



# ABSTRACT BOOK

International Conference on

# TRANSDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE:

Co-Production of Knowledge  
Linking Academic and Non-Academic Actors

12 - 13 July 2019

Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand



knots

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**- Agenda -**


**KNOTS Final Conference**


embedded in the

**International Conference on Transdisciplinary Studies and Social Science: Co-Production of Knowledge - Linking Academic and Non-academic Actors**

**12 – 13 July 2019 at Kasem Udhayanin Building (PolSci 3 Bldg.), the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University**


**12 July 2019**

08:00 – 09:00	Registration	Alumni Room (12 <sup>th</sup> Floor)
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	
	Welcome Remark	Assist. Prof. Dr. Pandit chanrochanakit
	Opening Remark	Prof. Dr. Petra Dannecker
	Keynote Speaker	Premrudee Daoroung (SEVANA South-East Asia Project)
	Chairperson:	Asst. Prof. Dr. Naruemon Thabchumpon
	Master of Ceremony	Dr. Aungkana Kamonpetch
10:00 - 10:30	Break	
<b>10:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>Paper Presentation Session 1</b>	
	<b>Panel 1: TDR Conceptual Analysis</b>	 @ Alumni Room (12 <sup>th</sup> fl.)
	1. Transdisciplinary Research: Dis-Unifying the Unity of Knowledge, Towards a Unified Pluralism (Richard Bärnthaler, UNIVIE) 2. Urban Porosity: From Metaphor to Transdisciplinary Concept, and Models of Knowledge Production (Nguyen Minh Doi, HCMCOU) 3. The (Re)Production and Transfer of Knowledge in the Context of the ‘Summer School’ in Chiang Mai 2018: A Critical Approach (Babara Braunhuber, Junita Reinisch, Theresa Goisaufl, UNIVIE) 4. Dissemination and Communication of the Transdisciplinary Project "KNOTS" (Lukas Semmler, UNIVIE)	Chair: Alexandra Heis, UNIVIE Discussant: Petra Dannecker, UNIVIE
	<b>Panel 2: TDS and Social Science: ASEAN+ Integration</b>	@ Room 614
	1. Development in Sihanoukville: Between Macao and Shenzhen - A Win-Win Situation for Everyone? (Tom Alexander Bühler, MAIDS CU) 2. Assessing Chinese Grand Strategic Adjustment Through the Lens of Neoclassical Realism: A Case Study on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (Thomas Thompson, PolSci TU) 3. Role of SAARC - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Managing Inter-State Relations in South Asia (Bibhuti Kiran Ghimire, PolSci TU)	Chair: Jittipat Poonkham, TU Discussant: Pinitbhand Paribatra, TU

	<b>Panel 3: TDS and Migration</b>	<b>@Smart Classroom (7<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	<p>1. Beyond Simply 'Return': How IDP Movement Agency and Self-Identification Contradict the Underpinnings of Refugee Policy (Elliot Lodge, RCSD CMU)</p> <p>2. Maritime Security in Mozambique: An Analysis of the Main Challenges of Securitization of the Mozambican Channel (Rosa Carolina Matabele, PolSci TU)</p> <p>3. Internal Migrant Children and Their Access to Education: A Case Study of Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon, Myanmar (Thazin Lin Thet Maw, MAIDS CU)</p>	<p>Chair: Yanuar Sumarlan, MU</p> <p>Discussant: Supang Chantavanich, CU</p>
	<b>Panel 4: Migrant Networks and Transdisciplinary Research in the Palm Oil Industry: Connecting Flores and Borneo</b>	<b>@Malai Room (12<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	<p>1. Transnational Palm Oil Labour Solidarity: An Emerging Transdisciplinary Network (Oliver Pye, University of Bonn)</p> <p>2. The Protection of NTT Migrant Workers in the Palm Oil Plantations of East Kalimantan: A Transdisciplinary Challenge (Kornelis Wiriyawan Gatu, Serikat Pekerja Nasional)</p> <p>3. Using Customary and National Law for the Legal Protection of Female Migrant Workers from Flores (Ana Maria Gadi Djou, Flores University)</p> <p>4. Union Organizing Strategies for Migrant Workers in the Sabahan Plantations (Ramlah Daud, University Malaysia Sabah)</p>	<p>Chair: David Chu, CMU</p> <p>Discussant: Naruemon Thabchumpon, CU</p>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 - 15:00	<b>Paper Presentation Session 2</b>	
	<b>Panel 5: TDR Implementation (Environment)</b> 	<b>@ Alumni Room (12<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	<p>1. Can Transdisciplinary Approach Avoid "Good Ideas Turn Bad?": A Case Study of Resettlement of Indigenous People Affected by the Hydro-Electric Project in Southeast Asia (Nguyen Minh Doi, HCMCOU)</p> <p>2. Vietnamese Residents' Behaviors of Using Eco - Friendly Products: A Research Applying Early Stage of Transdisciplinary Approach (Nguyen Tran Cam Linh, HCMC OU)</p>	<p>Chair: Mukdawan Sakboon, CMU</p> <p>Discussant: Christoph Antweiler, UBO</p>



	<b>Panel 6: Democracy and Human rights</b>	<b>@ Room 614</b>
	1. Media and Freedom of Expression in Contemporary Bangladesh (A K M Zakir Hossain, IHRP MU) 2. Election Coverage: An Analysis of Online Media During the Maldives Presidential Election 2013 (Asfau Hassan, IHRP MU) 3. The Role of Innovation in Identifying Labor Abuse in Multinational Supply Chains (William Midwinter, MAIDS CU)	Chair: Chantana Banpasirichote Wungaeo, CU Discussant: Mike Hayes, MU
	<b>Panel 7: TDR and Gender Study</b>	<b>@Smart Classroom (7<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	1. A Discourse Analysis of LGBTI and Homosexuality Representation in the Thai Secondary Physical & Health Education Textbooks (Charoen Sutuktis, MAIDS CU) 2. The Effects of Terrorism on Girls' Access to Education: A Case Study of Swat Valley (of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Pakistan (Shahaba Jamal Khan, MAIDS CU) 3. Civil Partnership is the New Marriage Inequality: A Queer Critique on Thai Marriage Discourse and State Activism Towards Marriage Equality (Thanita Wongprasert, MAIDS CU)	Chair: Bara, CUNI Discussant: Siya Uthai, CMU
	<b>Panel 8: Transdisciplinarity on Film: Civil Society Panel on Global Challenges</b>	<b>@Malai Room (12<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	1. Documentary Film on the Mekong and Tributary in Attapeu, Laos: The Mainstream's Hoo Sahong Area and the Basin of Sekong River Under Crisis by Dams (Yuka Kiguchi (Mekong Watch Japan), Shalmali (Focus on the Global South)) 2. Ghost Fleet: Human Trafficking of Migrant workers on Fishing Vassals (Sompong Srakeaw, Supang Chantavanich, Jacquetchai Chomthongdee)	Chair: Pandit, CU Discussant: Premrudee Daorong, Lao Dam Investment Monitor (LDIM)
15:00 - 15:30	Break	
15:30 - 17:00	Paper Presentation Session 3	
	<b>Panel 9: TDR Implementation on Poverty and Inequality</b>	<b>@ Alumni Room (12<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	1. Application of Transdisciplinary Approach in Studying Social Inequality Among Migrant Workers in Binh Tan District, Ho Chi Minh City and Environment Issues in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh, Vietnam (Luu Khanh Linh, Nguyen Quang Tuan, VASS) 2. Transdisciplinary Research in Social Inequality: The Case Study in Long Thuan, Vietnam (Ngo Thi Cham (VASS), Nguyen Ngoc Dan Thanh (HCMC OU), Tran Thi Dieu Long (HCMC OU))	Chair: Marta Lopatkova, CUNI Discussant: Bui The Cuong, SISS

	3. Gender Inequality and “Wicked Problems” in Transnational Marriage: A Case Study of Vietnamese Women’s Marriages to Taiwanese (Huynh Quoc Tuan, Nguyen Minh Doi, HCMC OU)	
	<b>Panel 10: Ethnic Politics and Development</b>	<b>@Smart Classroom (7<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	1. The Strength of the Oppressed Ethnic Minority in Vietnam: The Resistance from the Knowledge Absorb (Châu Lee Minh Đoàn, MAIDS CU) 2. Discrimination Against the Ethnic Minority Groups to Access Citizenship in Myanmar (Khin Hlaing Kyu, IHRP MU) 3. Coping with Drug Abuse in Shan State, Myanmar (Thiri, MAIDS CU) 4. Education to Mitigate Problems on Teenage Pregnancy in Timor Leste (Juvita Faria, APMA, MU)	Chair: Naruemon Thabchumpon, CU Discussant: Mike Hayes, MU
	<b>Panel 11: TDS and Environment</b>	<b>@Malai Room (12<sup>th</sup> fl.)</b>
	1. The Rational Behind Plastic-Related Companies Behavior to Support Recycled Plastic for Food Packaging in Thailand (Natawadee Sirithorn, MAIDS CU) 2. Particulate Matter 2.5: A Case Study of Measures and Risks in Bangkok During Early 2019 (Thanabodee Lekprayura, MAIDS CU) 3. China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and the Dispossession of Customary Land Tenures Rights and Livelihood Insecurity of Tarang Tea Farmers in Northeast Myanmar (Nyein Han Tun Stephen, RCSD CMU)	Chair: Jakkrit Sangkamanee, CU Discussant: Oliver Pye, UOB
	<b>Panel 12: Human Rights and Inequality: Timor Leste Panel</b>	<b>@ Room 614</b>
	1. The Importance of Timor Leste National Police to Maintain Human Rights (Jose Lopes, APMA MU) 2. Challenges for Young People to Access Right to Education in Timor Leste (Joanico Alves, APMA MU) 3. Education for people with disabilities: A critical note on the implementation of the inclusive education policy in Timor-Leste (Celso Fonseca, APMA MU) 4. Women's Access to Land Ownership in Timor Leste (Maria Agnes Bere, APMA MU)	Chair: Pyone Myat Thu Discussant: Yanuar Sumarlan, MU
18.00 – 19.30	<b>Cocktail Reception</b> at Chula Naruemit building	

13 July 2019

09:00 – 10:30

Paper Presentation Session 4

**Panel 13: Reflection on TDR: Roundtable on TTT and Summer School**



@ Alumni Room (12<sup>th</sup> fl.)

1. Different Treatment on Knowledge Co-Production: Comparing Transdisciplinary and Community-Based Research (Chol Bunnag, CU)
2. Encouragement to Learn the Process of Sharing Attitudes for adolescent migrant workers: Is the role of researcher significant? (Kamonwan Roengsumran, CU)
3. Transdisciplinarity and the Law (Sara Kimberly Phillips, CULA)
4. Methodological Lessons for Undertaking Transdisciplinary Research: A Case Study of Migration and Environmental Change in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam (Thianchai Surimas, CU)
5. Reflections on Using Mixed Research Approaches to Gathering Information from Migrant Workers (Wipawadee Panyangnoi, CU)

Chair: Frank Seeman, UBO  
 Discussant: Chayan  
 Vadahanaputti, CMU

**Panel 14: TDS, Poverty and Social Inequality**

@ Malai Room (12<sup>th</sup> fl.)

