

# **SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PASSAU**

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## Introduction: Southeast Asian Studies in Passau

Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Passau follow a social science approach, with the objective to analyse processes of post-colonial societal transformation. In research as well as teaching we combine more general theoretical social science approaches with detailed empirical studies. The foci are theoretically informed comparative empirical studies of Southeast Asia to identify similarities and differences between and within the countries and sub-regions.

### History:

The Southeast Asian Programme was established in 1984 with Bernhard Dahm (formerly University of Kiel) as the first professor for Southeast Asian Studies in Germany. Later on Harald Hundius joined as Prof. for Thai Literature. After the retirement of Prof Dahm, Vincent J.H. Houben took over his position. In 2000 he left Passau for the Humboldt University in Berlin and in 2004 Prof. Hundius retired. In 2004 H. Rüdiger Korff (before University of Hohenheim) was appointed as Prof. for Mainland Southeast Asian Studies and in the same year Susanne Schröter (formerly University of Frankfurt) as Professor for Island Southeast Asian Studies. She left in 2008 for the University of Frankfurt together with her Ph.D students and since then Tilman Schiel later together with Dagmar Hellmann-Rajanayagam are temporary professors for Island Southeast Asia. Due to the temporary vacancy, at present research on Island Southeast Asia is limited.

At present three professors and seven lecturers together with three lecturers for languages are involved in Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Passau.

### Lecturers and Ph.D. students:

Großheim, Martin, Reader	History	Southeast Asia
Helbardt, Sascha, Lecturer	Political change, civil society	Thailand
Hemtanon, Wimonsiri, Lecturer	Middle Class, political transformation	Thailand
Kaiser, Tim, Ph.D. Student	Dynamic agents, local development	Vietnam
Kurfürst, Sandra, Lecturer	Urbanism, Public life	Vietnam
Ng, Angie, Ph.D. Student	Gender, human trafficking	Mekong South-China
Vogelsang, Irina, Lecturer	Art markets	Indonesia
von Bloh, Hannah, Ph.D. Student	Urbanism, local development	Vietnam
Wehner, Stefanie, Lecturer	Institutions, ecology and society	Yunnan, Mekong
Wilhelm, Mario, Lecturer	Urbanism	Indonesia

**Language Programme:** Chalit Durongphan: Thai; Ngo Thi Bich Thu: Vietnamese; Priatnas: Indonesian

**Library:**

Due to the steady effort of all involved in Southeast Asian Studies and the excellent support from the staff of the library, it is one of the best equipped libraries on Southeast Asia in Germany. Not only are nearly all older internationally relevant books available, new publications are continuously added. Access to social science articles dealing with Southeast Asia is provided besides others through the web of science. A unique archive of newspapers from South-Vietnam from the sixtieth and seventieth is part of the collection.

**Teaching:**

On the BA level courses are offered in the BA-programme "International Cultural and Business Studies". The MA-Programme "Southeast Asian Studies" is fully organized by us. Concerning the Ph.D. programme, in the preparatory phase Ph.D. students are requested to participate in the social science theories and research methodology courses of the MA programme, as a sound base to conduct at least one year of fieldwork in Southeast Asia, usually in close cooperation with partner institutes. Through the research colloquium especially Ph.D. and Master-students are integrated into the current discussions and have a forum to present their findings.

**Research:**

At present we have four connected, partly overlapping main research areas. To maintain a close connection between teaching and research, the research areas correspond with the "advanced research modules" of the MA-Programme:

1. Conflicts and State Formation
2. Dynamics of Urbanism
3. Development Policies and Processes
4. Culture, Religion and Gender

Most research is organized in projects funded by the German Research Council (DFG), the Ministry for Science and Technology (BMBF) and through Ph. D scholarships. The research areas form the base for working groups. Here lecturers, Ph.D. students and MA-students work together and discuss current research and their own work. The whole Southeast Asian Studies with the working groups are the base of our epistemic culture to produce new knowledge.

