

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 by 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 US Government. Its programs are privately funded.

CKS is the sole member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in 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'Etudes Khmeres.

Board of Directors

Lois de Menil, Ph.D., President
Anne H. Bass, Vice-President
Olivier Bernier, Vice-President
Dean Berry, Esq., Secretary and General Counsel
Gaye Fugate, Treasurer

Prof. Michel Rethy Antelme, INALCO, Paris
Prof. Olivier de Bernon, Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient, Paris
Prof. Kamaleswar Bhattacharya, Paris
Robert Kessler, Denver, CO
Emma C. Bunker, Denver Art Museum
Prof. Thak Chaloemtiarana, Cornell University
Prof. Kieth Rethy Chhem, University of Vienna & Ulm University, Germany
Prof. Penny Edwards, University of California, Berkeley
Selma Ertegun, New York, NY
Prof. Bion Griffin, University of Hawaii
Prof. Anne Hansen, University of Wisconsin
Jacques Hennessy, Rome
Prof. Alan Kolata, University of Chicago
Prof. John Miksic, National University of Singapore
Steven Pesner, Esq., New York, NY
Dr. Dawn Rooney, Bangkok, Thailand
Prof. Son Soubert, Royal University of Fine Arts, Cambodia
The Hon. Benny Widyono, Ph.D., United Nations (ret.)
Douglas Clayton, *ex officio*

Bonnie Burnham, Chairman Emeritus
Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., Director, *ex officio*



Inside the new library stacks

CKS STAFF

Michael Sullivan	Director
Chean Men	Assistant to the Director
Nop Sovanna	Finance Officer
Tith Sreypich	Administrative Officer, Siem Reap
Oum Daraneth	Head Librarian
Mam Vannary	Research Librarian
Sim Puthea	Administrative Officer, Phnom Penh
Yem Yoeun	Publishing and IT Coordinator
Michel Rethy Antelme	Editor, <i>Siksacakr</i> Journal

Cover photo: dance students from the NKFC Conservatoire Preah Ream Bopha Devi perform the dance of welcome to King Sihamoni at the opening of the dedication ceremony

WELCOME TO CKS!



Lois de Menil, President

The Center for Khmer Studies was founded in 2000, with the twin purposes of opening Cambodia to American universities and helping rebuild Cambodian higher education, so totally destroyed by the Khmer Rouge, who were determined to beat Cambodia back to an agrarian society.

CKS settled into its new home in an historical Buddhist Pagoda in Siem Reap, Wat Damnak, not far from the temples at Angkor, and set to work rebuilding two damaged buildings for its purposes: a research library with an office for the Director and an assistant and a conference center, previously a meditation hall. We rebuilt the roofs, began collecting books, put on fresh paint, hired a small Khmer staff, planted grass and frangipanis, and opened our doors to all. Soon enough, CKS's 'campus' became a beckoning oasis in the dust of Siem Reap. High school students began to settle into our library right alongside the scholars. That was a surprise that caused us to smile. The library stayed open longer hours to accommodate them, encourage reading, and provide computer and internet access for them to use. We eventually outgrew our small library and built a beautiful new one, which opened in January 2010 with great celebration, including the presence of its Royal Patron, His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia. The King's presence, honoring CKS, was a major festivity for all of Siem Reap. CKS's library now holds the 2nd largest collection in Cambodia outside of



CKS President Lois de Menil and H.M. King Sihamoni cutting the ribbon to officially open the new CKS library and research facility

Phnom Penh. The old building is now a much enlarged reading room, with more computer terminals, many more desks, and of course access to CKS's book collection. After just ten years, CKS is now a major presence in Cambodia.

As part of its training seminars for young scholars teaching at the universities in Phnom Penh, CKS translates and publishes major Western texts, which we sell at subsidized prices for use in classrooms. CKS also publishes a tri-lingual journal, *Siksacakr*. Through support grants, we administer a research fellowship program for scholars from France and the US, a summer program to teach the Khmer language and history to undergraduates, and countless conferences and workshops for scholars from around the world. CKS is a place of welcome to all.

**Lois de Menil, Ph.D.
President**



H.M. King Sihamoni rises to greet the young dancers from the Conservatoire Preah Ream Bopha Devi, who have just performed the dance of welcome in His honor

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

January 2010 began with great fanfare and excitement. The King of Cambodia, H.M. Norodom Sihamoni, honored us with his presence when he presided over the inauguration of our new research facilities and offices in Wat Damnak, Siem Reap. It was a momentous occasion attended by well over two thousand local residents and dignitaries, with many more well-wishers lining the King's route to and from the Wat.

The inauguration also symbolically marked the beginning of a new phase of growth and development at the Center. After ten years of operations in Cambodia, it was time for us to take stock and plan for the future. In the past decade, CKS staff and the board of trustees, supported by our consortium and foundations, have worked hard to develop programs to achieve our twin goals of supporting international and national scholarship, research and teaching in Cambodia.

Over the years, as we set about addressing these goals, we can certainly claim a number of significant successes along the way, in our university faculty training programs, senior and junior fellowships, translations, publications, conferences and workshops. However, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must make the most of the lessons learned and renew our efforts for the years ahead. Evaluating our programs and projects is essential, therefore, as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary and move forward into the next decade.

In order to build on past achievements, we must first be confident that our future programming will accomplish its intended results. To assist us in this effort, a process of external evaluation of our existing programs and projects will be undertaken this summer. The process will begin with the external evaluation of the Junior Faculty Training Program to assess its strengths and weaknesses, its shortcomings and achievements. It is only by evaluating and measuring the outcome and results of our activities that we can be certain we will continue to produce the kind of programs that will help us achieve our objectives. The evaluation will help us enormously to think critically but positively as we plan and design new programs and projects.



Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., Director

New programs and activities are already underway or are in the pipeline. This summer, for example, we initiated our Khmer Language Study Program in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, Advanced Study in Khmer program (ASK). The CKS program gives faculty, postgraduate researchers and undergraduates, who have no formal training, the opportunity to advance their Khmer language skills for academic and professional purposes. Our Junior Faculty Training Program will re-focus on teaching core academic skills and curriculum development in the context of Cambodia's place within Southeast Asian studies. Plans are afoot to provide Cambodian internships on internationally supported in-country research projects across social science disciplines.

In both our Siem Reap and Phnom Penh offices we will hold monthly thematic academic seminars engaging senior CKS research fellows, Cambodian university faculty, undergraduates and post-graduate researchers. Other projects and activities include workshops and conferences focusing on diverse themes related to the digitization of Khmer literature, curriculum development at Cambodian universities and an examination of where the field of Cambodian studies is today. Altogether, a packed and exciting agenda pushing the Center forward as we strive to make a success of the next ten years of operations.

