

The Center for Khmer Studies In Focus

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Mission Statement

The Center for Khmer Studies supports research, teaching and public service in the social sciences, arts and humanities in Cambodia and the Mekong region.

CKS seeks to:

- Promote research and international scholarly exchange through programs that increase understanding of Cambodia and its region,
- Strengthen Cambodia's cultural and educational structures, and integrate Cambodian scholars into regional and international exchange,
- Promote a vigorous civil society.

CKS is an American Overseas Research Center supported by a consortium of educational institutions, scholars and individuals. It is incorporated in the state of Delaware, USA. It receives partial support for overhead and American fellowships from the U.S Government. Its programs are privately funded.

CKS is the sole member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in mainland Southeast Asia.

CKS's programs are administered from its headquarters in Siem Reap and from Phnom Penh. It maintains a small administrative office in New York and a support office in Paris, Les Amis du Centre d'Études Khmères.

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Aerial view of Wat Damnak, 1946

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Welcome to CKS!



Cambodia is often perceived as a land of mystery where time stands still in the seductive beauty of the land and its people. But Cambodia's location at the very center of Asia makes it a key regional geopolitical actor. And although the country's relatively modest size might suggest it could somehow escape the larger politics of the region, its history suggests otherwise. Cambodia was indeed the pivot upon which the outcome of the Vietnam War depended, and when Saigon fell, so did Phnom Penh— into four years of unimaginable misery. China played a key role in bringing the Khmer Rouge to power and in keeping them there.

China's relationship with Cambodia continues to shape the lives and welfare of Cambodians, whether it be its textile sector under Chinese management; the dozens of large-scale dams, roads, and other infrastructure projects built by Chinese companies; or the foreign aid that comes from Beijing with "no strings attached," but in actuality binds Cambodia to China. More recently, Cambodia's close relations with China have compromised ASEAN's ability to stand up to China's increasingly assertive presence in the South China Sea. Once again, Cambodia is a central player, in ways that complicate its relations with its closest neighbors.

As an American Overseas Research Center (AORC), the Center for Khmer Studies takes as its central mission the goal of deepening and expanding understanding of this important but little-known corner of the world by providing research and educational opportunities for new and established American scholars of Cambodia, while also preparing succeeding generations of "young Cambodia hands" at the undergraduate level. We do this so that we can provide expertise on the country from a wide range of perspectives – archaeology, art history, economics, international relations and domestic governance. At the same time, we contribute to building scholarship in our host country. We work collaboratively. Our doors are open to all.

This year, we have expanded opportunities for young American scholars to come to Cambodia to experience the country from an in-depth, sustained, field-based perspective. Our study abroad initiatives included students from Cornell, Wisconsin, and Northern Illinois Universities, as well as from local community colleges in the US. Our senior research fellowships have attracted even scholars in the hard sciences and medicine to explore such questions

as the physical effects of long-term trauma on the body. Our signature regional program is working to create a network of young professionals throughout Mainland Southeast Asia that will provide a long-term, durable collaborative framework to preempt conflict in the region.

CKS's Board of Trustees, consisting both of scholars and individuals interested in Cambodia, has worked hard this year to tighten our governance structures. We have had the good fortune to welcome two new scholar-members to the Board. Sophal Ear is an associate professor at Occidental College and an expert on the political economy of the region, and has distinguished himself as a voice for Cambodian scholarship going back to his days as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. Eve Zucker is an outstanding scholar whose work has taken her deep into the forests of Cambodia to see how social customs have changed as the Khmer Rouge receded from some of the remotest villages into the history books. These young scholars expand the range of expertise within CKS's governance structure. We are so happy they have joined us. As Senior Scholar, the distinguished anthropologist Prof. Alan Kolata, of the University of Chicago, has led a subcommittee overseeing CKS's regional program. Trustee and former United Nations Ambassador Benny Widyono, who now teaches at the University of Connecticut, has lectured widely in Cambodia. Other CKS trustees generously share their professional skills in accounting, finance and investment and the law. Few trustees have been as steadfast in their support of CKS as art historian Olivier Bernier, who supports our budget by leading CKS-sponsored travel.



Please join us in training the next generation of experts on the region.

Lois de Menil, Ph.D.
Former President

Andrew Mertha
Professor of Government Cornell University

Director's Note

The past twelve months have gone by very quickly at CKS. We have been busy with our signature programs, stimulated by our new partners and rewarded by the accomplishments of our senior and junior fellows.

The Cornell University winter program on “Chinese Empire and the Cambodian Experience” brought to Cambodia another cohort of Cornell students who were keen to immerse themselves in this part of the world. Twelve undergraduate students examined the bilateral relations between China and Cambodia and their unique experience with colonialism, the Cold War and contemporary politics. Our partners from Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) in Dryden, NY, also returned with a group of eleven students to engage in an array of community-based activities and coursework.

This program is particularly timely given China’s increasing influence across Southeast Asia, not least its massive investments in Cambodia, and it provides students with deep insights into current geo-strategic, political, and economic dynamics. In the next couple of years, our Center will replicate this model of three-way collaboration between a U.S. university, a community college and CKS, this time in conjunction with the Center for Southeast Asian studies at Northern Illinois University. This will create opportunities for colleges and community colleges in Illinois to explore the rich academic landscape that Cambodia has to offer.

We anticipate that these projects will have the multiplier

effect of facilitating outreach and school engagement, disseminating language and culture training, and developing school curricula. As of 2016, the Center works with a consortium of more than 45 U.S. universities, colleges, community colleges and schools to nurture interest in and further American expertise in the field of Cambodian and Southeast Asian Studies.

CKS has also continued to develop its role as a resource center for its local community by providing library services, conferences, lectures and film series as well as access to its conference hall in Siem Reap to the U.S. Embassy, universities, schools, NGOs and Cambodian artists. Our partnership with the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center has been particularly enjoyable and fruitful and we are looking forward to their making their exceptional archival collections available in Siem Reap in the near future. In recent months Bophana’s co-founder, the Oscar-nominated director Rithy Panh, has twice visited CKS to present his latest films and enchant a new generation of young Cambodians in the art of film making and memory production.

2016 also marks the second year of our signature program on “Exploring Conflict in the ASEAN region”, which is generously supported by the Ford Foundation and the Henry Luce Foundation. This year 14 mid-career professionals from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are undertaking research on the Water-Food-Energy Security nexus. From the threat of salinization in the Vietnam delta, through food security in Myanmar’s dry zone to water management in Phnom Penh’s urban sprawl,



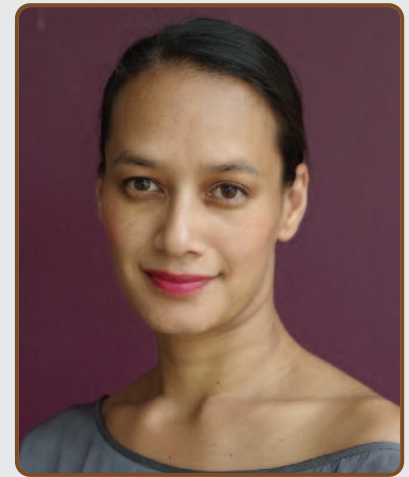
our participants are contributing their unique expertise, research methods and cultural knowledge to build a dynamic and diverse network of professionals across the borders of mainland Southeast Asia. Reflecting the program's early impact is the fact that four of last year's participants recently presented their research findings together at the First Asian Conference on Human Security in Taiwan.

In recognition of CKS' increased profile and impact, the U.S. Department of State has asked us to support a key U.S. foreign policy priority by organizing a workshop entitled "TechCamp: Waterways", in conjunction with the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy. The purpose of this initiative is to enable leaders from the technology community to provide training, resources, and assistance to civil society members and their local communities they represent.

In partnership with the U.S. Embassy, we will also be hosting an English Language Fellow in our headquarters so as to train archaeologists from the Apsara Authority and young professionals involved in the business and tourist industries. Despite more than a century of scholarly work, more research needs to be undertaken by local archaeologists to publish and further our understanding of the civilizations of the pre-Angkorian and Angkorian eras and the middle period. With nearly five million tourists a year mostly heading to the temples of Siem Reap province, the tourist sector is vital for the Cambodian economy, not least

as it is an important source of local employment. Providing both scholars and professionals with English language tutorials is one of the ways we can help our national partners get well prepared to compete within the ASEAN arena. Thanks to the support of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC), we have started to bring together Cambodian and Lao archaeologists and international scholars to promote professional exchanges, facilitate data sharing and create academic platforms that will illuminate the connections between the world heritage sites of Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Wat Phou in Laos.

In expanding our initiatives and offering greater learning opportunities to our ever increasing constituency, the excellent team of skilled and dedicated people I work with ensures that the Center for Khmer Studies, a Title VI funded institution, remains at the forefront of the development of Cambodian and Southeast Asian area studies.



Krisna Uk, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Pictures from left to right

- Picture 1: Faculty from Northern Illinois University (NIU) and colleges and community colleges in Illinois visiting Angkor
Picture 2: 2015 Regional Program participants at the First Asian Conference on Human Security, Overseas Chinese University, Taiwan
Picture 3: 2016 Regional Program participants from Cambodia and Vietnam doing a joint exercise



Members and Benefactors

Eighteen years! As a still young institution the Center for Khmer Studies is now well past the age at which the future seems uncertain. And when we look back at those years, they too, give us reason to be pleased. A tiny, fledgling institution has been brought to maturity; it has fulfilled the mission on which it set out, amplified it, made it more solid. Its scope has become wider as we branch out into the many separate disciplines which come under the heading of Khmer studies. We are now an essential player in two different but related directions: the knowledge of Cambodia's culture, past and present; ever more efficient ways to help educate its young people.

This is due, in part to our ever-closer links with great centers of study in this field: Cornell University, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the University of Chicago, The University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, INALCO, Paris, Thammasat University, Bangkok, the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh among others. These relationships speak for themselves: we are now considered to be an essential part of that scholarly nexus.

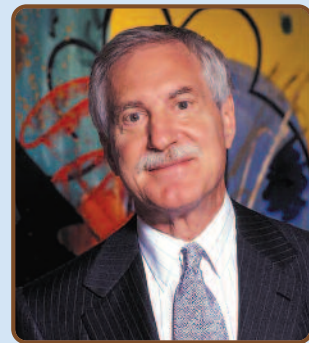
This matters, but so do our activities. Our various programs address important issues through teaching and publications. There are courses, seminars, conferences, programs in which American, French and Cambodian students come together. We study the history and culture of Cambodia; our Library, free and open to the public, is a hugely helpful resource; we look at the country's current needs, but we also remember that we are an American Overseas Research Center. As we help Cambodian students, we also enrich the knowledge available to U.S. scholars and students. As Americans, we need to know more about the rest of the world: this is one of the Center's principal tasks.

Our success in carrying out this mission is known from the U.S. to Cambodia and many places in between. It is to the Center that scholars, researchers, students come when they need to find out more about Cambodia; it is to us that Cambodian scholars and students come when they need to find out more about their country or when they want to broaden their scope.

We also take great pride in our staff: we have trained most of our employees, brought them to a much higher level of knowledge and competence; they, in turn, keep the Center functioning with thoroughness and economy. There could be no Center without these hard-working Cambodians.

Of course, none of that could happen without your support. While we do receive some help from various organs of the U.S. government, this constitutes only a small part of our resources. Foundations have defrayed the cost of several programs. The rest must come from you, our old friends who have been helping us through our eighteen years, our new friends who have only recently heard about us. From the beginning, economy has been our by-word. We spend a very small part of our income on administrative expenses. We carefully watch every dollar and make it go as far as it possibly can. We look at all the items in our budget with an eagle eye; and were it not that it all goes to performing our mission as efficiently as possible, we might be thought to be Scrooge-like in our attention to all financial details.

We are helped in this by the fact that Cambodia is still relatively inexpensive. Our dollars go very much further than they would at home. Thus, when you send in your contribution you know that it makes an important and immediate difference. May we again count on your generosity?



**Olivier Bernier,
President**

Join CKS!

Participate in CKS's growth by becoming a member. Your Annual Fund contributions are essential to support our mission:

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Support CKS's Public Outreach Program.

Free lectures, workshops and conferences, publications on contemporary and historical topics, and translation of essential educational texts into Khmer. (\$30,000 per year)

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U.S. contributions to CKS are tax deductible.

Thank You to Our 2015-2016 Annual Donors!

The Center for Khmer Studies wishes to thank H.M. King Norodom Sihamoni for his continued support.

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We are grateful for your support!

Support CKS Library Fund.

CKS's library is the largest free public library outside Phnom Penh. It offers unparalleled educational facilities to Cambodian students, children and public, as well as to visiting scholars.

