

Centre for International Studies
Department of International Relations

Myanmar and the International Community

27 November 2015

OLD 4.10 Old Building, Houghton Street, London



Aims

This workshop aims to create a few reflections on Myanmar. (i) It aims to encourage a debate concerning the 'dynamics of change' as well as the 'inertia to change' as intertwined processes in Myanmar. (ii) It adds to the general on-going focus on Myanmar, the dimension of a discussion that includes the European Union. The European Union is too often neglected as an actor, which has been constructively operating in Myanmar towards its governance's transformation; attention will be paid to this aspect. (iii) Furthermore, the United States and China are usually debated in relation to Myanmar and their balancing power in the region, whereas the EU is left aside. The way in which these three powers interact with Myanmar, considered against the background of both the balancing power context and the power politics race in the Pacific Southeast Asian region, is a supplementary aim. (iv) This workshop strengthens the interaction between the EU's external relations and Southeast Asia-led studies that too often develop separately.

Programme

13.30-14.00 – Refreshments

14.00–15.10h – Diplomacy

Welcome and Chair: **Professor Karen E. Smith**, LSE

Speakers:

Dr Ludovica Marchi, LSE: 'The aims of the workshop, how it adds to other similar events, the questions which it poses, and a contribution concerning the EU and Myanmar'

Dr Sophie Boisseau du Rocher, Centre Asie, Ifri, Paris: 'The EU and Myanmar: changing contours but not substance'

Professor Michael Reiterer, EEAS Asia-Pacific and University of Innsbruck: 'The EU's security interests in East Asia'

Dr Jurgen Haacke, LSE: 'Myanmar's relations with Washington and Beijing after the November elections: Quo vadis?'

15.10–16.10h – Politics and Economics

Chair: **Dr Natalya Naqvi**, LSE

Speakers:

Dr Lee Jones, Queen Mary University: 'Myanmar: still a disciplined democracy?'

Ms Tanja Gohlert, Euro-Burma-Office (EBO), Brussels: 'Developing peace in Myanmar'

Professor Ian Brown, SOAS, 'Burma's economy: some points of reference'

16.10-16.30h – Refreshments

16.30–17.50h – Culture, Civil Society and Human Rights

Chair: **Dr Jurgen Haacke**, LSE

Speakers:

Dr Matthew Walton, St Antony's College, University of Oxford: 'Arguments deployed by Buddhist-actors in Myanmar to justify their attitudes towards non-Buddhists'

Dr Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi, University of Oxford: 'Transformative research in Myanmar to meet the challenges'

Mr Julian Kirchherr, St Antony's College, University of Oxford: 'The Interplay of Activists and Chinese Dam Developers in Myanmar: The Case of Myanmar's Mega-Dams'

Mr Tom Berliner, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) London: 'Counting the uncounted: leaving no one behind in Myanmar'

17.50–18.00h – 'Concluding remarks' **Dr Ludovica Marchi**, LSE, and **Dr Jurgen Haacke**, LSE

Speakers

Tom Berliner is a Researcher at the Overseas Development Institute in London. His research explores where and how development progress has happened, helping to communicate these lessons to policymakers, academics and the general public. He has spent significant time working in Myanmar, Vietnam and Malaysia. In the new year, Tom is moving to Agulhas Applied Knowledge to support the process of evaluating DFID's work for the Independent Commission for Aid Impact.

Sophie Boisseau du Rocher (PhD) is Senior Research Fellow at Centre asie IFRI in Paris. Her research focuses on regional integration in South-East Asia and political transitions in ASEAN member States, including Myanmar (2015 "Crises et transitions politiques en Asie du Sud-Est", *L'Asie du Sud-Est 2015*, IRASEC (Bangkok), 2015), (2014 January « The EU strategic offensive with ASEAN: some room left but no more time » *GRIP Occasional Paper*, 2013 winter). Other publications can be found at: <http://www.centreasia.eu/auteur/sophie-boisseau-du-rocher>.

Ian Brown is Emeritus Professor of the Economic History of South East Asia at SOAS. Trained as a historian of modern Siam, in the mid-1990s he turned his attention to Burma under British rule, working first on the impact of the 1930s depression on Burma's rice cultivators and then on the history of the prison in Burma under colonial rule. His most recent book, *Burma's Economy in the Twentieth Century*, was published in 2013. He has recently completed a history of the School of Oriental and African Studies, to be published in time for the School's centenary in 2016.

