



## MOU with Thammasat University, Thailand

So far the Faculty of Humanities, Universität Hamburg, has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and accompanying agreements with ten universities in Thailand and Cambodia. Now Thammasat University in Bangkok is going to be welcomed as our eleventh partner in Thailand. On 20 March 2023 Asst. Prof. Dr. Passapong Sripicharn, Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, together with lecturers from the Department of Thai, the Department of English and Linguistics, and the Department of History, hosted a meeting at the Tha Phrachan Campus to welcome Professor Dr. Volker Grabowsky, Head of the Thai Studies Section, Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast

Asia at the University of Hamburg's Asia Africa Institute (AAI) to discuss a close cooperation between both sides with the aim to promote the exchange of students and academic staff. Asst. Prof. Dr. Watcharaporn Distapan and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prasirt Runra, the two representatives of the Department of Thai who participated in the meeting, were former speakers for the Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik, e.V. (HGT) giving special lectures on topics related to Thai folklore.

Photo credit: Facebook Fanpage of LATU International Office (Office of International Affairs, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University)

## Invited Talks by Lecturers

Hosted by the Department of Thai, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, a lecture series "Theory is a Serious Business, Year 3" was joined by various experts of literature and manuscript cultures from Thailand and international institutes during the period 9 March to 27 April 2023. One PhD student and two post-doctoral researchers from the Asia Africa Institute (AAI), Universität Hamburg, were invited to give special lectures either on-site or online. Dr. Peera Panarut, a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer, presented the topic "Khòi-paper Leporello Manuscript Culture in Central Thailand" on 9 March 2023. Another postdoctoral researcher and lecturer, Dr. Silpsupa Jaengswang, gave a lecture on "Palm-leaf and Mulberry Paper Manuscript Culture in a Village Area" on 23 March 2023. Sutheera Satayaphan, a PhD student and lecturer, talked about "Manuscript Culture of Folded Books and Commemorative Book Publications" on 3 April 2023.

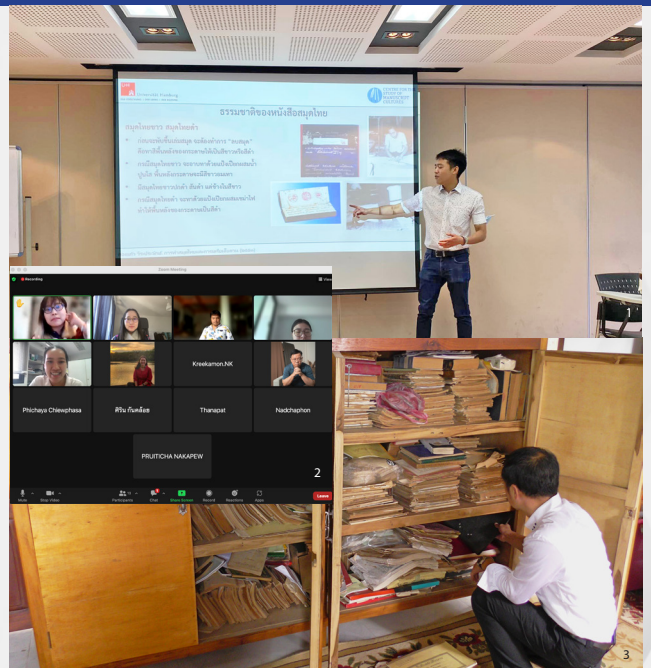


Photo credit: 1. Facebook of Wanchanally Speaking, 2. Sutheera Satayaphan, 3. Silpsupa Jaengswang

### INFO CORNER

FOLLOW US:  @seastudies\_hamburg  <https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/soa.html>

  **Online-Lecture**

**"The Language of the Gods" in the Siamese Grantha Manuscript Corpus**

Friday, 26 May 2023  
10h-12h (CEST)



Meeting-ID: 645 6382 1222  
Passcode: hglecture  
via ZOOM & in English


  



**THAI TAG 2023**

Future Directions of Thai Studies in Germany & Career opportunities for Thai and Southeast Asian Studies


Date & Time: Saturday, 3 June 2023, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Place: Asien-Afrika-Institut, Ost-Flügel Edmund-Siemers-Allee No.1 Universität Hamburg

