



MYANMAR'S "BORDERLANDS": REFORMS, CONFLICT, GEOPOLITICS.

A conference hosted by the **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**
International Relations Department and the Global South Unit.

London, 22/23 April, 2015.

MYANMAR'S "BORDERLANDS": REFORMS, CONFLICT, GEOPOLITICS.

22 APRIL

08:15 / 08:45 REGISTRATION

[Venue: Graham Wallace Room, Old Building, LSE]

08:45 WELCOMING REMARKS

- **Jurgen Haacke**, LSE.
- **Christopher R. Hughes**, LSE.

09:00 / 11:00 PANEL 1: REFORMS AND THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS

Chair:

Robert H. Taylor, ISEAS.

Speakers:

- The Role of Myanmar's Legislatures. **Renaud Egreteau**, ISEAS.
- A Reformist Tatmadaw. **Aung Myoe**, International University of Japan.
- Economic Reforms. **Fumiharu Mieno**, Kyoto University.
- The Sangha and other Buddhist Institutions in Myanmar's Reforms. **Matthew J. Walton**, University of Oxford.

11:00 / 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 / 13:00 PANEL 2: BURMA'S ELITE POLITICS AND REFORMS

Chair:

David I. Steinberg, Georgetown University and Johns Hopkins University.

Speakers:

- Politics of Constitutional Reform. **Andrew McLeod**, Oxford University.
- Elite Politics: ambitions and grievances. **Min Zin**, University of California, Berkeley.
- Assessing the Reforms. **Myat Thu**, Yangon School of Political Science.

14:00 / 15:10 PANEL 3: THE BORDERLANDS BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE

Chair:

Tim Forsyth, LSE.

Speakers:

- Legitimacy in Conflict: transitions in the KIO and the KNU. **David Brenner**, LSE.
- The Kachin Struggle in Historical Perspective. **Mandy Sadan**, SOAS.
- Back to the Borderlands: Burmese pre-election military strategies. **Sarah Schulman**, Lund University.

15:15 / 16:00 TALK WITH Q&A (OVER COFFEE)

Chair:

Jurgen Haacke, LSE.

Speaker:

- Assessing the “Peace Process” in history. **Martin Smith**, Senior Adviser to the Transnational Institute and Analyst on Ethnic Nationality Affairs.

16:15 / 17:30 PANEL 4: STATE BUILDING OR STATES BUILDING ON THE BORDER WITH CHINA?

Chair:

James Putzel, LSE.

Speakers:

- Political Authority and Legitimacy in Northern Myanmar. **Hans Steinmuller**, LSE.
- Supporting the Co-ethnics across the Border: the Kokang Conflict, Chinese Nationalism, and Sino-Myanmar relations. **Enze Han**, SOAS.
- State Building and the Drug Challenge. **Patrick Meehan**, SOAS.

17:30 / 18:00 PHOTO EXHIBITION

A View from the Border: everyday lives in Burma’s conflict zones in times of transition. Hkun Li, Hkun Lat & David Brenner, in association with LSE Arts.

The photo exhibition portrays Burma’s conflict-ridden Kachin State. By doing so it asks how the country’s wider transition affects the everyday lives of ethnic minorities in the borderlands, including displaced communities and insurgents. This is a collaboration between local photo-journalists and a doctoral candidate at LSE.

18:30 / 20:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

[Venue: Hong Kong Theatre / Open to public]

Chair:

Christopher R. Hughes, LSE.

Speaker:

- Myanmar: politics, pragmatism, and foreign policy. Professor **David I. Steinberg**, Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies Emeritus, Georgetown University and visiting scholar in Southeast Asian Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

23 APRIL

9:00 / 10:30 PANEL 5: EXTERNAL RESPONSES TO INTERNAL CHALLENGES

Chair:

Jurgen Haacke, LSE.

Speakers:

- The Rohingya Situation. **Derek Tonkin**, Bagan Capital Limited.
- Promoting Conflict Sensitive Business Practice in Rakhine State: a provisional assessment. **Phil Champain**, International Alert.
- Assessing Europe's Role and Purpose in Myanmar. **Jorn Dosch**, Rostock University.

10:35 / 11:15: TALK WITH Q&A (OVER COFFEE) [UNDER CHATHAM HOUSE RULES]

Speakers:

- **Tom Crofts**, Head of the Whitehall Burma Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

11:20 / 12:10 ROUNDTABLE 1: MYANMAR'S FOREIGN POLICY

Chair:

Robert H. Taylor, ISEAS.

Speakers:

- Myanmar Foreign Policy: interests and ideas. **Aung Myoe**, International University of Japan.
- Myanmar: 'playing' another great game? **Herve Lemahieu**, IISS.
- Alignment and Myanmar's Security Cooperation in Comparative Perspective. **Jurgen Haacke**, LSE.

[Venue: Hong Kong Theatre / Open to public]

The upcoming general elections in Myanmar are a litmus test for the country's transition process. This roundtable discusses pre-election strategizing and post-election scenarios and implications.

Chair:

Chris Alden, LSE.

Speakers:

- **David I. Steinberg**, Georgetown University and Johns Hopkins University.
- **Min Zin**, University of California, Berkeley.
- **Myat Thu**, Yangon School of Political Science.
- **Hein Myat Thu Htet**, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.