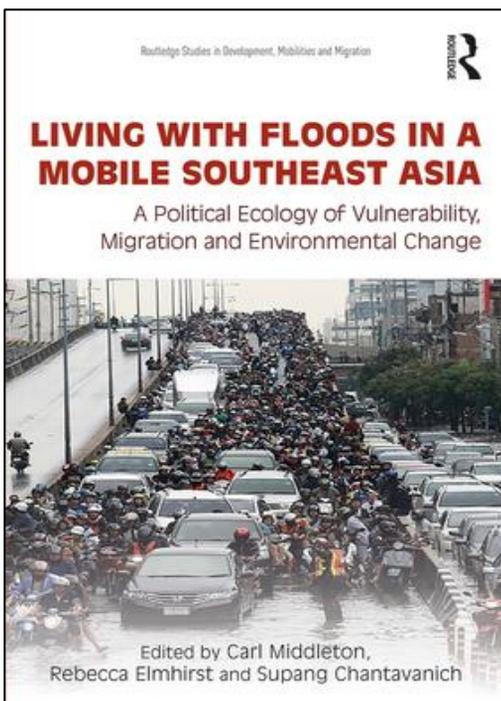


BOOK LAUNCH: LIVING WITH FLOODS IN A MOBILE SOUTHEAST ASIA

A Political Ecology of Vulnerability, Migration and Environmental Change

Bangkok, Thailand (December 15, 2017) - Flooding is a common experience in monsoonal regions of South East Asia, where diverse flood regimes have for centuries shaped agrarian and fisheries-based livelihoods. On Monday 18 December, 16:15-17:30, at the Alumni Meeting room on the 12th Floor of the Political Science Faculty Building at Chulalongkorn University, the new book "*Living with Floods in a Mobile Southeast Asia: A Political Ecology of Vulnerability, Migration and Environmental Change*" will be launched with a panel discussion by four of the book's authors. The book launch coincides with [UN International Migrants' Day](#), which this year is themed "Safe Migration in a World on the Move."

This book responds to the urgent need in Southeast Asia for a nuanced understanding of the connections between flooding and migration. It presents insights from four urban case studies in Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar; and four rural cases studies in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Malaysia. The case studies reflect some of the diversity of flood regimes in the region as well as the different migration contexts. Overall, it argues the need to sensitize flood hazard policy agendas to the complexities of migration and mobility.



Key findings from the research include:

- People living with floods may express their agency through vulnerability reduction strategies that include migration
- People's "vulnerability" to flooding in Southeast Asia reflects a larger story of socio-economic and political inequality
- In rural areas, seasonal floods are often beneficial and people know how to live with them. However, exceptional floods can be destructive, and cause displacement
- In urban case studies, migrants are often blamed for living in risky places, rather than recognizing the wider socio-political circumstances that locate them there

- The effects of floods are mitigated or exacerbated by institutionalized response strategies (or the lack thereof), as well as shaped by long-term development planning policies
- For projects and policies on flood mitigation, disaster preparedness and migrants to be effective and socially just, a multi-dimensional framing of migration is required

Dr. Carl Middleton of the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, co-editor of the book states: "The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is now seeking to shape a common policy framework for dealing with events such as flood disasters, however at present the impacts on migrants are barely recognized. In the case of floods, they are not only "natural" events, but are also the product of a history of public policy decisions, economic investments, and people's actions. Therefore, the extent to which migrants and others are vulnerable to their impact can be reduced or worsen by policy and political responses."

For further details, please contact Robert Irvén, Communications Manager of Center for Social Development Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University (csds.chulalongkorn@gmail.com; +66 (0) 97 284 1913)

Background information:

The book "*Living with Floods in a Mobile Southeast Asia: A Political Ecology of Vulnerability, Migration and Environmental Change*" is co-edited by Carl Middleton, Rebecca Elmhirst and Supang Chantavanich. It contains 10 chapters including 8 country case studies by 21 authors mostly from Southeast Asia.

The book launch is co-hosted by the Asian Research Center for Migration and the Center for Social Development Studies, Chulalongkorn University and the Stockholm Environment Institute's initiative on Transforming Development and Disaster Risk.

- A policy brief with details of the main findings and policy recommendations is available for download [here](#)
- Chapter 1 of the book and further details of the research project can be downloaded [here](#)
- Further details on the book launch, including speakers, can be downloaded [here](#)
- Details on the book can be viewed [here](#)