KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Speaker is H.E. Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Representative of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Myanmar Government and Member of the Peace Commission

Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet is a Member of the Myanmar Peace Commission. At the 2017 ANU Myanmar Update Conference he will deliver the keynote address as the representative of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Under the National League for Democracy government, the Peace Commission is responsible for Myanmar’s overall strategy related to national reconciliation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Professor Aung Tun Thet previously served as Economics Advisor to former President U Thein Sein and as a Member of the Myanmar Investment Commission. Earlier he was Principal Officer of the United Nations System Staff College, Turin, Italy (2000-2008), and Senior Policy Advisor of UNICEF in New York, Dhaka and Bangkok (1992-2000). Professor Aung Tun Thet has also served as Director-General in Myanmar’s Ministry of Health (1989-1992) and as a Faculty Member at the Yangon Institute of Economics (1966-1989). He is now a Visiting Professor at Yangon University of Economics and Yangon University; he also holds positions as a Governing Board Member of the UNESCO-India Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, and as Chairman of the UN Global Compact Myanmar Network.

Professor Aung Tun Thet earned degrees from the Universities of Yangon, Warwick and Manchester. He was a post-doctoral research fellow at Marburg University in Germany. He also holds a D.Litt. from the University of Yangon.
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It is with great pleasure that I welcome participants in the 2017 Myanmar Update. The ANU College of Asia and the Pacific is delighted to support this important event.

This year’s conference looks at ‘Transformations’ and I welcome our many distinguished international and local speakers. I extend a particular welcome and our warm thanks to keynote speaker, H.E. Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Representative of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Myanmar Government and Member of the Peace Commission, who will bring a wealth of knowledge to the discussion.

Our first Myanmar Update took place in the 1990s and this year’s Update continues that tradition of a focussed conference that takes an informed, impartial and robust analysis of the country’s economic, political and social conditions.

The intellectual, political and economic links between Myanmar and Australia are more significant than ever in 2016 as we reflect on the changes taking place in Myanmar after the general elections last year.

Our commitment to scholarly work on Myanmar is a core part of the research and educational profiles of all of the College’s Schools and Centres; it spans numerous disciplines, including politics and political economy, international relations, economics, law, demography, environmental governance and development.

Since the 1940s, the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific has been a world centre for the study of our region; today we are the largest institutional grouping of scholars in the English-speaking world specializing in Asia and the Pacific. Our mission is to help build a deep capacity for understanding our region, including the growing importance of Myanmar within it.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of the many academic staff and students who have worked to produce this year’s Myanmar Update and the role of all of the speakers and participants in advancing knowledge in this important area.

Professor Michael Wesley
Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
We welcome you all to the 2017 Myanmar Update.

The Myanmar Update is the only politically and economically focused Myanmar conference in the world, and has consistently produced high quality publications since the 1990s. We are delighted to be joined this year by foremost scholars on Myanmar from across the globe as well as a number of promising younger academics from Myanmar.

Reflecting the theme of ‘Transformations’, the high-quality of research to be presented by scholars from Myanmar institutions, much of which is based on first-hand fieldwork outside of major cities, is a credit to our Myanmar colleagues and a reflection of ongoing academic collaborations, including between ANU and universities in Myanmar. We look forward to hearing these unique perspectives in the coming days.

In addition to conference panels, we are glad to present a number of enriching side events including the launch of new books by Matthew J. Walton and Andrew Selth. Combined with an exciting retrospective exhibit at the Menzies Library focusing on the university’s connection with Myanmar over decades, these events offer glimpses into alternative social, cultural and historical vantages.

International conferences such as the Myanmar Update require tremendous collective effort and we are immensely grateful for the financial and institutional support received from the ANU College of Asia & The Pacific, The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Myanmar Embassy in Canberra, USAID and EverJust.

We are also grateful for the assistance provided by volunteers in the logistics of the conference, especially the enthusiasm of the ANU Myanmar Student Association.

Thanks again for joining us. We warmly welcome you to the 2017 Myanmar Update and hope you enjoy the lively and informative discussions of the coming days.

Regards,

Chit Win
PhD Candidate, Department of Political & Social Change

Gerard McCarthy
PhD Candidate, Department of Political & Social Change

Justine Chambers
PhD Candidate, Division of Pacific and Asian History

Dr Nich Farrelly
Fellow, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs

(Pictured left, top to bottom)
The Australian National University is home to one of the largest concentrations of Myanmar/Burma specialists in the world. ANU has played a central role in regional debate about political, social and economic change and reform in Myanmar/Burma.

The ANU Myanmar Research Centre was launched in 2015. Since then, the Centre has served as the university’s academic hub for Myanmar activities. The Centre provides a flexible and inclusive structure to maintain its activities, build relationships with our Myanmar partners, and create new opportunities for ANU staff and students.

Currently, the Myanmar Research Centre:

> provides a central online showcase of ANU-Myanmar activities
> facilitates communication among ANU scholars working on Myanmar
> supports academic interaction with Myanmar-related visitors to ANU
> coordinates research grant applications
> consolidates relevant Myanmar activities under one overarching umbrella.

**Partnership with the University of Yangon**

ANU has a special relationship with the University of Yangon, our counterpart national university. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) first signed in 2003 and renewed in 2013 we have been pursuing opportunities for the exchange of students and staff and for developing a rich collaboration in our education and research programs. Strong collaborations have already been developed in law, demography and political science. The strategic relationship between ANU and the University of Yangon is supported by the Australian Government under its Government Partnerships for Development Program.

**The Political Economy of Myanmar Study Tour**

This ground-breaking new course sent the first and second group of undergraduate ANU students to Myanmar in 2015 and 2016, and is being offered as part of the Australian Government’s New Colombo Plan grants initiative. This study tour course will provide students with an introduction to contemporary social, political and economic transformations in Myanmar. Students will participate in preparatory seminars at ANU. Two weeks will be spent in Myanmar with the academic convener. Lectures and workshops will be held at the University of Yangon, Myanmar’s premier university. Guided site visits will incorporate locations of social, historical and political importance and will provide essential context for the issues considered in the course.

**Burmese language courses**

Responding to recent dynamic transitions within Myanmar and with the growing international interest in learning their language, ANU established a Burmese course in 2016 and now offers a four-level program as a minor degree. This course will equip students not only with a skill of spoken Burmese, but also give a solid foundation in the basics of literary style through reading authentic Burmese materials, in order to support their future research.

The lecturer Ms. Yuri Takahashi, has a long experience in language education and is a widely acknowledged specialist on Burmese literature, music and modern intellectual history, recently completing research on this area for her PhD at the University of Sydney.

**ANU Myanmar Students’ Association (ANUMSA)**

ANU has been training students from Myanmar for more than 50 years and we currently have about 30 students from Myanmar studying diplomacy, international relations, environmental management, public policy, political science, economics and public health. The ANU Myanmar Students’ Association (ANUMSA) was formed in early 2015. It is made up of students from Myanmar and students with a research interest in Myanmar. Its aim is to bring together Myanmar related students across the campus in order to support each other and promote research activity on Myanmar. ANUMSA regularly holds lunchtime seminars and other academic and social events to support Myanmar studies.
The Australian National University and Myanmar

Our goals are to:

- Double the number of students from Myanmar studying at ANU
- Build the ANU Myanmar Research Centre as the world’s leading site for Myanmar scholarship and outreach outside of Myanmar
- Produce even more world-class scholarship and policy advice on Myanmar
- Establish sustainable and long-term collaboration with the University of Yangon on education and research
- Continue to hold the Myanmar Update as our flagship Myanmar event
- Develop our program in the study of Burmese language
Myanmar Update 2017

Date: 17-18 February 2017
Time: 8.45am – 5pm
Venue: Molonglo Theatre, J.G. Crawford Building (#132), Lennox Crossing, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT

Conference theme
The 2017 Myanmar Update will be held at The Australian National University on 17-18 February 2017. The formation of a new government in Myanmar, led by the National League for Democracy, is a crucially important milestone in the country’s political transformation. This profound change is being matched by similarly far-reaching shifts in Myanmar’s economic, social and cultural landscape. The 2017 Myanmar Update will address these multiple transformations.

Key contacts
The conference will be hosted by the ANU Myanmar Research Centre, supported by the Department of Political and Social Change, in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs and the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

2017 Myanmar Update Co-Convenors include:

> Chit Win
  PhD Candidate
  Department of Political and Social Change
  The Australian National University
  E chit.win@anu.edu.au

> Gerard McCarthy
  PhD Candidate
  Department of Political and Social Change
  The Australian National University
  E gerard.mccarthy@anu.edu.au

> Justine Chambers
  PhD Candidate
  Department of Anthropology
  The Australian National University
  E justine.chambers@anu.edu.au

> Nicholas Farrelly
  Director, Myanmar Research Centre
  The Australian National University
  E nicholas.farrelly@anu.edu.au

Catering
The Australia Mon Association (AMA) will have a food stall selling lunch boxes for $8 and $10 cash on Friday and Saturday, outside the Molonglo Theatre. Vegetarian dishes will be available.

The AMA is a non-profit organisation formed in 1997 to represent and to be the voice of the Mon community in the Australian Capital Territory. The AMA provides Mon language classes, settlement assistance, advocacy, social support and organizes events on important days for the Mon people. Since 1997, the AMA has been raising funds to establish a Mon Community Centre in Canberra, and the lunches are part of that ongoing fundraising effort. Please support this community and take the opportunity to taste traditional Myanmar food.

Getting to the conference venue

By taxi/cab
To catch a taxi in Canberra, use a taxi rank where cars park ready for dispatch or phone one of the cab services to book a vehicle:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxi Company</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canberra Elite</td>
<td>13 22 27 or SMS your name, pick up address and time to be collected to 0481 072 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabxpress</td>
<td>02 6181 2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Service</td>
<td>13 31 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair</td>
<td>Phone ahead on 139 287 to arrange service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible Taxis</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Irrespective of the company you use, the cost of a one-way taxi journey between the Canberra Airport and The Australian National University will be in the vicinity of A $30–$40 in light to moderate traffic – the fare is likely to be higher if the journey is taken between 2100 and 0600 or during morning and afternoon peak hours.

