



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 Vortrag ein:

## The Story of Humanitarian Assistance to the Karen in Eastern Burma and beyond

In this talk the lecturer gives ethnographic impression in the ways that humanitarian assistance was organized to the refugee camps, to the migrants in Northwestern Thailand on the Thai-Burmese border and to internally displaced persons in Eastern Burma. Further, the lecturer argues that humanitarian assistance has also fueled the imagination of a Karen homeland in a context of devastation of the Karen landscape in Eastern Burma. Humanitarian assistance then boosted in important ways the recovery of a project that was both nationalist and religious. The talk also looks at how the re-entering grassroots humanitarian assistance programs into Burma via Thailand has led to a religious re-awakening and interpretation of the conflict at hand.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexander Horstmann is Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen. He used to work in Münster, Göttingen (Max-Planck) and Mahidol University (Salaya, Thailand). He is the author of *Faith in the Future, Centering the Margins, Building Noah's Ark* and many research articles on the Karen in Thailand and Burma as well as on the coexistence of Buddhists and Muslims in Southern Thailand.

Mittwoch, den **4. Mai 2016**

Zeit: **18 c.t.**

Ort: **Raum 123**

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