosalie, (eds.) *Ethnographic Encounters: Essays in Honour of Martin Rössler*. Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, Cologne, DE. ISBN 9783896455123
- **Shin, Hyun Bang**, Mckenzie, Murray and Oh, Do Young, (eds.) *COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a post-pandemic world*. LSE Press, 1 - 33. ISBN 9781909890763
- Mckenzie, Murray, Oh, Do Young and **Shin, Hyun Bang** (2022) *Insights for a post-pandemic world*. In: Shin, Hyun Bang, Mckenzie, Murray and Oh, Do Young, (eds.) *COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a post-pandemic world*. LSE Press, 1 - 33. ISBN 9781909890763
- **Shin, Hyun Bang**, Jin, Yi, Koh, Sin Yee, Mckenzie, Murray, Oh, Do Young and **Zhao, Yimin** (2022) *Postscript: in-pandemic academia, scholarly practices, and an ethics of care*. In: Shin, Hyun Bang, Mckenzie, Murray and Oh, Do Young, (eds.) *COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a post-pandemic world*. LSE Press, 291 - 306. ISBN 9781909890763
- **Shin, Hyun Bang** (2021) *Theorising from where? Reflections on de-centring global (Southern) urbanism*. In: Lancione, Michele and McFarlane, Colin,

(eds.) *Global Urbanism: Knowledge, Power and the City*. Routledge, 62 - 70. ISBN 9780367200961

- **Sidel, John T.** (2021) *Republicanism, communism, Islam: cosmopolitan origins of revolution in Southeast Asia*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. ISBN 9781501755613

Research Articles, News Articles

- Natarajan, Nithya & **Brickell, Katherine** (2022) Credit, land and survival-work in rural Cambodia: rethinking rural autonomy through a feminist lens. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 22(3). 473-488. <https://doi.org/10.1111/joac.12486>
- **Brickell, Katherine**, Lawreniuk, Sabina, McCarthy, Lauren, Chhom, Theavy & So, Hengvotey (2022) 'Worn out': Debt discipline, hunger, and the gendered contingencies of the COVID-19 pandemic amongst Cambodian garment workers. *Social and Cultural Geography*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2022.2055778>
- Natarajan, Nithya, **Brickell, Katherine**, Guermond, Vincent, Lawreniuk, Sabina & Parsons, Laurie (2021) *Challenging the Financial Inclusion-Decent Work Nexus: Evidence from Cambodia's Over-indebted Internal Migrants*. *Global Public Policy and Governance*, 1. 361-381. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43508-021-00026-7>