By bus
The Airport Express shuttle bus offers airport-city-airport services daily during peak periods. Other stops include Russell Offices (Department of Defence), National Convention Centre and YHA (Canberra City Youth Hostel). Cost is $12 one way and $20 return. Tickets can be purchased at the airport from the car park customer service office located opposite the bus stop or can be pre-booked at www.royalecoach.com.au or by calling 1300 368 897. The bus stop is located kerbside upon exiting the arrivals hall of the airport.

For the Molonglo Theatre, get off the Airport Shuttle Service on West Row in the city centre. From there, take the number 3 local (Action) bus service (platform 7) or the number 7 Action bus service (platform 5) to Liversidge St, ANU. These local services depart roughly every half hour and a one way adult fare is $4.70. Information on Canberra buses can be found here: www.action.act.gov.au/

Alternatively, walking from West Row in the city centre to the Molonglo Theatre will take roughly 15 minutes.
Parking

On-campus pay parking is from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. On-campus parking is free on Saturday. For further information on parking locations please see: facilities.anu.edu.au/services/maps-and-way-finding

The map below indicates the two closest car parking areas to the Molonglo Theatre.

Displays during the Update

The following book displays will be in the foyer of the Molonglo Theatre for the duration of the Update.

The Burmese Collection

The Burmese Collection at the National Library of Australia holds thousands of books, journals, newspapers and microfilm holdings in Burmese language, with diverse coverage spanning back to the 1870s. These holdings include works on law, government, history, ethnography, language and religion; special holding include the books, papers and photographs of Professor G. H. Luce. The Library is actively building its Burmese collection, reflecting the growing interest in, and increasing significance of, Burmese studies.

Contact: Sophie Viravong (Mainland Southeast Asian Curator)
E  sviravong@nla.gov.au

Asia Bookroom

Asia Bookroom sells books old and new on Burma/Myanmar by mail order and through their shop. They will also have items for sale during the Update. Join their mailing list to hear of books on Burma as they arrive.

Asia Bookroom
Lawry Place, Macquarie
Canberra, ACT 2614
W  www.AsiaBookroom.com
E  Books@AsiaBookroom.com
T  02 62515191

ANU Menzies Library Exhibition

The ANU Library will be hosting an exhibition on Myanmar in conjunction with the 2017 Myanmar Update. This exhibition will be held in the Menzies Library foyer and will be on display from 16 February until the end of March 2017.

This exhibition will be held in two parts. The first part will tell the story of the transformation of modern Myanmar through academic and scholarly writings embedded in the books and journals collected by the ANU Library over the years. This narration will be supplemented by photographs, artefacts and other ephemera.

The second part, titled “ANU and Myanmar through time”, will track the University’s interest and involvement in Burma/Myanmar since its establishment in the 1950s.

Stay in touch

Like us on our Facebook page facebook.com/ANUMRC

WiFi

While on ANU campus, speakers and delegates can connect to wifi using the following details. Please note, username and password is case sensitive:

Network name: ANU-Secure
Guest Username: Myanmar
Guest Password: Update2017

Please note

ANU is a smoke free university
Gala dinner

The ANU Myanmar Research Centre would like to invite you to the 2017 Myanmar Update Gala Dinner. The Myanmar Update 2017 will take place at The Australian National University on February 17 and 18 and addresses the formation of a new government in Myanmar, led by the National League for Democracy, which is a crucially important milestone in the country’s political transformation. This profound change is being matched by similarly far-reaching shifts in Myanmar’s economic, social and cultural landscape.

Our guests-of-honour will be:
> **His Excellency Dr. Aung Tun Thet**, Member of the Peace Commission and Representative of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar Government
> **His Excellency U Tha Aung Nyun**, Myanmar Ambassador to Australia
> **Professor Michael Wesley**, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Guests will also be entertained by a cultural performance by The ANU Myanmar Students’ Association.

Please note
> 2017 Myanmar Update presenters and moderators are not required to pay for their ticket to the Gala Dinner but must register using this Eventbrite system. Please enter your unique code upon checkout.
> Cash payment at the door is not available, and all tickets must be purchased through our Eventbrite page. Please bring your ticket to the Gala Dinner.
> Numbers are strictly limited, please purchase a ticket to secure your place at the 2017 Myanmar Update Gala Dinner.
> Beverages are not included in the ticket price.
> Please email any specific dietary requirements to samuel.bashfield@anu.edu.au

See the 2017 Myanmar Update website for additional information and to book your ticket.

Book launches

**Friday, 17 February, 1-1.30 pm**

**Buddhism, politics and political thought in Myanmar**

(Cambridge University Press, 2016)

Matthew J. Walton, St Antony's College, University of Oxford

This is the first book to provide a broad overview of the ways in which Buddhist ideas have influenced political thinking and politics in Myanmar. Matthew Walton draws extensively on Burmese language sources from the last 150 years to describe the ‘moral universe’ of contemporary Theravada Buddhism that has anchored most political thought in Myanmar. In explaining multiple Burmese understandings of notions such as ‘democracy’ and ‘political participation’, the book provides readers with a conceptual framework for understanding some of the key dynamics of Myanmar’s ongoing political transition. Some of these ideas help to shed light on restrictive or exclusionary political impulses, such as anti-Muslim Buddhist nationalism or scepticism towards the ability of the masses to participate in politics. Walton provides an analytical framework for understanding Buddhist influences on politics that will be accessible to a wide range of readers and will generate future research and debate.

**Saturday, 18 February, 1-1.30 pm**

**Burma, Kipling and western music: The riff from Mandalay**

(Routledge, 2017)

Andrew Selth, Australian National University

For decades, scholars have been trying to answer the question: how was colonial Burma perceived in and by the Western world, and how did people in countries like the United Kingdom and United States form their views? This book explores how Western perceptions of Burma were influenced by the popular music of the day. From the First Anglo-Burmese War of 1824-6 until Burma regained its independence in 1948, more than 180 musical works with Burma-related themes were written in English-speaking countries, in addition to the many hymns composed in and about Burma by Christian missionaries. Servicemen posted to Burma added to the lexicon with marches and ditties, and after 1913 most movies about Burma had their own distinctive scores. Taking Rudyard Kipling’s 1890 ballad ‘Mandalay’ as a critical turning point, this book surveys all these works with emphasis on popular songs and show tunes, also looking at classical works, ballet scores, hymns, soldiers’ songs, sea shanties, and film soundtracks. It examines how they influenced Western perceptions of Burma, and in turn reflected those views back to Western audiences. The book sheds new light not only on the West’s historical relationship with Burma, and the colonial music scene, but also Burma’s place in the development of popular music and the rise of the global music industry. In doing so, it makes an original contribution to the fields of musicology and Asian Studies.
LANGUAGE LEARNING PANEL

‘Mingala ba’ Let’s learn Burmese
hosted by Yuri Takahashi (Lecturer, Burmese course, ANU)

Burmese is the official language of Myanmar, around 70 per cent of the population are mother tongue speakers. Burmese is also the main lingua franca in the country as well as in Burmese communities worldwide. With Myanmar’s population currently exceeding 50 million you can imagine how many people worldwide are now speaking this language. Burmese also has a long history of use in traditional literary works and music. After the lifting of censorship in 2011, Burmese publications have been constantly expanding and the language is increasingly widely used on the internet. Why not explore this exciting trend in language?

Let’s enjoy speaking Burmese! This panel will offer opportunities for beginners to learn greetings, self-introductions and basic conversation through many fun activities and features a simulation of the first day of Burmese 1 (BURM 1002/6002) which begins in the following week. If you are curious about The University’s Burmese course, please drop in and join us. Through attending this panel you will also get some information about learning materials such as textbooks and dictionaries plus meet some Burmese students currently studying at ANU!

Ms. Mish Khan (Burmese 2) gives a speech in Burmese in front of the Burmese audience.

Twelve students of Burmese 1 and members of ANUMSA.
# PROGRAM

## Thursday 16 February 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1730-1830</td>
<td>Pre-conference networking drinks hosted by Prof Michael Wesley, Dean of the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: McDonald Room, Menzies Library (with Myanmar books on display)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participants: Speakers, moderators and invited guests.</td>
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## Day 1 - Friday 17 February 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0900-0930</td>
<td>Welcome address by Professor Michael Wesley, Dean of the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU</td>
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<tr>
<td>0930-1030</td>
<td>Key note address by H.E. Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Representative of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Myanmar Government and Member of the Peace Commission followed by Questions and Answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1030-1100</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<td>Venue: Foyer of Molonglo Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>1100-1145</td>
<td>Political Update</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew J. Walton, Aung San Suu Kyi Senior Research Fellow in Modern Burmese Studies, University of Oxford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maung Aung Myoe, Professor, International University of Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1145-1230</td>
<td>Economic Update</td>
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<td>Sean Turnell, Associate Professor, Macquarie University</td>
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<tr>
<td>1230-1330</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Venue: Foyer of Molonglo Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300-1330</td>
<td>Book Launch: Buddhism, Politics and Political Thought in Myanmar by Matthew J. Walton, University of Oxford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Venue: Seminar Room No. 9, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU</td>
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<tr>
<td>1330-1445</td>
<td>I. Economic Upheaval: Reform, Resources, Mega-Projects and Inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panel Chair: Stephanie Fahey, Ernst &amp; Young</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; An analysis of the determinants of income diversification and income inequality in rural economy in Myanmar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nilar Aung, Australian National University</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; Change and continuity: Capacity, coordination and natural resources in Myanmar's periphery</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Giuseppe Gabusi, University of Turin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&gt; Myanmar's mechanization revolution: Symptoms of structural transformation,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Myat Thida Win, Centre for Economic and Social Development; Ben Belton, Michigan State University and Xiaobo Zhang, International Food Policy Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; Special economic zones in Myanmar: The intersection of economic and political transformations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pyae Phyo Maung, University of Melbourne and Tamas Wells, University of Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>1445-1515</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: Foyer of Molonglo Theatre</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
II. State Society Relations: Welfare and Legitimacy in Transition

Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU
Panel Chair: Morten Pedersen, University of New South Wales

- Documenting Myanmar’s social transformation: Insights from six rounds of the qualitative social and economic monitoring of livelihoods
  Andrea Woodhouse, Michael Woolcock, Matthew Zurstrassen, World Bank research team

- Health as a catalyst for national reconciliation?
  Si Thura, Community Partners International

- Social welfare in Myanmar: A mechanism for political legitimacy?
  Yaw Bawm Manghshang

- We are showing we have power: Moral citizenship & the co-production of welfare and public goods in contemporary Myanmar
  Gerard McCarthy, Australian National University

1645-1800  Burmese Language Panel and Language Learning Panel

- Burmese language panel: NLD a year in review with an opening remarks by U Zung Hlei Thang, Amyotha Hluttaw lawmaker and Chairman of the Myanmar – Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group
  Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU
  Participants: Burmese speakers
  Panel Chair: Chit Win, Australian National University
  Khin Ma Ma Myo, Yangon University
  Yaw Bawm Manghshang, Freelance Scholar
  Si Thura, Community Partners International
  Ye Yint, Australian National University

- Language learning panel: Yuri Takahashi, Australian National University
  Venue: Seminar Room No. 9, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU
  Participants: Non-Burmese speakers

1900-2030  Gala Dinner

Cultural Show by the ANU Myanmar Students’ Association
Venue: University House, 1 Balmain Cres, ANU

Please note

Free of charge:
Pre-conference networking drinks for speakers, moderators and invited guests (16 February 2017)
Morning tea and afternoon tea (17-18 February 2017)
Lunch for speakers, moderators (17-18 February 2017)
Gala Dinner for speakers, moderators and invited guests (17 February 2017)

Fees for participants:
Chicken ($8); Fish ($10) catered by Australia Mon Association
$60 for Gala Dinner (17 February 2017)

Sponsored by ANU Myanmar Student Association
### III. Peace & Nation Building

*Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU*

- **Forming an inclusive statewide identity in Myanmar: The role of policies and institutions**
  - Cecile Medail, University of New South Wales
- **Mon villagers perception on ceasefire**
  - Mya Mya Khin, Yangon University
- **Peace process in Myanmar: Does ‘all-inclusiveness’ matter?**
  - Lwin Cho Latt and Marlar Aung, Yangon University
- **Separation and integration on the Sino-Burmese frontier: Wa autonomous areas in Yunnan Province and the Shan State in comparative perspective**
  - Naomi Hellmann, Max Planck Institute

#### Morning Tea

*Venue: Foyer of Molonglo Theatre*

### IV. Religion Roundtable

*Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU*

- **The role of church in the political transformation to democracy in Myanmar**
  - Thawng Tha Lian, Chulalongkorn University
- **The securitization of the Rohingyas in Myanmar**
  - Kyaw Zeyar Win, Center for Diversity and National Harmony
- **Transformation of State-Sangha relations? Ma Ba Tha & the state in Myanmar**
  - Nyi Nyi Kyaw, National University of Singapore
- **Transforming memory: Community recollections of inter-religious peace and conflict in Myanmar**
  - Matthew J Walton, University of Oxford; Matt Schissler, University of Michigan and Phyu Phyu Thi, Myanmar ICT for Development Organization

#### Lunch

*Venue: Foyer of Molonglo Theatre*

### Book Launch: Burma, Kipling and Western Music: The Riff from Mandalay

*by Andrew Selth, Australian National University*

*Venue: Seminar Room No. 9, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU*

### V. Hope & Rural Transformation

*Panel Chair: Trevor Wilson, Australian National University*

*Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU*

- **Rural landless poor and their recent changes in Myanmar: Case of Toddy Palm tenants**
  - Hnin Yu Lwin and Koichi Fujita, Kyoto University
- **The role of hope in Myanmar’s rural transformation: Insights from household survey data from Mon state**
  - Kyan Htoo, Myanmar Development Resource Institute
- **Myanmar’s mothers at a time of structural change**
  - Sandi Win, Shinawatra University
- **Coming of age in Hpa-an: Plong Karen youth in a time of flux**
  - Justine Chambers, Australian National University
1445-1515  Afternoon Tea  
Venue: Foyer of Molonglo Theatre

1515-1630  **VI. Justice Roundtable**  
Panel Chair: Helene Maria Kyed Von Sponeck, Danish Institute for International Studies  
Venue: Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing, ANU  
> **A transformative approach to law reform in Myanmar**  
   Melinda Tun, Asian Development Bank  
> **Ceasefire state-makings: Justice provision in Karen and Mon controlled areas**  
   Helene Maria Kyed Von Sponeck, Danish Institute for International Studies and Annika Pohl Harrisson,  
   Aarhus University  
> **Justice seeking strategies in everyday life: Case study among urban migrants in Yangon**  
   Than Pale, University of Yangon  
> **Legal hybridity in everyday justice provision in a Mon village**  
   Lwin Lwin Mon, Yadanabon University  
> **Land disputes and plural authorities in Karen state**  
   Lue Htar, Senior Researcher, Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF)

1800-2030  Dinner hosted by ANU Myanmar Students’ Association.  
Venue: Seminar Room 1.04, Coombs Extension Building, ANU  
Participants: Speakers, moderators and invited guests.

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**Please note**

**Free of charge:**  
Pre-conference networking drinks for speakers, moderators and invited guests (16 February 2017)  
Morning tea and afternoon tea (17-18 February 2017)  
Lunch for speakers, moderators (17-18 February 2017)  
Gala Dinner for speakers, moderators and invited guests (17 February 2017)

**Fees for participants:**  
Chicken ($8); Fish ($10) catered by Australia Mon Association  
$60 for Gala Dinner (17 February 2017)
ABSTRACTS

I. Economic Upheaval: Reform, Resources, Mega-Projects and Inequality

Myat Thida Win, Ben Belton and Xiaobo Zhang
Myanmar’s mechanization revolution: Symptoms of structural transformation

Since the civilian government came into power in 2011, Myanmar’s economy has been experiencing unprecedented growth. Its growth rate is expected to reach 8.6 per cent in 2016, and it is reported as the world’s fastest-growing economy by IMF’s World Economic Forum. Experience from other countries in the region suggest that structural transformation, in which the economy will transform from agriculture-based to more industrialized, will follow this political and economic transition. One symptom of structural transformation is increasing mechanization in agriculture, as the sector experiences shortages of labor and rising farm wages due to the movement of labor from agriculture to more productive industrial and service sectors. This paper analyzes the mechanization of Myanmar’s agricultural sector to evaluate the speed and depth of structural transformation in Myanmar. To do this, we triangulate data from a unique range of sources, including the datasets of the nationally representative Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessments surveys for 2005 and 2010, a recently completed household survey of 1200 households in Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon regions, an enterprise survey of more than 60 agricultural machinery businesses in Yangon, and qualitative findings from a rapid reconnaissance in Ayeyarwaddy and Mandalay regions. We find that Myanmar’s agriculture sector has already begun to encounter severe labor shortages. The rate of agricultural wages has approximately doubled within five years from 2011 to 2016 as many workers have shifted from the rural farm sector to urban industrial and service sectors. Farmers have responded by rapidly substituting machinery for manual labor. In the areas of Ayeyarwaddy surveyed, draft animals used for land preparation have almost disappeared, and nearly all paddy lands accessible to road are now using combines for harvesting. We conclude that the extent and pace of mechanization is a symptom of the profundity of the emerging structural transformation currently taking place in Myanmar.

Nilar Aung
An analysis of the determinants of income diversification and income inequality in rural economy in Myanmar

This study assesses the determinants of income diversification from many different sources in rural areas and its impact upon the rural economy of Myanmar. Despite the fact that rice production still plays a major role in the rural economy in Myanmar, the diversity of income from both agricultural and non-agricultural activities has been part of an important strategy for rural livelihoods among farm households since the late 1980s. The objective of this research is to analyse the factors determining income diversification from different sources on rural households’ income. Moreover, this study examines household livelihood strategies and their contribution to income inequality amongst farm households. The data used in this research is drawn from farm household survey data covering 634 farms across 30 villages in the major rice growing regions, specifically Ayeyarwaddy, Bago and Sagaing. The findings show that households’ demographic characteristics, cultivated land size, ownership of assets, distance to markets and regional locations are the main factors leading towards income diversification in the selected regions. The results of the decomposition of Gini coefficient indicate that aggregate income from pulse production helps to significantly reduce income inequality among farm households in the Bago and Sagaing regions. Overall, the results reveal that the cropping patterns for producing rice and different type of pulses are the most important factors in decreasing income inequality.

Dr Pyae Phyo Maung & Tamas Wells
Special economic zones in Myanmar: the intersection of economic and political transformations

The transformation of Myanmar’s economy in the last five years has been in parallel with profound political transformations in the country, including an expanding advocacy role for local organisations, activist networks and grassroots communities. These economic and political transformations have intersected in new tensions – between developers, the Myanmar government, local communities, and activist groups – over plans for Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in Dawei, Thilawa and Kyaukphyu. Drawing on interviews with local organisations and communities in these areas in 2016, we examine the emerging role of activist networks, their attempts to influence the country’s economic transformation, and the constraining and enabling factors that they face SEZ projects in Dawei, Thilawa and Kyaukphyu have attracted significant investment and technical support from international networks of corporations and governments – and are some of the most powerful examples of the country’s recent economic transformations. Yet local organisations, activist groups and local communities affected by SEZ projects are also increasingly linked with a web of international donor and NGO support, with connections stretching from Yangon to Thailand, Norway and Japan. Advocacy initiatives have ranged from local protest, to pursuing legal action against corporations in neighbouring countries. We argue in this paper that the example of SEZ projects in Myanmar provides insights into parallel economic and political transformations in the country, and the complex intersections between them.