- **Support Basic Overhead:** Contribute to our Annual Fund
- **Acquisition of books**, and the ongoing training of our Cambodian librarians. (\$15,000 per year)
- **Donate a new computer** for our library reading room-- regular updating (\$1,500)
- **Connect CKS's Library** to the World Wide Web, with open Wi-Fi access. (\$2,000 per year)
- Help to **Digitize our library** collection-- an unending process. (\$5,000 contributions)

Sponsor the Translation of Key Books into Khmer.

In the absence of books in the Cambodia's native language, CKS

translates and publishes key texts. A donation of \$10,000 will defray costs for an average 300 page book and will be acknowledged in the publication. (\$10,000 contributions)

Sponsor a Cambodian-American to participate in the summer Khmer Language and Cultural Studies Program: (\$3,500 each).

Sponsor a Cambodian-American undergraduate to attend our in-country summer Jr. Resident Fellows Program (\$3,500 each).

Also Support the Southeast Asia Travel Grant Program: enable Cambodian scholars to attend regional conferences

Sponsor a Fellowship for Cambodian, U.S. or other Doctoral Student's Research. (\$5,000-\$10,000 each)

U.S. contributions to CKS are tax deductible.

Travel with CKS 2016

By Olivier Bernier, President



Bologna Piazza Maggiore Notturna

Travel with CKS is going from success to success, perhaps because it emphasizes two kinds of culture: art, architecture, history on one hand, and all the good things of life: local foods and wines, local habits on the other, so that our travelers' range of enjoyments is especially broad. In 2016, our fall trip, *In The Realm of Eleanor*, is taking us to that part of France, between Poitiers and Bordeaux, where Eleanor of Aquitaine reigned. From great Romanesque churches to the Bordeaux vineyard, this trip promises many and varied pleasures.

This year, Travel with CKS offers two trips. In the spring, *Italian Flavors* (April 18-27), will take us to a part of Italy which offers a thrilling blend of great art and gastronomy. Parma, under its Farnese dukes and Ferrara, ruled by the Este dynasty, were both the capitals of independent duchies, and they remind us that prestige, from 1500 to 1800, involved building, collecting and using every possible means to enhance both the décor and the quality of life. In Bologna, one of the oldest universities in Europe started spreading knowledge in the early Middle Ages. Its museums and monuments are among the best in Italy, and the city is also renowned for its cuisine. The enticing qualities of the Italian Spring will be an added attraction.

The Heart of Burgundy, (October 3-14) will take us through

that key province of France: rich in history --the Great Dukes of Burgundy ruled a realm stretching from The Netherlands to the vicinity of Paris-- and also in culture and gastronomy. In Dijon, the extraordinary quality of the tombs of the 15th century Dukes tell us that great art was made there as well as in Italy; Autun will show us one of France's most impressive Gothic cathedrals; and at the Chateau de Sully, still privately owned, we will see one the country's best Renaissance buildings. Of course, there will be meals at Michelin three- and two star restaurants and the gently rolling hills through which we will drive will add to the pleasures of the day.

I hope you will join me on at least one of these splendid trips.



Bologna Piazza Maggiore Notturna

CKS REGIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS FOR CAMBODIANS

The CKS Travel Grant provides partial financial support to help emerging Cambodian scholars attend regional academic conferences and workshops. The grant allows them to present their research, organize a panel, or serve as a panel discussant at a conference in the region. Eight grantees were supported last year:

- 1 **Ms. Saphon Somolireasmey**, a lecturer at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, presented a paper entitled “New Invisible Self of Women in Contemporary Cambodian Society” at the Conference on ASEAN Affinity, held on July 27, 2015, at the College of ASEAN Community Studies, Naresuan University, Thailand.
- 2 **Ms. Lim Thona**, a student at the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Royal University of Phnom Penh, was awarded a travel grant to participate as a speaker at the 3rd International Southeast Asian Bat Conference, held from August 14–17, 2015, in Sarawak, Malaysia. She presented a paper entitled “Cave Selection and Reproductive Phenology of Insectivorous Bats in Southern Cambodian Karst and Their Conservation Implications.”
- 3 **Mr. Un Leang**, a researcher at the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sport, received support to be a keynote speaker at the Socio-Economic Change and Education on November 3 and 4, 2015, at the DAAD Regional Office in Hanoi, Vietnam. His speech focused on higher education and economic development in Cambodia.
- 4 **Mr. Ham Oudom**, an independent researcher, received a grant to participate as a speaker at the First Asian Conference on Human Security held from May 4–6, 2016, at the Overseas Chinese University, Taiwan. He presented a paper entitled “Narrative Analysis of Cambodia’s Hydropower Dam Development.”
- 5 **Mr. Chen Chanratana**, a professor at Zaman University, was awarded a travel grant to serve as the chair of a panel entitled “Art History and Southeast Asian Connectivities in the First Millennium C.E.” at the 2nd SEAMEO SPAFA International Conference on Southeast Asian Archaeology held from May 30–June 2, 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 6 **Mr. Leng Phirom**, a research fellow at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), was given support to present a paper entitled “Chinese Education Aid to Cambodia: A New International Model?” at the 16th World Congress of Comparative Education Societies, held from August 22–26, 2016 in Beijing, China.
- 7 **Ms. Thi Sothearen**, a biodiversity researcher at the Royal University of Phnom Penh’s Center for Biodiversity Conservation, was granted support to deliver a presentation on the topic “Impacts of Human Use on the Tonle Sap Seasonally Flooded Forest at Kampong Luong, Cambodia” at the Conservation Asia 2016 conference, which was held from June 19 to July 2, 2016, at the National University of Singapore.
- 8 **Dr. Vong Meng**, a fellow at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, will present his paper on minority languages in Cambodia at the Southeast Asian Human Rights Studies Network’s 4th International Conference on Human Rights and Peace in Southeast Asia, which will be held in October 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.



Javanese traditional dance.



Lim Thona collecting bats.
Photo by Neil Furey.

The CKS Library

By Jacques Hennessy, Vice-President

Where can you find 15 books on Khmer cooking, a 1914 statistical atlas of Cambodia, and the last 10 years' run of *Cambodge soir*? In Siem Reap, at the CKS library on the grounds of Wat Damnak, of course. These and our 19,000 other titles are what keep our visitors—from students and monks to scholars and even passing cyclists—coming to the library. Happily, the number of users of the library is increasing in all categories, whether it be scholars or children.

Children have been particularly well treated. Sue Guiney, now a habituée of CKS, has kindly given another reading, this time from "The Smartest Giant in Town." Other visitors have generously given of their time: Dr Hedwige Miltzer O'Naghten read from her new book on Jayavarman VII. Hopefully, such lectures will help Cambodian children make sense of the magnificent, awe-inspiring buildings that are their birthright.

At the other end of the scale, but also trying to make sense of the buildings that surround them, are the increasing numbers of researchers making use of our scholar's room, given by Trustee Mary Porter. For instance, CKS has been host for

over a month and a half to Dr. Narendra Kumar Jain an expert in Jain Studies and his colleagues, who have been studying archeological and cultural relations between India and Cambodia. We are delighted that more and more researchers are availing themselves of the resources the CKS library can offer.



Cambodian Living Arts image from the CKS performing arts media station. Photo by Chean Long

These resources are, as always, increasing. We have kept up to date with new Khmer publications, and have been given many foreign publications and important electronic documents. Of particular interest is the replacement by Cambodian Living Arts of our performing arts media station. It now offers 50 gigabytes of images and videos of Cambodian Dance and Music. We have also received a digitized copy of *Kampuchea Surya* done by the Buddhist Institute, its original publisher. This is the most important Cambodian scholarly journal, published from 1926 to 1974, and after the Khmer Rouge interruption, revived from 1994 to 2006.

Unfortunately, what electronics giveth, electronics also taketh away. A disastrous power surge at the beginning of the year destroyed a large part of our catalogue. This has made access to information off site difficult, and has stunted our book exchange program. Nevertheless, the information is still there in the heads of our library's team. They are diligently working to reconstruct the catalogue, with all necessary electronic precautions, and, more importantly, are able to help and guide our visitors through the myriad riches of our library.

With Thanks From CKS

By Olivier Bernier, President



Nancy Lassalle
Board Member

From the very beginning, CKS has depended on generous donors. It is thanks to them that we have been able to fulfill our mission. The time has come, therefore, to start saying thank you.

Today, the person we wish to celebrate is Nancy Lassalle whose generous yearly contribution has given the Library most of its budget. This is no small achievement. A free, public

Library has always been at the heart of the Center in Siem Reap. We started, eighteen years ago, with just a few dozen books. Today, the collection numbers 19,469 books, magazines and newspapers, and all are available to scholars, researchers and student from every part of Cambodia and, indeed, the rest of the world. Even in this electronic age, paper sources matter. Many specialized, and essential, books exist only in print; this is even truer of periodicals. Of course, the catalogue has been digitalized for easier access. Making our collections freely available is at the very core of the center's mission.

The Library, which was inaugurated by His Majesty the King, is always busy. Our librarians, six days a week, are cataloging and adding to the collections. They help readers find the source for which they are searching, they advise them about what is where and supervise the reading room. And, of course, the readers come: last year, we saw 9,586 in the main Library and 3,576 in the Children's Library, a mix of Cambodians, foreign students and scholars. It is fair to say that the Library is a thrilling sight: to see all these people, reading, learning, thinking for themselves is also to see a great future for Cambodia.

Our Library is free: for its users, but not for the Center. And this is where Mrs. Lassalle's generosity has been so effective. To know that we can count on her contribution every year is a huge asset. It has enabled us to receive books from several collections and to buy what we need, safe in the knowledge that we could afford to do so. What a gift! And not just to CKS but also to all who use the Library.

In recent years we have been able to go a step further. The Children's Library is all about beginnings: children are helped and encouraged to read, in Khmer but also in English. The brightly colored drawings on the walls show just how much these young readers enjoy themselves. And, in fact, what we see, as we look at the children, is part of the future of Cambodia.

Nancy Lassalle has made an essential part of our mission possible. She has earned the gratitude of all who use the Library; and now, with deep gratitude, we say thank you.



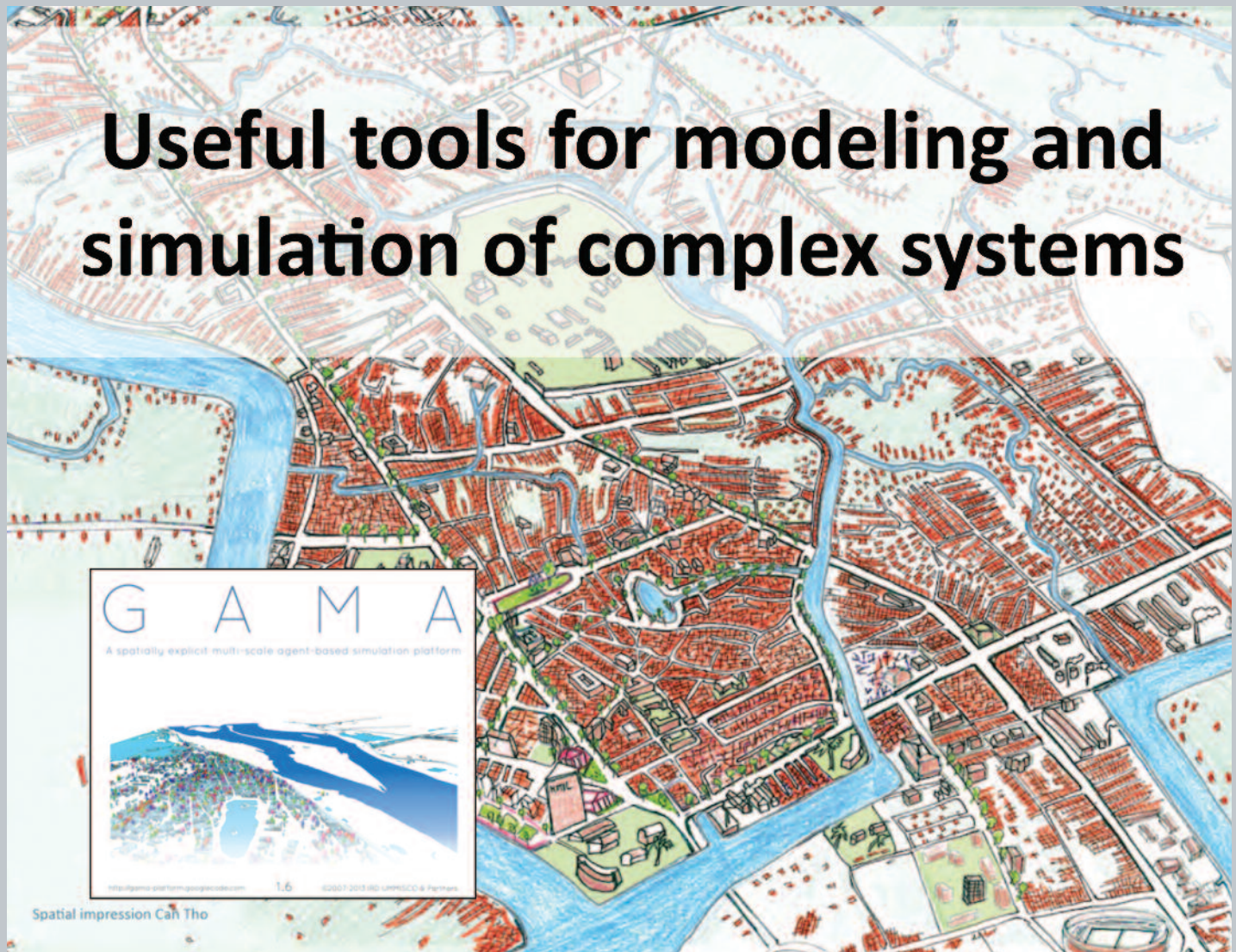
CKS library reading room, Wat Damnak, Siem Reap



