Letzter Eintrag 15.06.2025

Curriculum Vitae
Assoc.-Prof. Dr. Helmut LUKAS

Current Coordinates

- Senior Researcher, Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA), Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria; e-mail: helmut.lukas@oeaw.ac.at (Since the retirement in June 2016: Guest researcher)
- Senior Lecturer, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna
- Senior Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna
- Lecturer& Scientific Instructor, Austrian Institute for China and Southeast Asia Research, Vienna

Austrian citizenship, born 07.06.1951

Main areas of research

Southeast Asia, especially Thailand, Indonesia, and Southern China (Yunnan, Guangxi)

Research interests & research scope

Southeast Asian studies (social structures, cultures), hunter-gatherer studies, cognitive anthropology, indigenous knowledge, human ecology, ritual, kinship, interethnic relations, materialist theory

Academic Functions (international)

2015	February - August, Visiting Professorship at the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
2012	Visiting Lecture, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
2010	Visiting Lecture, Phetchaburi Rajabhat University, Phetchaburi, Thailand
2010	Visiting Lecture, Phranakhon Si Ayutthaya Rajabhat University, Ayutthaya, Thailand
2007	Visiting Lecture, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
2005	Visiting Lecture, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
2002	Visiting Lecture, Nationalities Research Institute, Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, PR China
2002	Visiting Lecture, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
1998-2002	Visiting Lectures, Ruprecht-Karl-University, Heidelberg, South Asia-Institute, Department of Anthropology, Germany
2001	Visiting Lecture, Silapakorn University, Center for Sanskrit Studies, Bangkok, Thailand
2001	Visiting Lecture, Silapakorn University, Department of Archaeology, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand
1996	Visiting Lecture (in Bahasa Indonesia), University of Northern Sumatra (USU), Department of Anthropology, Medan, Indonesia
1996	Visiting Lecture (in Bahasa Indonesia), Gajah Mada University, Department of Anthropology, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
1996	Visiting Lecture (in Bahasa Indonesia), University of Indonesia, Department of Anthropology, Jakarta, Indonesia
1996	Visiting Lecture (in Bahasa Malaysia), National University of Malaysia, Academy of Malay Studies, Petaling Jaya/Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Academic Functions (Austria)

2016	Retirement in June 2016. Continue to work as a visiting researcher ("Gastforscher") at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Continue to give lectures on Southeast Asia at the University of Vienna
2013-2016	Deputy Director, Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA), Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria
2007	Karl-Franzens University, Philosophy Department, Graz, Austria: Visiting Lecture
2000	graduation: Habilitation (Post-Doc Thesis)
1996	Lecture at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna
1995	Johannes-Kepler University, Institute for Philosophy and Philosophy of Science, Linz, Austria: Visiting Lecture
1993 – 1994	Lecture at the Austrian Orient-Association Hammer-Purgstall
1992 – 2017	Research associate and lecturer at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for China and Southeast Asia Research
1990 – 2017	Lecturer, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria (Introductory and special lectures on Insular & Continental Southeast Asia) as well as at the Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna)
1986 – 1989	Tutor, Institute for Ethnology, University of Vienna
1990	graduation: Doctoral Thesis

Ethnographic Field Work Experience

2026	Indonesia: Orang Rimba (Jambi)
2025	Indonesia: North Halmahera (ethnie: O'Hongana Manyawa/Tobelo Dalam)
2018 – 2023	Thailand: Satun, Phatthalung (ethnie: Maniq-Semang)
2002 – 2017	Thailand: Satun, Phatthalung, Trang (ethnie: Maniq-Semang)
2015	Thailand, Pattani province (ethnie: Malays)
2002 – 2008	PR China: Guangxi & Yunnan (ethnies: Zhuang & Yao)
2005	Indonesia, Sumatra (ethnies: Orang Rimbo/Anak Dalam/"Kubu" and Jambi Malays)
2003 – 2006	Indonesia: Java & Sumatra (ethnie: Arab Diaspora Communities/Hadrami)
1996 – 2001	Thailand: Satun, Phatthalung, Trang (ethnie: Maniq-Semang)
1979 – 1980	Indonesia, Sumatra (ethnie: Orang Rimbo/Anak Dalam/"Kubu")
1976 – 1981	Indonesia: Sumatra (ethnie: Toba-Batak)

