

## **PANEL**

### **Imagining Social Revolution in the Context of Everyday Resistance and Displacement**

#### **Convener**

Alexander Horstmann  
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#### **Panel Description**

Imagining Social Revolution in the context of Everyday Resistance and Displacement

In this panel, participants will investigate and discuss the heterogeneity of contemporary revolutionary thought and practice in Myanmar. Attention will be paid to legacies of resistance and activism from before the coup, vernacular political understandings that reflect diverse and dynamic cultural processes, creative forms of everyday resistance, and the divergent personalities- along lines of gender, class, and ethnicity that inform revolutionary understandings and practices.

Some Questions regarding Myanmar's revolution that we invite participants to address are:

- What are some of the diverse revolutionary aspirations that Myanmar people hold today?
- What kind of social movements are involved in advancing a revolutionary agenda today?
- What is the relationship between revolution and democracy, variously understood
- What kind of everyday resistance do people in Myanmar continue to practice
- How have people inside the country and abroad or both provide material and symbolic support for the revolution?
- What varied cultural legacies and ongoing cultural processes as well as artistic inform revolutionary thought in present-day Myanmar and abroad?

After a short introduction by the panel chairs, the first paper by Alexander Horstmann reports from a series of workshops on performing arts and storytelling that Alexander has conducted with displaced Burmese youth and democracy activists at Joy House and the narratives in which the participants have imagined and presented the social revolution in the performance "Our Home, our Place" on the meaning of Home in the context of displacement and exile. The paper by Su Myar Twe presents some preliminary findings on the aspirations and visions of youth that are developed in different spaces of education in Mae Sot in the liminality of displacement. Elliott Prasse-Freemann will discuss visions of gender, race, and class relations that are currently being debated among Myanmar activists beyond the battlefield and the potential risks involved in this field. Using a Feminist and Marxist perspective, Ma Cheria will provide insights from her ethnography on the reproduction of womanhood among female fighters in the Karenni armed forces. Narumon Thabchumon will talk about her longitudinal study on transnational activism across Thailand and Myanmar. The panel will also provide sufficient space for discussion with the audience about their

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visions of the social revolution in Myanmar and how the presentations inspire their own imaginations and conceptions.