

CSEAS

CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Annual Report 2019



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The Center maintains a directory of faculty at the UHM and at the East-West Center who are specialists on the Southeast Asia region. This section provides a snapshot of Southeast Asia faculty specialist activities during AY 2018-19. You can also view the [specialist database](#) on our website.

8-10 STUDENTS

This section features information on students at UHM, as well as alumni, whose studies and research are focused on Southeast Asia. These highlights include students who have received scholarships, published their research, and produced outstanding projects in AY 2018-19.

11-17 OUTREACH

CSEAS works to increase awareness of the countries of Southeast Asia. This includes hosting talks, funding activities and events at UHM, and posting/archiving content on our website. Programs included talks, performances, and film screenings. You can also view more information about CSEAS opportunities and activities our [website](#).

18-19 WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

A large component of the Center's work to promote Southeast Asia and related activities, both at UHM and abroad, is done through our online resources. Our website, social media profiles, and various digital repositories provide us with a platform to share information ranging from contemporary events and job/funding opportunities, to hosting archives of specialized content such as documentaries, policy reports, and academic journals.

20-21 STAFF



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We are pleased to support Southeast Asian studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). Our Center's primary mission is to promote multidisciplinary understandings of Southeast Asia: its peoples, religions, history, economics, geography, art, cultures, science, and politics. Developing UHM's capacities in Southeast Asian studies by UHM faculty, staff, and students lie at the core of our work. Our 2019 Center activities fall within several of the Center's objectives in our [Mission Statement](#), which this report showcases.

Offering student funding to study Southeast Asian languages and cultures through the Foreign Language Area Fellowships (FLAS) program and other center-based sources of funding remain one of our core priorities. We just completed the first year of our Center's Title VI funding from the U.S. Department of Education's FLAS support for 2018-2022. Ten undergraduate and graduate students used AY FLAS funding (and two in Summer 2019) to study Khmer, Tagalog, Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese languages both here at UHM and in intensive summer programs like the Southeast Asia Summer Studies Institute (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

Supporting instruction in major Southeast Asian languages at UHM, where our faculty and staff routinely teach the region's major languages, is also a key Center goal. Our Center helped provide seed funding in 2019 for Dr. Pia Arboleda's development of Tagalog language training materials through her *Pamana ng lahi* program. She piloted an educational experience at St. Louis High School in June 2019, and work is ongoing.

We established viable academic and education partnerships with academic and governmental institutions in Southeast Asia through Memoranda of Understanding agreements. The Center also helped sponsor colloquia and conferences involving Southeast Asian topics. We link UHM faculty, staff and students with interests in Southeast Asia through scholarly and social events.