Grants

2026 February-March:	ASEA UNINET Orang Rimba (Jambi)
2025 July - August:	ASEA UNINET Tobelo Dalam Halmahera (DNA samples; nutrition)
2023 Oct. 23 - Dec. 22:	ASEA UNINET incl. Bernd Rode Award: Maniq in Satun, Phatthalung & Trang (nutrition; in the footsteps of Abbott & Schebesta)
2020 Jan. 11 - April 16:	ASEA UNINET Maniq of Satun (DNA samples). Premature termination of the study due to Covid-19
2018 Oct. - Dec.:	Maniq (DNA samples)
2016 - 2017:	ASEA UNINET: *Sharing Behaviour & Naming Culture of the Maniq-Semang* (Southern Thailand)
2011 - 2015:	Austrian Ministry for Economy, Science and Research & ASEA UNINET: *Cognitive Concepts of the Maniq in* Southern Thailand (numerals, space – orientation – mobility, colour terminology)
2009 - 2010:	ASEA UNINET: *Space Concept & Orientation Behaviour of the Maniq* (Southern Thailand)

2007 - 2009:	ASEA UNINET: *Numerical Cognition without Words: "Numerical System" of the Maniq* (Southern Thailand.
2003 - 2006:	Austrian Science Fund (FWF): *Hadhramis in Indonesia: The Ethnic Identity of Yemeni Diaspora Groups Today. A Social-Anthropological Study of Inter-and Intraethnic Relations and Boundaries.*
2003:	ASEA UNINET: *Mon-Khmer Documentation of Shared vs. Diverse Linguistic Knowledge in Three Endangered Mon-Khmer Languages.*
2002 - 2004:	Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (BMBWK): *Electronic Database of Research and Research Co-operations on South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia.*
1997 - 2001:	Austrian Science Funds (FWF): *Ethnic Identity and Interaction in Southeast Asia: «Maniq and Hamiq – Us and Them». Social Organization and Interethnic System of the Maniq-Semang (South Thailand).*
1997:	Austrian Science Fund (FWF): *G. Ch. Fernberger's sojourn in Southeast Asia 1590/91.*
1993 - 1994:	Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (BMBWK): *Concept and Implementation of a Social Anthropological Data Base.*

Organisation of conferences/workshops (Selection)

2015 (Co-organizing) Eleventh Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies (CHAGS 11), September 7-11, 2015, Vienna.

2010 International workshop: „*Space, numerical systems and color terminologies: Theoretical approaches and empirical analysis"* hosted by the Museum of Ethnology Vienna & the Institute for Social Anthropology (Austrian Academy of Sciences), University of Vienna; organization & speech.

2009 International Seminar: *"Islam and Democracy: Indonesian Perspective and Expe-Experience"* hosted by the Institute for Social Anthropology (Austrian Academy of Sciences) in co-operation with the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia; co-organization & speech.

2008 International workshop: „*Irreconcilable Differences? Ethnic Minorities and the State in Southeast Asia"* hosted by the Southeast Asian Association for Cultural Exchange / SOAC in co-operation with the Austrian Academy of Sciences & the Austrian Institute for China and Southeast Asia Research; organization & speech.

2006 International workshop: „*Austrian Research in Continental Southeast Asia. Continuities and Discontinuities"* hosted by the Southeast Asian Cultural Association / SOAC in co-operation with the Museum of Ethnology Vienna; organization & speech

Presentations (Selection)

2019 Göllner T, Schaschl H, Lukas H. *Unveiling the genetic history of the Maniq, a pristine hunter-gatherer population of Southeast Asia*. (preliminary results) Popgroup Conference (PopGroup52), Oxford, UK, 3-6 January 2019.

2018 Göllner T, Schaschl H, Lukas H. *Unveiling the Genetic History of the Maniq.* Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies (CHAGS12), Penang, Malaysia, 23–27 July 2018.

2017 *"Anton Payer in Siam (1876-1883)***:** *The First Austrian Pioneer in Thai Studies"*, Special Lecture, Centre for European Studies (CES). Venue: Room 702 Chamchuri10 Building, Chulalongkorn University. Thursday, July 27, 2017, Time: 09.30-12.00 am.

2017 *"Ethnic Groups in Southeast Asia: Preservation and Change"*, Songkhla, Thaksin Cultural Centre, Thaksin University, July 19, 2017, 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

2016 *"The First Austrian in Southeast Asia Meets the Violet Queen: Fernberger in Patani and Thailand"*. Venue: Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy for Sciences, Seminar Room. Date/Time: Thursday, June 16, 2016, 17:00.

2016 *"From Ethnocide to Ethno-Development? Small-Scale Societies & Indigenous Peoples in Southeast Asia."* Faculty of Humanity & Sociology, Thaksin University, Songkhla. March 4, 2016.

