



# Asia and the People without History

June 8, 2024 (Saturday), 9:30 – 18:30

Dasan Hall DB101

Sogang University

Organized by

Critical Global Studies Institute at Sogang University (CGSI)

Institute for East Asian Studies at Sogang University (SIEAS)

Digital History Institute at Sogang University (DHI)

# Asia and the People without History

Borderlands of China had been the main battleground where the multiple empires and small kingdoms contended for control over human and natural resources for centuries. When the Western colonial empires with modern cartography and technology joined the competition in earnest from the nineteenth century, border-making began. Drawing international and internal boundaries intensified the empire's desire to territorialize the sphere of influence, inevitably pressuring people to move. In particular, numerous people who did not belong to a dominant ethnicity lost their homelands and livelihoods and were forced to migrate. As the Second World War accelerated the decolonization process, more people from China migrated to "other" Asia. They sought new lands where they could preserve their own identities and traditions. While some amalgamated into a nation-state, many have remained in the margins. They now constitute the so-called "ethnic minority" of China and Southeast Asian countries or "stateless" people in between.

This international conference intends to survey the history of these minorities and migrants in China, Southeast Asia, and Korea under the general theme "Asia and the People without History." "History" in this survey is broadly defined, not limited to the chronological records. The meaning and role of history here extend to the process of forming identity and asserting sovereignty, legitimacy, and autonomy of beings. The history of migrating minorities came to receive international attention as the newly established nation-state's desire to create a hierarchy in the racial, social, and cultural spheres engendered clashes between the states and the minorities. To assimilate the ethnic minority, nation-states have attempted to depoliticize their politics and denied their own histories and identities, making them the "people without history." In turn, the migrating minority have endeavored to restore their history to uphold their identity, unity, and autonomy.

Under the general theme, the conference will delve into the five questions. First, in what context did the lands between empires in China, Korea, and Southeast Asia become "bordered" by the international boundaries? Second, what are the factors and conditions that forced the people in China to seek new homes in Korea and Southeast Asia? Third, in what ways did the border-making by the empires and consequent migration of the ethnic minority people influence the latter's sense of belonging? Fourth, how have the ethnic minority migrants negotiated their community's autonomy and identity through the process of making their own history? Fifth, how have the Southeast Asian, Korean, and Chinese governments responded to the movement and migration of people across international boundaries, and what are the implications of their policies?

The conference consists of four sessions with the following subthemes.

- Migrating to the Margins
- Historicizing Homelands
- Integrating or Isolating Identities
- Separating or Stratifying Status

Enriched by lengthy fieldwork and inspired by firsthand experiences, twelve presentations will provide insights and inspiration for understanding the meaning and role of "people without history" in Asia.





