

Frontier Entanglements in Laos

16 & 17 May 2024

GSSC, University of Cologne

Organized by (in alphabetical order):

Michael Kleinod-Freudenberg, Molly McGrath, Rosalie Stolz & Oliver Tappe

Thursday 16th of May

12:15 Introduction

12:45 Panel 1 Global China, Frontierization and Change in Northern Laos

Chair: Michael Kleinod-Freudenberg

- Oliver Tappe (Universität Heidelberg) and Sandra Kurfürst (Universität zu Köln):
Localizing global China in Laos and Vietnam – an introduction
- Simon Rowedder (Universität Passau): From ‘fun’ adventures to ‘ordinary’
convenience: Local temporalities of infrastructural frontiers in northern Laos
- Vanina Bouté (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris): Mountainous
borderlands: Agrarian change, urbanization and new mobilities

14:15 Coffee Break

14:45 Panel 2 Performing Frontiers: Language, Sport and Dance

Chair: Michael Kleinod-Freudenberg

- Nathan Badenoch (Villanova University, Villanova): Language in Laos as frontier
participating online
- Charles Zuckerman (Boston College, Chestnut Hill): From banned game to backyard
sport: The rise and bifurcation of pétanque participating online
- Roy Huijsmans (Erasmus University Rotterdam): The emerging contemporary dance
scene in Laos: Of frontier and boundaries

16:15 Comments by Dan Smyer Yü (GSSC)

16:30 Plenary Discussion - State of the Art of Lao Studies

19:00 Dinner

Friday 17th of May

9:00 Panel 3 Frontier Ecologies

Chair: Oliver Tappe

- Keith Barney (Australian National University, Canberra): Exhausted frontier: tin mining in Laos' Nam Pathene valley and the making of a national extractive sector (1900-2023) online only
- Michael Kleinod-Freudenberg (independent scholar): The recreational frontier: ecotourism as world-ecological reproduction of humans and nonhumans
- Paul-David Lutz (Université libre de Bruxelles): Ambivalent 'eco-nostalgia' among Khmu in northern Laos?

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Panel 4 Concrete Frontiers

Chair: Michael Kleinod-Freudenberg

- Rosalie Stolz (GSSC): An upland cement frontier? Architectures of frontier entanglements in northwestern Laos
- Floramante SJ Ponce (Université libre de Bruxelles): Frantic frontiers at the interface between resettled villagers and new Chinese dams in northern Laos

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Panel 5 Frontiers of Valorization and Belief

Chair: Rosalie Stolz

- Khannaphaphone Phakhounthong (Humboldt Universität Berlin): "In the past, the heart was bigger than the liver, but now the liver is bigger than the heart"
- Pierre Petit (Université libre de Bruxelles): On the borderline of public religion: Lao devotional medals in context

- Guido Sprenger (Universität Heidelberg): Buddhist temples and other foundations as unlimited gifts

14:30 Coffee break

15:00 Comments by Dan Smyer Yu

15:15 Final Discussion