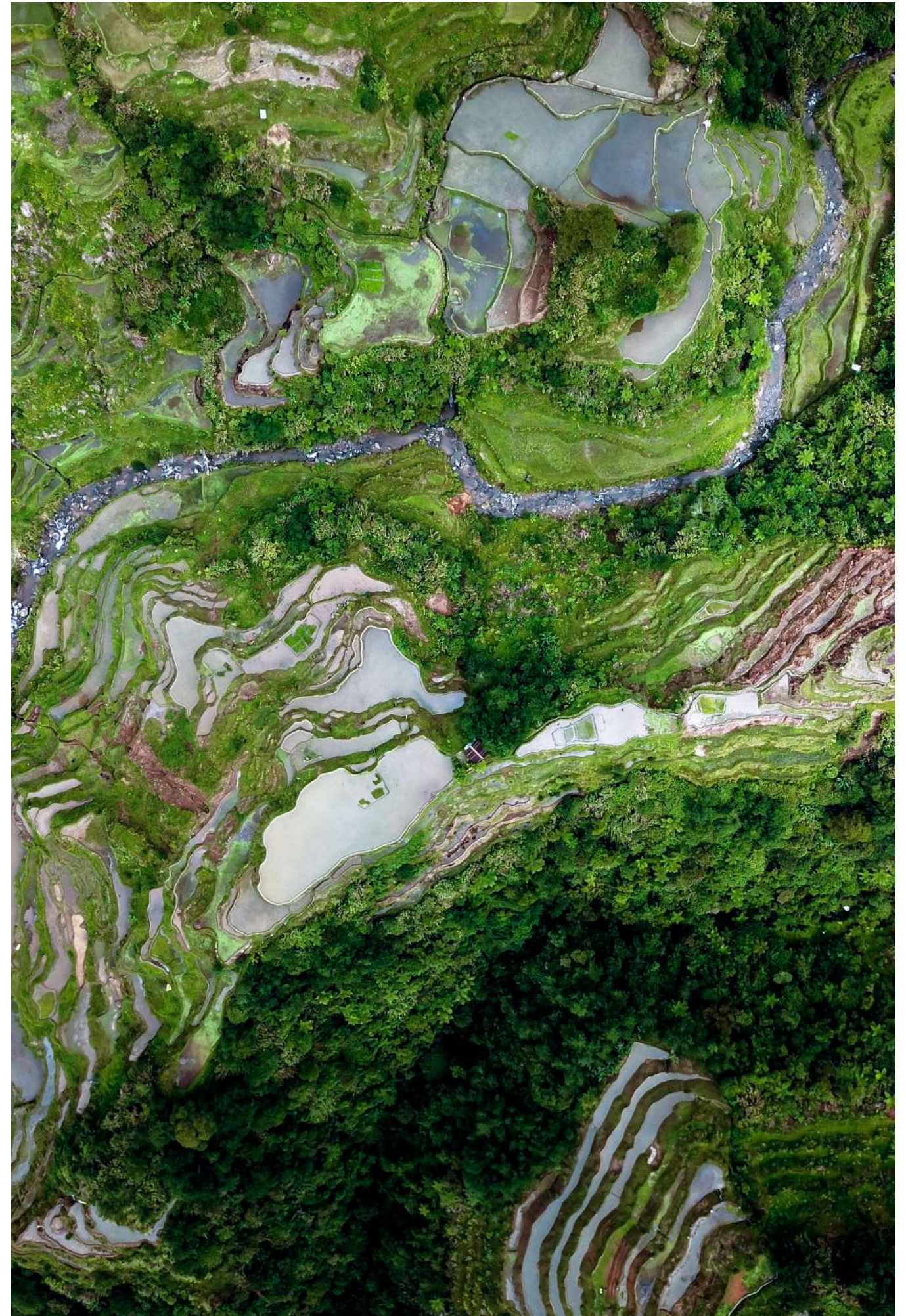
The academic year saw the continuation of activities that are entrenched parts of our longstanding Balinese arts outreach program, including school performances and lecture demonstrations. We also played a role in the bi-annual Indonesian dance and music concerts for the community hosted by the UHM Department of Music.

Maintaining and enhancing our university's international reputation as an outstanding resource in Southeast Asian studies takes different forms, and we are increasingly going digital. The UHM CSEAS website and social media presence continue to grow in audience reach and in the depth and the breadth of content, confronting relevant issues in politics, social and environmental movements, and the arts of Southeast Asia. Our bimonthly CSEAS Newsletter also increased its subscribers base by 10% from the previous year, and now reaches more than 1500 readers globally. Our newsletter offers up-to-date information on research, scholarships, conferences, publications, public events, and more.

Southeast Asian studies remains vibrant here in our UHM community. We welcomed new faculty member Dr. Hayden Shelby (PhD in City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley), into our Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Her dissertation probed the politics of a community-based slum upgrading program in Thailand. Other UHM colleagues are resuming work in Southeast Asia, like Krisna Suryanata (Geography & Environment), whose political ecology work began in Indonesia, expanded to Hawai'i in recent decades and is returning to Southeast Asian topics through collaboration with her students and in-country colleagues. UHM alumni bring new Southeast Asian digital media our way, and we are deepening linkages with our Southeast Asia-based research partners. It is both an exciting and challenging time to direct our Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

Finishing my first year as Center director marked a real milestone, and I owe deep debts to outgoing CSEAS Director Kirstin Pauka for her unwavering support during the transition and beyond, to the CSEAS Executive Board who brings energy and ideas to our Center, and most particularly to Associate Director Paul Rausch. His institutional memory and skills are foundational to our Center's work, and essential to the exciting new directions we are taking in the world of digital Southeast Asia. May Year 2 bring even more opportunities to highlight Southeast Asia and our UHM Southeast Asian community!