# Program

9:30-9:45	Registration
9:45-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Opening Remarks <b>Jie-Hyun Lim</b> CGSI, Sogang University</li><li>Welcome Remarks <b>Heejung Kang</b> SIEAS, Sogang University</li></ul>
10:00-11:30	<b>Session I Migrating to the Margins</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Kumiko Kato</b> Nagoya University Qing China's Two Failed Attempts of <i>Guituguliu</i> in Sipsongpanna in the Eighteenth Century</li><li><b>Ma Jianxiong</b> Hong Kong University of Science and Technology The Dissemination of Big Vehicle Religion and Networks of Transportation, and Migrations in the Frontiers Between Yunnan and Burma from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries</li><li><b>Wasan Panyagaew</b> Chiang Mai University The Lue in Exile: Death of the Buddhist Saint, Remembrance, and New Belongings in Thai- Myanmar Border Towns and Beyond</li><li>[Discussant] <b>Jinhyon Lee</b> Sogang University</li></ul>
11:30-11:50	Coffee Break
11:50-13:20	<b>Session II Historicizing Homelands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Tatsuki Kataoka</b> Kyoto University Reconstruction of 'ethnohistory' by the Lahu Baptists in Burma and Thailand</li><li><b>Yukti Mukdawijitra</b> Thammasat University Spiritual Homeland and Textual Performance: Afterlife Placement of the Tai Dam in Vietnam and Thailand</li><li><b>Yoichi Nishimoto</b> Prefectural University of Kumamoto Cross-Border Narratives: Understanding Lahu's Perception of Homeland and Foreign Lands</li><li>[Discussant] <b>Maitrii V. Aung-Thwin</b> National University of Singapore</li></ul>
13:20-14:50	Lunch
15:00-16:30	<b>Session III Integrating or Isolating Identities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Amporn Jirattikorn</b> Chiang Mai University Masculinity for Sale: Shan Migrant Male Sex Workers in Chiang Mai, Thailand and the Performance of Manhood</li><li><b>Kwangmin Kim</b> University of Colorado-Boulder Xinjiang's Two Borders and Muslim Merchants</li><li><b>JongHo Kim</b> Sogang University Diaspora Capitalism: Structure of Circulating Modern Material Culture Through Overseas Chinese Remittance Network from the Late 19th to the Mid 20th Century</li><li>[Discussant] <b>Byungil Ahn</b> Saginaw Valley State University</li></ul>
16:30-16:50	Coffee Break
16:50-18:20	<b>Session IV Separating or Stratifying Status</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Mukdawan Sakboon</b> Chiang Mai University On Becoming a Legal Person: Resident Aliens and Graduated Legality in Thailand</li><li><b>Doo-Chul Kim</b> Okayama University Dilemma of Social Integrity in Vietnam: Focusing on Ethnic Minorities Policy</li><li><b>Ilyeong Jeong</b> Sogang University The 'Quasi-Korean' Status: Characteristics of South Korean Government Policies towards the Overseas Chinese Community in the 1960s-1970s</li><li>[Discussant] <b>Hyun-jung Chae</b> Duksung Women's University</li></ul>
18:30	Closing Remarks

## Presenters and Discussants

### **Kumiko Kato**

Kumiko Kato is a professor of Asian History at the Graduate School of Humanities of Nagoya University, Japan. She earned her doctoral degree in History from Nagoya University. She is a historian specializing in the history of Southwestern China and the northern part of Mainland Southeast Asia. Her research focuses primarily on the history of Sipsongpanna, a Tai state located in the southernmost part of present-day Yunnan, China. Dr. Kato's contributions to the history of Sipsongpanna include papers such as "Chinese and Burmese Involvements in the Politics of Sipsongpanna in 1837: Descriptions in Captain McLeod's Journal" in the *Journal of the School of Letters* (2016) and "Sipsongpanna's Perception of Other Tai Principalities in 1837: The Tai Principalities in Present-day Northern Thailand and Other Principalities in Sipsongpanna's Surrounding Area" in *Nenpo Tai Kenkyu* [the Journal of Thai Studies] (2016). Currently, Dr. Kato's research interests center on Qing China's view of the southernmost Yunnan, the eastern Shan States of Myanmar, and northern Thailand, where many Tai states existed.

### **Ma Jianxiong**

MA Jianxiong is an Associate Professor in the Division of Humanities at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. As an anthropologist, he has done long-term fieldwork on ethnic groups in Southwest China, especially on the frontier between Yunnan and Myanmar. His books include *The Lahu Minority in Southwest China: A Response to Ethnic Marginalization on the Frontier* (Routledge, 2013) and *Reinventing Ancestors: Ethnic Mobilization in China's Southwest Frontier and the Historical Construction of Lahu* (Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, in Chinese). His present research focuses on the historical formation of the Sino-Myanmar frontier and ecological conditions of cultural diversity and ethnicity in Southwest China. His publications on these topics include "Salt and Revenue in the Frontier Formation: State Mobilized Ethnic Politics in Yunnan-Burma Borderland since the 1720s" in *Modern Asian Studies* (2014); "Constructing Native Chieftains as Imperial Frontier Institution: Endogamy and Dowry Land Exchange among the Shan-Dai Chieftains in Yunnan-Burma Borderland since the Thirteenth Century" in Dan Smyer Yü and Karin Dean edited, *Yunnan-Burma-Bengal Corridor Geographies: Protean Edging of Habitats and Empires* (Routledge, 2021).

