Kings and Dictators: The Legacy of Monarchy and the New Authoritarianism in Asia.

Symposium at Cornell University, April 13-14, 2018

Final version revised April 9, 2018

This symposium is jointly arranged by Cornell University’s South Asia Program (SAP), Southeast Asia Program (SEAP), East Asia Program EAP, and the Comparative Muslim Societies Program.

Venue: The George McT. Kahin Center for Advanced Research on Southeast Asia at Cornell University (640 Stewart Avenue, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, USA)

Organizers: Magnus Fiskesjö (SEAP; EAP; Anthropology), Kaja McGowan (SEAP, History of Art and Visual Studies); Divya Sriram (SEAP), T. Joshua Young (EAP), Daniel Bass (SAP), Thamora Virginia Fishel (SEAP), James E. Nagy (SEAP); Eric Tagliacozzo (CMS; SEAP; History)

Symposium abstract:

Kingship is both ancient and modern. This conference investigates the history and legacy of monarchy in Asia, as well as the current rise of authoritarianism which frequently involves the revival and manipulation of the legacy of kingship. Presentations and discussion will concern both monarchy in history or today, and how today’s new dictators draw on the legacies of monarchy for the legitimation and mystification of their power and position, across Asia.

Concurrent and optional activities on campus:

- **Johnson Museum of Art (Cornell University)**
  - Objects from Asian monarchies selected for permanent exhibit (Arranged by Elizabeth Emrich and Ellen Avril, Asia curator)
  - Go to the Asia floor of the Johnson Museum (4th floor). It is located on central campus and is open 10 AM–5 PM (Tuesday–Sunday) and until 7:30 PM on Thursday.
  - No entrance fee. It has gorgeous panoramic views of campus and Cayuga Lake.
  - If you choose to take the 10 AM hotel shuttle on April 13 from Hotel Ithaca, you can explore the 4th floor with other conference attendees before the conference starts.

- **Kroch Library (Cornell University)**
  - Accompanying exhibit "Statemakers: Monarchs and Authority in Asia" (arranged by Karl Rozyn and Jeff Petersen, Librarian).
Open Thursday 8 AM-2 AM; Friday 8 AM-10 PM; Saturday 10 AM-11 PM; Sunday 10 AM-2 AM.

- **Hiking at Taughannock Falls State Park**
  - Sunday, April 15 morning
  - Magnus would like to take interested guests for an outdoor hike on Sunday morning if you have time before your flight/drive.
  - The details have still not been finalized, but if you would like to attend, then please email Magnus at magnus.fiskesjo@cornell.edu or talk to him during the conference.
  - It is very much optional, but the state park has beautiful waterfalls and views if you’d like to experience the beauty of upstate New York. Sneakers are recommended.

In Spring 2018, Magnus Fiskesjö is teaching the Cornell course “Kingship and State-Making in Asia.” Twelve students will attend at least one panel in the conference.
Symposium Schedule

All events will be held at the Kahin Center (640 Stewart Avenue) unless noted otherwise.

Friday, April 13, 2018

10:30 AM (optional)

Johnson Museum of Art
Gather at Johnson Museum lobby to visit the accompanying exhibits at the Johnson Museum's Asia floor (opens 10 AM) and at the Kroch library (open 8 AM). You can also go alone earlier if you would like.

12 PM – 1 PM
Lunch
Kahin Center (640 Stewart Avenue)

1 PM-1:15 PM

Welcoming Remarks
Hirokazu Miyazaki, Director, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University

1:15 PM-2:15 PM

Panel 1: Haunted by the Past: Thailand Today

Thak Chaloemtiarana, Cornell University, “Thai Monarchy Paradigms”


Discussant: Tamara Loos, Cornell University

2:15 PM-2:30 PM
Break

2:30 PM-3:30 PM

Panel 2: Kingship After Colonialism: Southeast Asia

Astrid Norén-Nilsson, Lund University, “A Regal Crackdown: Hun Sen as the Monarch of Asia’s Newest One-Party State”

Sebastian Dettman, Cornell University, “Religion, Language, and Royalty: Shifting Opposition Alliances and Discourse in Malaysia”

Discussant: Andrew Mertha, Cornell University
3:30 PM-4:00 PM  
   Break

4:00 PM-5:00 PM  
   **First Day Plenary Discussion:** Comparative and conceptual issues in the modern survival of kingship

5:00 PM-6:00 PM  
   Reception

6:30 PM  
   Dinner at Mia’s restaurant  
  Restricted to conference presenters and discussants only
Saturday, April 14, 2018

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Breakfast
Kahin Center

9:00 AM-10:30 AM
Panel 3: Kingship and Authority in South Asia

James Laine, Macalester College: “Shivaji: The Legacy of an Heroic King in Western India”

Geethika Dharmasinghe, Cornell University, “The Royal Craze of Sinhala Buddhist Ideology”

Milinda Banerjee, Presidency University, Kolkata, India and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich: “The Dialectics of Kingship and Subjecthood: Rethinking Political Theology through the Lens of Global Intellectual History”

Discussant: Durba Ghosh, Cornell University

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM
Break

10:45 AM-12:15 AM
Panel 4: Kingship, Legitimation, Authority – Japan and China

Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “The Japanese Emperor, the Rice Farmer – Imperial Power and Symbolic Capital”

Pamela Crossley, Dartmouth College, “Monarchy and Authoritarianism: Testing the Continuities”

Magnus Fiskesjö, Cornell University, “China the Empire: Past, Present, Future”

Discussant: Robin McNeal, Cornell University

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM
Lunch

1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Panel 5: Kings, Queens and Politicians in Indonesia

Kaja McGowan, Cornell University, “Mount Agung’s Follia d’Amore ("Madness of Love"), Registering Bali’s Royal Rumblings from 1678 to the Present”
Thomas Gibson, University of Rochester, “Vox Populi, Vox Dei: The Dictator as Defender of the Faithful in Contemporary Southeast Asia”

Discussant: Andrew Willford, Cornell University

2:30 PM-3:00 PM
Break

3:00 PM-4:00 PM
Panel 6: Duterte’s Philippines

Nerissa Balce, State University of New York at Stony Brook, with Gary Devilles, Ateneo de Manila University; and Ferdinand Lopez, University of Santo Tomas, Manila; “Duterte’s Archive and the Emancipated Filipino Photographer”

Nicolas Pichay, Humphrey Fellow, Syracuse University, “Oedipus in the Palace: Making Sense of President Duterte”

Discussant: Thomas Gibson, University of Rochester

4:00 PM-5:00 PM
Concluding Plenary Discussion: The Persistent Allure of Kingship

6:00 PM
Dinner
Physical Sciences Building, Room 401

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Optional Johnson Museum and/or Kroch Library visits to see exhibits
Optional group outdoor hike (Taughannock Falls State Park, details TBA)