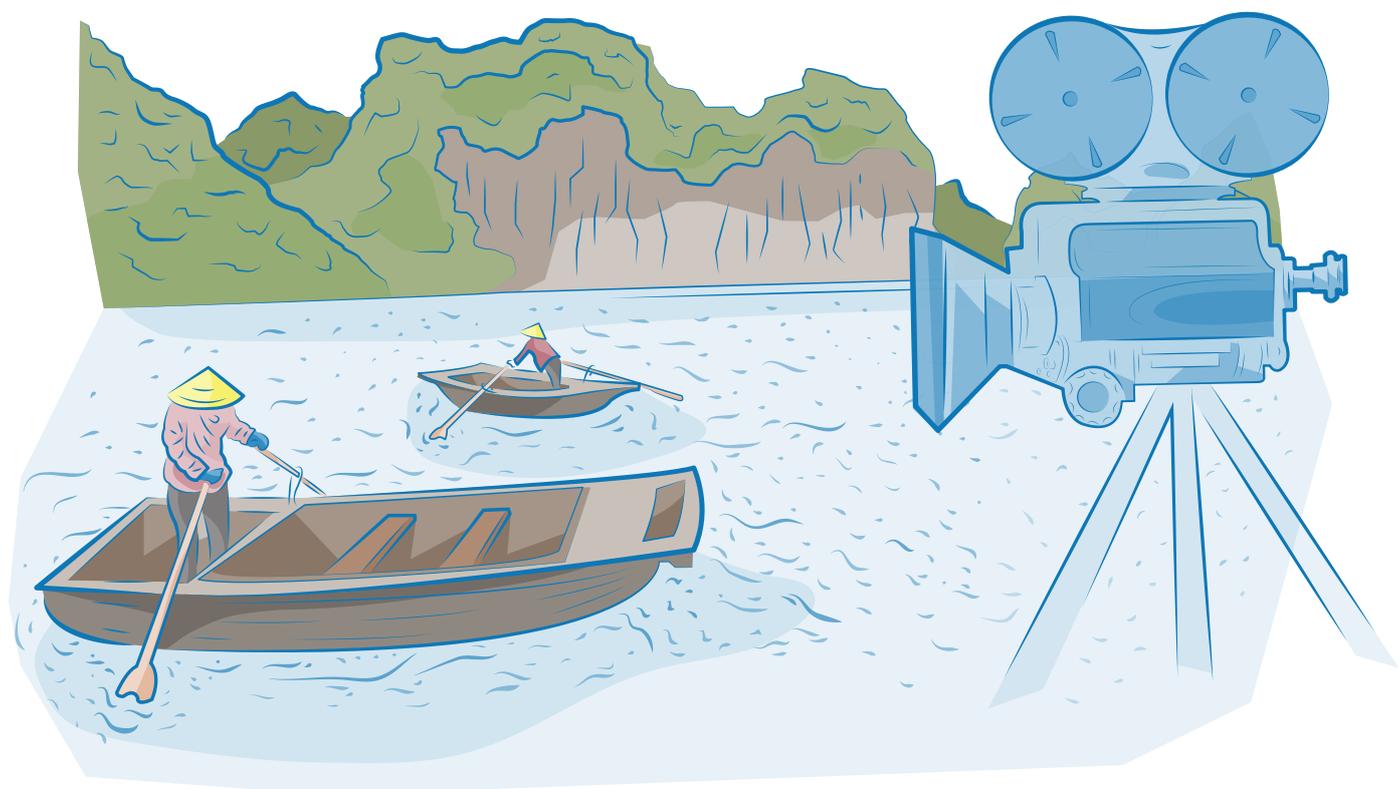


DOCUMENTING SOUTHEAST ASIA (WORKSHOP)

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS 2021



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2021

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Sinophone Borderlands – Interaction at the Edges

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Southeast Asia is a dynamic space inhabited by many beautiful and interesting people, various ethnic groups, and diverse socio-political entities. At the same time, Southeast Asia is ruled by gamut of political entities and regimes who do not always welcome research into their ruling practices or consequences thereof. Such combination of (antagonistic) agents, different political environs, and social spaces creates a place attracting researchers, documentarists, and prophets of various truths.

While the intellect is willing and inspiration abundant, our documentary, research or prophetic skills may fall short. The specific conditions of Southeast Asian societies harbor challenges and expose vulnerabilities on both sides – the community as well as its beholder. Therefore, scholars, documentarists, and other engaged stakeholders will discuss in a one-day Workshop both – the process of documentation as well as the challenges that frame it.

The workshop is conceived as a platform for knowledge and experience transfer focused on the documentation of Southeast Asia and its peoples. We invite documentary makers, scholars experienced with public engagement, media experts and scholars with other related experience to present in the workshop panel.