1. Hidden Dimensions of Poverty Identified by Coproduction of Knowledge (Claude Heyberger Md Samiur Rahman Khan, ATD Fourth World)
2. Health Protection and Accessibility of Myanmar Migrant Workers: A Case Study of Healthcare Services in Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand (Nyi Htet Aung, MAIDS CU)
3. Towards Decent Work Agenda: A Case Study of Paid Care Workers in Thailand's Care Economy (Cholnapa Anukul, MAIDS CU)

Chair: Thanaphan, CU  
 Discussant: Vu Manh Loi,  
 VASS



**Panel 15: TDR on Peace and Conflict Studies**

@ Smart Classroom (7<sup>th</sup> fl.)

1. Income, Participation, and Peace: The Impact of Income on Public Participation in the Myanmar Peace Process (Kyaw Min Oo, Peace Leadership & Research Institute)
2. The Problems and Challenges of Buddhist-Christian Relations in Myanmar (Min Thang, Shan State Baptist Theological Seminary)
3. Public Trust in Myanmar Police Force (Thura Aung, Peace Leadership & Research Institute)
4. Livelihood Trainings for Kachin IDPs: Challenges, Opportunities and Expectations of Beneficiaries (Lucia Lu Jan, MAIDS CU)

Chair: Mike Hayes, MU  
 Discussant: Yanuar Sumarlan,  
 MU



10:30 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:30	Paper Presentation Session 5	
	<b>Panel 16: TDR Implementation in Solving Global Challenges</b> 	@ Alumni Room (12 <sup>th</sup> fl.)
	1. Social Capital and Livelihood of Khmer Farmers: A Transdisciplinary Approach (Nguyen Thi Tuyet Nuong, Quan Minh Quoc Binh, HCMC OU) 2. Trans-Disciplinary Practice As an Approach for Public Healthcare: A Case Study of Hepatitis C Screening and Linkage to Care in Ho Chi Minh City Diem Vu Bich Dao, HCMC OU) 3. Human Security Crisis in Cambodia: Is Transdisciplinarity a Solution? (Ta Wei Chu, CMU) 4. Transnational identity for bi-racial children in Taiwan: Perspective from mothering of Vietnamese immigrant women (Huynh Le Anh Huy, HCMC OU)	Chair: Christoph Antweiler, UBO Discussant: Naruemon Thabchumpon, CU
	<b>Panel 17: TDS and Development Studies</b>	@ Malai Room (12 <sup>th</sup> fl.)
	1. From Bangkok to Issan: The Financialization of Everyday Life as the ‘Right’ Kind of Financial Inclusion (Frank O’Neal, MAIDS CU) 2. The Impacts of Transportation Development in Chiang Rai, Thailand (Tanthita Sukhopala, MAIDS CU) 3. Flexible Diplomacy: Scholars as Key Players in Track II Diplomacy (Otto F. von Feigenblatt, Catholic University of New Spain)	Chair: Thanaphan laiprakopsap, CU Discussant: Carl Middleton, CU
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Keynote and Closing speech</b> Dr. Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, CMU	@ Alumni Room (12 <sup>th</sup> Floor)
13:30 – 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>	@ Alumni Room (12 <sup>th</sup> Floor)
14:30 – 17:30	<b>Discussion of results of the KNOTS projects and how to sustain it (KNOTS partners only)</b> 	@ Alumni Room (12 <sup>th</sup> Floor)

We kindly ask all KNOTS project members to join those sessions that are marked with the KNOTS logo:





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## MEDIA AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CONTEMPORARY BANGLADESH

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### Abstract

Freedom of expression is universally recognized as one of the core tenets of human rights grounded both in history and contemporary experiences around the world. Barriers to attaining freedom of expression in media in the context of a developing country like Bangladesh, which also happens to be a rising democracy, need greater attention for further research. From the empirical study of victims' accounts, this paper would explore the freedom of expression in the realm of media and how a legitimate instrument called Digital Security Act 2018 is constraining the freedom of expression. This research aims to identify the impacts of Digital Security Act 2018 on freedom of expression in media, the journalist, and activists in particular by examining the existing laws like constitutional acts, penal code and other national and international standards along with the analytical textual study of these instruments, and interviews of key informants as the case study. The research concludes that through the misuse and arbitrary use of law, the current regime is consolidating power to rule by law. In addition, the Digital Security Act 2018 has created a culture of fear which has inevitably brought self-censorship among journalists, activists and people. Furthermore, the research shows that the gaps in existing laws and their adverse impacts on freedom of expression results in a deficit of democracy in a country where laws are used as tools of repression.

**Keyword:** Civil Society; Democracy; Digital Security Act; Human Rights; Rule of Law

## Using Customary and National Law for the Legal Protection of Female Migrant Workers from Flores

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### Abstract

This paper discusses the changes in gender relations that widespread migration creates and how legal measures could help to deal with challenges faced particularly by female migrant workers. Government sponsored programmes of mass labour migration (TKI) are pursued as a solution to the high domestic unemployment in Indonesia. But as more and more women from Flores take part in the programme, this challenges traditional social roles and raises questions of emancipation, justice and equality between women and men. For married women, becoming a migrant worker is a difficult decision, particularly if she has children. Leaving home for several years can have severe impacts on children such as neglect, lack of affection from their parents, worsening of education due to lack of parental supervision of children's learning processes, and others. In the patrilineal kinship system, female workers who migrate are seen to have violated the rules that recognize men as the breadwinners. Therefore, even though female workers work outside the home to help their husbands and for the welfare of their families, they are the ones who are blamed for the problems that leaving home can create. The purpose of this study is to see how legal protection, both from customary law and state law, can be developed for the benefit of migrant women workers.

**Keyword:** Migration, Indonesia, Legal Protection, Female Workers

## Election Coverage: An Analysis of Online Media During The Maldives Presidential Election 2013

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### Abstract

An informed electorate, with access to accurate and unbiased information and news, is widely accepted as an essential precondition for the effective functioning of a democratic society. Media can play a crucial role in shaping public opinion on politics in general, and specifically during elections. This research studies media framing of Presidential candidates during the Maldives Presidential Election 2013. Given that press freedom was allowed in the country recently (when it was stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Maldivian 2008), objectives of the study were to identify the tone (positive or negative) of media coverage in relation to the presidential candidates (namely *Gasim Ibrahim*, *President Mohamed Waheed*, *Abdulla Yameen* and *President Mohamed Nasheed*) in four online media outlets (CNM Online, Haveeru Online, Sun Online and MV Times) and the role played by journalists in their media coverage. The methodology used was Creswell's (2009) "mixed method" approach including a content analysis of four local online media's news articles and editorials relating to the election for the period from 1st September 2013 to 17th November 2013, and text analysis to explain how particular text gave its meaning. The main findings were that the media coverage has mostly negative frames associated with presidential candidates. Most of the frames were in fact rhetoric of politicians (to defame other candidates) which shows that journalists are not independent of their surroundings and they do attribute as an audience themselves. The study also found that investigative reporting was almost non-existence. Media also has played a very minimum role in disseminating election information. Rather media have played a huge role in spreading hate speech. Therefore, it was found that during the presidential election 2013 media played a very minimal role than expected from a democratic state.

**Keyword:** Democracy, Maldives Election 2013, Media Coverage, Online Media, Presidential Election 2013

## The (Re)Production and Transfer of Knowledge in the Context of the ‘Summer School’ in Chiang Mai 2018: A Critical Approach

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### Abstract

This paper analyzes how knowledge, knowledge production and transfer were understood and practiced within the context of the Summer School in Chiang Mai 2018. The Summer School was part of the KNOTS project, which is concerned with transdisciplinarity and intends to establish a network of knowledge exchange by linking partner universities from five countries from Europe and South-East Asia.

The transdisciplinary approach aims to produce knowledge in a “new” way, by including different perspectives and knowledge forms of academic and non-academic actors. The research paper demonstrates the attempt to shift knowledge production into a transdisciplinary direction and challenges that occurred. The empirical data gathered in KNOTS Summer School 2018 includes 7 semi-structured interviews, 6 observation protocols and 39 questionnaires. Whereas the sociology of knowledge, post-colonial and feminist approaches form its theoretical framework, the Grounded Theory and quantitative data evaluation were used to analyze the collected data.

As the sociology of knowledge has not been taken into sufficient consideration in transdisciplinary research so far, the results are a further contribution, particularly in regard to knowledge hierarchies. Even though the transdisciplinary approach and the KNOTS program aim to significantly reduce knowledge hierarchies by transforming knowledge production, the results show that this still remains a challenging task. Knowledge hierarchies and power relations were still visible and felt by most of the participants of KNOTS Summer School. The most strongly perceived asymmetries were between students and lecturers and between European and South-East Asian participants. Other forms that hindered an equal exchange of knowledge include language skills, educational differences and gender. The paper also discusses by the participants proposed solutions to reduce the still existing asymmetries.

**Keyword:** Transdisciplinarity, Sociology of Knowledge, Feminist and Post-Colonial Approaches, Knowledge Hierarchies, KNOTS Summer School

## The Roles Of SAARC (South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation) in Managing The Interstate Relations in South Asia

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### Abstract

SAARC is the only regional organization in South Asia that incorporates all eight countries in South Asia as its members. As a regional institution, the evolution of SAARC is sometimes compared to the EU and/or ASEAN. With this, the role of SAARC sounds very important to South Asia, yet it is highly criticized. Despite having similar culture and history, they are vastly different from each other politically, economically. The turbulent history between the members reflect as the reasons behind its slow (or stagnant) progress. However, the strength of the institution lies in its components: its structure, principles and rules and norms. All this form a regime in an institution determining its working mechanism and capability. In this case, the inability of SAARC to manage the inter-state relations is frequently attributed to the hostility between the members rather than the institutional capability and its limitations within. Some scholars do identify it but lack the in-depth study of the institution. The paper would focus on the role of SAARC in managing, coordinating and cooperating the inter- state relations. In IR, the perspective of Intergovernmentalism and its modified approaches, once used to explain the existence of the EU, resembles to SAARC, yet there has been lack of study presented through this lens. The importance of member states and the role of institutions has been reflected in SAARC and so has been explained through this lens. Keeping in mind the recent events, the paper would highlight the pertinent issues where SAARC has intervened where necessary, and where it should have been. The paper takes in the internal aspects of the institution i.e. the principles in its Charter and elements of decision-making process. Meanwhile, the unique geography of the region, with India being the largest and the strongest reflecting the power dynamics is also analyzed.

**Keyword:** SAARC, Regimes and Institutions, South Asian Regionalism, Intergovernmentalism

## Education for People with Disabilities: A Critical Note on the Implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy in Timor-Leste

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### Abstract

The government of Timor-Leste had passed a new policy on inclusive education to provide opportunity for people with disability to access to education; yet, the implementation of the policy by the ministry of education is not clear. The notion of accessibility, equity access to education, and types of disabilities for students is not clarified. The purpose of this article is to identify challenges and barriers to children with disabilities to access to education. This article will show a critical analysis of the implementation of inclusive education in Timor-Leste. The unclear notion of inclusiveness has problematized the policy. This article will draw set of recommendation on how the concept of inclusive education can be implemented or reconsidered better implementation.