- **Brickell, Katherine.** (2021) Event(ful) spaces of organised legal encounter: Reflections from a client consultation competition on domestic violence law in Cambodia. *Area*, 53(4). 586-594. <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12660>
- **Forsyth, Tim** and Springate-Baginski, Oliver (2021) Are landscape approaches possible under authoritarianism? Multi-stakeholder governance and social transformation in Myanmar. *Environmental Science and Policy*, 124. 359 - 369. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2021.07.010>
- **Koh, Sin Yee & Sin, I Lin** (2022) Race, whiteness and internationality in transnational education: Academic and teacher expatriates in Malaysia. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 45(4), 656-676. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2021.1977362>
- **Koh, Sin Yee, Zhao, Yimin and Shin, Hyun Bang** (2021) The micropolitics of speculative green urbanism at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia. *Geography and Environment Discussion Paper Series* (21). Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, London, UK.
- **Yee Koh, Sin, Zhao, Yimin and Shin, Hyun Bang** (2021) Moving the mountain and greening the sea: the micropolitics of speculative green urbanism at Forest City, Iskandar Malaysia. *Urban Geography*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2021.1999725>
- **Cheng, Yi'En & Koh, Sin Yee** (2022) The 'soft infrastructure' of the Belt and Road Initiative: Imaginaries, affinities and subjectivities in Chinese transnational education. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjtg.12420>
- **Martin-Anatias, Nelly, Long, Nicholas J., Graham Davies, Sharyn, Aikman, Pounamu Jade, Appleton, Nayantara Sheoran, Deckert, Antje, Fehoko, Edmond, Holroyd, Eleanor, Jivraj, Naseem, Laws, Megan, Roguski, Michael, Simpson, Nikita, Sterling, Rogena, Trnka, Susanna and Tunufa'i, Laumua** (2021) Lockdown Ibuism: experiences of Indonesian migrant mothers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*, 45.
- **McCargo, Duncan** (2021) Network Monarchy as Euphoric Couplet. *Pacific Affairs*, 94(3), 549-565. <https://doi.org/10.5509/2021943549>
- **Quah, Danny** (2021) Building Back Better With Trampolines. *Straits Times*. 17 November 2021
- **Quah, Danny** (2021) A Thucydides Fallacy: The New Model of Power Relations for Southeast Asia, the US, and China, *THINK*, The Head Foundation Digest. Issue 8, pp. 2-7. Reprinted from *The Diplomat* (July 2019), with new introduction section. <https://headfoundation.org/2021/06/18/think-issue-8/>
- **Sidel, John T.** (2021) Vanessa Hearman. Unmarked Graves: Death and Survival in the Anti-Communist Violence in East Java, Indonesia. *The American Historical Review*, 126(2), 779-780. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhab332>
- **Steinmüller, Hans** (2022) Sovereignty as care: acquaintances, mutuality, and scale in the Wa state of Myanmar. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0010417522000299>
- **Steinmüller, Hans** (2021) State, mind, and legibility without writing in the Wa State of Myanmar. *Ethnos*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00141844.2021.2007153>
- **Steinmüller, Hans** (2022) Grace is incommensurability in commensuration: the semantics of bwan among three generations of Wa and Lahu prophets'. *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*, 40 (1). 104-120. <https://doi.org/10.3167/cja.2022.400108>
- **Yin, Qingfei, and Path, Kosal** (2021) Remembering and forgetting the last war: discursive memory of the Sino-Vietnamese war in China and Vietnam. *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia*, 9 (1). 11 - 29. <https://DOI:10.1017/trn.2020.10>

Blogs

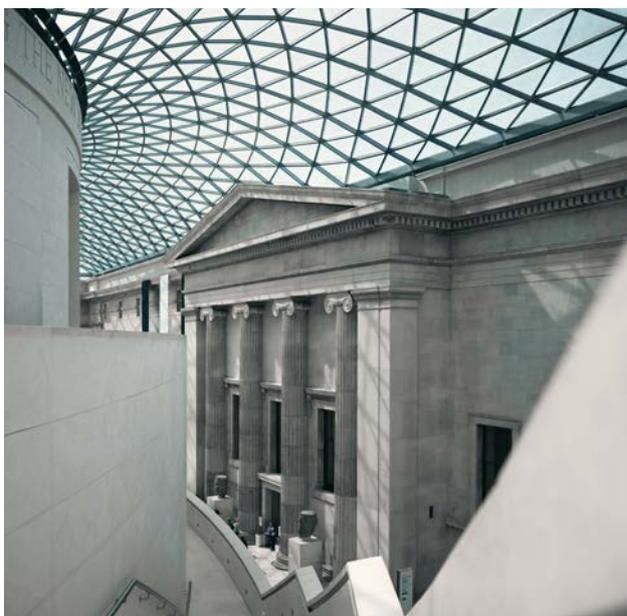
The Southeast Asia blog is a multi-disciplinary blog that analyses and debates the Southeast Asia region's most critical and pressing issues. You can read reflections and insights into governance, urbanisation, human rights, lived realities, and Covid-19 responses, amongst other key topics. For the 2021-22 year, the Southeast

Asia Blog has launched a new initiative, partnering with the LSE Review of Books Blog to review timely, important social science books from & about Southeast Asia. This collaboration ensures that important Southeast Asia books are highlighted and discussed. Popular posts in the 2021-22 year include:

“

The past couple of years with limited conferencing and reduced access to in-person events at LSE and elsewhere has made it difficult to network. During this time, I have really enjoyed dipping into your SE Asia and fieldwork blogs while working remotely. Thank you for those efforts!

