



23 November 2018 – ASAA News – Thesis prize, elections, and more

Dear ASAA members

This newsletter we have information on the recent awarding of the 2018 thesis prize, the ASAA elections, and a new co-editor for the Southeast Asia Publication Series.

2018 Thesis Prize

The 2018 [John Legge Prize for the Best Thesis in Asian Studies](#) has been [awarded to](#) Dr Katherine Dyt, Australian National University, for her dissertation titled “The Nguyễn Weather-World: Environment, Emotion and Governance in Nineteenth-Century Vietnam”.

Dr Dyt’s thesis is an environmental study of the Nguyen dynasty between 1802 and 1883, prior to the full imposition of French colonial rule. It explores how the Nguyen court organised itself in relation to the powerful, agentive and emotional ‘weather-world’ within which it was immersed.

The Runner-Up prize was awarded to Dr Rebecca Gidley, Australian National University, for her dissertation “Illiberal Transitional Justice: The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.”

Professor Kent Anderson, President of ASAA, commented: ‘The list of past winners of the John Legge Prize is a who’s who of the best Asian scholars in the world. It is fantastic to add two emerging scholars of Mainland Southeast Asia to that list in Kathryn Dyt and Rebecca Gidley.’

Election News

As per a previous email, there were two contested positions on the ASAA Council: Southeast Asia Councillor and Postgraduate Students’ Representative.

Election information was sent yesterday (22nd November) from ElectionBuddy. If you have not received an email with your unique ballot link please contact Rebecca Gidley (rebecca.gidley@anu.edu.au).

Voting closes on 17 December at 11:45pm.

Southeast Asia Publication Series

[Nick Cheesman](#), a scholar of law, society and political order specializing in Myanmar and Thailand, with broader interests in Southeast and South Asia, has joined Edward Aspinall as co-series editor of the [Southeast Asia Publication Series](#) – the ASAA book series established in 1977.

Nick is based at the ANU. He has won a series of prizes for his academic work, including the 2017 Distinguished Book Award of the Asian Law & Society Association for his 2015 book, [Opposing the Rule of Law: How Myanmar's Courts Make Law and Order](#). He is currently pursuing a DECRA (Discovery Early Career Award) on the politics of torture in mainland Southeast Asia. He hosts the [New Books in Southeast Asian Studies](#) channel of the New Books Network. Nick replaces Andrew Walker, now e President and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Monash Malaysia, as co-series editor.

The Southeast Asia Publication Series publishes across a wide range of disciplines on all the countries of Southeast Asia. If you have an idea for a book, please get in touch with [Nick](#) or [Edward](#).