

# PON SOUVANNASENG

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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, Winter 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* 46 (1) 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. (2022) 'Evidence-based Policymaking' or Epistemic Manufacturing? US-China Geopolitics, Politicized Water Scholarship and the Fight for Narrative Control Along the Mekong. in 'Essays on China.' Washington DC: Woodrow Wilson Center.

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

Souvannaseng, P. (Submitted – Under Review) 'Institutional Poaching: Sub-Regional Rivalry and the Politics of Parallel Governance Building Along the Mekong'

Souvannaseng, P. (Submitted – Under Review) 'Blending or Banking Towards 'Bankability'? Comparative Sino-OECD Export Finance Regimes and Divergent Risk Appetites in the Global Infrastructure Market'

Souvannaseng, P. (Submitted – Under Review) 'Disaster by Financial Design: Submersed Stakeholders & the Political Economy of Dam Failure in Lao PDR'

Souvannaseng, P. (Forthcoming) 'Crypto by Fiat: State-Sanctioned Mining at the Crypto-Hydro Nexus in Lao PDR'

Souvannaseng, P. (Forthcoming) 'A Tale of Two Rails: Chinese Adaptive Strategies to Rail Building in Laos & Thailand' Carnegie Endowment for International Peace 'Local/Global' Working Paper Series, Washington DC: CEIP

Souvannaseng, P. (Forthcoming) 'Infrastructure Finance Regimes' in S. Creak, H. High, & O. Tappe. *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Laos* (Routledge: London).

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*

J. Plummer, S. Markkannen & P. Souvannaseng (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**

University of Cambridge, UK, November 2022

'Banking on Crypto: Comparative Blockchain Development in Contemporary Southeast Asia'

Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington DC, October 2022

'From Hydro to Crypto? Exploring Physical to Digital Infrastructure Transitions & Development Agendas in Contemporary Southeast Asia'

American Political Science Association Publication Workshop, Bangkok, Thailand, July 2022

'Crypto by Fiat: State-Sanctioned Mining at the Crypto-Hydro Nexus and Resource Mobilization at the Frontiers of Global Sovereign Debt in Lao PDR'

Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI, March 2022

'Risky Business: Fast Finance & Faulty Infrastructure - The Case of XPXN in Lao PDR'

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

'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”

CLACSO-CODESRIA-APISA 5<sup>th</sup> 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”

## Research and Professional Experience

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

Jan – July 2020

- 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’

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 producing 8 country studies and over 20 thematic background 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 Labor Minister’s Meeting; conducted 100 interviews across nine countries with labor, business, and government representatives; presented policy-relevant findings to high-level policymakers

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

May 2006 – December 2007

- Coordinator for the 2007 multilateral *Shangri-La Dialogue*; edited *Strategic Dialogue* policy series

## Teaching Experience

5

### **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**

East/Southeast Asian Political Economy; Contemporary Politics of Asia; Political Economy of Development; Colonial & Post-Colonial Asia; IR & Comparative Politics; Energy, Infrastructure & Environmental Politics; Research Methods (Qual/Quant/Mixed)

## **Student Supervision**

Primary supervisor, 3 Undergraduate capstones, Bentley University.  
Principal Investigator & Mentor, 4 Undergraduate Research Assistants, 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  
Associate Professor  
Department of International Development  
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