Giuseppe Gabusi
Change and continuity: Capacity, coordination and natural resources in Myanmar’s periphery

As Myanmar’s new government tries to tackle multiple political, economic and social challenges, undoubtedly sweeping changes live side by side with some elements of continuity. On one hand, the political landscape has seen the NLD taking charge for
the very first time of both central and state governments, the economy is thriving, and the country is much freer than some of its neighbours. On the other hand, the military is still in control of key ministries and of large swathes of the economy, and the relationship between the centre and the periphery shows profound worryingly signs of continuity with the past. Drawing on an intellectual framework based on Douglass North’s Violence and social orders, and on a set of interviews conducted in the Kachin State, the paper would argue that without deeper efforts in tackling problems related to coordination, vertical capacity building and the “curse” of natural resources, it would be difficult to set the country on a path of sustainable economic development, away from the logic of a political economy of violence.

II. State Society Relations: Welfare and Legitimacy in Transition

Andrea Woodhouse, Michael Woolcock, Matthew Zurstrassen

Documenting Myanmar’s social transformation: Insights from six rounds of the QSEM

All of the many challenges facing Myanmar’s NLD government are compounded by the absence of reliable and comprehensive data on the ways in which ongoing transformations are shaping economic and social life. Indeed, an enduring legacy of decades of military rule is both the near-absence of such data and a civil service with limited experience in collecting, managing, assessing and using it to inform policy and practice. Since 2011, the World Bank (in partnership with Enlightened Myanmar Research and with support from the Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund) has designed and implemented six rounds of the Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring of Livelihoods in Myanmar (QSEM) research program. This data has been collected in various parts of the country, seeking to obtain an initial empirical handle on how and why changes in livelihoods, poverty, social inclusion and state-society relations are being experienced and addressed by different groups. This unique data shows the importance of three constellations of interacting factors: connections, expectations, and village politics. At the outset of the research, as villages were largely responsible for managing their own development needs, village politics and the structures through which local power was mediated were of primary importance. The construction of roads, bridges and telecommunications networks, increased migration, and expanded trade have seen villagers go from virtual autarky a mere five years ago to increasingly active global citizens, with the benefits and costs that this entails. Rising connectivity is also apparent in changes in people’s expectations – of themselves, others in their family or village, leaders, and the role of the government. The paper will explore how interactions between these three key factors are changing the ‘social contract’ binding citizens and officials (customary and elected) as it pertains to the pursuit of livelihoods, the provision of services, prevailing rights and responsibilities, and jurisdictional boundaries of power.

Gerard McCarthy

“We are showing we have power”: Moral citizenship and the co-production of welfare and public goods in contemporary Myanmar.

What does it take to be ‘eligible’ for development assistance from the state in contemporary Myanmar? This paper draws on contemporary ethnographic field work and an original household survey in central-east Myanmar to explore the notion of “self-reliance” (kothu kotha) within which popular norms and practices of reciprocity and ‘work for others’ (parahita) are framed in contemporary Myanmar. Through studies of rural and urban ‘self-reliance’ road construction and charitable welfare projects – many of which receive direct state support – the paper shows how communities carefully frame themselves as ‘doing development themselves’ even in contexts where state assistance is being rendered. Through a randomized survey and in-depth interviews with village headmen and bureaucrats, it shows that this logic of shared developmental action without attribution to the state is not discouraged by the government but is in fact a key criterion upon which eligibility to state assistance is determined by meso-level institutional actors. The paper concludes that these frameworks of morally-derived eligibility are proving resilient, reproducing delimited notions of entitlement from the state even as the Myanmar state – with the support of international actors – expands in spheres of development.

Si Thura

Health as a catalyst for national reconciliation? The case of Karen State

Since the birth of the independence in 1948, Myanmar has been torn apart by several forms of conflict. There has been civil wars along the lines drawn by ethnicity, religion, political representation and over natural resources. Looking at the ethnic conflicts, ethnic armed forces started to call for increased autonomy in the country’s periphery. There were nearly forty armed forces existed in ethnic minorities areas, with several ethnic groups initiating their own community-based primary health care service provision structures. Amidst these heavy restraints, ethnic health organisations (EHOs) have grappled for decades and have established a form of ethnic health system, with many continuing to serving as health authorities in areas where the Myanmar government has little or no administrative control. Since revitalization of peace dialogue in 2011, the ethnic health authorities have demonstrated willingness to engage with the Myanmar Ministry of Health for convergence across programs and systems. Despite this, official recognition and accreditation of ethnic health workers by the Ministry of Health has not transpired. Now, as the National League for Democracy-led government has taken the reins of power, the expectation of EHOs to be recognized by the government is growing at the same time that the program integration between the MoH and EHOs has been accelerated. Using the case-study of Karen State, this paper explores the extent to which this kind of engagement between non-state actors and the government department can contribute to trust building and support the larger peace process. It then explores how policy makers from...
both ethnic armed forces and the government approach the future of social service provision in conflict-affected areas, in particular the degree to which health sector collaboration can to national reconciliation at large.

Yaw Bawm Manghshang

Social welfare in Myanmar: A mechanism for political legitimacy?

Under changes to tax policy implemented by President Thein Sein, Myanmar people have been instructed to pay personal income tax as well as other duties and levies. Taxpayers are thus asking what benefits they can expect in return. Among personal income taxpayers, the notion of a “pension” is one of the welfare provisions discussed in addition to better health and education services. Studies of social welfare programs are an important and timely topic while Myanmar is undergoing reforms. The current pension system in Myanmar only covers the civil service, covering 1.4 million civil servants as of 2015. This paper will analyze the current pension system along with relevant welfare legislation, identify challenges to expanding the system beyond the public sector, and explore steps for future expansion. Based on the perspectives of stakeholders such as current pensioners, taxpayers, international development partner organizations, relevant government officials and law makers, and private insurers as well as relevant legislation and secondary sources it explores the role that social welfare can play in strengthening the political legitimacy of Myanmar’s nascent democratic system.

Mya Mya Khin

Mon villagers perception on ceasefire

This paper explores villagers’ perceptions of ceasefire and peace building, based on qualitative fieldwork in a Myanmar government controlled village of Mon State. It situates these experiences within the wider political history of Myanmar and the Myanmar government's difference ceasefire strategies, including the exchange of weapons for peace. The villagers under study has experienced several years of conflict. But in this paper, political changes: 1) between 1962 and 1988, 2) between 1988 and 2010 and 3) between 2010 and 2015 are highlighted to present how the villagers suffered poverty and how to keep their security and their living standard. In 1962, the military junta took political power from the U Nu government and set up the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party and ruled the country over 26 years. In the twentieth century, Myanmar became one of the poorest countries in the world. Because of this effect, University students started to change Myanmar political policy from Myanmar Socialism to Democracy. In 1989, the military junta again took the political power from the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party. In 2011, the military hang over the power to the new government which is a nominally civilian government following elections the previous year. Military government and civilian government tried to negotiate with anti-goernments or Ethnic Armed groups and signed several peace fire with individual Ethnic Armed groups. On 15 October 2015, the Myanmar government and eight ethnic organizations signed a nationwide peace fire agreement (NCA). According to individual and focus group interviews the villagers that I spoke with in Mon State especially recall experiences with the conflict and the exchange of weapons for peace in the periods before 1988, after 1988 and after 2010. A core argument of the paper is that a discussion of villagers; perception on ceasefire and peace building is important for community development and poverty alleviation.

Lwin Cho Latt, Khin Sanda Myint and Marlar Aung

Peace process in Myanmar: Does ‘all-inclusiveness’ matter?

This paper comparatively examines the principles of all-inclusiveness in Myanmar’s peace process from the perspectives of the Myanmar government and ethnic armed groups and tests the credibility and continuity of political commitments, given by the peace negotiators. The starting point for this research is the wave of nation-wide peace talks that began with the former President U Thein Sein’s peace initiative in 2011. The process culminated in the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire

III. Peace & Nation Building

Cecile Medail

Forming an inclusive statewide identity in Myanmar: The role of policies and institutions

To build a legitimate state in a multi-national transitional society, it is necessary to create a sense of belonging to the statewide community that goes beyond ethnic identification. The development of ‘multiple but complementary identities’ is therefore essential to promote loyalty to a state to which all nationalities can identify. Myanmar’s society is still far from this ideal situation. While ethnic identification is a constructed reality, its strength can vary greatly depending on the extent of mobilization and politicization. Seventy years of ethnic conflict and grievances in Myanmar have undoubtedly put the country on the rigid side of the scale, which means that peace cannot be achieved without considering ethnic aspirations. Since past nation building strategies centered on a Burman identity have been at the core of the conflict, the ongoing democratic transition is intertwined with questions around the reconciliation of past traumas and the redefinition of an inclusive statewide identity. How can the current political changes support such a shift? New policies and institutions cannot ignore the nature of ethnic identity, which different strategies can potentially strengthen or dilute. This paper examines the strength of ethnic identity in Mon State and the aspirations of urban and rural communities, in order to evaluate how policies and institutions may be able to help transform exclusive identities into a sense of belonging to a diverse but united nation. This paper presents fieldwork findings, which not only reflect elites’ views but also ensure that grassroots voices are represented through a participatory research approach characterized by the involvement of active community members in the data collection and analysis.
Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2015 between the Myanmar government and eight ethnic armed groups (EAGs). However, a number of major EAGs are still yet to sign the ceasefire agreement, raising serious questions for the sustainability of a future political settlement. This study seeks to explore why this issue of ‘inclusiveness’ became a major point of contention and how it was dealt at various points in negotiations since 2012. In addition, it assesses the lack of relative unity among EAGs, creating exclusive deals in concluding ceasefire pact. No inclusive of small EAGs in peace process could lead to a serious risk in future conflict escalation. The focus on inclusiveness will aid understanding of the future prospects for peace, and how the pressures of Myanmar’s ongoing political transition have affected the peace process. It proposes to explore the research questions based on analysis of official statements and documents as well as personal interviews conducted with the members of ethnic armed groups and representatives of the government.

