

# CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Week of Sept. 13, 2021



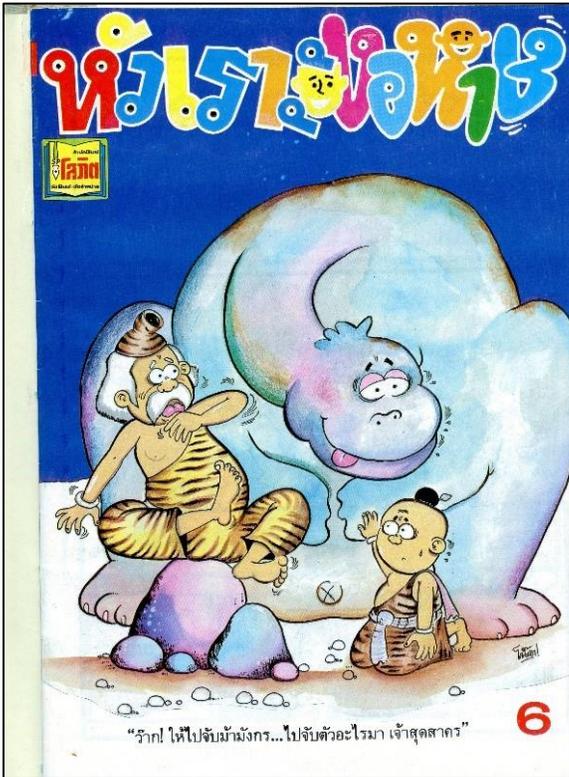
*Seven dam projects planned for the Salween River in Myanmar, Southeast Asia's longest undammed waterway, are on hold in post-coup Myanmar. How river communities mobilized against dam projects before the coup is just one topic to be covered in this week's 14<sup>th</sup> International Burma Studies Conference. Details below. (Photo / Reuters)*

## Rescheduled 2020 Burma conference goes virtual in 2021

### CSEAS Quick Links

- ✓ [CSEAS website](#)
- ✓ [Southeast Asia Crossroads podcast](#)
- ✓ [Mandala 2020-21](#)
- ✓ [CSEAS Facebook page](#)
- ✓ [CSEAS Twitter feed](#)

- Friday fall lectures go virtual for next four weeks
- Taking in this week's International Burma Studies Conference
- Screens on for International Burma Studies Conference
- Burmese refugee exhibit, activities at NIU Art Museum
- Save the dates: Refugee exhibit, virtual conferences, SEA Showcase
- New on Crossroads podcast: Elephant riders of Burma forestlands
- Conferences, workshops, webinars
- Money for study
- Careers



Example of a Thai comic included with commentary by Nicolas Verstappen in a Southeast Asia Collection digital exhibit.

## Friday fall lectures go virtual for next four weeks

The CSEAS Fall Lecture Series began a four-week virtual run via Zoom **Sept. 9** with Chulalongkorn University lecturer Nicolas Verstappen, author of the forthcoming *The Art of Thai Comics* (River Books, 2021), presenting “The Hermit and the Buffoon: Thai Comics’ Archetypes in the Service of the Nation.” Thai comics, with notes by Verstappen, are also featured in a [digital exhibit](#) put together by Southeast Asia Collection at Founders Library (available to view through September). Verstappen will be followed up **Sept. 23** at 7 p.m. CDT by National University of Singapore political scientist Elvin Ong presenting “Opposing Power: Building Opposition Alliances in Electoral Autocracies” (register [here](#)). On **Sept. 30** at 7 p.m. CDT, Jonathan Liljeblad from the College of Law at Australian National University will present “The Limit of Human Rights Education in Myanmar Universities: International Norms and Local Discourse” (register [here](#)), followed by University of California-Berkeley anthropologist Daena Funahashi presenting “Authority Under Erasure: Reconstituting the Constitution in Thailand” at noon CDT **Oct. 8** (register [here](#)). All lectures are free and open to the public.