**Talk and Discussion Indonesian General Elections 2024**

Schedule: Thursday, 1 June 2023, 18.00 – 20.00 CET

Venue: Asien-Afrika-Institut (ESA-Ost), Room 221 Edmund-Siemers-Allee No.1 Universität Hamburg



**Diễn đàn văn hóa Việt Nam/ Forum of Vietnamese Culture/ Forum der vietnamesischen Kultur**



Date & Time: Wednesday 14 June 2023 18h-20h (CEST)  
Place: AAI, R. 221  
Topic: "Archaeological Lacunae in Vietnamese History"

## Cheers and Tears in Austronesian Lebaran Celebration



On Saturday, 22 April 2023, the Austronesian section (Indonesian/Malay/Filipino) of the Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia hosted the Eid al-Fitr celebration at the Asien-Afrika Institut (AAI), Room 221. The Eid al-Fitr is a religious tradition for Muslims marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. In the Indonesian-Malay archipelago, celebrating Eid al-Fitr is well-known as *lebaran* (German: Zuckerfest), which is the time to gather, share meals, and ask for forgiveness. Families, friends, and neighbors visit each other and enjoy the special *lebaran* dishes and snacks. The tradition is also to return to hometowns during *lebaran*, called *mudik* (coming home) in Indonesian, to

visit relatives, especially parents. However, this celebration is not exclusively for those who perform fasting during Ramadan: it is also a moment of communal gathering when sharing and forgiveness come in the first place. This occasion has been viewed as a cultural capital of the tolerant attitude of Southeast Asian people because of its significant role in strengthening mutual trust among communities. Academic members of the department (professors, lecturers, and students) and their families came together to celebrate the event. It was a potluck party where everyone contributed food, snacks, and drinks to the celebration. Jun-Prof. Elsa Clavé, Mrs. Yanti Mirdayanti (senior lecturer of Indonesian language), Mrs. Marion Struck-Garbe (lecturer) et Dr. Mathias Müth (lecturer) co-organized and joined the day of celebration, together with students. Among the dishes traditionally served for *lebaran*, and prepared by students and faculty members, were *lontong* (rice cake cooked in palm leaves), *sayur ketupat* (vegetables cook in light coconut milk broth), *nasi gurih* (Acehnese rice cooked with coconut milk and spices), *semur*



(Javanese sweet soya sauce beef stew), and *rendang* (West Sumatra beef curry). Specialities seldom encountered in Germany, such as *pempek* and *cilok* (tapioca flour salty cakes in various sauces) completed the menu, with specialities brought by Vietnamese students. The generosity of each participant allowed everyone to bring back *bungkusan* (doggy bag) home, and to continue sharing with friends and relatives, in the true spirit of *lebaran*. Far away from the homeland, and unable to *mudik*, the celebration was a time for the Indonesian students, and the diaspora in Hamburg, to keep their tradition and memory of home intact.

Photo credit: Wira D. Atmaja & Adonis Elumbre

## The 5th annual Conference on Teaching Indonesian as a Foreign Language in Germany

The 5th annual Conference on Teaching Indonesian as a Foreign Language (*Semiloka BIPA V*) took place in Hessen from May 28-30. It was organized by a committee of the Affiliation for the Teaching and Promotion of Indonesian as a Foreign Language in Germany (APPBIPA Jerman) chaired by Yanti Mirdayanti, Lecturer for Indonesian at the Universität Hamburg. APPBIPA Jerman was founded in 2016 and has been organizing an annual conference since 2017<sup>1</sup> to support the network of Indonesian lecturers in Germany and abroad. It also regularly assesses the situation of Indonesian language education in the country. Indonesian as a foreign language is currently offered at 12 universities and higher education institutions (*Hochschule*) in Germany.

