

Dienstag, den 9. Dezember 2014

Zeit: 18 Uhr ct

Ort: Raum 123, ESA, Ostflügel

Universität Hamburg

Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1

20146 Hamburg

Echoes from a revolution: The history of Siam in eighteenth-century European sources

Siamese history during the second half of the eighteenth century AD is marked by a number of political disruptions: the decline and fall of the Ban Phlu Luang dynasty and the destruction of the city of Ayutthaya in 1767; the Thonburi interregnum of King Taksin from 1767 to 1782; and the ascendancy of a new ruling house in Bangkok under the reign of Rama I (r. 1782-1809). Although these events involved political, institutional and intellectual changes that fundamentally transformed the Siamese state within a few decades, historical sources dating from this turbulent period are scant. I will examine a number of Western accounts on Siam written in the eighteenth century, assess their contribution to Thai historiography, and demonstrate how these narratives relate to a more general European discourse on revolution and political change in Asia.

Prof. Dr. Sven Trakulhun

teaches history at the Universities of Zurich and Konstanz. His teaching and research concentrates on the history of global interaction, focusing in particular on Europe, Thailand and Southeast Asia in the period 1500-1900. He is the author of *Siam und Europa. Das Königreich Ayutthaya in europäischen Berichten, 1500–1670* (2006) and edited *Biography Afield in Asia and Europe* (2013) and *Delimiting Modernities: Conceptual Challenges and Regional Responses* (2014).