Welcome to Ohio University, the host of the 2015 meeting of the Council on Thai Studies (COTS). Established in 1972 at Northern Illinois University under the direction of Dr. Clark D. Neher and Dr. Ladd Thomas, COTS was conceived as a kind of intellectual and cultural laboratory in which scholars and students engaged in the study of Thailand could assemble to exchange ideas, share their research, and test the validity of their contentions and approaches to understanding Thailand. Since 1972, COTS has convened annually, either at Northern Illinois University, the University of Wisconsin, or another institution in the Midwest, including Ohio University in 2012. Ohio University is honored to host the 2015 meeting of the Council on Thai Studies.
COTS Program at a glance
Friday, October 23, 2015
Schoonover Center, 145

2:30-3:00 PM  Registration (Schoonover Center, 1st floor lobby)

3:00-3:10  Welcome Address (Schoonover Center, Room 145)
Jeffrey Shane, Chair, Council on Thai Studies, Center for International Collections, Alden Library, Ohio University

3:10-4:00  Special Guest Lecture
Paul Chambers, Director of Research, Institute of South East Asian Affairs (ISEAA), Chiang Mai, Thailand
“Of Legitimization and Perpetuating Power: Military Rule in Contemporary Thailand.”
Introduction, Jeffrey Shane

4:00-4:15  Discussion

4:15-5:00  Panel 1: The Impact of Hydropower & Highway Construction Projects on Thailand and Thai-Chinese Foreign Relations
Moderated by Shane Strate, Kent State University

• Guangjiang Bao, University of Wisconsin-Madison
  “The Impact of the Bangkok-Kunming Highway on trust-building between Thailand and China.”

• Alan Potkin, Digital Conservation Facility Laos
  “Interactive Visualization of Hydropower Development in Southwest China and Southeast Asia.”

• Bhanubhatra (Kaan) Jittiang, University of Wisconsin-Madison
  “A Struggle of the Anti-Mae Wong Dam Movement: A Departure for the Digital Age of Environmental Activism in Thailand?”

5:00-5:20  Discussion

Moderated by Larry Ashmun, University of Wisconsin-Madison

• Michael Pfahl, Ohio University
  “Women and sport in Thailand: Outlining a research agenda for a changing sports landscape.”

• John Forrestal, Boston University
  “I Spill My Blood in Order to be Close to the King: Mimesis, Authenticity and Music in Thai Fighting Sports.”

5:50-6:05  Discussion

6:05-7:05  Dinner Break
Panel 3: Thai Literature During the 5th Reign (the origins of the Thai short story) and the power of signs and symbols
Moderated by Pittaya Paladroi-Shane, Ohio University

- **John Hartmann**, Professor Emeritus, Northern Illinois University, **Rosarin Adulseranee**, Northern Illinois University, and **Jenjit Gasigitamrong**, UCLA
  “The First Thai “Short” Story: Sanuk Nük.”
- **Sarinya Kongtieng**, Bangkok University/Ohio University
  “Decoding Signs and Symbols: Analyzing Cartoon Brand Characters used in Thai restaurants and department stores in Thailand.”

Discussion

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2nd annual meeting of the Council on Thai Studies, 1973, Northern Illinois University
8:30-9:00 AM  Breakfast

9:00-9:45  Panel 4: Gender & Ethnicity as Depicted along the Margins of Thai Society & Film
Moderated by Katherine Bowie, University of Wisconsin
• Glynnis Gunnett, Youngstown State University
  “Gender Identity of a Hmong Village.”
• Megan Lafferty, University of Melbourne
  “Migration, Masculinities and Mia Farangs: An ethnographic study of Western men in northeast Thailand.”
• Animesh Rathore, Ohio University
  “Bangkok revisited: Horror films, ghosts, and women's perspectives.”

9:45-10:05  Discussion

Moderated by Paul Chambers, ISEAA
• Pitch Pongsawat, Chulalongkorn University
  TBA
• Khorapin Phuaphansawat, University of Massachusetts
  “My eyes are open but my lips are whispering: Anti-Royalism in Thailand after the 2006 Coup d’état.”

11:05-11:20  Discussion

11:20-11:50  Panel 6: Buddhism Along the Edges
Moderated by Wesley Clarke, Ohio University
• Katherine Bowie, University of Wisconsin-Madison
  “Khruba Srivichai; Towards an Understanding of his Second Bangkok Detention in 1935.”
• Leedom Lefferts, Professor Emeritus, Drew University
  “Northeast Thai-Lao Theravada-Buddhism: Peripheral, Central, or Varietal?”

11:50-12:05  Discussion

12:05-1:05  Lunch Break
COTS Program at a Glance
Saturday, October 24, 2015
Baker Center, Room 240/242

1:05-2:10  COTS Keynote Address
Kong Rithdee, Deputy Life Editor, Bangkok Post
Presentation title TBA
Introduction by Kelly Broughton, Assistant Dean for Research & Education Services, Ohio University Libraries, and Jeffrey Shane

2:10-2:25  Discussion

2:25-3:10  Panel 7: Thai Politics: Continuity vs. Change
Moderated by Alec Holcombe, Ohio University
- Puangchon Unchanam, The Graduate Center, CUNY
- Aaron Johnson, Northern Illinois University
  “Courting Controversy: Explaining Judicialization and Politicalization of the Administrative Court of Thailand”.
- Jeffrey Shane, Ohio University
  “Spirals” in Modern Thai History: Towards an Understanding of the Return to Absolute Rule in Thailand.”

3:10-3:30  Discussion

3:30-3:45  Break

3:45-4:15  Panel 8: Thai Music: Unconventional Forms and Contested Histories
Moderated by William Condee, Ohio University
- Terry Miller, Kent State University
  “Phleng Samniang: Exoticism in Thai Music.”
- Supeena Insee Adler, Independent Scholar
  “Conflicted histories: tracing modern knowledge about a Thai royal ensemble.”

4:15-4:30  Discussion

4:30-5:00  Panel 9: The State of Education in Thailand and the Challenges of Teaching Thai in the U.S.
Moderated by John Hartmann, NIU
- Emmanuel Jean Francois, Ohio University
  “An outsider perspective about the state of Education in Thailand.”
- Pittaya Paladroi-Shane, Ohio University
  “Internationalization of U.S. Universities and Its Effects on Thai Language: The Case of Thai at Ohio University.

5:00-5:15  Discussion
5:15-6:00  Panel 10: Buddhist Manuscripts, Local Legends, and the Search for Legitimacy in the Sarit-Thanom Era
Moderated by Michael Jerryson, Youngstown State University

• **Justin McDaniel**, University of Pennsylvania
  “Adventures in Siamese Manuscripts: Tracing Collections and Collectors from Japan to Ireland.”

• **Rungsima Kullapat**, Independent Scholar
  “Mapping the Pachit-Oraphim Cultural Routes.”

• **Zeya 'Leo' Zhu**, Ohio University
  “Seeking legitimacy: the political use of Buddhism during the Sarit-Thanom era of military rule.”

6:00-6:20  Discussion

6:20  Closing of the 2015 COTS conference

6:30  COTS Dinner
     Cultural Performance, Thai Students Association, Ohio University