Michael Sullivan, Ph.D.
Director



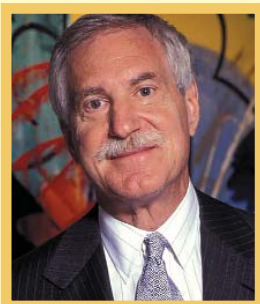
His Majesty Sihamoni greets Cambodians gathered in front of CKS's new building



SOU Phirin, Governor of Siem Reap province, prepares to deliver his address

MEMBERS AND BENEFACTORS

Olivier Bernier, Vice President



Ten years always matter in the life of an organization. For CKS, that span of time is everything: we are, today, only ten years old; and as we look back, our rate of growth is almost dizzying. When we opened our first building, we had a library, but almost no books. We had brand-new, promising programs, but no record which

could allow us to evaluate what was likely to work. Our staff was smaller and had fewer Cambodians.

How satisfying it is, therefore, to see that our first efforts were the right ones and that they succeeded. As we look at what we have achieved, we see as-do others-that we took the right steps at the right time, and that our goals and methods convinced the wide range of people who have helped us. The Library is a perfect example. From its humble beginnings, it grew to the point where the reading room and the shelving space were inadequate. We had too many books because scholars gave us their collections; we had too few desks to service our rapidly growing number of readers. Thus we found that success brings its own problems; a new, larger library was needed. Thanks to the generosity of our Board of Trustees, and the hard work of Lois de Menil and Jacques Hennessy, a new building went up in record time and under budget.

CKS is an American Overseas Research Center. That it has proved to be a great value to Cambodia, however, became splendidly manifest in January, 2010 when His Majesty King Sihamoni came to open the new Library. There were flags and speeches; a military band played the Cambodian National anthem; the King expressed his gratitude and was shown around the Library by Oum Daraneth, our

Head Librarian. We had added to the culture of Cambodia; and while, ten years ago, we could not have found a trained Cambodian to run the Library, now a splendidly competent young woman is in charge.

This success could not have been achieved without funding. As we have proved our worth, so we have received funds from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State. Great foundations have helped us with specific programs. Just as importantly, we have relied on the generosity of private donors. Today, we need them more than ever. As our range of activities has grown, so have our expenses. While we spend very little on administration, we must have help for our activities.

We have proved that we can do a good job. When you help us, you know that your contribution will make a real difference: in Cambodia, even small sums go a long way. Many of you have given in the past and your generosity has made a huge difference: may we count on you to help us celebrate our tenth anniversary?



H. M. King Sihamoni visits new library with head librarian OUM Daraneth and Lois de Menil

Join CKS!

Participate in our growth by becoming a member. Your contribution is essential for sustaining our program:

- **Support CKS's Library Fund:** our library's expansion and new building; acquisition of books, equipment and computers, and the training of our librarians.
- **Support important public services:** free lectures, publications on contemporary and historical subjects, and translation of essential educational materials into Khmer.
- **Help us train junior faculty at the universities:** to rebuild a country where the entire higher education sector still bears the effect of a vicious civil war.

Annual Membership categories:

- Director's Circle (\$35,000 and up)
- Patrons (\$20,000-\$34,999)
- Sponsors (\$10,000-\$19,999)
- Supporting Members (\$1,000-\$9,999)
- Members (\$100-\$999)

Please use the attached form for credit card contributions

For stock transfers, please call 212-980-6628.

Checks should be sent to:

Center for Khmer Studies

149 East 63rd St., New York, NY 10065

For email information: center@khmerstudies.org.

U.S. contributions to CKS are tax deductible.



Students gathered in CKS library reading room

Thank You to Our 2009-2010 Annual Donors!

Director's Circle (\$35,000 and up)

Selma Ertegun
Robert and Lisa Kessler
Lois and Georges de Menil

Patrons (\$20,000-\$34,999)

Jacques Hennessy
Nancy Norman Lassalle
Steven and Michele Pesner
Mary Lawrence Porter

Sponsors (10,000-\$19,999)

Anne H. Bass
Anonymous
Olivier Bernier
John and Martha Howard Fund
Leon Levy Foundation
Adam Roseman

Supporting Members (\$1,000-\$9,999)

Gillian Atfield
AXA Art Insurance Corporation
Brook Berlind
W.L. Lyons Brown, Jr. Charitable Foundation
Emma Bunker
J. Kerry Clayton
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Marina Couloucundis
Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz
Guido Goldman
Kate Fickle

M. Gaye Fugate
Susan Jeffries
Anne Mansbridge
Arnie Lepelstat
Laurel McKee
H.M. King Phreah Baromneath Norodom
Sihamoni of Cambodia
Gerard Riedel
The Benjamin M. Rosen Family Foundation
Sloan and Hardwick Simmons
Susan Shine Shiva Foundation
Chalikon Suraphongchai

Members (\$100-\$999)

Vicky, Ed and Madi Bass
HRH Duke Franz von Bayern
Marion Becker
Eleanor Bluestein
Joanna Breyer
Justice Stephen Breyer
Deborah Brown
Russell Bush
Prof. Thak Chaloemtiarana
Nerou Cheng
Michael Coe
John and Anne Duffy
Peter and Jeanette Duncel
Peter and Jeannette Ehrenkranz
Rustem Ertegun
Matthew Fiskejon
Barrett B. Freylinghausen
Pamela Gale
Dominic and Emmanuella Habsburg
Hazen Polsky Foundation
Catherine Heald

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Heckenbach
Bryan Henderson
Judy Howe
Helen Jessup
Michael Johnston
Glenn and Sharon Kaufman
Kim Sambo
Vera Kistiakowski
Judith Kostman
John P. Lewis
Barbara and J. Robert Mann, Jr.
Joy de Menil and Laird Reed
Ann Nitze
Susan Nitze
Sally Orr
Emily Rauh Pulitzer
Michael Spero
Milbrey Rennie Taylor
Sheldon and Anne Vogel
Doris White
Benny Widyono

Institutional Support

Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Council of International Educational Exchange
Florence Gould Foundation
Leon Levy Foundation
Scaler Foundation
Rockefeller Foundation
U.S. Government, Department of Education, Title VI Program
The Van Waveren Foundation

We Need You!

Support Our Library (\$10,000)

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

Sponsor the Translation of Educational Texts \$5-10,000

In the absence of books in the Cambodian language, Khmer, 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.

Donate a new computer for our Library reading room (\$1,500)

Connect CKS's Library to the World Wide Web for 1 Year (\$2,000)

Help to Digitize our Library's Collection (\$5,000)

Place your Name on a Bookcase containing approximately 400 titles (\$5,000)

Join the Director's Circle, and place your name on a plaque in the new library (\$35,000)

Send a Cambodian Scholar to the 2011 Meeting of the Association of Asian Scholars in Hawaii (\$3,500)

Sponsor a Cambodian émigré student for CKS/University of Hawai'i summer in-country program (\$3,500)

We are grateful for your support!

