



Association of
Asian Social Science
Research Councils

SOCIAL SCIENCES IN ASIA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

25TH AASSREC BIENNIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

14-16 JUNE 2023 | SEOUL, KOREA

Social Sciences in Asia: Past, Present, and Future

The Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) was established in 1973 as an organization dedicated to promoting regional cooperation in the field of social sciences among Asia-Pacific countries. Comprised of national social science research councils, academies, and institutes, the organization holds biennial conferences with the aim of advancing local social sciences and fostering Asian identities within the field.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of its foundation, the AASSREC will host an international conference in Korea in 2023. The Korean Social Science Research Council (KOSSREC), which will serve as the chair of the AASSREC from 2022 to 2023, will collaborate with 14 Asian member countries to examine and address pressing social science challenges in pursuit of a better world.

This conference will also provide members of the AASSREC with a valuable opportunity to reflect on the progress and developments of Asian social sciences thus far and to deliberate on the role that social sciences currently plays in shaping policy in each country, as well as the direction that Asian social sciences should take in the future.

In addition, the conference will serve as a platform for considering Korean social science research and development in collaboration with the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities, and Social Sciences (NRC), which is under the Prime Minister's Office. The KOSSREC and the NRC have signed a business agreement on research exchange and mutual cooperation in the field of social science last year in July. As a follow-up, KOSSREC and NRC conducted several colloquiums to discuss the advancement of Korean social sciences.

The KOSSREC, which is a council of 15 social science societies, has been actively engaged in exploring the role and development direction of social science during this complex period of transformation, through hosting various policy forums and academic conferences. The organization has also made contributions to society through holding policy forums and academic conferences to discuss pressing issues of Korean society from the perspective of convergence studies. Building on the progress made in the previous year, the KOSSREC is committed to achieving significant results in the development of better Korean social science and further advancing Asian social science. We encourage interested parties to take part in the conference. Thank you.

1. Hosts and Brief Schedule

- (1) Date: June 14, 2023 (Wed)~ June 16, 2023 (Fri)
- (2) Venue: Yonsei University, Baekyang Nuri Grand Ballroom, Seoul, South Korea
- (3) Hosts: KOSSREC, AASSREC, NRC
- (4) Organizer: Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs
- (5) Sponsorship: DUCKIL, FUTRONIC, AMOREPACIFIC, HYUNDAI, Mirae Asset Securities, KOLON, KEB HANA BANK, LG Business Research, BOTANICSENS, PEGUEOT, Yonsei Business Research Institute, Yonsei University School of Business, College of Social Sciences
- (6) Attendance: 200 domestic and foreign experts
- (7) Brief Schedule:

Date	Schedule
June 14, 2023 (Wed)	Opening Ceremony, Conference Sessions 1,2,3, Dinner
June 15, 2023 (Thur)	Conference Sessions 4,5,6 Closing Ceremony, Dinner
June 16, 2023 (Fri)	Field study: the history of Korean social science.

2. Topic and Conference Sessions

“Social Sciences in Asia: Past, Present and Future”

Session 1: Asian Social Sciences in the Past: The background of the introduction of social sciences and how it has developed in Asia.

Sessions 2 & 3: Asian Social Sciences in the Present: Contending issues of social sciences, the discourse of social sciences, and the role of social sciences in policy making in each country.

Session 4: Asian Social Sciences in the Future: What direction should social sciences take in the future? How social sciences can contribute to society.

3. Participating Organizations

14 AASSREC Member Organizations:

1. Australia: Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia	8. Korea: Korean Social Science Research Council
2. Bangladesh: Social Science Research Council Bangladesh	9. Malaysia: Malaysian Social Science Association
3. China: Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	10. New Zealand: Royal Society Te Apārangi
4. India: Indian Council of Social Science Research	11. Philippines: Philippine Social Science Council
5. Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	12. Sri Lanka: National Science Foundation
6. Iran: Iranian Sociological Association	13. Thailand: National Research Council of Thailand
7. Japan: Science Council of Japan	14. Vietnam: Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences

1 Associate Member:

1. Chinese Taipei: Academia Sinica

OTHER

1. Korea: National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences (NRC)	2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
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4. Schedule

Tuesday 13 June 2023

Welcoming Reception (Invitation Only)	
Time	Venue
18:00~	The Plaza Hotel, 4th Floor, Maple Room

DAY 1 Wednesday 14 June 2023

※ [] AASSREC Member Organizations

Time	Venue	
08:00~09:00	Registration, Yonsei University, Baekyang Nuri Grand Ballroom	
Opening Ceremony		
Moderator: Joo Young Kwak (<i>Secretary General, KOSSREC</i>)		
09:00~09:10	Opening Remarks	Young-Ryeol Park (<i>President of Korean Social Science Research Council</i>)
09:10~09:20	Welcome Remarks	Hae-Gu Jung (<i>Chairperson, NRC Korea</i>)
09:20~09:30	Congratulatory Remarks	Tae Soo Lee (<i>President, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs</i>)
09:30~09:50	Keynote Speech 1 Changing Landscape of Post-Pandemic Asia: Globalization, Global Value Chains and Regionalism	Hyun-Chin Lim (<i>Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University</i>)
09:50~09:55	Keynote Speech 2 The Social and Human Sciences in a World of Rapid Obsolescence	Phinith Chanthalangsy (<i>Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Bangkok Office</i>) Via Zoom

