

Ethical Research: Fieldwork, Management and Use of the Southeast Asian Past and its continuing Heritage.

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Over the last 30 years many regions of the world have successfully debated, encouraged and enacted sets of ethical principles that provide a roadmap for ethically investigating the past and managing cultural heritage. The ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) have engaged in many cultural, arts, and conservation projects, but have not defined a framework or guidelines for ethical practice in Southeast Asian Studies. Whilst some Southeast Asian nations have developed local policies for approaching the past and cultural heritage, there is a lack of shared regional and ethical guidelines for both domestic and foreign researchers. A shared set of ethical principles is important for several reasons. First, through its diversity Southeast Asian nations have a high degree of shared heritage. Second, many of the experts who work on the Southeast Asian past work across borders, -collaborating with researchers and communities in several different countries. A shared regional framework would assist researchers. Third, a standardise ethical guidelines will help lessen tensions between internal and external institutions and nations.

Issues such as access and control of research information, the relationship between archaeology and art crime, working with local communities, protocols around the treatment of human remains, valuation and transport of archaeological and materials, relationship between heritage and social media, the co-opting of heritage for nationalistic purposes and the destruction of heritage due to theft and ever increasing urban development make a discussion around ethical practices not only necessary but extremely urgent.

We strongly encourage papers founded in the study of the Southeast Asian past from disciplines such as archaeology, anthropology, economics, history, heritage, sociology, and museum studies. We seek a diverse range of views and voices from regional perspectives and a diverse range of cultural, theoretical and pragmatic perspectives.

Southeast Asia has a rich and varied past, informed today by its diverse cultural heritage. It is vital that we act now to ensure the preservation of that cultural heritage, to include different voices and perspectives. The aim of this session is to bring together a diverse range of perspectives and expertise to provide a positive roadmap for ethical research into Southeast Asia's shared heritage and history.