

PON SOUVANNASENG

Assistant Professor
Department of Global Studies
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Employment

2020- Assistant Professor of Global Studies, Bentley University
2018 - 2020 Post-Doctoral Research Associate, University of Manchester
2016 - 2018 Senior Teaching Fellow, University College London & SOAS

Education

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Ph.D. Political Science, 2019

Dissertation: "Losing Ground: The Political Economy of Development & Dependency in the Making of Power in Lao PDR"

Fields: International Political Economy, Comparative Politics, East/Southeast Asian Politics, International Development & International Relations

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education - Associate Level (HEA), 2012

M.Res. Political Science, 2011

M.Sc. Comparative Politics, 2006

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

B.A., Political Science (High Honors), 2005

SCHOOL FOR SLAVONIC AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES, UCL

Visiting student; September 2003- June 2004

Coursework in Slavic history and languages, Political Geography

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

California Governor's Scholar, June 2003 - August 2003

Fellowships and Awards

- Bentley Research Council Grant, 2022-2023.
- Bentley Faculty Affairs Council Grant, 2021 - 2022.
- Wilson China Fellow, 2021-2022.
- Mansfield-Luce Asia Scholar, 2020 - 2022.
- East West Center Washington DC - Japan Foundation - US Embassy Tokyo, 2020.
- American Political Science Association, Asia Fellow & individual grant recipient, 2019.
- LSE Teaching Excellence Award Nominee, 2014-2015; 2015-2016.
- International Federation for University Women Recognition Award, 2014-2015.
- US Fulbright Research Grant, United States Department of Education, 2013-2014.
- CLACSO-CODESRIA-APIA South-South Young Laureate Fellowship, 2012.
- Research Studentship, London School of Economics, 2010-2015.
- Undergraduate Research Award, Dean's Office, Tufts University, 2004.
- Summer Scholarship, Summer Scholars Fund, Tufts University, 2002.

Articles, Chapters & Work in Progress

Souvannaseng, P. (2022) 'Liquidated: US/Japan-Chinese Rivalry, Financial Crises and Explaining Shifts in Hydropower Finance Regimes in the Mekong, *Asian Perspective* 45 (5) Winter

Souvannaseng, P. et al. (2022) 'Evolving lending regimes and the political economy of dam financing in Ghana'. *FutureDAMS Working Paper 18*, Manchester: University of Manchester.

Souvannaseng, P. (Forthcoming, 2022) 'Evidence-based Policymaking' or Epistemic Manufacturing? US-China Geopolitics, Politicized Water Scholarship and the Fight for Narrative Control Along the Mekong. Washington DC: Woodrow Wilson Center, Spring.

Souvannaseng, P. (Forthcoming, 2022) 'Chinese Adaptive Politics in the Mekong: Sino-Strategies of Engagement & Alliance-building in Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia & Lao PDR' Carnegie Endowment for International Peace 'Local/Global' Working Paper Series, Washington DC: CEIP

Souvannaseng, P. (2021) 'Sino-African Hydropower Projects in Comparative Perspective' in Francois & Habich, *Hydropower in Southwest China: Drivers & Impacts*, (Palgrave IPE: London)

Souvannaseng, P. (For Submission, Spring 2022) 'Institutional Poaching: Sub-Regional Rivalry and the Politics of Parallel Governance Building Along the Mekong'

Souvannaseng, P. (For Re-submission, Spring 2022) 'Blending or Banking Towards 'Bankability'? Comparative Sino-OECD Export Finance Regimes, Divergent Risk Appetites and the Blurring of Trade and Development in the Global Infrastructure Market'

Souvannaseng, P. (For Submission, Spring 2022) Disaster by Financial Design: Boondoggles, Submersed Stakeholders & the Political Economy of Dam Failure in Lao PDR [presented at APSA 2021]

Souvannaseng, P. (In Progress) Post-Socialism the Mekong Way: Sino-Investment in CLMV; for submission to *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*

Souvannaseng, P. (In Progress) Infrastructure as Asset or Public Good? Financializing Hydropower in the Developing World