– Dr Lonán Ó Briain, Associate Professor of Music,
Department of Music, School of Humanities,
University of Nottingham



Object repatriation and knowledge co-production for Indonesia's cultural artefacts

The repatriation process can be used as an opportunity to decentre the construction of knowledge inspired by or even embodied by the returned objects themselves. However, opening access and co-creation of scholarship should not negate the physical transfer of objects and their ownership because Indonesian communities may consider them pusaka, writes *Panggah Ardiyansyah*.

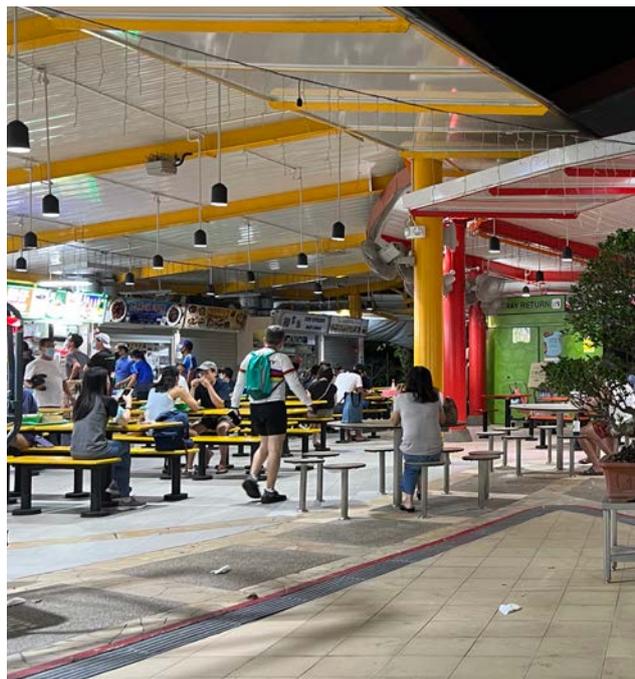


Myanmar's historically 'incomplete' market reforms and their consequences in post-military coup era

Myanmar's incomplete economic reforms can be attributed to three main factors: 1) the strong socialist values embedded in the state by the past political regimes; 2) the conceptualisation of successful state policies in other transition economies without consideration for the country-specific institutional limitations/conditions and 3) the historically close ties between the business groups and the state, writes Sandar Win.

Book Review: Eating Chilli Crab in the Anthropocene: Environmental Perspectives on Life in Singapore edited by Matthew Schneider-Mayerson

Eating Chilli Crab in the Anthropocene: Environmental Perspectives on Life in Singapore, edited by Matthew Schneider-Mayerson, weaves together a spirited anthology that seeks to see the broad web of life between and amongst human and non-human species in the island state with new eyes. Drawing on media and cultural studies, history, philosophy, economics, psychology, and anthropology, the book offers thought-provoking imaginaries, but more importantly, it opens up an avenue of youthful hope for anyone concerned about the looming climate catastrophe, writes Alexandria Z.W. Chong.



LSE Field Research Methods Lab Blog

The Field Research Methods Lab blog is a platform for researchers to share their insights and experiences of field research. Reflecting on methods, challenges, and successes, here you can read about decolonising practice, working with local communities and research design.



Time, openness, and the pursuit of visibility: Reflections on qualitative research during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed new challenges to qualitative research, particularly to ethnographic or semi-ethnographic studies that would normally require a degree of in-person interaction with respondents. In this blog post, I reflect on navigating the processes

behind conducting online, semi-structured, in-depth interviews with the respondents for my dissertation entitled, "Feminist Media Activism in the Philippines: Communication, Community, and Collective Action during COVID-19", writes *Luisa Pineda*.



