Since its establishment in 1978, our UHM Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) has promoted multidisciplinary understandings of the region, developed UHM's capacities to teach and research SEA, and integrated units across the university through our focus on the region. Our Center learned that COVID-related hardships promoted innovation in 2020-2021: we hosted virtual events, supported students, and forged new linkages to tie us closer to colleagues in Southeast Asia and at Southeast Asia-focused institutes worldwide.

We were delighted NRC funding was reinstated this year through a “funding down the slate” mechanism that added four NRC’s to the program. Reinstatement of the funding allowed us to support SEA language instruction and area studies at UHM, the library’s SEA collection, outreach activities, and hire three wonderful new graduate assistants (GAs). It is my great pleasure to introduce Ariel Alves (MA, Political Science) as Special Projects Coordinator, Saveun Nhim (PhD, Political Science) as Outreach Coordinator, and Jeff Otto (MA, Asian Studies) as Online Projects Coordinator. They join our stalward GAs Sara Ci Yan Loh (PhD, Anthropology) who runs PR activities and Hoan Nguyen (MA, Second Language Studies) who is CSEAS Webmaster. Together our staff members bring great energy and expertise to the Center and enrich our activities.

Activities (Balinese, Filipino) and materials acquisitions through our $1 million UHM/EWC LuceSEA Transitions: Environment, Society and Change. Our Mekong, China, & Southeast Asian Transitions webinar series, run with Michigan State and Chiang Mai Universities, is also an outgrowth of this project. In-region activities, however, remained on hold as we waited out the pandemic. Planning efforts to launch a collaboration (UCLA, U Washington) regarding SEA Early Modern period came to fruition in 2020-2021. We call our project the Program for Early Modern Southeast Asia (PEMSEA). Our National Chengchi University partnership deepened via a virtual conference through the Science and Technology Innovation Center for Taiwan-Philippines Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge and Sustainable Studies (CTPILS) under Kuan Da-Wei’s direction, and a new collaboration in Cambodia on indigenous heritage with Courtney Work.

I noted some of the good developments in CSEAS in 2020-2021 despite COVID. It also, however, brought us great sadness as we bid goodbye to long-term friend, colleague and scholar Professor Michael Arthur Aung-Thwin. He died in August 2021 after battling a long illness. His contributions to premodern Burmese studies, including four major monographs and many articles and book chapters, changed interpretations of this important period of time. It was his passion and great energy for all things Southeast Asia, swimming, and socializing that we will miss the most. Some light left the world with Michael’s passing, and we remember him with deep fondness (donations in his name may be made to the Burma Studies Foundation).

It was a bittersweet ending to Year 3 of my Center directorship, and I remain just as indebted to the dedicated staff (Paul Rausch, CALL colleagues) and to our CSEAS Executive Committee as I was during Year 1. Let us hope that the next year brings more light, more hope, and more activities in SEA for our Center and its affiliates!
FACULTY

WELCOME

Professor Randle DeFalco, who is currently a law professor at William S. Richardson School of Law. His work focuses on various issues of law, atrocities, violence, and justice in post-Khmer Rouge Cambodia and in Myanmar.

TENURE & PROMOTION

McDonnell, Bradley is promoted to Associate Professor, College of Arts, Languages and Letters.

AWARDS

Mary Mostafanezhad- an Associate Professor at the Department of Geography and Environment at UHM, received the Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Teaching, which is the highest teaching award from the University of Hawai‘i. Dr. Jayson Parba is elected as the new Coordinator of the UHM Filipino Language and Culture Program.

