

Grounding Area Studies in Social Practice Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Freiburg

Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Freiburg seeks a transdisciplinary research agenda which includes:

- Political Science
- Social and Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Asian History



Main Research Areas:

1. Democratization and institutional change in SE Asia

This research cluster focuses on processes of democratization and institutional change in Southeast Asia. Of particular interest are the ideational shifts accompanying such transformations. This research field is conceptualized as a multi-level process that can be studied at the international, domestic and sub-national government levels in Southeast Asia.

2. Beyond Occidentalism: Concepts of the West in Asia

This research explores how various social groups in Indonesia articulate knowledge of "the West," of "Self" and "Other," and how this articulation is related to ideas on modernization and globalization.

3. Sinicization in Southeast Asia?

This research cluster focuses on the political, economic and financial influences of China in Southeast Asia and the positioning of ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia.

Additional Project Features:

Transcultural Reciprocal Tandem Research

Since 2004, the anthropology departments of the Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta and the University of Freiburg have organized annual student-centered summer schools, for German-Indonesian pairs, alternately taking place in Yogyakarta and Freiburg. Since 2011, the cooperation also includes the departments of Political Science and International Relations. The program is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The tandem model has also been extended to the level of anthropological PhD research.

Methodology in Southeast Asian Studies

The methodology component of the project provides area-oriented and practical training in the social science methodologies to enable interdisciplinary and holistic research on the region.

For further information please visit our website at www.southeastasianstudies.uni-freiburg.de

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