Research library

Activities & Projects

Conferences and Workshops



WORKSHOP ON AGENT-BASED MODELLING USING GAMA: “URBAN SIMULATION”

Representing an urban system in all its complexity in order to measure its possible evolution, or to conceive development solutions that are adapted to it, is one of the main challenges of current research in urban modelling. A new modelling approach complementary to classical analytical methods called “agent-based modelling” supports designing models, which are the result of the interactions between computer representations of urban actors such as households, institutions, infrastructure and amenities. These models are then used as a support for a “virtual” experimental method where the dynamics can be studied in great detail thereby allowing

decision-makers to compare potential solutions and experiment with new ones.

The objective of this joint initiative between CKS and the Institut de Recherche et de Développement (IRD) in Vietnam was to introduce the staff of both the Apsara Authority and the Preah Vihear Authority as well as architecture students to this technology. The IRD team used case studies from the region (Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines) to examine key issues related to urban growth, urban mobility and urban segregation. At the end of this one-week workshop, the participants were able to integrate heterogeneous data, write models and explore scenarios in relation to a specific modelling question on urban development in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh and the preservation of archaeological sites.

TRANS-BORDER ARCHEOLOGY: VAT PHOU AND ANGKOR

Dr. Brice Vincent and Dr. Martin Polkinghorne

A workshop organized with the support of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)

Vat Phou in Laos is one of the most significant sites of pre-modern mainland Southeast Asia. In the shadow of *Lingaparvata* mountain, the area is home to a continuously active cultural landscape. From pre-history to the present-day local custodians have lived-in and changed the landscape leaving behind a rich material and written record. The site is connected to the region by its strategic riverine location, but can also claim links overland into the heart of the Angkorian kingdom by a ancient Khmer road that traverses nearly three-hundred kilometres. Remembered today through the stories of the people who live along it, when constructed, the road served successive Angkorian monarchs who visited the most renowned Shaivite sanctuary of Bhadresvara.

The CKS and EFEO workshop gathered forty specialists from Australia, Cambodia, France, Japan, Laos, South Korea, Thailand, and the United States. Participants included cultural heritage managers involved the administration and conservation of Vat Phou; scholars from anthropology, archaeology, epigraphy, history, history of art, linguistics; and students from the National University of Laos in Vientiane and the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. The workshop facilitated ongoing cooperation between Laos, Cambodian and foreign scholars. More importantly, it offered opportunities to discuss future collaborations.

The two-day workshop was divided into three panels. The first panel titled *Vat Phou: Site Management* provided an overview of administration and conservation at the Vat Phou–Champasak Site since 2001 when it was listed on the UNESCO World Heritage register. Bounlap Keokangna (Vat Phou World Heritage Site) and Jean-Charles Castel (Fonds de Solidarité Prioritaire Vat Phou) outlined international cooperation and ongoing issues of site management. Vilasak Phongsawat and Bounlap Keokangna (both Vat Phou World Heritage Site) discussed projects of architectural conservation including interventions of teams from France, India, and the United States. Recent architectural conservation efforts at the Nong Sida monument were introduced by Donghee Park on behalf of Kyunghwan Baek (Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation). A Cambodian-Laos exchange of expertise in sculpture conservation was described by stone conservator Sok Soda (National Museum of Cambodia) who has led numerous conservation missions to the Vat Phou Site Museum. Masao Nishimura (Waseda University) and Rie Odajima (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Waseda University) noted that the communities and villages of Champasak

district are equally important components of the Vat Phou heritage landscape. To wrap up this session, Damian Evans (EFEO) outlined the potential of remotely sensed laser scanning (LiDAR) for site management and landscape archaeology.

The second panel titled 'Vat Phou: Pre-Angkorian Studies' began with an overview of the *Projet de recherche en archéologie lao (PRAL)* by Samlane Luangaphay (Department of Heritage, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism). Luangaphay presented archaeological investigations on the ancient city and sanctuary of Vat Phou operational since the 1990s. Additional papers provided new interpretations of the fifth to the eighth century cultural landscape of Vat Phou. Christine Hawixbrock (EFEO) described new excavations at Nong Din Shi temple, on Phu Malong mountain and David Bazin (Vat Phou World Heritage Site) presented a series of archaeological sites recently discovered on Phou Kao / Lingaparvata mountain. Connections with Cambodia, central Vietnam and Thailand were also discussed through ongoing art historical studies by Jade Thau (École pratique des hautes études). Heng Piphall (University of Hawai'i at Manoa) communicated recent excavations at the site of Thala Borivat in Stung Treng province. Connected to Vat Phou by the Mekong river, material from this site suggests an complex cultural connection not yet elaborated. While there are similarities in seventh century artistic styles, Thala Borivat rectangular brick pavements associated with decorative lintels are not observed at Vat Phou.

The last panel 'Vat Phou: Angkorian Studies' focused on the relationship between Vat Phou and Angkor from the ninth to the fifteenth centuries. Three complementary approaches were presented. A historical study by Ian Lowman (Independent Researcher) described epigraphical material mentioning the renowned Shaivite sanctuary of Bhadresvara and the ancient city of Lingapura. Epigraphy demonstrates that successive Angkorian monarchs visited Vat Phou and it was arguably the most important religious site in the entire Khmer kingdom. Systematic archaeological and anthropological research conducted by the Angkor Living Road Project on the ancient road linking Vat Phou to Angkor considers the enduring importance of this communication route in defining the identities of communities that live along it. Project leaders Im Sokrithy and Khieu Chan (APSARA National Authority) described new archaeological discoveries associated with the road. Finally, Brice Vincent (EFEO) and Martin Polkinghorne (Flinders University) outlined the discovery of a bronze foundry in Angkor Thom. Archaeological survey and materials analysis might demonstrate that Vat Phou and its surrounds were a potential source of copper for this production centralized at the Royal Palace of Angkor.

THE GIANT PUPPET PROJECT

By Stuart Cochlin

In 2016, The Giant Puppet Project celebrated its 10th Annual Parade -- a resounding success! The streets of Siem Reap were lined with over 20,000 spectators, making it a night to remember for all; including the hundreds of children who made the giant puppets, the myriad of musicians and performers who joined the parade and the hundreds of volunteers, who selflessly helped the night to run smoothly and safely.

Conceived as a small community arts project in 2006, this project has grown in stature and popularity over the years, thanks to the dedication of the graduate artists from Phare Ponleu Selpak in Battambang, the Puppet Project team, and the community building this project has nurtured. Since its inception, the Giant Puppet Project has grown into the largest children's art project of its kind in Southeast Asia.

All workshops took place in the beautiful gardens of the Center for Khmer Studies in Wat Damnak, whose campus has been generously donated every year. CKS has also graciously supported the Project since 2009 by offering invaluable teaching, storage, and workshop spaces for the artists and children.

active platform for disadvantaged children, promoting expression and self-confidence through art. Giant puppets are created by the children to convey educational, cultural and ecological themes, such as road safety, endangered species, hygiene, local cultural appreciation and environmental awareness.

Since 2009, trained Cambodian artists run puppet building workshops for hundreds of children over a few weeks. Fun, creative, and educational workshops, they are designed to challenge and encourage the children's imagination.

During the workshops, the children's enthusiasm grows until it bursts onto the streets of Siem Reap on the evening of the Annual Parade. When required, and depending on the type of puppet being made, experts in the field of conservation come to talk to the children about the animals they are making. Organizations like Sam Veasna Center, the Angkor Center for Conservation & Biodiversity (ACCB) and Free the Beers have kindly provided time to talk to the children. Not merely raising awareness, these organizations realize that the key to Cambodia's future lies with the next generation.

As a Cambodian community arts project, it provides a cre-



The very hungry caterpillar

After 10 years, the Giant Puppet Project team is now in the early stages of fundraising and preparing for next year. The Project's growing success as one of Siem Reap's most anticipated event ensures that the potential for the future is incredibly exciting. Keeping the children's puppet workshops at its core, the Project anticipates growing even bigger, inviting more organizations, musicians and performers to join the parade. Next year will provide new opportunities for grassroots organizations working in the arts to jump in and be part of this creative platform. The 2017 Puppet theme will be art & music of 1960s Cambodia -- a notable and flourishing time for the arts. Still in its early stages, next year's parade is planned to overlap with a Siem Reap music festival. Also to be confirmed, a national TV network has expressed interest in broadcasting the parade live throughout the Kingdom. Exciting times ahead!

LECTURES AND FILM SERIES

Over the past twelve months, CKS, further consolidated its successful partnership with the Human Science Encounter in Phnom Penh (HSEPP) by organizing our lecture series with an increased number of joint lectures in the capital city. These lectures were organized with our partner universities: the Royal University of Fine Arts, the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and Zaman University, which provided the venue for CKS scholars to present lectures on their projects. Their research ranged from “Ethnicity and the Reformulation of Political Community in Khmer Chronicles of the Nineteenth Century” to “Sometimes the U.S. Can Make Mistake Too: Contested Memory, Documentary Registers, and Cambodian/American History of Violence, to “Lost and Found: A Pre-Angkorian Buddha in Disguise at Longvek”. Most of our speakers agreed to make their presentations available online to an even greater audience on the CKS’s website.



Film series at the CKS conference hall

Our Siem Reap lectures also give scholars and public intellectuals the opportunity to engage and discuss their latest research. Prof. Bernard Dupaigne, gave a public lecture, titled: “Angkor’s Masters of Iron and Fire” on the occasion of the publication of his long-awaited book. The lecture and the book focused on how the abundant production of iron was key to the formation and influence of the Angkorian Empire.

Our conference hall in Siem Reap has also been put to use for screenings of movies and documentaries. Internationally acclaimed director Rithy Panh came twice to Siem Reap to present his latest films: “The Missing Picture” and “France is Our Mother Country”-- each time gathering a large crowd of enthusiastic Cambodian students, scholars, expats, and Buddhist monks. In partnership with the U.S Embassy, we also screened “The Killing Fields of Dr. Haing S. Ngor” by American documentary filmmaker Arthur Dong. This movie explores the exceptional life of the Cambodian physician, actor and author, who is best known for having won the Academy Award in 1985 for his performance in the “The Killing Fields”. CKS’s collaboration with the Bophana Audiovisual Center recently provided the opportunity for young Cambodian documentary makers to screen and discuss their work with the audience. Three young documentary makers presented their contributions to Bophana’s *One Dollar Project*, a participatory web-based documentary project that enables emerging directors and young multimedia specialists to create compelling seven-minute video portraits to give voice to ordinary individuals living under the poverty line. The subsequent Q&A session provided local students with the opportunity to explore how ethnographic material can be enhanced through cinematographic techniques using images, sound, light and color.



The Killing Fields of Dr. Haing S. Ngor
by Arthur Dong



Rithy Panh at the CKS Film Series



The Missing Picture
by Rithy Panh

CKS Programs

SUMMER JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

By Dr. Alberto Pérez Pereira

This year, fourteen students from Cambodia, France and the United States attended the Center for Khmer Studies Summer Junior Resident Fellowship Program, a six-week seminar in Contemporary Cambodian Studies. The course covers the history, anthropology, geography and economy of the Kingdom and the wider region. Classes were held in both Siem Reap and Phnom Penh and were supplemented by a number of field excursions, including trips to Angkor Wat, the Royal Palace, the National Archives, Kulen Mountain and a Cham Village.

