

اينستيتوت قشاجين اسيان



INSTITUTE OF
ASIAN STUDIES

Liam C. Kelley

Associate Professor, IAS

“Diaspora, the Internet and the Re-Invention of Early Vietnamese History“

Wednesday, 3rd October 2018 at 2:15 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Abstract

There is a new perspective on early Vietnamese history that emerged first in the diaspora around the turn of the twenty-first century, and that has now spread to Vietnam. It presents an extremely positive view of the history of the ancient ancestors of the Vietnamese, seeing them as essentially the founders of East Asian civilization. It is also presented in a way that is critical of establishment historians in Vietnam, by claiming to employ the “scientific” findings of “international” scholars, works that these authors claim historians in Vietnam have ignored.

The emergence in the diaspora of this new perspective on the past and the story of its spread to Vietnam via the Internet offers a fascinating insight into the ways in which communication in the Digital Age can both bridge and create divisions. In this case, some authors in the previously divided worlds of Vietnam and the diaspora have found common ground to promote a vision of the past that is both nationalistic and critical of establishment historians in Vietnam.

Speaker's Profile



Liam C. Kelley is an historian and a researcher in the Institute of Asian Studies at UBD. This presentation is part of a long-term project on the various ways that modern Vietnamese have reconceptualized and reimagined their past in the colonial and post-colonial eras.