**Keyword:** Education, Disabilities, Inclusive Education, Education Policy



## A Discourse Analysis of LGBTI and Homosexuality Representation in the Thai Secondary Physical & Health Education Textbooks

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### Abstract

Textbooks and national curriculum represent “official knowledge” or the set of ideas legitimised by the state and dominant groups in the society. The legitimate knowledge constitutes the oppressive structure that fosters and maintains social inequalities and injustice. For LGBTI people, the inequality and unfair treatments that they experience in the Thai society can be traced to what has been said about them – and gender and sexuality in general – in the textbooks. This paper integrates the approaches and knowledge of two disciplines, i.e. gender study and sociology of education, to find out how the Physical & Health Education (PE) textbooks represent the image of LGBTI people and homosexuality by using the concepts of heteronormativity and gender neutrality. The research explores the content of all secondary-level PE textbooks that are available in the market, comprising a total of 36 textbooks. These textbooks are written by 6 publishers – 1 governmental entity (the Ministry of Education – MOE) and 5 private publishers. The researcher selects only the chapters that deal specifically with sexual development, sexual behaviors, sexual values, family and marriage. The analysis found that, first, the level of LGBTI coverage and level of heteronormativity varies among the 6 publishers. While some publishers are more progressive in the sense that they discuss LGBTI separately and include content on families of same-sex couple, others remain very conservative. For example, some publishers still discuss LGBTI as a ‘deviant’ behavior that requires correction. Second, despite some evidence of inclusion of LGBTI and challenge to heteronormativity, the overall representation of LGBTI and homosexuality still reinforces the image of these people as “the others”. This otherness is implicit in the use of images and words that are based on gender dichotomy such as Num-Sao and Por-Mae a. Moreover, it constructs the LGBTI & homosexuality as “non-Thai” that is a threat to Thai

culture. Therefore, the analysis concludes that Thai PE textbooks still largely reinforces heteronormativity and far from being gender-neutral.

**Keyword:** LGBTI, Homosexuality, Heteronormativity, Textbooks, Thailand, Gender Neutrality

## The Strength of the Oppressed Ethnic Minority in Vietnam: The Resistance from the Knowledge Absorb <sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

Ethnic minority in Vietnam are always considered as a vulnerable group. Under the management and assimilation of the central state, the idea of modernization only follows the "lowlander lifestyle" or the Kinh. This article will explore the link between the discourse produces by academia and the government about ethnic minorities, and how the ethnic minorities "approve" and rationalise their behaviours and decision based on that discourse.

The paper argues that the influence of the government discourse on the "backwardness", "poverty" and "underdevelopment" of the ethnic minorities, has become a standard label. Those stigmata spread wide and not only among the Kinh people but also the ethnic minorities. The ethnic minorities absorb that the discourse has turned into a reasonable reason for their migration. They take the following action to access land in the receiving destination for livelihood purposes in the Central Highlands without the fear of being "punishment" by Government and local authority. They are well aware of their position, known as the power of minority, to build their advantage to negotiate or even oppose the local authority. The form of resistance in the implementation process appears in the interaction of the discourse produced by the more powerful group resulting in the self-transforming knowledge of the oppressed.

In conclusion, the article suggests that the one-sided discourse imposes labels on disadvantaged groups, pushes them into low self-esteem, lowers their ability and becoming proactive. A barrier wall between government and ethnic minorities created "us and them" situation.

**Keyword:** Knowledge Discourse, Social Label, Ethnic Minority, Governmentality, Resistance

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<sup>1</sup> This paper was developed based on my Master thesis research on the governmentality of the resettlement projects for ethnic minority migrants in Viet Nam. Case study: Cu Kbang commune, Ea Sup district, Dak Lak provinces

## Reflections on Transdisciplinary Research: A Graduate Research in International Development (GRID) Student Roundtable Discussion

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### Panel Abstract

Transdisciplinary research is not a simplistic undertaking. Myriad issues arise in the course of a project, some foreseeable, others not. Despite these potential obstacles, a transdisciplinary approach has the ability to promote collaborative and participatory research processes, and reveal deeper, more substantive analytical findings. This is primarily due to the nature of transdisciplinarity, which seeks to encourage knowledge production through horizontal, socially inclusive routes. Successful examples of transdisciplinarity are found in Thai Baan research methodologies and the incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge into research findings.

This panel will reflect upon transdisciplinary research methodologies and the larger theoretical and practical implications of combining multiple disciplines in the course of fieldwork. Panelists will discuss the various impacts that transdisciplinary research may have on the study of issues related to labour migration and migrant workers. In particular, the panel will consider the challenges to collecting data, ensuring effective communication, and how to encourage active knowledge production in various social contexts. Insights into the role of the researcher, and planning and preparation of a transdisciplinary project will also be discussed. Moving from the practical to the theoretical, panelists will contemplate the role of disciplines in a transdisciplinary research project, specifically how the law, as a discipline unto itself, may work to merge with the realm of transdisciplinarity through various mechanisms and interpretations.

**Keyword:** Transdisciplinary Research

## Towards Decent Work Agenda: A Case Study of Paid Care Workers in Thailand's Care Economy

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### Abstract

While care economy is increasing, care work is perceived as indecent work. Moreover, whereas most of care policy emphasizes on care recipients, care workforces are excluded from the care policy. The purpose of this study is to examine whether paid domestic care work is decent work. It aims to give voice and enhance visibility of paid domestic care workers in Thailand. This qualitative research involves interpretative analysis of in-depth interviews of eight paid domestic care workers, who were recruited by snow ball approach. Using human right, economic and social perspectives, decent care work among paid domestic workers were explored. From human right viewpoint, rights at work of paid domestic workers were violated at the certain level. From economic standpoint, although they enjoyed the wage above minimum wage level, their family responsibilities were still the significant source of their financial burden. From social outlook, they reluctantly accept their working conditions, because of their lack of opportunity to access 'better job'. To achieve decent care works, care activities should be integrated within state care policy and care workers should have equal access to rights at work as general workers. State subsidization of care work by households or care workers should be provided. Furthermore, training of care workers should be highlighted and promoted to enhance caregivers' skills and quality of service.

**Keyword:** Decent Care, Care Work, Domestic Care Work, Paid Care Work, Care Economy

## Hidden Dimensions of Poverty Identified by Co-Production of Knowledge

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### Abstract

Central to ATD Fourth World's vision is the idea that all persons living in poverty have an untapped knowledge which is crucial for identifying how to effectively overcome their conditions. They can overcome their fear of the unknown and contribute with new understandings if they are given fair opportunities to reflect on their own life experience in a reciprocal setting. When complemented by the knowledge, representations and practices of other involved stakeholders, it can culminate in a comprehensive and holistic response, liable to make policies and programs more appropriate and efficient.

In this line, ATD Fourth World, in partnership with Oxford University, conducted a participatory international research project called "The Hidden Dimensions of Poverty". The project took place in six countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, France, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States. For three years, from 2016 to 2019, people living in poverty, professionals and academics worked together to clarify how they understand poverty and its multi-dimensional aspects. Outcomes were presented on May 10, 2019 at the OECD in Paris in a conference untitled: "Addressing the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty".

This paper intends to outline the implementation of this research in Bangladesh, following the methodology called "Merging of Knowledge":

- How research partner MATI Organization ( based in Mymensingh, Bangladesh) established a National Research Team including people with experience of poverty, practitioners and academics, able to work on equal footing and involved in the whole process of co-production.
- How and in which conditions this research team involved several outreach peer groups from various subpopulations experiencing poverty as well as groups of practitioners and academics,
- How the co-creation of knowledge emerged from cross-analysing the outputs of each group in plenary sessions, while elaborating together final sets of dimensions of poverty with their characteristics.

Research teams finally defined nine ( 9) interdependent dimensions common to all participating countries. Three (3) specific dimensions make up the core experience of poverty: Disempowerment, Suffering in body mind and heart, Struggle and resistance. Three (3) other dimensions are rooted in everyday relationships between individuals, social groups of all kinds and

institutions. They are new in the sense that are not yet adequately captured in current multi-dimensional poverty indices.

This experience suggests that participatory research projects including people experiencing poverty are productive when they meet the specific conditions of ethics, time, space and means that will ensure a fair and non-exploitative dialogue, as defined by this research methodology.

**Keyword:** Poverty, Bangladesh, Participatory Research, Community, Peer group, Academics, Practitioners, Experience, Knowledge, Methodology, Workshop, Disempowerment, Resistance, Maltreatment

## Trans-Disciplinary Practice as An Approach for Public Healthcare: A Case Study of Hepatitis C Screening and Linkage to Care in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

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### Abstract

Vietnam is a developing country in Southeast Asia with a population of nearly 95 million and has one of the largest viral hepatitis disease burdens in the region and worldwide<sup>2</sup>. Primary liver cancer is the third leading cause of deaths in Vietnam<sup>3</sup>. Up to 90% of primary liver cancer in Vietnam is responsible by chronic HBV or HCV infection<sup>4</sup>.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is an actual burden and a serious problem for the public healthcare in Ho Chi Minh City. The overall prevalence of HCV in Vietnam and in Ho Chi Minh City has been estimated to be in the range of 1 - 4.1%<sup>5-6</sup>. However, in high-risk groups, such as those who use injectable drugs, chronic HCV has been estimated to be nearly 60%. The number of HCV patients who should be on HCV therapy is unreachable, undetectable, and negligible. Additionally, there is still a large number of patients who have state insurance not knowing how to use it to access to appropriate healthcare providers and how to claim the state insurance company.

This finding indicates and demonstrates how the feasibility and effectiveness of trans-disciplinary approach can be implemented in the public healthcare practice in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam to eliminate a disease. The paper also presents a case study with a joint effort to freely screen Hepatitis C virus and find out carriers then link them to care. The case study has engaged various stakeholders from academic and non-academic institutes and organizations to provide support, consultancy and education in assisting them with state insurance claim and reimbursement to make the Hepatitis C treatment more accessible and affordable. From the

<sup>2</sup> Cooke GS et al. Accelerating the elimination of viral hepatitis: a Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology Commission. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2019 Feb;4(2):135-184. doi: 10.1016/S2468-1253(18)30270.

<sup>3</sup> GBD 2013 Mortality and Causes of Death Collaborators. Global, regional, and national age-sex specific all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 240 causes of death, 1990-2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *Lancet.* 2015 Jan 10;385(9963):117-71. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61682-2. Epub 2014 Dec 18

<sup>4</sup> Song-Huy Nguyen-Dinh, et al. High burden of hepatocellular carcinoma and viral hepatitis in Southern and Central Vietnam: Experience of a large tertiary referral center, 2010 to 2016. *World Journal of Hepatology.* January 27, 2018 10(1): 116-123.  
 2-Ministry of Health -"Plan for Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis, Period 2015-2019", Hanoi, 2015

<sup>5</sup> World Health Organization, Vietnam Office and Vietnam's Ministry of Health, General Department of Preventive Medicine, 2017 (unpublished data)

<sup>6</sup> Berto A et al. Current challenges and possible solutions to improve access to care and treatment for hepatitis C infection in Vietnam: a systematic review. *BMC Infect Dis.* 2017 Apr 11;17(1):260. doi: 10.1186/s12879-017-2360-6.



outcome of the case study, the trans-disciplinary approach is relevant to the strategy of micro elimination of this specific and concrete infectious disease Hepatitis C in Ho Chi Minh City that may turn into a macro-elimination action plan for other diseases in Ho Chi Minh city and nationwide, contributing to policy making and assess to public policies and programs that promote population health and health equity.

