



## Policy Briefing Session 3:

### ***Identity in Southeast Asia: Critical Issues at the Intersection of Politics, Violence and Social Formations***

#### **- Programme (02) -**

**Wednesday 11 December 2019**

**EEAS Building, 9A Rond Point Schuman - 1000 Brussels**

12:30 – 12:45

#### **Introduction**

- H.E. David Daly, Southeast Asia Division, EEAS
- Jacques Leider (EFEO)

12:45 – 13:45

#### **Identity in SEA: Critical Issues at the Intersection of Politics, Violence and Social Formations**

**Chair:** Volker Grabowsky (University of Hamburg)

- *Timor-Leste: Addressing violence-prone groups and setting a course towards peace*, Janina Pawelz (GIGA, Germany)
- *Exploitative expansion of Vietnamese fisheries as an answer to the South China Sea conflict and the market*, Edyta Roszko (Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway)
- *Protecting Buddhism: Buddhist just war-ideology during the 2017 Rohingya Exodus*, Iselin Frydenlund (MF Centre for the Advanced Study of Religion, Norway)

13:45 – 14:15

#### **Open discussion**

14:15 – 14:30

#### **Closing remarks**

- H.E. David Daly, Southeast Asia Division, EEAS



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## Speakers

**Dr Janina Pawelz** ([pawelz@ifsh.de](mailto:pawelz@ifsh.de)) is a researcher at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg, Germany, and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH). Her research focuses on peace and security, youth, identity, urban violence, violent groups and radicalization. She conducted research in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean and currently works on radicalization and violence in Germany. Within the CRISEA project her focus is on youth and identity in Timor-Leste. Her empirical research and methodological approaches have been published in *Forum Qualitative Social Research*, *Peacebuilding*, *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding* and various handbooks.

**Dr Edyta Roszko** ([edyta.roszko@cmi.no](mailto:edyta.roszko@cmi.no)) is a Senior Researcher at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway, where she develops a new research direction on oceans. After her PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology / Martin Luther University (Halle, Germany – 2011) which focused on religion and politics in Vietnam, she did ethnographic research among Chinese and Vietnamese fishing communities in the common maritime space of the South China Sea. Bridging different historical periods and countries, the question of mobility, migration and connectivity of fishers compelled her to historicize fishing communities and to work beyond the nation-state and area studies frame. Edyta's newly awarded European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant project *TransOcean* at Chr. Michelsen Institute expands her geographic field beyond Vietnam and China to include other global regions in Oceania and West and East Africa.

**Prof. Iselin Frydenlund** ([iselifrydenlund@gmail.com](mailto:iselifrydenlund@gmail.com)) holds a PhD in religious studies from University of Oslo (2011) on Buddhism and violence during the Sri Lankan civil war, and her research interests include the role of religion in war and peace, suicide terrorism, interreligious dialogue, and freedom of religion or belief. She is currently Associate Professor in Religious Studies at MF Norwegian School of Theology and Director of the MF Centre for the Advanced Study of Religion (MF CASR), she has been affiliated to the Peace Research Institute Oslo, PRIO, and Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo, and has cooperated with the Buddhist Federation of Norway and monastic organizations in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh, on religious minority rights in Buddhist majority states. She is also deeply engaged in an academic exchange program with Myanmar Institute of Theology.

# BRIEFING SUMMARIES

Contentious rivalries and violence appear as unfortunate outcomes of economic and political expansion, globalization and often long-repressed regional tensions within ASEAN countries and their periphery. However, they do also have lasting effects on societies domestically, impacting social and political dynamics, sense of identities and discourses of legitimacy. The present set of CRISEA policy briefings presents case studies dealing with violence-prone groups in East Timor, the aggressive reaction of Vietnamese fishers to China's expansion in the South China Seas and the Buddhist monks' just war ideology in Myanmar.

**Timor-Leste: Addressing violence-prone groups and setting a course towards peace,** *Janina Pawelz (University of Hamburg)*

Timor-Leste is home to a huge array of social organisations, including violence-prone groups known as "martial arts groups". Violent clashes between rival martial arts groups became frequent in the independence era, causing numerous injuries and deaths. While the martial arts groups have gained prominence as instigators of violence and actors challenging peace and security, they do also provide structures of identity and social protection for thousands of Timorese youth. This situation creates a mix of conflict dynamics bearing serious risks for the country. The presentation will shed light on the social and political dynamics and open up perspectives for policy makers and international agencies of development cooperation to address the risks of a deteriorating security situation.

**Exploitative expansion of Vietnamese fisheries as an answer to the South China Sea conflict and the market,** *Edyta Roszko (Chr. Michelsen Institute)*

With widespread acceptance of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, many countries in East and Southeast Asia are seeking to concretize their maritime borders and fishing grounds in the South China Sea. China's attempt to nationalize most of the South China Sea has created a conflictual situation where scarce marine resources function as a sort of 'rival goods,' driving particularly Chinese and Vietnamese fishers to shift from inshore to offshore fishing in the South China Sea. Massive exploitation turns into territorial claims and the regional development seems to set a threatening pattern for other oceans, too. The policy briefing will address the challenges of these new mobilities that operate under the radar of states."

**Protecting Buddhism: Buddhist just war-ideology during the 2017 Rohingya Exodus,** *Iselin Frydenlund (MF Centre for the Advanced Study of Religion, Oslo)*

Recent violence against Muslim minorities in Buddhist Myanmar and Sri Lanka has sparked off a new debate about the relationship between Buddhism and organized violence.

Analysis of discourses of prominent Buddhist monks in their response to the 2017 crisis in Rakhine State shows that they resort to a Buddhist just war ideology. The policy briefing will point out that rather than a norm deviation from "true" Buddhism, this ideology is anchored in Buddhist historiography and Buddhist views on the state.