

Abstract:

Corridors constitute a dominant technology of regionalization in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), and it is critical to understand the socioeconomic relationships that they foster. This project focuses on the infrastructural violence and logistical governance underlying regional 'connectivity', and highlights how public controversies connected with the transnational East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) reconfigure civil society struggles around development, on both sides of the Thai-Burma border, through practices of transparency. In investigating the negotiation of risk and responsibility underlying Southeast Asia's rapid economic and logistical transformations, the project avoids viewing the transnational infrastructure of regionalization solely through the conceptual lens of economic liberalism/neoliberalism. Instead it draws from ethnographic research in Tak Province, Thailand, and Karen State, Myanmar, to explore the role of corridors in the governance of the GMS as a logistics space. Ultimately, it shows how logistical governance is implicated in the production of risk and responsibility vis-a-vis infrastructures; both driving and restricting the public controversies and practices of transparency that are emerging across this capitalist frontier.