



# HGT

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 Rakhine Crisis – 220 Years Ago A Historical Conflict Mapping



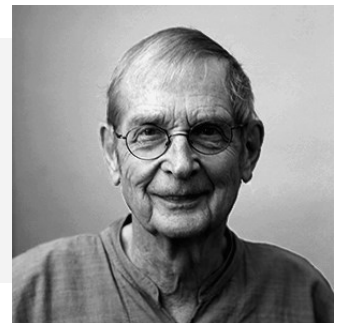
The conflicts exploding in the last years on the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh – mostly referred to as the “Rohingya crisis” in the media – has caused extremely controversial and emotional discussions. This is understandable given the fact that since October 2016 some 700.000 Muslims fled over the border to Bangladesh where they are now living in refugee camps. Furthermore, religion is involved. In most mainstream media both international and national, the conflict is portrayed as a fight between Myanmar Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims– or the other way around.

The presentation goes back to one of the historical roots of the conflict, the flight of some ten thousand people after 1785 over the Naf river, today’s boundary between the two countries that did not exist then. The exodus happened in the aftermath of the conquest of the kingdom of Rakhine by the order of the Burmese king. The successful campaign resulted in the integration of Rakhine into the Burmese state until today that is still resented by Rakhine ethno-nationalists. The above picture from the Mahamuni temple in Mandalay showing the welcome given by the Burmese king to a prestigious Buddha image transferred from the Rakhine capital to that of the victorious power points to a crucial reason for the contemporary tension in the region.

The lecture will present a mapping of the old conflict between Burma and Rakhine that includes two more partners – Muslim Bengalis and Christian British colonialists. Such conflict mapping might be helpful to better understand the historical roots of the conflict and thus reduce controversies.

Dr. Hans-Bernd Zöllner is a freelance researcher focussing on the history of Burma/ Myanmar and the political implications of Theravada Buddhism.

In 2018, a political biography of Aung San Suu Kyi (“The Daughter”) co-authored by Rodion Ebbighausen and a book on the historical backgrounds of the Rakhine crisis (“Das Totenschiff”) were published.



Universität Hamburg  
Asien-Afrika-Institut  
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Flügel Ost  
20146 Hamburg

Wednesday, 17 April 2019  
18.15h room 121



Universität Hamburg

Asien-Afrika Institut

