

Charlie Thame, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of International Relations,

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Summary

Charlie is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok. He teaches international relations and political economy with a focus on mainland Southeast Asia. Based in the region since 2011, he has conducted extensive research on migration, human rights, and regional integration, with a focus on special economic zones and economic corridors. He served as a social sciences tutor for civil society leaders from Myanmar pursuing degrees with Australian universities from 2012 to 2018 and has worked on various research projects with The Asia Foundation, Focus on the Global South, Save the Children, the International Labour Organisation, World Vision, Johns Hopkins University, the Mekong Institute, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Thailand Research Fund, and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

Education

- 2013 PhD International Politics, Aberystwyth University, UK
 - 2010-11 Visiting Research Fellow, University of Queensland, Australia
 - 2008 MscEcon (Research Track) Security Studies, Aberystwyth University, UK
 - 2007 MscEcon (Specialist Track) International Relations, Aberystwyth University, UK
 - 2006 BA (1st Class) Politics and Philosophy, Cardiff University, UK
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Employment

Assistant Professor of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

July 2020 – Present

Teaching, research, and academic service. Coordinating and teaching four core BA International Relations courses on Thammasat University's BIR program: PO210 Introduction to Political Philosophy; PI481 International Political Economy; PI377 Strategic Studies; PI376 Alternative Approaches to International Relations, plus supervision of relevant masters dissertations. Research interests focus on International Relations Theory, political economy, and the domestic and international politics of the Mekong subregion: Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Laos in particular.

Lecturer in International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

October 2016 – June 2020

Teaching, research, and academic service. Courses taught include: Introduction to Political Science; Introduction to Political Philosophy; International Political Economy; Introduction to ASEAN; Strategic Studies; Transnational Issues and Civil Society; Alternative Approaches to International Relations.

Social Sciences and Economics Tutor, Open Universities Australia (Burma Project)

December 2012 – May 2018

Providing holistic and academic support in person and electronically to Burmese activists and civil society leaders on scholarships with OUA (Griffith, Melbourne Institute of Technology, Swinburne, Macquarie, etc.). Remotely supervised students on research projects in Asia Pacific Studies, Development Economics, Sociology, Gender, Politics, Education & Sustainable Development (15 - 20 students from Mae Sot, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Naypyidaw, Mandalay, Yangon and Mon State).

Lecturer in Global Studies, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University

February 2013 – September 2016.

Co-wrote BA Global Studies and Social Entrepreneurship curriculum and taught political science and global health courses at undergraduate and masters level, including a course on Border Politics delivered annually to exchange students from the University of California. Management and administrative duties included faculty Research Committee and MPH Global Health Curriculum Committee, strategic planning and administration of educational programs, academic services, consultations, and public relations. Director &

Chair of BA Global Studies & Social Entrepreneurship program (2013-2014); Adjunct Faculty (October 2015-2016)

Research Associate & Human Rights Advisor, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

August 2011–March 2012

Designed and initiated a research project, ‘Prison Conditions in Burma and the Potential for Prison Reform’ (<https://goo.gl/jmqNqz>). Documented and reported on human rights abuses in Burma with monthly reports to stakeholders and donors, government departments, embassies and NGOs, including UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma. Wrote project proposals for funding, summarized legal documents, proof read and edited papers and confidential reports

Recent Research Projects

“Country Diagnostic of Constraints to Future Growth and Stability for Thailand” *The Asia Foundation* (April – September 2020)

Political economy analysis of Thailand in 2020 for multi-country study of advanced middle income countries. Funded by Department of Foreign Affairs, Australian Government.

“The Economics of Imperialism and Sub-imperialism in Mainland Southeast Asia: Quantifying Relations of Unequal Exchange” *Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University* (March 2020 - April 2021)

Awarded small grant for research on trade and investment trends in mainland Southeast Asia. Joint research project with a Myanmar-based economist.