*Dr. Miriam Stark
Director, CSEAS*





FACULTY

This section provides a snapshot of Southeast Asia faculty specialist activities during AY 2018-19.

You can also view the [specialist database](#) on our website.

DR. SOTHY ENG:

Born and raised in Cambodia, Dr. Sothy Eng joined the UHM College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), as assistant professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Science. His research interests include: Cambodian education including access and equity, program development and evaluation, child and adolescent learning and development, family and community development, social capital, remarried families, gender-based violence, and international development.

DR. MICHAEL AUNG-THWIN:

UHM professor of Asian Studies, Dr. Aung-Thwin, spent the academic year at the National University of Singapore, where he held the George E. Bogaars Professorship in History.

DR. LISA KELLEY:

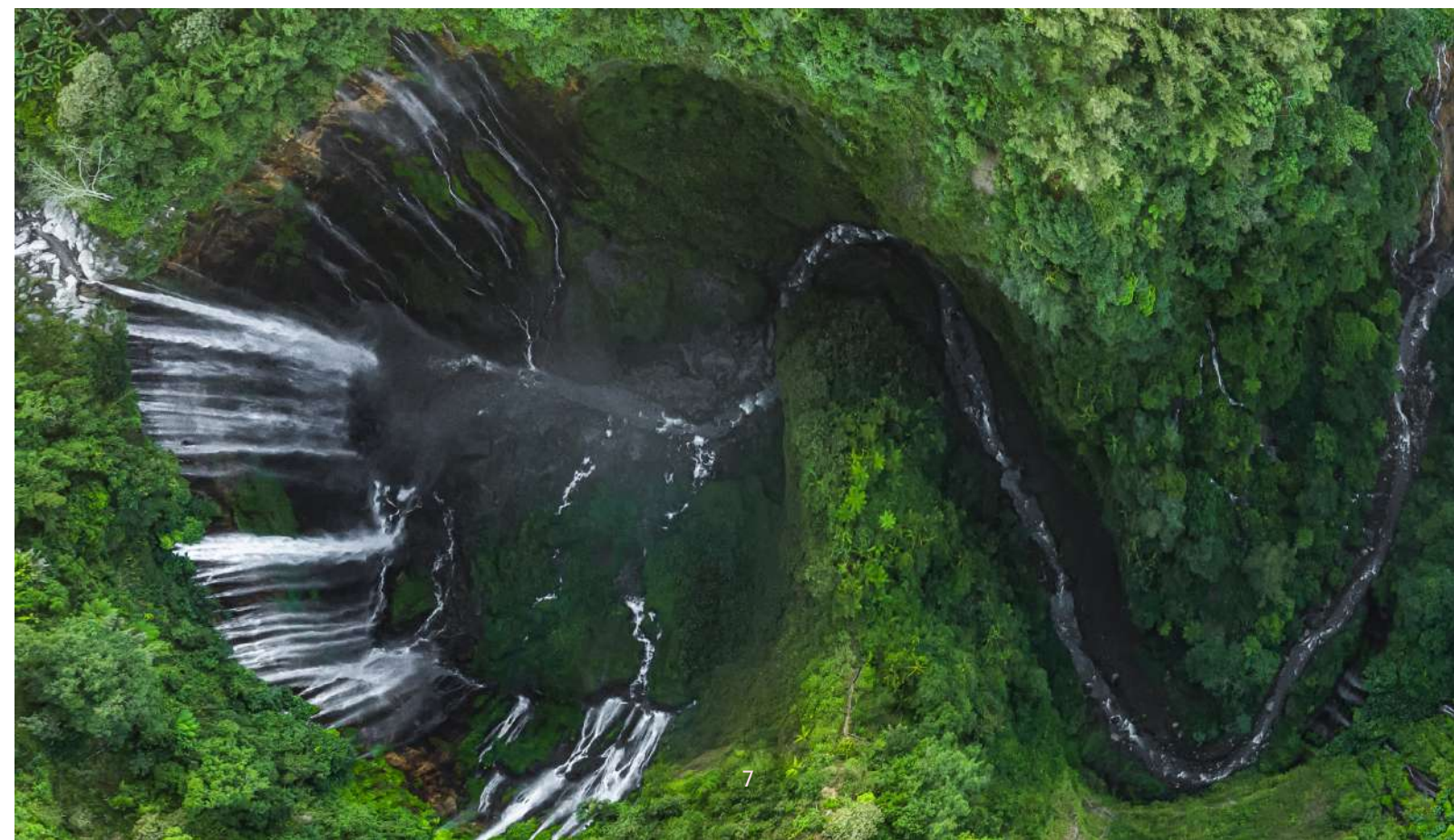
An assistant professor in the UHM Department of Geography and Environment, Dr. Kelley’s article “The Politics of Smallholder Cacao Expansion: A Critical Physical Geography of Agricultural Transformation in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia” was published in *Geoforum*.