Book Manuscript

Souvannaseng, P. (In Progress) *Fast Finance: Searching for Patient Lending in an Impatient World*

Other Publications

Souvannaseng, P. (2020) 'US-Japanese Strategic Dissonance and Southeast Asian Infrastructure Finance' *Asia Pacific Bulletin* No. 519

Souvannaseng, P. (2020) 'Rohingya genocide case: why it will be hard for Myanmar to comply with ICJ's orders' *The Conversation*

Souvannaseng, P., Plummer, J. & Markannen S. (2020) 'Mapping the evolving complexity of large hydropower project finance in low and lower-middle income countries' *Green Finance* 2 (2), 151

Selected Conferences & Presentations

- American Political Science Association, Seattle WA (virtual) September 2021
 ‘Disaster by Design: Submersed Stakeholders & the Political Economy of Dam Failure’
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, (virtual) July 2021
 ‘Post-Socialism the Mekong Way: Sino-Investment in the CLMV Countries’
- International Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 2021
 ‘US/Japan-Chinese Rivalry: Debating Hydropower Quality & Quantity in the Mekong’
- Michigan State U. / East West Center HI, April 2021
 ‘Mekong Dams: Debates and the Politics of Evidence’
- Chatham House, Asia Program, London UK, November 2020
 ‘Too Close for Comfort? China Southeast Asia Relations’
- East West Center –Washington DC, April 2020
 ‘On Unequal Footing: Strategic Dissonance & Failures of Competition in US-Japan-Mekong Infrastructure Promotion’
- East West Center –Washington DC, September 2019
 ‘Sub-Regional Rivalry, Institutional Poaching & Parallel Governance Along the Mekong: From Liberal to Revisionist Institutionalism’
- Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington DC, September 2019
 ‘Searching for Patient Lending in an Impatient World: Infrastructure, Finance and the Illusion of Capital’
- American Political Science Assoc. Asia Workshop, Universiti Sains-Malaya, Penang, June 2019
 Institutional Poaching & Regional Subversion Along the Mekong’ (article manuscript)
- Columbia U. SIPA/NYSEARN Public Lecture, NYC, April 2019
 “‘Infrastructure as Public Good or Portfolio Asset: Financing Development and Development Finance Along the Mekong and Ayeyarwaddy’”
- American Association of Geographers Conference, Washington DC, April 2019
 “‘Fast Finance: Who Gives a Dam? Hydro-energy Expansion & Environmental Governance in the Age of Post-DAC Competitive Capital’
- LSE International Development, Cumberland Lodge, Nov 2018
 “(Mis)-Managing Water Resources Along the Mekong”
- McGill University Doctoral Workshop 2015, Montreal, Canada, 2015
 “Environmental Governance and Changing Land Institutions in the Age of Late Development: The Case of Lao PDR”
- CLACSO-CODESRIA-APISA 5th South-South Summer Institute, Recife, Brazil, 2012
 “Rethinking Development: Growth Regimes and Social Protection – the Case of Lao PDR”

ASEASUK, Panel on Laos in Historical & Contemporary Transition, Cambridge, UK, 2011
 “On the Particular & the Shared: Lao PDR in Comparative Perspective”

UN Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2009
 “Comparative Welfare Regimes: Poverty & Policy in the Developing World”

Research and Professional Experience

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Centre for Crisis Studies & Mitigation U. of Manchester, UK
 Jan – July 2020

- Supported PI in developing university research clusters and networks; developed online webinar series and public engagement; conducted self-directed research on energy & disasters

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, U. of Manchester Global Development Institute, Manchester, UK
 August 2018 – January 2020

- Leader investigator, ‘Mapping Infrastructure Finance in Ghana and Myanmar’
- Research and fieldwork for UKRI-funded FutureDAMS research project

US Fulbright Doctoral Researcher, Lao PDR
 September 2013 – August 2014

- Dissertation fieldwork; Research & Teaching Affiliate, Department of Economics, NUOL

Research Analyst, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva, Switzerland
 August 2008 – September 2010