**Keyword:** Public Healthcare Services, State Health Insurance, Hepatitis C, Linkage to Care and Treatment, Trans-Disciplinary Approach

## Beyond Simply 'Return': How IDP Movement, Agency and Self-Identification Undermine the Bases of Refugee Policy

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### Abstract

By framing 'repatriation' and 'return' as the most common of the three 'durable solutions', the global framework for managing people in situations of protracted displacement accounts only for the limited mobility of individuals with refugee status back to the locality they fled. By its very nature, it places unrealistic efforts at achieving sustainable outcomes on broader processes of peace and resettlement, that are assumed to provide appropriate conditions for return, but rarely do so. The Internally Displaced People (IDPs) of Ee Tu Hta in Karen State, Myanmar, are a vivid representation of how this system fails to understand, let alone engage, with common experiences of mobility. After more than a decade of international assistance, the camp has faced a cessation in humanitarian food aid and as a result people are making strategic choices on how to sustain livelihoods for themselves and their families. While there are elements that are specific to this particular example, a glance at similar situations, both in Asia and beyond, suggests that people termed as 'displaced' are often in continuous movement - both within and across national boundaries - and, even while staying in a fixed location, their agency, political association and sense of place undermines the assumptions of the structures designed to manage the 'displaced'. This research explores the experiences of people in Ee Tu Hta vis-à-vis these assumptions. In doing so, the research questions the viability of a system that assumes that displaced people seek to return home in large numbers.

**Keyword:** IDPS, Migration, Mobility, Karen, Myanmar, Refugee Return, Repatriation, Displacement, Durable Solutions

## From Bangkok to Issan: Financialization of Everyday Life as the 'Right' Kind of Financial Inclusion

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### Abstract

Economic development theory posits that the lack of access to financial services impedes development at the national and local levels, and therefore, expanding access to financial services improves economic security and well-being. However, over ninety percent of the Thai population has access to a form of financial service, whether it be a banking account, access to credit, or a form of insurance, yet rural economic insecurity persists. Therefore, contemporary government policies and programs are contrived to provide the 'right' kind of financial services. This thesis analyzes the role government institutions have played in changing the financial landscape and financial services.

Using a mixed methods approach of interviews and discussions with leading academics, former government ministers, and Bank of Thailand officials, findings contribute new knowledge to the field of rural development in Thailand. Additionally, by applying a framework of complex interdependence, we see how an evolving environment at all levels of analysis determines varied and uncertain outcomes.

Preliminary analysis indicates a domestic deepening of financialization at the household level. As private debt continues to be a topic of concern for the economy, a new normal is emerging of low interests, inflation, and investment in productive enterprises. Lastly, as financial sector development continues and more individuals and households use financial services, a visible creditor-debtor financial landscape emerges, where the savings of the well-to-do socio-economic class, channeled through growing and a diverse set of financial intermediaries, becomes the credit and subsequent debt for the lesser-off socio-economic classes.

**Keyword:** Financialization, Financial Inclusion, Fintech, Complex Interdependence.

## Transnational Identity for Bi-Racial Children in Taiwan: Perspective From Mothering of Vietnamese Immigrant Women

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### Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to increase understanding and encourage further research about mothering experiences of immigrant women from SouthEast Asia, particularly focusing on the group of Vietnamese immigrant women in Taiwan. In this paper, I explore that Vietnamese immigrant women's child-rearing and educational goals are based on moral values and pursuing transnational identity to their children. However, the educational goals are prevented by social discrimination and this creates a great challenge in the mothering of these immigrant Vietnamese mothers. I offer the perspective of many different disciplines about the transnational identity of bi-racial children as history, culture, language, sociology and psychology. However, each dimension has its own arguments and there should be a common voice in recognizing the problem. My argument is that it is impossible to study about mothering of Vietnamese immigrant women from a particular discipline but must have the cohesion of many other social sciences. This will be demonstrated through the research results cited in part of a thesis which I conducted within 2 years in Taiwan with 16 samples for qualitative research. From these characteristics indicate that it has to get potential research on the need for a transdisciplinary science to provide more effective solutions for improving the awareness of transnational families for mothering of Vietnamese immigrant women. This research concludes that need to have a research collaboration from inside and outside the academic area for creating knowledge of mothering but simultaneously a great challenge for co-operation in reality.

**Keyword:** Vietnamese Immigrant Women, Mothering, Transnational Identity, Child Rearing, Biracial Children

## Gender Inequality and “Wicked Problems” in Transnational Marriage: A Case Study of Vietnamese Women’s Marriages to Taiwanese

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### Abstract

Transnational marriage in Vietnam under the process of marketization and globalization has emerged challenges and complexity from gender inequality which could exacerbate “wicked problems” in sensitive cases such as Vietnamese women’s marriages to Taiwanese. Based on a framework of gender inequality analysis, we focus on understanding the issues of transnational marriages as an intersection between gender inequality elements such as incomplete or contradictory knowledge, the variety of people involved, the economic conflict burden, and the interconnected nature of these problems with other problems. Moreover, our argument is this problem avoids straightforward articulation and is impossible to solve in a way that is simple or final solutions-oriented to avoid false marriages to gain citizenship or conduct human trafficking. These characterizes seem to provide a potential research topic for transdisciplinarity which need creative solutions, its reliance on stakeholder involvement, and engaged socially responsible science.

**Keyword:** Gender Inequality, Transnational Marriage, Transdisciplinary, Wicked Problem

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## Challenge for Young People to Access Rights to Education in Timor Leste

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### Abstract

Most of the literature in human rights reported inequality among human beings to access education although they have the same right to access education and educational goals. One set of factors that are never considered is distance to school, poverty, child labor, and educational mechanism to get better education for the youth. As young people's rights to education become a more common feature of the younger people's to access education, it is contrary to the original goals of young people's access to education. Therefore, inequality happens because barriers such as economic, unemployment, change mindset young peoples and society, child labor, and poverty to access the education. However, to improve contemporary access to human rights education, three approaches can be used: The Values and Awareness, the Accountability, the Transformational and less barriers. This article reviews the models and young people's rights to education those are organized based on the principles of global citizenship and transformative actions in the context of Timor Leste.

**Keyword:** Young People's, Social Change, Theory of Development, Education Model, Inequality, Poverty, Child Labor, Timor Leste

## The Important Norm of Timor-Leste National Police to Maintain Human Rights in Timor Leste

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### Abstract

The Police Use Force is to protect and to maintain law and order among community beside to respect and to maintain Human Rights. When the police do their job, there are contradictions. Some policemen brutally insult, beat, and kill people. During Kuluhun Incident on the 18 November 2018 in Dili, Timor-Leste, three people were killed and five injured. The police beat, kill and hurt citizens because of lack of training. Training and comparative study can improve police performance in many societies.

To mitigate this problem, this paper argues that there are solutions for this problem. First, the state must conduct refreshment training and overseas comparative study for Timor-Leste National Police which is related to human rights, Timor-Leste National Constitution, Penal Code, and Penal Procession Code related to police job. Second, the state must train proper use of force related to citizens' or suspects' rights. The state needs to conduct training for public order and the use of force in theory and practice. This paper shows that the Timor-Leste National Police can serve and protect community human rights with better performance.

**Keyword:** Human Rights Violations, Power Abuses against Community, National Constitution, Timor-Leste National Police Organic Law, Use of Force, Penal Code, Processions Penal Code Timor-Leste

## Education to Mitigate Problems on Teenage Pregnancy in Timor Leste

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### Abstract

Teenage pregnancy has become a global issue in the low middle income countries such as Timor Leste; this issue happens for three influential factors: lack of sex education, vulnerability of choices, and male domination through Patriarchal norms and beliefs. In fact, the patriarchal belief and conservative values have practically dominated the belief system within the society. After direct involvement in the daily youth empowerment and community development under-resourced in particular with young disadvantages groups, rural communities, the author of this paper identifies multiple influential factors and various implications of vulnerabilities in decision making at the stage of early pregnancy.

This article argues the importance of education in Timor Leste in order to improve young people's knowledge and personal empowerment. This analysis enables us to better understand how progressive mindset challenges young people in decision making and how education can transform mindset, self-advancement especially for those young people without power of decision making and limited access to education.

**Keyword:** Teenage Pregnancy, Education, Conservative Value



## Discrimination Against the Ethnic Minority Groups to Access Citizenship in Myanmar

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### Abstract

Some small ethnic minorities in Myanmar are unable to achieve their full citizenship status as other ethnic majorities albeit recognition of 135 national races. The lack of citizenship status leads to the infringement of some of their fundamental rights including the right to education and the right to employment, which are associated with direct and indirect discrimination based on race, religion and language. This paper focuses on 11 individual interviews with the minorities among young-aged population, and the officials from the townships and regional departments of Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population who are providing services to the public at the time of interview. The interview process probes how the different classifications of citizenship based on the 1982 Citizenship Law affect the accessibility to social rights. The 1982 Citizenship Law discriminates against some ethnic minorities in the conflict areas and deters them from their enjoyment of citizenship rights. This research finds that the ethnic minorities are stopped from achieving their citizenship rights due to poor law enforcement, improper management of citizenship law implementation, corruption, lack of awareness of citizenship application process, and administrative violence. Therefore, the research suggests that the government amend the current citizenship law to become more effective for prevention of discrimination against ethnic minorities in terms of citizenship status.

**Keyword:** Administrative Violence, Citizenship, Corruption, Discrimination, Ethnic Minorities

The Protection of NTT Migrant Workers in the Palm Oil Plantations of East Kalimantan: A Transdisciplinary Challenge

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### **Abstract**

East Kalimantan is one of the expansion areas of palm oil in Indonesia. Already, 358 companies are registered, producing palm oil on more than 3.6 million hectares and nearly 80 mills and processing factories. Officially, more than 230,000 people work in the industry, 80% of them migrants from other provinces. A great many of these migrants come from Nusa Tenggara Timur ( NTT) and Flores in particular, as this is a very poor province with high levels of unemployment. However, recruitment of oil palm workers is not based on the standards stipulated in the Manpower Act of Indonesia, giving rise to a lack of legal responsibility by employers. Many of them were recruited illegally and informally and this leaves them vulnerable when put under pressure or fired by employers with the help of the military, police and gangsters in the pay of the palm oil companies. A challenge faced by labour activists to help workers in this sector is that the plantations are often very remote (sometimes 7-14 hours across rivers and vast forests) and difficult to access. This paper discusses the potential of transdisciplinary research to identify spatial organising strategies that link the sending areas with the new places of work in East Kalimantan.