CKS INAUGURATES ITS NEW RESEARCH CENTER



A sweeping view of the terrace and goldfish pond of the new building

Triumphant brasses, the clash of cymbals, the melodious percussive winding of wooden xylophones, banners waving, streets thronged with jubilant Cambodians. The King has arrived at Wat Damnak! January 10th, 2010—a Big Day for CKS and for the people of Siem Reap. His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni makes his first official visit to Siem Reap on the occasion of the inauguration of CKS's new Research Center and expanded library, of which His Majesty is the royal patron. An honor beyond measure, in recognition of 10 years of CKS's presence in Cambodia and its important contributions to Cambodian education. CKS now has a home, a brilliant new building within the Buddhist pagoda of Wat Damnak.

Under the broad canopy of a traditional golden umbrella, the King progresses from the gate of Wat Damnak into the Prayer Hall. And with affectionate exchanges of joined-hands with smiling school children in uniform, saffron-robed monks and reverent old people respectfully lined up along the path, King Sihamoni greets CKS Trustees, one by one, before assuming His throne chair on the dais of a bril-

liantly colored silk-draped tribune that shades dignitaries and CKS Trustees from the scorching afternoon sun.

The ceremony begins with the traditional Dance of Welcome, lovingly performed by young dancers from the Conservatoire Preah Ream Bopha Devi, a nearby dance school. There wasn't a dry eye. After the blessing of the King by the head Buddhist monk of the province and opening speeches by the Governor of Siem Reap Province and CKS President Lois de Menil, King Sihamoni addressed those who filled the monastery grounds. Invoking the great dedication of his grandparents and parents to their people and to Cambodian culture, King Sihamoni expressed His gratitude to CKS for all that it had done to help Cambodia. He presented the CKS library with thoughtful gifts of important archival records from His father, King Father Sihanouk's reign, a superb Khmer dictionary and a most generous financial contribution to CKS's continuing work. Dr. de Menil and King Sihamoni then walked across the lawn to the steps of the new building for the cutting of the ribbon. As they walked up the steps to the new building, they were greeted by Head

Librarian, OUM Daraneth and Research Librarian MAM Vannary, who escorted them through the new book storage and conservation area, the centerpiece of the new building. King Sihamoni warmly greeted all of CKS's Cambodian staff, who were thrilled to be in His presence.

CKS has now also expanded its library's reading room by 1/3, providing more space for computer access to our collection, which is increasingly digitized. Back in 2000, this building was intended for senior research scholars, but its sense of open welcome and of secluded calm quickly made it a favorite place for young Cambodians, who often queue up for a seat when it opens. They also enjoy the shaded lawns and the terraces of CKS's campus. Expanding our welcome to them, CKS has now made the whole former library their reading room. The new building has spacious stacks for storage, a wonderful new seminar room for scholars, and carrels for researchers. All CKS buildings are wired for WiFi computer access. The card catalogue is online, and can be accessed from anywhere in the world. Our collections continue to grow. In ten years, our collection has grown from zero to over 11,000 books and papers. Our Head Librarian has just returned from three weeks of library training at the University of California-Berkeley, a member of our university consortium. CKS is proud of the professional growth of its Cambodian librarians.

The library is the heartbeat of CKS. Many hands devotedly brought this new building project from dream to reality. First, our neighbors, the monks of Wat Damnak, who

agreed to welcome our new building within their precinct. CKS's Trustees, faced with a daunting economic downturn, pledged generously to make it possible. Major donors and friends also contributed collections of books and essential funding for specific parts of the project. The Cornell Southeast Asian Center also generously contributed copies of all its digitized books.

In addition to our resident young Japanese architect, Yoko Koide, no one has been more dedicated to this project than our CKS library committee chairman, Jacques Hennessy, who, with great persistence, navigated between a French architect specialized in old colonial libraries at the *Ministère des Monuments Historiques* and an expert in tropical architecture at Cornell University Library to define the building program. The new building is constructed to be passively air-cooled, with air conditioning only where it is most needed during the hot season—in offices and the seminar room—and is built to specifications that keep the book storage appropriately air-cooled year round, without air conditioning but with air circulating through the middle of shelves, shaded windows, and dust screens that prevent both insects and mold.

The final phase in CKS's attention to facilities improvement has just been completed: the provision of air conditioning in our conference hall, just in time for the hot 2010 summer monsoon season. This will enable CKS to use the conference center year-round. 2010, CKS's tenth anniversary, has been a year of great festivity and lively new prospects.



CKS President Lois de Menil and His Majesty King Sihamoni on the terrace of the new building

THE JUNIOR FACULTY TRAINING PROGRAM

Over the last five years of the Junior Faculty Training Program, a total of ten seminar sessions have been completed. They covered a wide range of interdisciplinary subjects, including comparative approaches to the study of Cambodia and other countries in Southeast Asia. These topics included:

Contemporary Southeast Asia: history, politics and economics; Cultures and Identities: Cambodia in the Southeast Asian context; Religious Practices in Cambodia within a regional perspective; Rural and Urban Studies: Local history in a regional perspective; Cambodia & Southeast Asia at the Margins: Minorities Groups and Borderlines; Bridging Cultures: Establishing a translation curriculum and program; Archeology in Mainland Southeast Asia; Modern History of Mainland Southeast Asia; Cultural Construction of Politics in Mainland Southeast Asia; and Economics and Development in the Southeast Asian context.

The program, *Economics and Development in the Southeast Asian Context* began in November 2009. It was led by a Cambodian Visiting Scholar, Dr. Ngin Chanrith, who received his academic training at Nagoya University in Japan. His doctoral work focused on the field of development studies. This session introduced students to some of the main topics within that field, with a particular emphasis on economic development in a regional context. Students explored complex global and local economic issues linked to development. It began with a broad overview of theoretical and historical perspectives before examining pertinent issues in more depth. In particular, it examined development issues confronting Cambodia in its



Visiting scholar Prof. Charnvit Kasetsiri and JFTP participants

regional context, in an effort to identify commonalities and diversity. Major topics included: globalization, commercialization, poverty/marginalization, equity, gender, empowerment, participation, and the role of institutions in development. By the end of the session, all 14 participants were equipped with the skills necessary to conduct field research, and begin the preparation of their research papers.

In an effort to broaden the 'reach' of the JFTP, the session concluded with a public lecture delivered by CKS research fellow Dr. John Marston. The lecture entitled, "*Community Mobilization, Environment and Irrigation on the Tonle Sap Floodplain*," spoke directly to many of the developmental and economic issues covered during the session. Dr. Marston described his current research, which is concerned with disputes over irrigation systems in two Cambodian communes in Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom provinces. In particular, he discussed how his research relates to the current controversies about 'entrepreneurial irrigation' on the Tonle Sap floodplain (especially in Kampong Thom) and the larger issues of environment, community organization, and free enterprise that underly the controversies. The lecture, organized in collaboration with the Socio-Cultural Research Seminar Series of the Graduate Program in Development Studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), was the first of its kind for CKS. The Center plans to continue with this format and enter into similar collaborations for public lectures by CKS research fellows in the future.