## Research projects and major research areas:

<b>Research Areas</b>			
<b>Culture, Religion and Gender</b>	<b>Conflicts and state formation</b>	<b>Development policies and projects</b>	<b>Dynamics of Urbanism</b>
<b>Religious dimension of local conflicts: Comparative study of Sri Lanka, Southern Thailand and Myanmar (DFG)</b>		Problems of sustainability in semi-arid regions (BMZ)	<b>Pattern of urban self-organisation (EU Marie-Curie)</b>
<b>Digitalization of Laotian and Northern Thai scripts (DFG)</b>	<b>Institutional, socio-cultural and local political framework for biodiversity (BMBF)</b>		Urban spaces: transformers of modernization (BMBF)
Cultural dialogue and structural pluralism (DAAD)	<b>Processes of social differentiation and change of institutional arrangements (DFG)</b>		
An actor oriented approach to the Indonesian art market	Political conflict, ideologies and the Bangkok middle class	Dynamic actors and shifting modernity in Vinh City, Vietnam (Elite)	
Trafficking of women into the Pearl River Delta		Processes of interaction and negotiation in small urban centres in Vietnam (Elite)	
		The future of cities in Vietnam: identification of relevant problems and research issues (BMBF)	
		Disaster Resilience in Megacities: Adaption and Coping Strategies in Jakarta's Kampung	
			Redefining Public Space in Hanoi (DAAD)

Large scale projects (a research budget higher than 150.000 € ) are indicated by using bold letters.

DFG: German Research Council, BMBF: Ministry of Science; BMZ: Ministry for Economic Cooperation, DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service, Elite: Scholarship from the Bavarian Research Fund

## **Appendix 1: Current research projects:**

### **Religious dimension of local conflicts: Comparative study of Sri Lanka, Southern Thailand and Myanmar, (DFG) Helbardt, Hellmann, Korff**

We proceeded from the assumption that religion could and would be instrumentalised for political purposes. Our assumptions turned out only partly correct. While it could be shown that religion is often instrumentalised for political purposes, the process turned out to be more complex. Frequently, politics were religionised instead the other way round. This meant that politics and policy were instrumentalised for religious aims and purposes and sometimes even to maintain religious precepts. Often both processes reinforced each other. Religionisation of politics was not only a top-down process, but equally frequently a bottom-up one, from the majority group or the minorities and most often driven by the middle classes. Religionisation of politics could happen in three ways:

1. By defining religion as policy, i.e. religious precepts were made politically binding. Besides, private religion was expected to be guaranteed by state action.
2. By defining religion as ethnicity or ethnicity as religion. This meant that adherents of other religions by definition were excluded from the privileged ethnic group or that members of other ethnicities were not considered as even potential members of the religion. Moreover, the expression of religion became ethnically coloured and defined.
3. By defining religion as life-style and its ideas as consumables.

Two ideas underlie religionisation of politics:

1. The combination of the transcendent expectation of a better life and the attempt to achieve this better life in immanence. Religious belonging thus conferred material and political privilege. It sanctioned attacks on the religious other and sometimes made venal characteristics and mortal sins into virtues.
2. Religionisation of politics aims at unity, a concept continuously invoked, but always lacking content. Religious unity was expected to bring about political and national unity. This unity was mainly the public, symbolic and ritualistic submission to political power and the denial of difference. Difference was treason and had to be fought with all means at the state's disposal including religiously sanctioned violence.

To be continued as: "Concepts of unity and structural pluralism: Comparative study of Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia"

### **Cultural dialogue and structural pluralism (DAAD-AA) Korff, Vogelsang, Wilhelm**

Pluralism is a structural characteristic of modern societies, even when overshadowed by discourses of nationalism, the nation state or national cultures. As the co-existence of different religions, multiple ethnic groups and cultural diversity within a territory, region or country shows, pluralism does not imply coexistence of distinct and separated cultures, but even more so means pluralism within a culture. Cultures like ethnic groups demarcate and define boundaries. Boundaries imply separation's, and differences, but these are necessary for the definition and understanding of an own culture. In other words, boundaries are means for the inter-penetration of cultures. Consequently, boundaries indicate differences, but as much similarities. Even more, they often show consensus in the sense that on both sides of the line the boundary is seen as separating something. Cultural identity is therefore only possible by highlighting the differences in relation to another culture, even if these are similar.

