

SOJOURN

Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia

Volume 31, Number 1

March 2016

Editors' Note

v

Articles

The Demise of Cambodian Royalism and the Legacy of Sihanouk Astrid Norén-Nilsson 1

Mapping the *Srok*: The Mimeses of Land Titling in Cambodia Courtney Work and Alice Beban 37

Health Inequalities, Public Sector Involvement and Malaria Control in Cambodia Frédéric Bourdier 81

Painting as Cipher: Censorship of the Visual Arts in Post-1988 Myanmar Melissa Carlson 116

Painting Their Past: The *Geração Foun*, Street Art and Representing Notions of “East Timorese-ness” Catherine Arthur 173

Fighting the First Indochina War Again? Catholic Refugees in South Vietnam, 1954–59 Phi Vân Nguyen 207

Caodaism in Times of War: Spirits of Struggle and Struggle of Spirits Jérémy Jammes 247

SOJOURN Symposium

Tamils and the Haunting of Justice: History and Recognition in Malaysia's Plantations, by Andrew C. Willford Carl Vadivella Belle Charles Hirschman Edmund Terence Gomez Andrew C. Willford 295

Book Reviews

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----|
| <i>A History of Early Modern Southeast Asia, 1400–1830</i> , by Barbara Watson Andaya and Leonard Y. Andaya | Nicholas Tarling | 321 |
| <i>Tuked Rini, Cosmic Traveller: Life and Legend in the Heart of Borneo</i> , by Monica Janowski | Jon Henrik Ziegler Remme | 325 |
| <i>Identity and Pleasure: The Politics of Indonesian Screen Culture</i> , by Ariel Heryanto | James B. Hoesterey | 327 |
| <i>Indonesian Women and Local Politics: Islam, Gender and Networks in Post-Suharto Indonesia</i> , by Kurniawati Hastuti Dewi | Wendy Mee | 331 |
| <i>Les Oracles du Cao Ðài: Étude d'un mouvement religieux vietnamien et de ses réseaux</i> , by Jérémy Jammes | Janet Hoskins | 333 |
| <i>Essential Trade: Vietnamese Women in a Changing Marketplace</i> , by Ann Marie Leshkovich | Jayne S. Werner | 336 |
| <i>The Lost Territories: Thailand's History of National Humiliation</i> , by Shane Strate | Barend Jan Terwiel | 339 |
| <i>A Sarong for Clio: Essays on the Intellectual and Cultural History of Thailand, Inspired by Craig J. Reynolds</i> , edited by Maurizio Peleggi | Michael J. Montesano | 342 |
| <i>Brunei: From the Age of Commerce to the 21st Century</i> , by Marie-Sybille de Vienne | Drew McDaniel | 352 |
| <i>Narrative Structures in Burmese Folk Tales</i> , by Soe Marlar Lwin | Gerry Abbott | 355 |

Notes & Comment

- | | | |
|--|-------------|-----|
| The Design and Manufacture of Municipal and School Uniforms for a Northeastern Thai Municipality | John Draper | 358 |
|--|-------------|-----|

SOJOURN Editorial Committee

Chairperson: *Ooi Kee Beng* (ISEAS)
Managing Editor: *Michael J. Montesano* (ISEAS)
Book Review Editor: *Benjamin Loh* (ISEAS)
Production Editor: *Stephen Logan* (ISEAS)
Editors: *Terence Chong* (ISEAS),
Hui Yew-Foong (Hong Kong Shue Yan University),
Lee Hock Guan (ISEAS),
Thomas B. Pepinsky (Cornell), *Andrew C. Willford* (Cornell)
Editorial Assistant: *Michael Yeo Chai Ming* (ISEAS)

International Advisory Committee

Barbara Andaya (University of Hawai'i at Manoa, United States)
Mary Callahan (University of Washington at Seattle, United States)
Thak Chaloemtiarana (Cornell University, United States)
Terence Gomez (University of Malaya, Malaysia)
Christopher Goscha (Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada)
Caroline Hau (Kyoto University, Japan)
Ariel Heryanto (The Australian National University, Australia)
Shirlena Huang (National University of Singapore, Singapore)
Ben Kerkvliet (The Australian National University, Australia)
Victor T. King (University of Leeds, United Kingdom;
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, United Kingdom)
Kwok Kian Woon (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
Takashi Shiraishi (GRIPS — National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan;
Institute of Developing Economies — Japan External Trade Organization, Japan)

Editors' Note

This issue of *SOJOURN* begins with a pair of pioneering articles on Cambodia. First is Astrid Norén-Nilsson's deeply informed study of the fate of royalism in the country's politics since 1993. This remarkable article exposes efforts, undertaken beneath the venal and dispiriting surface of recent Cambodian politics, to develop ideological programmes and to foster political legitimacy. Its sophistication and perspective will leave readers eager for the release of Norén-Nilsson's forthcoming book, *Cambodia's Second Kingdom: Nation, Imagination, and Democracy*, whose release is sure to be a major event in Cambodia studies. Sophistication and perspective also characterize Courtney Work's and Alice Beban's equally remarkable article on rural Cambodians' mimicry-in-advance of the desired results of the land titling project launched by Prime Minister Hun Sen in 2012. Their article combines outstanding empirical work and innovative theorizing to set a standard to which we hope future contributors to *SOJOURN* will aspire.