**Keyword:** Protection, Palm Oil Plantation Workers, Transdisciplinary Challenge, Indonesia

**Income, Participation, and Peace: The Impact of Income on Public Participation in The Myanmar Peace Process**

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### **Abstract**

Previous studies have indicated that a higher level of income contributes to more political participation of the general public, while a lower level of income leads to less political participation. At the same time, relevant literature has also pointed to a significantly low level of public participation in the Myanmar peace process. Could low income be one of the reasons? To answer this question, this study investigated the relationship between income and public participation in the Myanmar peace process. The study employed quantitative methodology and a non-probability sampling method, specifically a convenience sampling strategy. The sample included 53 male and 47 female participants. The data was collected in six townships in Yangon, and was specifically done in public areas including public parks, markets, churches, pagodas, shops, offices, and participants' homes. On the whole, the results showed that the participants' interest in the Myanmar peace process was considerably high. However, participants' understanding of the Myanmar peace process, frequency of their discussion about peace issues, and their participation in peace activities were relatively low. More importantly, the results showed that the correlation between income and public participation in Myanmar peace process was not significant. To our knowledge, this is the first report assessing the relation between income and public participation in the peace process in Myanmar. Based on our findings, this report recommends the actors of Myanmar peace process to consider a variety of factors when encouraging more public participation.

**Keyword:** Income, Peace, Public Participation

**Livelihood Trainings for Kachin IDPs: Challenges, Opportunities and Expectations of Beneficiaries**

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### Abstract

In June 2011, over 100,000 of the population have been displaced internally in many towns within Kachin State, Myanmar. Starting from 2015, some agencies started providing livelihood related activity services for IDPs population in many campsites. The research is focusing on the Kachin Internally Displaced Persons' livelihood activities services which have been promoting with a variety of supporting activities from many humanitarian agencies.

There are four major objectives to learn better understand on IDPs' livelihood situation from the research findings. They are as follow; 1) To understand better the existing livelihood activities of IDPs in Kachin State. 2) To analyze whether the training program provided by humanitarian and development agencies applicable IDPs to pursue better livelihood opportunity in the future. 3) To examine the adoption and application of training IDPs received and their livelihood impacts.

Drawing on a qualitative research approach, this research examined two most effective livelihood training activities and two less successful livelihood training activities which helping IDPs to promote their income. The supporting livelihood activities give opportunities for IDPs to learn new skills through livelihood training. Majority of provided activities were business related ones which were different from the IDP experienced in their home villages. IDPs lost assets during the conflict and they need livelihood skill training as well as a financial grant to start making income for betterment in the future. This paper also describes the possible recommendation for long term goal achievement of livelihood promoting activities. The participation for both service providers and recipients in designing the livelihood program is an essential need for the most relevant service in the long- term process. The establishment of coordination among state holders, international and local organization to identify the proper solutions for IDP livelihood improvement because each agency opposed different resources which need to be allocated in the right ways. The policy-making related to IDP issues need to invite the participation of the local government. The livelihood supporting training design needed to set as an adjustable program to apply in promoting the capacity of IDPs through livelihood promoting training services.

**Keyword:** Livelihood Training, Kachin

**Dissemination and Communication of the Transdisciplinary Project "KNOTS"**

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### Abstract

The project “KNOTS” is a three-year scheduled project financed by the European Union. The goal is the establishment of regional and international networks of transdisciplinary research as well as the development of transdisciplinary teaching methods. This paper analyses its internal and external communication and dissemination on the basis of qualitative interviews and observation protocols. It theoretically outlines Transdisciplinarity and organizational communication as well as scientific communication. The interviews and the protocol of a dissemination workshop have shown that the dissemination in the KNOTS project could still be described as work-in-progress, evidently seen in the different understandings of mainly dissemination and partly Transdisciplinarity. There was a general confusion about roles, division of work, responsibilities and the topic of dissemination specifically. It seems that there is not a mutual strategy for dissemination, but many different approaches – this counts especially for the time before the dissemination workshop. As one might expect, it resulted in mostly negatively reviewed dissemination activities as expressed by the respondents. An effective internal communication, however, as outlined in the theoretical framework, is key to an effective external communication. Further-more, there did not seem to be a lot of motivation to come up with sophisticated ideas for dissemination, because, as some interviewees mentioned, they thought of dissemination as a kind of chore to do because the European Union wants it – there was no understanding that it actually helps the project and all partners involved and is vital to the successfulness of KNOTS. The workshop may have helped to clarify the roles and expectations for each partner and get a better understanding for dissemination and its importance. It appears that the quality and processes of dissemination of project KNOTS will not change fundamentally for the last period of the project.

**Keyword:** KNOTS, Transdisciplinarity, Dissemination, Scientific Communication, Organizational Communication

## Application of Transdisciplinary Approach in Studying Social Inequality Among Migrant Workers in Binh Tan District, Ho Chi Minh City and Environment Issues in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh, Vietnam

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### Abstract

Transdisciplinary is a new approach which is the bridge between different disciplines to directly participate in making and using non-academic knowledge. What makes this approach special is the participation of academic and non-academic sectors throughout the research process. Social inequality and environment issues require more than a single discipline to solve the problems, hence, transdisciplinary research is considered the best approach. This paper aims to clarify transdisciplinary approach and the application of this approach in studying social inequality in Binh Tan district, Ho Chi Minh city and environment issues in Tra Cu district, Tra Vinh, Vietnam, from which some discussions are made on the effectiveness as well as prospective challenges in the setting of a specific research. Using mainly qualitative methods, data collection and observation was implemented during the Summer School and Field Trip programme under KNOTS project in March 2019.

**Keyword:** Transdisciplinarity, Transdisciplinary research, Social Inequality, Migrant Worker, Environment

## Women's Access to Land in Timor-Leste

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### **Abstract**

The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste enshrines the principles of international law, specifically on land and property rights. These principles are stressed in some articles of the Constitution, including equality, customs and equal access to land. However, in practice the exercise of authority on property rights is usually given to men in setting and maintaining socio-cultural rights of the community around property regime. The application of customary laws reinforces the established social order and determines the obligations and rights of men, women and children. This means that men have full control over productive resources such as the use of land.

This paper will identify the existing policies and laws made by the government of Timor-Leste regarding land rights, especially their emphasis on application of the patrilineal system that stands against women's access to land. Furthermore, if the policies and laws are to be fully implemented to guarantee women's rights or legal access to land, the patriarchal property regime cannot be applied fully.

**Keyword:** Land Right, Timor Leste, Property Rights, Women Right

## The Problems and Challenges of Buddhist-Christian Relations in Myanmar

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### Abstract

This article is a study of the significant issues of doing religious intolerance and the rights of minorities in Southeast Asia particularly in Burma/Myanmar, which is increasingly pluralistic society. Today most of us who live in the urban areas in the world, we encounter people with different faiths, races and cultures. In my own country of Burma where now I live, we are reminded the nature of our society which is multi-linguistic, multi-religious, multicultural and multi-religious. Therefore, I personally believed diversity living is blessing instead of curses and conflicts in Myanmar today. Myanmar is a land of religious pluralism; the Christians form only a minority as mere 6.4 % estimated of the population in 2014 census. Diversity living has often caused problems and challenges in building a community peace and harmony between religious communities especially between Christian, Muslim minority and Buddhists majority religious in Myanmar. In the country Christians occupy hills regions and while the plains Buddhists occupy areas. Here the author tried to an attempt and investigates the problems and challenges of Buddhist-Christians and other minority religious under transition of Myanmar. The main objective of the study is to determine what are the problems and challenges between different faith religions. It is also the challenges for establishing religious peace in Myanmar through interreligious dialogue, cooperation for social engagement and making peace and reconciliation.

**Keyword:** Buddhist-Christian Relation, Myanmar



## Exploring the Plight of the Bangladeshi Women Migrants in the Middle East

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### Abstract

Since the 1980s, short-term international migration for employment has been an effective livelihood strategy of unemployed Bangladeshi youths. The contribution of migration can be seen through remittances, which made up 7.24% of the country's GDP in 2016-2017, with a minimum of 0.19 percent in 1976 and a maximum of 10.59 percent in 2012. Although the sphere of labor migration has been traditionally a male dominated industry in Bangladesh, there has been a significant change in the gender pattern of migration, where the proportion of women migrants has increased recently (since 2000s). With increased opportunities for low-skilled labor, women's migration to various Middle East countries (e.g. KSA, UAE, Lebanon, Oman, and Qatar) has rapidly increased in recent years. Like their male counterparts, women migrants directly benefit Bangladesh economy through the remittances they send home; conversely, their lives in overseas are not without risk and discrimination. Often confined at workplaces like slaves, women migrants face various hostile situations, including violence and exploitation by their 'masters'; often subjected to inhumane torture, sexual violence, and denied salaries. However, this important issue has received far too little research attention. In response, I conducted an empirical research in three districts of Bangladesh between 2017 and 2018, and applied both qualitative and quantitative methods toward a comprehensive understanding of the problem. This paper is an effort to offer an insight into the 'slave-master' relationship between the women migrants and their employers. Through fieldwork, I discovered that, apart from poverty, there are multiple reasons that Bangladeshi women migrate to escape depressed social conditions at home (e.g. divorce, disputes, violence, and insecurity), and that a perceived religious similarity (i.e. Islam) was a significant factor in choosing the particular Middle East countries. After facing several forms of harassment, most of the women migrants escape yet again from their host countries, returning back to the unpleasant lives they hoped to leave behind in Bangladesh. Thus, the plight of Bangladeshi women migrant workers never ends in both home and host countries. Therefore, this paper urges the necessity of legal safeguard, vocational and life-skill training for prospective women migrants in order to ensure a more secure working environment overseas. To reap the benefits of labor migration, respective countries need to ensure the process safe and orderly, and that migrants are supported throughout their journey in both countries of origins and destinations.

**Keyword:** Women, Migrants, Poverty, Remittance, Slavery, Sex

## The Rationale Behind Plastic-related Companies Behavior to Support Recycled Plastic for Food Packaging in Thailand

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### Abstract

Currently, some plastic-related companies propose a solution of using recycled plastic (rPET) for food packaging such as beverage bottles as a solution for plastic problem in Thailand. Because of the restriction of recycled food packaging by the Thai FDA, some company today are trying to lobby the government to allow it. This research focuses on studying business behavior by looking at various factors of internal environment and external environment to understand the actual rationale of why those companies need to use rPET for food packaging in Thailand.

The finding indicates that there are a few environmental factors from the internal and external environment that influence company to promote rPET food packaging. Firstly, it is the internal companies' mission that creates a huge influence factor for a particular company to promote rPET for food packaging in Thailand, especially global companies. This is also because global companies are more likely to received social pressure from civil society such as NGOs than local companies. In term of the external environment, findings reveal the combination between two potential factors. The first is the availability of financial resource and feedstock of post-consumer PET bottle. Because rPET is a very new topic in Thailand combining with poor waste segregation system, the market of rPET packaging and the feedstock of post-consumer PET bottle are not guaranteed. For a company to change from virgin plastic to rPET, it is not easy. This can be well explained by the second factor which is recycling technology for rPET packaging. For the company who have no recycling technology for food-grade rPET, a huge investment is required for technological investment. If there is no clear market for rPET packaging and enough feedstock of post-consumer PET bottle, they definitely not dare to take a risk in investing in the new technology and switching to rPET. If any company which does not have headquarters mission-driven or receive high pressure from NGOs or whatever, it is unlikely for them to change from virgin plastic, which production cost is cheaper, to rPET which has higher production cost and do not know when they can cover the cost of technological investment.