## Screens on for International Burma Studies Conference

Recent CSEAS alumni, faculty associates, and faculty emeriti will be among 106 presenters online in [24 panels](#) for the first virtual International Burma Studies Conference this weekend, **Sept. 16–19**. [Burnavision 2021](#), the Center for Burma Studies’ 14<sup>th</sup> international conference, will begin with opening remarks at 8 a.m. CDT Thursday, **Sept. 16**, with the first set of concurrent sessions beginning at 8:30 a.m. CDT. CSEAS-affiliated presenters include CSEAS associates Micah Morton (anthropology), Melissa Lenczewski (geology and environmental geosciences), Catherine Raymond (art history), and Alan Potkin (CSEAS); faculty emeriti Kenton Clymer (history) and John Hartmann (world languages and cultures); doctoral student Lei (Annie) Tong (political science); alumni Nicole Loring (Ph.D. political science, 2019) and JoAnn LoSavio (Ph.D. history, 2020); and visiting scholar Chit Wityi Oo.



Some of the members of the Karen community in Aurora, IL with a traditional bamboo house they recreated for “The Art of Surviving” exhibit. (Photo / Karla Findley)

## Burmese refugee exhibit, activities at NIU Art Museum

“The Art of Surviving: The Journey of Burmese Karen Refugees in Illinois,” a Center for Burma Studies exhibit that has been several years in the making, is on display through **Nov. 12** at the NIU Art Museum. The [exhibit](#) examines the Burmese Karen refugee experience through recreations of home, glimpses of refugee camps, artifacts, textiles, oral histories, and photographs. During the course of the exhibition, there will be online and in-person talks by local Karen refugees, their young adult children who are now NIU students, and representatives from area organizations who have helped welcome refugees into northern Illinois. These special events will take place in 125 Altgeld Hall; seating is limited and require masks to attend. See Save the Dates below for dates and times. The exhibit is planned to become a traveling exhibit in 2022.

## Save the dates: Refugee exhibit, virtual conferences, SEA showcase

- **Sept. 30:** “Living in Confinement”: Members of the Burmese Karen refugee community of Aurora share their experiences of living in refugee camps before coming to the U.S. in [online](#) and in-person presentation at 5 p.m. Moderated by Karla Findley.
- **Oct. 14:** “Land of Hope: Living Together in the U.S.”: Aurora, IL community members who have welcomed refugees share their experiences in [online](#) and in-person presentation at 5 p.m. Moderated by Karla Findley.
- **Oct. 23:** Look for CSEAS at NIU [STEM Fest](#), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Holmes Student Center.
- **Oct. 28:** “Huskie Refugees at NIU”: Three NIU students share their experiences as young adult children of Burmese Karen refugees in [online](#) and in-person presentation at 5 p.m.
- **Nov. 5:** 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Concert: Showcase of Southeast Asian Performing Arts, 7 p.m. CST, Boutell Hall. Accompanied by “Looking at Women in Contemporary Burma” exhibit, on display in the adjacent Whitney Gallery **Sept. 30** to **Dec. 10**. Opening reception at 6 p.m. before concert.
- **Nov. 12–13:** Council on Thai Studies (COTS) virtual conference, hosted by Ohio University.

## New on Crossroads podcast: Elephant riders of Burma forestlands



In the latest [episode](#) of Southeast Asia Crossroads, Jacob Shell, associate professor of geography and urban studies at Temple University, discusses with host and CSEAS Assistant Director Eric Jones his interest in elephants through his research on transportation on animal-back. His first book, *Transportation and Revolt: Pigeons, Mules, Canals, and the Vanishing Geographies of Subversive Mobility*, was published by MIT Press in 2015. From there, Shell set out to write a book about elephants as a means of transportation, leading him to the teak forests of central Myanmar. His resulting book, *Giants of the Monsoon Forest: Living and Working with Elephants*, was published by WW Norton in 2019. With 72 episodes, Southeast Asia Crossroads' following has grown to 50,000 listens since its 2016 debut with listeners in 100 countries; topics range from history and politics to art and culture. Tune in also to [Napalm in the Morning](#), an exploration of films dealing with the Vietnam War.