“Alternatives to Extractive Imperialism in the Mekong” *Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Southeast Asia (Hanoi)* (July – December 2020)

Team leader for small research project on alternative development paths to export oriented manufacturing in response to covid-19 pandemic.

Thame, Charlie. 2018. *Joint Study and Survey of Special Economic Zones and Cross Border Economic Zones Khon Kaen: Mekong Institute.* <https://bit.ly/2FVY1s1>

Special economic zones have been established across the Lancang Mekong region including at border areas along economic corridors. In recent years “cross border economic zones” have been promoted by China and Thailand to encourage further investment in border areas, closer cross border economic cooperation, and facilitate trade. This study presents a review of the available literature on SEZs in the region and CBEZs globally and an update of their current status across six countries based upon field visits, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews.

Thame, Charlie., and Kraiyos Patrawart. 2018. *OOSC in Ranong: Estimates from Secondary Data* Bangkok: Save the Children Thailand.

Quantitative study and estimates of numbers of out-of-school children in Ranong Province Thailand based upon secondary data.

Thame, Charlie. 2017. *SEZs and Value Extraction from the Mekong: a Case Study on the Control and Exploitation of Land and Labour in Cambodia and Myanmar's Special Economic Zones.* Bangkok: Focus on the Global South. <https://bit.ly/2EQbdI8>

Examines the implications of private trans-boundary investment on communities in the Mekong region through case studies of SEZs in Myanmar and Cambodia, with a focus on Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville, and Dawei SEZs. The paper sheds light on how policies and regulations privilege private investors and the extent to which promises made to local communities by SEZ investors have been realised. Conducted through documentary review and policy analysis, field visits, key informant interviews with key stakeholders, and focus group discussions with local communities and workers.

Thame, Charlie., and Kraiyos Patrawart. 2017. *Strengthening OOSC Mechanisms in Tak Province* (February) Bangkok: Save the Children Thailand.

https://www.academia.edu/38681726/Strengthening_Out_of_School_Children_OOSC_Mechanisms_in_Tak_Province

Qualitative and quantitative research on data collection methods for out of school children, survey design, collection and analysis along the Thai-Myanmar border, and an analysis of barriers to accessing school services for migrant children. Research involved working closely with Thai government agencies at the central and provincial level to assess and strengthen data collection mechanisms on out of school children and pilot data collection in two sub-districts. Included pilot survey data collection and analysis and policy briefing for Royal Thai Government.

Tangseefa, Decha., Charlie Thame, and M.L. Pinitbhand Paribatra. 2016. *Mae Sot SEZ: Capitalising the Margins, Depleting the Marginal?* Bangkok: Thailand Research Fund <https://bit.ly/3iypH8x>

Three-year research project (Sept 2013–October 2016). Qualitative research on regional (ASEAN) and sub regional (GMS) integration initiatives with a focus on Thailand’s economic and development policies through a case study of the Special Border Economic Zone in Mae Sot, Thailand. Involved documentary research, ethnography, focus group discussions and semi-structured in-depth interviews with national and local officials, workers, and marginalized populations.

Thame, Charlie. 2016. *ILO-Myanmar Briefing Paper: Recruitment of Migrants in Countries of Origin: International standards, current mechanisms, and best practices from other source countries* (August) Yangon: International Labour Organisation

Briefing paper for ILO Myanmar on recruitment of migrants in countries of origin for work abroad. Included a review of international standards, current practices and mechanisms in Myanmar, and best practices from other source countries. Involved multi-stakeholder consultations through key informant interviews and focus group discussions with government officials, private recruitment agencies, and civil society organisations.

