



SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL GUEST LECTURE

HOPELESS AT SEA, LANDLESS ON SHORE

LOOKING BEYOND THE SEA NOMAD PLIGHTS IN THAILAND

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Since the beginning of 2016, the plights of several sea nomad or “Chao Lay” groups in Thailand found their ways into national newspaper headlines and television news coverage. The persistent land disputes and other critical problems require an investigation beyond the conflict and dichotomy between “indigenous communities” and “private businesses”. This talk will use the sea nomad plights as a springboard to understand the lives and situations of the indigenous peoples in the context of the capitalist economy facilitated by the bureaucratic state.



Narumon Arunotai holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Hawai'i, Honolulu, an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a B.A. Honors in English Literature from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Since 1997 she has been a researcher at the Social Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University. Her research focuses on the “Moken”, “Moklen” and “Urak Lawoi” ethnic groups, participatory resource management, the social impact of mining activities, socioeconomic monitoring to support the conservation of coral reef and near shore resources in Thailand, and understanding nationality and Thai-ness from different perspectives. She is currently a EuroSEAS Visiting Scholar at ISA.