Naomi Hellmann
Doctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

Separation and integration on the Sino-Burmese frontier: Wa autonomous areas in Yunnan province and the Shan State in comparative perspective

This paper examines the effect of the ‘opening up’ of Southwest China to Mainland Southeast Asia on state-split ethnic groups (‘cross-border minorities’). The study concentrates on the case of the Wa in the Wa Hills, a contiguous highland area on the border of China and Myanmar between the Salween River and the Mekong River. The aim is to discuss the issue of transformation in Wa autonomous areas in the Shan State and Yunnan Province. The paper links questions associated with the partitioning of space and the processes of building the nation-state and empire with questions concerning ethnic conflict and the implications of administrative boundaries for diverse ethnic groups. It is divided into three main sections: the first part draws critical attention to the map and, more particularly, ways of rethinking territorial space and the so-called marginal or peripheral communities in frontier regions, who have aptly been referred to as “orphans of empire” (e.g. by Cribb and Narangoa, 2004). The next part explores the context of the Sino-Myanmar relationship, current government policy, and interactions with the Wa population located on both sides of the border. Last the part seeks to analyze how Wa autonomous areas have been gradually transformed by national development and modernization programs over the past decades, including some of the problems of poverty and underdevelopment faced in the Special Region 2 (Wa State). It draws on fieldwork carried out in the Wa State, Myanmar, and Wa autonomous areas in Pu’er (Simao) and Lincang Prefectures, China, in 2015-2016. Nominated topic-area: the Wa Hills (the Special Region 2 (Wa State) in Myanmar and adjacent Wa autonomous areas in Pu’er (Simao) and Lincang Prefectures in Yunnan Province, China

IV. Religion Roundtable

Thawng Tha Lian
The role of church in the political transformation to democracy in Myanmar

When we study the political transformation to democracy in Myanmar, we find the roles of church to democratic transition are vital throughout the history. The leaders from church take initiative to political advocacy role in peace and democratic process during in President Thein Sein government. This paper focuses the roles church institutions to politics in Chin State. The paper finds that the church leaders are playing a central role in brokering for peace and democracy in Myanmar. The church institutions are the only social institution that can do significant issue for the people because of their legal status and financial means. For example, church leaders from Chin, Kachin and Karen groups went into respective stronghold areas of their racial group and met and talked with the leaders. They explained to leaders the hard situation back home because of the war and asked them to solve the problem through dialogue with the government. Being Christian, the armed leaders respected the church leaders and took their request seriously. After meeting with the armed leaders, church leaders again approached the government and asked the government to hold talks with the ethnic armed groups in order to find a solution for the political conflict of the country. In this way the church leaders were finally able to persuade both sides to hold talks and find a common solution for the political discord of the country. Therefore, this paper concluded that the involvement of church to democratic transition is deeply rooted to Churches for Chins. It reflects that the newly elected NLD government works without religion orientate might hardly successful in Chin State because the philosophy and context of the people in Chin State is highly influenced by religion.

Kyaw Zeyar Win
The securitization of the Rohingyas in Myanmar

Since 2012 the Rohingya community has been subject to renewed waves of anti-Muslim propaganda and accompanying violence, killings and systematic marginalization that aim both to permanently disenfranchise and to displace them from their native land. The relaxation of media restrictions along with the ongoing political liberalization has exacerbated this public sentiment against the Rohingyas. What explains this recent surge in violence and public discourse against the Rohingyas? I argue that the military has “securitized” the issue of the Rohingya ethics as a means to legitimize its dominance in politics in the post-reform Myanmar. According to Buzan et al. (1998), the securitization process transforms issues of normal politics into matters of national security, the agenda of which is dominated by the state security apparatus such as the military. By constructing the policy and public discourse surrounding the Rohingyas as a national security threat, the military has not only insulated the issue from interference by civilian political elites, they have also bolstered their image among the Burmese-Buddhist majority. This paper draws on archival data of the discussion
surrounding the drafting of the 1982 citizenship law under Ne Win’s leadership, which first mentioned the “problem” of the Rohingya ethnics. To further strengthen the empirical evidence for the securitization framework, I have conducted first-hand interviews with former government officials and analyzed relevant newspapers and government documents that have explicitly identified the Rohingyas as threats to national security. This paper addresses the overall theme of transformation by exploring the process of nation-building through the use of Burmese-Buddhist nationalism and the repeated triggering of anti-Muslim violence over the last years.

Nyi Nyi Kyaw
Transformation of state-Sangha relations? Ma Ba Tha and the state in Myanmar

The Buddhist Sangha of Myanmar have generally been assumed to tend to be confrontational with the state. Prominent examples include Buddhist monks’ participation in anti-British protests and activities in colonial times, in anti-government protests in the late 1980s at the socio-economic nadir of socialist Burma, and in anti-government protests in 2007 in military-ruled Myanmar. This generalization has led analysts to overlook the possibility and instances of cooperation between the state and the Sangha. Challenging the paradigmatic perspective of state-Sangha relations which is more often than not taken for granted, this paper argues that the real picture of state-Sangha relations is more nuanced. In order to support this argument, the activities of monks-led Ma Ba Tha (Organization for Protection of Race and Religion) and its cooperation with the then ruling state from 2013 through 2015 amidst political, social, cultural and religious transformations largely brought about by the transition are traced and analyzed. This paper then aims to contribute to studies of Buddhism in general and that of Myanmar’s Buddhism in particular.

Matthew Walton, Matt Schissler and Phyu Phyu Thi (Matt W to attend)
Transforming memory: Community recollections of inter-religious peace and conflict in Myanmar

Myanmar’s transition away from military rule has transformed its political landscape and socio-economic geographies. During this time, there has also been an increase in inter-religious tension and conflict. Research and training conducted by the Myanmar Media and Society (M.MAS) project in 2015 encountered persistent expressions of fear and antagonism directed towards religious Others as well as articulated memories of solidarity and hope is part of a larger trend to expand the possibilities of what truly binds the economic and social progress of individuals, influential producers of alternate frames. The transformation of historical memory related to inter-religious peace and conflict is thus a critical aspect of Myanmar’s broader political and social transition. This paper will draw on oral history research being conducted throughout 2016 in six cities in Myanmar among populations of different faiths that seeks to uncover people’s memories of inter-religious peaceful co-existence.

V. Hope & Rural Transformation

Hnin Yu Lwin, Koichi Fujita and Ikuko Okamoto
Patron-client relations in the central dry zone, Myanmar: The case of landless palm tenants and jaggery (palm sugar) brokers

Even in the rural Central Dry Zone (CDZ), Myanmar, where mainly non-rice crops are grown, there are many landless labourers. One of their major jobs is to work as toddy palm tenants. They have long survived under the patron-client relation with credit-ties with jaggery (palm sugar) brokers. This paper analyzes the nature of such relation and its recent transformation, based on field surveys conducted from 2013-15 in a study village in Nyaung-U Township. The major forces inducing the transformation in their relation are: 1) the development of job opportunities in non-farm sectors outside the area, including urban cities in Myanmar and abroad such as Malaysia, 2) the development of borrowing opportunities due to the recent flourishing of microfinance programs. It was found that the landless palm tenants had larger household members and labour forces, especially compared to other landless. It was also found that many palm tenants still rely on informal credit mainly from jaggery brokers. On an average, they had roughly 250,000 kyat of “perpetual” loans from large jaggery brokers and additionally borrowed 163,000 kyat from the same brokers. It seems that the brokers do so because of the increased bargaining power of palm tenants vis-à-vis the brokers due to the recent expansion of job opportunities outside the village. The tenants used loans for both production and consumption purposes. They can also repay the debt after meeting their everyday life needs, by purchasing food and others at the grocery shop managed by the jaggery brokers. It was concluded that the jaggery brokers are obliged to provide new loans with lower interest rates (than the usual informal credit) so as to maintain good relation with the tenants and thereby for the smooth operation of their trade business.

Kyan Htoo
The role of hope in Myanmar’s rural transformation: Insights from household survey data from Mon State

In recent years the topic of aspirations has generated excitement and intrigue among empirical development economists. Many have pointed out that for most of its short history, development economics has primarily focused on relieving the external constraints of the poor. The emerging literature on aspirations and hope is part of a larger trend to expand the possibilities of what truly binds the economic and social progress of individuals,
households, and societies. Development economists are now considering the existence, and even the primacy, of internal constraints the poor may face Myanmar's rural sector is where the majority of people who live in poverty reside. Thus, Myanmar's rural transformation necessitates a wide-reaching exit from poverty. Recent research in psychology suggests that living in poverty may have specific psychological consequences that may stall, or even prevent, a future escape from poverty. One emerging explanation for this finding is that poverty itself influences how individuals form aspirations about and hope in the future. This paper explores the role of hope in Myanmar's rural transformation in three ways: First, we apply a theoretical model of the ‘economics of hope’, which defines hope as a function of aspirations, agency, and pathways. Second, we draw insights from data generated by a household survey representative of rural Mon State, including 503 households in 48 enumeration areas, that aimed to empirically measure each of the essential elements of hope: aspirations, agency, and avenues. We find that roughly a third of the sampled population possesses sufficient levels of each of these elements. Finally, using the data collected in this survey and aided by the theoretical model of the economics of hope, we highlight several policy implications from the data collected in this survey to develop a psychologically enhanced rural development strategy for Myanmar's rural transformation.