Critical Theory and Participatory Action Research: In Retrospect of Conducting Fieldwork in Conflict-Afflicted Mindanao, Philippines

The application of critical theory and participatory action research in a complementary manner provides an ideal approach in conducting field research in the conflict driven areas of Mindanao. The inclusion of the research respondents in the research process through a series of deliberative discourses with the researchers, anchored in emancipation and reflexivity, may contribute

to a more comprehensive analysis in understanding the multifaceted issues of conflict and peace in Mindanao. However, this convergence is not immune from limitations, and thus should be perceived as an additional point of reference to continue exploring interdisciplinary and adaptive field research approaches, *writes Jonathan Eli Libut.*

Outreach and Engagement

Director's Outreach

Between April and June 2022, SEAC Director Prof. Hyun Bang Shin undertook visits to Korea, Singapore, and Thailand for research projects, and engagement and outreach activities for the Centre. This visit included:



SEAC Donor Engagement

Prof Shin was delighted to update Mr Arvind Khattar on the Centre's past academic year, its plans for the future, and the invaluable impact of his support for SEAC. Prof Shin met with Ms Patricia Yeo, of the Singapore LSE Trust, and Prof Saw Seang Mei, daughter of SEAC's founding donor Prof Saw Swee Hock to pay tribute to her father and update her on the work and progress of the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre.

Meetings

Prof Shin met with many Academics with shared interests in Southeast Asia Studies, and/or Geography, including academics from the Southeast Asia Center at Seoul National University, the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Nanyang Technological University. Prof Shin was also delighted to meet with SEAC partners and friends who have worked with SEAC on events, blogs, and provided support for SEAC in the region.





LSE Alumni Engagement

Prof Shin was kindly hosted by the LSE Alumni Association of Singapore, and the Thai Alumni Association to discuss SEAC's and the LSE's upcoming engagements with the Alumni Association, and Singapore and Thailand more generally. Prof Shin was further hosted by Thai Alumni Association co-chair Waan Napawong Snidvongs and Khun Sirin Phathanothai for a dinner alongside other prominent LSE alumni and Thai business people. Additionally, many alumni were keen to meet with Prof Shin to discuss regional issues, and the work of SEAC.

