

Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) invites you to our seminar series:



Southeast Asian Studies: the Conundrum of Area Studies and Methodology

By Victor T King

Distinguished Visiting Fellow, UBD-IAS

Wednesday, 18th February 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Speaker's Profile



Victor King is Emeritus Professor at the University of Leeds, Professorial Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London), Visiting Professor at Chiangmai University, Thailand, formerly Eminent Visiting Professor at Universiti Brunei Darussalam and currently Distinguished Visiting Fellow there. He has long-standing research interests in the sociology and anthropology of Southeast Asia. His recent publications include *The Historical Reconstruction of Southeast Asian Studies: Korea and Beyond* (with Park Seung Woo, ISEAS Press, 2013), *Rethinking Asian Tourism: Culture, Encounters and Local Response* (with Ploysri Porananond, CSP, 2014), and an edited book in press for NIAS Press on *UNESCO in Southeast Asia: World Heritage Sites in Comparative Perspective*.

Abstract

Since the early 2000s there has been a resurgence of interest in area studies, and the fields of study devoted to Southeast Asia and Asia more generally. Several scholars of Southeast Asia have wanted to demonstrate a rationale for considering the collection of countries and peoples which they are addressing as a meaningful unit of analysis. The renewed interest in providing justifications for regional studies has recently focused on methodological developments in the context of the teaching and learning environment of area studies and innovations in the way in which knowledge of an area is conveyed. The upsurge in scholarly developments in area studies over the past decade requires critical review.