

Program Thaitag 2012

Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky (Universität Hamburg)

Introduction to the Topic "The State of German Research on Thailand in the Humanities and Social Sciences"

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Korff (Universität Passau)

„Between Charisma and Bureaucratization: Authoritarian Personality Orientations“

Der Vortrag basiert auf einer Vorstudie zu autoritären Orientierungen in Pattani. Wir folgen dabei in einer vereinfachten Form den Arbeiten der „Frankfurter Schule“ zum autoritären Charakter. Da es sich um eine Vorstudie handelt, können die Ergebnisse nur vorsichtig verallgemeinert werden, doch zeigt sich, dass eine autoritäre Orientierung dominiert. Statt einer Differenz zwischen autoritärer und demokratischer/pluralistischer Orientierung haben wir sehr starke und starke autoritäre Orientierungen. Das mag ein Grund für die Schwierigkeiten sein, demokratische Institutionen in Thailand zu etablieren.

Prof. Dr. Boike Rehbein (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

„Current Tendencies of Thai Social Structure“

The recent political crisis is an indication of deep changes in Thai social structure. While the rural population has advanced from subsistence agriculture to farming and agribusiness, large migrant populations have invaded the cities, a lower and an upper middle class have emerged, new entrepreneurs have risen into the elites, and the role of the old establishment has changed. These changes were partly driven by the integration of Thailand into the global economy and transnational formations. Current Thai social structure has to be understood against the background of historically earlier structures and within the framework of the globalizing world. From this double perspective, the research project presented here enquires into the transformation of ranks and classes in Thai society into local, national and transnational milieus. The project applies a qualitative method aiming at people's habitus in different settings and regions of Thailand.

Assoc. Prof. Surichai Wungaeo (Chulalongkorn-Universität)

„Water, Floods, and Flood Crisis: Recent Events from a Political Sociological perspective“

Dr. Pitch Pongsawat (Chulalongkorn-Universität)

„The Role of Bangkok for the Articulation of Conflicts“

„The Role of Bangkok for the Articulation of Conflicts“, Pitch Pongsawat. The talk is structured on two issues that seemingly do not relate to each other; i.e. the political colour conflicts from 2006 – 2010 and the flood event in 2011. The main question is to look at the role of Bangkok for the articulation of the two conflicts. The tentative finding of the talk is that Bangkok is both a physical site and an ideological site of the conflicts. Bangkok has been portrayed as the middle class and elite city while the complex reality of Bangkok reveals that the Thai middle class category and the class occupation of Bangkok as the middle class city with single and retroactive ideology are problematic category which cannot capture the dynamic of political, economic, social, cultural and ideological struggles in contemporary Thailand.