2015 Opening Speech at the *Eleventh Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies* (CHAGS 11), Festival Hall of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, September 7, 2015.

2015 (together with PacchiraChindaritha): *"Culture-sensitivity in linguistic and anthropological research on hunter-gatherer societies." Eleventh Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies* (CHAGS 11), September 7-11, 2015, Vienna, Venue: Campus of the University of Vienna, Hörsaalzentrum, Spitalgasse 2-4 (Court 2), 1090 Vienna, Austria. Date/Time: Friday, September 11, 2015.

2015 *"Fernberger's account on Raja Ungu, the 'Violet Queen' of Patani, and on Songtham, the 'Just King' of Ayudhya"*. Book launch organized by the Centre for European Studies (CES) at Chulalongkorn University. Venue: Ruan Chulanarumit, Chulalongkorn University. Date/Time: Thursday, August 7, 2015, 14.00 – 16.00 hrs.

2015 *"Reflections of an anthropologist on Karl Polanyi's 'Great Transformation'",* Special Lecture, Centre for European Studies (CES). Room Dipak C. Jain, Sasa International House, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Tuesday, July 7, 2015,13:00 – 16:30 hrs.

2015 *"'Gypsie' or Roma? The largest and Coevally the Most Discriminated Ethnic Minority of the European Union",* Special Lecture, Centre for European Studies (CES). Venue: Room Dipak C. Jain, Sasa International House, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Friday, May 22, 2015, 13:30 – 16:00 hrs.

2013 *"Childcare Patterns, Ego Development, and Identity Formation in Foraging Societies Societies".* International Conference "Language, Diversity and Communication – Cosmopolitan Perspectives", October 17 – 20, 2013, Graz (Austria).

2013 *"Comparing two hunter-gatherer societies (Pirahã and Maniq) on Theoretical Grounds"*. 10th meeting of the *Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies* (CHaGS 10), University of Liverpool (UK), June 25 – 28, 2013.

2012 "*Socialization and culture-specific patterns of emotionality*". International Conference "Cognition - Emotion - Communication: Scope and Limits", October 18-21, 2012, Graz (Austria).

2011 "*No Baby Talk: Childhood in a Truly Egalitarian Society*". Childhood and Democracy. New Philosophical Challenges, Conference, 20.-23. October 2011, Graz.

2011 "*Introduction: Architecture & Anthropology: A highly promising co-operation.*" SymPosium "Insular Diversity: Architecture - Culture - Identity in Indonesia", May 18, 2011, Technical University of Vienna.

2010 "*Preliminary results on cognitive concepts of the Maniq-Semang (Southern Thailand)*", Hunter-Gatherers and Semantic Categories: An Interdisciplinary Workshop on Theory, Method and Documentation. Neuwied (Germany), May 30 – June 4, 2010.

2009 "*The Politics of Islam in a Democratizing Indonesia as seen by Western Observers.*" Conference "Islam and Democracy: Indonesian Perspective and Experience", organized by the Indonesian Embassy & the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ISA), Wednesday, July 15, 2009, Vienna.

2008 "*Über die Notwendigkeit einer Zusammenarbeit zwischen Geschichtswissenschaft und Kulturanthropologie in Südostasien*"[in German: On the Necessity of Interdisciplinary Co-operation between Historiography and Cultural Anthropology]. 25. Österreichischer Historikertag, 16.-19. Sept. 2008. St. Pölten.

2007 "*Christoph Carl Fernberger von Egenberg. The First Austrian in Pattani and*

Ayudhya (1624/25)". A Siam Society Lecture, in co-operation with the Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University, July 5, 2007, Bangkok.

2005 "*Robert Heine-Gelderns Theorien im Licht neuer wissenschaftlicher Forschung*" [in German: Robert Heine-Geldern's Theories in the Light of Recent Research]. Museum für Völkerkunde Wien in co-operation with the Anthropologische Gesellschaft Wien, October 19, 2005, Department for Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna.

2005 (together with Khaled Hakami) Full-day Seminar: "*'The Affluent Society': European Imaginations and Southeast Asian Reality*"/"*Masyarakat yang makmur: Imajinasi Barat dan kenyataan di Asia Tenggara*". Universitas Jambi, August 30 (Tuesday), 2005, Jambi, Indonesia.

2005 "*Indigene Gesellschaften Südostasiens und Naturkatastrophen: Wahrnehmungen – Deutungen - Reaktionen – Bewältigung"* [In German: Robert Indigenous Societies of Southeast Asia: Perceptions – Interpretations - Responses - Coping]. Verein Freunde der Völkerkunde. Museum für Völkerkunde Wien, 18 May 2005, Vienna.

