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Die Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik e.V.  
in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Arbeitsbereich Thaiistik  
der Abteilung Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens des AAI  
lädt Sie zu folgendem Online-Vortrag ein:

## Thailand's Growing Disorder and the Changing Role of the Thai Military in the Reign of Rama X

In January 2021, Thailand's political pandemonium is intensifying. With opposition in the Lower House growing, progressive demonstrations continuing and reactionary right-wing protests expanding, it seems as Prime Minister (retired General) Prayuth Chanocha will increasingly look to security forces to retain power. This presentation argues that Prayuth finds himself today weaker than he has ever been since his 2014 coup. To stay in office he will acquiesce to ruling in the shadow of Army Commander Gen. Narongphan Jitkaewthae, himself a proxy of Thailand's King Rama X. Indeed, the Thai military has been changing under the new king. The monarch has sought to verticalize his absolute control over the armed forces and build a faction of senior military officials called "Red Rim soldiers" who are first and foremost loyal to him. But factionalism remains endemic within the military. Meanwhile, it will likely become the "new normal" in Thailand that generally peaceful demonstrations exist on a day-to-day basis. Nevertheless, progressive demonstrators will likely suffer more harassment from military-supported right-wing protestors. Given such factors, political disorder will likely continue for the foreseeable future.



## Online-Lecture *via Zoom & in English*



Paul Chambers is Lecturer and Special Advisor on International Relations at the Center of ASEAN Community Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Naresuan University, Thailand. He is also a Research Fellow at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt in Germany and the executive editor of the journal *Asian Affairs: an American Review*. He was a Research Fellow at the German Institute of Global Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany during 2012-2020. Chambers' research interests focus on democratization, civil-military relations and international politics of Southeast Asia, particularly of Thailand. He has written or co-written five books and close to 80 articles about the military, democratization and the international politics of Southeast Asia. Recent publications include his co-edited book *Khaki Capital: The Political Economy of the Military in Southeast Asia* (NIAS, 2017) and his co-edited Special Issue "Intra-party Factionalism in Southeast Asia", *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 2020.

Monday, 11th January 2021

10h-12h (CET)

via Zoom: *(copy the link into your webbrowser to join,  
you might be asked to download the software)*

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/99234618746>



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