Session 1: Asian Social Sciences in the Past		
Time	Topics	Moderator/Speakers (affiliation)
09:55~11:50	Moderator: Fleur Johns <i>(Professor, UNSW Sydney and 1st Vice-President of AASSREC)</i> [The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia]	
	Historical Review of Asian Studies in Japan during the Cold War and Beyond: American Social Sciences versus Marxism, Developmental States, and Challenges of Globalization	Chiharu Takenaka <i>(Former Professor, Rikkyo University)</i> [Science Council of Japan]
	Compressed Development of Social Sciences in Korea	Joon Han <i>(Former President, Korean Sociological Association)</i>
	Engaging the Diversity of Social Sciences in the Asia-Pacific Region: Focus on Climate, Environment, and Socio-Economic Development	Emma Porio <i>(Professor, Ateneo de Manila University)</i> [Philippine Social Science Council]
	Ka mua, ka muri (Looking backward into the future): academic development of social sciences in Oceania	Yvonne Underhill-Sem <i>(Associate Professor, University of Auckland)</i> [Royal Society Te Apārangi]
	The Development of Taiwanese Political Science and Its Critical Research Issues, 2000-2022	Chung-li WU <i>(Research Fellow and Director, Academia Sinica)</i> [Academia Sinica]
	More than a Sociological Association! A Critical Study into three decades of Iranian Sociological Association	Shirin Ahmadnia <i>(Associate Professor of Sociology, Allameh Tabataba'i University)</i> [Iranian Sociological Association]
	Discussion	All Speakers
11:50 – 13:00	Lunch at Grand Ballroom	

Session 2: Asian Social Sciences in the Present (Social Sciences and Policy Making)

13:00~14:40	Moderator: Dougro Lee <i>(President, The Korean Association for Public Administration)</i>	
	The Role and Function of the Third-party Evaluation of Rule of Law in China—From the Perspective of Impacts of Social Sciences on Decision-Making	Li Xia <i>(Professor, Law School of CASS University)</i> [Chinese Academy of Social Sciences]
	Morality-Money Trap: What Went Wrong with Thai Morals When Environmental Protection Policies Were Driven by Financial Incentive Measures	Sunida Aroonpipat <i>(Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University)</i> [National Research Council of Thailand]
	Bringing Social Sciences to the Fore: Impact of Social Science Research on Policy Making and Change in Contemporary India	Dr Anuja <i>(Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University)</i> [Indian Council of Social Science Research]
	The Responsibilities of Social Sciences in an Era of Great Power Rivalry	Hugh White, AO FASSA <i>(Emeritus Professor of Strategic Studies, The Australian National University)</i> [The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia]
	Korea's Place in the "Post-Covid 19" International Order	Ihn-hwi Park <i>(The Korean Association of International Studies)</i>
	Discussion	All Speakers
14:40 – 15:00	Tea Break	

Session 3: Asian Social Sciences in the Present (Social Sciences and Development)

15:00~16:40	Moderator: Ajin Choi <i>(President, The Korean Political Science Association)</i>	
	The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Production Sharing: Evidence of hard disk drive industry of Thailand	Archanun Kohpaiboon <i>(Professor, Thammasat University)</i> [National Research Council of Thailand] (
	The Roles of Social Sciences in Addressing Inequalities: Lessons learned from Southeast Asia's Social Sciences Responses to the Pandemic	Zulfa Sakhiyya* and Inaya Rakhmani** <i>*(Associate Professor, Universitas Negeri Semarang)</i> <i>** (Director, the Asia Research Centre, Universitas Indonesia)</i> [National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)]
	Building Public Trust: Examining the Legitimacy of the World Health Organization as a COVID-19-related Information Provider	JoonSeok Yang <i>(Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & Diplomacy, Sungkyunkwan University)</i>
	Inclusive and exclusive social science research in policy-making processes in authoritarianism: Cambodia's public policy making and COVID-19 response policies	Sokphea Young <i>(University College London)</i> Via Zoom
	Continuation, Disruptions, Construction. The Role of the Social and Human Sciences times of transformation in Southeast Asia	Phinith Chanthalangsy <i>(Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Bangkok Office)</i> Via Zoom
	Discussion	All Speakers
18:00	Dinner at Allen Hall* Hosted by Seung Hwan Suh (The President of Yonsei University) *(On the way to Allen Hall, a campus tour will be hosted by Yeonho Lee)	

DAY 2 Thursday 15 June 2023

Time	Venue	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration, Yonsei University, Baekyang Nuri Grand Ballroom	
Session 4: Asian Social Sciences in the Present (Challenges for the Social Sciences)		
Time	Topics	Moderator/Presenters(affiliation)
09:00~10:30	Moderator: Shu-min Huang <i>(Distinguished Chair & Professor, Institute of Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University)</i> [Academia Sinica]	
	Ageing Population, Social Security, and the Role of Social Sciences in Vietnam	Le Thanh Sang <i>(Senior Research Fellow, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences)</i> [Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences]
	The Two Types of Social Sciences and Their Roles in Understanding and Guiding the Evolution of a Nation, With Special Reference to Malaysia	Mohammad Hazim Shah <i>(Professor, Universiti Utara Malaysia)</i> [Malaysian Social Science Association]
	The current challenges faced by Asian Social Scientists	Nandita Saikia <i>(Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences)</i> [Indian Council of Social Science Research]
	The Impact of Single Households on Local Economy: Evidence from Korea's Demographic Trends	Hee-Seung Yang <i>(Professor, School of Economics, Yonsei University)</i>
	Discussion	
10:30 – 10:50	Tea Break	

Session 5: The Role of Think Tanks in Social Sciences (Hosted by NRC)

