

# CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Week of Oct. 25, 2021



From left, Four of NIU's Karen students Nasay Beh, Wah Shee Htoo, Hser Eh Thaw Beh and Lay Mu. Lay Mu and two other Karen students will share their stories Oct. 28. Details below. (Photo / NIU Media Services)

## Sharing stories: Karen students and a community read

### CSEAS Quick Links

✓ [CSEAS website](#)

✓ [Southeast Asia Crossroads](#)  
podcast

✓ [Mandala 2020-21](#)

✓ [CSEAS Facebook page](#)

✓ [CSEAS Twitter feed](#)

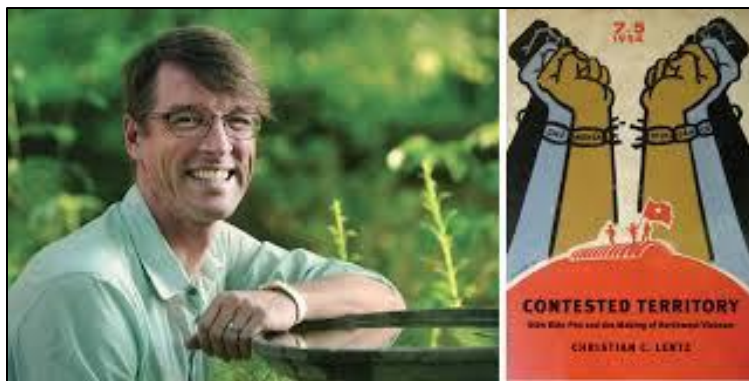
- This week's lecture: Cambodian American identities **NEW**
- Sign up for Tuesday's virtual GETSEA Community Read **NEW**
- Catching up with center associates: Cham manuscripts, Burma Art Collection grants **NEW**
- **Oct. 28** Burmese refugee exhibit talk features NIU Karen students **NEW**
- From *wayang* to gamelan, a night of SEA performing arts
- 2020-21 *Mandala* online and in print
- Save the dates: Virtual grad school fair, STEMfest, SEA showcase, COTS
- Latest Crossroads podcast: A Cambodia village across the decades
- Conferences, workshops, webinars **NEW**
- Money for study **NEW**
- Careers **NEW**



Vichet Chhuon

## This week's lecture: Cambodian American identities

Vichet Chhuon, associate professor of education and Asian American Studies at the University of Minnesota, will present “Cambodian American Identities, Families and Futures” at noon CDT **Oct. 22** in Campus Life 100 and via [Zoom](#) (registration required). Chhuon’s research, which focuses on the academic and ethnic identities of Cambodian American students, looks at how their ethnic identity options and decisions are consequential for relationships with peers, teachers and other significant adults in schools. In other writings, he has also extended that line of research to the experiences of all students of color. For information on any CSEAS lecture, contact Outreach Coordinator Rachael Skog at [rskog@niu.edu](mailto:rskog@niu.edu) or CSEAS at [cseas@niu.edu](mailto:cseas@niu.edu).



Christian C. Lentz, author of the book *Contested Territory*, chosen for the GETSEA Community Read.

## Sign up for Tuesday's virtual GETSEA Community Read

Join the Graduate Education and Training in Southeast Asia (GETSEA) consortium for its virtual GETSEA Community Read event at 6 p.m. CDT **Oct. 19** (register [here](#)). The chosen book is *Contested Territory: Điện Biên Phủ and the Making of Northwest Vietnam* by Christian C. Lentz, associate professor of geography at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Lentz reframes the 1954 Battle of Điện Biên Phủ in this 2019 work of historical and political geography that won the Association of Asian Studies' 2021 Harry J. Benda Prize. With the defeat of the French by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the battle of Điện Biên Phủ marked the end of the French empire in modern Vietnam as well as Cambodia and Laos. Among other insights, Lentz offers a novel conceptualization of territory as “a contested process, political technology,

and contingent outcome of grounded struggles.” Moderating the discussion will be Nancy Peluso of University of California-Berkeley. A limited number of copies of the book, published by Yale University Press, are available at CSEAS. Contact [cseas@niu.edu](mailto:cseas@niu.edu) for availability. The book is also [available](#) at NIU Libraries, both in print and as an e-book.

