

Southeast Asian Studies Seminar Series 2025-26

Practices of Life in Southeast Asia

This semester's theme foregrounds how communities across Southeast Asia have sought to live, believe, and flourish through the practices of everyday life. From ritual and governance to kinship and sport, the seminars explore how ordinary practices are imagined and enacted across different times and places. The series brings historical and ethnographic perspectives into conversation to illuminate the ethical, political, and creative dimensions of daily life in the region.

This year's graduate-led seminar is convened by [Dr Daniel Whitehouse | SOAS](#) (British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology and Sociology) and [Conan Yongneng Cheong | SOAS](#) (PhD candidate, School of Arts).

Lecture programme

3 February 2026, 5:30pm UK time (In-person): [*Beyond National Transitions: Local Political Orders and the ReMaking of Authority in Myanmar*](#). Anna Plunkett (King's College London).

17 February 2026, 12pm UK time (Online): [*From loneliness to connection in later life: Insights from Thailand and Myanmar*](#). Samia C. Akhter-Khan (Brandenburg Medical School).

10 March 2026, 5:30pm UK time (In-person): [*Re-contextualising Colonial Conflicts: First Anglo-Burmese War 1824-1826 from the Konbaung Perspective*](#). "Arthur" Swan Ye Tun (King's College London and National University of Singapore).

17 March 2026, 5:30pm UK time (In-person): [*Coming of Age In- and Out-of-Place: Frictions of Adolescent Mobility in Island Southeast Asia*](#). Catherine Allerton (London School of Economics).

24 March 2026, 5:30pm UK time (In-person): [*Painting Protest: Literature, Art, and the Avant-Garde in Socialist Burma*](#). Melissa Carlson (SOAS).

25 March 2026, 5:30pm UK time (In-person): [*Historical Treaties of Southeast Asia: Coercion and accommodation in the Malay World during the long nineteenth century*](#). Stefan Amirell (Linnaeus University), Maarten Manse (Linnaeus University), Birgit Tremml-Werner (Stockholm University), Ariel Lopez (University of the Philippines)

7 April 2026, 5:30pm UK time (In-person): [*Examination Culture: Meritocracy and aspiration in a Thai monastic school*](#). Ben Theobald (UCL).

14 April 2026, 5:30pm UK time (In-person): *The Body of Actions: Sajja-tham as a practice of Buddhist self-making at Wat Thamkrabok, Thailand*. Alastair Parsons.