PROGRAMME

8:30–9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00–10:30 The First panel

Petr Horký – *Reaching the Audience*

Asio Liu – *Documenting of the East or the South China Sea Migration Routes – Excerpt of "REFUGEE BOATS TO PENGHU"*

Juan Martin Baigorria – *Documentary cinema*

10:30–11:00 COFFEE BREAK I.

11:00–12:30 Second panel

Rachel Siao – *In the Image of A Snake: Why you should bring a documentary team with you*

Giacomo Tabacco – *Documenting Indonesia: documentary films and audio-documentary*

Kristyna Kironska – *Myanmar Coup Tracker*

12:30–13:30 LUNCH

13:30–15:00 Third panel

Lor Samnang – *The Cambodian Debt Trap? A Study of the Relationship between Remittance and Household Debt*

Filip Kraus – *Documenting of Peoples Vices and perceptions of Sexual Perversions in post Doi-Moi Vietnam*

Silvia Vignato – *Aceh, After: methodology and filming in anthropology*

15:00–15:30 FREWELL COFFEE BREAK II.

Each participant will have around 15–20 minutes of presentation and then a friendly discussion, designated to exchange your experiences and expertise will follow.

Reaching the Audience

Petr Horký

Petr Horký, Ph.D. candidate is an independent movie director, polar traveler and junior researcher at Sinophone Borderlands, Interaction at the Edges, DAS, FF, UPOL. E-mail: petr.horky@piranhafilm.cz

Abstract: Audience of documentary films is a special group worldwide that has its own specifics. When properly addressed, this group often shows signs of strong loyalty, self-activity and interest. But the viewers often become ambassadors for entire projects and help spontaneously. What would feature film producers pay for!

However, there is a number of differences: it is not easy to reach the right target group correctly and it requires continuous work, which begins when the whole project starts. COVID pandemic has fundamentally changed the system of film distribution around the world, and documentaries have not been left out. Some people claim that documentaries can't make money - but that may not be true. And proper communication plays an important role in that.

Topics: correct grasp of one's own project, choice of goal, partnership for distribution, channels and ways of distribution, specifics of documentary film viewers, distribution of distribution over time, financial balance, copyright and distribution rights and their territorial and temporal division.

Keywords: documentary movies, distribution, public presentation, COVID, target group

Documenting of the East or the South China Sea Migration Routes – Excerpt of “REFUGEE BOATS TO PENGHU”

Ashio Liu Chihsiung

Ashio Liu Chihsiung, is a holder of Bc. Degree from National Cheng Chi University, Taiwan. He works as a director/director of photography/ screenwriter in his production company, MIMEO FILMS Ltd. (Taipei). He is best known for directing a biographical documentary on HUANG HAI-DAI, the legendary godfather of Taiwanese Puppetry, for Discovery Networks Asia's "PORTRAITS TAIWAN" (2007) series. E-mail: asio.liu@gmail.com

Abstract: The two demolished Vietnamese Refugee Camps in Penghu (on the Taiwan Strait) are generally unknown, even to the migrants from continents to continents. From 1977 to 1988, the camps in Penghu had sheltered Vietnamese boat people from 50 refugee boats. However, signs of the life experience of these Vietnamese and Vietnamese-Chinese refugees have neither existed in the historical writing of contemporary Taiwan nor been registered in the UN's record of humanitarian aids for global refugees.

The presentation will be about documenting the migratory trajectories of boat people from and to Penghu, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Vietnam, Cambodia, mainland China, South Korea, North America, Europe, and Russia.

Keywords: Taiwan, Boat People, Vietnam, Cambodia, cross border, refugee camp, Penghu.

Documentary cinema

Juan Martin Baigorria

Juan Martin Baigorria, was born in Argentina in 1977, but is living since many years in Bologna where he starts to work as a photographer, videomaker and webmaster. He worked on number of long or short documentary film projects, such as "The invisible prison," "Aicha is back" or "Meglio per tutti." Recently, he is working on a documentary about revolution in Tunisia in collaboration with Gaia Vianello and developing a photographic project in Angkor - Cambodia.

Abstract: The charm of reality combined with filmic language: the documentary represents a "strong" eventuality to tell stories and current events. The technological revolution of recent years, the possibility of circulating what is created through new and decidedly functional channels, make this territory even more interesting and fascinating.

Languages, machines, typical situations, recurring problems will be the topics covered during this workshop, full of information and images, useful to clarify what the world is and the reality in which the documentary maker is immersed. He will presents how to deepen the practical, artistic and productive aspects of making a social or ethnographic documentary. My path has led me to work with different types of stories and it often happens that when we get behind a camera the spirit of adaptation and improvisation become interlocking elements in a work that often fails to fit into a specific framework. predetermined.

Keywords: filmic language, technological reality, ethnography, documentation.