**Keyword:** rPET, Business behavior, Recycled Food Packaging, Circular Plastics Economy

## Transdisciplinary Research in Social Inequality: The Case Study In Long Thuan, Vietnam

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### Abstract

This paper provides applied research in social inequality on transdisciplinary perspectives. Transdisciplinary Research (TDR) is often promoted as a mode of knowledge production that is effective in addressing and solving current sustainability challenges. This effectiveness stems from its closeness to practice-based/ situated expertise and real-life problem contexts. The results discuss how to apply transdisciplinary knowledge in social problem, particularly in inequality issues. Long Thuan island, which is in Me Kong Delta, Vietnam, is the best case study in which social inequality is clearly seen. Firstly, inequality in regime structure, the residents are powerless, by contrast, the government is powerful. The second thing is about social inequality in terms of community level, rich people and government officers have priorities over local people in general. The third thing is about gender inequality, women's rights here receive less attention. Furthermore, women's power is reduced after marriage and women have lower voice when making important decisions in the family. Finally, examining all inequality dimensions, women's rights have been forced to be disappeared gradually.

To sum up, transdisciplinary research is fairly a privileged and innovative method, but it is slightly noticeable in the research area in Vietnam. Since it requires the unity and respect among disciplines to find out the most effective outcome which meets the demand of each stakeholder or actor. Conducting the research in a place where social inequality is such a popular issue causes TDR harder to implement; however, the research somehow underpins further studies to build up the practicality and effectiveness when applying TDR in seeking solutions for social problems as well as sustainable development.

**Keyword:** Transdisciplinary, Social Inequality, Sustainable Development

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## Can Transdisciplinary Approach Avoid “Good Ideas Turn Bad?,” A Case of Resettlement of Indigenous People Affected by the Hydro-Electric Project in Southeast Asia

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### Abstract

Because of the energy needs for the development, Southeast Asia is home to many hydropower projects assessed its pros and cons in many research. In this paper, I focus on one of the most significant negative socio-environmental impacts: resettlement. Its goal, according to the World Bank: “Resettlement must be planned and implemented as a development project over a minimum of two generations and include not only protective measures but also the provision of new rights, resources and strategies”. However, the goal implies that if resettlement is planned as a development project, a majority of resettled people will be better off. However, two different case studies in Vietnam and Thailand can contradict pieces of evidence explaining the failure of resettlement plans when good ideas on paper turn bad in reality. This situation raises some questions: Why can good ideas in resettlement for hydro-electric projects turn bad and can they be saved? In order to deal with the above questions, this paper will organise in three parts. The first aim outlines the key elements from Norman Long’s perspective in order to identify what is “good ideas turn bad” in projects for development and explain how that phenomenon can occur. The second aim is applying literature review to answer the question “can transdisciplinary approach avoid that 'good ideas turn bad'”? And, in the final part, this paper uses the case studies about the resettlement of indigenous people affected by the hydro-electric project such as Pak Mun Dam in Thailand and Trung Son Hydropower in Vietnam to illustrate all related arguments.

**Keyword:** Resettlement, Hydro-Electric Project, Southeast Asia, Transdisciplinary Approach

## Urban Porosity: From Metaphor to Transdisciplinary Concept, and Models of Knowledge Production

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### Abstract

Nearly a century ago, Walter Benjamin and Asja Lacis used “porosity” in their essay on Naples city as a metaphor to simplify this very complex phenomenon because of its many interconnected parts and intricacy that not only “as this stone is the architecture” but also “local Neapolitan lifestyle”. From the beginning, this term goes beyond pure physical space and is developed with some different dimensions. In later discussions about porosity concept, some scholars systemize this term into four urban spheres such as ecological, mobility and social issues, epistemological, and mathematical. Accordingly, a few studies focus on spatial discontinuities as porosity relates to the social issues in some European cities which consider that porosity areas as threshold areas promote the loss of the strict notion of spatial and social order. Besides that, there are few narrow-ranging approaches to this term in some research on urban morphology, urban shrinking, urban resilience, urban politics. Recently, sharing the ideas of the conceptual sense porosity, the book “Porous City – From Metaphor to Urban Agenda” (Sophie Wolfrum et al, 2018) attempts to explore porosity from a variety of perspectives toward multi and interdisciplinary perspectives. Throughout the development of urban knowledge, while this metaphor is gradually approaching the interdisciplinary concept from related studies, we need a transdisciplinary concept of “urban porosity” that serve to unify the knowledge being applied from areas that cut across the trenches that mark traditional disciplinary boundaries. Nevertheless, its transdisciplinary endeavour is facing challenges of the conceptual sense porosity remains rather diffuse in between the academic world and the real world. This paper aims for a discussion on the possibilities of developing a transdisciplinary concept of porosity from a metaphor based on literature review, as well as focuses on analysing two kinds of modes toward top-down and bottom-up levels of knowledge production in this case.

**Keyword:** Urban Porosity, Transdisciplinary, Knowledge Production

## Social Capital and Livelihood of Khmer Farmers: A Transdisciplinary Approach

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### Abstract

This paper summarizes the results of a survey conducted in Tran De district, Soc Trang Province to identify the types of social capital that exist in Khmer Community and how social capital can help to improve the local livelihood of these people. In recent years, the livelihood of Khmer people in Tran De district, Soc Trang province has changed and divided into 2 basic groups: the first group is the farmers who maintain and develop their economic and spiritual life in their own homeland. They are farmers involved in Evergrowth agricultural cooperatives. They work together and share the breeding experiences. These activities help them to have a relatively stable economic life and good spiritual life. The other group is farmers who don't have any land, and they are forced to migrate to big cities such as Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Duong to find jobs. The need to find a sustainable livelihood model for Khmer farmers who are non – member of the cooperative without leaving their villages is very pressing, it requires a transdisciplinary approach with the participation from many actors including academic and non-academic stakeholders. Implementing a transdisciplinary study for the Khmer community is a new and promising approach that can be expected to find a useful solution to the livelihoods of Khmer farmers' s communities and bring a sustainable development for their lives.

**Keyword:** Social Capital, Livelihood, Khmer Farmers, Transdisciplinary

## Vietnamese Residents' Behaviors of Using Eco – Friendly Products: A Research Applying Early Stage of Transdisciplinary Approach

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### Abstract

Using eco – friendly products comes from the desire to protect resources for future generations and to enhance human being quality of life. Currently, consumers around the world intend gradually towards sustainable products friendly to the environment and consider it as a standard for the products and services of high quality. They are willing to pay higher prices for these goods have been labeling standards for sustainable production. Since the interest for green products has increased globally and more companies have started manufacturing these products environmentally friendly and represent the company's efforts in protecting the environment. This research tried to investigate the behavior of using eco – friendly product of modern urban residents. The result of this research will alert the urban citizens about the purpose and the routine of using eco – friendly products instead of using the products which cannot be recycled to protect the environment nowadays. Moreover, this study aimed to improve the understanding of urban people about the use of recycled, environmentally – friendly products to reduce waste, improve quality of life. Transdisciplinary approach was used to get the knowledge co-creation from researchers and non- academic stakeholders about the eco- friendly product using behavior. Exploratory research was used to find out all information related to this topic and descriptive research to describe how many percentages of people use these eco- friendly products. For descriptive research, the data is collected from more than 100 citizens whose age are ranged from 18 years old to 30 years old concentrating on people who are living, studying, working in city in Vietnam, especially Ho Chi Minh City. The results of the study showed that most of respondents are aware of the use of environmentally friendly products. However, due to their need and income, it seems like they are not entirely focused on recycled products because the price of those products is not low and they are not diversified. The research shows the positive aspects of the urban people in using recycled products.

**Keyword:** Eco – Friendly Behavior, Attitude of Urban People, Transdisciplinary Research

## China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and the Dispossession of Customary Land Tenure Rights and Livelihood Insecurity of Ta'ang Tea Farmers in Northeast Myanmar

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### Abstract

The opening up of Myanmar since 2012, following several decades of dictatorship, has provided hope for inclusive development, but concerns have been raised over further entrenchment of land grabbing as Myanmar hosts China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) as part of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This movement has been facilitated by amendments to national land use policy. This research employed a critical ethnography to study the impacts of CMEC's oil and gas pipeline by focusing on the affected tea farmers who are the ancient settlers in Northeast Myanmar. The researcher interviewed sixty tea farmers, local authorities and members of civic groups. Empirically, capital accumulation from the CMEC's gas and oil pipeline projects, in producing for global energy markets, has regenerated marginalization and livelihood insecurity for tea farmers through the dispossession of their customary lands in the Tatmadaw (military)-assisted land acquisition. Customary land tenure, hence, are affected because the tea farmers have no rights to claim, control and access to land, as well as to obtain adequate compensation. These have been the root of clashes between the Tatmadaw and Ta'ang liberation group. Furthermore, tea and paddy farming, and access to water, hunting and fishing are in decline due to the CMEC's infrastructure development and military conflicts. The local women are at risk of being abused by militants, thus, exacerbating the traditional exclusion of Ta'ang-women from accessing land-rights. These factors trigger insecurity in the food supply and livelihood. Most respondents proposed that it needs to address these insecurities, renegotiate with all involved parties for peace and development, and legislate customary land policy to protect the tea farmers' rights, land and natural-environment.

**Keyword:** China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, Ta'ang Tea Farmers, Accumulation by Dispossession, Livelihood Security, Customary Land Tenure Rights



## Health Protection and Accessibility of Myanmar Migrant Workers: A Case Study of Healthcare Services in Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand

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### Abstract

The purposes of the research were to explore the healthcare services provided for Myanmar migrant workers in Samut Sakhon Province, and to assess the accessibility to healthcare of Myanmar migrant workers in Samut Sakhon Hospital of Samut Sakhon Province then to analyze the possible barriers to service access of Myanmar migrant workers. Qualitative method was applied by collecting data through in-depth interviews with migrant workers who have used the healthcare service in the region and key-informant interview with the local NGO and provincial hospital personnel. Even though relatively well developed Health Service are provided for Myanmar migrants, there are still some relying on the clinics because of time consumption, language barriers and high costs of direct and indirect expenses when receiving the government healthcare service, which includes the cost of SSS and MHIS schemes. Healthcare service is provided with non-discrimination but unintentional barriers of language differences is still challenging Myanmar migrants in accessing the healthcare service of Thailand. And also a huge number of Myanmar migrants are not insured because of their legal status, unawareness of the existence or benefits of the insurance and high costs of MHIS. Finding out better way to accommodate the non-Thai speaking patient. Promoting and improving the current two insurance schemes to be migrant-friendly and increasing the enrollment of Myanmar migrants and identifying the innovative way to insure the undocumented migrant workers. These would support the Thailand realization of the UHC for all the individuals on its soil.

**Keyword:** Health Protection, Accessibility to Healthcare, Migrant Workers, Barriers to healthcare Access, Migration and Health

## Transnational Palm Oil Labour Solidarity: An Emerging Transdisciplinary Network

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### Abstract

This paper looks at the actors involved in a new network in Southeast Asia called “Transnational Palm Oil Labour Solidarity” and how they plan to work together in six modules of transnational collaboration. These are 1) transnational, regional organising within large palm oil corporations, 2) organising strategies for migrant workers, 3) solidarity along the global production network, 4) just transition in the palm oil industry, 5) legal protection strategies and 6) women leadership in the network. All modules deal with different aspects of the three themes of the KNOTS project: migration, inequality and ecology. The palm oil industry is a source of great inequality, as wages are low and most workers are poor, whilst the company owners are amongst the list of millionaires and billionaires in Southeast Asia. Most of the work is done by migrant workers either from abroad (Indonesian and Filipino workers in Malaysia) or by Indonesian migrant workers from different islands (e.g. Flores, Lombok, Sulawesi, Java). And palm oil is one of the biggest contributors to the two global ecological crises of our time: biodiversity loss and climate change. The paper discusses the interactions between the three dimensions of the industry and the potential for transdisciplinary research collaboration between academics and civil society actors within the network.