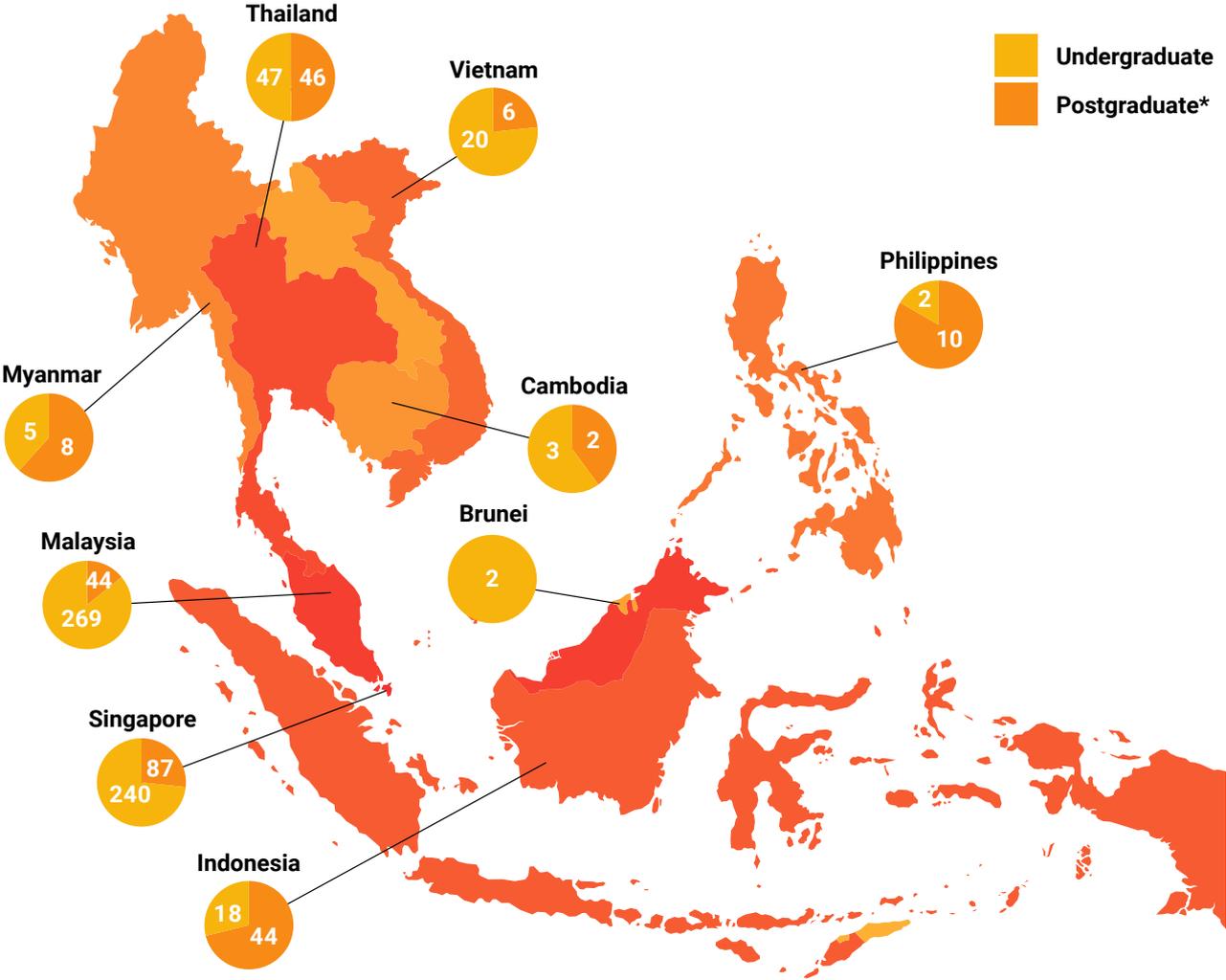


Student Engagement

LSE's student body comprises around 7% of students from Southeast Asia, with 11% of undergraduate students from Southeast Asia, reflecting the region's diversity, culture, and peoples. As Southeast Asia's hub at LSE, SEAC continues to actively engage with Southeast Asian students, particularly with LSE Students' Union societies related to Southeast Asia:



- ASEAN Society
- Filipino Society
- Malaysia Club
- Singapore Society
- Indonesian Society
- Thai Society
- Vietnamese Society



SEAC hosts meetings with LSE Student Societies to discuss ideas for collaboration and enhancing the profile of the Southeast Asian student community. SEAC promotes active, continual dialogue throughout the year and has set mutually beneficial expectations of information sharing, logistical and promotional