Students also received language instruction – Khmer for foreign students and English for Cambodians. Khmer classes enabled students to have some direct interactions with the population and gave them a foundation in the language should they choose to return to Cambodia to further their work or studies. English classes helped Cambodians tackle academic readings and gave them a venue to polish oral presentations before delivering them to the class.

The program was fortunate to receive visits from recognized scholars, who shared their knowledge and some of their most recent work with the class. This included Dr. Alison Carter, whose recent archaeological work in Angkor Wat is shedding light on the lives of ordinary Khmers during the Angkor period, Michael Powell, who led the class in surveying the problems of climate change and climate change adaptation in Cambodia, and Dr. Gerard Diffloth, who introduced the students to the field of historical linguistics and its application to the study of the histories of Southeast Asia's diverse peoples.

The program ended with the students presenting the results of their independent research projects. Students conducted their own archival research and interviews with the support of the program in order to examine an aspect of Cambodian life that interested them. Topics covered include, attitudes toward garbage management among vendors at Angkor, the impediments to the expansion of solar power in the countryside, the motivating factors behind families keeping their daughters in school, and the rise of a post-colonial, indigenous archaeology in the country.

While not all students will continue their careers in Cambodia, we can be confident that the lessons learned here, along with the friendships they've made will stay with them long after they've returned home.



Base relief of A Buddha statue at Kbal Spean.
Photo by Veronica Walker Vadillo, CKS Senior Fellow 2013-14

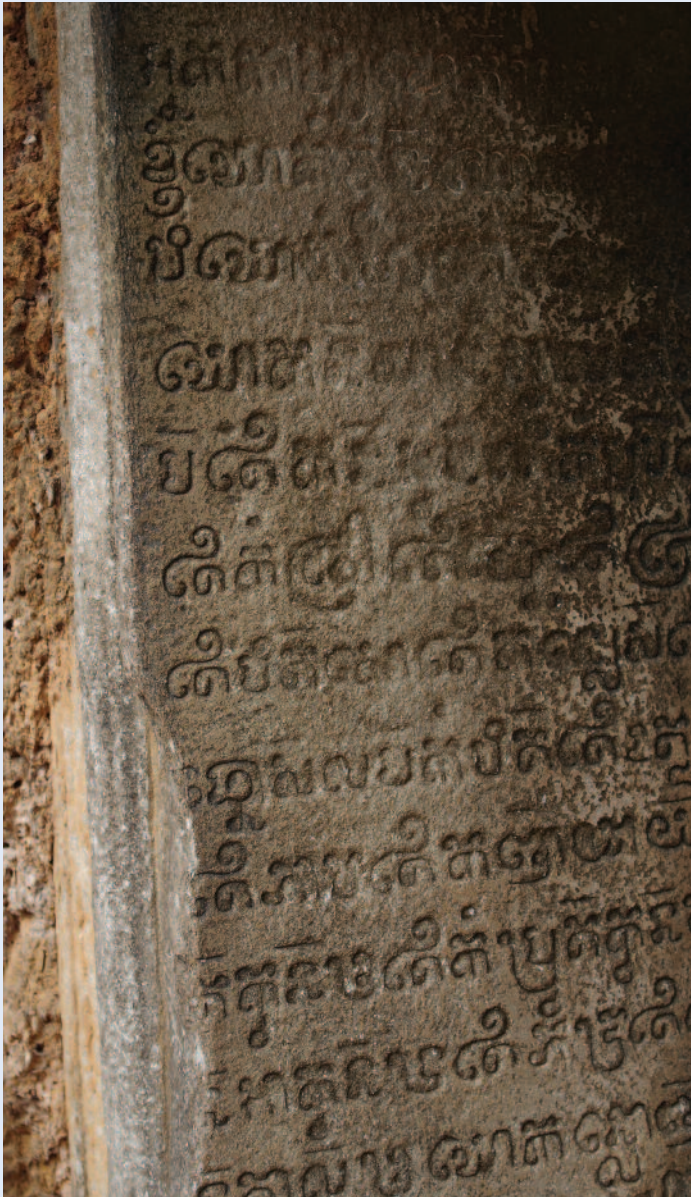


2016 Khmer, American, and French Junior Fellows

KHMER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES PROGRAM

This six-week program focuses on improving participants' Khmer language skills (writing, reading, listening, and speaking) to facilitate their current and future research in Cambodia and improve their understanding of Cambodian culture and society. The program involves intensive language training as well as field visits and guest lectures with a goal of exposing participants to local culture, working life, and development issues in the country. This year, the Khmer Language and Culture Studies Program supported four participants from different universities in the U.S., ranging from an undergraduate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, to an associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago who is conducting research in Cambodia.

In addition to developing their language skills, this year's participants visited important cultural sites in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, including the National Museum, the Royal Palace, the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the temples of Angkor, and the Angkor National Museum. Given the active role of NGOs in Cambodian development, they also had several opportunities to visit NGOs, talk with NGO leaders about their work, and listen to academic talks about Cambodia. At the end of the program, students presented short research papers in Khmer.



Ancient Khmer writings on the walls of Koh Ker



Shadow puppet performance at Wat Damnak

CKS HOSTS CORNELL IN CAMBODIA COURSE ON CHINESE EMPIRE AND THE CAMBODIAN EXPERIENCE

By Andrew Mertha, Professor of Government, Cornell University

The Cornell in Cambodia (CUiC) program was established between CKS and the Cornell Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) in 2014. The goal has been to create a course shell so that any Cornell faculty interested in teaching a class in Cambodia could do so during a two-week window in the winter (January) term. CKS has been absolutely essential to the program's success. The first two inaugural years, CUiC has featured the course, "Chinese Empire and the Cambodian Experience," a course that looks at Cambodia's relations with China, going back to the Angkorian period, of which the only written description that exists was written by Chinese merchant, Zhou Daguan. I have taught it, ably assisted by Cornell graduate student teaching assistants who are experts on Cambodia (Alice Beban-France, 2015, Development Sociology; and Emiko Stock, 2016, Anthropology).

The course is designed to identify some of the most gifted students who do not (necessarily) have any background or knowledge about Cambodia, but who are open to a brand new learning experience. Many of them are attracted to the course because of a prior interest in China. Once in Cambodia, however, a number of these students have become fascinated with the country and have continued to remain engaged with it. The ultimate hope is that some of these students will become scholars of Cambodia or otherwise sensitive to and knowledgeable about the country in a professional capacity in the future.

The course begins with several days of classroom instruction, a crash course in Cambodian and Chinese history, where the two countries' paths intersect, and where they don't. These are lecture and discussion-based learning experiences that very quickly give way to more experiential learning. By the fourth day, we are visiting key histor-

ical sites (apart from the first-day trip to Angkor) relevant to the course. This includes trips to Phnom Kulen, a historical sacred mountain that was also the key base camp and



Student chatting with Ambassador Benny Widyono

training and recruiting area for the Khmer Rouge (KR) from 1970 to 1975. Other trips include a one-day visit to the Krang Leav airfield in Kampong Chhnang province where the Chinese managed the construction of an airport and related infrastructure using the slave labor of disgraced KR military, and later, Khmer Rouge Eastern Zone officials who fell afoul of the KR leadership. The final day, the class travel to Anlong Veng, the site of the final KR stronghold that finally surrendered in 1999 (but which is still full of former KR) to visit the site of Pol Pot's final bunker (which is still standing), his trial and imprisonment (which is not), and funeral pyre.



On the way to Pol Pot's bunker, Anlong Veng



Students at the national archives Phnom Penh

In addition to these breakout field experiences, in which the students see first-hand how the data that eventually gets transformed into books, articles, and policy are gathered and evaluated, there is an excursion to Phnom Penh, where the class visits a key number of research sites. These included the Tuol Sleng/S-21 torture center, the Choeung Ek killing fields, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts



Henri Locard and Andrew Mertha arguing over who built the Krang Leav airfield they are standing on

of Cambodia (ECCC), several key architectural and urban planning landmarks designed by Vann Molyvann, and the National Archives of Cambodia.

The students also meet with and got to know some Cambodian or Cambodia-related notables, including His Excellency Khuon Khun Neay, (one of Vann Molyvann's lieutenants), Henri Locard (an expert on the Khmer Rouge), Sebastian Strangio (author of *Hun Sen's Cambodia*), CKS Board member and former UN Ambassador to Cambodia Benny Widyono, as well as artists and activists.



Students at the national archives, Phnom Penh

Several CUiC alums have gone onto Cambodia-related pursuits. Cole DeVoy (2015) began taking Khmer at Cornell and has just completed intermediate Khmer at the Southeast Asia Summer Institute (SEASSI). Matt Magee (2015) has participated in the 2016 CKS Summer Program. Letitia Chai (2016) has used the CUiC experience as a springboard to working in Myanmar during the summer of 2016. And Abigail Chen (2016) returned to Cambodia that same summer to intern at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CUICP).

CKS and Cornell have also partnered with Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) so make the experience available to its students through TC3's own service learning course in Cambodia. In the first year there were two TC3 faculty and one student; in the second year, there were ten students! Again, the goal is to introduce students who had never been exposed to Cambodia to the rich historical, artistic, and political legacies of the country. The partnership is continuing into the future. This coming year (2017) CUiC will be featuring a brand new class taught by SEAP Director and Associate Professor of Art History Kaja McGowan, "Performing Angkor: Dance, Silk, and Stone."

One of the biggest challenges for any joint overseas program is the collaboration with the in-country host partner. On this dimension, many of my colleagues at Cornell are extremely jealous because of the quality of collaboration between CKS and Cornell. The staff at CKS have been extraordinary. Executive Director Krisna Uk has set the tone of professionalism and cultural sensitivities throughout the experience, beginning with a tour of Wat Damnak and accompanying "riot act" of how to (and how not to) behave in Cambodia. For me, this is one of the most important parts of the course. The library and logistics staff are invariably welcoming and make the students feel at home at CKS. The whole experience for me has been one of the most – if not the most – rewarding pedagogical events in my entire professional career. Thank you, CKS!



Ta Alice beban in the field with students and armed escort
Kampong Chhnang

MID-CAREER REGIONAL PROGRAM ON “EXPLORING CONFLICT IN THE ASEAN REGION” Environmental Change and Challenges in Mainland Southeast Asia

As part of the overarching theme of conflict in the ASEAN region, this year’s mid-career regional program, generously funded by the Ford and the Henry Luce foundations, focused on “Environmental Change and Challenges in Mainland Southeast Asia”. Our participants are analyzing cross-border issues that arise from rapid changes that affect the water, food and energy security nexus within the Mekong Basin Region.

The Mekong region is currently in transition: sovereign nations are opening up to global markets, natural resources are being exploited at increasingly rapid rates, the service sector is expanding, and the region is becoming more and more interconnected by rail, road, transmission lines, and Internet infrastructure. Consequently, the dynamics of connectivity and interdependence among neighboring countries and the energy, food and water sectors are changing rapidly. Human migration, natural resource flows and direct foreign financial investments all influence the connectivity between the countries of the Mekong region.



Prof. John Ward, 2016 Regional Program Instructor



Vietnamese Participant

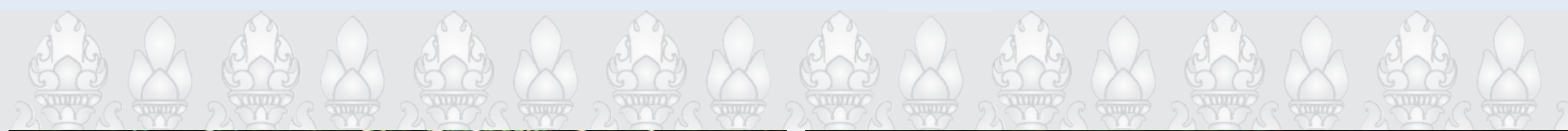
Integrating river management, agricultural productivity, ecosystem services, land use change, and livelihood status into food, energy and water cross-sectoral negotiations exposes an acute knowledge gap when seeking to design development interventions in the Mekong region. Limited cross-sectoral collaboration restricts debate and opportunities to design integrated policies and investment decisions capable of promoting development strategies.

The first week of the program took place in Phnom Penh, under the guidance of our 2016 Regional Instructor, Professor John Ward, a senior Environmental economist with the Bangkok-based Mekong Region Futures Institute (MERFI). The first eight days of the program were dedicated to examining historical development, systems throughout the week analysis, and case studies on sustainable natural resource governance in the Mekong basin the participants crafted their research project.

Dr. Alex Smajgl (MERFI) joined the program to give an introduction to modeling techniques to explore complex social and ecological systems.