TALKS

1. “Making Music” Workshop with Benjamin Fairfield, PhD, UHM Ethnomusicology | August 30, 2020
2. “Spotlight on Gangsa Music and Dance of the Philippines” | Desiree Quintero, PhD, and Wayland Quintero, PhD / MFA, Leeward Community College | October 21, 2020
3. “The Legacy of Barbara B. Smith for Hawai‘i” | Emeritus Professor Ricardo Trimillos | October 25, 2020. This is a part of a semester-long webinar series celebrating the 100th birthday of Barbara B. Smith, UHM ethnomusicologist and professor emerita.
4. “Challenges in Knowledge Production and Environmental Governance in Southeast Asia.” | Dr. Miriam Stark | November 20, 2020. Her address was part of the 2020 “Indigenous Knowledge, Environmental Governance & Sustainable Development: A Dialogue from the Local to Global” virtual conference, organized by the Center for Taiwan-Philippines Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Sustainable Studies (CTPILS) program.
5. The Greenhouse Environmental Humanities book talk was joined by Jonathan Padwe, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UHM, to discuss his book “Disturbed Forest, Fragmented Memories: Jarai and Other Lives in the Cambodian Highlands” (University of Washington Press) | March 29, 2021
7. “Agrarian Change and Armed Conflict in Myanmar” | Dr. Kevin Woods (Adjunct Senior Fellow, EWC; Adjunct Assoc. Prof., UH Geography & Environment) | April 21, 2021

BOOKS

1. Jonathan Padwe
   “Disturbed Forests, Fragmented Memories: Jarai and Other Lives in the Cambodian Highlands” Publisher: University of Washington Press | April, 2020
   This book tells the story of violence and dispossession in the highlands from the perspective of the land itself.
2. Courtney Work
   “Tides of Empire: Religion, Development & Environment in Cambodia” Publisher: Berghahn Books | July, 2020
   This book illuminates the contradictions and continuities in what the author suggests is the final tide of empire.
3. Mary Mostafanezhad
   Co-editors Mary Mostafanezhad (Editor); Matilde Córdoba Azcárate; Roger Norum: “Tourism Geopolitics: Assemblages of Infrastructure, Affect, and Imagination” Publisher: University of Arizona Press | 2021
   This collection hones in on tourism and its geopolitical entanglements by examining its contemporary affects, imaginaries, and infrastructures. It develops the concept of tourism geopolitics to reveal the growing centrality of tourism in geopolitical life, as well as the geopolitical nature of the tourism encounter.
2020-2021 FLAS FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

Congratulations to our Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Awardees

Dino Aquinaldo (BA, ICS/Phil LL) – Tagalog, Academic Year
Brionna Akedo (BS, Engineering/Phil LL) – Tagalog, Academic Year
Adrian Alarilla (PhD, History) – Indonesian, Academic Year
Jeremiah Bonilla (MA, Asian Studies) – Tagalog, Academic Year
Ian Chapman (BA, Econ/Philosophy) – Thai, Academic Year
Jacqueline Dean (MA, Geography) – Indonesian, Academic Year & Summer
Michelle Harangody (PhD, Geography) – Thai, Summer
Seng Khang (MA, Anthropology) – Thai, Academic Year & Summer
Dylan McCurdy (MA, Anthropology) – Burmese, Summer
Jeffrey Moynihan (Geography) – Indonesian, Fall Only
Sarah Sweeney (MA, Asian Studies) – Thai, Academic Year

1. Dr. Soksamphoas Im, Dept. of Political Science successfully defended her dissertation “The Politics of Age: An Examination of the Cambodia National Ageing Policy 2017–2030” on May 2021. Soksamphoas goes on to work as a Senior Analyst at the Clinton Health Access Initiative. She is also the co-author with Chanmono Oum, publishing the paper titled “How Was the Cambodian Cash Relief Program Assist Poor Women Affected by COVID-19 Economic Crisis?” in Kyoto Working Papers on Area Studies (No. 135), March 2021.

2. Best SEA Paper Prize in the 32nd Annual Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference: Ci Yan Sara Loh, PhD, Anthropology, with her paper “Becoming Orang Asli: Tracing ‘Indigenousness’ in Colonial Racial Categories, Protectorism Laws and Creative Refusal in Peninsular Malaysia”

3. The UHM School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS) and the Department of Asian Studies hosted the 32nd Annual Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference via Zoom online format on April 14-15, 2021. Theme: “Innovation, Adaptation, and Resilience: Overcoming Challenges Across Asia.”

