

**Submission for a classic panel in the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) 2024 conference at the University of Amsterdam, Roeterseiland Campus, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.**

**(1) Panel Title:**

*Climate-induced conflicts and vulnerabilities in Southeast Asia: Community-based adaptation, imagination, and interventions in space, to address socio-environmental challenges.*

**(2) Conveners:**

**Joana de Mesquita Lima**

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(Lisbon, Portugal, 1980), BSc Geography (University College London, 2001), MSc Development Planning: Environment and Sustainable Development, from the Development Planning Unit, The Bartlett School of the Built Environment, UCL, 2002. Has worked on urban planning and strategy development projects in Timor-Leste since 2003, including the spatial plan for the Island of Ataúro, and the first five municipal spatial plans of the country. Joana has also worked on environmental projects and climate change adaptation with UNDP Timor-Leste and the Asia-Pacific Office. As a PhD student in Urbanism, she is a collaborating researcher of CIAUD, integrated in the *URBinLAB* research group of the Lisbon School of Architecture, University of Lisbon Her research focuses on the urban space in the post-conflict context, looking at Dili, Timor-Leste to extract lessons from. Interests include analyzing local territorial dynamics and governance issues shaping territories.

**Anubhav Goyal**

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(Bhatinda, India, 1986) graduated in 2009 in Architecture from Rajasthan University - Aayojan School of Architecture at Jaipur. Completed the Master in Urban Planning in 2011 from Malaviya National Institute of Technology and Post-graduation in Project Management from National Institute of Construction Management and Research - Pune. Licence in Applications of Remote Sensing & GIS for Natural Resources in 2015 by Indian Institute of Remote Sensing. He is a research candidate in Universidade de Lisboa, Centro de Investigação em Arquitetura Urbanismo e Design- CIAUD, *formaurbis* LAB, Portugal. Works in the area(s) of Humanities with emphasis on Urbanism and Architectural design.

**Assoc. Prof. Sayamol CHAORENRATANA**

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(Bangkok, Thailand) Anthropologist and rural community studies scholar, Director of the Center of Excellence for Human Security and Equity (HuSE), Deputy Director of Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI), and the founder and first president of the Public Sociological of Thailand (PSAT). PhD in Land Use and Sustainable Natural Resources Management from Kasetsart University and is recently a Research Associate Professor at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Her research focuses mainly on the nexus between vulnerable people and the system, such as food system workers; farmers' food security and land rights; drug users and social determinants of health; informal workers in crisis management policy, and integration of migrant workers in aged society. She is interested in the community impact of globalization and policy, social equality, and sustainable development.

**(3) Format**

A double session with 8 presenters and two discussants. The most effective way to share research outcomes with diverse audiences is through a double-session presentation panel highlighting

research findings of scholars from Southeast Asia, Europe, and other regions. Two discussants at each session will guide the discussion process with presenters, facilitating emerging issues. Contributions should not be restricted to academic research but also expanded to policymakers, practitioners and the broader public.

#### **(4) Panel Description:**

The failure of the climate change mitigation approach to keep global warming under certain limits has predicted irreversible changes to the earth, and people in the global South will be affected more than people in the global North. Southeast Asia consists of mainly developing countries whose struggles towards Sustainable Development Goals are the development of innovative social and policy goals rather than a mere reduction of the negative impact of economic growth.

At the same time, uneven development has caused rural-to-urban migration, and under the 'growth' paradigm, rural areas were despised for their low productivity. While rural development puts a tremendous effort into implementing climate change adaptation strategies, urban development places less emphasis on mitigation strategies. Albeit, rapid and dynamic urban expansion is taking place in the southern regions of the world with mega-cities of Southeast Asia hosting major proportions of the world's urban population. The intricate landscape of urban space in these cities houses complex and multifaceted phenomena of informalities, climate-induced conflicts and vulnerabilities that affect millions. In the context of climate change, tensions, migration, demographic shifts, financial and technological transformations, pose unprecedented challenges and opportunities for people living in urban informality. With limited resources, over the years, residents survive using indigenous and informal ways of shaping public space, paving paths in community-based adaptation.

The focus on parsimonious practices of spatial adaptation and transformation does not aim to justify poverty as a reference for human life. Instead, it highlights the importance of versatile, resourceful self-organized spaces, without suggesting that its simplicity equates to accepting or condoning impoverished informal living standards. Nevertheless, global asymmetric distribution and expenditure of resources renders possible the reflection on efficient interventions that resort to low-tech, low cost, local-based solutions in harmony with nature cycles.

In hand with these local adaptation and transformation initiatives, to achieve development visions without harming future generations' well-being and leaving no one behind, advanced social and environmental policy alternatives must be established, introduced publicly, and integrated within the policy process, especially to balance the dominant growth paradigm.

This panel aims to be a critical platform for experts, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to come together to discuss and learn on the pressing socio-environmental issues associated with climate-induced conflicts and vulnerabilities, the significance of public space retrofits, as well as community-based practices and policy-making and implementation towards building the resilience of those most socially vulnerable. It also aims to foster a collaborative environment among these actors, showcasing successful case-studies and initiatives related to climate-induced conflict resolution and vulnerability reduction. It is expected that the end-result will help show-case the effectiveness of local community-based actionable strategies and innovative social and environmental policies to enhance climate resilience in both rural and urban Southeast Asia.

The panel conveners welcome contributions from policies, research and case examples on the following key topics:

1. *Climate-Induced Conflicts:*

Explore the nexus between climate change and conflicts within the landscape of urban space. Understand the challenges that arise due to extreme weather events, resource scarcity and the strain on public-infrastructure. Delve into the vulnerabilities of Southeast Asian cities in the face of climate change. Discuss the impact on informal settlements, slums and marginalized communities.

2. *Public Space Retrofits and Community-based Adaptation:*

Examine the role of public space retrofits in building climate resilience. Learn about innovative design and infrastructure solutions that enhance adaptability. Explore the importance of community involvement in adaptation strategies. Share best practices for empowering local communities to actively participate in their own resilience-building efforts.

3. *Imagination and intervention beyond rural adaptation and urban mitigation strategies:*

Apart from economic growth-based policy, various critical issues involving poverty of opportunities, well-being, inequality, justice, violence, human security, land grabbing, pollution, migration, oligarchy, etc. must be addressed and elaborated. To extend the imagination space on unconventional social and environmental policies, theories, methodologies, narratives, reflections, and lessons learned from other panel participants with diverse cultural aspects are also welcome.

**(5) Session:** Double Session (2 x 90 min) with 8 presenters

**(6) Discussants and Reviewers:**

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