**EuroSEAS 2024**

**Panel Proposal**

**Title:** Sounding Power and Dissent in Southeast Asia

This panel explores the relationship between state power and sound, with an emphasis on the role of sonic dissent in contesting authority and imagining new ways of being. Recent years have seen a surge of interest in sound as a heuristic tool to study the acoustic dimensions to governance and the exercise of authority. This approach has challenged ocularcentrism, arguing that disciplinary power is not solely manifested through the omnipresent gaze of the state but also through acts of sounding, which aim to establish sonic dominance over bodies and space. At the same time, sound and sound-making practices have been shown to disrupt attempts to establish order through sensory discipline. People leverage the impact of sound, also for purposes of dissent. In the process they create alternative acoustic environments that reconfigure subjectivities and relations between citizens and the state.

The panel analyzes the significance of sound—and its entanglements with other sensory experiences—in understanding changes to power dynamics and soundscapes in Southeast Asia and its diasporas. It asks: How might an attention to sound allow us to think differently about the operations of power in historical and contemporary Southeast Asia? What might an acoustics of power—and opposition—look like? In what ways are sounds and sonic technologies employed as instruments for social and political struggle to produce particular sonic sensibilities? What role has sound played in de/colonization, particularly within contemporary state making projects? And how has sound figured in processes of migration and the creation of alternative sonic narratives?

This double session aims to facilitate an interdisciplinary dialogue about sound(s) across diverse temporal and spatial contexts of governance in Southeast Asia and its diasporas, with a focus on transnational interconnections. We invite paper abstracts that engage with the sonic aspects of power and dissent in Southeast Asia and Southeast Asian diasporas, including sound practitioners and scholars working in (or working to create) sound archives to consider carefully how legacies of colonialism and imperialism have been mediated by sound.

**Conveners:**

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**Format:** In the interest of promoting diversity and inclusion at the conference (and on our panel), we are proposing a double-session panel with 6-7 presenters and 1-2 discussants (each session a maximum of 4 speakers total) with an emphasis on gender and ethnic diversity, including scholars from Southeast Asia, as well as an institutional balance with a combination of early career scholars (including graduate students) and more senior scholars among the paper presenters. We are hoping to work with the Decolonizing Southeast Asian Archives (DeCoSEAS) team at the University of Amsterdam and (hopefully) make a group field trip to the [Jaap Kunst Collection](https://www.decoseas.org/the-intersection-of-european-science-and-imperialism-jaap-kunst-collection/) at the University of Amsterdam.