John Walsh and Sandi Win

Myanmar's mothers at a time of structural change

The intersectionalities of Myanmar's patriarchic system have represented significant challenges to the country's women, particularly its mothers. The confluence of class, ethnicity and patronage networks contains within itself the numerous barriers to women working outside the house, particularly after marriage. This manifests itself as social mores as well as practical issues relating to the ability to balance childcare with outside activities. This situation is now changing because of the relative opening of the state to democracy and the forces of globalization. In Mandalay, capital of the Northern Division of the country and centre of agricultural production, globalization is represented by the physical infrastructure of the road linking the city to Thailand, India and China, the dry dock and special economic zone, the spread of capitalism to more sectors of society and the opportunities to consume international products through newly-opened retail spaces such as in Ocean Plaza, as well as the access to information from mobile internet access cross-border television shows. These changes are affecting the decisions women can make about their lives and the expectations placed upon them to be not just wives, mothers and daughters but, also, modern consumers and producers in a developed capitalist society. This paper reports on qualitative research conducted with a diverse range of mothers in Mandalay through in-depth personal interviews. A semi-structured research instrument is used to encourage the respondents to discuss issues related to work-life balance, aspirations, life chances and relationships with other people, including family members, institutions and the market. The findings are presented within a framework that combine practical, cognitive and spiritual elements.

Justine Chambers

Coming of age in Hpa-an: Plong Karen youth in a time of flux

In Myanmar the major social and cultural transformations taking place are disproportionately affecting the lives of young people. Through long-term ethnographic research in Hpa-an, the capital of eastern Karen State and former site of one of the most enduring civil conflicts in the world this paper offers an exploration of the multiple subjectivities of young Plong Karen people coming of age in a rapidly shifting socio-economic world. This paper is based on sixteen months of fieldwork in Hpa-an township and its surrounding villages, and highlights how young people are making sense of the changes in Myanmar based on their own ideas and moral evaluations. Coming of age in a historical moment mediated by increasingly sophisticated media, economic change, and also deepening social inequalities, young people in Hpa-an are subject to a number of competing influences. On the one hand their identity is intertwined in strong social norms, customs and a celebration of ‘traditional’ notions of Karen identity. On the other hand, they are deeply embedded in the Myanmar government’s nation-state making project and education system. In Hpa-an, as in Myanmar more broadly, a Buddhist religious cosmological imaginary heavily frames local culture and subject formation, colouring most aspects of quotidian social life. By documenting the life choices, actions, and socio-moral evaluations of three university students, I draw on the concept of ‘alternative modernities’ (Knauft 2002) to demonstrate how young men and women are embracing new practices and tropes of identity formation, Karen-ness and youth culture.

VI. Justice Roundtable

Melinda Tun

A transformative approach to law reform in Myanmar

The Myanmar Government has been reforming the country’s legal framework since 2012 but the reforms have not resulted in transformative changes in the Myanmar legal system. The limited success of legal reforms is, in part, due to a narrow approach to law reform which focuses on reforming legal instruments (i.e. the passage of new laws and amendment or repeal of old laws) without seeking to re-establish the rule of law within government. This paper will argue that a much broader approach to law reform, which instils the rule of law within government institutions and functions, is required in order to rebuild the legal system and promote good governance. This broader conception of law reform must necessarily involve the transformation of legal and institutional practices within government, in addition to technical reforms of laws and regulatory instruments. This paper will outline three key issues in law reform which could be addressed by applying a broader and transformative approach. They include transforming the process for drafting and vetting legislation by the executive government; ensuring the exercise of administrative power based on the rule of law, and rebuilding
ABSTRACTS

Lwin Lwin Mon
Legal hybridity in everyday justice provision in a Mon village

This paper explores everyday justice provision in a village in Mon State where a majority of the population belongs to the Mon ethnic group. Based on ethnographic field work, I argue that while people prefer to resolve their cases locally, legal hybridity is present: a combination of law, customary rules, religious beliefs, and social media are used when disputes and crimes are resolved. The area remained under government control during the ethnic conflict, but some villagers were involved in the 1988 uprisings. The Mon villagers believe in Buddhism and some also believe in traditional spirit Nats. Their incomes mainly come from rice cultivation and from migrant remittances from other countries. The most common problems in the village include drinking and fighting among youths, land disputes, neighbor quarrels, and car accidents. Serious crimes are rare in the area, but larger group fighting happens between Mon villagers and other ethnic villagers. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in 2016, the paper shows that the vast majority of problems are resolved by the village 100 HH leaders, village administrators, respectful monks, and astrologers. These actors resolve local disputes, punish crimes and social breaches. Local voluntary paramilitary groups, previously trained by Tatmadaw, still protect the populations and village boundaries. People prefer to have their problems resolved with the village level justice providers. They do not want to go to the Myanmar state institutions, because of fear of authority, low knowledge of state law, religious beliefs, poverty, and because they feel shame by bringing their cases to official institutions. They trust their village leader and even though people know that serious crimes are not supposed to be resolved locally, they still inform the village leaders about them and try to negotiate at the village level. Nowadays especially young people have begun to use social media like Facebook a lot to win a case.

Helene Maria Kyed
Ceasefire state-makings: justice provision in Karen and Mon controlled areas

Decades of armed conflict in South East Myanmar means that centrally governed state institutions are absent in many, especially rural areas. Lack of trust in and fear of turning to state courts and police with civil and criminal cases are rife among ethnic minorities. This has not implied a vacuum of authority, however. Major Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) have for decades engaged in parallel state-makings, which among other state-like institutions, includes a system of justice committees or court. They also have their own law books and prisons. This paper explores present-day forms of justice provision in areas of Mon and Karen states controlled by the two main EAOs, the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Karen National Union (KNU). Based on ethnographic fieldwork in 2016, we describe how the EAO justice systems are organized, including their links to village disputes resolution, and analyze how the systems operate in practice. We argue that while the EAO justice institutions have suffered Myanmar military encroachments, sometimes meaning that they only operate as ‘mobile courts’, they enjoy widespread legitimacy as a back-up or last resort for ethnic villagers. They are seen by many ethnic villages as the state institution, with legal documents and authorization, to deal with bigger issues. Importantly, our findings suggest that the recent ceasefires have enabled the EAOs to strengthen and reform their justice institutions, rather than leading ethnic villagers to turn to the official Myanmar courts. A core challenge is the mixed controlled areas: here land disputes and drug trafficking as well as cases involving parties with different ethnicities often create justice vacuums and jurisdictional ambiguities. We conclude the paper by reflecting on the possible future position of EAO justice institutions as the peace process advances. The role of customary and religious beliefs is also considered.

Than Pale
Justice seeking strategies in everyday life: Case study among urban migrants in Yangon

This paper explores how poor urban migrants deal with disputes and crimes in Yangon’s largest industrial areas. The main argument is that migrants have very low access to formal justice institutions, and few powerful personal connections to draw on, so they rely on informal mechanisms, and increasingly the new legal aid CBOs. The area is home to the largest population of unregistered labor migrants in Yangon and is infamous for high levels of crime. Due to low job opportunities in the rural areas, both men and women, with their families as well as adolescents from all over the country settle here to work at the factories or to do different forms of day-labor, often with very low incomes. This kind of labor migration is consistently increasing, and most migrants live under dire conditions in squatter-like housing. Some of them have also faced evictions. Ethnographic research in the area during 2015-16 reveals that problems and crimes such as domestic violence, adultery, rape, child abuse, debt and theft cases are very frequent in the area. This paper focuses on what migrant people do when they face such problems and what justice providers they are able to turn to for help. In the resolution of cases, it can be seen that informal 100 HH leaders are important, but when the case ends with formal justice providers, the migrants tend to lose the case because of lack of monetary means and powerful relationships. Now there is a growing number of CBOs that provide legal aid to poor migrants, but mainly in child abuse cases. Migrants also seek alternative avenues linked to cultural beliefs, for instance by going with their problems to astrologers and monks. The focus on poor migrants shows that justice seeking strategies vary depending on economic situation, education, knowledge of the law and powerful personal connections.
Lue Htar

Land disputes and plural authorities in Karen State

In Myanmar there are many land disputes, which take on different shapes and are resolved in various ways. Difficulties in resolving land problems arise because the local people lack general knowledge of the proclaimed laws, and because these laws are often inappropriate for the present situation. This paper explores different kinds of land problems and dispute resolution methods in Karen State. In this state, land problems are related not only to larger land grabs, but also to disputes between previous and new land owners, caused by conflict displacement and ceasefire redistribution of land. Land disputes related to transactions between diverse ethnic and religious groups also occur. The government land law states that the persons using and farming the land have the right of ownership, but this can create problems with the original owners who were unfairly dispossessed of their land. The same happens in urban areas. With the changes of the national government and the recent ceasefires with the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), ethnic people have become more aware of how to claim back their unfairly occupied land. Based on ethnographic fieldwork on Everyday Justice in urban and rural Karen State, I argue that although the recent land law has established the land management committees, from local to central levels, ordinary people often use alternative pathways. They approach religious leaders, their respective EAOs and informal village leaders to get a customary solution to their land problems. Besides this, people also use a plurality of authorities, linking up with different ones at the same time to resolve dispute informally and in the Myanmar state system. This gives way to a hybridity of dispute resolution methods. Hybridity in this paper refers to the use of plural authorities and the mixture of rules in land dispute settlements.
Benjamin Daniel Nicholas Belton
Ben is a rural sociologist, whose work focuses on agrarian change, agricultural value chains, food and nutrition security, the political economy and political ecology of aquaculture and capture fisheries development, poverty and social well-being, in Southeast and South Asia—where he has lived and worked for more than a decade. He is currently based in Myanmar, where he leads the research component of the ‘Food Security Policy Project’, a five year project funded by USAID and LIFT.

