

Military coup in Myanmar: developments within the opposition.

Conveners: Helene Maria Kyed and Michael Lidauer

We have chosen the classic panel as we would like in-depth analysis of the topic, with paper presenters.

Description of the Panel

On 1 February 2021, the Myanmar military staged a coup and overturned the civilian government under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi before the start of a new term. Ten years of democratic transition ended overnight. Since then, the military has faced strong and broad-based resistance which spans across ethnic, religious, class-based and generational divides in the country. To begin with, this took the form of large-scale and innovative street protests, online campaigns, and a broad-based civil disobedience movement (CDM) comprising public and private sector workers who refuse to work under a military regime. Among CDM members are also police officers and soldiers. Since April, the opposition to the military has become more politically organized, with the formation of the National Unity Government (NUG) operating in exile and pledging for a new federal democracy. Simultaneously, armed resistance and people's defense forces (PDFs) have emerged, resulting in new sites of violence and country-wide conflict. This panel will include presentations that explore the evolution of the opposition to the military, its diversity, challenges, and tactics.

Single session (90 Minutes)

Papers:

Helene Maria Kyed (DIIS, Copenhagen), "Soldier and Police defections since the coup"

Marte Nilsen (PRIO, Oslo), "Fighting the evil: Popular culture and traditional knowledge in the resistance movements of Myanmar"

Salai Samuel Cung Za (ANU, Australia) "Old Conflict, New Phenomenon: The Emergence of Local Defence Forces/People's Defence Forces after the Myanmar Coup."

Myat Thet Thitsar (Nyan Corridor and DIIS), "Towards a new federal democracy in Myanmar: multilateral political dialogues in the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC)"

Discussant: Gerard McCarthy (Singapore National University).