In order to make communication and dialog between different cultures possible, it is not advisable to overcome these boundaries. Rather, it is suggested to reflect on the meaning and purpose of boundaries. Then it might be possible to identify similarities in diversity. The project has the aim to discuss and reflect on different scientific cultures. We usually find a 'double constitution' of scientific boundaries: On the one hand we have different scientific orientations, on the other hand science is embedded in a specific everyday life culture.

The project has the aim to initiate a dialog between the three different scientific disciplines: a) law b) social science and c) art. The dialog will not only stipulate the communication between different disciplines, but also the communication between representatives of the same scientific disciplines from different countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Germany). In order to establish continuous communication, we will initiate a series of dialogs. These will be integrated into a common theme: "Vision of the Future".

### **Digitalization of Laotian and Northern Thai scripts (DFG) Hundius, Korff**

The project aims to facilitate research and dissemination of Lao literature and culture (and related research in Southeast Asian and Buddhist Studies as well as in local wisdom and indigenous knowledge) through the digitalisation of approximately 9,600 microfilmed manuscripts (1,006 rolls à 30 m, 35 mm) held at the National Library of Laos and the production of an English-language inventory.

These manuscripts were selected for microfilming from over 84,000 surveyed in Laos during the Preservation of Lao Manuscripts Programme (1992-2002/04), a cultural cooperation project funded by the German Foreign Office, and represent more than five centuries of the country's literary heritage.

### **Institutional, socio-cultural and local political framework for biodiversity, (BMBF) Korff, Wehner**

Landscape can be characterized as a product of overlapping natural and anthropogenic processes. Human activities and practices are determined by social structures, institutions and policies. The aim of the research is to analyze the social and political structure, including actors and institutions within these structures and their interrelation with landscape transformation. Based on this analysis, current dynamics and processes in regards to land-use and landscape transformation in the Mountainous Regions of SW-China can be understood. Despite liberalization of existing markets and emergence of new markets for agricultural products and the liberalization of tenure-rights, farmers have limited influence on decision making about land-use. Choices on land-use are limited through lack of financial resources. Even more so, choices are limited through structural constraints, like lack of information on products and markets and the strong influence of (political) interest groups beyond the village level. On a societal level, within and between the communities in the research area, this leads to emerging disparities. On the landscape level, the over-exploitation of natural resources is intensified; but problems like loss of biodiversity and soil degradation remain widely neglected. Beside the strive for economic improvement, environmental degradation is owing to a lack of functional institutions on different levels to regulate a more enduring interaction with the natural environment as a resource base and a common, globally valued good worthwhile protecting for spiritual and ethical reasons.

## **Processes of social differentiation and change of institutional arrangements in East-Africa and Southeast Asia (together with the University of Bayreuth, applied for at the DFG)**

Comparing East-Africa and Southeast Asia, a striking finding is that somehow Southeast Asia was able to “develop”, while East-Africa appears far less dynamic. Certainly, we have examples countering this observation, but a look at common development indicators like HDI etc. express clear differences. Interestingly, this has not always been the case. The way towards independence was accompanied by brutal anti-colonial wars (Indonesia, Vietnam) and extended civil war (Burma). All countries went through a phase of separatist movements, ethnic tensions and open conflicts. The economic structure was characterized by mono-cultures. In contrast, East African countries were facing numerous problems as well, but in several cases it seemed that chances were far better.

Social science development theories offer at present little in terms of explanations, neither do economic and conventional development theories. We see a possibility for gaining new insights into these processes by following an actor and institution perspective. Actors and institutions are dialectically connected. Acting is regulated by institutions, and institutions result from acting. For the empirical study we will do fieldwork in selected regional centres in Southeast Asia and East-Africa, and analyse the figurations of actors and the institutional structures.