- Assistant Coordinator for the UNRISD Flagship Report 2010 on *Combating Poverty & Inequality*
- Managed the Project on Poverty Reduction and Policy Regimes to produce 8 country studies, over 20 thematic background papers; involved project management, editing and re-editing of contributor papers

Research Consultant, ASEAN Ad-Hoc Working Group on Labor Practices, Bangkok, Thailand
 December 2007 - June 2008

- Drafted study on *Tri-Partite Progressive Labor Practices* for the ASEAN Labour Minister’s
- Conducted 100 interviews across nine countries with labor, business, and government representatives; presented policy-relevant findings to high-level government ministers

Project Officer, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) – London, UK & Singapore
 May 2006 – December 2007

- Managed relationships with key external government, business and academic stakeholders for institutional programs, events and funding; edited *Strategic Dialogue* policy series
- Planned, organized & coordinated high-level multilateral security conference, the *Shangri-La Dialogue*

Teaching Experience

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Bentley University, Dept of Global Studies

Assistant Professor

Program Director, Political Economy & Development concentration, BA Liberal Studies Major
Instructor, Power, Politics & Public Policy in International Development, (UG) Autumn 2021
Instructor, The Developing World, (UG) Spring 2021, Spring 2022
Instructor, Introduction to Comparative Politics & Government, (UG) Autumn 2020 - Present
Instructor, States, Business & Environment in Asia (TBD)

UCL Dept. of Political Science & School of Public Policy

Fellow in Political Economy & International Development; BSc in PPE Programme Director

Acting Program Director, BSc in Politics, Philosophy, Economics (PPE) degree. 2017-2018.
Instructor, Introduction to Political Science (UG). 2017-2018.
Instructor, Undergraduate Capstone Workshop (UG). Spring 2018.
Instructor, International Development and Public Policy (UG). Spring 2017.
Instructor, Political Economy of Development (PG). Autumn 2016.
TA, Public Policy & Economic Analysis (PG). Autumn 2017.

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Dept. of Politics

Senior Teaching Fellow

Instructor, States & Society in Asia and Africa (PG). 2017-2018.
Instructor, Theory & Evidence in Contemporary Development (UG). 2014-2015.

UC Berkeley in London

TA, Comparative Politics (UG). 2016-2017.

London School of Economics & Political Science

Fellow in Development Management

TA, Development Management (PG). 2014-2016.
TA, Political Economy of Advanced Nations (UG). Summer 2012.
TA, Democracy/Democratization (UG). Spring 2011/13
TA, LSE 100 (UG). 2011-2012.

Research and Teaching Interests

Comparative & International Political Economy; Political Economy of Development & International Public Policy; East/Southeast Asian Political Economy; IR & Comparative Politics; Energy, Infrastructure & Environmental Politics; Research Methods (Qual/Quant/Mixed)

Student Supervision

Primary supervisor, 2 Undergraduate capstones, Bentley University.
Primary supervisor on 3 MSc dissertations, 2018-2019, University of Manchester.
Primary supervisor on 13 MSc dissertations, 2016-2018, UCL.

Service & Committee Membership

Dept. Student Engagement & Events Committee, Bentley University, 2020 - Present
Dept. Selection & Hiring Committee, 2021, Bentley University, 2021
Dept. Anti-Racism Statement Committee, Bentley University, 2020
Organizer, Campus Town Hall on Anti-Asian Violence, Bentley University, 2021
Chair, Staff-Student Liaison Committee, UCL, 2017-2018
Chair, Undergraduate Steering Committee, UCL, 2017-2018
Member, Department Teaching Committee & MA Exam Board, UCL 2017-2018

Peer Review for Journals

Development & Change; Journal of Labour & Society

Professional Membership

American Political Science Association; American Association for Geographers; Development Studies Association; Association for Southeast Asian Studies UK (Exec. Committee; Editor); Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (Network Organizer for Annual Conference)

Software Skills & Languages

NVIVO, SPSS, STATA, 'R', Python and MS Office/Excel
English (Fluent); Lao, Thai, French (Proficient), Mandarin & Serbian (Basic)

References

Dr. Kate Meagher
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