Chit Win
Chit Win has been a PhD candidate in the Department of Political and Social Change, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific since February 2013. He is an Australian Leadership Award recipient. He is also a Deputy Director from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw and oversaw Myanmar-Thailand boundary affairs before coming to Australia. Previously, Chit Win had been posted to Myanmar embassies in Jakarta and Tel Aviv in various capacities. His doctoral research seeks to understand the behavior of Myanmar’s parliament by looking at the role of activists, technocrats and ethnic elites who have been co-opted as parliamentarians for legitimacy and inclusiveness. While the politicians represent different parties—including the ruling party, and minor and ethnic parties.

Justine Chambers
Justine is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology, School of Culture, History and Language at the The Australian National University. She recently conducted 16 months of fieldwork in Karen State Myanmar in 2015-16. Her research draws from the anthropology of morality and explores the everyday projects of how Plong Karen people in Hpa-an navigate and experiment with how to live a ‘good life’. She holds an MA in Development Studies from the University of New South Wales.

Nicholas Farrelly
Nicholas Farrelly is a fellow in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University (ANU) and director of the ANU Myanmar Research Centre. His academic specialty is the interaction of security, politics and culture in mainland Southeast Asia. On these topics he wrote masters and doctoral theses at the University of Oxford where he was a Rhodes Scholar. In 2006 Nicholas co-founded New Mandala which has grown to become a prominent website on Southeast Asian affairs. Recently, he holds an Australian Research Council fellowship for a study of political culture during Myanmar’s ongoing transformation. Nicholas was co-convenor, with Nick Cheesman, of the 2015 Myanmar Update Conference.

Koichi Fujita
Dr Koichi Fujita is Professor of Economics, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan. He has been doing field-based research in various parts of rural Myanmar since 1999. His publications include; The Economic Transition in Myanmar after 1988, NUS Press, 2009, and many journal articles.
Giuseppe Gabusi

Giuseppe Gabusi is Adjoint Professor of International Political Economy and Political Economy of East Asia at the University of Turin. He is also one of the co-founders of T.wai, Torino World Affairs Institute, where he is the Head of Program ‘Changing World Politics’. He has been visiting research fellow at the The Australian National University, Canberra, at the East-West Center, Honolulu, and at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou. His research interests include China’s political economy, Myanmar’s transitions, foreign policy analysis, the developmental state, and regionalism in the Asia-Pacific. He is a member of the editorial board of the online journal OrizzonteCina and editor of RISE, an online journal on contemporary Southeast Asia.

Naomi Hellmann

Naomi Hellmann is a Ph.D. fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Germany. Her dissertation addresses the effect of the Sino-Myanmar border on ethnic minorities in the ‘opening up’ of Southwest China to Southeast Asia. She recently conducted one year of fieldwork in Wa autonomous areas in Yunnan Province and the Shan State. She holds an M.A. in Development Studies from Brown University and an M.Sc. in Contemporary Chinese Studies from the University of Oxford. She previously worked on humanitarian aid initiatives in China for Mercy Corps, UNESCO, UNDP, and other organisations.

Hnin Yu Lwin

Hnin Yu Lwin is a Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar, with a Bachelor Degree from Yezin Agricultural University and M.Sc and Ph.D degree from Kyushu University, Japan. Hnin Yu Lwin joined the JSPS Post-doctoral fellowship program at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan. Hnin Yu Lwin’s current research interest focuses on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in the Central Dry Zone, Myanmar.

Khin Ma Ma Myo

Dr Khin Ma Ma Myo is Associate Professor of the Department of International Relations at University of Yangon, Myanmar. Her teaching career started at the University of Yangon in 1997. She also teaches at the Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of Home affairs. She received an MA in International Development from International University of Japan and an MA and PhD in International Relations from University of Yangon. Her research interests include peace and security, public administration and bilateral relations of Myanmar. Dr Khin received some fellowships and awards, including Visiting Research Fellowship from the Japan Institute of International Affairs, Open Society Research Fellowship and Resident Research Fellowship in Non-proliferation and Disarmament of the Pacific Forum, CSIS.

Kyan Htoo

Kyan Htoo has been working for the Myanmar Center for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) as their Deputy Research Supervisor since 2014. While working for MCESD, Kyan Htoo is mainly involved in the Food Security Policy and the Rural Economic Development Program of MCESD. Furthermore, Kyan Htoo is actively involved in research and capacity building initiatives focusing on improving agricultural productivity, agricultural product value chains including fish, rural non-farm employment and livelihoods. Kyan Htoo has also worked for two government agencies from 2004 to 2013. Kyan Htoo’s first degree was conferred by the Yezin Agricultural University in Myanmar, specialising in Horticulture and Kyan Htoo contunied on to study a masters degree at Hankyung National University in South Korea, specialising in Agriculture and Rural Development.
**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Kyaw Zeyar Win**

Kyaw Zeyar Win first graduated in Dentistry in 2008, and has since completed a Master of Comparative Politics degree at Yangon School of Political Science (YSPS). He later took an academic director position at the Yway Lat Yar Institute and a leadership role in a Muslim intellectuals youth network, during which time he helped to end the Rohingya humanitarian crisis. He has an active role in a conflict prevention program at the Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH) in Yangon. He served as a vice-president of a Rohingya political party and a researcher for a government-sponsored committee researching socio-economic life development in Rakhine State between 2013-2015.

**Lue Htar**

Lue Htar is of the Naga ethnic group, currently lives in Yan, and has a bachelor degree in economics from the University of Taungnuu. Following Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Lue Htar attended a project cycle management course at Myanmar Egress and joined Network Activities Group (local NGO) until the end of four rounds of Post Nargis Social Impact Monitoring. Since 2011, Lue Htar has been involved in more than 15 research projects through the Enlightened Myanmar research foundation, cooperating with INGOs including the World Bank Group and UNDP. Currently Lue Htar is occupied by the Ever Justice project of DIIS.

**Lwin Lwin Mon**

Lwin Lwin Mon is a senior researcher at Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMRF). She has a Bachelor degree in Economics from the University of Taungoo. Following Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Lue Htar worked with Myanmar Egress on Post Nargis Social Impact Monitoring. Since 2011 she has been involved in more than 15 research projects through EMRF, working closely with INGOs including the World Bank and UNDP. Currently she is working on the Ever Justice project convened by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS).

**Lwin Cho Latt**

Lwin Cho Latt is an Assistant Lecturer of the International Relations Department at University of Yangon. She is responsible for teaching Political Science and International Relations courses in the undergraduate and post-graduate diploma programs. She has taken two candidates under her supervision for a Master’s degree in Defence from the National Defence College and for a Master of Research degree from UY. She has taken part in developing curriculum materials and activities for the IR department. Her research interest are in the field of Myanmar’s relations with its neighbouring countries and Myanmar’s Political Transition and Peace Process. Currently, she is involved in three research papers this year, collaboration with foreign universities.

**Marlar Aung**

Dr. Marlar Aung has been working in Department of International Relations, University of Yangon, as a Tutor since 2005 and now as a Lecturer. The 1st degree got from Dagon University in 2003, Master degree in 2006 and PhD degree in 2012 in University of Yangon. Dr Marlar Aung is giving the lectures including environmental studies, diplomacy, east asia, etc in International Relations’ subject and political economy, political parties and gender politics in Political Science’s subject. Also, Dr Marlar Aung is actively participated in doing research and two research papers “Upgrading the Development of National Youths through Education and Rehabilitation in Nargis Cyclone Affected Areas in Ayeyawady Region” were published in University of Yangon Research Journal. Moreover, Dr. Marlar Aung is so interested in attending and discussion in the seminars in cooperation of University of Yangon with “International Training & Development Programme”in Chaung-Ang University, “Human Rights” in Columbia University & Department of Law, “Thinking and Writing Faculty Training” in Bard College & Department of Anthropology and “Capacity Development for Faculty Members” in Central European University (CEU) Department of International Relations.
Mangshang Yaw Bawm

Mangshang Yaw Bawm works as Program Officer (Natural Resources and Environmental Governance) for the Diplomatic Mission of Finland, Yangon. Responsibilities include analysing developments in natural resources and environment in broader development context; liaising with key development partners; monitoring interventions and partnerships supported by Finland; and representing Finland in relevant meetings. Prior to this, he worked as director for a local NGO called Naushawng Education Network (NSEN) which empowers young people through capacity building training; connecting young people with employment opportunities; and facilitating study abroad. With the support of a Fulbright Scholarship, he earned M.A in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA in 2015.

Maung Aung Myoe

Maung Aung Myoe earned his PhD in Political Science and International Relations from The Australian National University. His research interests include civil-military relations, regional security in Southeast Asia, and the government and politics in Myanmar. He teaches Diplomacy and Statecraft, Security and Strategy in International Relations, Foreign Policy Analysis and Southeast Asian International Relations. His recent publications include “The Soldier and the State: the Tatmadaw and political liberalization in Myanmar since 2011” (South East Asia Research, Vol. 22, No. 2, 2014), “Myanmar’s Foreign Policy under the USDP Government: Continuities and Changes” (Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs, Vol. 35, No. 1; April 2016), and “The Logic of Myanmar’s China Policy” (Asian Journal of Comparative Politics, Vol. 1, No.3; September 2016).

Cecile Medail

Cecile has worked with Burmese grassroots organisations in Thailand and in Myanmar for seven years. She provided capacity building support to young community activists from various ethnic backgrounds, advocating for genuine democracy in Myanmar and campaigning for economic development respectful of the rights of local indigenous communities. She has been a PhD candidate at UNSW-Canberra since 2015 and is currently undertaking her fieldwork in Myanmar. Taking a participatory approach, her research seeks to determine the perceived needs and aspirations of Myanmar’s ethnic nationalities and shed light on the institutional arrangements required to build an inclusive society.