**Keyword:** Palm Oil, Labour, Transdisciplinary research, Migration, Climate Change

## Flexible Diplomacy: Scholars as Key Players in Track II Diplomacy

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### Abstract

The field of traditional diplomacy has changed very little since the Congress of Vienna in the 19th century. Globalization, non-traditional security threats, and a changing global landscape require a more flexible diplomacy that includes a wider range of stakeholders such as NGOs, community leaders, and most importantly scholars/academics. Academic freedoms, subject area expertise, great communication skills, access to epistemic communities, inter alia, are all great strengths of scholars. The present exploratory essay posits an increased role for academics in international diplomacy as central nodes in a flexible network of stakeholders.

**Keyword:** Diplomacy, International Development, Grounded Theory

## Trade Union Organising Strategies for Migrant Workers in the Sabahan Plantations, Malaysia

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### Abstract

In collaboration with the Sabah Plantations Industry Employees Union (SPIEU), this paper looks at what kind of transdisciplinary research could help to solve some of the challenges facing trade unions in the plantation sector. Because Malaysian labour law specifies that over 50% of the employees of one company become members before the union is recognised, it is currently difficult for SPIEU to gain recognition in new plantations. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that a majority of plantation workers are from Indonesia, with transient work contracts. Establishing contacts with sending areas – for example from Flores or South Sulawesi – and offering basic training about workers' rights in a safe environment before workers set out for Sabah, could offer a partial solution. The paper presents some of the key challenges in Sabah and a research design of a transdisciplinary project that aims to tap into the potential of networks established by migrant workers themselves. It hopes for some useful interaction with KNOTS scholars from a theoretical and practical perspective.

**Keyword:** Palm Oil, Labour, Migration, Trade Unions, Malaysia

## Transdisciplinary Research: Dis-Unifying the Unity of Knowledge, Towards a Unified Pluralism

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### Abstract

In this article, I shed light on the widely neglected link between debates on transdisciplinary research (TDR) on the one hand and disputes between pluralists and unificationists on the other. Although many discussions around TDR express sympathy with comprehensive, i. e. global, attempts towards unification, I argue that unification is always contingent and contextual. Unity in TDR needs to be understood as a pragmatic decision to address real world challenges and create joint solutions. Based on this, I argue that TDR can only be operationalized by drawing upon both “unified believe-value pluralism” and “believe-value relativism”. The former insists on the integration of and interaction among multiple perspectives, while the latter brings about the capacity to make local decisions, thus meeting TDR’s requirement to work in a solution-oriented manner.

**Keyword:** Philosophy of Science, Transdisciplinarity, Unified Pluralism, Relativism, Pragmatism, Sociology of Knowledge

## Maritime Security in Mozambique: An Analysis of the Main Challenges of Securitization of the Mozambican Channel

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### Abstract

Maritime security refers to the maintenance of good order at sea. The hijacking of the "Vega 5" fishing vessel in December 2010 by Somali pirates in the coastal zone off Mozambique, near Sofala province, with 24 people (crew), of which nineteen Mozambicans, three Indonesians and two Spanish aboard, awakened the attention of the Mozambican State to the maritime security dimension, making the Mozambique Channel susceptible to securitization. As a result of surveillance, it became clear that the Mozambican coast was also the target of illegal fishing and illegal immigration activities carried out by several countries in the West. The objective of study was to analyze threats to maritime security and its impact and propose possible strategy to improve security to the channel. The study addresses three maritime security issues that are known and perceived as potential threats to maritime security, namely Maritime Piracy, Illegal Fishing, and Illegal Immigration. This research was based on the analysis of the qualitative approach and the descriptive method. Data collection was done through bibliographic research, primary and secondary sources were collected from reports, agreements, interviews, books, articles, newspapers and electronic websites. Based on this study, illegal fishing and illegal immigration are considered to be the threats that most negatively impact the country's maritime security because it occurs every day in places away from the control of the Mozambican Government. These threats led to creation of the Sea Policy and Strategy through Resolution No. 39/2017 of 17 September, which seeks to solve problems related to the defense of sovereignty and territorial integrity, maritime security, illegal fishing and immigration, maritime piracy, among others. However, it's necessary to reinforce cooperation and dialogue among neighboring countries to protect countries interests and creation of national maritime authority to project the power of the Mozambican state in the maritime area.

**Keyword:** Maritime Security, Securitization, Piracy, Illegal Fishing, Illegal Immigration

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## The Effects of Terrorism on Girls' Access to Education: A Case Study of Swat Valley (of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Pakistan

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### Abstract

Using the gender perspective, this paper aimed to evaluate the effects of terrorism on females of Swat, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan. The objective is to analyze the damages caused by extremists to girls' education in terms of barring them from attending schools and institutions, assassinating and injuring teachers and students, inflicting psychological traumas; and, causing damages to infrastructure by bombing and destroying the school buildings etc. Secondary data was used as well as video link and phone call interviews, researchers' observation and the documents are also used as the means of data collection. The paper finds that female students of Swat were vulnerable to severe human rights abuses. Furthermore, these students struggle to recover from the miseries inflicted upon them. As for the social and cultural dimensions, females in general and girls' students more than males of the Swat region. Their economic, cultural and social liberties were tightly restricted. The slow process of rehabilitation is putting a lot of negative mental and psychological effects on these sufferers. Few recommendations are suggested for policy implications in the future i. e. nationwide implementation of Article 25-A of the constitution of Pakistan that ensures free and compulsory education for all. In this regard; to reinvigorate and restructure the provincial educational system, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province also needs to bring into action its Act XII-2017 that ensures building a mechanism for the provision of free and compulsory education to the age group of 5 to 16. In addition, to enforce the National Action Plan which was agreed upon by the National Security Council (NSC) for the purpose of eradicating extremist's ideology from the society by confiscating the hate material and nabbing the propagators of religious, social and gender discrimination.

**Keyword:** Girls' Education, Extremism, Talibanization, Terrorism, Swat Valley

## Human Security Crisis in Cambodia: Is Transdisciplinarity a Solution?

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### Abstract

In post-conflict Cambodia, the Hun Sen government has granted many land and forest concessions to powerful figures. The concessions expropriate lands and increase deforestation, creating human insecurities for many rural people whose livelihoods rely on nature. In academia, many scholars have adopted transdisciplinarity to address “wicked problems” in the Global North by integrating knowledge from academic and non-academic stakeholders. Unlike those studies, the current study, which rests upon ongoing two-year ethnographic fieldwork, examines the controversial case of Sesan Riverine communities’ livelihood difficulties in Stung Treng Province in order to determine whether transdisciplinarity can be an auxiliary problem-solving paradigm in Cambodia’s human-security crisis. Scholars who have situated their transdisciplinary studies in the Global South have linked local particularities, especially hierarchy, with impediments to knowledge coproduction: the stakeholders on the higher end of a hierarchy restrain the knowledge contributions of those on the lower end. However, this linkage does not clarify the motivations of higher-end stakeholders. I argue that hierarchies impede knowledge coproduction insofar as its democratic, equal spaces stemming from transdisciplinarity might empower lower-end stakeholders (project-affected villagers) but likely disempower higher-end stakeholders (government officials). In order to re-attain their authority, higher-end stakeholders counteract transdisciplinarity’s potential to reconfigure the power dynamics of all stakeholders, and this dilemma constitutes a major challenge to knowledge coproduction. In other words, conducting a transdisciplinary study in the Global South is to impose Western values on local socio-political settings, so that stakeholders’ interactions with one another mimic the wider values contestation between the Global North and South.

**Keyword:** Cambodia, Transdisciplinarity, Global North, Global South, Human Security



## The Impacts of Transportation Development in Chiang Rai, Thailand

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### Abstract

The objective of this study is (1) to search the impacts of transportation development in Chiang Rai as the province on the north of Thailand that have border to Laos and Myanmar and (2) the government considered Chiang Rai to have special economic zone that consisted 3 districts, Chiang Khong, Chiang Saen and Mae Sai, as much as other provinces. Moreover, the policy of the government was supporting Chiang Rai to be a hub of logistic and hub of tourism in Mekong Sub-region.

The development of transportation is important for people to have more chance to access basic need such as education, healthcare, and other facilities but not every transportation route have been given opportunity to Chiang Rai for example Chiang Khong-Huay Xai Friendship Bridge has been constructed to increase number of trade and investment which is completely achieved that aim but it makes Chiang Khong became only bypass so number of tourism and visitors were decreasing opposite way with the increasing of land price.

The study indicated that the misunderstanding creates lack of development in Chiang Rai such as trade and investment policy that supporting economy but there is a big the different between good economy for government and good economy for local community which creates different perspectives of development in province. So, it is important to figure out the development plan specific for Chiang Rai which have variety dimension including; people, culture, knowledge and more, those are strengths of Chiang Rai that will be benefit to sustainable development rather than focus on number in statistic report which usually shown only growth and decline rate without the concern of people well-being.

**Keyword:** Transportation, Development, Urban Expansion, Chiang Rai

## Particulate Matter 2.5: A Case Study of Measures and Risks in Bangkok During Early 2019, Thailand

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### Abstract

The situation of particulate matter is caused by multiplicity of factors such as economic development, environmental degradation, and social inequality. During the first quarter of 2019, Bangkok has been covered with large amount of fine particle, known as PM2.5. Many Bangkok resident has been affected, particularly in the term of their health and income. Thai government has announced the measures to cope with the problem. However, good measures should be expected not only to decrease the level of particle, but it also needs to be able to tackle the impacts toward risk-prone groups. In this context, the vulnerable group seem to be placed in the marginalized position, while they are also the group that tends to receive most of the impacts.

The objective of the study aims to understand the relationship between the state measures and the multiplicity of risks among the vulnerable groups in Bangkok. In order to comprehend the complexity of the issue, this study takes transdisciplinary approach to highlight the politics of government measures toward different stake holders. It analyzes the case of PM2.5 in Bangkok during 2019 through the conceptual lens of political ecology, risk society, and environmental inequality. The research combines different methodologies including the non-participatory observation, in-dept interview with various types of sample, and the documentary research.

The study found that majority of PM2.5 in Bangkok has occurred due to the transportation activities. Most of the measures implemented by the state, however, were short-term solutions, focusing on limiting activities in industrial and construction sectors, rather than pursuing long-term solutions such as improving engines and fuels standard. Among the vulnerable groups, it is found that there are many factors causing the exposition to the impact of PM2.5. These factors are: economic condition, ineffectiveness of measure in regard of economic and social dependency, cost of protection, area of state service, availability of safe accommodation, and the ability to access to services and source of necessary information.

