**The impact of European colonialism on land usage in tropical Southeast Asia: Modelling the past**

**Panel convenors**:

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**Format:**

A panel format is chosen as the most appropriate means of disseminating the findings so far achieved by researchers on this project, primarily in the Philippines (2 speakers) as well as placing this work within a wider Southeast Asian context through inviting scholars external to the project working in this field of study and using similar or different methodologies (1 to 2 speakers). Through 15-to-20-minute presentations, depending on the final number of speakers and allowing ample time for questions and discussion, it is hoped to provide a lively debate, as well as introduce the audience to novel forms of interdisciplinary research that involves both the humanities and physical sciences.

**Single session** (1 x 90 min.): 3-4 presenters

**Panel abstract:**

This panel explores the impact of European colonialism on land usage in Southeast Asia from a multidisciplinary and comparative perspective. European colonialism not only had a profound effect on the political and social structures of Southeast Asian societies, but wrought, if possible, even more significant impact on its biosphere. The introduction of new plants and novel ways of cultivating them significantly altered landscapes and soil composition, the large-scale clearing of forests increased flooding and affected local climates, and alien land use patterns transformed habitats and the survival and reproduction of native species. The very complexity and interrelated nature of these processes makes charting their development over time challenging. Only a combined approach that employs both the natural and social sciences, the use of large-scale environmental datasets, GIS, and Earth system modelling with that of oral history and close archival work has the prospect of truly understanding these changes.

The PANTROPOCENE project is using archaeological, historical, and palaeoecological data to study the land use and land cover transformations which occurred between pre-colonial and colonial periods in different parts of the tropics. This panel seeks to expand the PANTROPOCENE framework developed in the Philippines to Southeast Asia more widely.