

CALL FOR PAPERS

Prisons, Punishment and Human Rights in Southeast Asia

Symposium on 21-23 November 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand

Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies & DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture

With this call we invite submissions of abstracts that explore empirically and conceptually the politics and practice of imprisonment across Southeast Asia.

Prisons and criminal justice systems worldwide are sites of contestation. As objects of social scientific enquiry, they offer a specific entry point to understanding state-society relations, the micro-dynamics of power in confined spaces, and the distribution of social harm.

It is well-documented that prisons are crucibles of inequality where prisoners' rights are violated, and pre-existing vulnerabilities are exacerbated. But much of what is known about the intersection between prisons, punishment and human rights in Southeast Asia comes from secondary literature. The social scientific literature is relatively sparse, and scholars are often working in relative isolation without the benefits of being part of a shared community.

With this symposium we aim to bring together and support a transdisciplinary network of scholars working on these issues across the region. Papers can be comparative or single-country based, historical or contemporary and we welcome proposals that innovatively address the methodological dilemmas of studying prisons and penalty within sensitive, politically charged contexts (including sites of confinement beyond prisons like education camps or migrant detention centres). We particularly encourage PhD students and early career researchers to submit abstracts. Collaborative research between scholars and activists/practitioners is also of special interest. Questions might include:

- What effects does imprisonment have on incarcerated people and their families in Southeast Asia?
- How are prisons gendered, raced and classed? Who is rendered imprisonable?
- How is political imprisonment used as the state's means of control in the context of democratic regression?
- How do penal systems deal with crises (for example pandemics, uprisings, etc.)?
- What innovative transformational practices targeting prisons are emerging from civil society?
- Where do we see signs of transformation from within in criminal justice and penal systems?
- How does human rights law and practice affect prison life? Do other discourses or norms challenge the abuse of power in sites of confinement?
- What are the politics and histories of imprisonment across the region?
- How do everyday prison life and structural dimensions of penal power intersect?
- What dilemmas do scholars face when studying prisons in the region?
- What scope is there for scholar/activist collaboration and synergy?

Send your **abstracts** (200-250 words) and/or inquiries to: ihrpoutreach@mahidol.edu

Final **deadline** for submissions is **31 August 2022**.

A limited number of travel and/or accommodation bursaries are available. Please indicate with reasons if such support might be required. Decisions on acceptance and possible financial support will be made within 3 weeks of the deadline.

Committee: Bencharat Sae Chua (IHRP), Tomas Max Martin and Andrew M. Jefferson (DIGNITY)