Robinson, Courtland., Charlie Thame., Casey Branchini. 2016. *Anti-Human Trafficking in Thailand: A Stakeholder Analysis of Thai Government Efforts, The U.S. TIP Report and Rankings, and Recommendations for Action* (June). Baltimore and Bangkok: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs <https://goo.gl/HKyE8v>

Qualitative and quantitative research on stakeholder perceptions of the Royal Thai Government’s anti-human trafficking initiatives, and perceptions of the US Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons Report. Responsibilities included: map stakeholders, organise and conduct focus group discussions and key informant interviews across sectors including senior government officials, UNIOs, and civil society. Research conducted in Tak, Bangkok, Samut Sakhon, Ranong (Thailand), Kawthaung (Myanmar).

Publications

Thame, Charlie. “The Economic Corridors Paradigm as Extractivism: Four Theses for a Historical Materialist Framework.” *Review of International Studies* 47, no. 4 (2021): 549–69.
doi:10.1017/s0260210521000292.

Thame, Charlie, and Jana Chin Rue Glutting. 2021, “Corona Crisis in the Mekong,” Hanoi: Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, February 2021. <https://bit.ly/3wuVa2f>

Thame, Charlie, and Jana Chin Rue Glutting 2021, “Expropriation, Exploitation, and Unequal Exchange,” Hanoi: Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, January. <https://bit.ly/2PwwF4e>

Thame, Charlie, 2020, “State Transformation and Uneven Development Across Southeast Asia’s Cross-Border Special Economic Zones” *Journal of Political Science Review (Ratthasat Nithet)* Vol. 6 Issue 1, pp.29-67 <https://bit.ly/3f7yKer>

Reap, Maura, Samittra Pornwattanavate, Charlie Thame, and Marc Putten. 2020. “The Social Determinants of Health of the Urak Lawoi’ of Southern Thailand.” *BMC Public Health* 20: 1–14. doi:10.1186/s12889-020-8283-y. <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-020-8283-y>

Thame, Charlie. 2019. “Human Rights, Business, and the Reliance on Elusive State Champions.” In *Navigating a New Era of Business and Human Rights*, edited by Mullen, Daniel Polomski, Teresa Soares, Joana Cassinerio, Michelle DCruz, and Vanessa Hongsathavij, 73–77, Bangkok: Article 30 - Mahidol University IHRPS. <https://bit.ly/38xsWIA>

Thame, Charlie 2019. “The Corridors Paradigm as Extractivism” *International Studies Association Asia-Pacific Nanyang Technological University*, Singapore, 30th June.

- Thame, Charlie. 2019. March. *OOSC Policy Briefing: No Child Should Be Discriminated Against Because of Where He or She Is From*, Bangkok: Save the Children Thailand
https://www.academia.edu/38681685/OOSC_Policy_Briefing_No_Child_Should_be_Discriminated_Against_Because_of_Where_He_or_She_Is_From
- Thame, Charlie. 2018. *Joint Study and Survey of Special Economic Zones and Cross Border Economic Zones* Khon Kaen: Mekong Institute.
http://www.mekonginstitute.org/uploads/tx_ffpublication/Joint_Study_and_Survey_of_Special_Economic_Zones101018_FINAL_20Dec.pdf
- Thame, Charlie. 2017. *SEZs and Value Extraction from the Mekong: a Case Study on the Control and Exploitation of Land and Labour in Cambodia and Myanmar's Special Economic Zones*. Bangkok: Focus on the Global South. <https://t.co/P86pYcaJcw>
- Thame, Charlie., and Kraiyos Patrawart. 2017. *Strengthening OOSC Mechanisms in Tak Province* (February) Bangkok: Save the Children Thailand.
https://thailand.savethechildren.net/sites/thailand.savethechildren.net/files/library/OOSC%20TAK%202019_final.pdf
- Thame, Charlie., and Kraiyos Patrawart 2017 *Breaking Barriers to Education: Improving Data Systems to Help Children Access School* (December) Bangkok: Save the Children Thailand.
https://www.academia.edu/38681747/Breaking_Barriers_to_Education_Improving_Data_Systems_to_Help_Children_Access_School
- Robinson, Courtland., Branchini, Casey., Thame, Charlie. 2017. *Global Trafficking Prevalence Data Advances the Fight against Trafficking in Persons*, Anti-Trafficking Review, Issue 8, 2017, pp. 157—160,
<http://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/article/view/233/225>
- Thame, Charlie. 2015. *Thailand's Incomplete Transition to Modernity? The Case of Myanmar Migrant Workers* Asia Pacific Sociological Association (APSA) Conference: Transforming Societies: Contestations and Convergences in Asia and the Pacific (25th July), Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Myint Oo, Ye., Thame, Charlie, Saini, Fabio. 2014. *Sexual / Intimate Partner Violence among Myanmar Female Sex Workers: Development of an Inquiry Protocol* Poster Presentation at the 3rd International Conference "Reducing Inequities in a Global and Regional", Amari Hotel, Don Muang, Bangkok, Thailand, (6th March).
- Shrestha, Kamala, Thame, Charlie, Aldis, William. 2014. *Review of International and National Policies and Programs in Relation to Domestic Child Labour in Nepal* Poster Presentation at the 3rd International Conference "Reducing Inequities in a Global and Regional", Amari Hotel, Don Muang, Bangkok, Thailand, (6th March)
- Thame, Charlie. 2014. *Ominous Signs for Migrant Workers in Thailand*. New Mandala. (15th June).
<http://www.newmandala.org/ominous-signs-for-migrant-workers-in-thailand/>
- Thame, Charlie. 2011. *Demurring Discourse Ethics: Hegel, Love and Human Community* International Studies Association Convention Montreal, Canada, (19th March)
- Thame, Charlie. 2010. *Critical Theory and World Politics: Citizenship, Sovereignty and Humanity* by Andrew Linklater. *Global Discourse* 1, no. 1 pp88-91. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23269995.2010.10707845>