Dr. Carl Middleton (Chulalongkorn University) also joined us to engage the participants in discussing a range of issues (including gender balance procedural justice, and distributional fairness) and to provide mentoring on the participants' research projects and extend their transnational professional network.

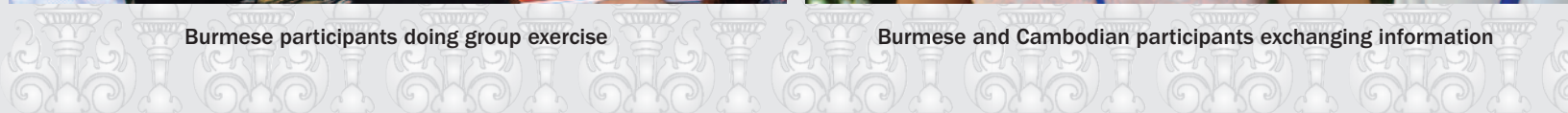
Our participants' backgrounds ranged from Executive Director of Non-Governmental Organization to Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to University Department Head; Reflecting this diversity, their research projects cover a wide range of issues. As a result, some have decided to combine their skills and resources. A few Cambodian and Vietnamese researchers are currently combining their efforts to study the social and economic impact of a set of hydropower dams on the Mekong River. Our Burmese participants are working on the impact of climate change in different parts of



Burmese participants doing group exercise



Burmese and Cambodian participants exchanging information



Myanmar with a specific focus on food security and population vulnerability and adaptability.

The second week of training resumes at the end of October and will enable the fifteen participants to present their research. A seminar on science communication and a session on a spatial decision-making models (MIDAS) presented by faculty from Boston University will provide them with further tools to influence decision-makers, develop solutions, and further collaborate through the regional and international network this program is creating.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: A SUCCESS STORY

By Rethy K. Chhem, MD, Ph.D. (Edu), Ph.D. (His)

Founding President, HOMSEA

Executive Director, Cambodian Development Resource Institute

While practicing as an academic radiologist in Singapore and Canada, I pursued a Ph.D. in history focusing on ancient medicine at Angkor under King Jayavarman 7. Through my reading, I learned of interest in this fascinating topic through the report of the conference on Death and Disease in Southeast Asia organized by the Australian National University on May 6-8, 1983. No other conference on such a theme had been held since then.

In the spirit of promoting the study of the history of medicine in Southeast Asia, I consulted an interdisciplinary community of scholars (including historians, historians of medicine, physicians and academics from many other disciplines): Professor Harold Cook, then Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College of London and Professor Laurence Monnais, Professor at the Department of History of University of Montreal. We obtained the financial and logistical support from The University of Western Ontario and The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, The University of Montreal, and the Center for Khmer Studies along with the personal sponsorship of Dr Lois de Menil, former President and Chair of the Board of CKS.

In 2006, HOMSEA was born. Almost a hundred scholars from Southeast Asia, the rest of Asia, Oceania, Europe and North America attended the first conference held at the beautiful CKS campus within the serene Wat Damnak compound in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Encouraged by this first success, HOMSEA organized bi-annual meetings across Southeast Asia: Penang (2008), Singapore (2010), Solo (2012), Manila (2014) where interest in the topic con-

tinues to grow. Over the years, a broad spectrum of topics, narratives and histories were addressed at those conferences. Various themes have been selected for discussion: history of medical education, Angkorian medicine, Chinese and Indian medicine, indigenous medical traditions, colonial and national medicine, historical medical texts, medicine and social development, etc. In addition to facilitating networking between like-minded scholars, a major output of this project was the publication of many scientific articles and a book entitled, "Global Movements, Local Concerns: Medicine and Health in Southeast Asia." This book looked into the evolution of the practice of medicine and health in Southeast Asia, that was mediated by indigenous healing traditions, imperial interests and various health policies established by colonial powers.

In 2016, we thought that it was time to celebrate this great intellectual journey. It is fitting that the 10th anniversary was celebrated at CKS, the birthplace of HOMSEA. The History of Medicine in Southeast Asia Society has matured and is now composed of loyal and committed leaders and members. HOMSEA has made a great impact on a new generation of scholars interested in the multiple histories of medicine and health in a region of a great diversity.



2016 HOMSEA conference participants



VOICES

Emily Taing, Junior at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), major in “International Development Studies and Asian American Studies”; Summer Resident Fellow 2016

The CKS summer research fellowship is an enlightening experience where students around the world come together to study and appreciate the rich history of Cambodia. During my time at CKS, I have engaged with both visiting scholars and local students. As a Cambodian American, I believe this experience allowed me to explore new areas of studies such as environmentalism and economics while building on my existing knowledge in anthropology and international relations. Coming to Cambodia for the first time and taking part of CKS has been an enriching experience both personally and academically. I look forward to fostering the relationships and networks I have built here in Cambodia.



Myat Thandar Aung, Myanmar Program Coordinator, Aqueous Solutions; Mid-career Professional 2016

Thank you very much for an opportunity to participate in the Mid-Career Program, “Exploring conflict in the ASEAN: Environmental Change and Challenges in Southeast Asia”. The program has helped me make friends and bridging the network with other fellows from Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, and even from my own country, Myanmar. It is amazing to learn about each and every one’s background and what they have been working on to improve life and livelihood in places where help is needed: land issues, water, agriculture, fishery, dam issues etc. Sharing experiences and learning together, exploring different and new perspectives on the same issue during the workshop will strengthen the connection and bonding between the fellows for future work.



In addition, the experienced instructor and guest speakers provided a deeper understanding of what it is like to conduct applied research to change the world for the better using a participatory approach. Within this participatory approach, I learnt different research tools and... which provide a better understanding of the problems, their complexity and associated impacts if a policy or a solution to a problem is to be effective. I can apply my learning experience into my current research and later work in water resource management together with other related sectors such as land, food, energy, ecosystems, and institutional management. I am certain that the connection I have built and what I have learnt from the program will bring more equitable, policy formation for future socio-economic-political-and environment-resource management related issues.

Mr. Pham Van Dung, Collaborator, Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI), Vietnam; Mid-Career Professional 2016

In August 2015 I had the chance to participate in the first week session of the mid-career program “Exploring conflict in the ASEAN region: Environmental Change and Challenges in Southeast Asia” organized by Center for Khmer Studies (CKS). The reading contents of the program were well prepared and proactively shared by the CKS staff and the facilitator. I appreciate the creativeness of the format design of the program, which provided participants with multi-faceted debate on the Mekong regional water-energy-food nexus and simultaneously helped them to refresh and reflect on their working experiences. In addition, multi-stakeholder research and advocacy approach, justice, participatory approach, monitoring and evaluation, quantitative and qualitative analysis were among the useful topics introduced to participants. This is a good way to strengthen participants’ holistic and strategic views towards regional and global interdependent interactions, conflicts and solutions. Specifically, I find this program highly suitable and useful to my interests and future work related to sustainable land use and management of natural resources at the community, national and regional levels. Furthermore, the program has created a good venue for all participants to get familiar with other practitioners and research fellows in the Mekong region. This event is significant for future networking and cooperation between CKS and the participants, and among the participants as well.



Feature Article:

THE KHMER LANGUAGE BELONGS TO THE AUSTROASIATIC FAMILY

By Prof. Gérard Diffloth

Scholars have been claiming for over a century that Khmer belongs to the Mon-Khmer family of languages. More recently, the family has sometimes been re-named Khmer-Mon, even though both terms cover the same languages. As a result, this has created some confusion.

Fortunately, this is no longer an issue. Linguists now generally agree that Khmer and Mon are both members of a larger language family called Austroasiatic, and there is no linguistic reason for making a distinction between Mon-Khmer and Khmer-Mon. But then what is this Austroasiatic language family, and what languages does it include or exclude?

There had been some disagreement in the past over that question. This concerned especially a very important group of languages spoken in India: the Munda languages. Some scholars were reluctant to consider them related to such typically Southeast Asian languages as Mon and Khmer.

That question too is now settled in favor of inclusion. The Munda sub-family is now acknowledged to form a major branch of the Austroasiatic family; and Khmer, as well as Mon, are also major languages of this same Austroasiatic family.

Yet, the inclusion or exclusion of Munda was not the only problem. As years passed and knowledge expanded, it also became evident that the sub-family called Mon-Khmer itself (or, if you wish, Khmer-Mon), had not been carefully conceived of, even as we now count it as a member of the larger Austroasiatic family.

In the early 1900s, Wilhelm Schmidt had included the Chamic languages in his vision of the Mon-Khmer family, and had excluded the Vietic branch altogether. Nowadays, the Chamic languages have been re-assigned to the Austronesian family, and the Vietic languages are taken as full-fledged members of the Austroasiatic family.

When linguists talk of the Chamic languages they include Cham, Jarai, Radhe, Chru, Rōglai, Tsat and Hrôl, spoken mostly in Vietnam with some groups also spoken in Cambodia. These languages have now been shown to be closely related to Malay-Indonesian; therefore they belong to the very large Austronesian family of languages that stretches geographically from Hawai'i to Madagascar. So we now have a very large Austroasiatic family that

includes not only Munda, and Mon, and Khmer, but also 164 other languages, spoken in both sub-continent, India and Southeast Asia, and includes for example Kuay, Phnong, Semai, Palaung, Bit, Khasi, Nicobarese ... and yes, also Vietnamese. What then is the current view about the branches of the Austroasiatic family? Twelve historical branches are now recognized, from West to East, and South:

The Munda languages:

This is a very large sub-family both for its geographic spread and its population figures. Korku, the westernmost Austroasiatic language, is sitting on the Indian East-West continental divide, notably in Amaravati district (Maharashtra), while other Munda languages are found further eastwards, primarily in the states of Jarkhand and Orissa.

Out of a dozen or so Munda languages, Santali, with around 6 million speakers is the largest, while a South-Munda language like Gorum, perhaps now moribund, is reduced to a few hundred older speakers. Mundari, the eponymic language of the Munda sub-family, has over 1.5 million speakers.

Munda languages are known for their extremely rich grammatical systems, unlike anything found in other Austroasiatic languages. Their separation from the rest of the family must date far back into prehistory, even by Indian standards.

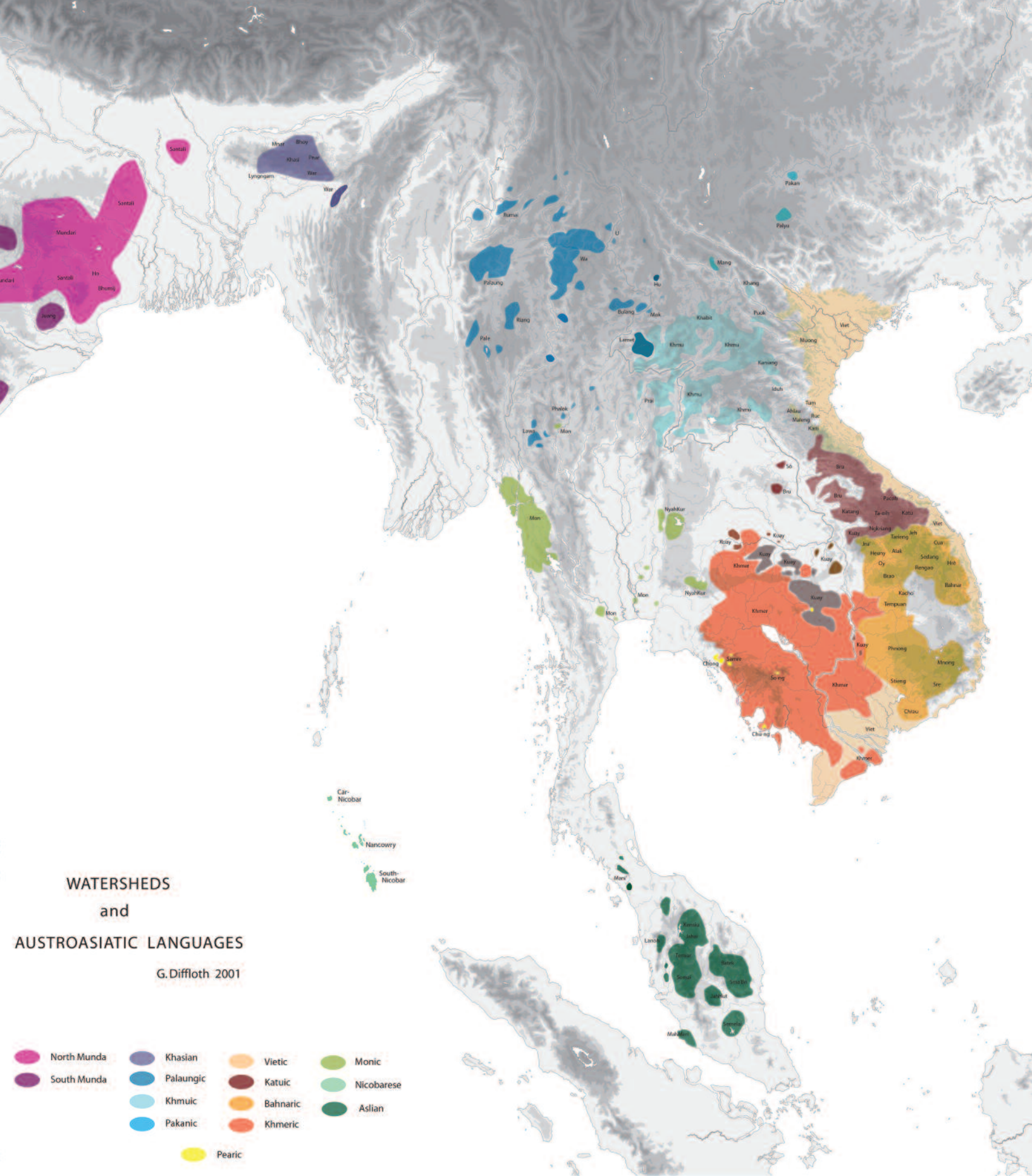
The Brahmaputra River is the absolute dividing line between Munda and the rest of Austroasiatic and the population movements are very ancient. No one at the moment can decide if the proto-languages crossed this mighty river eastwards towards Southeast Asia or westwards from Southeast Asia to India, never to return.