DR. MOHD MIZAN MOHAMMAD ASLAM:

A former rector at the Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Dr. Mohd Mizan Mohammad Aslam was a visiting scholar for the Spring 2019 semester. His research focused on the topic of “assessing the effectiveness of de-radicalization programs for Islamist extremists using a comparative analysis of strategies adopted by the US and Malaysia.”

DR. BEN FAIRFIELD:

A UHM alumnus, Dr. Fairfield was awarded his PhD in Ethnomusicology in 2017. He is a former Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Awardee (Thai 2015). Since graduating, he has been active on the Thai music scene as a researcher, teacher, and performer. He is currently affiliated with the UHM Music Department, and on the journals staff at the University of Hawai‘i Press.



STUDENTS



SOKSAMPHOAS IM

A PhD candidate in the UHM Department of Political Science, Soksamphoas Im was selected for the prestigious American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Doctoral Fellowship to continue her research on Cambodia's new national aging policy during the 2019 academic year.

DYLAN BEATTY

PhD student in the UHM Department of Geography and Environment, Dylan Beatty continued his research on politics and ocean space in Palawan, Philippines, where he conducted fieldwork as a visiting fellow at the University of the Philippines-Diliman (UPD). He has also presented a paper at the National Conference on Geographical Studies (UPD).

MICHELLE HUYNH

Michelle (FLAS awardee, Vietnamese 2016) completed her UHM MFA in Asian Theatre Performance, with her research focus on performance and cultural practices of the ethnic Cham people.

MICAH PEXA

Micah, a UHM Asian Studies and Second Language Studies MA alum, walked the 2,193 miles of the Appalachian Trail to raise money for [Friends of Thai Daughters](#) (FTD), a non-profit organization that fights child trafficking in Northern Thailand. He recorded his entire journey in blog form on his [website](#).

You can also view student [theses and dissertations](#) on our website.

2018-19 FLAS FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

CSEAS congratulates our Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship Awardees (FLAS) for academic year 2018-19 and Summer 2019!