10:50~12:30	Moderator: Myung-Jae Moon <i>(Chairman of the National Strategic Research Committee, NRC)</i>	
	New challenges and role of think tanks in the era of transition and crisis: focusing on the history, structure and strategy of Korean national research institutes	Il-Pyo Hong <i>(Secretary-General, NRC)</i>
	Discussion	Tae Soo Lee <i>(President, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs)</i>
		Jong-Il You <i>(Dean, KDI School of Public Policy and Management)</i>
		JinYoung Choi <i>(President, Korean Psychological Association)</i>
		JinSook Choi <i>(Vice President, Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology)</i>
		Hugh White, AO FASSA <i>(Emeritus Professor of Strategic Studies, The Australian National University)</i> [The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia]
		Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti <i>(Researcher, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN))</i>
		Zhao Hai <i>(Director, International Political Studies, National Institute for Global Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)</i>

12:30 – 14:00	Lunch at Grand Ballroom	
Session 6: The Future of Asian Social Sciences		
14:00~15:30	Moderator: Jae-Gu Kim <i>(President, The Korean Academic Society of Business Administration)</i>	
	The Roles of Social Sciences and Humanities and its Intellectuals to Vietnam’s Socio-Economic Development: From the Past to Present	Hoang Thi Thuy An [Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences]
	Current Challenges and Future Opportunities Facing Social Science Researchers in Sri Lanka	Manjula Ranagalage <i>(Professor, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka)</i> [National Science Foundation]
	University Reform in Malaysia and the Role of Social Sciences in Higher Education	Sity Daud* and Dato’ Abdul Rahman Embong <i>*(President, Malaysian Social Science Association)</i> [Malaysian Social Science Association]
	Rethinking The Next Generation Architecture of Peace in Asia	Dr ZHAO Hai <i>(Director of International Political Studies, NIGS-CASS)</i> [Chinese Academy of Social Sciences]
	Discussion	All Speakers
15:30 – 16:00	Synthesis and Conclusion	Yeonho Lee <i>(Chairman, The Organizing Committee, AASSREC)</i>
16:00 – 16:10	Closing Remarks	Young-Ryeol Park, <i>(President of KOSSREC and AASSREC)</i>
16:10 – 17:40	AASSREC Business Meeting	Michelle Bruce, <i>(Secretary-General of AASSREC)</i>
18:00~	Dinner at SamcheongGak (Invitation only)	

5. Abstracts

DAY 1: Wednesday 14 June 2023

Session 1: Asian Social Sciences in the Past

Presenter
Professor Chiharu TAKENAKA Former Professor, College of Law and Politics, Department of Politics, Rikkyo University [Science Council of Japan]
Title
Historical Review of Asian Studies in Japan during the Cold War and Beyond: American Social Sciences versus Marxism, Developmental States, and Challenges of Globalization
Abstract
<p>A historical review of the development of Asian Studies in Japan after the end of WWII, during the Cold War, and in the age of globalization will highlight a unique intellectual trajectory: democratization and demilitarization of Japan, independence of nation-states and regional war, emergence of developmental states, Marxist and socialist critiques, and globalizing trends of liberalization and democratization as well as market economy since 1990s.</p> <p>Japan Association for Asian Studies (JAAS) was established in the mid-1950s, when Japanese struggled to seek an alternative path for their country. Educational and research institutions were reformed in the process of peace-building, and Asian Studies were tackled to overcome the previous ties with imperialism and militaristic nationalism. With the American support, Social Sciences together with Area Studies were introduced as scientific knowledge and tools of analysis. Interestingly, Marxism and socialism had substantial influence, and Janus-faced Asian Studies were constructed between the liberal discourse of American Social Sciences versus Marxist and socialist critiques.</p> <p>In 1960s and 1970s, political economy was transformed, and the focus of Asian Studies shifted to development: Japan's high growth, emergence of developmental dictatorships, and American hegemony during the Vietnam War. Leading American scholars engaged themselves in developmental studies, which were learned and practiced by Asian young elite. In 1980s and 1990s, Asia continued its growth: Japan became the second largest economy, the newly industrialized economies succeeded, and China shifted to capitalistic development led by the state. Still, unlike Europe, such development achieved without breaking down the walls of the Cold War and democratizing Communist states.</p> <p>In the 21st century, global society has been watching Asia: rise of China and India, emerging economies, and ASEAN diplomatic initiatives. Does it mean Asia will save the world? To find an answer, let's examine the past and present of our academic achievement.</p>

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Dr Emma Porio
Professor, Ateneo de Manila University
[Philippine Social Science Council]

Title

Engaging the Diversity of Social Sciences in the Asia-Pacific Region: Focus on Climate, Environment, and Socio-Economic Development

Abstract

Having inherited the Euro-American social scientific traditions, Asia-Pacific scholarship admittedly has a strong empirical positivist tradition. Post World War II (WW II) universities and other higher education institutions (HEIs) were modeled after universities in North America and Europe. More significantly, the expansion of HEIs after WW II and the opening of scholarships and other opportunities to be trained abroad for post-graduate education have greatly shaped the social science traditions in the region. In the same manner, these scholarly traditions also influenced the interrogation of the patterns of socio-economic and political development by Asian social scientists. From the mid to late 20th century, the instrumentalist model of knowledge production and mobilization of “other societies,” primarily to serve the dominant scholarship and interests of both the global South and North, was quite dominant with a few strands of “alternative” social science productions. But in the late 20th and early 21st century, a flourishing of KPM initiatives emerged, with scholarship focused largely on interrogating the political-economic and strategic interests of the state and society in the context of globalization.