The Khasian branch:

Located in the mountains of Meghalaya, South of Assam and the Himalayas, these four or five languages are spoken by about one million people. The main language, Khasi, has been written in roman script for over 150 years.

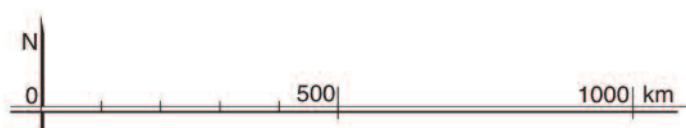
The Palaungic branch:

Scattered over the Shan States of Burma, parts of Southern Yunnan, parts of Northern Thailand and Northern Laos, there are perhaps twenty Palaungic languages all with rich and diverse vocabularies reflecting their very diverse cultures and habitats.



WATERSHEDS
and
AUSTROASIATIC LANGUAGES
G. Diffloth 2001

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| North Munda | Khasian | Vietic | Monic |
| South Munda | Palaungic | Katic | Nicobarese |
| | Khmuic | Bahnaric | Aslian |
| | Pakanic | Khmeric | |
| | | Pearic | |



The Khmuic branch:

Covering most of Northern Laos, only Khmu', the eponymic language, has been well studied. But recent research, for example on the Bit language, may reveal some surprisingly deep historical divisions separating Khmu' from the rest of the Khmuic branch.

Pakanic:

Three small languages Mang, Boliu and Bugar, spoken in Northern Vietnam and Guangxi Zhuang, in China. All have tones and unusual consonants but they clearly belong to Austroasiatic.

The Vietic branch:

Vietnamese has six tones and many words and features borrowed from Chinese and from Thai-related languages. That makes it difficult to understand the older history of the language. The Mýŋg languages, closely related to Vietnamese, also have tones but fewer borrowings from Chinese; they are helpful.

But one needs to look at a group of very small and poorly known languages on both sides of the border with Laos to discover the real story. Ahlau, Kri, Ruc, Arem and a few others, located in Ha Tinh and in Kammuan provinces, are clearly related to Vietnamese, and therefore belong to the Vietic branch, but have not been under Chinese influence. Some of them do not even have tones, and they all have preserved numerous other features that are typically Austroasiatic but have mostly disappeared from Vietnamese over the centuries. These small Vietic languages are the key to understanding not only how Vietnamese developed its own tones, but also to demonstrate that Vietnamese is indeed a member of the Austroasiatic family.

The Katuic languages:

Further South, in Central Vietnam, Central Laos, parts of Southern Isan, and in Northeastern Cambodia, we find a group of about 15 languages, which have remained little known until quite recently: Kuay, Bru, Pacoh, Katu and others, form the Katuic branch of Austroasiatic.

The Bahnaric branch:

This branch of Austroasiatic is the most diversified, perhaps 35 languages, each having many varieties. Spoken in total by over one million persons, they are found on both sides of the Southern Annamitic range, including two provinces of Eastern Cambodia. Speakers of Bahnaric languages are dedicated and knowledgeable dwellers of the ancient forest, or what remains of it.

Khmer:

Khmer, in contrast to Bahnaric, constitutes a branch of Austroasiatic all by itself. There is no sister-language to Khmer. But it has numerous inscriptions from the

Angkorian and pre-Angkorian periods, some going back 1,500 years. Khmer is also the official language of Cambodia, and there are large Khmer-speaking populations in Surin (Thailand), and in Vietnam.

The Monic branch:

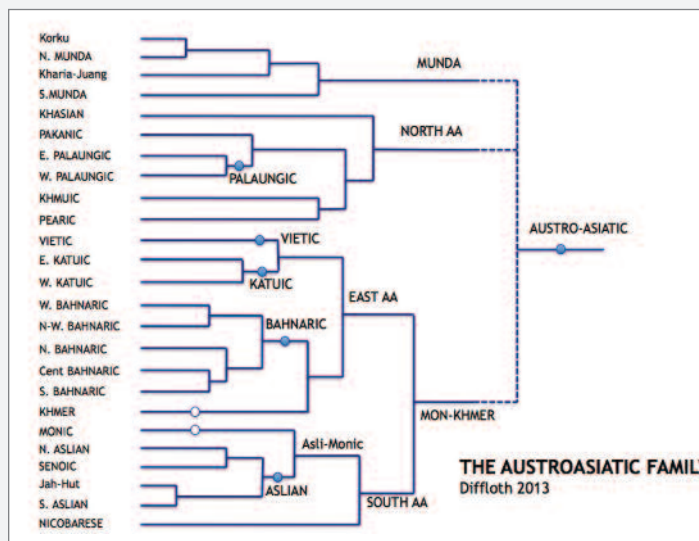
Mon is also, like Khmer, a language with ancient inscriptions, but unlike Khmer it does have a sister-language, called Nyah Kur, spoken in North and Northeastern Thailand. Modern Mon is now spoken mostly in the Mon State of Burma, with some communities in Thailand. In the recent past, Mon was spoken in Lower Burma, with a capital city at Pegu; so the language has been called Peguan, and sometimes also Talaing. In more ancient times, Old Mon was the vernacular language of the Dvaravati kingdom, ruling over Central Thailand. It is at that period that Nyah-Kur separated from the rest of Monic, probably around the 5th century AD.

The Aslian branch:

In the heart of the Malay Peninsula, we find, even today, about 15 languages belonging to the Austroasiatic family. By contrast, Malay, the national language, belongs to Austronesian. These Aslian languages are historically very diverse, reflecting widely different life-styles, ranging from forest-gatherers, to shifting cultivators, and to fishermen-farmers. Their present location, separate from the rest of Austroasiatic, remains a mystery.

The Nicobarese:

Even more geographically isolated are the half-dozen languages spoken in the Nicobar group of islands, administered by India. They are the only Austroasiatic languages spoken on islands, and their speakers are fishermen, active at sea. Only one Nicobarese language, spoken on Car island, has been thoroughly studied. But they have lived on these islands for a very long time, first recorded by Europeans in 1778. Old Tamil inscriptions at Tanjāvur (Tanjore) mention the Nicobars in 1050 AD, so did the ancient historian Ptolemy.



CKS Senior Fellows 2016-2017

French Fellows receive support through a grant from the Scaler Foundation. U.S. Fellows are supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers

① **Jennifer A. Estes**, a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Anthropology, is conducting fieldwork for her project "Youthful Democracy: Political Engagement Across Generations in Cambodia." Through a yearlong ethnographic study in a rural district of Kampot province, Ms. Estes will examine how everyday politics and elections, seen through the lens of generational difference, shape democracy in Cambodia. Specifically, her research will address two sets of interrelated questions: 1) How do Cambodians make sense of democracy and their political circumstances, and what are their desires for the future? Why and how do people become involved with (or avoid) electoral politics, and how does this map onto local configurations of power? 2) How have political and economic circumstances shaped the ways different generations engage with democracy? When and why are discourses of age drawn upon to explain political support?

② **Jonathan A. Muir**, a Ph.D. student in the University of Washington's Department of Sociology and an MPH student at the university's Department of Epidemiology, is conducting fieldwork for his thesis, "Exploring Parental Experience of Trauma as a Risk Factor for Child Mortality in Cambodia." This research seeks to contribute to a better understanding of why child mortality and stunting remain at elevated levels in Cambodia compared to many of its close neighbors. It will seek to estimate how much, if any, of this disparity is attributable to the Khmer Rouge genocide and subsequent social and economic catastrophe. As a pilot study, it will utilize a retrospective case study approach to examine potential risk factors for child mortality and stunting. Working with faculty and students at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and within the established framework of the Mekong Integrated Population-Registration Areas of Cambodia project, this research will collect survey and anthropometric data from 3,500 to 4,000 respondents over the course of 11 months. To the extent that this study succeeds in explaining how various risk factors come to impact child mortality and stunting, it will constitute a preliminary step in developing effective interventions to address these problems.

③ **Alison Kyra Carter**, a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Anthropology Department, is working on her project "From Chhnang to Chinese Tradewares: Examining Angkorian Household Ceramics," examining ceramics col-



Cambodian archaeologists examining ancient ceramics.

lected from the June-July 2015 excavation of an Angkorian-period house mound within the Angkor Wat enclosure. This excavation sought to test three hypotheses: that the mounds were used for occupation, that they were the residences of non-elite members of society, and that they may have been used for short-term occupation. In order to thoroughly address these questions, a comprehensive study of the ceramics is needed. As part of her project, Dr. Carter is photographing, carefully examining, and classifying the sherds in order to determine if there are patterns in the spatial distributions of different types of ceramics across the mound, which may be related to different residential activities. As the most comprehensive study of ceramics from a household context, this examination of ceramics consumption will balance earlier work on Khmer ceramics, which has largely focused on ceramics production. Recording and studying ceramics is a key component in the study of Angkorian period households and will expand our understanding of the lives of non-elite members of Angkorian society.

④ **Patrick Heuveline**, a professor of sociology at the University of California's Department of Sociology, is working on a project entitled "The Long-Term Health Impact of the Khmer Rouge Regime," which aims to bring empirical data from Cambodia to bear on important theories linking prenatal and early postnatal nutritional deficiencies to health later in life. He will apply to Cambodia's National Institute of Public Health to collect health data on the generation of Cambodians who were conceived or were in early childhood during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Many among them were subject to severe malnutrition during a critical developmental period. In most societies, the risk of malnutrition in early childhood is associated with other factors (e.g., poverty) that may confound the causal effect of malnutrition on health during adulthood. Due to particular policies of the Khmer Rouge regime, however, this is less likely to be the case for survivors of the regime. Assessing the health of this generation today would not only contribute to the historical record, but more generally contribute to our scientific understanding of the link between nutrition and health as well. Toward this end, Dr. Heuveline's fieldwork in Cambodia would be devoted to understanding variations in the amount of nutritional intake at the time, to design survey instruments to measure such variations retrospectively, and to collaborate with an institution in Cambodia to conduct a pilot test of this survey.

⑤ **Peter R. Swift**, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is working on his project "Land Governance in Cambodia and the Agency of Local and Non-Local Actors," which explores the agency of local communities and non-local actors in challenging economic land concessions (ELCs) in Cambodia. ELCs involve leases of land by the government to private firms for agricultural development and are a central component of the Cambodian government's national development strategy. The project asks: What role have Cambodian and international NGOs played in challenging ELCs? What kind of power relations exist among these NGOs, and between them and the communities they support? How have ideas from other countries and from actors working at the international level been adopted and adapted in Cambodia? To what extent are local communities' own voices heard?

