Scene on a Yangon street in November 2012 prior to President Barack Obama’s historic visit to Myanmar. Visiting scholar Bai Xuefeng discusses Myanmar’s role in U.S.-China relations in Southeast Asia in this week’s lecture. (EPA/Lynn Bo Bo photo)

This week’s lecture: U.S., China and Myanmar

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1. This week’s lecture: China, U.S. policies toward Myanmar
Visiting Chinese scholar and historian Bai Xuefeng, assistant professor at Xiamen University, China, will present “Competing for Influence or Peaceful Coexistence? The Policy Adjustment of the United States and China toward Myanmar” at noon Friday, Oct. 11, in Room 110 (Honors office), Campus Life Building. With normalizing relations between Myanmar and the United States on the fast track, what of China’s role as Myanmar’s major investor and powerful neighbor? Bai Xuefeng discusses the ramifications of U.S. and China policies in the region, and whether Myanmar “can become a test ground for peaceful coexistence between the U.S. and China in Southeast Asia.” To order a Cambodian lunch, submit an online request by 6 p.m. Thursday at CSEAS Brown Bag Lunch Order. Orders must be cancelled online by 10 a.m. Friday. Cost is $5 for students and $6 for faculty, staff and others. Payments may be made in cash or by check. For details, e-mail seabrownbag@gmail.com. See the entire fall lecture series schedule on the Center website.

2. NIU prepares to host COTS conference
Thai scholars from near and far will be meeting and greeting at Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center for the Oct. 18–19 Council on Thai Studies (COTS) conference. The conference will lead off with a lecture Oct. 18 by NIU alumnus Srisompob Jitpiromsri, director of the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity at Prince of Songkla University in Pattani, Thailand. His talk will be “The Formation of Peace Discourse and the Politics of Recognition in the Patani Peace Process.” (While at NIU for the conference, Jitpiromsri also is accepting a Distinguished Alumni award from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.) The keynote speaker Oct. 19 will be University of Leeds professor of Southeast Asian politics Duncan McCargo. His talk will be “Dispensing Justice? The Work of Thai Police Investigators.” Conference registration is free. Rooms may still be available at the Holmes Student Center. Conference organizers include CSEAS associates John Hartmann (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Julia Lamb (CSEAS), Chalermsee Olson (Founders Library), Grant Olson (Foreign Languages and Literatures, COTS 2013 chair), and Danny Unger (Political Science). COTS, which was founded at NIU in 1972, is an informal organization of scholars interested in all aspects of Thai studies. For details, see COTS website.

3. Center associates update: Ambassadorial briefing and quotable quotes
* Susan Russell (anthropology) is headed to Washington, D.C. Oct. 17 to participate in a briefing for Philip Goldberg, incoming U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines. She will be speaking about the ongoing peace processes and conflict situation in Mindanao, along with Patricia Abinales of the University of Hawaii and Zachary Abuza of Simmons College. Over the summer, Russell was on the move in the Philippines and Thailand. In July and August, she conducted research with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society actors in Cotabato Davaoy, and General Santos cities in Mindanao on the new peace accord with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the challenges ahead since the
signin. In between, she gave an invited talk, “Hybrid Peacebuilding: Ambiguities of NGOs in the Southern Philippines,” on July 24 at the International Symposium on Comparative Conflicts and Peace Process at Prince of Songkla University in Pattani, Thailand. On Aug. 23, she made the same presentation in an invited talk at Palawan State University at Palawan State University in Puerto Princesa City in the Philippines. Anthropology Department chair Kendall Thu was also there to give a presentation on NIU’s environmental studies and NGO studies programs; he then accompanied Russell to participate in the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) follow-on program.

* Michael Buehler (political science) was quoted in the Sept. 30 edition of Southeast Asia Globe in an article about a controversial new law on non-governmental organizations in Indonesia in an atmosphere of growing religious intolerance and attacks by extremist groups. Many observers, including Buehler, see these new regulations as a potential threat to the viability and public activities of certain NGOs. “The public sphere in Indonesia has narrowed for several years now, and this law is just the latest development,” Buehler said. “The law, as with most laws in Indonesia, is formulated in a very vague manner, which also increases the risk of abuse for political ends.”

* Kikue Hamayotsu (political science) is participating Oct. 11 in a daylong symposium, “Islamism in Southeast Asia” sponsored by the Islamic Studies Program at the University of Michigan. She will be on a panel discussing electoral politics in Muslim majority states.