In a third article on Cambodia, Frédéric Bourdier uses the case of the country's malaria eradication programme to argue provocatively that partnerships with external actors undermine its national healthcare delivery system. This article represents a refreshing reminder of the benefits of national sovereignty for even the least-advantaged members of Southeast Asian societies.

The study of Southeast Asian art also features here. We are exceedingly proud to publish Melissa Carlson's article on Myanmar artists' negotiation of the regime of censorship that obtained in their country during the decades of military rule between 1988 and 2011. Carlson — a participant in the landmark Getty Foundation–University of Sydney initiative, “Ambitious Alignments: New Histories of Southeast Asian Art” — draws in her article on interviews with a roster of contemporary Myanmar's most important painters ...

and also with a censorship official. In a second engaging article on art, Catherine Arthur explains the use of street art on the part of members of the generation of East Timorese who came of age after 1975 to assert their place in the new nation. *SOJOURN* is committed to publishing still more scholarship on art in Southeast Asia in the future.

The final two research articles in this issue of *SOJOURN* examine religions in wartime Vietnam. Each underlines the great leaps by which the study of twentieth-century Vietnamese history has developed in recent decades. In the first article, Phi Vân Nguyen analyses the press organs created by Northern Catholic refugees in the southern Republic of Vietnam directly after 1954. She thus reveals the vision of anti-communism and of their own place in the history of the second half of the twentieth century developed by some among those refugees. She also brings to life long-ignored actors and thinkers of a kind to which historians of the region have a deep obligation to devote far more attention. Next, Jérémy Jammes traces the careers of three prominent Cao Đài figures in southern Vietnam at war in order to illuminate both the diversity and complexity of their choices and their common commitment to the role of Caodaism in the country. His article ought to serve as an example for future scholarship on wartime southern Vietnam.

Andrew Willford's *Tamils and the Haunting of Justice: History and Recognition in Malaysia's Plantations* is the subject of the latest *SOJOURN* Symposium. The book treats ethnicity and the now disappearing plantation economy in Malaysia with great originality. In particular, it examines notions of justice as imagined by aggrieved members of a minority resentful that lands developed and populated by their ancestors are now claimed by Malays as their own. Willford argues that notions like these complicate legal demarcations of ethnic difference in post-colonial states. He also examines the variety of strategies that Malaysian Tamils employ to gain access to justice beyond the law. In the spirit of generating scholarly debate and advancing ideas among members of the scholarly community and our readers, Willford contributes a well-argued rejoinder to reviews

of his book by Carl Vadivella Belle, Charles Hirschman and Edmund Terence Gomez. This exchange addresses, not least, the role of critical theory in contemporary ethnographic studies of ethnic politics in Malaysia. The Symposium thus highlights both the value of such framing in making sense of the world of domination and oppression and the role of ethnography in contributing to more just, democratic and egalitarian societies.

In the book review section of this issue of *SOJOURN*, Nicholas Tarling assesses Barbara and Leonard Andaya's most recent book, on the history of early modern Southeast Asia, by raising probing questions about the legacies of conflict evident in Southeast Asians' ordering of their national identities. The section also includes reviews of such important new scholarship on the region as Jammes's *Les Oracles du Cao Đài: Étude d'un mouvement religieux vietnamien et de ses réseaux* and Shane Strate's *The Lost Territories: Thailand's History of National Humiliation* from, respectively, Janet Hoskins and B.J. Terwiel.

The issue concludes with a research note by John Draper of the Isan Culture Maintenance and Revitalization Programme in Khon Kaen, sharing the results of the programme's work to develop distinctive uniforms for students and civil servants in an effort to reinforce regional identity in Northeast Thailand. The project represents a fresh approach to the ever more pressing issue of Thai regionalism first broached in scholarship by Charles Keyes nearly five decades ago.

Terence Chong
Benjamin Loh
Michael Montesano

REFERENCES

- Andaya, Barbara W. and Leonard Y. Andaya. *A History of Early Modern Southeast Asia, 1400–1830*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
- Jammes, Jérémy. *Les Oracles du Cao Đài: Étude d'un mouvement religieux vietnamien et de ses réseaux* [The oracles of Cao Đài: A study of a

- Vietnamese religious movement and its networks]. Paris: Les Indes savantes, 2014.
- Keyes, Charles F. *Isan: Regionalism in Northeastern Thailand*. Ithaca, New York: Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 1967.
- Norén-Nilsson, Astrid. *Cambodia's Second Kingdom: Nation, Imagination, and Democracy*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell Southeast Asia Program Publications, 2016.
- Strate, Shane. *The Lost Territories: Thailand's History of National Humiliation*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2015.
- Willford, Andrew C. *Tamils and the Haunting of Justice: History and Recognition in Malaysia's Plantations*. Singapore and Honolulu: NUS Press and University of Hawai'i Press, 2014.