- Adrian Ellis J. Alarilla: Recentering Peripheries: Patani, Mindanao, and Papua in Colonial and National Contexts.
- Cécile de Francquen: Observing the Restructuring of Northern Vietnamese Society after the Đổi Mới through Innovation and Adaptation in Pottery Production Processes.
- Michelle V. Huynh: ‘All the Stage is the World’: The Urgent Need for Intercultural Theatre in The Globalizing Society.
- Alisa Santikarn: Cultural Endangerment and Adaptation: The Elephant Heritage of the Kui in Thailand.


Southeast Asia as a major source of key raw materials and markets plays an important role in the world economy. Teak was an important resource used for construction and shipbuilding in Mainland Southeast Asia during the colonial era. It became the most sought-after timber during the British and French colonial expansion. Before the nineteenth century, teak was exported only in a small quantity. However, rising world demand led the European traders to get involved in teak export in Southern India, Burma, and Northern Thailand.
SPOTLIGHTS [cont]

5. Second Language Studies PhD students Le Vinh Hoa and Phung V. Huy took over Vietnamese language teaching duties in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures upon the retirement of long-time professor Stephen O’Harrow. Hoa and Huy taught VIET 101/102/201/202 using a task-based/project-based learning approach in their classes. They have submitted a proposal to the Southeast Asia Language Council (SEALC) to develop more task-based/project-based materials for other language teachers. Cảm ơn (thank you) to our outstanding language teachers!

DISSERTATIONS

Political Science: Thuc Bui Duyen, PhD 2020, “Organizing and Mobilizing Beyond Borders: Transnational Activism in the Vietnamese Diaspora.”


Professional Practice: Batallones Jeanne, EdD 2020, “A Narrative Inquiry: Decolonizing Practices with Filipino Students at a Community College in Hawai’i.”


Education: Marali Saiful Rizal, PhD 2020, “The Persistence of Southeast Asian Malay Students Studying in Higher Education Institutions Abroad: A Grounded Theory Study.”

English: Vo Quynh Huong, PhD 2021, “Transnational Kinship: Neoliberal Peace and Economic Violence in Vietnamese American Literature and Culture.”


Educational Psychology: Vu Uyen Thi Minh, PhD 2020, “The Effects of Sociocultural and Educational Supports on Resilience and Learning Outcomes Among Vietnamese Undergraduate Students.”

Linguistics: Estioca Sharon Joy, PhD 2020, “A Grammar of Western Subanon.”

GETSEA

The Graduate Education and Training in Southeast Asian Studies (GETSEA) consortium was formed with the mission of enhancing graduate education in Southeast Asian studies across North America. UH Mānoa is one of the eight National Resource Centers that form its member institutions. The consortium has been awarded a $275,000 grant through its Henry Luce Foundation’s Luce Initiative on Southeast Asia (LuceSEA).

1. The Graduate Education and Training in Southeast Asian Studies (GETSEA) consortium (of which CSEAS is a founding member) offered three virtual mini-courses in Spring 2021 for graduate studies. Two of the courses were taught by UHM professors, and the third by a UHM alumnus.

Dr. Patricio Abinales - Southeast Asian Politics and Politics | This course (re)introduces students to several “classic” and recent works that explore the nature and practice of power in the region | March 6 to April 17, 2021

Dr. Quynh Vo - Transnational Representation of Southeast Asia: Race, Gender, and Identity | This course is designed to map out the transnational Southeast Asia through literature and cultural formation | June 1, 2021 to July 6, 2021

Dr. Hieu Phung - Rethinking the Environmental Repertoire in Southeast Asia | This course foregrounds the role of culture and history as we engage with current environmental debates, which have been strongly influenced by scientists and policy makers | February 19 to March 26, 2021

2. Congratulations to UHM History PhD Student Adrian Alarilla from Manila, Philippines for being appointed to the Graduate Education and Training in Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Advisory Council!
OUTREACH

In the 2020-2021 academic year, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) organizes online talks, webinars, 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 2020-2021 academic year.