In The Image of A Snake: Why you should bring a documentary team with you

Rachel Siao

Rachel Siao is a globe-trotting, independent & passion-driven factual content creator capable of both creative and technical aspects of work. She has a diverse portfolio, with a forte in creating short-form, social media-friendly video & writing for photographic content for institutes, brands & projects. Email: false_starshine@hotmail.com

Abstract: In Indonesia, there is pressure on dialect-speaking communities like Abui to adopt Bahasa as the lingua franca. With less participation in using Abui, the transmission of culture, history, and knowledge of their land threatens to be lost. Photographs and videos are therefore an important tool in conservation projects for capturing personalities, facial expressions, tones of voice and bodily actions that are central to transmitting oral history. The presentation will be about the documenting oral tradition in Abui, within which the Abui legend, Mon Mot Mon, was documented as told by the descendants of the story's owners. The presentation will highlight the role of the digital audio-visual medium in documenting oral histories of endangered minority languages. The presentation will also show how further analysis of the transcriptions by the Linguistics team revealed esoteric Abui words and village names that the team further explored during the following field trip season. The presentation argues that, given the amount of data created from the transcribed interviews and successful community participation in the project, documentary filmmaking is a very valuable tool for any linguist or anthropologist who is looking to expand the reach and depth of their work in communities with endangered languages. In addition, the presentation will show the practical problems in the documentation of remoted social groups.

Keywords: Abui, oral tradition, anthropology linguistics, forgotten languages.

Documenting Indonesia: documentary films and audio-documentary projects

Giacomo Tabacco

Giacomo Tabacco, obtain his Ph.D. degree from Cultural Anthropology at L'Università di Milano-Bicocca. Recently, he is an independent analyst and researcher focused on labour, migration, mining, poverty, armed conflict/natural disaster, and sustainable development, in Indonesia, Southeast Asia and Europe.

Abstract: Within the workshop, I will share my experiences that I gathered during my field trips to Indonesia, in follow-up analysis, and through the co-production of two documentary films (Aceh, After and REZEKI) and within recording of an audio-documentary (ShareLoc), people's perception of the social and spatial transformation is primarily visual, aesthetic and imaginative, as well as "sonic". This aspect has proven to be pertinent in diverse contexts such as de-industrialization, socio-political frictions with China and other superpowers, waste mismanagement, climate and Covid-19 emergencies. In this workshop, I will share my thought on the importance of capturing and analyzing images and sounds, in addition to the traditional interview-based qualitative study. I will emphasize two key aspects. First, I will explore the potential and challenges of researching with video and audio. This fascinating process often involves thinking with respondents over visual, audio and artistic features and engaging in transdisciplinary, engaging and inclusive work. Second, I will look into the rising need for curated, collaborative and accessible repositories that aggregate audio-visual items from and about Southeast Asia.

Keywords: Indonesia, Aceh, documentary movies, data analysis, aggregate audio-visual items from and about Southeast Asia.

Myanmar Coup Tracker

Kristyna Kironska

Kristyna Kironska: Socially engaged interdisciplinary researcher with experience in Myanmar affairs, CEE-China relations, campaigns, and activism. Fluent and articulate in seven languages. Studied IR in Slovakia, Portugal, and Taiwan. Conducted doctoral research and worked for a local NGO in Myanmar. Worked with Amnesty International and the Central European Institute of Asian Studies. In 2019, lectured at the University of Taipei. Currently, she is a Senior Researcher at the Palacky University in Olomouc (www.sinofone.cz). Can be reached at k.kironska@gmail.com

Abstract: Myanmar Coup Tracker is a website dedicated to mapping key events following the military coup staged by Tatmadaw, Myanmar's military, which occurred on 1 February 2021, in an attempt to grab power from the civilian government. For the sake of clarity, the tracker also includes a few entries before 1 February 2021 and the results of the 2020 general elections, which were used by the Tatmadaw as a justification for the coup. However, the election results and the complaints about irregularities are not necessarily in a causal relationship with the coup. There are more explanations and speculations about the erosion behind the coup, and it is not the aim of this initiative to uncover it. The Myanmar Coup Tracker is an open-access, crowd-sourced tool for anyone documenting Myanmar, whether it is in research, advocacy, or policy. It is a long-term initiative and the entries are updated every week, focusing on internal politics (POL), the CDM movement (CDM), international responses (INT), occurrence of violence (VIO), and freedom of expression/media (EXM).

By introducing of the website, the presenter will show the difficulties and advantages of using platforms similar to MCT for documentation such a politically sensitive events such as the coup or for mapping Myanmar military junta's practicing of power.

Keywords: Myanmar, documentation, military coup, freedom, democratization and power.