2004 "*Representation of Islam and Religious Pluralism in Foreign and Indonesian Mass Media*". International Conference of Islamic Scholars (ICIS), "Upholding Islam as Rahmatan Lil'Alamin", Jakarta (Indonesia), February 23 - 25, 2004 (3-5 Muharram 1425 H).

2003 (together with Khaled Hakami) "*Kinship and/or Kingship? The Sacral Rulers of Early Rome from a Cross-Cultural Perspective*". State Formation Conference: Current Issues in State Formation: The Mediterranean and beyond, an International Colloquium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA), October17-19, 2003.

2002 "*The perception of Indonesia's history and culture by Western historians and social Scientists*". Indonesia's Cultural Diversity in Times of Global Change. A one-day seminar organized by the Indonesian Embassy, Brussels, in co-operation with The European Institute for Asian Studies, Brussels, The Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences, Brussels, and The International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands (Hotel Tulip Inn Brussels Boulevard), Monday 16 December 2002, Brussels.

2002 "*The Maniq of Southern Thailand: Ethnicity, interaction and subsistence mode".* Panel "Sakais of Southern Thailand" at the "First Inter-Dialogue Conference on Southern Thailand", hosted by Prince of Songkhla University & Harvard University, June 13 - 15, 2002, Pattani (Thailand).

2002 "*Austria's Contributions to the Research into the Malay World*". ATMA-Colloquium (in co-operation with Universiti Kebangsaan / Malaysia and Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität / Frankfurt a. Main) on *„German-speaking scholarship and the Malay world: Exploring an empirical tradition",* 11-12 March, 2002, Universiti Kebangsaan, Bangi/ Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 12-03-2002 (session 4).

2001 KEYNOTE: *"Can 'They' save 'Us', the Foragers? Indonesian and Thai Hunter-Gatherer Cultures under Threat from Outside"*. Conference: *Asia-Europe Seminar on Ethnic Cultures Promotion*. 18 - 20 September 2001, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

2001 KEYNOTE: „*Theories of Indianization exemplified by Selected Case Studies from Indonesia (Insular Southeast Asia)"*. Sanskrit in Southeast Asia: The Harmonizing Factor of Cultures, International Sanskrit Conference, Bangkok, May 21-23, 2001.

2000 „*European Family Structures in Comparison with Family Patterns in Southeast Asia".* The Role of the Individual vis-à-vis The Family, Society and State in Asia and Europe. ASEF-Symposium, 18 – 19 September 2000, Vienna.

1996 „*Lawatan oleh «Pengembara Austria» ke Melaka pada akhir abad ke16".* In Bahasa Malaysia: Visit of an «Austrian Traveler/Adventurer» to Melaka at the End of the 16th Century, Seminar „Malay Studies from Dutch Sources", Dewan Besar Perbadanan

Muzium Melaka, November 22, 1996, Melaka/Malaysia.

1996 „*Paul Schebesta und Hugo Adolf Bernatzik, die österreichischen Pioniere in der ethnologischen Erforschung der Malaiischen Halbinsel“.* Halbinsel [In German: Paul Schebesta and H. A. Bernatzik, the Austrian Pioneers in the Ethnological Exploration of the Malay Peninsula]. Österreichischer Historikertag – Österr. Archivtag, Mai 26, 1996, Vienna.

1996 „*Penyeldikan Paul Schebesta mengenai suku Semang (Orang Asli) di Semenanjung Malaysia“* (In Bahasa Malaysia: Paul Schebesta's Research among the Semang (Orang Asli) of the Malay Peninsula), Akademi Pengajian Melayu, University Malaya, November 26, 1996, Kuala Lumpur.

1996 *Riwayat Christoph Carl Fernberger mengenai Patani di bawah pemerintahan Raja Ungu (1624/1625)* (In Bahasa Malaysia: Christoph Carl Fernberger's account of Patani during the reign of Queen Ungu, 1624/1625), Akademi Pengajian Melayu, University Malaya, November 25, 1996, Kuala Lumpur.

Teaching and Mentoring

Lectures on Cultures and Social Structures in Southeast Asia at the University of Vienna (Department for Cultural and Social Anthropology; Department for Linguistics)
Supervision of Master & PhD Students (University of Vienna; Karl-Franzens University of Graz; Leiden University; University College of London)

Language Skills

German (mother tongue); English (fluent), French (sufficient), Indonesian/Malay (fluent), Toba-Batak (sufficient), Dutch (reading), Spanish (reading), Thai (basic)