

EuroSEAS Panel Proposal 2019

Title: Charity and Volunteerism in Southeast Asia

Co-conveners:

Kerstin Schiele, University of Bonn (SchieleKerstin@web.de)

Sara Ann Swenson, Syracuse University (sara.ann.swenson@gmail.com)

Panel Description:

As economies across Southeast Asia rapidly expand and change, social service needs are also growing. In response, local volunteerism is on the rise. Through this panel, presenters will compare international and grassroots charity programs in Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand. Papers will include ethnographic research on nation-wide youth charity programs by the Communist Party of Vietnam, Catholic housing cooperatives in the Philippines, humanitarian organizations working with refugees in Thailand, and Buddhist “charity tours” to visit ethnic minority groups in Vietnam.

The panel will examine how local and grassroots volunteer initiatives challenge academic critiques of humanitarianism as flowing from the Global North to Global South. Presenters will also compare how charity groups respond to social service needs produced through unique local, national, and religious contexts. Finally, panelists will consider how charity and volunteerism are shaped – productively or destructively – by national visions of civic duty and ethnic status.

Single Session (4 Presenters, No Discussant)

Tentative Panelists:

Kerstin Schiele (University of Bonn, Southeast Asian Studies)

Sara Swenson (Syracuse University, Religious Studies)

Jordana Ramalho (London School of Economics and Political Science, Human Geography and Urban Studies) or Therese Gagnon (Syracuse University, Anthropology)

Christopher Millora (University of East Anglia, Development)