On behalf of the Philippine Social Science Council, I propose a dialogic view of the inter-/transdisciplinary analysis of the social science knowledge production and mobilization (KPM) for evidence-based solutions-driven development, particularly in the intersectional trajectories of climate, environment, and social transformation. This paper will focus on the **historical-structural** dimensions of Asian social science engagements, highlighting the innovations in bridging science-policy-practice nexus in the social transformations of economy, society, and environment due to climate change and natural disasters and their impacts on the region. This is very important as the Asia-Pacific region is the most dynamic region, politically and economically speaking, while highly prone to climate change impact drivers (floods, heavy rainfall, droughts, sea level rise/SLR, etc.), which highly exacerbated the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This paper will also locate these historical-structural social science narratives within the making and the unfolding of the twin crisis of our time, climate and social inequality exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Thus, in examining the KPM innovations in bridging science-policy-practice nexus in the age of globalization of socio-economic development, I argue that social science KPM in the Asia-Pacific region must craft its own relatively autonomous trajectories of engagements with societal formations and the instrumentalities of the state and economy.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem
Pacific Studies, Te Wānanga of Waipapa / School of Maori Studies and Pacific Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Auckland
[Royal Society Te Apārangi]

Title

Ka mua, ka muri (Looking backward into the future): Academic Development of Social Sciences in Oceania

Abstract

Social science scholarship in Oceania (Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific) is diverse in its substantive focus (topics and subjects of concern), performative practice (undertaking and funding research, publishing, theorising and policy-making), and willingness to look backwards into the future. This diversity occurs despite convergences in understanding the heightened pace of change in economic, political, environmental and cultural processes and practices. Although there is a shared scholarly understanding that the reasons for these changes can no longer be reducible to entanglements of singular constructions of colonialism and capitalism, transformative scholarship is still the handmaiden to the consolidation of well-established knowledge systems. What is at stake for social sciences when these tensions play themselves out in the awarding of prestigious scholarships, research funds and accolades? What signals are sent to emerging scholars in the fertile spaces carved out by diverse critical scholarship? How do the legacies of dominant social science scholarship endure? In this paper, I look backward (*ka mua*) at social science scholarship in Oceania to identify how the social sciences in Oceania have produced these divergencies and what it signals for the future (*ka muri*) in terms of substantive focus, performative practice and willingness to walk backwards into the future.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Dr Chung-li WU
Research Fellow and Director, Institute of Political Science at Academia Sinica
[Academia Sinica]

Title

The Development of Taiwanese Political Science and Its Critical Research Issues, 2000-2022

Abstract

This study examines the development of political science as a discipline in Taiwan from 2000 to 2022. Based on research grants data provided by Taiwan's National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and the Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, I map the sociodemographic patterns and topical trends in Taiwanese political science from a macro perspective. Specifically, I investigate the following research questions: (i) Using a broad definition, how many Taiwanese scholars belong to the field of political science, and what are their sociodemographic, personal, and institutional characteristics? (ii) What types of political science research projects have been funded by

NSTC over the period, especially in terms of subfields, research project pass rates, and other criteria?
(iii) What are the discipline's most critical, prevailing, or forward-looking research topics, and how do these fit within political science's traditional subfields of international relations, political theory, comparative politics, and public administration? From this empirical analysis, I will endeavor to identify some important trends and opportunities as well as any gaps in knowledge and obstacles that Taiwanese political science research still faces today.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Dr Shirin Ahmadnia
Associate Professor of Sociology, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran
[Iranian Sociological Association]

Title

More than a Sociological Association!
A Critical Study into three decades of Iranian Sociological Association

Abstract

Iranian Sociological Association (ISA) has just recently entered its 4th decade of existence. The ground for its formation, its thereafter developments within a multi-ethnic vast society affected by a longstanding war, economic embargos, some socio-political unrest and upheavals of various kinds, have been the focus of this paper; a critical qualitative study into its achievements, ups and downs, popularity, and current position.

Taking a phenomenological approach methodologically, based on my own lived experience of 20 years of involvement in the association in positions such as a member of the board of directors, and as the scientific secretary of its national conferences, and based on my relevant research, interviews, reflections from my colleagues and students I respond to the above mentioned areas of inquiry.

I discuss inter alia; the contribution of ISA and its early key members to the survival and continuation of Sociology as a discipline, in spite of the early negative assumptions and criticisms against it in the country's formal academia (accusations of being Western-oriented and/or secular) following the 1979 revolution and the so called cultural revolution afterwards.

Apparently, among other functions as a scientific institution, ISA has also been trying to represent the civil society by playing a role of echoing or giving voice to those scholars who are restricted or excluded from the formal academic scenery. There have been demands for the association to be more responsive towards societal and intellectual expectations, and to take more active stands, in spite of ongoing challenges and restricting policies from above concerning the practice and activities of such scientific institutions in the country.