ACADEMIC YEAR

Jordan Antonio (MA, Asian Studies) - Indonesian

Eunica Escalante (BA, Journalism/Fil) - Tagalog

Romel Gaspar (BA, TIM/Fil) - Tagalog

Michelle Hyunh (MFA, Theater) - Vietnamese

Hunter Kaye (MA, Asian Studies) - Vietnamese

Matthew Kelty (PhD, Theater) - Indonesian

Dustin Louis (MA, Anthropology) - Vietnamese

Kenory Khuy (JD, Law) - Cambodian

Jeannie Magdua (MA, Asian Studies) - Tagalog

Adara P Pineda (BA, Journaism, Fil) - Tagalog

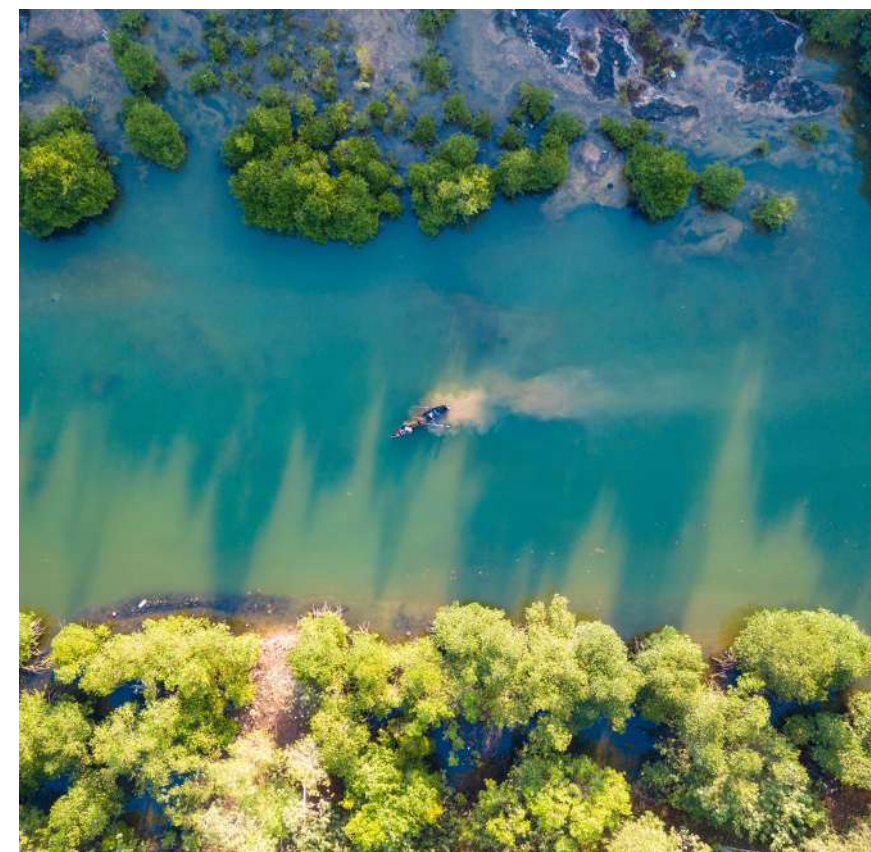
SUMMER

Jenny Ung (MA, Anthropology) - Khmer (Cambodian)

Seng Khang (MA Anthropology) -Thai

Jacob Hakim (MA Linguistics) - Indonesian

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS



LUCE GRADUATE FIELD STUDY FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND ADVANCED LANGUAGE STUDY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The recipients of the 2019 Luce Graduate Study Fellowships for Research and Advanced Language Study in Southeast Asia were Benjamin Moseley (PhD candidate in Southeast Asian History) and Ruadhán Hughes (MA student, Second Language Studies).

Moseley's fieldwork focused on historical relations between local communities, Catholic missionaries, and Portuguese administrators and colonists in 16th-17th century Indonesia; while Hughes studied Indonesian language and literature with plans to include these in future teaching efforts.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Southeast Asia Paper Prize, 2019 SPAS Graduate Student Conference “Connections Behind Security Zones: Everyday Politics Surrounding Gates in Jakarta”: Genta Kuno, Graduate School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University

The John Fee Embree Endowed Scholarship: Michelle Harangody, PhD student, Geography

The Albert D. Moscotti Fellowship for Graduate Studies of Southeast Asia: Phianphachong Intarat, PhD candidate, Anthropology

DISSERTATIONS

Anthropology: Heng Piphah, PhD 2018, “Political Economy and State Formation of Pre-Angkorian Cambodia: Viewed from Thala Borivat”

Asian Theatre: Annie Reynolds, PhD 2018, “Shifting Embodied Practices: An exploration and examination of movement, expression, and character depiction in contemporary Balinese legong choreographies”

Geography: Micah Fisher, PhD 2019, “Beyond Recognition: Indigenous Rights and Changing Landscapes in Indonesia”

Geography: Angkana Rawichutiwan, PhD 2019, “Coastal Guardians and Precarious Livelihoods: The political ecology of mangrove narratives”

OUTREACH

More information about these activities, as well as our upcoming events can be viewed on our [website](#).

