

EuroSEAS 2019 Panel Proposal

(1) Title: “Sickness and the City in Vietnam”

(2) Convener: Sara Swenson, Syracuse University
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(3) Abstract:

This panel compares contemporary responses to physical and mental illness in urban Vietnam. Panelists will explore how residents of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City navigate personal, communal, and institutional responsibilities around medical diagnoses. Papers examine how factors like the state, religion, urban development, import products, and changing family structures contribute to public perceptions of health. What causes mental and physical illness? Who is responsible for healing and preventing illnesses, from depression to cancer?

Papers are based on ethnographic research projects including social workers, hospital employees, psychologists, religious leaders, charity volunteers, medical patients, and their familial or hired caretakers.

(4) Double session (2 x 90 min.): 6 presenters

Tentative panelists:

Ann Marie Leshkovich (College of the Holy Cross, Anthropology)

Allen Tran (Bucknell University, Anthropology)

Martha Lincoln (San Francisco State University, Anthropology)

Maria Stalford (Harvard University, Anthropology)

Dat Nguyen (Boston University, Anthropology)

Sara Swenson (Syracuse University, Religious Studies)

(5) No discussant