1. **Title:** Political influence operations through social media in SEA
2. **Convener:** Dr. Kris Ruijgrok, KITLV & UvA, [k.ruijgrok@uva.nl](mailto:k.ruijgrok@uva.nl)
3. **Format:** In this dual panel, our objective is to bring together scholars researching online influence operations, also referred to as "computational propaganda," in South-East Asia. The panel is convened by Kris Ruijgrok, who collaborates with Prof. Ward Berenschot (KITLV/UvA) and Yatun Sastramidjaja in coordinating an interdisciplinary, multi-method research project on online influence operations in SEA. Several scholars from our existing networks have expressed interest in participating, and we aim to offer a platform for others intrigued by the topic to present their work and engage in idea exchange.
4. **Panel:** Over the past decade, there has been a significant surge in online influence operations aimed at manipulating public opinion, posing a substantial and growing threat to democracy. This threat is particularly pronounced in Southeast Asia, where high social media penetration and low newspaper readership create ideal conditions for the flourishing of "buzzers" in Indonesia, "trolls" in the Philippines, or "information operations" in Thailand. In this panel, we delve into the diversity of influence operations across SEA, with a specific focus on the personal trajectories of those involved, their day-to-day practices, the strategies and tactics employed, and the organization and funding of their networks. We explore the causes and consequences of the variation in online influence operations, discussing, among other aspects, the extent of private sector involvement, whether it is a unipolar (state-led) or multipolar (involving various candidates/parties) phenomenon, and the degree of institutionalization within the operating networks.
5. **Double session**, including the following presenters:
   1. Kris Ruijgrok (KITLV, UvA)
   2. Niki Cheong (Kings College)
   3. Chonlawit Sirikupt (University of Tübingen)
   4. Aim Sinpeng (University of Sidney)
   5. Dien Nguyen An Luong (University of Michigan)
   6. ….
   7. ….
   8. ….
6. **Discussants:** Ward Berenschot (KITLV/UvA) & Yatun Sastramidjaja (UvA)