This year, *Semiloka V BIPA* was held as a hybrid event and took place in the main dining room of the Hotel am Palais in Gelnhausen, which is completely decorated with woodcarvings from various regions of Indonesia. The hotel is located on the same site as the Papua Museum (officially opened in 2009 as Papua Promotion House Europe), a very charming and well-known private museum owned by the Weiglein family and located on Hanauer Landstraße 32, Gelnhausen. Today, the entire site is called the *Rumah Budaya Indonesia - Kulturzentrum Republik Indonesien - Hessen*. >>>



<sup>1</sup> The conference has not taken place during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

About 35 speakers and teachers from BIPA took part in the conference, representing universities and institutions from Germany, but also Switzerland, Austria, France, Japan and Indonesia. The theme of this year's conference was "Creating synergies for the internationalization of BIPA", which was in line with one of the programs of the Indonesian government to promote and enhance the global importance of Indonesia and the Indonesian language.

The *BIPA V* conference was supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Berlin and the Consulates General of Indonesia in Hamburg and Frankfurt. The Ambassador, Dr. Arif Havas Oegroseno, accompanied by the Consul General of Indonesia in Frankfurt, Acep Somantri, opened the event.

The next *BIPA* conference is scheduled to be held in September 2024 at the Indonesian House *Rumah Budaya Indonesia* in Berlin.



Photo credit: Yanti Mirdayanti

## Semester abroad in Vietnam

During my semester abroad last semester (Winter Semester 2022/2023), I had the opportunity to study at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Education (HCMUE) in Saigon. As part of academic activities, I first took a course on Vietnamese Grammar by Dr. Tăng Thị Tuyết Mai, the Head of the Linguistics and Literature Department. Then, I also attended other courses on Practical Vietnamese Grammar and Teaching Methods of Vietnamese Language in Schools and as a Foreign Language by Dr. Bùi Mạnh Hùng. These courses have enhanced my perspective on fruitful theoretical and practical Vietnamese language, and further raised my curiosity and interest in this subject.

Since the courses took place on the weekend, I spent most of my time on weekdays in the University's library and the General Sciences Library of Ho Chi Minh City. In the libraries, I found

prolific resources on teaching Vietnamese language, including theses, dissertations, books, and journals. Through available academic sources in these libraries, I plan to write my MA thesis on teaching Vietnamese as a foreign language, and hopefully I will finish my degree on Vietnamese Studies at the Asia-Africa Institute, Hamburg University, in the near future.

Although it was only a short time in Saigon, I gained useful and most updated knowledge on teaching Vietnamese language as a foreign language at the HCMUE. Also, I had a chance to build networks with professors and other students there. I believe that such academic experiences during my semester abroad will contribute to crafting my final MA thesis.



**Thanh Ha Nguyen**  
 Master student in Languages and  
 Cultures of Southeast Asia

### Summer Term 2023

**Date & Time:** June 15, 2023, 18-20 h

**Place:** AAI, R. 221

**Topic:**  
 "Archaeological Lacunae in  
 Vietnamese History"



**By:**  
**Prof. em. Keith W. Taylor, Cornell  
 University, Ithaca NY**

**Hybrid:**  
**Zoom:**  
<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/66787360274?pwd=YVlmdnN6aFh1SnhlTKhuTmP5WTJCUT09>

**Webinar ID: 667 8736 0274**  
**Passcode: 20393521**

This talk will be offline, but videotaped and can be assessed later in:  
 Lecture2Go (University of Hamburg).



Cổng Thành cổ Đồng Hới Quảng Bình xưa. Photo credit: Jeanne Cuisinier, 1937/38

## Diễn đàn văn hóa Việt Nam/ Forum of Vietnamese Culture/ Forum der vietnamesischen Kultur

Han Tombs (Mồ Hán) and the Walls of Đồng Hới (Hệ Thống Tường Đồng Hới) are two topics that have been mostly avoided, as if taboo, in the study of Vietnamese history; they do not sustain the emphasis on the antiquity and the unity of a Vietnamese identity that are promoted by official historiography. This talk will look at the archaeological reports of Han Tombs along with a consideration of textual and linguistic evidence to reconsider the idea of "One Thousand Years of Chinese Domination." And it will consider the Walls of Đồng Hới along with a consideration of the man who designed them, Đào Duy Từ, to reconsider the emergence of a southern Vietnamese identity.

### Information about the speaker

Ph.D. (History), The University of Michigan, 1976.  
 B.A. (History), George Washington University, 1968.  
 Academic Appointments:  
 Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University, 1989-2022.  
 Department of History, Hope College, 1987-89.  
 Department of History, National University of Singapore, 1981-87.