What is border in a borderless world?: an emerging local imagination

Anan Ganjanapan
Chiang Mai University

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Introduction

- How to imagine border in borderless world
- How to problematize and conceptualize border
- Shifting approaches from a marginal area to a living space
- Local imagination of the in-between space
1. Historical Background: Pre-Colonial World of S. E Asia

- Indigenous conception of boundary
- *Mandala* world of center-focus sphere of power without border
- Multi-centered states in tributary relations
- Overlapping territory
- Control of manpower not territory
2. Border as colonial political construction

- Colonial mentality - Territorialization of the state as control over natural resources
- Arbitrarily political construct without imagination
- Ben Anderson (1983) Nation-state as Imagined Communities
- Thongchai Winichakul (1994) Siam Mapped – nation as geo-body (territorial entity) with technology of mapping
3. Border myth vs border reality

- Border is constructed as center-periphery dichotomy under single sovereignty
- Border as marginal area –powerless- no-man’s land
- Edmund Leach (1960) : The Frontiers of “Burma” as complex relationship between hill and valley people-in-between India and China
4. “Border” of ethnic complexities


- Ryoko Nishii (1999) “Coexistence of religions: Muslim and Buddhist relationship on the west coast of southern Thailand” – cognatic kinship

- Patrick Jory (2008) “Luang Pho Thuat as a southern Thai cultural hero: popular religion in the integration of Patani”
5. Territorialization of border and citizenship

5. Territorialization of border and citizenship (cont.)

- Conflicts over Salween and Mekong river **dam** construction
- Contested border of ethnic conflicts
- Border violence and naked life
- Citizenship as territorialization
6. Negotiating life on the border

- Negotiating livelihood on both sides of the border
- Formal vs informal economy
7. Border Identity beyond border

- Donna K. Flynn (1997) “We are border: identity, exchange and the state along the Benin-Nigeria border”
- Joselp Chinyong Liow (2011) “Muslim identity, local networks, and transnational Islam in Thailand’s southern border provinces”
7. Border Identity beyond border (cont.)


- Negotiating border under multiple sovereignty
8. Imagining border as communal space

- National border in ethnic and religious boundary
- Negotiating contested local space – cultural consumption in private and public sphere
- Social movement as a process of symbolic struggle for local authenticity and morality
- Buddhist and Islamic movement as middle-class based movement