

Southeast Asians in Africa – Africans in Southeast Asia

Over the past 20 years, an increasing number of Africans have (temporarily) migrated to Southeast Asia, while more and more Southeast Asians are active in Africa. Examples include the around 25,000 African students in Malaysia, the numerous African trade networks in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, or the ca. 30,000 Vietnamese construction workers in Angola. Lecturers from the Philippines are now teaching in Ethiopia, while African football players are being engaged all over Southeast Asia. Also, Philippine telenovelas (*teleseryes*) have recently become highly popular in Eastern Africa, including in Uganda and Kenya, while Thai and Malaysian investors have been active in TV broadcasting in Ghana. Also in research, Africans and Southeast Asians are currently discovering each other, with African researchers focusing e.g. on Singapore as a “Global City” (studies from Cairo, Johannesburg, Cape Town), post-civil war trauma in Eastern Indonesia (study from Burundi), or the oil-based economy of Brunei (study from Nigeria). Malaysia, on the other hand, has the highest number of ISI-indexed journal publications on African topics in Southeast Asia, almost equalling the Africa-oriented publication output of China.

This panel invites explorations into these new dimensions of both a “Global Southeast Asia” and a “Global Africa”. It is linked to the research project “Africa’s Asian Options” (AFRASO) at Goethe University Frankfurt and the Asia-Africa Development Universities Network (AADUN) with its secretariat at University of Malaya and intends to supplement the already well-established research topics of African-Chinese and African-Indian relations (cf. e.g. the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network) by focusing on the often overlooked interactions between Southeast Asia and Africa.

Panel Convenors:

Prof. Dr. Arndt Graf, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

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