## **Problems of sustainability in semi-arid regions (BMZ, ICRISAT) Korff, Neumeister**

Even though the resource base in semi-arid regions is very limited, population pressures increase, which implies intensified resource use. However, neither forced migration nor rigid family planning can reduce such problems. Consequently, new combinations of possible agricultural products are required that will enhance sustainability as well as family income. The study is conducted in Andhra Pradesh and deals with new hybrids of groundnuts to be combined with cattle raising. We follow and approach of “interdependent-actor assessment”, derived from ideas of Actor-network Theory (ANT) and describe the linkages between multiple actors (including cattle, hybrids etc.) to identify clusters and possibilities for improvement, especially with regards to information flow, and capacities for integrating new actors (machinery, hybrids etc.).

## **Pattern of urban self-organisation (EU Marie-Curie) Korff, Rothfuss**

UrbanSelf - A North-South-Network on Urban Self-Organisation and Public Life in Europe, India and China integrates competences on urban processes with a specific focus on urban self-organisation and how this can contribute to improved urban planning. In the “urban age” this is of particular relevance, because urban problems are increasingly global challenges and it is vital to share knowledge and understanding of these challenges and how to address them. The bringing about of change in governance, policy and politics aimed at enhancing the role of the citizens, and their self-organising activities, will facilitate the rise of organisations that enable the articulation of interests and the creation of supporting socio-economic practices. Accordingly, urban governance has to interface with these citizen-based organisations. The support of self-organisation is the crucial process for such a transition towards real citizen participation. Consequently, self-organisation is a necessity for urban sustainability. The key objective is to understand these forms of organisation through comparative discussion and knowledge transfer of existing research on European cities and rapidly growing cities in India and China.

## **Urban spaces: Transformers of modernization (BMBF) working group “Urbanism”**

Through discussion of current research findings and field studies on urban dynamics of southern Indian Cities it is analysed who are actors and institutions defining the meanings(s) of urban space in India. Commonly actors shaping urban space are identified with elites, administrators or planners. However, thereby the multifold activities shaping urban space by informal activities, the everyday life in slums etc. are widely ignored. Nevertheless, their contribution to the urban economy, society and politics is of major importance, and forms itself a crucial aspect of urban dynamics. The objective is to design research projects on comparative urban dynamics in South- and Southeast Asia.

## **The future of cities in Vietnam: Identification of relevant problems and research issues (BMBF) working group “Urbanism”**

Vietnam is rapidly urbanising. Large cities increasingly incorporate huge rural areas, which are transformed into industrial and housing estates. Smaller cities grow in size and their status is re-defined: Of particular importance are the usually ignored small district cities, and their function within the urban system. Thus, we have two main questions: Firstly, how is the urban system transformed and how this affects the function of cities within the country. Secondly, how does the rise of large cities impact on the hinterland. During workshops dealing with several aspects of urbanisation like migration, changes of land-use, identification of urban problems, connections between urban and national politics as well as questions of administration these issues are looked at and joint research projects designed.

## **Redefining Public Space in Hanoi, (DAAD, Lehrstuhl), Kurfürst,**

The research project focuses on the analysis of the transformation of public space in Hanoi, Vietnam. Changes of power relations between state and society and their reflection in the physical environment of the city are of major concern. Embedded in the discipline of urban sociology, it is the project's aim to contribute to the discussion of the correlation between public sphere as a sociological/political category and the morphology as well as the practices of public space. A main question is whether public spaces are an expression of a public sphere or a prerequisite for its development. According to Sennett, public sphere is a crucial element of urbanism. Furthermore, as Eisenstadt points out, a strong relationship between public sphere and civil society, along with political and economic liberalisation, does exist. Since the introduction of the Vietnamese economic reform program Doi Moi in 1986, an emergence of public spaces and a redefinition of former sacred and official spaces can be observed in Hanoi.

## **Dynamic actors and shifting modernity in Vinh City, Vietnam (Eliteförderung) Kaiser**

The ambitions of many Vietnamese cities are expressed in the slogan “Modern and civilized city” used on banners and posters. These aspirations are, however, not new. Although termed differently, the Vietnamese leadership has carried out a program of modernization since its ascent to power. The development of Vinh City reflects much of the latest history of the country, the versions of modernity that are endorsed by different actors, and even of the worldwide expansion of ideas of a “good life”.

