



The Center for Southeast Asian Studies presents:



Friday, February 3, 2012 at noon
Room 110 (Honors), Campus Life Building

Shadows of Burma: The Politics of Identity on the Thai-Burmese Border

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Military oppression, insurgency, and violence have dominated global discourse surrounding Burma for forty years. As the Union Solidarity and Development Party calls for opposition parties to enter the new and “open” political fold, opposition members inside and outside the nation must balance new opportunities with past identities.

Initiated by large-scale protests during the 8-8-88 uprising, thousands of opposition members organized under the banner of “the student movement” fled central areas of Burma and resettled along the Thai border. For two decades these groups have worked alongside minority and international organizations to address local, national, and regional political agendas.



AFP Photo

Operating within a broader coalition composed of groups with disparate and often conflicting goals, these organizations have adopted a common identity representative of the greater community in exile. Using members of the Burmese Student Movement as a lens into the dynamics of transnational political contention, this lecture focuses on issues of social memory, state resistance, and liminality as they relate to identity-building among a dislocated multi-ethnic political coalition in the face of a transforming political environment.

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