### **Wasan Panyagaew**

Wasan Panyagaew is an Anthropologist, who graduated from the Australian National University in February 2006. He has researched on the Lue of Upper Mekong Borderlands, for 2 decades, particularly in and beyond Sipsong Panna/Xishuangbanna, where China meets Laos and Myanmar. His works on the Lue, fundamentally emphasize mobility, connectivity, and untold histories of these Tai speaking people whose countries have been seized and incorporated into the new Nations. Many become a 'new' minority, some a citizen, others being in exiles. Recently, he has worked particularly on those Lue who have lived in Diasporic communities, in the upper Mekong borderlands and beyond.

### **Jinhyon Lee**

Dr. Jinhyon Lee, S. J. is an assistant professor of Historical Theology at the Graduate School of Theology at Sogang University. After completing his degree in Doctor of Church History at Pontifical Gregorian University in Roma, Lee's research has extended from the history of the cultural heritage of Christianity to the cultural exchange between Islam and Christianity in the medieval age and the history of science. In particular, his interest in Jesuit astronomy and cartography in Europe and China as well as Western Learning in East Asia led to several publications in the academic journals in Korea. These include *The Journal of Chinese Historical Researches*, *Journal of the Church History Society in Korea*, *Theology and Philosophy*, and *Journal of Ming-Qing Historical Studies*.

### **Tatsuki Kataoka**

Tatsuki Kataoka graduated from Tsukuba University (Bachelor of Social Sciences) and he obtained a Master's Degree from Tsukuba and Kyushu Universities, and a Doctoral Degree from Kyushu University. He has conducted fieldwork among the Hill Tribes and the Chinese immigrants of Thailand for the study of culture and religion. Currently, he is interested in re-consideration of Southeast Asian nation-states from the viewpoint of the state's periphery.

### **Yukti Mukdawijitra**

Yukti Mukdawijitra is an associate professor of anthropology at the Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University, Thailand. He earned a doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Yukti's works cover a wide range of topics including anthropological theories and methodologies, politics, ethnicity, folklore, and language. His research sites are both Vietnam and Thailand. He published works in English, Vietnamese, and Thai. Examples of his works are *Reading Community Culture: Poetics and Politics of Communitarianism Discourse in Thailand* (2005), *Tai Dam History: A Root of Thailand and Southeast Asian History* (2014), *Reexamining Thailand's Political Landscape* (co-authored with Apichart Sathiniramai and Niti Pawakapan, 2014), *From Romantic Love to Class Struggle: Reading Song Chu Son Sao a Tai Dam Folktale in Vietnam's Contexts* (2018), *Posthuman Anthropology* (coedited with Chatchon Atchanakitti, 2022).

### **Yoichi Nishimoto**

Yoichi Nishimoto is an anthropologist and professor at the Prefectural University of Kumamoto in Japan. His research primarily focuses on the traditionalist and Christian Lahu living in northern Thailand and Yunnan, China. The main objective of his work is to understand their religious transformations, worldviews, and social experiences through studying their narratives.

### **Maitrii Aung-Thwin**

Maitrii Aung-Thwin is an Associate Professor of Myanmar/Southeast Asian history and Convener of the Comparative Asian Studies PhD Program at the National University of Singapore. His research is concerned with nation-building, law, knowledge production, and resistance in Myanmar. His publications include *A History of Myanmar since Ancient Times: Traditions and Transformations* (2013), *The Return of the Galon King: History, Law, and Rebellion in Colonial Burma* (2011), and *A New History of Southeast Asia* (2010). He is currently a trustee of the Burma Studies Foundation (USA), Deputy Director of the Asia Research Institute, and editor of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*.

