

Round table proposal

Convener: Silvia Vignato, Università di Milano-Bicocca.

State welfare, in its double meaning of social protection and health care, is at the heart of contemporary nation states. Since the early 2000, all Southeast Asian countries have developed policies of welfare, which consider its urgency and its very high political value.

This roundtable will seek a comparative approach among different Asean countries in the light of two major mobilities which tend to structure the region as a shared space: labour mobility and health mobility.

We invite researchers of social welfare in different countries to explore national welfare on three levels: the inspiring principles, the relationship with private agencies and the ordinary, grassroots practice. The presenters will sketch one of these aspects and then contextualise it in the country and in a specific locality.

The questions which are asked are: is there a specific Southeast Asian style in welfare policies? Is “neo-liberal” an adequate term to frame the state-private relationship? Is labour doomed to be origin-bound, and secured only by the state of origin of the workers? What subjects/citizens result of such elements?

Participants who have already accepted the invitation:

Michele Ford (Indonesia, Myanmar)

Claudio Sopranzetti (Thailand)