

Cultural Pulses in Dialogue Seminar Series 2025-26

This interdisciplinary seminar series explores the deep connections between creative expression and the shifting political and social landscapes of Southeast Asia. It engages with themes including development, migration, poverty, identity, and freedom of expression, focused particularly on how the visual intersects with shifting social, economic and ultimately geo-political trends. We will examine how artists and cultural practitioners illuminate complex realities, from structural inequality to personal experiences of alienation and explore how the visual responds to power, providing a means to both critique, but also aid state structures and inter-state relations. Designed to be accessible in content, language, and approach, without compromising academic depth, the seminars invite participants from all backgrounds to consider creativity as a powerful mode of inquiry, critique, and engagement in a rapidly changing region.

This series is convened by [Shalini Amerasinghe Ganendra](#) (Research Associate, CSEAS) & [Dr Matthew Phillips](#) (Research Associate, CSEAS).

Programme

16 March 2026, 10:00am UK Time (Online): [***The Mekong: A confluence of power, survival, and change***](#); Som Supaparinya, Andrew Johnson, Anoulak Kittikhoun.

20 April 2026, 6:00pm UK Time (In-person): [***Film Screening: Tegkang***](#)

21 April 2026, 10:00am UK Time (Online): [***Storytelling, Place, and Cultural Resilience in the Award-Winning Film Tegkang***](#)? Shalini Amerasinghe Ganendra, in conversation with Tegkang's Director, Josh Nawan and Producer, Lyn Nasihin.