4. SEA Club hosts ‘noodles and a movie’ night
Forget the popcorn, nothing beats a good movie and a bowl of noodles. The Southeast Asia Club is hosting a Southeast Asian Noodle and Horror Movie Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, in 280 DuSable. Banish the midterm blues with noodle deliciousness and the 2008 Thai horror film, Coming Soon. Free. NEW

5. Two days of Malaysian films set for October
CSEAS will welcome contemporary Malaysian film director Mansor bin Putheh to NIU Oct. 24–25 to screen and discuss four of his film projects. The film screening schedule is as follows:
- **Oct. 24, 6 pm**: Seman: A Lost Hero (feature, 1990) and The Seventh Child (made-for-television movie)
- **Oct. 25, noon**: The Residency Years (documentary, 2009) and Writing in the Sand ... on How the Jasmine Revolution of the Arab Spring of 2011 Could Have Been Avoided (documentary, 2011)

All four films will be shown in the Chandelier Room in Adams Hall. Admission is free.

6. Call for papers: International Burma Studies Conference 2014
The 2014 International Burma Studies Conference is being convened Aug. 1–3 in Singapore by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and the National University of Singapore’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The theme of the conference is “Envisioning Myanmar: Issues, Images, Identities.” Conference organizers are accepting proposals for individual papers or whole panels; deadline for submission is Dec. 31. Email to bsc2014@iseas.edu.sg. For preliminary details, see the conference website.
7. Not too early to be thinking about spending next summer in Southeast Asia

Examine NGOs in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. Explore cultural diversity in Thailand. Experience Balinese music, dance and culture in Indonesia. Learn Lao language and culture in Laos. Conduct clinical research on hearing loss in Cambodia or environmental research on public health in Indonesia. There are more choices than ever to study abroad in Southeast Asia next summer. NIU faculty will lead five of six study abroad programs to SEA offered through NIU’s Study Abroad Office.

- **Trude Jacobsen** (History) will take a group May 28–June 13 to Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam to study the growth of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in those countries. A new program, the course will look at how “development policy is imagined, produced, and received (or resisted) across multiple cultural contexts,” Jacobsen says.

- **Jui-Ching Wang** (School of Music) will introduce Balinese music, dance, theatre, architecture and crafts July 1–30 in her new program to Bali, Indonesia. “Students will experience these arts by interacting with the local people and gaining knowledge about the inseparable relationship of the arts, religion, and culture on Bali,” Wang says.

- **Andrea Molnar** (Anthropology) will reprise her 2012 program, “Cultural Diversity in Thailand,” May 16–June 14 in Thailand. Molnar’s program will introduce students to Thai culture and diversity, and examine the relationship between the dominant majority and minorities of the country.

- **Tomoyuki Shibata** (College of Health & Human Sciences) returns to Indonesia June 1–21 to continue research activities on environmental factors and public health. Past program projects have examined the effect of indoor air quality or mothers’ behaviors on children’s health.

- **King Chung** (School of Allied Health & Communicative Disorders) is conducting a group June 1–14 to Cambodia for “Heart of Hearing Program in Cambodia,” a program to help students develop their clinical skills by working with hearing-impaired individuals and helping facilitate locally based programs.

- **Study Abroad in Laos** (SAIL), a program offered through the Center for Lao Studies in San Francisco and with credit from NIU, will run June 27–July 31. Based in Vientiane, Laos, the program offers students language and cultural lessons as well as exposure to Lao history and culture.

For more information about studying abroad, the **Study Abroad** office holds Study Abroad 101 at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays in 417 Williston. There also will be a workshop at 5:30 p.m. **Oct. 10** in 300 DuSable on finding money to study abroad.
8. Make plans now to attend Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs

Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., is hosting the 62nd Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs Oct. 25–27. The conference, the Midwestern affiliate of the Association for Asian Studies, is the largest such regional AAS meeting. Associate Trude Jacobsen (History), the conference’s Southeast Asia representative, will lead and present on the panel “The Past in Burma’s (Gendered) Present: Historicizing Intersectionality in Myanmar.” Associate Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music) will also be there to present “Do I Sound Chinese Now? A Musical and Cultural Analysis of Students’ Learning Experience in the Northern Illinois University Chinese Music Ensemble.” CSEAS is organizing limited group transportation on a first come, first served basis. Call 815-753-1771 or email cseas@niu.edu if interested. Conference registration, which includes Saturday evening banquet and one-year MCAA membership, is $65 for students; $85 for others. For details, see conference website.