**Keyword:** Inequality, Environmental Policy, Distributional Impacts, Air Pollution

## Thai Civil Partnership is The New Marriage Inequality: Queer Critiques on the Discourses in the Civil Partnership Bill of State Activism Towards Marriage 'Equality'

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### Abstract

With an equal access to legal registration becoming the international mainstream development agenda and movement of 21st century, Thailand proposed a civil partnership bill developed by the Rights and Liberties Protection Department in 2018. Although the initiative seems promisingly progressive, the drafting, legal product and outcomes that the bill promises to bring lay vigorous ground of criticisms. This paper is the first English-language academic work that uniquely integrates theoretical outlook and arguments of queer theory where Foucauldian discourse analysis is the key concept applied to critique the discourses codified in the bill. This article aims to analyze how Thai discourse of marriage affects state activism of marriage equality through the proposal of controversial civil partnership and argue how it is a new marriage inequality. This paper presents key findings derived from secondary sources, content analysis of the bill, interviews with key actors, participation in relevant activities and events and insights from the author as an activist. The discourse of marriage in Thailand is more social and cultural than legal where witnessed ceremony without registration with state is regarded as recognition. Interacting with foreign influences, the civil partnership as a new registration system was proposed to make marriage more gender-inclusive and arguably equal, however the criticisms prove otherwise. Thai movement of marriage equality faces internal complexity among the civil society and state authorities. This paper concludes that beyond the limitation of rights, the civil partnership bill is a new marriage inequality. The oppressive institution of marriage whose discourse is monopolized by state is used as a tool to control and discipline Thai LGBTI couples. The discriminative civil partnership act normalizes and compromises the needs of the community with statist interest of state, enabling the reproduction and idealization of state-approved norms and expectations.

**Keyword:** Civil Partnership, Marriage Equality, Marriage, Legal Registration, Discourse

## Internal Migrant Children and Their Access to Education: A Case Study of Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon, Myanmar

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### Abstract

This research focuses on children of migrating families within Myanmar specifically to understand their status on accessing primary education. It studies this issue for children who have travelled with families when they have moved to a new location. In doing so, this research looks into challenges and issues faced by migrant children in the process of accessing primary education.

The research was conducted in Hlaing Thar Yar Township in Yangon, Myanmar. The area is characterized by settlements of migrant groups. The methodology used is a qualitative approach. A total of 12 in-depth interviews were conducted with migrant families in the study area. In addition, another 10 key informant interviews were conducted with government officials from Department of Basic Education, local administrator, teachers and representatives of INGO/NGOs. All interviews were facilitated using pre-semi structured questionnaires.

The main research findings are that there is a state policy of free and compulsory education in Myanmar, school fees, text books and a set of school uniform for every child is made free of cost by the government. However, the number of available schools is not fulfilling the demand. Many migrants do not possess documents necessary for establishing their legal rights in their new settlement. Schools accept recommendation from the local administration, but this is often not possible because parents do not possess their own identity papers. Even if a student proves to fall in a certain 'catchment', additional documents such as transfer certificate is required. Families escaping poverty and natural calamities, eg., Cyclone Nargis, either are unaware of the importance of legal documents or have lost them to calamities. In addition, document requirements are interpreted in different ways in practice which has created confusion on what are standard acceptable documents.

This paper concludes that the implementation of free and compulsory education at primary level in Myanmar is failing in meeting the needs of the migrant community. Besides economic barriers, there are multiple administrative challenges that make it near impossible for children of migrant communities to access primary education.

**Keyword:** Right to Education, Access to Primary Education, Internal Migrant Children, Peri-urban

## Coping with Drug Abuse in Shan State, Myanmar

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### Abstract

As we look around the study area, especially in the mountain areas and control over the ethnic armed groups areas, it is not hard to see the drug users and the other chemical substances selling and opium cultivation in the mountain areas. According to the drug dependents the opium cultivation can earn more money and easier than the other crops. As Lashio situated on the China-Myanmar Border Highway Road, China is the main producer of the chemical substances and importer to Myanmar. Because of the geographical situation, the study area is abundant in drug substances and chemical tablets. Heroin and amphetamine are the most popular moreover the number of drug dependents increasing according to the conversations and surrounding justice.

This research also examines what is happening in actuality concerning on drug abuse regarding with the instability of political situations in Myanmar. Furthermore, this research analyses some beliefs and myths of drug use in local community, the weakness of knowledge (their practices), education level and the other internal factors which is called social factors influenced the causes of drug abuse. In the study area, it is not hard to find out the drug addicted person not only adult but also teenager in everywhere the meaning of drug use and why they became addicted to drug substances are also included. One of the key priorities of this research include how the Narcotic Drug Control policy 2018 is working during 1 year in actuality and the perceptions change under the mechanism of the new policy also discussed.

The analysis of this field research concluded with the findings according to the conversations with 6 drug dependents who registered at the methadone clinic and 2 key informants with health provider and community leader using qualitative method design, consisting of semi-structured questionnaires. This research showing greater focus on the causes of drug addiction, the role of drugs on drug dependents, moreover as the drug abuse is the trigger problems in Myanmar not only the community but also the government have to participate in harm reduction and demand reduction processes under the mechanism of the new policy to change the perceptions of the local people.

**Keyword:** Drug Abuse, Drug Policy, Shan State, Myanmar

## Assessing Chinese Grand Strategic Adjustment Through the Lens of Neoclassical Realism: A Case Study on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

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### Abstract

In 2013, Xi Jinping proposed the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to support investment in infrastructure and regional connectivity. With Xi's push, this vision came to life when the AIIB was formally established in 2015. The AIIB is an example of emerging Chinese institutional statecraft is one of the largest developments in the landscape of international financial institutions (IFIs) this century. For decades, China's foreign policy has been rooted in the idea of taoguang yanghui, or keeping a low profile and biding time. In face of Xi Jinping's leadership, it begs the questions if the Chinese approach has changed as China establishes itself as a regional leader. Literature offer competing views on the rise of China, its foreign policy, and the implications it has for the international order—overwhelmingly from the structural realist perspective. However, there is a lack of literature tracing how and why China's foreign policy initiatives come to be. Although structural level factors do play a large role in Chinese foreign policy formulation, this research posits that sub-structural level variables help to provide a clearer understanding of China's grand strategic adjustment, exemplified by a case study on the AIIB.

This research employs a new comprehensive framework situated within the neoclassical realist theory of foreign policy analysis, which underscores the importance of interactions between systemic and sub-systemic variables in guiding states in their foreign policy-making process. Neoclassical realism maintains that structural level factors are important in assessing foreign policy decisions, but contributes a deeper understanding by underscoring the sub-structural level variables that these systemic stimuli must pass through, leading to decisions. The research suggests that leadership images, Chinese strategic culture, Chinese state-society relations, and domestic Chinese institutions have played a role in the decision to create the AIIB, which has played into the shift in Chinese grand strategy.

**Keyword:** Foreign Policy Analysis, Neoclassical Realism, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Belt and Road Initiative, Xi Jinping, Chinese Foreign Policy

## Public Trust in the Myanmar Police Force: Exploring the Influencing Factors

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### Abstract

In developing countries, little studies have been conducted whereas many research has been investigated the influences on public trust in the police in developed countries. This study is the first to explore this particular topic in one of the developing countries, Myanmar. Specifically, this study measured level of trust in the police and investigated factors that influence public trust in the police by collecting survey data in both urban and rural areas of Yangon, Myanmar (N = 401). The present study also examined whether Burmese and non-Burmese from both urban and rural areas expressed different levels of trust in the police based on conflict theory. Findings revealed that people from urban areas had a lower level of trust in the police than people from rural areas, while no difference was found between the Burmese and non-Burmese populations. In addition, Myanmar people's attitudes towards the police as a whole were substantially influenced by their perception of the police accessibility. This report concluded with discussions of plausible explanations and recommendations.

**Keyword:** Public Trust, Myanmar, Myanmar Police Force, Fairness, Effectiveness, Transparency

## Effects of Chinese Investments in Sihanoukville on The Local Community

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### Abstract

The coastal city of Sihanoukville in Cambodia is undergoing rapid change caused by massive Chinese industrial and real estate investments. How these recent developments are affecting the local Cambodians has not been studied so far. Therefore, the research closes this gap.

Chinese immigration to Sihanoukville has increased massively since many Chinese companies mainly employ Chinese workers, while also the influx of Chinese tourists has risen.

Locals often do not profit from the investments. Rents and property prices are exploding, leading to evictions, the closing down of local shops, leading to an economic domination by Chinese businesses. Although there are more work opportunities than before, high-skilled jobs are often for Chinese only, while locals mainly get employed in the lower segments. There are cases of human right violations and labor exploitation, especially in the Sihanoukville SEZ. This fosters resentments towards the Chinese, crime rates are increasing, and the urban infrastructure is overburdened, leading to severe environmental problems and related health issues. Especially the poor in the city feel excluded, as they often do not benefit from the investments. Economic interests in Sihanoukville pursued both by the Chinese state and private investors prevail over the interests of the citizens. These issues are currently not adequately addressed by the city government, which often does not implement existing laws. However, if the Cambodian government will change its current course, ensuring a stricter compliance with the laws and putting the wellbeing of the population above other interests, the long-term effects of the current transformation can be positive and improve the livelihoods especially of the poor.

**Keyword:** Chinese investments, Sihanoukville, Inequality



## Stakeholder Engagement: Shared Practices and Remaining Challenges in Identifying Labor Abuse In Multinational Supply Chains

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### Abstract

It is now approaching eight years since the release of the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), a revolutionary normative regime which has changed the Business Human Rights (BHR) landscape. The principles outline Business' responsibility to respect human rights, comprised of three protocol, one of these being Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD). Interests surrounding corporations efforts to respect human rights through the global media, consumers, and investors, continue to grow, and this is the reason for this study. The paper explores the role of innovation in identifying labor specific human rights impacts in multinational supply chains, drawing on the case of Thailand. The paper aims to do this by sharing research, comprised of literature, and over twenty in-depth interviews with key actors in the Asian/Thai BHR landscape (including civil society, corporations and the government). Practically, this will share techniques and measures taken in the identification of human rights impacts. Theoretically, it examines how notions of innovation play a role in this.

Under BHR, impacts can apply to a plethora of issues, from education to the environment, however this paper focuses on labor abuses specifically as outlined in the International Labor Organization's (ILO) core conventions. As prescribed in the UNGPs, the HRDD process is comprised of four components of action when concerning actual and potential human rights impacts. The first of these steps, identification, is the conceptual focus of this paper as the rest of the process will follow from this. The research acknowledges that identification under HRDD draws strongly on notions such as transparency, traceability, and stakeholder engagement. Secondly, the concept of innovation, which has often been associated with the corporate world as a key business trait, will be looked at in relation to corporate efforts to identify labor associated human rights impacts. By analyzing attributes of innovation, the paper demonstrates the correlation between a successful HRDD process and innovation. Therefore, I consider the extent to which the same traits which have been branded innovative for profit maximization, can also assist in the mitigation of human rights impacts in multinational supply chains.

This paper comes at a time of reflection, as the BHR discourse continues to evolve, with momentum in the field exceling. It defines how innovation can be employed in the HRDD process, and the value it offers.

**Keyword:** Business Human Rights, Due Diligence, Multinational Corporations, Innovation, Labor Rights