## Conferences, workshops, webinars

### Conferences

- **International Burma Studies Conference**, Sept. 16–19, hosted virtually by Northern Illinois University, Center for Burma Studies. See [website](#).
- **COTS 2021**, Nov. 12–13: Council on Thai Studies annual meeting, hosted virtually by Ohio University. **Abstracts due: Sept. 24.**
- **Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference**, Oct. 21–24, Vancouver. See [website](#).
- **2021 National Humanities Conference**, Nov. 11–14, Detroit. See [website](#).
- **Modern Language Association Conference**, Jan. 6–9, Washington, DC. Covering such issues as big data and social media in Southeast Asia. See [website](#).

### Webinar

- **Myanmar's Diplomatic Battleground: Who Should Lead?** Sept. 13, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. EDT. Panel organized by the Foreign Correspondent Club of Thailand will discuss the fight between the Myanmar junta or the National Unity Government over who will represent Myanmar at the UN General Assembly, to be taken up at the UN Sept. 14. For link and list of speakers, which includes UN Special Envoy on Myanmar Christine Schraner Bergener, see [website](#).

## Money for study

### Center for Indonesian Policy Studies

- **Visiting research fellowships:** Opportunities for Indonesian and non-Indonesian students completing their Indonesia-related doctorate and post-graduate theses to conduct field research in Indonesia over 3-6 month period. **No deadline to apply.** See [website](#).

### Rotary International

- **Rotary Peace Fellowships:** Fully paid fellowships for master's degree (up to two years) or professional development certificate studies (three months) offered through six universities worldwide. See [website](#).

### Council of American Overseas Research Centers

- **Fellowships:** For U.S. doctoral candidates and postdocs. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 16.** See [website](#).

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### *ProFellow*

- **Dissertation Research Fellowships:** Check the ProFellow [website](#) for 30 different opportunities for dissertation research funding.

## Careers

### *U.S.-ASEAN Business Council*

- **Policy and research internships:** Semester [internships](#) based in Washington, D.C. Recent graduates encouraged to apply. For details, email [internships@usasean.org](mailto:internships@usasean.org). See [website](#).

### *Bridge to Success*

- **English Teachers in China:** Ten-month- internships and jobs for English speakers with bachelor's degree minimum. See [website](#).

### *Center for Strategic and International Studies*

- **Internships:** Full- and part-time internships for undergraduates, advanced students and recent graduates who are interested in gaining practical experience in public policy. Based in Washington, DC. Rolling deadlines to apply. See [website](#).

### *Eurasia Group*

- See [website](#) for job opportunities.

### *Globaljobs.org*

- **Job/internship opportunities:** Turn area studies into an internship or a career. See job listings at NGOs, think tanks, government, and private-sector employers. See [website](#).

### *Chinese Mutual Aid Association*

- **Interns:** Pan-Asian social service organization accepting candidates for interns for business development, grant writing and workforce development and outreach liaison duties. Compensation in college credit. See [website](#).

### *US Department of State*

- **Student internship program:** Internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at Washington headquarters and US embassies, consulates and missions worldwide. Explore postgraduate civil-service career paths as well. See [program website](#). **Career opportunities:** Internships and jobs posted regularly on [website](#).

### *Association of Southeast Asian Nations*

- Jobs listed under [Opportunities](#) tab of ASEAN website.

### *Devex: Do Good. Do It Well*

- International aid and development jobs in 1,000 agencies, companies and NGOs in 100 countries. See [website](#).

### *DevMetJOBS.org*

- International development jobs and consulting opportunities. See [website](#).

### *Hess International Educational Group*

- **Teach English across Asia:** Taiwan-based organization offers free training, benefits, and flex scheduling. See [website](#).

### *Idealist.org*

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. See [website](#).

### *Learn How to Become*

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of meaningful volunteer and nonprofit career options and resources. See [website](#).

*ReliefWeb*

- Specialized digital service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that posts jobs regularly. See [website](#).

*World Health Organization*

- Global health agency in the United Nations system encourages online applications for potential employment. See [website](#).

## The future calls

You can help keep Southeast Asian studies program at NIU going strong with your contribution through the NIU Foundation. To contribute online, see [How to Give](#) and where indicated, specify the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. If your employer matches your charitable donations, please take a moment to fill out that form and **double** your contribution. We appreciate every gift. Thank you!

*Persons with a disability who need assistance at any Center event may contact CSEAS at 815-753-1771. If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, reply to this e-mail with request to remove your name. Thank you.*

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