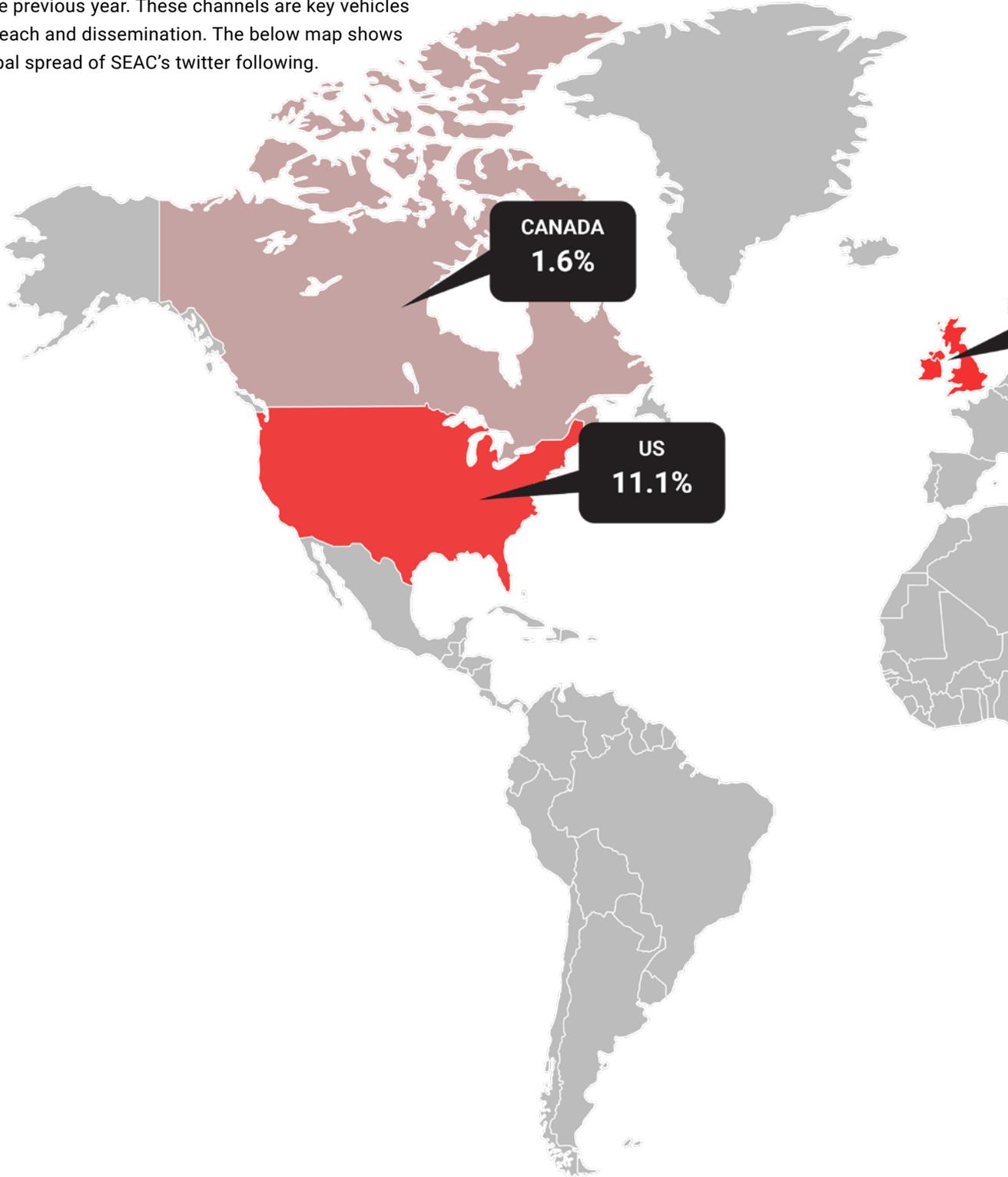
support and attendance or contributions at each other's events. For example, SEAC Associate Nick Long recently chaired an event hosted by the Indonesian and ASEAN Societies, **Doing Our Part: Becoming Great, Innovative and Creative Leaders of Southeast Asia**, featuring the Governor of West Java, Ridwan Kamil.