In the past five years, the JFTP has brought together 100 Cambodian junior faculty and graduate students from different universities from a wide variety of academic disciplines. It has provided them with opportunities to study and learn in a unique environment that they would struggle to find elsewhere. The high quality academic training they have benefited from has helped build self-confidence

in their ability to teach and research. It has also prepared some for the rigors of further academic training outside of Cambodia. As one participant eagerly reported:

"My academic understanding has changed after participating in several courses at CKS. After being involved with CKS, I have learned how to write academic research papers and have improved my academic thinking skills. As a result, I have been able to write research papers to be presented at international conferences abroad in Japan and China in 2009. A big achievement in my academic work is that I now have a chance to get a Ph.D with a scholarship to study in Japan at the University of Tokyo."

As the above comments make plain, the program has proven very successful in enriching the academic experience of many individuals. The format and structure of the program, including lectures and seminars, study tours to neighboring countries, and individual field research projects, has paid dividends, enabling many to engage in academic activities like public lectures and international conferences. Last but by no means least, another major achievement of the program has been the translation and publication of selected academic texts and articles used during the different sessions. Participants from each session translated from English into Khmer (Cambodian language) a number of articles that were compiled into a series of 'readers'. Seven of these readers have been published, so far, and widely distributed to universities in Cambodia. Given the extremely limited academic materials available in the Khmer language, especially in the social sciences and humanities, these readers have proven to be important sources of information and knowledge for both university faculty and students.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Center's outreach activities began in earnest in the summer of 2009, and early indicators show that they are having a real impact. As well as a significant increase in sales of CKS publications, two of Cambodia's leading television networks, APSARA and CTN, have taken great interest in the Center and its work. The APSARA network invited us to participate in a T.V. program that focused exclusively on the Center's activities. The program proved so popular with viewers that they invited us back to do a second show! CKS was also approached by the very popular CTN network, and was asked to give a similar presentation to its viewers.

Both networks were particularly interested in the ways in which CKS helps support Cambodia's higher education



Cambodian universities needs assessment workshop

and civil society. CKS was represented by Chean Men, Assistant to the Director, who discussed at length what the Center does. He explained the importance of CKS's work on translations and publishing, that encourages reading among university students and the general population. Chean talked extensively about CKS's contribution to developing human resources by improving the quality of academic teaching at the university level. He also talked about the importance of our research fellowships and how we bring together international and Cambodian scholars. Both networks reported positive feedback from viewers, who were especially interested in CKS's translations of books and 'readers' from English into the Khmer language. This kind of feedback speaks volumes, confirming the importance that Cambodians attach to our translations, publications, training programs and fellowships. Presentations of the Center's work at Cambodian Universities and other institutions and a much improved publications distribution and sales system have made a positive contribution to our outreach strategy, raising the profile of the Center throughout the country. By far the best medium for doing this, in terms of maximum exposure, has been our T.V. coverage.

Furthermore, these television networks broadcast their programs not only inside Cambodia, but abroad, to the United States, France and Australia. Several people from

the United States and Australia, who have seen these programs, have contacted us to learn more about what we do, making our local outreach truly international.



Assistant to the Director Chean Men appearing on national television

Voices: Pong Pheakdey Boramy CKS Junior Fellow, 2010



Three years ago when I walked into the Center for Khmer Studies to participate in an academic program I thought that this center would not change me much. However, on the very first day I participated in program, I started to have a different feeling. The lecture provided by the Visiting Scholar was so different

from the traditional way of teaching I had received from the Cambodian university. The unique style of learning that I have from the beginning of the program is that the students were not just sitting there listening to the lecturers but we became active participants in the discussion: we engaged in group debate on academic topics; we had to read many articles and then presented to the class what we have read that reflect our understanding; we had to write research proposal and defend it before we were allowed to do the research; and we even had the opportunity to go on a study tour to the neighboring countries, Vietnam and Thailand, an opportunity that we had never dream of. Moreover, CKS has provided the best and abundant of academic materials that are not available at the universities. The reading materials provided by the

Visiting Scholar in the program are so useful and relevant for me because they offer me a wide range of topics related to both the theories and practical knowledge. The experience I gained have prepared me for my academic learning.

With the new teaching method and useful and relevant reading materials, my academic life has been changed. Before, taking the course at CKS I tried to apply for many scholarship but I always failed. However, after the course, my academic insight and writing have been improved. I won many fellowships to study abroad such as India, Thailand, and Netherlands. And I got two scholarships in the same time from India and Thailand; however, I chose Thailand since it provided the Southeast Asian Studies program, the relevant course to what I studied in CKS. Additionally, I have more abilities to work not only as the translator of many useful books and articles published in Cambodian by CKS publishing house, but also the researcher and lecturer in some public and private universities. Study in CKS's academic program means a lot to me and it has opened a wide range of opportunities for me in the present and in the future.

PUBLISHING & TRANSLATION

A poignant lasting effect of the Khmer Rouge genocide is its devastating impact on the infrastructure of Cambodia's universities. Cambodia struggles to develop a new generation of educated leaders without an older generation, who either fled into exile or were killed, and without written materials or curriculum to support the training of the next generation. The Center for Khmer Studies is deeply committed to supporting the development of future leaders of Cambodian higher education.

In addition to opening our research Library to all Cambodians, one of CKS's most significant efforts in support of education is our publication and translation program. Over the last decade, we have published a significant number of academic reference materials in English, Khmer and French. Our publishing portfolio also includes proceedings from conferences, monographs, and original research materials. We publish our own trilingual, peer-reviewed journal, *Siksacakr*. Given the dearth of academic materials available in the Khmer language, *Siksacakr* represents a particularly important contribution in increasing the availability of quality academic materials in the Khmer language. Volume ten of *Siksacakr* is now available

in bookshops throughout Cambodia, and online. For further information, please visit our website at www.khmerstudies.org.

