

Passau Southeast Asian Studies Colloquium

Quo Vadis Thailand? Understanding Thai Politics and Society

11-12 July 2013 at the University of Passau

Since the Asian crisis in 1997 Thai society and politics are passing through a period of transition. This requires an assessment and new perspectives for the analysis of the forces that drive social and political change, going beyond prominent persons and everyday political events. Current research on social change in Thailand is based on social movement research, network analyses (of elites), social structure analysis, strategic groups or discourse analyses. What is their respective analytical strength and weakness? Can these approaches be connected? Do we need alternative approaches?

In this two day conference the Department for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Passau aims to highlight and compare the analytical capacity of these approaches. It will be asked what theoretical and methodological tools they can provide to explain the current state of Thai politics and society, and what tools are needed for an empirically-based development of theoretical approaches.

Programme:

| Thursday, 11.7.2013 Juridicum Room 147B | |
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| 15:00-16:30 | <u>Chair: Perapong Manakit</u> Continuity and Change of the Analysis of Societal Change, Ruediger Korff Continuity and Change of Sociological Analysis in Thailand, Pitch Pongsawat |
| | Coffee break |
| 17:00-17:30 | Trajectories of Southeast Asian History, Dagmar Hellmann-Rajanayagam |
| 17:30-18:30 | Discussion |

Friday, 12.7.2013

ITZ Room 004

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| 9:30-11:00 | <p><u>Chair: Pitch Pongsawat</u> Two Twilights in Modern Siam, Charnvit Kasetsiri Political Buddhism in Thailand, Marja-Leena Heikkilä-Horn</p> |
| | <p>Coffee break</p> |
| 11:30-12:30 | <p>Discussion</p> |
| | <p>Lunch break</p> |
| 14:00-15:00 | <p><u>Chair: Ruediger Korff</u> Politics à la Thailand, Pavin Chachavalpongpun Contemporary Thai Politics: With or Without Theory, Surachat Bamrungsuk</p> |
| 15:30-16:30 | <p>Discussion</p> |
| 17:00-18:30 | <p>Discussion: Thai Developments in a Southeast Asian Perspective</p> |