

Prisons as a sociopolitical project in Southeast Asia

Convener

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Format

Double session (flexible end-of-the-day time).

Set up

The workshop aims to set up a frame for studying policies and practices of imprisonment in Southeast Asian countries. Participants can be active researchers of various disciplines, students, planners or other professional characters. They can be part of ongoing researches on related topics or aspiring to start in the domain.

The workshop is interactive. No formal presentation is required while sharing all kind of materials is welcome. Presenters from relevant panels are invited. While there is no idea of publication, in the long run the workshop might lead to specific projects.

1st step. Reconnaissance. Participants write to the organiser and describe their interest and focus. This will enable the organiser to sketch out what kind of researches and actions are going on within and beyond Euroseas members. Depending on the outcome, the organiser (and, maybe, a volunteering co-organiser) will structure the first meeting of the workshop.

2nd step. Brainstorming. A discussion will take place on the possible approaches to the main topics of prison research. As an example, and by all means not a prescriptive example:

- Sites of imprisonment: how prisons occupy and organize a territory, how the colonial and post-colonial (cold war for example) legacy reverberates in actual sites.
- Prison pain as an ethic dilemma: how does a local/national society conceive of prison suffering? How do moral institutions and associations (religious, caring, gender-oriented) deal with it? What are the differences and the analogies in SEA countries?
- Gender, sexuality and reproduction: as completely gendered spaces, prisons reframe gender performances and imaginaries. What happens during and after imprisonment in this regard? What happens to “prison families”?
- Spaces of illegality and criminality: what relationship do prison hold with the criminal environment that they cater for? To what extent drug dealing/anti-drug policies are a structural part of policies of imprisonment?
- Pandemics and imprisonment.
- Shades of freedom: does the lack of freedom which defines imprisonment begin upon entering prisons (or camps or other confinements)?

The discussion will question how these or other prison topics can be studied in Southeast Asia.