Another major contribution to support higher education is the publication of our 'reader' series. The readers— a product of the Junior Faculty Training Program are compilations of key academic texts used during JFTP lectures and seminars. The texts are selected by the visiting scholar and translated from English to Khmer by the JFTP participants themselves. Over five years of that program, we have published seven volumes. Each reader contains a number of articles organized around a central theme. These include:

- 1) Contemporary History of Southeast Asia
- 2) Culture and Identities: Cambodia in the Context of Southeast Asia
- 3) Ethnic Minority Group and Chinese in Cambodia and Southeast Asia
- 4) Religions and Practice in the context of Southeast Asia
- 5) Understanding Rural and Urban Culture in the Context of Southeast Asia
- 6) Nationalism and Identities in Southeast Asia
- 7) Cultural Construction of Politics in a Southeast Asian Context

Voices: Thol Dina CKS Junior Fellow, 2010



My name is Thol Dina. I am currently doing my Ph.D degree in Japan. I have known the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) since 2006. At that time, I was just an undergraduate student with limited knowledge. However, after trying hard to have chance to study on the CKS program, I had a great opportunity to participate with the CKS Junior Program and studied with Dr. Peter. J. Hammer. I learned a lot from this course, especially how to write a research paper and search for academic papers on line. Then, I had another chance to study with several famous professors in different courses. I studied with Prof. Charnvit Kasetsiri, Dr. Eric Hanstad, and most important I had a chance to meet Prof. Benedict. R. Anderson who is the author of "Imagined Communities". From these scholars, I have enriched my knowledge from time to time. I received huge academic knowledge about Southeast Asia when I studied Southeast Asia History with Dr. Charnvit. I could say

that it was much more than what I gained from Southeast Asia courses in the university where I graduated. In 2008, I was very happy to meet and listen to Prof. Anderson speech. His ideas and advice helped open my academic thinking and understand the political situation in the world and Southeast Asia better.

Not only having a good chance to study with famous professors, but I also notice that my academic thinking has changed after participating several courses at CKS. After having involved with CKS, I learn how to write academic research paper and have improved my academic thinking skills. As a result, I could write research paper to present abroad in Japan and China in 2009. The biggest achievement in my academic work is that I have a chance to get Ph. D scholarship to study in Japan. I could say that the academic achievement I received, in some extent, belongs to the Center for Khmer Studies.

NEW DIRECTIONS

CKS has made great strides in the ten years since its inception. It has engaged in a wide range of activities and developed programs and projects in the service of its broad goals of promoting research and international scholarly exchange and strengthening Cambodia's educational and cultural sectors. Reflecting on the previous decade, we are now reconsidering the extent to which we achieved these goals before beginning to articulate new ideas on future directions for our programs, projects and activities. We can justifiably and proudly claim a number of significant successes. However, we are very much aware of the need for adjustment and innovation, lest we lose sight of the shifting environment within which we operate. Cambodian society has changed in a myriad of ways over the last ten years. With those changes in mind, and after having taken stock we now have a number of exciting new projects underway.



Southeast Asia

Southeast Asian Studies: Curriculum Development and Teaching

One of CKS's new directions is the development of programs that focus on the design and teaching of Southeast Asian Studies curricula for use in Cambodian universities. Recent surveys—including one conducted by CKS—

reveal a lack of coherent Southeast Asian Studies programs and courses within the Cambodian higher education system. As part of the Center's commitment to helping strengthen Cambodia's educational structures, we have developed a 'pilot' program aimed at training Cambodian university lecturers to design curricula for introductory Southeast Asian Studies courses. This program began in August for three months. It is expected that by the end of the program, participants will have designed broad multi-disciplinary introductory Southeast Asian Studies curricula that they can teach to undergraduate students at their respective universities. The program will be followed by a workshop to assess the viability of its concept and structure with a view to further development. As well as the program participants and leaders, the workshop will be attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, universities, and the University Accreditation Committee of Cambodia.

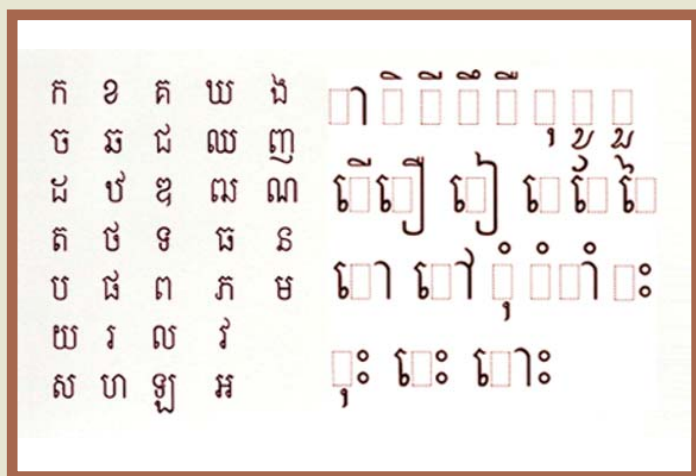
Summer Khmer Language and Culture Program

Another new direction is the introduction of a Summer Khmer Language and Culture immersion program. Our previous experience has shown the need for a structured program for individuals who wish both to learn the Khmer language and to develop a greater understanding of Cambodian society for research and professional purposes, but who lack any prior formal training. Existing programs, for example, the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa's, Advanced Study in Khmer program (ASK), requires participants to have successfully completed at least two years of formal Khmer Language training. In an effort to meet this demand, and circumvent the problem of prior experience, CKS and ASK decided to collaborate. CKS will provide instruction for those at an early stage of their Khmer language training. Like their ASK counterparts, participants

in the CKS program will receive four hours of intensive language training during morning sessions. In the afternoon, they will take part, alongside the ASK program participants, in field trips and other cultural activities, including visits to local governmental and non-governmental institutions, where the taught language skills can be used in real time situations. This new program, by providing in-country language training for students of Cambodian society and culture, reflects CKS's broader agenda of promoting research and international scholarly exchange through programs that increase understanding of Cambodia and its region. It is intended to enable undergraduates, teachers and scholars to advance their level of Khmer language skills in preparation for field-work and study in Cambodia. In doing this, we hope to further cooperation and educational exchange between individuals and institutions.

The CKS Lecture and Seminar Series

This new and exciting initiative is intended to bring together, on a regular basis, Cambodian and international scholars to discuss the latest research and developments in the field of Cambodian and Southeast Asian studies, across all disciplines in the social sciences, arts and humanities. As well as providing excellent opportunities for CKS Fellows to interact with junior and senior Cambodian scholars and researchers, the lectures and seminars, will be open to people outside the Center's already established academic networks. The intention is to extend participation beyond CKS research Fellows to anyone conducting international standard research in Cambodia, including local and international NGOs who are dealing with related social science, arts and humanities topics, as well as Cambodian universities and CKS alumni. This series of lectures and seminars will be held at both CKS sites, in the capital Phnom Penh and our headquarters in Siem Reap.



Khmer Script



Senior CKS research Fellow Dr. John Marston holding a seminar at the Royal University of Phnom Penh

FEATURE ARTICLE:

Cataloguing Cambodia's Treasures: The CKS Collection Inventory Project of the National Museum (2004-2010)

Darryl Collins



Now in its final phase, the CKS National Museum Collection Inventory Project has brought a revitalized sense of order to the Museum's collection and personal confidence to trained Museum staff, who now oversee this important ongoing project. It has greatly assisted the Museum's international exhibition and publications programs, identification and repatriation of missing works of art, links with re-established provincial collections and the fostering of both established and newly formed conservation workshops in stone, metal and ceramics. It has won international acclaim.