9. Save the dates: Half the Sky at Cole Hall

- **Oct. 10:** Screening of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, 7 p.m., Cole Hall Auditorium. Free. Sponsored by the Anthropology Museum and Women’s Studies Program
- **Nov. 11–15:** International Education Week sponsored by the Division of International Programs. Plans related to Southeast Asia include a lecture by an Islamic banking expert from Malaysia and an international careers event on **Nov. 12**, and a keynote lecture on colonial Burma by Rutgers University historian Chie Ikeya on **Nov. 15**.

10. Burnish your resumé: Sign up for SEA Studies minor or grad concentration

Adding a minor to an undergraduate degree or a graduate concentration to an advanced degree can pull a resumé up to the top of the pile. To learn about NIU’s Southeast Asian Studies programs, visit the CSEAS website or stop by Pottenger House, 520 College View Court. Undergraduates may make an appointment with Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb at jlamb@niu.edu; graduate students should contact Assistant Director Eric Jones at eajones@niu.edu.

11. Call for proposals for first AAS-in-Asia conference

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS), the Asia Research Institute, and the National University of Singapore (NUS) are introducing the first AAS-in-ASIA conference, “Asia in Motion: Heritage and Transformation,” to be held **July 17–19** at NUS. “It is our hope,” conference organizers say in their promotional literature, “that the conference will stimulate new networks among scholars within Asia and beyond,” providing broader intercontinental connections for the future of Asian studies.” Proposals for panel or roundtable proposals are due **Oct. 31**. AAS is offering partial travel stipends to accepted panel participants. For details, see the conference website.
12. Boren, Blakemore Freeman programs offer funding for advanced SEA language study

David L. Boren awards provide unique and substantial funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to study Southeast Asian languages among other less commonly taught languages (see list). Applications for the 2014–15 Boren scholarships (for undergraduates) and fellowships (for graduate students) are now available on the Boren website. Undergraduate students can receive up to $20,000 for an academic year’s study abroad and graduate students up to $30,000 for language study and international research. In exchange for funding, recipients commit to working in the federal government for a minimum of one year. For application help, see Anne Seitzinger at the Study Abroad office, 417 Williston Hall (email her at aseitz@niu.edu). Graduate fellowship applications are due to the Boren office by Jan. 28; undergraduate scholarship applications are due Feb. 5.

The Blakemore Foundation makes grants for the advanced study of selected Southeast Asian languages—Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese—by scholars and mid-career professionals. Applications for the 2014 Blakemore Freeman fellowships and Blakemore refresher grants are now being accepted. The grants cover tuition and stipend, educational expenses, living costs and transportation. Candidates must be U.S. citizens with an undergraduate degree pursuing a professional, business, technical or academic career that involves the regular use of a Southeast Asian language. For more information, see the Blakemore Foundation website. The deadline to apply is Dec. 30.

13. Job/internships opportunities

El Colegio de Mexico
- Assistant professor: Tenure-track position in field of Southeast Asian social science; fluency in one Southeast Asian language and Spanish required (Indonesian or Malay encouraged). Apply by Jan. 14. For information, contact Dr. Hilda Varela Barraza, director Centro de Estudios de Asia y Africa, El Colegio de Mexico, Camino al Ajusco 20, Mexico D.F. 10740, Mexico.

Eurasia Group
- Political risk analyst (Southeast Asia): In-country experience (priority Thailand-Philippines) desired for position based in New York or Washington, D.C. For details, see job posting.

University of Ohio
- Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian History: Tenure-track position. Deadline to apply: Dec. 1. For details, see job posting.

University of Utah
- Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian History: Tenure-track position. Deadline to apply: Nov. 8. For details, see job posting.

Singapore Management University
- Associate Professor, International and Asian Studies: For details, see job posting.

Asia Society
- Career opportunities: Internships and jobs posted regularly on website.

World Health Organization
- Global public health nonprofit based in Geneva, Switzerland, encourages online applications for potential employment. See WHO website.
Idealist.org
- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. For details, see the Idealist website.