The association has shown to have promising potentials acting in reflection _ in a scientific manner _ to societal movements and progressions and the various expectations from the side of its members and nonmembers which still can evolve.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Session 2: Asian Social Sciences in the Present (Social Sciences and Policy Making)

Presenter
Professor LI Xia Deputy Director, Constitutional and Administrative Law Department of Institute of Law of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) [Chinese Academy of Social Sciences]
Title
The Role and Function of the Third-party Evaluation of Rule of Law in China—from the perspective of impacts of social sciences on decision-making
Abstract
The evaluation of the rule of law provides a rational means for governments, academia and other organizations to reflect on the practice of the rule of law, with the aim of intuitively demonstrating the operational status and actual level of the rule of law through a digital indicator system. It has been used as an important tool for national governance, and also one of the remarkable symbols of social rationalization. This evaluation inherits the tradition of western positivism governance, represents the mathematical turn of law, and has the characteristics of depoliticized technology neutrality. The advantages of the third-party mode come from its independence, professionalism and authority. At present, third-party evaluation, conducted by Institute of Law of CASS, Renmin university of China, China university of political science and law and other legal research institutions and university, has covered legislation, administration, legal profession, judicial transparency, law education and other fields. Through the third-party evaluation, social sciences played an important role in decision-making. Specifically, it has the function of democratic participation, supervision, interpretation, implementation and guidance; it can respond to top-level design, promote consensus on the rule of law, improve regulatory capacity, and provide a clearer blueprint for transforming the power structure, and it is also a new weapon to promote public decision-making, power supervision and comparative research. The interaction between the evaluator and the assess after the evaluation, including the ability to feedback the evaluation results, clarify the problems found, and put forward suggestions for improvement, have a good impact and promotion on the development of the rule of law. However, the problems existing in legal evaluation also have been noted in the academic circle, and the core problems may be summarized into two aspects: the neutrality of evaluation subject and the objectivity of technical operation. In order to increase the influence on decision-making, it is necessary to continuously improve evaluation indicators and methods, and construct a network evaluation model through horizontal overlap evaluation and longitudinal tracking evaluation.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Associate Professor Sunida Aroonpipat
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University.
[National Research Council of Thailand]

Title

Morality-Money Trap: What went wrong with Thai morals when environmental protection policies were driven by financial incentive measures

Abstract

Not only are Thai morals rooted in the specific context of Thai society, religion, and culture, but they have also been passed down from generation to generation until the moral principles pertaining to generosity and self-sufficiency have become the defining characteristics of Thai nationality. Even though these moral principles—generosity and self-sufficiency—are deeply ingrained in Thai culture, the Thai government must nonetheless strive to promote environmental protection and preservation. With policies and initiatives that are driven by "money," reflecting in the National Economic and Social Development Plans, the national-level plan that established the trajectory of Thailand's development in all dimensions. Since the seventh NESDP (1992-1996) until the current plan – the thirteenth NESDP (2023-2027), economic measures have been the primary mechanism that has driven environmental policies. As Thailand progressed toward Net Zero 2065 with the goal of becoming a low-carbon society, which serves as the government's guiding principle for its environmental initiative, this contradictory picture became more apparent.

This article aims to illustrate the dynamism of the development of Thai policies so that the formulation and past policy making may be comprehended. This will assist in reflecting Thailand's situation that remained trapped in the "morality and money trap," which Thai citizens are unable to make morality the norm during the transition to a low-carbon society. However, economic measures that use "money" as an incentive continue to be the more effective means of changing behavior. The incongruence between the development of Thai morals and environmental issues presents impediments. Self-sufficiency and the low-carbon society are incompatible. Additionally, self-sufficiency is normalized in Thai culture. This trap has been pervasive in Thai society, resulting in the limitation of low-carbon society – aligned policies and initiatives as well as the substitution of economically – driven policies. At the same time, it diminished the significance of morality promotion in accordance with ever changing context and global dynamism.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Dr Anuja
Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University
[Indian Council of Social Science Research]

Title

Bringing Social Sciences to the Fore: Impact of Social Science Research on Policy Making and Change in Contemporary India

Abstract

The gap between sciences and social sciences is presumed to be a gap between practical knowledge and theoretical apprehension and the misplaced superiority of former over the latter has been a global phenomenon. The role of social sciences in policy making stems from the fact that it reflects the social realities and phenomena making the implications highly pertinent to implement and emulate. The same applies in the Indian context where oftentimes social science research leads to policy making geared towards social change. In other words knowledge (gained through social science) begets policy. One such example of this phenomenon is the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which tries to fundamentally alter and revitalise the education system to effectively cater to the social realities of the country. Social Science Research has been given a significant place in the NEP in conjunction with its counterpart in science and technology. Social science facilitates and provides ground and context for the scientific and technological innovations to step in and tackle the many social issues.

Social sciences have come a long way since independence when its very inception was based on western ideas and reflected western, anglocentric notions of India. In contemporary times social sciences in India by and large, mirror the real nuances of society be it low sex ratio and female literacy (leading to policies like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao), low female political representation (spawning in the formalisation of Panchayati Raj Institution in 1992), low female labour force participation (leading to various initiatives encouraging women entrepreneurs like MUDRA Yojna, Bharatiya Mahila Bank Business loan etc). These implications have been reached through exhaustive probing done within the framework of social sciences. The present government of India in their efforts to revitalize their approach towards development have emphasized not only on the disparateness of sciences and social sciences but the overlaps between them and holds the latter as key to solving social, economic and political issues clouding the country.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Professor Hugh White, AO FASSA
 Emeritus Professor of Strategic Studies, School of International, Political & Strategic Studies,
 The Australian National University
 [The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia]

Title

The Responsibilities of Social Sciences in an Era of Great Power Rivalry

Abstract

It is clear from events both in Europe and East Asia that we are living through an era of intensifying political and strategic rivalry between great powers. In Europe today these rivalries have already led to a major conflict which carries an evident risk of further escalation into a great power war, while in East Asia the growing danger of major war is well-recognised. In both regions there is evident potential for major conflict to escalate across the nuclear threshold, with catastrophic results. The management of these rivalries and the avoidance of these dangers is among the most urgent and vital tasks for policymakers not just in the governments of the great powers themselves but among middle and smaller powers too, and nowhere is this more pressing than in East Asia.