Most importantly, the location and condition of thousands of works of art in storage have been digitally catalogued, with works arranged in a logical and systematic way. Ongoing agendas include digital photography of every work, scanning of extant French inventory cards and cross-referencing the past and present catalogue systems. Greatly improved trilingual labeling now offers visitors clear and accurate identification of some 2,000 works on display and provides a great resource for researchers wishing to access the collection.

It wasn't always so. In the wake of the Khmer Rouge regime, the National Museum repository of the extraordinary treasures of Cambodia's past had suffered from years of neglect, was run by a staff lacking formal training, and occupied a building ill-equipped for the second millennium. The conditions of Museum storage were particularly worrisome. Locating a work of art in its basement was challenging. Documentation was incomplete and inaccessible.

A fortuitous visitor and a collaboration with CKS

In early 2004, art historian and CKS Trustee Emma Bunker visited the National Museum with a group of friends, including the distinguished collector Douglas Latchford and American arts patron and philanthropist Shelby White. They met with director Khun Samen and his then deputy, Hab Touch; at the Museum. Moved by the poor conditions of the Museum, Shelby White generously offered to fund a long-term project through the Leon Levy Foundation, in collaboration with the Center for Khmer Studies. They agreed on the all-important goal of an inventory project—a bold undertaking to catalogue the Museum's entire collection. In the grant proposal, the current situation and the project's ambitions were starkly set forth:

"When the Museum officially opened on 13 April 1920, there were over 1,000 objects on display. Today the museum has approximately 14,000 objects and the collection is growing at a rate of over 300 objects per year. The majority of the collection is stored in a basement storage area. The project will bring together, and draw on, all existing registration methods used by the Museum at different times in the past, including several French card catalogue systems, Khmer handwritten inventory lists and a pre-existing-database. As part of the inventory and cataloguing project,



CIP team measuring the Reclining Vishnu on display in a museum gallery in 2010



CIP staff members Sokha (left) and Sophal (right) documenting a stone sculpture in the museum basement through digital photographs

all previous documents relevant to a particular object will be scanned and attached to that object's record in a newly developed database."

The project began in August 2004. Darryl Collins was chosen as the project coordinator, to train the staff and set up the cataloguing procedure.

During the course of the project, Shelby White and CKS President Dr. Lois de Menil made several visits to the National Museum in Phnom Penh. Shelby White, accompanied by Emma Bunker, returned in 2006. Dr. de Menil and Emma Bunker visited regularly. From the outset, the Center for Khmer Studies assured regular financial and administrative oversight of the project. As the growth and success of the project proceeded, the initial three year grant was extended to a period of six years that have seen to completion the documentation of the entire Museum collection

Press acclaim and new international visibility

Once underway, this major project was widely acclaimed by the national and international press, drawing new attention to the National Museum and the importance of its collections. *The Cambodia Daily* noted aptly, in 2005: "In the National Museum's basement, order emerges from the chaos." A full-page article, entitled, 'National Museum Inventory Project: Phnom Penh' appeared in the London-based art newspaper *Asian Art* in October 2005, with Deputy Director Hab Touch commenting that he believed the project represented a major step forward for the institution, which until then had an incomplete knowledge of what was contained in its collection and of what was missing. *The International Herald Tribune* titled its story, 'A Belated Rescue of Cambodia's Past.'

Impact on international scholarship and mission of the national museum

International researchers began immediately to hail the project and to make use of the increased access to museum data for exhibitions and publications. The conservation workshops within the Museum now have orderly ease of access to the collection, as do curators when works of art are required for either national or international exhibitions. Objects can now be quickly identified and located, with digital photos and detailed documentation.

ICOM and ICOM-EFEO pamphlets and booklets have aided identification of missing works of art and alerted the world to trafficking in Khmer artifacts. An integral part of recovery is identification—establishing a provenance, or history of ownership. Using the new Inventory Project resources, the Museum is now in a strong position to present appropriate responses in such cases.



Display of textiles in the NMC collection, documented by the CIP team and subsequently used in 'Pictorial Cambodian Textiles' by Gillian Green (2008)

The project staff 2004-2010

The inventory project has benefited from the guidance and support of three Museum directors, Mr. Khun Samen, Mr. Hab Touch and most recently, Mrs. Oun Phalline. Registrars, photographic personnel and cataloguers drawn from the museum staff have now been trained. Those attached to the project number eight. The initial staff trained for the first year numbered four, three of whom are still with the project. Results speak volumes for the dedication of museum staff, for their willingness to work on the collection in a methodical and committed manner—to record, photograph, measure and locate works under less than perfect conditions.

Current cataloguing of the collection as of 2010 stands at: Metal objects 7,309 numbered (of a total of 8,454); Stone 3,211 numbered (of a total of 3,341 - still cataloguing); Ceramics 4,222 numbered (of a total of 4,740 - still cataloguing); and Wood 489 numbered (of a total of 558 - still cataloguing).

The Museum collection now stands at a total of 17,468 works of art. In 2004, at the commencement of the project, an estimate of the Museum's collection numbered around 14,000 objects.

Into the future

Discussion is underway to complement the cataloguing project with a Collection Database Project that would create digital links to give increased access to the collection. Also under discussion is a project to provide computers, equipment and training to provincial museums, using National Museum staff as trainers, with the object of ensuring that these collections become part of a greater Cambodian museum network. It is the Museum's deep hope that ongoing discussions will reach a successful outcome and a new collaboration.

This important project would never have taken place without the vision and generosity of American philanthropist and CKS patron, Shelby White.



Shelby White during her visit in 2006 (back left) on the steps of the National Museum of Cambodia with the then CIP team and Hab Touch, then Deputy Director (far right)

CKS SENIOR FELLOWS 2010-2011

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

Kathie Carpenter is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Studies, University of Oregon. Prof. Carpenter's project entitled *The Daily Lives of Children in Siem Reap's Orphanages* sets out to describe orphanage life from the perspectives of the children who live there. More specifically, using a participant-observation methodology Prof. Carpenter focuses on the ways in which children, staff and institutional culture may combat the negative effects that long-term institutionalization can have on children's development. As Prof. Carpenter notes, Siem Reap lies at the confluence of two important streams of people pouring into the city. Extreme poverty, especially in rural areas of the province, brings children into the city's many orphanages, while cultural and natural attractions brings tourists who are eager to contribute time and resources to support the children in orphanages. This confluence has led to an unusually high concentration of orphanages in Siem Reap, making it an ideal place to observe the conditions of a wide range of orphanages at all stages of their "life cycle" from newly opened to well-established. The results of Prof. Carpenter's work will con-

tribute to a greater understanding of not just the lives of Cambodian children, but the lives of the millions of chil-



Class at orphanage

dren worldwide who are growing up in orphanages.