FALL 2020 ROUNDTABLE SERIES
International Affairs Between China and Southeast Asia
These webinars focus on a variety of topics around the direct Chinese involvement in Southeast Asia through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), their South China Sea policies, and their investment in the border zones. It highlights the complexities of Chinese engagement in Southeast Asia (past and present) and how they have varied in response to changing local and national interests.

This roundtable series was part of the “Crossing Borders: International Affairs between China and Southeast Asia Fall 2020 Roundtable Series” hosted by the UHM Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Center for Chinese Studies, and the East-West Center.

Webinar 1: September 16, 2020 | China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Southeast Asia and Future Prospects.
Webinar 3: November 20, 2020 | China and Southeast Asia’s Borderlands, Sovereignty, and Land Use.

FALL 2020 WEBINAR SERIES
Indigenous Peoples, Heritage and Landscape in the Asia Pacific
This webinar series showcased examples of successful scholarship in the Asia-Pacific where local stakeholders and local communities are actively involved. Panel members are researchers who actively engage with the communities in which they work.

The goal is to utilize the knowledge co-production to argue for policy recommendations that have space for co-administration. The importance of collaboration to empowering communities was highlighted.

This webinar series was co-hosted by the UCLA Department of Anthropology, UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UCLA Asia Pacific Center, UHM Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (SITMo), Ifugao State University, and the Partido State University.

Check out the information about the 10 panels on our website.

SPRING 2021 WEBINAR SERIES
The Mekong, China, & Southeast Asian Transitions
In recent decades, people living in the Lower-Mekong Region have witnessed major shifts from predominantly subsistence agriculture to industrializing economies, with attendant changes in migration, crop production systems, and major infrastructure (roads, dams, industrial estates). This series of four webinars explored how communities in the region are experiencing the economic, social, and cultural dislocations of these transformations.

Panel Information:
Panel 1: January 27, 2020 | Markets for Mekong Commodities
Panel 2: February 24, 2020 | Migration, Mobility, and the Mekong
Panel 3: April 7, 2020 | The Spirits and Spiritual Life of the Mekong
Panel 4: April 28, 2020 | Mekong Dams: Debates and the Politics of Evidence

This series was made possible through funding from the Henry Luce Foundation and is co-organized by the UHM Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UHM Center for Chinese Studies, East-West Center, Michigan State University-James Madison College and Asian Studies Center, and Chiang Mai University-Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development.
CENTER FOR PHILIPPINE STUDIES WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

**Pamana ng lahi: Workshop on Filipino Language and Culture (2021)**

This 3-week workshop aimed to underscore the value of traditional knowledge, discuss aspects of Philippine culture and folklore, teach introductory Filipino (Tagalog) and hone critical thinking skills. The workshop included interactive and creative activities using stories from folklore and bilingual multimedia materials.

**ADDITIONAL TALKS:**

*April 19, 2021 | On Zoom | Writing Muslim Women into Southeast Asian History | Dr. Barbara Watson Andaya.*

This presentation focused on some of the issues that confront a historian of Southeast Asia when dealing with a topic (Muslim women) for which there is a dearth of sources.

*March 15, 2021 | On Zoom | The ‘Portuguese’ Encounter with the Malay-Indonesian World of the 16th Century | Dr. Leonard Y. Andaya.*

This talk highlighted the encounter of the Portuguese with the Malay Indonesian world of the 16th century.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES & NEW COLLABORATIONS

**INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES**

CSEAS and its affiliates have been responsible for launching four (4) new five-year MoA agreements with Asia-based institutions. These new agreements will facilitate ongoing research and projects collaboration between the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and its affiliates at the following locations:

- **Cambodia**
  - Royal University of Phnom Penh
  - Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts
  - APSARA Authority

- **Taiwan**
  - National Chengchi University

**INDO-PACIFIC INITIATIVE**

In coordination with other units across the School of Pacific and Asian Studies, UHM CSEAS has launched a new Indo-Pacific Affairs Initiative to expand training opportunities for students, experts, and government officials from the United States and the Indo-Pacific region. Current efforts focus on funding opportunities to seed new faculty positions, fund undergraduate internships at local government and security agencies, and develop online teaching modalities in Asian International Affairs.

