(**1**) **Title:** *Ethics, Affect and Moral Judgement amidst Momentous Change in Laos*

(**2**) **Conveners:** Dr. Paul-David Lutz **(**Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains, Université Libre de Bruxelles **;** pauldavid.lutz@ulb.be)

Dr. Rosalie Stolz (Global South Studies Center and Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Cologne; Rosalie.Stolz@uni-koeln.de)

(**3**) **brief description and explanation of the chosen format, max. ½ page**

This proposed double-session panel composes of six presenters sharing unique and novel research under a common theme, followed by Q&A. This panel brings together academics who have completed their PhD research within the last ten years and who aim at contributing to diversifying social science research on Laos. Apart from scholarly exchange, this panel is intended to strengthen the cooperation among colleagues working on Laos in different countries of Europe and to build up future research and network initiatives across Europe and beyond.

(**4**) **brief description of panel, max. ½ page,**

This double-session panel answers recent calls for “continued and heightened attention” to the way culturally-specific concepts and values animate politics as lived in Laos today (High 2022:55). It will offer a series of ethnographic case studies that highlight the role of affect and ethical judgement in engagements with socio-economic transformation in contemporary Laos. This panel enquires into the culturally-specific resources, narratives and histories people in Laos draw on to make sense of and morally evaluate fast-paced change in their everyday lives. What role do affect, aesthetics, memories and histories play in these ethical judgements? How do sentiments like awe, scepticism, fear, aspiration and nostalgia shape commentary on/engagement with ongoing social, cultural and economic transformations?

Tackling these questions, this panel will take a participant observation-based approach, showing how values and locally/culturally-specific concepts connect with how things “really happen”. Supplementing political economy and political science approaches, it highlights the importance of ethnographic approaches to the study of politics, public opinion and ethics in Laos and the region more broadly.

This panel is open to submissions.

(**5**) **Presenters**

1. Giulio Ongaro (London School of Economics): When new shamans enter the scene: traditional customs and ecstatic healing among the Akha of northwestern Laos.
2. Floramante Ponce (Université libre de Bruxelles): Refrigeration after Relocation: How A Resettled Community Domesticates Refrigerators in Northern Laos.
3. Phill Wilcox (Bielefeld University): “The railway brings China closer, but also further away”: ethnographic observations on the Laos-China Railway and the (re)making of neighbour relations.
4. Thippaphone Xayavong (University of Warwick): Unwellness beyond disease: The broader perspective of health in Yru community
5. Paul-David Lutz (Université libre de Bruxelles): Becoming Lowlanders – (Agri-)Cultural Change and Ambivalent Nostalgia among Khmu in northern Laos
6. Rosalie Stolz (University of Cologne): Emerging ethnographic perspectives on Laos, a discussion.
7. TBA
8. TBA