**Panel title:**

**Postwar Violence, Cultural Diplomacy and Decolonization in Regional Southeast Asia: A Revisit**

Convenors:

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**Description of the setting**

This will be a single panel that allows a maximum of four individual presenters to participate. In addition to the two individual papers that each of us (the convenors) will present, we would like to invite to two more individual participants with a related topic of research.

**Description of the theme**

The aim of this panel is bring together and theorize themes that have long been the focus of separate, unconnected research on Southeast Asia. Existing studies have explored how issues such as state and social violence, international cultural diplomacy and decolonization have both shaped post-war Southeast Asian society. This panel will revisit this existing scholarly trajectory of studies on these issues and point to possible new directions. A region of immense ethnic and cultural diversity, Southeast Asia has been regarded by international communities as relatively peaceful. The depiction is somewhat misleading. In the first thirty years since the end of the Second World War, state and social acts of violence have constantly characterized the domestic process of nation-state formation in Southeast Asia. Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and the Philippines were obvious cases. On the other hand, countries in the region were actively involved in promoting peaceful international relations through cultural diplomacy, and so doing they moved away from the dark experience of colonial pasts. Hence, post-WW II Southeast Asia sustained ambivalence in domestic and international affairs. This panel will tease out these themes in comparative perspective across the panelists’ contributions.