Gerard McCarthy

Gerard McCarthy is a doctoral candidate at the ANU Department of Political & Social Change and co-convenor of the 2017 Myanmar Update. His doctoral research explores informal institutions and the contemporary social, political and moral legacies of military rule in provincial Myanmar. Throughout 2015 and 2016 he conducted over 16 months of mixed methods research in central-east Myanmar (Bago Region and Kayin State) focusing on the evolution of social and political institutions in the context of Myanmar’s ongoing transition. He has advised, consulted and written for a range of agencies and outlets including International Growth Centre Myanmar, United States Institute of Peace, The Carter Centre, Journal of Contemporary Asia, The Guardian, New Mandala and The Myanmar Times.

Melinda Thet Tun

Melinda Tun is an Australian qualified lawyer with extensive experience in law and governance reforms in Myanmar since 2012. She is currently engaged by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a technical advisor to the Myanmar Government on corporate and insolvency law reform and to advise on policy and legal reforms to improve the business environment in Myanmar. Melinda has previously worked with the World Bank to conduct a country legal review on the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Myanmar. Melinda was formerly a senior corporate lawyer at Baker & McKenzie in Australia, advising multinational corporations on mergers and acquisitions in the telecommunication, resources and major infrastructure sectors. Melinda is fluent in both English and Myanmar and has strong working relationships within the Myanmar civil service, private sector and civil society organisations.
Myat Thida Win
Myat Thida Win received a BSC degree from Randolph-Macon College in 2016, majoring in economics and political science. Myat Thida Win has been working as a researcher at the Myanmar-Centre for Economic and Social Development (M-CESD) since 2016. Myat Thida Win has been working on the Food Security Policy Project (FSP), facilitating evidence-based research, assisting in policy development and policy advocacy for the agriculture sector in Myanmar. Myat Thida Win is now leading a research project on agricultural mechanisation in Myanmar, participating in rapid assessments, writing research, policy briefs and surveys on Myanmar’s structural transformation and mechanisation.

Mya Mya Khin
Dr Mya Mya Khin is the Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Yangon. Mya Mya Khin’s qualifications include B.A (Anthropology) 1987, M.A (Anthropology) 1994 and PhD (Cultural Anthropology) Japan, 2004. Mya Mya Khin’s extensive service history includes eight years as a demonstrator/tutor, four years as Assistant Lecturer, six years as Lecturer, two years as Lecturer and Head, two years as Associate Professor and Head, and over five years as Professor and Head. Mya Mya Khin has 25 years experience in anthropology teaching and research. Mya Mya Khin’s present field of research is Cultural Anthropology. Specifically, Mya Mya Khin is conducting an international collaborative research project on Customary Law Practices in Myanmar. Mya Mya Khin’s research partners include the Danish Institute for International Institute. Mya Mya Khin’s departmental research includes the Re-socialization Programs practiced by Mon National, Kawt Ka Lawt Village, Kyaitmayaw Township, Mon State, Myanmar as conducted in 2016. This research paper was presented at the APSA Conference 2016. Mya Mya Khin’s personal research includes Myanmar Buddhist’s belief in Nankarine Medaw (Bago Medaw).

Nilar Aung
Nilar Aung is a final year PhD student in Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy, College of Asia & the Pacific, The Australian National University (ANU). The focus of her research is income diversification and income inequality in rural economy in Myanmar. Nilar completed her Bachelor of Economics (Statistics) (Honours) in 1994 and Master of Economics (Statistics) in 1998, both from Yangon Institute of Economics, Myanmar. She received her Master of International and Development Economics from ANU in 2006. Nilar has nearly 15 years of teaching experience and 7 years of work experience in banking sector.

Nyi Nyi Kyaw
Nyi Nyi Kyaw is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at the Faculty of Law at National University of Singapore. He is interested in law and religion, law and social movements, human rights, nationalism, citizenship and constitutional politics.

Pyae Phyo Maung
Pyae Phyo Maung has been working in the community development field in Myanmar for more than eight years particularly as a technical person who supports Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems and capacity of different international and local development agencies. With the support from AusAID (AusAID scholarship award), Pyae Phyo Maung have completed a masters degree in Program Evaluation from the University of Melbourne in 2014. Pyae Phyo Maung’s special area of interest includes how M&E can genuinely support achieving higher level community development goals such as sustainable development goals (SDGs) through promoting and initiating community led M&E systems. Currently Pyae Phyo Maung is working as a coordinator and one of the founders of the national professional association in Myanmar called the Myanmar Monitoring and Evaluation Association (MMEA), as formed in March 2016.
Sandi Win

Sandi Win is a part time lecturer at the Apex School of Business Management in Mandalay. Sandi Win teaches organisational management and strategic management and received a Master of Computer Science degree from the University of Computer Studies, Mandalay. Sandi Win received an MBA degree in 2013 and is now a Ph.D candidate of the School of Management, Shinawatra University, Thailand (Mandalay campus).

Si Thura

Dr Si Thura is Senior Representative for Community Partners International (CPI) in Myanmar. After he graduated from the University of Medicine in Myanmar, he worked at the Medicine du Monde (MdM), assisting the Cyclone Nargis recovery project in the Irrawaddy Region. During this time Dr Si Thura also co-founded a local organisation called Sympathetic Doctors Group, comprised of young doctors implementing humanitarian assistance programs in Myanmar. Dr Si Thura joined CPI in 2009 and has since led the successful establishment of in-country operations and programs. In 2013 he was awarded the Australian Leadership Award which enabled him to complete a Master of Arts in Public Health at the Australian National University (ANU). He currently oversees CPI operations in Myanmar and is the senior representative for CPI with the Government of Myanmar, donors and partners. He is also the winner of the ‘Emerging Leader 2016, InsideNGO’ award and the joint-secretary of the Myanmar Liver Foundation.

Helene Maria Kyed Von Sponeck

Helene Kyed is a senior researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies, and has a PhD in International Development Studies. She has researched state formation processes, dispute resolution, justice and policing for 15 years, based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork in Southern Africa and since 2015 in Myanmar. Her latest book is: Policing and the Politics of Order-Making (Routledge 2015). She now coordinates a 4-year research capacity building project (2015-18) in Myanmar on Everyday Justice and Security.

Than Pale

Dr Than Pale is Professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Yangon. She has a PhD (2012) in the topic of “Gender Allocation of Labor among the Akha living in Shan State”. Ethnographic research was conducted in Wa, Salon, Naga and Akha areas of Myanmar. She participated in a Korea-Myanmar Joint project (2012-2013), and received a scholarship in the Research Fellowship Program in 2014 at the Central European University in Hungary. Currently she is involved in the research project “Everyday justice and security in the Myanmar transition” (EverJust) with DIIS, EMR and University of Yangon (2015-2018).

Thawng Tha Lian

Thawng Tha Lian worked for Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung SEA, based in Yangon as Project Assistant. Now he is studying his M.A in International Development Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand from the scholarship of Consortium for Development Studies in SEA.
Sean Turnell

Sean Turnell has been a researcher of Myanmar’s economy for more than 20 years. Formerly a senior analyst at the Reserve Bank of Australia, he is currently based at Macquarie University in Sydney. Mr Turnell has written widely on Myanmar’s economy and is a regular commentator in the international press. He has been an adviser on Myanmar to the US State Department, the US Agency for International Development, Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs, the World Bank and many other international bodies. Within Myanmar, Mr Turnell is an adviser to a number of key stakeholders. In 2009 the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies published his book on the history of the financial sector in Myanmar, Fiery Dragons: Banks, Moneylenders and Microfinance in Burma. He has been a visiting fellow at Cambridge, Cornell and Johns Hopkins Universities, and at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

Matthew Joseph Walton

Matthew Walton is Aung San Suu Kyi Senior Research Fellow in Modern Burmese Studies at St Antony’s College. He directs the Programme on Modern Burmese Studies and is the convener of the Southeast Asia seminar series, both at St Antony’s. His research focuses on religion and politics in Southeast Asia, with a special emphasis on Buddhism in Myanmar. He is currently a senior policy consultant to The Elders on Myanmar issues and regularly briefs diplomats and NGOs on politics in Myanmar. Matt is also one of the co-founders of the Myanmar Media and Society (M.MAS) project and of the Oxford-Myanmar blog Tea Circle.

Tamas Wells

Tamas Wells worked with aid organisations in Myanmar from 2006 to 2012 including several years as an advisor with Save the Children for the Paung Ku civil society initiative. He recently submitted his PhD in politics at the University of Melbourne exploring narratives of democracy in Myanmar, and is also editor of the PK Forum - an online initiative for building bridges between academics and development practitioners in Myanmar.

Ye Yint

Ye Yint is a Myanmar Presidential Scholarship awardee who is currently in her 2nd year of Bachelor of International Security Studies at ANU. Previously, she specialized Political Science major at the University of Yangon, which she left in her 1st Year Honors studies. Her interests lie in Politics and International Relations, especially Myanmar and the Asia-Pacific. She has represented as Myanmar Youth Ambassador in several conferences and programs which significantly includes Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP), Youth Leader Summit in Tokyo, AICHR Youth Debates on Human Rights, and ‘Focus on Future’ China-Myanmar Youth Exchange Program.

Matthew Zurstrassen

Matthew Zurstrassen is a development professional focusing on local governance issues in the Asia-Pacific Region. Since 2014, he has co-managed a longitudinal qualitative study examining changes in livelihoods and social relations in rural Myanmar (Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring of Livelihoods in Rural Myanmar or QSEM). The study is a partnership between the World Bank, Enlightened Myanmar Research and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund.
UPDATE PUBLICATIONS

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Edited by Nick Cheesman, Monique Skidmore and Trevor Wilson. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 353pp. 2010 (Based on the 2009 Update)

Dictatorship, disorder and decline in Myanmar

Myanmar: State, community and the environment

Myanmar's transition: Openings, obstacles and opportunities
Edited by Nick Cheesman, Monique Skidmore and Trevor Wilson. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 374pp. 2012 (Based on the 2011 Update)
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