The Cambodian Debt Trap? A Study of the Relationship between Remittance and Household Debt

Lor Samnang

Lor Samnang graduated with dual bachelor's degree of Science in Economics and Management from Lumiere University Lzon 2. He worked at the Ministry of Economy and Finance on General Department of Policy. Recently he is a project coordinator and research fellow at the Future Forum who focused on documenting the people's microfinance and well-being.

Abstract: The presented study documents the relationship between remittances and household debt in Cambodia posing the hypothesis that remittances incentivize both migrant households and lenders to take and offer loan by employing the special regression approach to build upon the empirical methodologies.

The result identifies a positive and significant relationship between remittances and debt: remittances are shown to be associated with a minimum increase to debt burden of 6 percent. This insight can be explained from two perspectives. On the demand side migrant households take on loans in order to satisfy capital or expense requirements on both productive and unproductive assets. Remittances form part of a financial confidence to repay debts wherein receiving households view their incomes as stable. On the supply side, lenders (both formal and informal) view remittances as a mechanism of reducing lending constraints whereby they function as collateral on loans. Particularly in informal markets remittances work to convey trusted confidence of a family's ability to repay.

The paper concludes that remittances and loans complement each other because the reception of remittances facilitates a subsequent burden of debt in order to address difficulties vis-à-vis liquidity shortages for their primary consumption needs, economic activities, shocks, and other purposes for which the regular remittances flow is insufficient.

By showing how to document the financial flows, the presenter will demonstrate the difficulties in tracing the financial flows in the economically and politically specific country such as Cambodia.

Keywords: Remittance, Debt, Endogenous Regressor, Instrumental Variable, Special Regression Approach, Demand, Supply

Documentation of Social Vices and Interviewing Respondent on Topics such as Sexual Perversion in Relatively Puritan Countries Such as Vietnam

Filip Kraus

Filip Kraus, Ph.D., obtained his doctoral degree at the Graduate Institute for Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. His research interests include: Social and Cultural Anthropology of Vietnamese Society; Vietnamese Literature; Western Critical Philosophy; Postcolonial Studies in Contemporary Southeast Asia; Vietnamese Migration and International Relations in the Southeast Asia.

Abstract: Myanmar Coup Tracker is a website dedicated to mapping key events following the military coup staged by Tatmadaw, Myanmar's military, which occurred on 1 February 2021, in an attempt to grab power from the civilian government. For the sake of clarity, the tracker also includes a few entries before 1 February 2021 and the results of the 2020 general elections, which were used by the Tatmadaw as a justification for the coup. However, the election results and the complaints about irregularities are not necessarily in a causal relationship with the coup. There are more explanations and speculations about the erosion behind the coup, and it is not the aim of this initiative to uncover it. The Myanmar Coup Tracker is an open-access, crowd-sourced tool for anyone documenting Myanmar, whether it is in research, advocacy, or policy. It is a long-term initiative and the entries are updated every week, focusing on internal politics (POL), the CDM movement (CDM), international responses (INT), occurrence of violence (VIO), and freedom of expression/media (EXM).

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Keywords: Myanmar, documentation, military coup, freedom, democratization and power.

Aceh, After: Methodology and filming in an- thropolog

Silvia Vignato

Silvia Vignato is Associate Professor in anthropology at the Università di Milano-Bicocca. In her work, she focuses on Indonesian Tamil migrants, other Sumatranese ethnic minorities and their levels of subjective integration into the State. She has also published articles and edited collections about Malaysian factory workers and about post-conflict and post-disaster young Acehenese people (children, teenagers, young parents). She now carries out research on work, marginal environments, gender, evolving structures of families (with a focus on matrifocality) and independent children in Indonesia (Aceh) and Malacca.

Abstract: In the presentation, the documentary film *Aceh, After* and its production will be introduced. The presentation will discuss the main methodological points the movie has raised. The documentary film is about "regasification" in the region of Lhokseumawe, Aceh, a once fruitful site of extraction of natural gas subsequently planned to become a Special Economic Zone. The film offers an immersion in a scenario where the extractive economy of gas is linked to global vision of development and prosperity as well as to present and past national politics of exploitation of resources and land grabbing.

Two women and their families embody such scenario. They enact their lives as workers in the low-technology industries which stay untouched by the grand industrial plans. Through self-scripted dialogues, they lead through their problems and their pride. They speak as mothers, sisters and daughters of drug dealers, in and out of jail, and mix the present violence of drugs with past experience of fear and abuse during the civil conflict. They talk but also evoke the fear to talk that extends the shadow of past dictatorship onto contemporary issues of use and abuse of social media. At the same time, they trust the regenerating power of child bearing: once one has a child, one finds a way, so says Lela. And they want to talk.

The presentation will depict the difficulties of making documentary movie about the present lives of marginalized people living at the edge of relatively open society.

Keywords: Indonesia, Aceh, development, social vices, documenting.