This poses a challenge and a responsibility for a range of disciplines among the Social Sciences. We must consider how best to help policymakers understand the risks and opportunities they face and the options available to address them. Historians, political scientists, economists, international relations scholars and many others can contribute to this work. That work is all the more demanding because the resurgence of great power rivalry as a major factor in international affairs seems so contrary to the expectations that have characterised the decades since the end of the Cold War. It requires us both to reacquaint ourselves with the ideas and analyses that emerged in the long decades of strategic and economic contestation before 1989, and also to searchingly assess the differences between earlier episodes of great power rivalry and those we face today.

In this paper I will attempt to sketch the kind of contribution that the social sciences might make to policymaking on these questions and how it might be informed by both the similarities and differences between today and some the darker periods of the 20th Century.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Session 3: Asian Social Sciences in the Present (Social Sciences and Development)

Presenter
Associate Professor Archanun Kohpaiboon Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University [National Research Council of Thailand]
Title
The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Production Sharing: Evidence of hard disk drive industry of Thailand
Abstract
This paper examines the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on global production sharing in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states. Product-level analysis – on hard disk drives, air conditioners, microwaves, televisions, washing machines, and automotive parts – is undertaken to examine trade patterns between January 2019 and December 2022. The key finding suggests that the pandemic caused parts shortages, but this effect has been short-lived. There is no strong evidence that multi-national enterprises have altered their supply chains or means of sourcing parts and components in response to the pandemic. There are some indications of MNEs to move away from China, but whether this reflects the ‘COVID-19 effect’ or the trade war between China is not clear. COVID-19, a once in a century event, itself may not be a compelling reason for dramatically restructure supply chain management relating to global production sharing, which has been a structural phenomenon driving economic globalisation.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenters
Dr Zulfa Sakhiyya* and Dr Inaya Rakhmani** *Associate Professor at the Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Semarang **Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Director of the Asia Research Centre, Universitas Indonesia
Title
The Roles of Social Sciences in Addressing Inequalities: Lessons learned from Southeast Asia’s Social Sciences Responses to the Pandemic
Abstract
For the Asian social sciences and more globally, much could be learned from the largest health crisis of the 21st century: the COVID-19 pandemic. Literature has shown how the pandemic exposed deep social inequalities and new vulnerabilities. Our presentation is based on an 11-country study in Southeast Asia, i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. Our research focuses specifically on how social science was mobilised by different state and societal actors during the pandemic. Our comparative analysis, grounded on finding similarities and patterns between countries, reveals that social sciences

are marginal in influencing policy. The minimal involvement of social research in government policymaking and pandemic response is due to the assumption that pandemic is merely medical and security issues, overlooking its socio-cultural dimensions. In addition to that dominant view, not only that social sciences are often perceived to be of little economic value, but also because critical input and independent research findings are seen as hostile criticism rather than constructive feedback, especially regarding social protection responses for the poor and disadvantaged. In cases where social scientists are involved, they tend to come from technocratic and positivistic leanings. While having its strengths (e.g., generalisability) and weaknesses (e.g., ignoring uniqueness), such approaches have largely ignored minority groups who are usually made even more vulnerable by the multidimensional health crisis.

Our presentation aims to reflect on lessons learned from the pandemic from the experience of Asian scholars, with hopes that it would contribute to broader debates on how to place knowledge and collaboration at the centre of systemic efforts to build more resilient societies. Critical social scientists in Southeast Asia have been engaged in social movements with grass root activists and other stakeholders. For example, as evident in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, social scientists, academics, and communities work together to create everyday pantries and health access up to a granular village level that cannot be provided directly by the state. They can do this notably because they do not rely on state interventions to provide those services to people who need it the most. The lesson learned that can be studied across these countries is that social resilience at the ground that is actually apparent across countries happen outside of state intervention, state policies, and formal links between science academies, universities, and policymaking. This resilience occurs despite the state. In addition, other social activism done by critical social scientists is that they render the governments accountable in their policies and for providing adequate health and social services to those most affected by the pandemic. These findings highlight the roles of social science and policymaking by asking: “What kind of sciences are we mainstreaming into policymaking?”

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Dr Sokphea Young
University College London, UK

Title

Inclusive and exclusive social science research in policy-making processes in authoritarianism:
Cambodia’s public policy making and COVID-19 response policies

Abstract

This paper explores how social science research contributes to policy making, analysing the politics of institutional exclusion and inclusion between social science research, policy making and the Covid-19 response policies in Cambodia. Informed by media observation, interviews, and other available data on the internet, this paper argues that the extent to which social science research shapes policy making, especially in Covid-19 response policies, is facilitated, or constrained, by the power relation between the extra-institutional actors and the institutional actors. Academic and policy evaluation research is often considered an extra-institutional effort whose research may or may not be opted

for by the official institutions of the government and whose research capabilities, manifested by a few of its research institutions, have not been well established. Given the socio-political environment in which Cambodia is known as hegemonic authoritarianism, the institutional actors consider social science-based critical research findings of the extra-institutional actors, such as critical scholars, think tanks, and non-governmental organisations, as an intrusion of power other than constructive support to the policy-making process. Social science research in the policy-making process of authoritarianism is a catch-all but political process of inclusion and exclusion in which the latter refers to critical social science, whereas the former is a co-opted political social science: government-affiliated scholars, universities and research institutions. The co-opted political social science tends to compromise ethical practices in social science research methods.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Phinith Chanthalangsy
Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Bangkok Office

Title

Continuation, Disruptions, Construction. The Role of the Social and Human Sciences times of transformation in Southeast Asia

Abstract

In the South-East Asian increasingly diverse, open, and interconnected societies, there are many intriguing interrogations to be raised when embracing the current development models, as well as future possible alternatives. Are we facing continuation, or major disruptions? How could we construct a possible future and narratives on the backdrop of acute crises? The region has witnessed rapid transformations of the societies, an impressive economic boom over decades, the environmental evolution and degradation, the aspirations of the youth to take a share in the modernity, the regional integration dynamics, and the willingness to preserve the cultural heritage and traditions of the nations.

