

**International Conference on:
Historical Preconditions and Causes for the Political
Development of Present-day Myanmar**

Held at the University of Passau, Southeast Asian Studies, Dr. Kapfinger Strasse 14 b Room 314a, July 18th to 21. 2016

Financed by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

Organized by:

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Korff
Chair of Southeastasian Studies

Prof. Dr. Oliver Hahn
Prof. for Journalism

**Dr. phil.habil. Dagmar Hellmann-
Rajanayagam**
Reader for Southeastasian Studies

Secretariat: Ursula Junk

Myanmar is the northernmost member of ASEAN located between India and China. Currently, it undergoes a period of transition. Since the election victory of the NLD in 2015 it has even more come to the forefront of international interest. However, research on Myanmar still remains on a low level not least due the self-isolation of the country for over 50 years. Not surprisingly, most publications and conferences turn on current political and social conditions and factors for the transformation. Long term causes and backgrounds for social and ideological development of the country are hardly considered. Research on Myanmar in the German-speaking area, moreover, still focusses primarily on topics of cultural and social anthropology and linguistics.

One of the focal points of the Dept. of Southeast Asian Studies has been Myanmar since nearly 20 years. The Dept. has published several studies on the topic and conducted a number of conferences since 2007. It pursues a social science perspective with a comparative and historical approach. Current political processes are being analysed on the foil of pre-colonial and colonial conditions as well as the dynamics of the ASEAN region. Myanmar is not looked at in isolation, but within the context of the development of Southeast Asia and the region. In 2012 the ‚Wissenschaftsforum Myanmar‘ (WiMya

Academic Forum Myanmar) was established with Rüdiger Korff as chairman. WiMya normally conducts two conferences per year. The next conference will take place at Passau from 18th to 21st July. It will mirror the state of the art of international research on Myanmar and will specifically look into the historical and political development of the country, viz. analyse the current dynamics in the light of longer term processes in Myanmar and Southeast Asia. There will be three foci:

- 1) Politics and society
- 2) History and historical legitimation
- 3) Media, public sphere and their significance for present-day Myanmar

Programme:

18th July Arrival of speakers

18:00 Snacks and drinks at the Department (Kapfinger Strasse 14b, Room 314)

19.7.

09:30	Rüdiger Korff, Daw Yin Yin Myint	Opening and Welcome Speech
10:15	Marie Lall	Keynote: Understanding Reform in Myanmar. People and Society in the wake of Military Rule
11:00		Break
Recent Political Developments		
11:30	Chaw Chaw Sein	Post-election political development of Myanmar
	Uta Gärtner	Legacies of Military Rule
13:00		Lunch
14:30	Wolfram Schaffar	Political Change in Myanmar - in comparative perspective
	Yin Myo Thu	Political economy of foreign assistance in Myanmar after 2010
16:00		Break
16:30	Carole Ann Chit Tha	ASEAN and Myanmar Relations
	Seng Raw Lahpai	Representation of Non-Myanmar in the New Myanmar

20.7**Historical Pre-Conditions and Legitimation**

09:30	Dagmar Hellmann-Rajanayagam	Perceptions of Burmese History
	Alexey Kirichenko	From Riches to Rags? Historiographical Concepts and the Role of Sources in the Study of Burma's Past
11:00		Break
11:30	Hans-Bernd Zöllner	Political Iconography in Burma/Myanmar - Some Preliminary Considerations
	Tilman Frasch	Between Global Bagan and Global Myanmar
13:00		Lunch
14:30	Mo Mo Thant	Social work of Buddhist nuns in Myanmar society
	Juliane Schober	Legislating Race, Religion and Gender: Women in the Contemporary Myanmar Discourse
16:00		Break
16:30	Jacques Leider	Historical ruptures, ethnoreligious challenges and the current prospects of Rakhine state
	Rüdiger Korff	Isomorphism and Decoupling in Myanmar
18:30		Reception at the conference location

21.7**Media and Communication in the New Myanmar**

09:30	Mandy Fox	TBA
	Oliver Hahn	The Media Landscape in The New Myanmar: The Role of International Actors of Media Development Assistance
11:00		Break
11:30	Ma Thida	Freedom of Expression and Media Literacy in Myanmar
	Rüdiger Korff and Thant Myint U	Endnote
13:00		Farewell Lunch

Departure on 21st and 22nd July

List of Speakers:

Carole Ann Chit Tha	Myanmar Institute of Strategic Studies, Yangon
Chaw Chaw Sein	Dep. International Relations, University of Yangon
Frasch, Tilman	City University of Manchester
Fox, Mandy	University of Passau
Gärtner, Uta	Humboldt University, Berlin
Hahn, Oliver	University of Passau
Helbardt, Sascha	University of Passau
Hellmann-Rajanayagam, Dagmar	University of Passau
Kirichenko, Alexey	State University, Moscow
Korff, Rüdiger	University of Passau
Lahpai, Seng Raw	Airavati Foundation
Lall, Marie	University College, London
Leider, Jacques	University of Luxembourg
Ma Thida	PEN President, Myanmar
Mo Mo Thant	Dep. History, Yangon University of Distance Education
Schaffar, Wolfram	University of Vienna
Schober, Juliane	University of Arizona
Thant Myint-U	Yangon Heritage Foundation
Yin Myo Thu	Dep. International Relations, University of Yangon
Yin Yin Myint	Ambassador of Myanmar, Berlin
Zöllner, Hans Bernd	retired