A city can be understood as a text telling of its construction, of the actors involved and of the institutions governing their actions. This project considers the interplay of actors and institutions as the driving force behind urban modernity. It thus takes the local conditions

of Vinh City as starting points to identify dynamic actors and the institutions that play a role in the production of Vinh's urban landscape.

In Vinh, numerous actors from the local, national and international level come together, trying to define what a "modern" city is. However, the ideas of modernity inspiring their agendas do not only differ from actor to actor, but also over time. Going back to the cities reconstruction with the help of the German Democratic Republic after the American War, the study compares the actor-institution interplay of contemporary Vinh to the situation during the Cold War. By analyzing differences and similarities, the study aims at providing a more differentiated view on "shifting urban modernities" than an over-simplifying pre- vs. post-doi moi approach.

### **Processes of interaction and negotiation in small urban centres in Vietnam – The example of regional business networks (Eliteförderung) von Bloh**

Assuming that small urban centres play a unique role within the urban system, the research project aims to identify central attributes of small towns and typical local patterns of organisation. Focus of the research project is the analysis of social structures and processes of interaction within and around small towns. The study regards small urban centres as a social interface at which actors from various life-worlds with different interests, moral concepts and resources meet. The interface analysis thus includes both actors within and outside the selected SIUC and aims at exposing the complex social and institutional networks through which the town is embedded in a wider region. The study contributes to the discussion of the integration of SIUC in the regional cities system as well as their role in rural development and in reducing the pressure on larger cities. The study combines the concept of the social interface according to Norman Long with the concepts of social space of Henri Lefebvre and Anthony Giddens, thus acknowledging the interplay of spatial and social dimensions in local patterns of interaction.

The data for the study was collected during a one-year field study in selected towns in Vietnam and paid special attention to the local entrepreneurs. The field of small and intermediate enterprises is of particular relevance in this context as it is a central site of interaction for various local actors from different fields and provides crucial resources such as off-farm income.

### **Disaster Resilience in Megacities: Adaption and Coping Strategies in Jakarta's Kampung (Münchener Rückversicherung, Lehrstuhl) Wilhelm**

Megacities are particularly vulnerable to the future challenges of population growth, urbanisation and natural hazards. A large share of people living in megacities are poor and reside within slums. Poverty is one factor why slum dwellers are considered a 'key vulnerable group'. On the one hand, they are often forced to settle in hazardous locations, such as flood plains. On the other hand, they do often not have the economic resources available to adequately adapt and cope with hazards.

Jakarta is a megacity where future challenges will be concentrated. The capital city of Indonesia is the largest megacity in Southeast Asia. The urban sprawl already comprises a metropolitan region of around 25 million people. Future population growth in greater Jakarta area will be mainly absorbed by urban slums. It is expected that around 60-70% of the city population lives in so-called 'kampung' (which are often translated as slums). In addition to this, Jakarta's population is highly exposed to natural hazards. In February 2007, floods covered 70% of the city area and caused significant economic losses. Moreover, 450,000 people were displaced and had to temporarily stay in emergency shelters. While the municipality and urban planners are not able to eliminate flood risk, the citizens learned to live with the consequences of flood.

The main objective of the research is to identify the forms of resilience that enable kampung dwellers to adapt to and cope with hazards. It is assumed that the urban poor developed forms of resilience that are mainly based on collective action, or so-called social capital.

### **An actor oriented approach to the Indonesian art market: art and networks, Vogelsang**

Since the 1970s, Indonesia is increasingly integrated into the global economy. With the Asian Crises and the end of Suharto's 'New Order', Indonesia entered a period of democratisation. Both dynamics, globalisation and democratisation, are complex and stipulate processes of social change. In order to understand how global dynamics are transformed into local and regional forms, the research will analyse a field which is dominated by important agents of change in Indonesia. The art market can be considered such a field, as it is sphere where the political and economic elite get involved. Accordingly, art is attached with different meanings and functions. Thus, art markets become a place where different networks intersect and negotiations take place.