PhD Dissertation

Thame, Charlie. 2013. *Love, Ethics, and Emancipation: The Implications of Conceptions of Human Being and Freedom in Heidegger and Hegel for Critical International Theory*. PhD diss., Aberystwyth University: Department of International Politics <http://cadair.aber.ac.uk/dspace/handle/2160/13599>

Teaching

Postgraduate

Supervisor, MA International Relations Dissertations, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

September 2016 – present

- *Muslim Doko* Thailand's Engagement with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- *Krittee Phumngamkham* Thailand-Laos Relations: A Study of Economic Partnership and Special Economic Zones 2010-2016
- *Do Thi Chang* The Vietnamese Communist Party's Repression of Political Opposition
- *Hussam Hagrass* The Royal Thai Government's Response to Burmese Displacement 1975-2017

- *Puttinant Rungsunlohakul* Global Health Governance: A Case Study of Interactions Between International Organisations, Public and Private Sectors, Towards Addressing Antibiotics Assistance in Thailand 2014-2017

Supervisor, MPH Global Health Dissertations, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University

February 2014 – December 2016

- *Maura Reap* *The Plight of Thailand's Sea Nomads: A 10-year post-Tsunami Analysis (MPH Dissertation)*
- *Kritika Dixit* *The Role of Good Governance in Reducing Maternal Mortality in Nepal (MPH Dissertation)*
- *Hlwon Moe Paing* *Womens' Autonomy in Family Planning among Myanmar Migrant Workers in Pathum Thani, Bangkok (MPH Dissertation)*
- *Su Su Zin* *Economic Growth and Healthcare Services in Myanmar (MPH Dissertation)*
- *Kamala Shrestha* *Review of International and Domestic Policy and Programs Related to Domestic Child Labour in Nepal (MPH Dissertation)*
- *Ye Myint Oo* *Sexual / Intimate Partner Violence among Myanmar Female Sex Workers: Development of an Inquiry Protocol (MPH Dissertation)*

Guest Lecturer in Qualitative Research Methods GH602 Research Methods, MPH Global Health, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University (November 2015)

Coordinator & Instructor GHSEM Academic Writing, MPH Global Health, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University (August 2014-December 2015)