Each semester the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) organizes talks, sponsors and co-sponsors various performances, workshops, exhibits, K-12 school visits, and other events at UHM and in the local community. These engagements provide an opportunity for all participants to broaden and deepen their understanding of Southeast Asia. CSEAS is honored to support these educational activities each year.

The following are outreach highlights from the 2019 academic year.



TALKS

PUBLIC & POLITICAL CRITICISM IN VIETNAM

Dr. Ben Kerkvliet, emeritus professor of the Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University, spoke on the title of his new book [“Speaking out in Vietnam: Public Political Criticism in a Communist Party-Ruled Nation.”](#) (Cornell University Press, 2019)

BOROBUDUR: PATHS TO ENLIGHTENMENT

A joint talk by Dr. Paul Lavy, associate professor of Southeast & South Asian art history, and Southeast Asia Collection librarian, Rohayati Paseng. The talk featured the first look at Hamilton Library’s digital Borobudur resource that consists of a comprehensive visual record of the UNESCO World Heritage site, along with detailed explanations of Buddhist texts and doctrines.

ISEAS AT 50

The ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute (Singapore) celebrated its 50th year anniversary with three public lectures. The opening lecture, *“ISEAS at 50: Understanding Southeast Asia Past & Present,”* featured Dr. Leonard Andaya, professor of history, UHM.

CONFLICT RUBBER

Dr. Kevin Woods, visiting scholar, East-West Center, gave a talk about *“Conflict Rubber” as the Spearhead of the State in a Post-Conflict Context in Southeastern Myanmar.*





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PERFORMANCES

Highlights from the 2019 Academic Year

THAI MUSIC ENSEMBLE¹

Drawing inspiration from rural Thai and highland ethnic groups in Thailand, the repurposing of natural and recycled materials into musical instruments is woven into various rural musical traditions and taught by UHM Music Department instructor [Dr. Ben Fairfield](#). The ensemble performed at UHM's *Pau Hana* Concert & at the "Resilient Spirits" Choir Concert at St. Andrews Cathedral, Honolulu.

FALL AND SPRING GAMELAN & DANCE CONCERTS²

The Javanese and Balinese gamelan/dance ensembles based at UHM, held their annual fall and spring concerts. You can see pictures and film of past concerts on our [website](#).

ASIA PACIFIC DANCE FESTIVAL³

The Asia Pacific Dance Festival (APDF) happens in full every two years, with smaller events happening in the intervening years. The summer's headline event was the Balinese dance-drama *Ramayana: The Abduction of Sita*. UHM's Balinese performance group of dancers and gamelan musicians joined forces with a Tokyo-based Balinese performing group for two nights in Kennedy Theatre on the UHM campus.

PRELUDE TO THE *WAYANG LISTRIK*: THE LAST KING OF BALI⁴

In partnership with the UHM Asian Theatre Program and local non-profit fundraising partner [Arts Focus Southeast Asia](#) (AFSEA) *wayang listrik* educational materials were developed and brought to K-12 classrooms in preparation for the 2020 performance.



FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

TREE OF LIFE

Recent UHM graduate Tricia Khun (BS, Molecular Cell Biology, Spring 2019) presented her short documentary "The Tree of Life: A Khmer Short Film" at the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Spring Showcase.

The film is available to watch on [Vimeo](#).

UB-UFOK AD FIALLIG: TALES OF ENCHANTMENT

Dr. Pia Arboleda continued to build on her fabulous resource on Tagalog translations of folktales of the people of Barliq, a remote town in Mountain Province, Northern Philippines. With the addition of three new animated films and accompanying teaching modules, the series has now grown to nine digital resources for Tagalog language teachers. CSEAS hosts the [complete animation series](#).