Different groups of actors dominate certain spheres, such as politics or the economy. At the same time these groups of actors play a crucial role in the Indonesian art market. Ethnic Chinese, for instance, dominate parts of the economic sphere and are also involved in art trade and/or art collection. By following an actor oriented approach, the research aims to understand the processes of social, cultural and economic change that are reflected in the Indonesian art market.

### **Political conflict, ideologies and the Bangkok middle class, Hemtanon**

Since the eightieth the middle classes have been discussed as democratizing forces and creators of civil society. The constitution of 1997 can be taken as a peak of middle class influence on legislation. However, as later development showed, legislation does not bring about democracy, as long as democratic value sets are missing. This is as well the case for the middle classes, who since the coup in 2006 tend to be conservative forces supporting entrenched elites and their ideologies. This is surprising because especially professionals etc. are supposed to be critical. However, professionals have been exposed far more to elite and state ideologies, and fear that the rise of other groups might decrease their own position. Thereby the middle class turns into more of a petty bourgeoisie. Based on interviews, analysis of new media (facebook) etc. the political attitudes of the middle classes are documented and analysed. A differentiation between authoritarian and democratic character orientation is applied to understand the middle classes within the framework of current political tensions.

### **Trafficking of women into the Pearl River Delta, Ng**

Women trafficking is highly ideologized by different, partly opposing sides. On one extreme, it is either denied that it exists at all, such as by those who describe all prostitution as income generation. On the other extreme, it is argued that all women in prostitution or domestic work, for example, are there due to some form of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception or abuse of power. Regarding the cultural, economic and political structures that allow for or even facilitate the trafficking of women, other contradicting views prevail. The goal of the study is to gain a more realistic understanding. For this research, interviews will be made with involved NGO and international agencies, women who have been identified as trafficking victims and women who are potentially unidentified trafficking victims, with potential visits to the home provinces of affected women.

## Appendix 2: Master Programme Southeast Asian Studies<sup>1</sup>

### Programme Description

The Master of “Southeast Asian Studies” at the University of Passau is a non-consecutive, research-oriented and interdisciplinary study programme, in which high qualified alumni of diverse bachelor or other programmes work on related issues. Duration is two years and language of instruction is English. The language centre of the University of Passau offers courses in Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Chinese into which students can enrol to enhance their skills in a Southeast Asian language. The competences achieved within the study programme prepare for employment in science, departments of research and evaluation in the economic field, administration and politics. The alumni will also be experts in the creation of knowledge in intercultural contexts. Because of the regional focus on Southeast Asia a special competence is gained on one of the globally important economic development areas in which scientific institutions are expanding in order to reach the goal of a “knowledge-economy”.

**The master programme is formed by three modules.**

Module	ECTS	SHW
A: Theory and Methods	30	6
B: Advanced Studies	40	8
C: Research Module	30	Field research
Master Thesis	20	

Master Thesis and the presentation as well as the discussion of results form the final exam of the programme.

### Organisation of the master programme

The courses are part of the three modules shown above. The advanced study module allows specialization into two of four fields. Credits have to be made in four courses focussing on two selected fields of advanced studies. In general, credits are given for 1. literature reviews and 2. an essay (work assignment) and 3. a presentation. Each module as well as the final thesis must be completed successfully.

### Description of the modules:

#### A: Theory and research methodology

In this basic module theories and current empirical research on Southeast Asia will be presented and research methods mediated. Skills are acquired to do empirical research i.e. field work or as study of an organization. With regards to research methods the focus is on participative, qualitative and quantitative research methods as well as techniques of network analysis.

#### B: Advanced Studies

Students have to get credits in four courses, by which they specialize in two of the four fields of study. The students can thereby define their own main focus concerning the region, the main topics, and the disciplinary orientation.

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<sup>1</sup> This description should provide some initial information and is not legally valid. For the current regulations look at the “Prüfungsordnung des Master Studienganges Southeast Asian Studies” at the homepage of the University of Passau

There are four fields for advanced studies from which the two foci can be selected from:

### **B 1. Development policy and economic change**

Subject areas are: change of development policies, the political and socio-economical context of the post-colonial development, function of globalization in relation to socio-economic change, local implications of national and global development policies and strategies, civil society and public life.

