

PANEL

Beyond the Coup: Agency and Survival in the Everyday Lives of Myanmar's New Migrants and Warriors

Convener

Yuya Han Htwe

Panel Description

The 2021 military coup in Myanmar has not only reshaped the nation's political landscape but has fundamentally transformed the life trajectories of millions (Chiu, 2025; Khin Khin Mra & Hedström, 2024; Loong, 2023). While macro-level political analysis remains crucial (Brenner, 2025; Vrieze, 2023), there is an urgent need to understand the coup's impact "from below." This panel explores the everyday experiences of diverse groups—ranging from middle-class professionals (see Phoo Pwint Willy's abstract) and economically marginalized agricultural workers (see Ching Liu's abstract) to youth exiles (see Saw Samuel Aye's article) and female revolutionary warriors (see Yuya Han Htwe's abstract)—to examine how displacement and resistance are lived, negotiated, and rationalized.

By adopting "everydayness" as a central analytical framework, the four articles in this panel move beyond traditional narratives of victimhood. Instead, we highlight the agency of individuals navigating precarious environments. We discuss how middle-class migrants mobilize capital to avoid downward mobility, how agricultural workers and youth exiles utilize informal networks to survive legal insecurity in Mae Sot, and how women in the armed resistance challenge gendered hierarchies through daily practices of survival and negotiation. Together, these studies provide a comprehensive understanding of how social class, gender, and capital mediate resilience in the face of existential rupture, offering new insights into the enduring impact of the coup on Myanmar's diaspora and internal resistance movements.