OTHER OUTREACH PROJECTS

THE PIÑA-SEDA: HIBLA NG LAHING FILIPINO EXHIBIT

UHM Philippines Collection librarian Elena Clariza was instrumental in bringing *The Piña-Seda: Hibla ng Lahing Filipino* Traveling Exhibition to the UHM Hamilton Library as part of the exhibition's U.S tour. The exhibition featured examples of *piña-seda* (pineapple fiber and silk) cloth used to make formal clothing like the *barong tagalog* and other textiles in the Philippines.

A CELEBRATION OF INDONESIA

The Indonesian Embassy in D.C., and the East-West Center jointly hosted the groundbreaking event for an Indonesian garden, blessing the ground with ritual, dance and music on the East-West Center campus. Dignitaries enjoyed *Toba Batak* musicians and dancers performing with UHM Balinese dancers as part of the ceremony.

PUPPETRY IN THE CLASSROOM

As part of the East-West Center Gallery's exhibition "Cosmic Characters: Wood Puppets of Asia," Professor Kirstin Pauka (UHM Theatre Department), Nezia Azmi (CSEAS affiliate consultant), and Dr. Annie Reynolds (EWC Arts Program) spoke on the topic "From Stage Adaptation to Educational Outreach: Balinese Shadow Theatre Performance in Hawai'i."

A UHM STUDENT EQUITY, EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY (SEED) GRANT

A UHM Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) grant of \$1,000 was awarded to CSEAS in support of Dr. Pia Arboleda's project, "Pamana as Gateway: Philippine Heritage and Culture Training Through Peer Mentorship."

CHECK OUT THE CSEAS SCHOLARSPACE ARCHIVE!

[ScholarSpace](#) is an open-access, digital institutional repository for the UHM community.

Major CSEAS collection downloads in 2019 include:

Asian Perspectives: The Journal of Archaeology for Asia and the Pacific: 1003

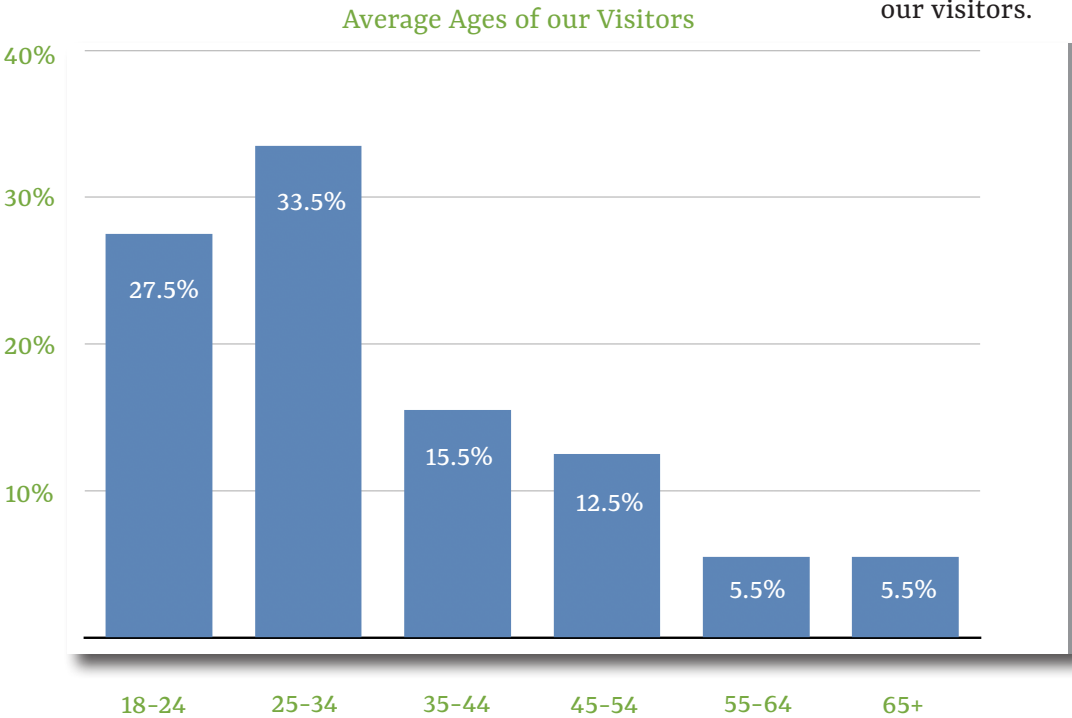
The Mists of Ramanna: The Legend That Was Lower Burma: 484