14. Money for study

Chulalongkorn University Institute of Thai Studies
- **Thai studies scholarships**: Empowering Network for International Thai Studies (ENITS) scholarships for master’s graduates or doctoral students in Thai studies. Both scholarships require submission of original unpublished research by April 30. **Deadline to apply: Dec. 25.** See ENITS website. NEW

American Institute for Indonesian Studies
- **Research grants for scholars**: $5,000 Henry Luce Foundation grants available for American and Indonesian scholars in contemporary and traditional Indonesian studies. **Deadline to apply: Oct. 31.** Forms available at AIFIS website.
- **Research grants for graduate students, postdocs**: $5,750 Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) grants available for research in contemporary and traditional Indonesian studies. **Deadline to apply: Dec. 15.** Forms at AIFIS website.

East-West Center
- **Graduate fellowships**: Applications for 2014 fellowships now being accepted. Fellowships run up to 24 months. **Application due: Nov. 1.** See East-West website.

Center for Khmer Studies
- **Fellowships**: Applications open for PhD students and senior scholars to conduct research in Cambodia. PhD fellowships are for a maximum of 11 months; senior scholar fellowships are for 4 to 6 months. Open to U.S. citizens only. See CKS website.

Council of American Overseas Research Centers
- **Research fellowship**: Multi-Country Research Fellowship Program offers support in humanities, social sciences or allied natural sciences for doctoral candidates and post-doc scholars. Research must be carried out in two more countries outside of U.S. Funding provided by U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. **Deadline to apply: Jan. 13.** See CAORC website.

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
- **Visiting fellowship**: ISEAS invites applications for postdoctoral fellowship in Indonesia studies, starting January 2014. **Application due: Oct. 15.** See ISEAS website.

National University of Singapore/Stanford University
- **Fellowship**: Applications are open for 2014 Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellowship on Southeast Asia. Open to all nationalities with backgrounds or positions in the social sciences or humanities. Fellowship provides travel and stipend for one month at NUS and one to three months at Stanford writing or researching contemporary Southeast Asia. See fellowship website.

15. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops
- **New Research in Southeast Asian History**, Oct. 18–19, Yale University, New Haven, CT. Inaugural graduate student conference. See conference website.
• **Constructing Southeast Asia**, Oct. 23–24, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta. Organized by the Center for Southeast Asian Social Studies at Gadjah Mada. See [conference website](#) or email coconsea@gmail.com.

• **5th International Graduate Student Conference on Indonesia**, Oct. 30–31, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta. See [conference website](#).

• **East Winds Symposium: East and Southeast Asian Cinema on the Global Stage**, Nov. 2–3, Coventry University, UK. Call for papers. See [conference website](#).

• **Framing ‘Asian Studies’: Geopolitics, Institutions and Networks**, Nov. 18–19, Leiden, the Netherlands. See [conference website](#).

• **1st International Conference on Jambi Studies**, Nov. 21–24, Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia. For information, see [conference website](#).

• **Alay at Laya: International Conference on Bonifacio and Mabini**, April 17–19, Manila. Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: Oct. 15.** See [conference website](#).

• **Thailand in the World: 12th International Conference on Thai Studies**, April 22–24, 2014, University of Sydney, Australia. See [conference website](#) or email brenda.kranz@sydney.edu.au.

• **Society for Economic Anthropology Conference**, April 24–26, Austin, Texas. Call for papers. Theme: Energy and Economy. **Abstracts due: Nov. 1.** Details to be posted online by Oct. 1.

• **Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)**, June 10–21, Lexington, Ky. Call for papers. **Deadline for proposals: Dec. 1.** See [conference website](#).

16. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

• “Siam: The Queen and the White City” is on display in the Costume and Textile gallery at the Chicago History Museum. The exhibition features textiles, photographs and other items from Thailand that were collected by Queen Savang Vadanaphan for display in the exposition’s Women’s Building. Through **March 2.** For details, see the [museum website](#).

• Learn about the history of Laotian immigration to Elgin, which began in the 1970s at the Vietnam War, in long-running exhibit at the Elgin Area Historical Society and Museum, 360 Park St., Elgin.

• “Remembering the Killing Fields” exhibit is on display at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The [Cambodian Association of Illinois](#) also holds free Cambodian music and dance lessons.

• The Indonesian Consulate in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. Javanese gamelan and dance is offered from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays; gamelan music and Indonesian dance is offered 3 to 6 p.m. Sundays. For details, see consulate [website](#).

**Persons with a disability who may need assistance at any CSEAS event may contact office manager Nancy Schuneman at 815-753-1771 or nschunem@niu.edu. To no longer receive this bulletin, please reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.**