Undergraduate

Coordinator & Lecturer PI210: Introduction to Political Philosophy, BMIR Program, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok (August 2018-Present)

Coordinator & Lecturer PI377: Strategic Studies, BMIR Program, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok (August 2017-Present)

Coordinator & Lecturer PI120: Introduction to ASEAN, BMIR Program, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok (August 2017-Present)

Coordinator & Lecturer PI481: Seminar on Problems in International Politics and Economics, BMIR Program, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok (January 2017-Present)

Coordinator & Lecturer PI367: Alternative Approaches to International Relations, BMIR Program, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok (March 2016-Present)

Guest Lecturer PO211SPD: Introduction to Political Science. Faculty of Sociology & Anthropology, Thammasat University, Bangkok. (August 2016 – present)

Academic Instructor of Record Fairhaven 437a: Discover Asia Field Program in Thailand & Burma, Western Washington University (USA) & the Institute for Village Studies (USA) (January 2016-March 2016)

Coordinator & Lecturer GH392: Border Politics: Geopolitical Realities in Populations in Transition, University of California Summer Program in Border Health, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University (June 2015-August 2015)

Coordinator & Lecturer GS200 Applied Critical Thinking, BA Global Studies and Social Entrepreneurship, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University (August 2014-June 2016)

Guest Lecturer in Critical Security Studies, PI376 Alternative Approaches in International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University. (November 2013)

Seminar Tutor IP10420 Introduction to International Politics; IP12220 Revolution and Continuity in Political Philosophy, Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University (September 2009 – December 2010)

Other Notable Experience

Editorial Board, Thammasat Review, Thammasat University. Bangkok. (May 2017 – present)

Examination Chair, Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Political Science, Bangkok (May 2017 – present). External examiner for MA dissertations in Political Science and International Development Studies.

National Evaluation Lead Consultant: World Vision, End Trafficking in Persons Program, End of Program Evaluation (March - May 2016) Qualitative and quantitative research to measure the effectiveness of the three pillars of World Vision's End Trafficking in Persons Program (2011-2016) Thailand

Examination Chair, Chulalongkorn University, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Bangkok (Dec. 2015 – present). External examiner for MA dissertations in Southeast Asian Studies.

Editorial Board, Wallacea Journal of Indo-Pacific Politics (Sept. 2015 – present). Academic Associate on the editorial board of a student-led, peer-reviewed journal covering the politics and international relations of the Indo-Pacific based at the University of Western Australia.

Examination Chair, Mahidol University, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Bangkok (Sept. 2015 – present). External examiner for MA dissertations in Human Rights and Peace Studies. Topics include 'Drug Abuse Challenges in Kachin State' and 'Rights To/At Work for Persons with Disabilities in Myanmar', 'A Case Study of Violence and Recovery in Meiktila, Myanmar'

Coordinator & Lecturer, University of California Education Abroad Summer Program, Mae Sot (June – Aug 2015). Wrote and delivered 3 credit course for University of California through Thammasat University. A field-based course taught in Mae Sot, classes focused on border politics, populations, and their mobility.

Examination Chair, Thammasat University, School of Global Studies, Bangkok (Aug. 2014 – present) Chair examinations of MPH dissertations in Global Health. Dissertation topics including trans-national migration, access to services, child labour, and wellbeing of marginalised populations.

Social Sciences Curriculum Consultant, Mote Oo Education, Yangon (June 2014 - Present)

Pro bono consultancy for small, locally run, community-focussed organisation that specialises in creating teacher training programs and educational materials for teachers of adults and young adults. Collected feedback from target users about their needs, edit, and proof reading a critical thinking teacher resource.

Other

Online

- LinkedIn: <https://th.linkedin.com/in/charliethame>
- Academia.edu: <https://thammasat.academia.edu/CharlieThame>
- Twitter: @charliethame
- Occasionally requested to comment on topical issues in national news outlets in Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Referees

- Referees can be provided on request