Explorations: A Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies: 146

Cakalele: Research in and about Maluku, East Indonesia: 76

TOP 10 MONTHLY WEBSITE AVERAGE VISITS

- 1. United States 648
- 2. Philippines 396
- 3. Indonesia 75
- 4. Singapore 73
- 5. Malaysia 48
- 6. Thailand 33
- 7. Australia 27
- 8. Japan 26
- 9. India, United Kingdom, & Vietnam 25
- 10. Canada & Germany 19



WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

A large component of the Center’s work to promote Southeast Asia and related activities, both at the University of Hawai’i and abroad, is done through our online resources.

Our website, social media profiles, and various digital repositories allow us a platform to share information ranging from events and job opportunities, to hosting archives of specialized content such as documentaries, policy reports and academic journals.

With our analytics, we are able to better understand our visitors’ interests when they visit our website and read our social media posts. We are always working to improve our educational content based on this data, while continually making changes to our website in order to make the information we post more relevant to our visitors.

CSEAS NEWSLETTER

16 ISSUES

8434 Unique Subscriber Opens

2097 Unique Content Opens

The CSEAS bi-monthly newsletter reached an average 527 subscribers per each of the sixteen issues published in 2018-19. These readers opened almost 2100 Southeast Asia related content pieces including upcoming events, jobs, funding opportunities, scholarship information, faculty and student highlights, human interest stories, course offerings, and more included in each issue over the course of the academic year. [Subscribe to the newsletter](#), and stay up to date on CSEAS events!

Total visitors increased from our previous year record of 23,100 users viewing our website to 30,662 in 2019!

THAT’S GROWTH OF +7,562
UNIQUE USERS TO OUR WEBSITE!

Gender of Our Visitors

Female 46%
Male 54%

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



CHECK OUT NEW FILM POSTINGS ON THE CSEAS VIMEO CHANNEL



SEE WHAT WE’RE READING ON GOODREADS



STAFF

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) serves as a coordinating body for the study of Southeast Asia at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

- DR. MIRIAM STARK, DIRECTOR¹
- PAUL RAUSCH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR²
- SARA LOH, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA³
- MARI MARTINEZ, WEB RESOURCES COORDINATOR⁴



PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: Umbrellas in street market, Bagan, Myanmar.
Image: STVEAK

Page 3: Pinnacles, Mulu National Park, Borneo, Malaysia.
Image: Rafal Gaweda

Page 5: Rice Terraces, Banaue Ifugao, Philippines. Image: Kevin

Page 6: Moubisse Landscape, Timor Leste.
Image: flu4022

Page 7: Tumpak Sewu waterfall, Lumajang, Indonesia. Image: Magnifier

Page 8: Balinese gamelan musician.
Image: Lowestock

Page 9: Ou Trojak Jet River with traditional fishing boat, Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

Image: umike_foto

Page 11: Yi Peng Festival, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Image: Thailand by Beboy

Page 12: Lotus Flower Farmer, Lake An Phu, An Giang Province, Vietnam.

Image: Thananit

Page 13: Bagan at sunset, Myanmar.
Image: Luciano Mortula-LGM

Page 14: (TOP) Monkey Forest, Kabupaten Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia (Bottom LEFT) Thai traditional *wai* greeting (4 Images Credits) Box 1) Ben Fairfield, Box 2) UHM Music Department, Boxes 3 & 4) UHM Theatre Department
Images: Owsigor (Bali); Obron (Thailand)

Page 16: Jame'asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Image: Axel

Page 21: Woman workers at sunrise, Hon Khoi salt field, Na Trang Province, Vietnam

Image: Pradeep Raja

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