



The Center for Southeast Asian Studies presents:

Friday, March 4, 2011  
12:00 NOON  
Campus Life Building, Room 110

## ***The Curious Case of Mr. Sherlock Hare: Race, Class, and Mental Health in British Burma***

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In 1891, Sherlock Hare was classified a “criminal lunatic” and removed from British Burma. His crime involved the lease of the Cocos-Keeling Islands. Exactly how Sherlock Hare deceived the British government is never made explicit in the records; yet he was apparently so convincing in his sane moments that the captain of the *Elson* allowed him to disembark before reaching the Albert Dock, where asylum officials were waiting to take him into custody. The resulting embarrassment for the British government led to an inquiry into the entire procedure for European persons deemed criminally insane in the colonies. The story of Sherlock Hare – his arrest, evaluation, incarceration, and subsequent removal to England – reveals not only a great deal about Victorian perspectives toward mental health, but also the relevance of race and class in the treatment of afflicted persons in the colonies.