Tanja Gohlert joined Euro-Burma Office (EBO) in Brussels in 2008 and is currently the Director for Europe and Donor Relations. EBO works with: 1) Decision-makers – government officials and politicians – to promote the transition to democracy; 2) Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to facilitate peace negotiations with the government - EBO currently supports 29 liaison offices of seven EAOs nationwide to ensure that the ceasefires hold; 3) Civil Society to build their capacity and enable disenfranchised communities to participate in the political process; 4) the International Community – governments and INGOs – to ensure that their policies and activities support the transition.

Lee Jones (DPhil, Oxford) is senior lecturer in international politics at Queen Mary, University of London. His work deals with state-society relations, political development, intervention and sovereignty in developing countries, especially East Asia. He is author of *ASEAN, Sovereignty and Intervention in Southeast Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), *Societies Under Siege: Exploring How International Economic Sanctions (Do Not) Work* (Oxford University Press, 2015) and, with Shahar Hameiri, *Governing Borderless Threats: Non-Traditional Security and the Politics of State Transformation* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). He is a regular advisor to the UK government. Website: www.leejones.tk. Twitter: @DrLeeJones.

Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi is Aung San Suu Kyi Gender Research Fellow in Burmese Studies at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford. She received her PhD, in 2013, from the Australian National University, in Canberra ('In Pursuit of Power: Political Power and Gender Relations in New Order Burma/Myanmar'). She is a social anthropologist, gender specialist, film maker and has a background in education. Her research has focused on child protection, trafficking, gender violence, migration and governance issues. She has had many years of experience working with vulnerable Burmese communities in sensitive and complex political environments where violence, poverty, and substance abuse are common.

Julian Kirchherr is a doctoral scholar at the University of Oxford. His research focuses on water resources management and its relationship with rural development as well as the politics of the environment in Southeast Asia. He also publishes commentary on water policy, most recently in Huffington Post, China Daily and Süddeutsche Zeitung. His opinion pieces have been translated to 12 languages. Prior to joining the University of Oxford, Julian was with McKinsey & Company advising governments in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He also served as a City Councilor in Werl, Germany, as well as a County Councilor in Soest, Germany.

Ludovica Marchi (pen name of Ludovica Marchi Balossi-Restelli) is Visiting Fellow (2015) at the Centre for International Studies at LSE. Her present research focuses on the European Union's external relations and attitude to Myanmar. She taught at the University of Mandalay (Myanmar, July 2014), has held a visiting research position at Singapore Management University (Jan–Febr 2014) and has been teaching assistant at the University of Cambridge (Geography). She holds a PhD from the University of Reading, has authored, edited and co-edited books, and has published in several peer-reviewed journals which include the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* (see: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/researchAndExpertise/Experts/profile.aspx?KeyValue=l.marchi@lse.ac.uk>)

Michael Reiterer studied law at the University of Innsbruck (Dr. juris) and holds diplomas in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University/Bologna Center and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. In 2005, he was appointed adjunct professor for international politics at the University of Innsbruck (<http://www.uibk.ac.at/politikwissenschaft/team/externe-lehrende/index.html.de>). As an official of the European Union, Dr. Reiterer is currently Principal Advisor at the Asia and Pacific Department, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels. He previously served as EU-Ambassador to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (2007-2011), Minister/Deputy Head of the EU-Delegation to Japan (2002-2006) and ASEM Counselor (1998-2002).

Matthew J Walton (PhD) is the Aung San Suu Kyi Senior Research Fellow in Modern Burmese Studies at St Antony's College. His research focuses on religion and politics in Southeast Asia, with a special emphasis on Buddhism in Myanmar. He has published articles on Buddhism, ethnicity, and politics in Myanmar in the *Journal of Burma Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Asian Survey* and *Social Research*. His analysis of Buddhist nationalism in Myanmar (co-authored with Susan Hayward), *Contesting Buddhist Narratives: Democratization, Nationalism, and Communal Violence in Myanmar*, was published in 2014 in the East-West Center Policy Studies series. Matt is also a co-founder of the Myanmar Media and Society project.

Workshop organisers: Dr Ludovica Marchi (LSE) and Dr Jurgen Haacke (LSE).