⑥ **Phally Chroy**, a Ph.D. candidate at Ohio



Street art in Siem Reap with a new interpretation of the Naga

University's School of Interdisciplinary Arts, is conducting fieldwork for his Ph.D. thesis, "Cosmopolitan Cambodia: Arts in the Cambodian Golden Age and Post-UNTAC." It investigates the ways in which Cambodia has been shaped as cosmopolitan through the arts during two eras: the Cambodian Golden Age from the 1950s–'70s and the years following the UNTAC-sponsored national elections in 1993. It argues that the arts are crucial sites for understanding how a nation often perceived as isolated and inward looking has in fact been cosmopolitan—a space of plurality and difference, a nation whose identity is shaped by its relation to others, and a place where international flows and influences have long been present. While the Golden Age featured a cosmopolitanism organized around modern nation-building that both looked to the rest of the world and incorporated influences from outside, the post-UNTAC period is an era of cosmopolitanism organized around neoliberal globalization. As there has been limited interest in approaching Cambodia as cosmopolitan, a discourse of Cambodian cosmopolitanism, art history, and art historiography remains largely undeveloped by anthropologists, historians, and political scientists. As a result, in taking up the cosmopolitan dimensions of Cambodia as instantiated through the arts, Mr. Chroy argues that these two eras are crucial for understanding Cambodia not as isolated and inward looking, but as cosmopolitan and possible in a place such as Cambodia.

⑦ **Piphal Heng**, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Department of Anthropology, is doing research on "The Political Economy and State Formation of Pre-Angkor Cambodia: A Case Study from Thala Borivat." His doctoral research examines the Cambodian history from the 6th–8th centuries to study early state formation. These early states arose centuries before the great Angkorian state, and their archaeological study offers valuable comparative data on ancient state formation across the Old World. This study investigates the role of institutionalized religion in early state formation in Cambodia using a political economy model, and examines the political and economic interactions between the core political center and its regional centers. Mr. Heng's research also synthesizes archaeological political economy approaches to emphasize control over agricultural surplus (through the temple economy) and changes in kinship structures as keys to pre-Angkorian social formation.

⑧ **Vicheth Sen**, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of British Columbia's Department of Educational Studies, is conducting research for his doctoral thesis, "Social Mobility in Contemporary Cambodia: The Lived Experiences of University Graduates from Poor Family Origins." The aim of the study is to gain an understanding of the social and cultural processes underlying upward social mobility in contemporary Cambodia—that is, Cambodia since 1993. This phenomenological study exam-

ines the lived experiences of university graduates from poor family origins as they navigate the social space and attain professional positions in present day Cambodia. The study seeks to understand the meaning of their upward social mobility, what it takes for them to undergo these processes, and what social, cultural, and political dynamics underlie and shape their life journeys in contemporary Cambodia, drawing on Pierre Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital and James Côté and Charles Levine's concept of identity capital.

⑨ **Sivhuoch Ou**, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Guelph's Department of Political Science, is working on his Ph.D. project "State-building in Cambodia: Examining the Potential of Elections for Democratic Consolidation." State-building, the international effort to strengthen state institutions in post-conflict societies, has become an emerging paradigm over the past two decades, especially in the years since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Dozens of state-building missions have been carried by the international community in various parts of Africa, Asia, and even Europe. As one of the core pillars of state-building, elections are considered a means to end war, install a legitimate and representative post-war government, and initiate and consolidate democracy. Most scholarship on elections as a strategy for state-building has focused on cases in which they have not met expectations for building states and consolidating democracy. However, recently some works have suggested that repeated elections have produced democracy. This dissertation will examine the potential of repeated elections in Cambodia since 1993 for consolidating democracy.

⑩ **Trent Walker**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Group in Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, is looking at "Buddhism Unfolded: Sung Leporello Liturgies from Middle to Modern Cambodia." This dissertation focuses on liturgical leporello manuscripts (Khmer: *krang*) featuring Khmer and Pali texts popular in Cambodia's late Middle Period (1431–1863) that continue to be sung today in an especially melismatic style (Khmer: *smot*). The folded-paper format of such manuscripts, the textual genres they contain, and their melodic performance provide a unique window into liturgical practices from the early 17th to the mid-19th centuries. This dissertation first traces the format, performance, and soteriology of these texts before focusing on the historical development of liturgies for gratitude, contemplation, and praise, considering how leporello-manuscript liturgies bridge a transition from palm-leaf to print, as well as their relationship to the emergence of late 19th- and early 20th-century modernist movements.

⑪ **Frédéric Bourdier**, a researcher at the Research Institute for Development (IRD), is working on a project



Example of an illustration in a leporello manuscript (*krang*). This illumination depicts a ship that symbolizes the human body. The components of the vessel are annotated with syllables representing the virtues of one's parents and other factors that make human existence possible. Photo by Trent Walker.

entitled "Valorisation Practices of a Nature in Danger: From Preservation to Diversification." The multiple relations between human beings and their natural environment attest to both the capacity for survival and the commanding creativity of rural societies. However, the diversity of peasant knowledge and practices has been poorly documented, while in contemporary Cambodia more and more attempts at valorization related to nature are taking place with the aim of domesticating, protecting, and, ultimately, intensifying production of potential resources. This research intends to describe and analyze recent reconfigurations of interventions in different ecological settings. Involved communities rarely behave alone. The new reality, which is at the heart of the present research, is that the local, the national, the regional, and the international are increasingly interconnected. The main idea of this project, therefore, involves identifying trajectories followed by a chain of social actors, from villagers to the institutions that support them, whose arrangement relies on "on trial basis" strategies aimed at improving insecurity related to the future of certain agricultural practices and mitigating the risk inherent in the unregulated collection of natural resources. This project aims to conduct four ethnographies and use them as illustrative case studies in order to better understand ongoing local dynamics. They will be supplemented by enquiries conducted with associative, governmental, and international bodies supporting the villagers by promoting the new concept of "local natural heritage."

12 Jean-Christophe Diepart, a researcher in the Department of Geography (UMR 5185) at Université Bordeaux Montaigne, is working on a project entitled “Mobility Influences Territory: The Role of Migration in Socio-Spatial Transformations in Northwest Cambodia.” Over the past 20 years, internal and cross-border out-migration has intersected with massive in-migration movements that have fuelled the agrarian expansion in Northwest Cambodia. The socio-political context of this mobility is complex, as it involves several state formation processes that are particular to post-conflict Cambodia. These include the policy of reintegration of Khmer Rouge soldiers, territorial fragmentation processes induced by state projects (i.e., land titling, land concession, or environmental zoning), and questionable land acquisition by agricultural entrepreneurs. The key objective of this project is to understand the reconfiguration of local territories under the influence of this mobility. To achieve this, it aims to position the Northwest territories in a *longue-durée* perspective, to understand the reorganization of production and reproduction strategies of rural households under the influence of these migrations, and to understand the role that migration plays in individual and collective tenure regimes.

13 Annabel Vallard, post-doctoral at Centre Asie du Sud-Est (CASE), is examining “Sericulture Meshwork in Cambodia.” For 50 years, bio-textiles have undergone an unprecedented technological revolution, bound in particular to biology and genetic engineering. Useful animal and vegetal species for the textile industry such as silkworms are now being elaborated in laboratories before being grown and raised on farms. It aims to explore the manufacture of these (bio)technological materials from an anthropological perspective, along with textile networks that link international research laboratories working on biomaterials, governmental and international funding agencies, and Southeast Asian farms producing textile fibers. The goal is to question, at every stage of these networks, the ways in which humans make these materials exist by giving them a presence in the physical world as well as in the symbolic sphere. Working in Thailand and Laos as well as Cambodia, Dr. Vallard is examining how these countries are not only significant producers of handcrafted textiles, but also model “individual-as-collective” social images and imaginations through this handicraft this is, from now on, also the subject of national politics of culture. However, this handicraft is also part of a globalized world that binds it in particular to Japan, which has not been content to be one of the silk industry’s most high-end outlets, but has also begun supplying it with biotechnological species under cooperation agreements. By highlighting the practices and representations of practitioners of these various socio-technical worlds, this project attempts to trace the broad global issues related to biotechnologies in their economic, political, social, and ethical resonances from an Asian perspective.

14 Sophie Biard, a Ph.D. student at Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle’s Ecole Doctorale 268, “Languages et langues”, is working on her doctoral thesis, “The statues discovered by the Conservation d’Angkor from 1908 to the present day : Conservation, Restoration and Diffusion.” This project, the continuation of research conducted for her master’s thesis, focuses on sandstone statues in the round that come from archaeological excavations led by the Conservation d’Angkor since its creation in 1908 to the present time. Already well studied from an art-historical point of view, these statues also are the protagonists of a long material history marked by various political regimes and historical events, such as the protectorate, decolonization, the Second World War, the monarchy, the closing of the country by the Khmer Rouge, and its re-opening to international interventions. These events had a great influence on the evolution of conservation techniques (operations insuring statues’ longevity) and restoration techniques (operations re-establishing, if possible, statues’ integrity) applied to Angkorian statues. This is connected to the more general evolution of international science, but also to the creation of structures able to manage those practices in Cambodia—structures that are dependent on political context. This project will also look at the diffusion modalities of these artworks, both nationally and internationally, (sales, donations, display in museums), which are closely linked to diplomatic issues in Cambodia during the 20th century.



Sophie Biard working on the statue of Bhima, restoration workshop, National Museum of Cambodia. Photograph courtesy of NMC / EFEO

15 **Marie Aberdam**, a Ph.D. student at Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne, is researching the Council of Ministers during the time of the French Protectorate as part of her Ph.D. in history. The project will specifically look at the biography of Samdech Thiounn and undertake a prosopography of Cambodian civil servants from a study of the archives of the Residence du Cambodge. She will also collect testimonies from the families of the ministers who served during the French Protectorate and investigate the remembrance of this period in the Cambodian collective memory using archives in Cambodia and France.

16 **William Nathan Green** is a doctoral student in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Geography. His Ph.D. project is entitled "Frontiers of Poverty Capital: Land Relations, Microfinance, and Mobile Banking in Cambodia." He will explore how the intersection of microfinance, mobile banking, and land titling programs affect land dispossession and land use practices. The project aims to answer 1) How is expert knowledge mobilized in rural Cambodia to create a technological regime of microfinance, mobile banking, and land titling? 2) How do these development interventions affect land dispossession and acquisition in rural areas? 3) How are land use practices and people's sociocultural relationships to land changing as a result of these interventions? While many scholars have explored how land issues are shaping Cambodia's development, few have studied how current interventions of microfinance, mobile banking, and land titling are changing land relations in its rural heartland.



Samdech Thiounn, picture published in French magazine L'illustration, on the 21th of July 1906, during King Sisowath's travel to France



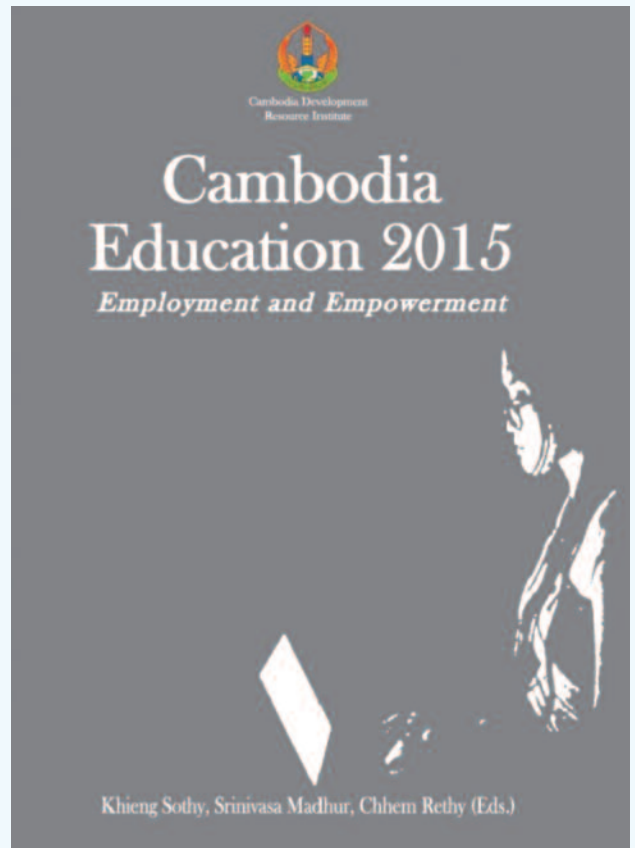
Cambodian hand dyed silk threads at the Angkor silk farm

Senior Fellows Publications 2015-16

Cambodia Education 2015. Employment and Empowerment, CDRI, 2015.

Sothy Khieng, Research Fellow and Education Unit Head, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), 2015-16 CKS Senior Fellow. In collaboration with Srinivasa Madhur, and Chhem Rethy.

This publication aims to provide a bird's eye view of past trends and emerging policy issues in the entire education system, ranging from early childhood development (ECD) and preschool through primary and secondary education to higher education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The objective of the study is not to carve out specific education policy prescriptions but to identify the broad sets of issues that the country's policymakers in particular and society more generally may have to grapple with and find pragmatic solutions for in the future. The study is thus more about raising a set of relevant questions than about providing answers to each of those questions. That in itself is expected to contribute to constructive discussion and debate about the country's education reforms. In many ways, therefore, the study identifies a set of issues to be explored in more depth through further research.