### **B 2. Gender, religion and culture**

Subject areas are: gender theories, concepts of gender in indigenous societies, problems of implementing ideas of gender mainstreaming in Asian societies, selected issues as “feminization of poverty”, “gender in social security systems”, “housewifeization”, or “gender-related violence”, introduction into the religions of Southeast Asia, indigenous belief systems in their relation to the reorganization of Southeast Asian societies, religion and identity

### **B 3. Conflicts, disasters, and state formation**

Subject areas are: theories of state- und nation-building, theories on conflicts, concepts of ethnicity and locality, markets of violence, networks of terrorism, anti-terror-strategies, and analysis of conflict processes in Southeast Asia.

### **B 4. Urbanism**

Subject areas are: Urbanism between globalization and localization, self-organization and localities in Southeast Asian cities, Southeast Asian urbanism between particularity and generality, urbanism, centralization und state-building, the role of small and middle towns, urbanism and cultural change

### **C: Research module**

During the research project the acquired skills will be applied. The project can consist of field work, a research oriented internship, visit of research oriented classes at a partner university and/or the combination of these elements in the framework of a coherent project.

### **Master thesis**

The Master Thesis has to be written in the 4<sup>th</sup> (last) term. The thesis shall be proof of the students' ability of academic writing and that she/he can apply academic methods independently on a limited topic. The thesis can be based on the results of the field work/internship A summary of the main findings of the Master Thesis will be presented on a workshop.

### **Application and entrance examination:**

The study programme commences each winter term. Applications should be send to the Commission on Southeast Asian Studies before the end of June. For the application the following basic qualifications are required that have to be documented:

- Curriculum vitae
- Copy of a university/college degree (bachelor, master of arts, diploma, state examination etc.)
- Proven skills in English (UNICert III, TOEFL, IELTS etc., or a degree in a program using English as language of instruction)
- Above average Grade of the academic degree
- Statement of competences and motivations for the programme

For details see the homepage: <http://www.phil.uni-passau.de/en/die-fakultaet/lehrstuehle-professuren/suedostasien/suedostasien/home.html>

### Tentative Study plan in the Master Programme:

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> term (winter-term)</b>	
<b>Part I: Coursework</b>	<b>Theories and methods</b> Mod. A: Theories and empirical studies in Southeast Asian Studies Mod. C: Epistemology and research methods	10 ECTS (2 hours/week) 10 ECTS (2 hours/week)
	<b>Advanced Studies</b> At least one course of Mod. B	10 ECTS (2 hours/week)
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> term (summer-term)</b>	
	<b>Theories and methods</b> Mod. C: research design and development of the research project as well as the presentation at a workshop	10 ECTS (2 hours/week)
	<b>Advanced Studies</b> Selection of two courses of Mod. B	20 ECTS (4 hours/week)
<b>Part II: Research and thesis</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> term (winter-term)</b>	
	<b>Research module</b> Conduction of the research project and the field research abroad Preparation of a report on the field work and presentation of the research findings	30 ECTS
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> term (summer-term)</b>	
	<b>Master thesis</b> and presentation of the master thesis at a workshop <b>Advanced Studies</b> One course of Mod. B	20 ECTS 10 ECTS (2 hours/week)
	<b>ECTS accumulated</b>	<b>120</b>

#### In total:

3 courses of module A (Theory and research methodology):

Theories and empirical studies in Southeast Asian Studies, Epistemology and Research Methods, Research Design

4 courses of module B (advanced studies)