## Catching up with center associates

✳ Hao Phan (NIU Libraries) will be part of a virtual three-person discussion about the Southeast Asia Digital Library’s latest addition, “Cham Manuscripts from Vietnam: Creating Access to Endangered Materials,” in a Graduate Education and Training in Southeast Asia (GETSEA) event at 3 p.m. CDT **Oct. 25** via [Zoom](#) (registration required). Phan, along with Jody Butterworth, curator for the British Library’s Endangered Archives Programme, will discuss the origins, research potential and the challenges of digitizing this collection of 977 manuscripts from the Cham, an important Vietnamese minority group.

✳ Catherine Raymond (Art History, Center for Burma Studies) presented “New Perspectives on Burmese Harp and its Connection with the Asian Harp Tradition” virtually at the International Council for Traditional Music’s **Oct. 7–9** Symposium on Objects and Images of Music in Public and Private Art Museums, in Lisbon, Portugal. The ICTM’s Study Group on Iconography of the Performing Arts event was co-hosted by the Centre for the Study of the Sociology and Aesthetics of Music at NOVA University in Lisbon. Raymond also reports that the Center for Burma Studies has been notified it has received two new grants: \$50,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for digitizing the Burma Art Collection and a \$10,000 Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to go toward preserving the Burma Art Collection’s multi-ethnic textiles.

✳ James Cohen (College of Education) is part of an NIU team establishing a Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation ([TRHT](#)) Campus Center on campus. NIU is one of 19 U.S. colleges and universities invited by the Association of American Colleges and Universities to start a new TRHT center, supported by funding from the Lumina, Meyer and Trellis foundations and Wiley Education Services.

## Last Burmese refugee exhibit talk features NIU Karen students

Three NIU undergraduate students who have lived the refugee experience will talk about being young adult children of Karen refugees at 5 p.m. CDT **Oct. 28** at the NIU Art Museum where the Center for Burma Studies exhibit, “The Art of Surviving: The Journey of Burmese Karen Refugees in Illinois,” is on display through **Nov. 12**. The [exhibit](#) examines the Burmese Karen refugee experience through recreations of home, glimpses of refugee camps, artifacts, textiles, oral histories, and photographs. The students—Lay Mu (B.A. nursing), Pay Say (B.A. accounting) and Sue Dar (B.A. human resources)—will offer their perspectives both in person in 125 Altgeld Hall and [online](#); seating is limited and masks are required. The exhibit will become a traveling exhibit in 2022. For more details about the exhibit, which is free and open to the public, see **Sept. 14** [article](#) by Katrina J. E. Milton in the *Midweek*.



NIU guitar instructor An Tran will perform Vietnamese music composed for solo guitar at the Nov. 5 Showcase for Southeast Asian Performing Arts.

## From wayang to gamelan, a night of SEA performing arts

Ever since last spring's pandemic shutdown, CSEAS associate Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music) looked toward rescheduling what was going to be a showcase of Southeast Asian performing arts to celebrate NIU's [125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year](#) and mark NIU's long [history](#) with Southeast Asian studies. This free public event is now back on the calendar, set for **Nov. 5**, at 7 p.m. CDT in the Boutell Concert Hall. The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Showcase of Southeast Asian Performing Arts will feature *wayang kulit* puppetry by [Jennifer Goodlander](#), Thai music and dance, Javanese gamelan, Vietnamese guitar, and two world premiere percussion pieces. In conjunction with the concert will be the opening reception at 6 p.m. for "Looking at Women in Contemporary Burma," an exhibit of Burmese contemporary art on display in the adjacent Whitney Gallery through **Dec. 10**. The events are co-sponsored by CSEAS, the Center for Burma Studies, the Office of Academic Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the School of Music.

