

**ERIC
TAGLIACOZZO**



**INAUGURAL
LECTURE
PAST AND PRESENT OF
SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**A NEW RESEARCH WORKSHOP
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

**CGIS KNAFEL K262
BOWIE-VERNON ROOM
09.27 4PM-6PM**

ABSTRACT

This talk looks at three different ways that the colonial state used new technologies to try to pursue the imperial project in maritime Southeast Asia. First, we will look at the role of telegraphs along the coasts of French Indochina in the late nineteenth century. From there, we will analyze the idea of building a trans-oceanic canal across the Isthmus of Kra, in semi-independent Siam (what is today Thailand). Finally, we will also look at the role of lighthouses as Foucauldian instruments of coercion in the outstretched waters of Insular Southeast Asia, or what was then British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies (today's Indonesia). I argue that the shape and shadow of larger, global patterns of domination were evident in these local phenomena, stretching across the world's largest archipelago.

BIO

Eric Tagliacozzo is Professor of History at Cornell University. He is the author of "Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States along a Southeast Asian Frontier" (Yale, 2005) which won the Harry Benda Prize from the Association of Asian Studies, and more recently of "The Longest Journey: Southeast Asians and the Pilgrimage to Mecca" (Oxford, 2013). He is also the editor or co-editor of ten other books, including the "Asia Inside Out" trilogy, from Harvard University Press. He is the Director of the Comparative Muslim Societies Program (CMS), as well as Cornell's Modern Indonesia Project (CMIP), and serves as editor of the journal INDONESIA.

**GHOSTS IN THE MACHINE:
TECHNOLOGIES OF IMPERIALISM IN
MARITIME SOUTHEAST ASIA**

THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences



**HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ASIA CENTER**