Selection of two research areas with two credits per area

Research Project

Master Thesis

## Appendix 3: Information on the Ph.D. Programme<sup>2</sup>

The Ph.D. programme in the field of Southeast Asian Studies is based on the general regulations, requirements and procedures for a Ph.D. defined in the examination regulations of the Faculty of Philosophy (Promotionsordnung der Philosophischen Fakultät) and the Graduate School of the University of Passau. Applications can be made anytime. For admission, a professor has to agree to supervise the study. Therefore it is advised to directly contact the professor, who should become supervisor. Accordingly, the topic selected and the plan of work should be connected to current research of or associated to the supervisor. To find out about current research, other Ph.D. students being supervised etc. one should have a detailed look at the homepage. (<http://www.phil.uni-passau.de/en/die-fakultaet/lehrstuehle-professuren/suedostasien/suedostasien/home.html>)

In the Southeast Asia Programme the language of instruction as well as of the dissertation and presentations is English. Ph.D. students are expected to live in Passau. As the language spoken in Passau is German, students should have a basic knowledge of German and be willing to improve it. German language courses are offered at the language centre. Ph.D. studies to be supervised by the professors of Southeast Asia Studies should be based on a theoretical concept and competent knowledge of the state of the art to guide empirical work. As many students come from different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds it is common to participate in selected courses of the Master-Programme (epistemology, social science theories and research methods, advanced studies) to prepare a sound research design for the fieldwork. Fieldwork usually takes one year. Certainly, the time for data analysis and interpretation as well as preparation of the thesis depends on individual skills, but it usually takes at least one to two years. In addition, courses are offered at the Graduate School on general and particular issues of scientific work. Participation in the Southeast Asian Studies Research Colloquium is mandatory. One should expect about four years to finish the Ph.D.

Ph.D. students have to present the state of their work on the research colloquium (firstly the research design prior to fieldwork, secondly a data-report after fieldwork and finally main findings). In addition it is expected that they participate in conferences and workshops and prepare working papers or articles. Although cumulative dissertations are possible a monograph is expected.

Ph.D. research is a first step into scientific work. Science is always a collective effort and depends strongly on the constructive critique of others. Only what can be falsified and criticised can be of scientific value! To achieve this, self-organized working groups exist. These consist mainly of Ph.D. and Master students, who work on similar issues. Individual research for the Ph.D. is integrated into these working groups, where the own research as well as new theoretical approaches and studies are discussed. Thus, the student is expected to actively provide and receive constructive critique. The working groups are expected to organise workshops and as far as funds are available other scholars can be invited. Of course, the students can participate (or rather are expected to participate) in other conferences and workshops organized by the Southeast Asia Programme.

Please provide the following information when applying for supervision by one of the professors for Southeast Asian Studies:

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<sup>2</sup> This description should provide some initial information and is not legally valid. For the current regulations look at the "Promotionsordnung der Philosophischen Fakultät" at the homepage of the University of Passau

Main formal requirements as defined by the “Promotionsordnung”:

- Better than average Master-degree or equivalent
- Information about other current or failed attempts to study for a Ph.D.
- Information about other current applications to enrol in a Ph.D. Programme

Requirements for supervision to allow the professor to gain a better understanding:

- C.V. and documentation of degree, courses enrolled and grades received.
- Proof of proficiency in English ((UNlcert III, TOEFL, IELTS etc. or a degree in a program using English as language of instruction)
- Knowledge of a Southeast Asian language
- Outline of the planned Ph.D. study and explanation why the Southeast Asia Programme has been selected for supervision. Statement of what is expected from us.
- Indication about financing the study (scholarship, own funds etc.)

### **Tentative Study Plan in the Ph.D. Programme:**

Prior to admission	Outline to be send to the supervisor, discussion of outline and modification, looking for scholarships and finances
1. year	Preparation of research Participation in selected seminars, additional language training, presentation of project on the research colloquium, organisation of fieldwork (finances, visa, research permit etc.)
2. year	Fieldwork in cooperation with partner institutes
3. year	Data-analysis, writing of the thesis Presentation of findings on the research colloquium, participation in conferences and workshops, preparation of working paper and articles
4. year	Writing of the thesis Presentation of results on the research colloquium, participation in conferences and workshops, preparation of working paper and articles

Currently nine Ph.D. students are enrolled in the Southeast Asia Programme (for their research see current research). Since the programme started in 2006 two candidates have finished their degree in 2009 and 2010.