Such profound and rapid transformations open some key philosophical questions as to how the said societies understand their own identify and trajectories, invent their models, engage with others in the region and in the world, and project themselves into the future in a context of global uncertainties. This paper will discuss how UNESCO should engage with the regional actors to harness the unique power of the social and human sciences to conceive new models of thinking and of development, and to prepare the next generations to live in an ever more complex world.

[Return to Schedule](#)

DAY 2: Thursday 15 June 2023

Session 4: Asian Social Sciences in the Present (Challenges for the Social Sciences)

Presenter
Dr Le Thanh Sang Senior researcher, Southern Institute of Social Sciences, Vietnam [Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences]
Title
Ageing Population, Social Security, and the Role of Social Sciences in Vietnam
Abstract
<p>Ageing population is becoming a common trend in many Asian countries. As a low-middle-income country, the rapidly aging population poses many challenges in terms of social security and policy solutions for Vietnam in the coming time. Social sciences play an important role in understanding patterns of aging population, living conditions of the elderly, and social security needs, thereby providing policy recommendations for aging societies. This paper provides an overall analysis of above issues in Vietnam to date and discusses their prospects.</p> <p>The Vietnam census in 2019 indicated that the proportion of people aged 60 and above accounted for 11.9% of the population and expected to account for 26.1% of the population in 2049. The aging population in Vietnam showed a trend of feminization and a long but unhealthy life expectancy. Social security policies, although improved significantly, only meet the vital needs of the elderly. Meanwhile, the needs of the elderly are increasingly diverse and unmet needs account for a high proportion. The elderly in Vietnam have little savings and a low participation rate in social insurance while the role of the traditional social safety net is decreasing. The process of urbanization and rural-urban migration also creates specific types of family arrangements, in which the elderly lack the support of adult children. Vietnamese society and Vietnamese elderly are also not fully prepared to actively adapt to the trend of rapidly aging population. Understand the specific needs of the elderly associated with Vietnam's socio-economic and demographic processes and propose policy solutions that can effectively utilize resources from stakeholders to meet the needs of the elderly are the key tasks that social sciences of Vietnam need to focus on. These studies enrich the understanding of ageing population and social security in Asia from Vietnam practice.</p>

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Professor Mohammad Hazim Shah
School of Languages, Civilisation, and Philosophy, Universiti Utara Malaysia
[Malaysian Social Science Association]

Title

The Two Types of Social Sciences and Their Roles in Understanding and Guiding the Evolution of a Nation, With Special Reference to Malaysia

Abstract

The relevance of the social sciences in policy making is often thought to lie in the ‘hard’ social sciences such as economics, econometrics, and applied sociology. The means by which such influence (of the social sciences) is transmitted is through think tanks—whether governmental or private—the inclusion of academics in government, either through projects commissioned by the government or through secondment/co-option of academics in the public sector, and through non-governmental organisations. However, there seems to be lesser recognition for the importance of, and the role played by the ‘soft’ social sciences and the humanities, such as social anthropology, history, philosophy, and literature, in understanding the nature of society and the nation, and hence their relevance in policy making and nation-building. In this paper, I give an outline of the nature of the two different types of social sciences, their advantages and disadvantages, and the complementary roles they play in the analysis of society. A diagnosis of why the hard social sciences is privileged over the soft social sciences is given, and correspondingly an argument for the significance of the soft social sciences and a plea for its greater emphasis is put forward. Finally, I argue that the differences between eastern and western societies and cultures, despite globalization and the inclusion of some Asian countries in the First World, further warrants an emphasis on the soft social sciences in understanding the nature and evolution of Asian countries. In making my case, I will illustrate my point by giving specific references and examples from the Malaysian nation by giving a broad sweep of its evolution from a colonial to a post-colonial state.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Professor Nandita Saikia
Professor in Public Health and Mortality Studies at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai
[Indian Council of Social Science Research]

Title

The current challenges faced by Asian Social Scientists

Abstract

The importance of social science research has been continuously increasing in Asian countries due to the presence of economic superpowers, its total share of the world population (about 60%), unprecedented migration, inter-country cooperation vs conflicts, intra-country inequalities in health outcomes and emerging issues due to climate change. Yet, in my presentation, I critically argue that

Asian countries still have a disproportionate share of social science research due to many ongoing challenges. The foremost challenge to carrying out social science research in Asia is minimal financial support by the government along with a lack of funding agencies based in countries other than America and Europe. Secondly, the domination of western intellectual theories and narratives (starting from the colonial era) still forbids innovations or proposals of a new theoretical framework that fits the context of Asian countries. Thirdly, the limited presence of a Centres of excellence for training researchers in Asian regions creates a vicious cycle of poor ecosystems or networks that are needed for the strong presence of Asian scientists across the world. Fourthly, inequality across social science disciplines (some subjects overshadows others); under-representation of some Asian countries such as Middle Eastern Countries, and countries affected by war say Afghanistan, Syria, and Lebanon, and under-representation of certain social-religious-linguistic research. Finally, intervention of government bodies in many Asian countries pause as a serious challenge to the social scientists in Asia. At the end of the paper, I throw light on how some of these challenges may be minimised.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Session 6: The Future of Asian Social Sciences

