SEPTEMBER 20
CHIE IKEYA, Rutgers University

*Beyond the East-West Encounter: Inter-Asian Intimacies and Estrangements in Colonial and Postcolonial Burma, 1850–1950*

Sexual, conjugal, and household relations between white colonial masters and native women have long served as the paradigm of the colonial encounter. The talk offers a different and as yet untold story of colonial interaction: inter-Asian intimacies.

OCTOBER 25
GAYL NESS, University of Michigan

*Last Flight to Bangkok: Reflections on 60 Years in Southeast Asia*

Focusing on the massive transformation in development, the discussion will include the environment–social organization perspectives, and human ecology.

NOVEMBER 8
GERALD SIM, Florida Atlantic University

*‘Why Should I Keep Loving You When I Know That You’re Not True?’ A Cinema of Hiraeth*

In filmmaker Tan Pin Pin’s fixation with the geographical phenomenology of Singapore, one discerns ideas about local relations to space. Tan’s essayistic reflections on landscape are captivated by the unseen effects of rapid urban development, radical transformations necessitated by growth.

NOVEMBER 15
ANTHONY IRWIN, University of Michigan

*Crafting Theravada Buddhism: Touch and Material in the lives of Thai Buddhists*

This talk presents a number of cases that show how Thai Buddhists hold hand-based religious touch to be spiritually powerful and socially efficacious.

JANUARY 31
EUGÈNIE MÉRIEAU, Harvard Law School

*The Deep Constitution: Militant Constitutional Identity and the Afterlife of Martial Law in Thailand*

Examining Thailand’s intersection of the 1997 Constitution and the resiliency of military rule and civilian rule that formed under the patronage of King Bhumibol.

FEBRUARY 7
JOHN PHAN, Columbia University

*Decomposing a National Language: Pluralism and the Origins of the Vietnamese Language*

Exploring the linguistic origins of the Vietnamese language, and how these origins challenge and complicate modern nationalist conceptualizations of language and culture in Vietnam.

FEBRUARY 21
JOE HARRIS, Boston University

*Becoming Brokers: Explaining Thailand’s Growing Brand in Global Health*

Examining the roots of Thailand’s surprising success in areas ranging from universal healthcare to HIV prevention and access to medicine to health technology assessment and tobacco control.

MARCH 13
LILY RAHIM, Georgetown University

*Regime Change and Continuity in Malaysia*

Analysing Pakatan Harapan’s weakening popularity within the context of its ‘catch-22’ policy and political conundrum.

APRIL 3
SUMARSAM, Wesleyan University

*Islamizing a Sacred Hindu-Javanese Text: The Story of Jimat Kalimasada in Javanese Wayang Puppet Play*

Discussion on the wayang story, Jimat Kalimasada, to show the complex processes of religious and cultural transformation from Hindu-Javanese to Islam-Javanese world of view.