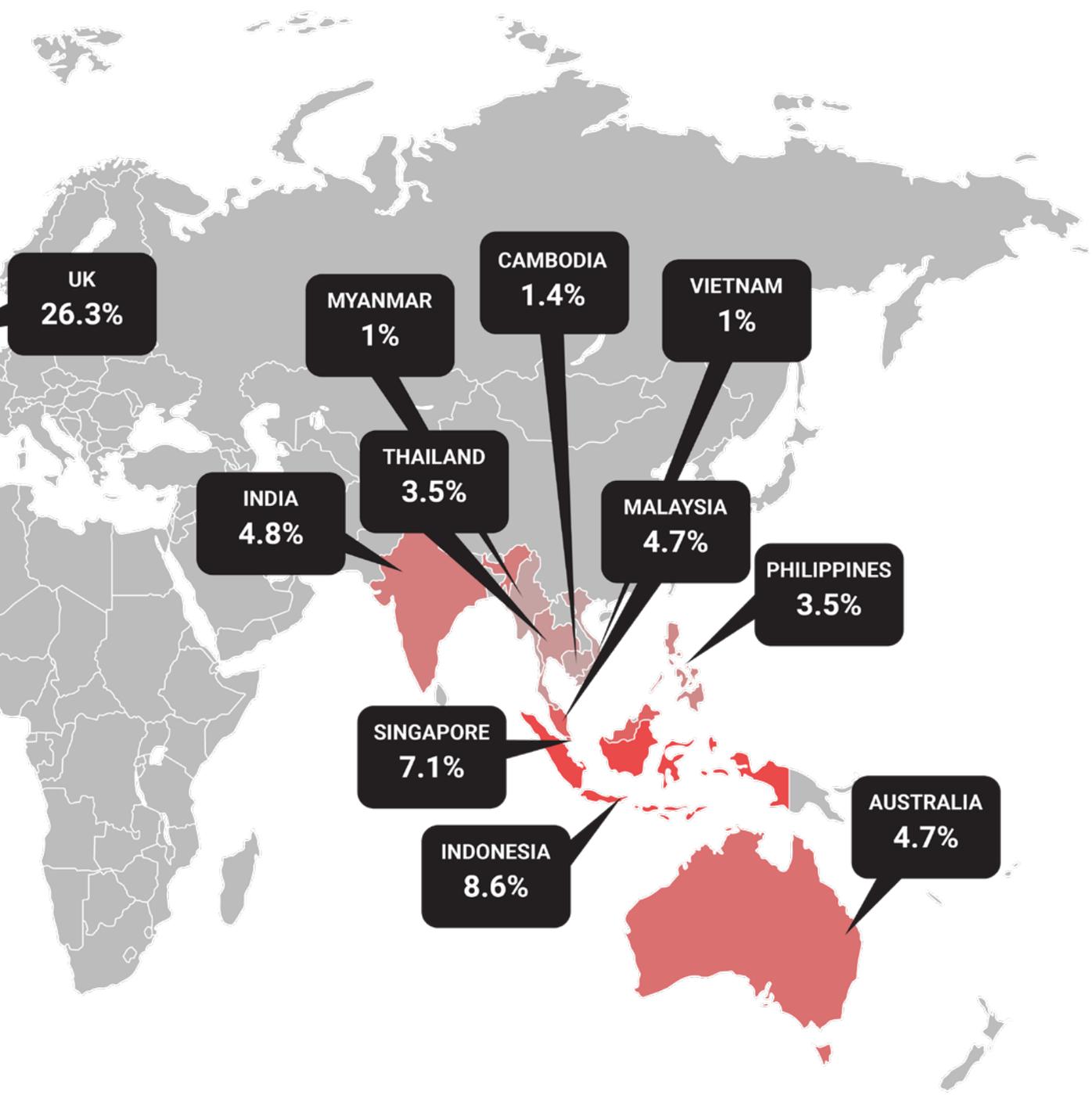
Yearly changes in student numbers

	2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022	
	UG	PG								
Myanmar	1	3	1	2	2	3	4	2	5	8
Thailand	31	65	41	48	43	40	49	28	47	46
Laos	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Vietnam	24	11	25	8	20	5	20	9	20	6
Cambodia	1	1	4	1	3	3	3	2	3	2
Malaysia	325	31	314	32	307	46	286	37	269	44
Singapore	308	98	309	90	287	101	292	76	240	87
Brunei	3	3	3	0	3	1	2	1	2	0
Indonesia	17	26	21	34	22	47	23	39	18	44
Philippines	6	17	3	16	4	9	2	16	2	10
Timor Leste	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	716	255	722	232	691	256	683	212	606	247

Social Media Outreach

Over the 2021-22 year, SEAC has continued to develop its social media channels, with a total of 4,100 Twitter followers and 3,400 facebook followers by the end of July 2022. An increase of over 500 followers on twitter from the previous year. These channels are key vehicles for outreach and dissemination. The below map shows the global spread of SEAC's twitter following.





About the LSE

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a world-leading university, specialising in social sciences, with a global community of people and ideas that transform the world

Founded in 1895, LSE's mission is to transform people and societies by understanding the causes of things. The School's research and teaching focus on major global issues, including the economic threat of climate change, social and economic inequality across the world, economic growth and development, risk in financial markets and structures, global health, and the future of our cities. LSE has been consistently recognised highly for its academic strength: In 2021, it was ranked top in Europe – and second in the world – in social sciences and management subjects for the ninth consecutive year in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021. The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a world-leading university, specialising in social sciences, with a global community of people and ideas that transform the world. In addition to the cosmopolitan faculty and students who make it an international community rooted in London, LSE has developed global, multi-faceted partnerships with a number of prestigious universities. These peer institutions are located in key cities/locations around the world. They include the National University of Singapore, Columbia University, Peking University, University of Cape Town, Fudan University, UC Berkeley and Sciences Po. The LSE partners with these institutions in a variety of ways, including offering dual degrees, student exchanges, faculty exchange, and joint lecture series.



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SOUTHEAST ASIA

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