## 2020-21 Mandala online and in print

How did the CSEAS community spend the pandemic year? Virtual conferences, online classes, virtual exhibits, online cultural events, and dealing with COVID-19 in SEA. Check out our take on a year and a half like no other, plus faculty activities, student news, and alumni updates, in the combined summer [2020-21 Mandala](#) newsletter, now in print and online.

## Save the dates: Virtual grad fair, STEMfest, SEA showcase, COTS

- **Through Oct. 31:** Digital Thai comics [exhibit](#) through the Southeast Asia Collection at Founders Library.
- **Through Nov. 12:** "The Art of Surviving: The Journey of Burmese Karen Refugees in Illinois" at the NIU Art Museum.
- **Oct. 19:** Virtual Graduate and Professional School Fair, 5 to 7 p.m. See [details](#).
- **Oct. 19:** GETSEA Community Read. See separate news item above.
- **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., 125 Altgeld.
- **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.
- **Nov. 15–19:** International Education Week.
- **Through May 14:** Exhibit exploring nine textile-making practices from around the world including Southeast Asia on display at the Pick Museum of Anthropology in Cole Hall. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

## Latest Crossroads podcast: A Cambodian village across the decades



In the latest [episode](#) of Southeast Asia Crossroads, CSEAS Director and anthropologist Judy Ledgerwood sits with host Eric Jones to talk about her latest research and unprecedented study of one Cambodian village through 60 tumultuous years. With 73 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

- **Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference**, Oct. 21–24, Vancouver. See [website](#).
- **COTS 2021**, Nov. 12–13: Council on Thai Studies annual meeting, hosted virtually by Ohio University.
- **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](#).
- **East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference**, Feb. 17–20, virtual. See [website](#).
- **Association of Asian Studies Conference**, March 24–27, Honolulu. See [website](#). **NEW**
- **Midwest Political Science Conference**, April 7–10, Chicago IL and virtual. Call for papers, roundtables and panel proposals. **Deadline extended to submit: Oct. 22.** See [website](#). **NEW**

### Webinars

- **Queer and Feminist Movements against Dictatorship in Thailand**, 7 p.m. CDT, Oct. 20. Thai queer feminist Sirabhob “Raptor” Attohi in conversation with Cornell University SEA historian Tamara Loos. Details and registration [here](#). **NEW**

## Money for study

### *U.S. Department of State*

- **Critical Language Scholarships:** Intensive summer 2022 language program in Indonesian. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 16.** See [website](#). **NEW**

### *Council of American Overseas Research Centers*

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

### *U.S. Department of Defense*

- **Boren Awards:** Intensive language study scholarships for undergraduates, fellowships for graduate students. **Deadline to apply for scholarships: Feb. 2. Deadline to apply for fellowships: Jan. 26.** See NIU Boren advisor Lauren Mock ([lmock1@niu.edu](mailto:lmock1@niu.edu)) or the Boren [website](#).

### *Blakemore Foundation*

- **Blakemore-Freeman Fellowships:** Awarded for one academic year of full-time intensive language study of Asian languages, including Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Khmer or Burmese, in approved language programs in East or Southeast Asia. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. **Deadline to apply: Dec. 30.** See [website](#).

### *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](#).

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### *ProFellow*

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

## Careers

### *Japan Information Center*

- **Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program:** Live and teach English for a year in Japan. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 12.** See [website](#). **NEW**

### *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

- **Assistant SEA history professor:** Full-time tenure-track position. Part of multi-disciplinary hiring initiative focused on Social Justice in Southeast Asia. **Deadline to apply: Oct. 24.** See [job posting](#). **NEW**

*SUNY-Cortland*

- **Assistant professor of Asian history:** Southeast Asia specialty encouraged for full-time tenure-track position. **Application review begins Nov. 5.** See [job posting](#). **NEW**

*Rutgers University-New Brunswick*

- **Assistant global studies professor:** Tenure-track position; regional and disciplinary focus open but expert knowledge of one or more Asian country and language requires. **Deadline to apply: Dec. 31.** See [job posting](#).

*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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