### **Amporn Jirattikorn**

Amporn Jirattikorn is an Associate Professor at the Department of Social Science and Development at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. She received her Ph.D in Anthropology from the University of Texas, Austin in 2008. Amporn's research interests are in two areas: media flows and the mobility of people across national boundaries. One area focuses particularly on the movement of Shan migrants from Myanmar into Thailand. Her publication has centered on the construction of migrant identities through media consumption, ethnic media production in Myanmar, and the formation of Shan migrant identity in Thailand. The other area involves cross-border flows of Thai television series to Asian countries and the audience reception of Thai popular culture. Her recent research involves the (re)construction of masculinity among Shan migrant men who engaged in sex work in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

### **Kwangmin Kim**

Kwangmin Kim teaches Chinese History at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and specializes in the history of borders and transnational relations in China and East Asia. His most recent publications include "Xinjiang and the Peripheral Pattern of Economic Development in Qing China" in *Borders in East and West* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2022), and "Chinese Citizenship and Land Rights in the Sino-Korean Borderland" in *Minorities in Global History* (London, UK: Bloomsbury, 2024). Currently he is conducting research on the political economy of Manchuria during the early modern period.

### **JongHo Kim**

Dr. Kim received his doctorate degree in History from the National University of Singapore. His PhD thesis explores the overseas Chinese remittances and reactions of overseas Chinese entrepreneurs during the wartime period from 1937 to 1949. He is currently focusing on several research projects like the overseas Chinese entrepreneurs in maritime Southeast Asia, a comparative study on the Asian merchant diaspora groups within Southeast Asia, and the construction of a transnational community surrounding the South China Sea Rim.

### **Byungil Ahn**

Byungil Ahn is a Professor of History at Saginaw Valley State University. His research examines how women in China experienced the Chinese Revolution in their daily lives. He recently expanded his academic interests to the daily lives of ordinary North Koreans.

### **Mukdawan Sakboon**

Dr. Mukdawan Sakboon is a social-cultural anthropologist and a veteran journalist with over 20 years of experience working in the field of citizenship rights, and ethnic minorities' struggles and movements in Thailand. Her research experience over the past two decades covers work with ethnic communities' networks, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups to promote respect for ethnic diversity, social equality, and access to social, economic, political and cultural rights of marginalized ethnic minority groups without recognized legal status in Thailand. She incorporates this approach in her teaching in the field of development studies, ethnic politics, and transborder studies at both the undergraduate and graduate programs at the Department of Social Science and Development, Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University.

**Doo-Chul Kim**

Doo-Chul Kim is a Professor at the Faculty of Environmental and Life Science at Okayama University, Japan. Also, he has taught at Hue University (honorary professor) in Vietnam since 2007 and at National Dong Hwa University (adjunct professor) in Taiwan since 2021, respectively. He studied for his BA and MA at Seoul National University in South Korea and subsequently obtained a PhD in Geography at Nagoya University in Japan. He came out to Japan first in 1992 and researched at the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) for a couple of years. Before he joined Okayama University in 1999, he taught at Tohoku University in Japan. His current research interests are area study of Vietnam, mainly focusing on transforming ethnic minorities' communities and rural depopulation in East Asia.

**Ilyeong Jeong**

Dr. Ilyeong Jeong is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Sogang University, specializing in modern and contemporary Korean history. He is particularly interested in the theme of death (social history) and also focus on biopolitics, labor issues, and memory studies.

**Hyun-jung Chae**

Chae, Hyun-jung, a cultural anthropologist, has conducted research on the subject of border policy, mobility, and the economy in Thailand. She was educated at Seoul National University, where she majored in anthropology from her Bachelor's to her Ph.D. Her study examines the multiple borders and lives in Northern Thailand, focusing on border traders and their strategies in light of the ASEAN border policy. Her research interests have recently expanded to encompass the adaptation of small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) entrepreneurs to the ASEAN market and the impact of digital technology on trading practices. She is currently engaged in research on the mobility and border dynamics between Thailand and Korea, with a particular focus on the recent border issue between the two countries. She anticipates expanding this research theme to encompass the relationship and migration between Thailand and Korea in the future. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Cultural Anthropology at Duksung Women's University, where she teaches ethnographic methodology with a focus on marketing and business. She is also engaged in developing the application of ethnographic research in the field of applied anthropology.



