**Title:** Politics on the Page: Southeast Asian Representation(s) in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Print Media

**Convenor**: Dr Bernard Z. Keo, Assistant Professor in International History and Politics, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, [bernard.keo@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:bernard.keo@graduateinstitute.ch)

**Session Type:** Single Session

**Participants:**

* Ana Rosa Marginson, PhD Candidate in History at Deakin University
* Anna Wilkinson, PhD Candidate in History at Deakin University
* *Discussant* – Professor Dr Susie Protschky, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, [s.protschky@vu.nl](mailto:s.protschky@vu.nl)

**Chosen Format:** Classical Panel. The proposed panel will consist of individual early-career scholars from different backgrounds and levels of experience and will provide the opportunity for them to share their research in a collegial environment. In particular, two prospective members are current PhD candidates that have not yet had the opportunity to develop the core skill of presenting at an international conference. This is intended to be a smaller, more focussed panel which will give the PhD students important experience in delivering their papers, handling Q&A, and receiving feedback on their projects from the discussant and audience as well as giving them the opportunity to make connections and establish their networks. As part of assisting in the continued professional development of the two PhD candidates, the convenor and discussant have also involved both students in the process of developing the panel in terms of writing the abstract for both the panel and their own presentations.

**Abstract:** Over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Southeast Asians became subjects of increasing attention in print media both within and outside the region. Southeast Asia itself was home to vibrant overlapping print cultures with both colonial and vernacular origins, which as the groundbreaking work of Benedict Anderson has demonstrated, played a critical role in defining the identities of the dizzying array of communities that call the region home. But more than that, Southeast Asians also came to be defined by reportage outside the region as imperial powers with an interest in the region—both directly and indirectly—sought to understand its peoples.

This panel explores the ways in which Southeast Asians defined themselves and were defined by others within the pages of nineteenth- and twentieth-century newspapers and magazines. More specifically, the three papers investigate a diverse range of case studies ranging from hybridised overseas Chinese communities seeking to articulate particular ideas about nationalism and belonging to Southeast Asian war brides of Australian servicemen to Filipino bodies between American and Japanese efforts to police them through public health messaging. They are ultimately unified in their desire to generate new insights into the ways in which the identities of the people of Southeast Asia were shaped and reshaped in print.

In the interest of mentorship and professional development, this panel is composed primarily of early-career scholars at different stages of experience and would be interested in recruiting others to join the panel. There is a preference for other early-career scholars to join but we would also be happy to include mid-career and senior scholars willing to mentor and support the panel members with less academic experience.