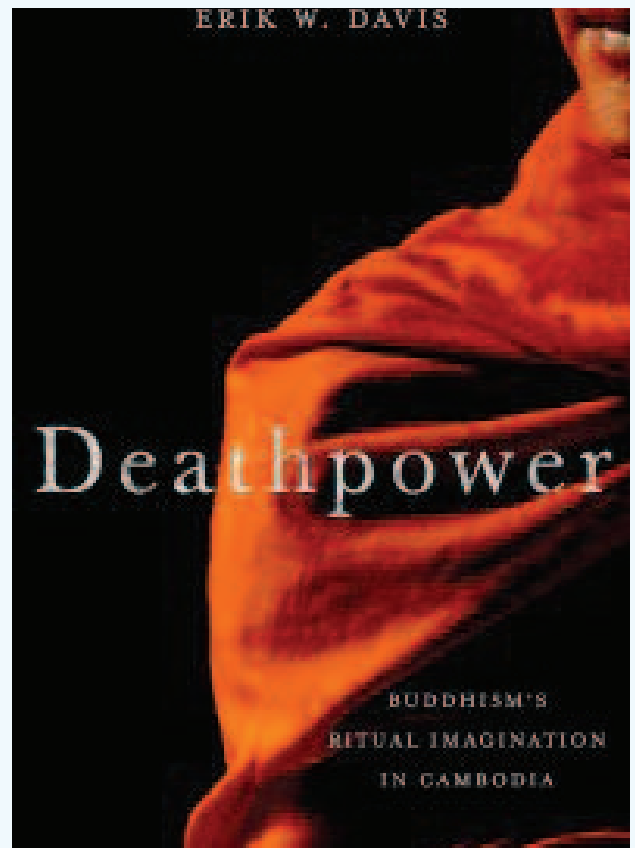


Deathpower: Buddhism's Ritual Imagination in Cambodia, Columbia University Press (2015)

Erik Davis, Associate Professor, Macalester College, 2006-07 and 2015-16 CKS Senior Fellow.

"Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Cambodia, Erik W. Davis radically reorients approaches toward the nature of Southeast Asian Buddhism's interactions with local religious practice and, by extension, reorients our understanding of Buddhism itself. Through a vivid study of contemporary Cambodian Buddhist funeral rites, he reveals the powerfully integrative role monks play as they care for the dead and negotiate the interplay of non-Buddhist spirits and formal Buddhist customs.

Buddhist monks perform funeral rituals rooted in the embodied practices of Khmer rice farmers and the social hierarchies of Khmer culture. The monks' realization of death underwrites key components of the Cambodian social imagination: the distinction between wild death and celibate life, the forest and the field, and moral and immoral forms of power. By connecting the performa-



tive aspects of Buddhist death rituals to Cambodian history and everyday life, Davis undermines the theory that Buddhism and rural belief systems necessarily oppose each other. Instead, he shows Cambodian Buddhism to be a robust tradition with ethical and popular components extending throughout Khmer society.” Amazon review, supplied by the author.

Salvage. Cultural Resilience among the Jorai of Northeast Cambodia.

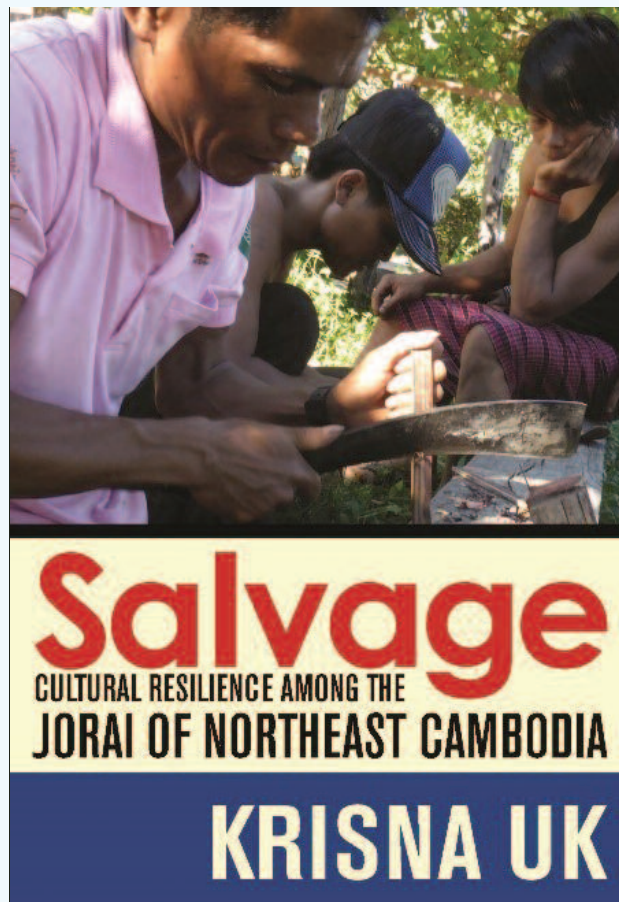
Cornell University Press, 2016. Krisna Uk, Executive Director of the Center for Khmer Studies in Cambodia. 2009-10, CKS Senior Fellow.

“In *Salvage*, Krisna Uk presents new research on how people in Cambodia cope with the aftermath of the horrific wars that have ravaged their country. She does so by probing in depth the creative engagement with these horrors of a rural community in minority ethnic areas heavily bombarded by the United States. Uk makes a very rich ethnographic contribution, with updated and contemporary information on cultures previously known mostly through older colonial-era ethnography, offering a substantial advance on everything that has come before. Her work also expands on such highly relevant aspects as the ideas about spirits of disease and misfortune, to show how people cope with trauma in ways rooted in their cultural traditions. This book will enrich the understanding of not only scholars and students but also officials in international aid agencies and others engaged in practical work in recovering war zones. Uk gives us the tools to help people in similar situations worldwide, to better focus on how people can rebuild by relying on their own existing heritage and knowledge, and on their own culturally configured ingenuity.” — Magnus Fiskesjo, Cornell University

King Jayavaraman VII: An Exceptional Destiny, Sipar 2015.

Hedwige Multzer O’Naghten, 2013-14, CKS Senior Fellow.

The son of King Dharanindravarman II, Jayavarman VII became king in 1181 and established a powerful capital, Angkor Thom. During his reign (c.1181–1218), the Cambodian kingdom spanned a very large area extending beyond the Menam Basin to the west, as far as the seacoast of Champa to the east and all the way north to the city of Sukhothai. At the time, the Khmers were trading with China, India and several Asia Minor countries.



Over the thirty years of his reign, Jayavarman VII was involved in expanding the Khmer Kingdom through military exploits while embarking on a grand program of construction that included temples, public works (hospitals, road networks to Vietnam and Thailand, rest houses, reservoirs) and the development of large-scale agriculture.

The history of Jayavarman VII is only known through inscriptions, Chinese court annals, and works of art discovered in Cambodia and the region. An inscription of Say Fong reads: "He suffered the illnesses of his subjects more than his own; because it is the pain of the public that is the pain of kings rather than their own pain." This publication, available in both Khmer and French languages provides scholars and the wider audience with a story of his life and legacy.

A Tomb for Khun Srun,

Documentary, 67 min, 2015, by Eric Galmard, Lecturer at the Department of French Studies, Royal University of Phnom Penh, 2012-13, CKS Senior Fellow.

"Khem looks into her father's history, Khun Srun, a Cambodian writer who joined the ranks of the Khmer Rouge in 1973 and was executed by them in 1978. She meets some survivors, a cousin, an aunt, and workers in a railway workshop who knew her father. At the same time, she and her two sons have to cope with the difficulties of a precarious life given that they are still living in a former Khmer Rouge stronghold.

In parallel with Khem's deeds, the film enables us to hear the autobiographical and satirical voice of a humanist and pacifist writer who chose the revolutionary side (to his own detriment as it turned out). Inscribed in the present time of a country which is rapidly "developing" at the expense of a lot of Cambodians, and in particular in a capital bristling with cranes, the voice of Khun Srun questions with acuity the contemporary Cambodia he never knew.

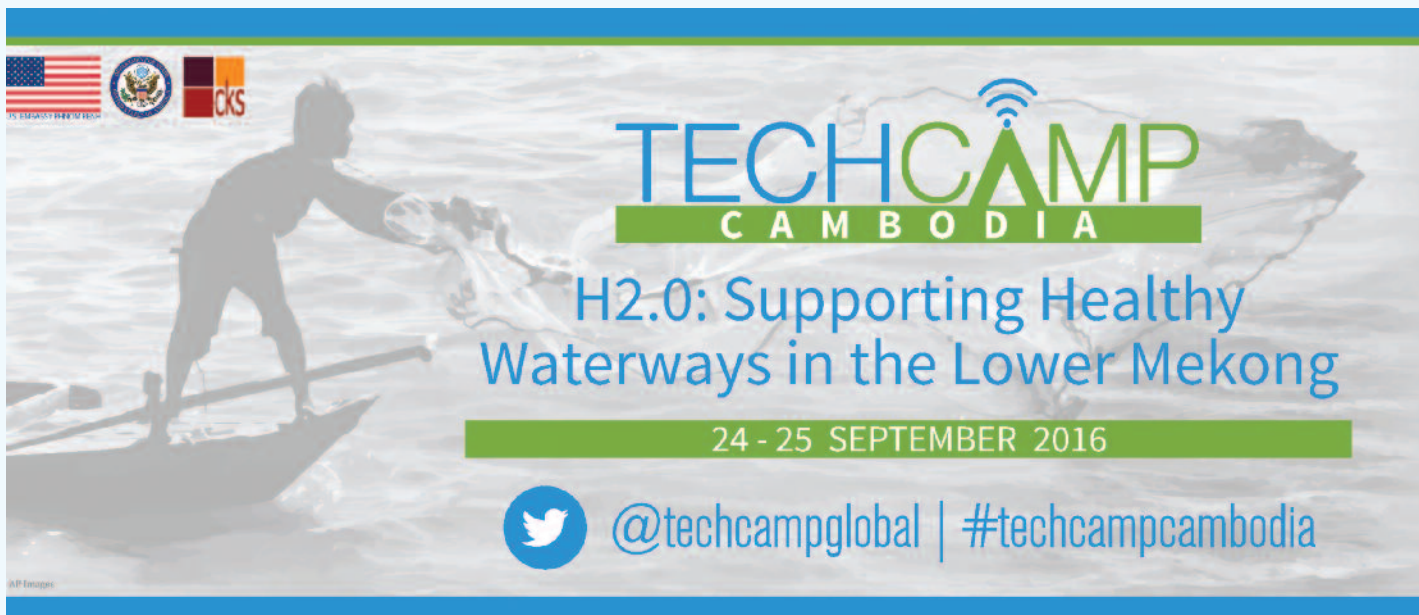
After studying literature and film, Eric Galmard worked in several Asian countries (the Philippines, Japan, Cambodia) and in the Pacific region (Fiji islands), both in the university system and the French cultural network. Since 2009 he has taught film in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Strasbourg, focusing in particular on documentary films and Asian cinemas. A Tomb for Khun Srun is his first feature-length film."



Still from a Tomb for Khun Srun

Forthcoming Event

TECHCAMP CAMBODIA H2.0: SUPPORTING HEALTHY WATERWAYS IN THE LOWER MEKONG



TechCamp is a global initiative hosted by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP). During these two day events, leaders from the technology community provide training, resources, and assistance that enable civil society members to harness the latest technologies to build their capacity and generate modern solutions to challenges in their local communities.

CKS is partnering with the U.S. Embassy to organize a "TechCamp Cambodia H2.0: Supporting Healthy Waterways in the Lower Mekong" program in Phnom Penh scheduled for the 24th-25th of September, 2016. This program supports a key U.S. foreign policy priority in Southeast Asia.

The primary objective of TechCamp: Waterways is to give young people and civil society organizations from the Lower Mekong the tools to be their own best advocates and to develop joint solutions to challenges that impact waterways. A secondary goal of the TechCamp is to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM education, which is one of the best ways for the countries of the Lower Mekong to build their talent pool and diversify their economies. A total of 50 participants from Cambodia, Burma, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam will learn to develop practical, technology-based solutions to shared challenges related to waterways such as identifying sources of contamination, tracking fish stocks, and charting water levels with the support of Information

Technology experts from the U.S, Cambodia, Malaysia, India and Nigeria among others. These solutions will be united into a public service campaign to be launched by social media. After TechCamp concludes, the program will provide grants for group follow-on projects.



The water nexus



Giant monkey lying on CKS lawn. Photo by Krisna Uk.

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