**NEW COLLABORATIONS**

**PEMSEA** (with UCLA and University of Washington): UHM is part of a collaboration, led by UCLA and including University of Washington to establish the Program for Early Modern Southeast Asia (PEMSEA), an interdisciplinary project to support new scholarship on the environment, economy, and social worlds of Early Modern Southeast Asia.

**CTPILS AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE PROJECT**

(with National Chengchi University)

UHM also partners with the National Chengchi University's Kuan Da-Wei and Courtney Work (Department of Ethnology) on two projects:

1. **The Science and Technology Innovation Center for Taiwan-Philippines Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge and Sustainable Studies (CTPILS)** was set up to promote cross-national indigenous knowledge between Taiwan and Southeast Asian countries.

2. **The Intangible Heritage Project** focuses on mapping heritage sites among indigenous Cambodian groups.
GRANTS & AWARDS

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS PROGRAM (NRC)
The US Department of Education awarded CSEAS $260,699, the first of a two-year grant cycle under the Title VI Southeast Asia National Resource Centers Program for 2020-2021. The NRC grants will support modern language instruction, teacher training, curriculum development, outreach and library collections.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIP (FLAS) PROGRAM
The US Department of Education awarded CSEAS $313,500, the third year of a four-year grant cycle under the Title VI Southeast Asia Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) for 2020-2021.

HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION
UHM CSEAS, in partnership with the East-West Center, was awarded a $1 million Luce Southeast Asia Initiative grant for our project entitled, LuceSEA Transitions: Environment, Society, and Change. The five-year grant focuses on socioeconomic and environmental shifts across the region in a time of climate and environmental change. Luce funds will support 38 core team members globally in training and collaboration activities that enhance collaboration with SEA-based research partners and create OER resources on rural to urban transitions. We look forward to returning to SEA to work more closely with our colleagues.

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA
Our website traffic has continued to improve, and in the 2021 academic year, we had 27,094 unique visitors to our page, which was about 74 visitors per day.

These 27,094 people viewed the site over 57,315 times on a variety of content including jobs, projects, funding opportunities, scholarship information, faculty and student spotlight, conferences, dissertations, and theses.

Our two most active channels for engagement, Facebook and Twitter, also continued to grow with 3.2K fans on Facebook and over 1.2K followers on Twitter.

In the 2021 academic year, the CSEAS bi-monthly newsletter published 18 issues (10 issues from January to June and 8 issues from September to December) with 6,185 unique subscribers opens and 1,787 unique content clicks.

Subscribe to the CSEAS Newsletter to receive news and information from us.
United States users were the biggest group at 31.75% of the total with 8,698 users. Regarding Southeast Asian countries, annual visitors from the Philippines took the top spot at 7,587 users, which accounted for 27.69% of the total.

**VISITOR DEVICE USAGE**

- Desktop: 58.15%
- Mobile: 40.18%
- Tablet: 1.66%

**TOP TEN VISITED PAGES**

*Not including homepage.*

1. Jobs
2. Conferences
4. Artist Bio: Jefferson “Jef” Cablog
5. Early Ifugao History, the People, and Old Kiyyangan Village
6. FLAS Fellowship
7. Funding
8. Dissertations & Theses
10. Journals

**TOP 10 COUNTRIES BY USER NUMBERS**

1. United States: 8,698
2. Philippines: 7,587
3. United Kingdom: 1,088
4. Indonesia: 1,038
5. Singapore: 851
6. China: 735
7. India: 640
8. Malaysia: 602
9. Thailand: 519
10. Cambodia: 482

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