Michael Dwyer is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Berkeley. Michael's research project is entitled, *'Developing territory: Transnational land deals and state formation in Cambodia and Laos.'* Michael describes how transnational land deals are an increasingly common feature of global development. Cambodia and Laos have experienced two distinct waves of investment, East Asian investment in the plantation sector, and a newer wave of Middle Eastern investment in large-scale food production for export. His research on transnational land access by Chinese companies in northern Laos enables him to construct a comparative account of transnational land access in Laos and Cambodia. This account examines the relationship between state formation and the expansion of transnational, state-backed corporate land deals. The project draws on a combination of existing secondary and historical research, as well as ethnographic materials drawn from development professionals and civil society groups who work in the regulatory sector.

Shawn Fehrenbach is conducting Ph.D. research through the Anthropology Department of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Shawn's project title is, *'Social Interaction and State Development in Cambodia's Mekong Delta.'* It investigates the temporal and spatial relationships between archaeological features, such as sites, distributed across the landscape in southern Cambodia's Mekong Delta. Shawn points out that historical, art historical and archaeological scholarship has shown that this area was an important center of pre-Angkorian state development. His study intends to fill a gap in the present scholarship, which has focused attention on demographic centers at the expense of understanding complete settlement patterns. A two pronged approach to the subject matter will be taken that combines the collection of geospatial data with analysis of ceramics to address research questions that explore the nature of state development in the Mekong Delta in the period 500 BCE-500 CE.

Phillip Green is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religion, University of Florida. His project entitled: *Power, Poetry, Protection: Esoteric Buddhism in the Khmer Empire* examines the extent to which early epigraphical, archaeological, and art historical evidence of esoteric Buddhism in Cambodia demonstrates metaphors of kingship and dominion. Phillip's examination will help scholars better understand early Buddhism in Cambodia between the tenth through to the thirteenth centuries. It will also help in understanding how such esoteric influences affected the development of Cambodian Buddhism up to contemporary times. Additionally, because of esoteric Buddhism's inextricable link with other sectarian traditions of Indian origin in early Cambodia, especially forms of Shaivism, this examination will bring greater clarity to the broader socio-religious milieu of the early Khmers.



The new generation

Alexander Jun is a Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Higher Education at Azusa Pacific University. Professor Jun's research project is entitled *'From Orphan to Scholar: The Academic Resilience of College Bound Khmer Students'*. Prof. Jun is conducting a year-long qualitative study that examines the lives of eight Khmer students attending an international high school while living in a home for orphaned children. The study employs in-depth ethnographic individual interviews and participant observations. It also establishes a conceptual framework for understanding educational resilience and success for orphaned Khmer youth in Cambodia, ultimately focusing on the life stories, experiences and educational pathways of students who have overcome insurmountable odds to succeed both in school and in life. The international school and orphanage selected as the site for the study is located in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh.

Lucie Labbé is a Doctoral Candidate at the Université Paris 5 René Descartes. Her project is entitled: *'La danse dans la construction de l'identité cambodgienne: Evolutions d'une pratique culturelle dans la sphère du développement, entre le sacré et l'artistique.'* Lucie explains that nowadays in Cambodia, classical and folk dance are being taught and performed in different contexts such as tourism and humanitarian NGOs, especially those dealing with children. This apparent cultural practice has become a major part of a development ideology that takes into account not only economic facts, but also deals with issues related to identity. Current discourses on Cambodian dance—that rely on a national historical consciousness—stress that it belongs to tradition and the sacred. In its original context classical dance, as well as some folk choreographies that were created out of popular ritual performances, were exclusively linked to

monarchy and religion. Now, in their contexts of diffusion they seem to be parting from these sacred origins. The aim of this research is to determine the place of dancing practices in the creation of a national Cambodian identity by taking into account their new contexts of teaching and performing.

Judy Ledgerwood is Professor of Anthropology and Program Chair in the affiliate faculty of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University. Prof. Ledgerwood's research project is entitled: *'Cambodian Village Life across War, Revolution and Globalisation: Sabaay Village 1959-2009.'* The project follows life in one village before, during and after the genocide using data from the only anthropologist to conduct research in Cambodia before the war, the late Dr. May Ebiara. Dr. Ebiara conducted ethnographic research in Sabaay village in 1959-60, and then again in the 1990s on village organization, kinship, gender, religion, economics and politics. In the 1990s she chronicled the local death toll and recorded the individual stories of survivors. Prof. Ledgerwood was Dr. Ebiara's research assistant in the 1990s and has continued to conduct research in Sabaay, most recently in 2003 and 2007. When Dr. Ebiara passed away in 2005, she willed her research notes and photos to Prof. Ledgerwood. Prof. Ledgerwood's project involves further research in Sabaay followed by the writing of a book-length manuscript on life in the village over a fifty year period. The research notes are the only existing data on a single community across the period of war and revolution, communism, UN peace-keeping, democratization, 'nation building' and economic transformation via regional and global integration.

Léo Mariani is conducting post-doctoral research at the Université Paris V-UMR 8099. His research project entitled *Statut et ré-insertion des français d'origine cambodgienne dans la société khmère urbaine*, focuses on a small group of young French nationals of Cambodian origin between the ages twenty-forty, who were born in Europe or have spent most of their lives there, but who have returned to settle in Cambodia decades after their parents fled the Khmer Rouge regime in 1975. The aim of the research is to study the status of this group and the ways in which they have integrated into urban areas in the capital city, Phnom Penh. This process will be examined from two distinct dialectical perspectives. The first is located at an institutional level, and is concerned with a set of questions related to the 'contract' that binds them to the Cambodian state. For example, what happens to their status in terms of nationality? What facilities are available to them, and what if any difficulties do they face when dealing with state institutions? The second perspective considers a different set of questions related to societal issues and human interaction. How is, for example, the interaction between returning members of the Cambodian diaspora being played out, what can this tell us about broader changes within contemporary Cambodian society?

John Marston is Professor-Investigador in the Center for Asian and African Studies at El Colegio de México. Prof. Marston's research project, *'Water and Land in Transition: A Comparison of Two Cambodian Communes,'* is an examination of disputes over irrigation systems in two Cambodian communes, a government implemented system in Tang Krasang commune, Kompong Cham and a network of largely entrepreneurial systems in Samprouch commune, Kompong Thom. The research documents the recent history of the systems and the disputes surrounding them in relation to changing political systems and property law. Professor Marston is especially interested in exploring what preliminary research indicates is a "flexibility" towards relations of property in a changing situation. The research hopes to clarify a process of negotiation taking place among stakeholders—villagers, entrepreneurs, state, and representatives of international organizations and NGOs—and how this may represent changes taking place in the nature of village community in Cambodia.