Presenter

Ms. Hoang Thi Thuy An,
Institute of Philosophy, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
[Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences]

Title

The Roles of Social Sciences and Humanities and its Intellectuals to Vietnam's Socio-economic Development: From the Past to Present

Abstract

The paper would like to discuss the changing roles of social sciences and humanities intellectuals to the development of Vietnam in the past and at present, then points out the severe situation that social sciences has been facing recently. I would like to take the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (international transaction name, VASS) as a practical instance for the analysis in this paper since the Academy used to be and is one of the leading research institutes in Vietnam, directed and assigned by the Government. As can be seen, the time of 70 years forming, developing and affirming its roles to Vietnam's social science and humanities is quite long. I would discuss the changes of the roles in 2 periods. The first one is before Doi moi (1986) and the second one is after Doi moi as Doi moi reform witnessed the remarkable shift in every sector of Vietnam's socio-economic development and scientific community.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Professor Manjula Ranagalage,
Head of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
[National Science Foundation]

Title

Current Challenges and Future Opportunities Facing Social Science Researchers in Sri Lanka

Abstract

About 102 years have passed since the beginning of social sciences teaching at Sri Lankan incivilities. Many scholars have researched social sciences subjects, and their research findings have been published in national and international journals from the past to the present. In Sri Lanka, the Arts and Social Sciences and Humanities faculties mainly conduct research related to social sciences. Among them, geography, economics, archeology, sociology, political science, and international relations play a vital role. However, with Corona pandemic and the economic crisis directly affected to make the threats to social sciences researchers. Economic crisis, unemployment of social science graduates, and strict financial controls have greatly influenced this situation. The lack of quantitative research done in this regard has had a very negative impact on decision-making. Thus, the primary purpose of the study is to identify the current challenges faced by social sciences researchers to find opportunities for them in the future. About 200 social sciences researchers from 08 public universities in Sri Lanka were selected for the study, and this data was collected through a questionnaire addressed to them 20 key researchers were selected for interviews. The main key findings will be informed to the university administration of the selected universities and the university grant commission. The researcher strongly believes that this study's findings will help policymakers introduce proper remedial measures to control the opposing challenges of social sciences researchers who have faced many challenges in the future and give them the solutions they need.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter/Authors

Professor Sity Daud, PhD* and Emeritus Professor Abdul Rahman Embong, PhD
*Professor of Political Economy and Deputy Dean (Industry and Community Network Affairs),
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
[Malaysian Social Science Association]

Title

University Reform in Malaysia and the role of Social Sciences in Higher Education

Abstract

University reform in Malaysia is a timely and highly necessary move to realise Malaysia's long-held aspiration to make the transition from the "middle income" trap and become a rich and developed nation in this decade in accordance with the recent forecast by the World Bank. The scholarly progress and standards of Malaysian universities have been put on trial for several decades. This has been especially so following the implementation of the repressive University and University Colleges Act

1971 (and its Amendments in 1975) which curtailed academic freedom and university autonomy, and indirectly fostered a culture of fear, sycophancy and self-censorship among not a few in academia. Matters became more challenging since the 1990s when the university's governing ideology, has been captured by the market-driven neoliberal agenda. Its obsession with university ranking and the so-called high impact indexed journals has serious consequences in terms of promoting critical scholarship in Malaysian social science. Social sciences in particular have been undermined by these developments, and treated not at par with S&T disciplines in various ways, such as funding for research and publication, regardless of the former's central contributions to national development. With the new Unity Government in power in Malaysia led by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim since November 24th, 2022 with promises of institutional reforms, a ray of hope for university reform seems to open up as indicated in the policy speeches by the new Higher Education Minister. This paper will discuss these developments and position Malaysian social science along the path of the proposed university reform.

[Return to Schedule](#)

Presenter

Dr ZHAO Hai
Director of International Political Studies, National Institute for Global Strategy, CASS
[Chinese Academy of Social Sciences]

Title

Rethinking The Next Generation Architecture of Peace in Asia

Abstract

Cold War history and geopolitics seem to be returning to our world and the Eurasia continent is once again becoming a "Grand Chessboard" for great power politics. What can Asian social scientists learn from the past and contribute to peace and prosperity in the future? The time between the end of WWII and the War on Terror in Asia could be roughly tailored into two eras: the era of revolution and war and the era of relative peace and rapid development. The geostrategic arrangements that centered around integrating China into the global market guaranteed a long peace across the Cold War and the "unipolar moment", but the seismic change are shaking up the architecture of peace in Asia today. Meanwhile, Chinese social scientists are increasingly self-aware of the Western empirical base in social theories that were popular and dominant in the last four decades. Recent Chinese efforts to advocate new security concepts largely covered in the Global Security Initiative reflected the general trend in China to leverage Chinese and Asian history to rethink the modern ideas that underpinned political economic structures of our region. The theoretical reconstruction begins at home by focusing on the "Chinese path to modernization", but with more nations seeking to modernize on the back of their own culture, history and resource endowment, it is natural that Asian countries have very different visions of how to build peace in the future. For China, the vision of "common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security" is not mere political statement to challenge the Western "rule-based international order", but an attempt to fundamentally achieve long-term peace collectively through regional awakening to the limitations and unsustainability of the "pax Americana" in Asia. The future is not settled by vague historical traps, but generated by

interactions of choices, and we social scientists have an obligation to illuminate future choices with thousands of years of wisdom and lessons.

[Return to Schedule](#)