Steven Prigent is conducting doctoral research in the Department of Anthropology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris. His dissertation, entitled *Le Temps social de l'enfance à Cheung Kok (Cambodge rural)*, examines what it means to be a child in the Cambodian rice fields at the beginning of the 21st Century. It does so from the point of view of adults as well as children. Steven's fieldwork involves working closely alongside the children as they go about their daily lives. By adopting a participant observation methodology, Steven attempts to 'infiltrate the children's world' in order to



Vietnamese Cao Daiists during a religious ceremony at Thanh Thanh Kim Bien in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

understand the characteristics of their social time. This approach also considers dialogues with adults and observations of their educational practices. This 'ethnography of childhood' is developed in parallel with ecological, economical, and socio-cultural studies of Cambodian village life centered on the rice fields.

Thien-Huong Ninh is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Sociology, University of Southern California. Her research project title is, *'Transnational Religious Communities: Cross-Border Relations Among Vietnamese Catholic and Caodai Co-Religionists in the U.S., Cambodia, and Vietnam'*. It traces how Vietnamese immigrants transform ethnic-based ideas about religious kinship when they migrate to the U.S. and Cambodia, and later reconnect to their co-religionists across national borders, including those of Vietnam. Whereas the U.S. is a recent destination for Vietnamese mass migration (post 1975), Cambodia is the country with the longest history of receiving Vietnamese immigrants and therefore serves as an ideal case for understanding Vietnamese immigrant adaptation in other countries, including the U.S. Meanwhile, as Vietnam opens its economy to lure the return and investment from Vietnamese abroad since the 1990s, it increasingly plays an important role in the religious life of Vietnamese immigrants.

Courtney Work is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Cornell University. Her project is entitled, *'Entangling the Modern in Rural Cambodia: Religion and Practice.'* Set in rural Cambodia, this research examines religious practice in the context of Cambodia's post-genocide, post-war, economic expansion. Thirty years of war marked by genocide, curtailment of the market, and the near annihilation of Buddhist religion, frames the history that underlies Cambodia's rapid engagement with modernization, democratization and the global market. In this rural context, where the majority of Cambodia's population still lives, Buddhist beliefs and traditions persisted throughout the years of turmoil. Courtney asks, what kinds of religious engagements emerge today as political life, as while the monastic tradition is rebuilt in the context of increasing poverty and political oppression, and the end of war brings democracy and modernization? This research examines the traumas of modernity encapsulated in Khmer history, which also resonate throughout the world, and enquires into the potentially healing and violent work of religion in the process of recovery.

Eve Zucker is a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Zucker's research project is entitled *'Morality, Memory and Meaning: An Ethnographic Study of Local Khmer Responses to Social Change'*. The project is an ethnographic study based in an upland village in Kompong Speu province. It is concerned with social

change, memory and moral order as it pertains to the upheaval of the past as well as significant contemporary events now unfolding in Cambodia. The project is an extension of previous research conducted in this field site. It focuses on how villagers in this region are continuing to rebuild their lives with special attention being paid to potential impacts of the Cambodian tribunal and global recession. Economically, the region is one of the poorest in Cambodia and was a former Khmer Rouge base and battlefield for nearly thirty years.

Frédéric Fortunel is an Enseignant-Chercheur at the Université du Maine. His project is entitled *L'hévéaculture paysanne cambodgienne à l'épreuve de l'intégration régionale, transformations agraires et interactions frontalières dans les provinces de Kampong Cham et de Mondulhiri*. Since the mid-1990s, Cambodia has conducted an ambitious strategy to revitalize smallholder's rubber cultivation. This study analyzes farmers' strategies and issues related to access to natural resources, like land and forest products. In particular it focuses on the Cambodia-Vietnamese border areas, where the challenge is to understand how rubber production is organised on both sides. To do this, fieldwork will be conducted in Cambodia's Mondulhiri and Kampong Cham provinces and in Vietnam's Binh Phuoc province. The aim is to understand—when comparing two separate territories devoted to rubber cultivation—how industry players, especially small farmers, organize their social and economic strategies. By crossing these two lines of analysis, the territorial approach of the rubber production areas proposed in this project, will elucidate the dynamics of contemporary agricultural practices in Cambodia and Vietnam while fueling a broader debate on the transformation of rural areas of the southern plateau of mainland Southeast Asia.



Rubber production

CKS Institutional Consortium Members, Partners and Affiliates

CAMBODIA

APSARA Authority (Siem Reap)
Buddhist Institute (Phnom Penh)
Center for Advanced Study (CAS, Phnom Penh)
Norton University (Phnom Penh)
The National Museum of Cambodia, Phnom Penh
The National Library of Cambodia, Phnom Penh
Pannasastra University (Phnom Penh)
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Royal University of Fine Arts (Phnom Penh)
Royal Academy of Cambodia (Phnom Penh)
University of Cambodia (Phnom Penh)

U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL

American Association of Asian Studies, Ann Arbor
Arizona State University, Tempe/Phoenix
Association of Anthropologists, Hochiminh City
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Sacramento
Chiang Mai University
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia
Cornell University, Ithaca
Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Paris, Siem Reap
IPRAUS, Ecole d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville, Paris
Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva
Humboldt University, Berlin
International Institute of Asian Studies, Leiden
Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po)
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore
National University of Singapore
New School University, New York
New York Public Library of Performing Arts
Northern Illinois University, De Kalb
Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development, Los Angeles
Research Institute of Contemporary Southeast Asia, (RICSEA), Bangkok
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London
Siam Society, Bangkok
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP), Manila
Southern Institute of Social Sciences, Hochiminh City
State University of New York, Stony Brook University
The J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles
University of Bonn
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at Los Angeles
University of California at Riverside
University of Chicago
University of Florida, Gainesville
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of the Philippines, Manila
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
World Monuments Fund, New York



Center for Khmer Studies

Head Office:
PO Box 9380

Wat Damnak, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Tel: (855) 063 964 385
Fax: (855) 063 963 035

Phnom Penh Office:
234 Street 450, Tuol Tumpung II, Chamkamorn,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel/Fax: (855) 023 991 937

Email: center@khmerstudies.org
Website: www.khmerstudies.org

In Focus

No.8, 2010-2011



The Center for Khmer Studies

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to CKS

LOIS DE MENIL, PRESIDENT

3

Director's Note

MICHAEL SULLIVAN

4-5

Members & Benefactors

OLIVIER BERNIER, VICE-PRESIDENT

6-7

The CKS Library

8-9

Program & Activities

THE JUNIOR FACULTY TRAINING PROGRAM (JFTP)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

PUBLISHING & TRANSLATION

10-14

New Directions

15-16

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING

SUMMER KHMER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAM

THE CKS LECTURE AND SEMINAR SERIES

Feature Article

17-20

A FORTUITOUS VISITOR AND A COLLABORATION WITH CKS

PRESS ACCLAIM AND NEW INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY

IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND MISSION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

THE PROJECT STAFF 2004-2010

INTO THE FUTURE

Senior Fellows

20-23

