
KNOTS Summer School and Field Trip 2017 (19 September - 1 October 2017) - short report

Summer school in Tam Dao Vietnam (19 - 25 September 2017)

Participants:

Chiang Mai University (Thailand): Ta Wei Chu, Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, Chusak Wittayapak; Siya Uthai, Panita Siyarod, Sypha Chanthavong (Student), Suthira Kanatham (Student), Wichitra Jantawong (Student), Seang Hai Veng (Student); **Charles University (Czech Republic):** Tomas Petru, Barbora Jirková; **University of Bonn (Germany):** Frank Seemann, Oliver Pye, Michael Kleinod; **Chulalongkorn University (Thailand):** Naruemon Thabchumpon, Carl Nigel Middleton, Hnin Phyu Phyu Myint (Student), Huong Ngoc Nguyen (Student), Robert Francis Irvén (Student), Mukda Pratheepwatanawong (Student), Pairin Makcharoen (Student); **Vietnam Academy of Social Science (Vietnam):** Dang Nguyen Anh, Vu Manh Loi, Hoang Xuan Sang, Nghiem Thuy, Nguyen Ngo, Pham Ngoc Tan (Student), Hoang Vu Linh Chi (Student), Ho Ngoc Cham (Student), Nguyen Quang Tuan (Student); **Southern Institute of Social Science (Vietnam):** Bui The Cuong, Nguyen Thi Minh Chau, Ha Thuc Dung (Student), Trinh Thi Nhai (Student), Nguyen Thuy Trang (Student), Do Ly Hoai Tan (Student); **Ho Chi Minh City Open University (Vietnam):** Le Bao Lam, Dao Vu Bich Diem; **University of Vienna (Austria):** Petra Dannecker, Richard Bärnthaler, Michaela Hochmuth, Alexandra Heis

From the 19th to the 25th of September 2017, the KNOTS Summer School took place in Tam Dao, Vietnam; it represented the first summer school that was held within the framework of the project. After the participants had arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the 19th of September, an official opening ceremony at the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences inaugurated the event. During this ceremony all participants had the possibility to introduce themselves and to get to know each other. The Vice-President of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Dang Nguyen Anh, and the Head of the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna, Petra Dannecker, held the opening remarks. These included a short introduction to the project as well as an outline of the expected outcomes for the upcoming two weeks. Afterwards, the students formed groups for the upcoming peer-sessions, as part of the summer school, and lastly, all participants were invited to a special exhibition about the history of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. In the afternoon, the group left for the summer school's actual venue, Tam Dao, where a first peer-session of students and researchers was scheduled in the evening.



The overall topic of the summer school's **first day** was *Transdisciplinary Research and Teaching*, aiming at building a common understanding of transdisciplinarity as a solid foundation for the subsequent work on concrete topics. Petra Dannecker and Richard Bärnthaler held the first presentation, which focused on the history of science and scientific disciplines, scientific paradigms, and transdisciplinary methodology and methods. After the lunch break, Carl Middleton moderated a discussion about transdisciplinary approaches through a political ecology lens and its main focus on the connection, interaction, and co-production of environment and society. This discussion was followed up by a presentation of Vu Manh Loi on transdisciplinary research methods including features of research design, formation of teams, principles, and challenges as well as a special emphasis on the need to reflect upon local contexts.



On the **second day**, the first thematic workshop on human migration was initiated with a presentation on migration and spatial approaches. During this presentation Petra Dannecker and Alexandra Heis sought to offer new perspectives in understanding migration through the concepts of intersectionality, temporality, and spatiality. In a similar vein, Bara Jirkova stressed the importance of time and space by demonstrating the unique history of Vietnamese movements to as well as the Vietnamese diaspora in the Czech Republic. Afterwards, Naruemon Thabchumpon presented and discussed concepts and methodologies for research practices on migration, and, finally, Nguyen Thi Minh Chau examined legal and practical barriers for migrant workers' access to social protection.



On the **third day**, the thematic topic shifted from human migration towards resource degradation and climate change. The format was particularly interactive and three full-day workshops were held in parallel. Workshop 1 was hosted by Chusak Wittayapak and focused on the topic of *Forest Governance and Global Climate Change*. Oliver Pye and Ta Wei Chu hosted Workshop 2, which dealt with the topic of *Rivers*. The third workshop was held by Michael Kleinod and was dedicated to *Ecotourism*.



The **fourth day** started with a plenary discussion on the key results from day three's working groups in which students from each group presented their main conclusions. Chusak Wittayapak, Oliver Pye, Ta Wei Chu, and Michael Kleinod moderated this discussion. After lunch, the summer school focused on its last thematic topic: social inequality. Tomas Petru introduced this vital issue with his presentation of a case study on Malaysia focusing on the concept of *race* in legal frameworks, new economic policy (NEP), and the bureaucratization of Islam culture. Last but not least, Dang Nguyen Anh offered a detailed insight into poverty alleviation and multi-dimensional poverty indicators in Vietnam.



After enjoying a well-deserved break on **Sunday** morning, the participants met in the afternoon to discuss their personal research projects with their colleagues and trained researchers within the peer-groups.



Day seven, the last day of the summer school, started with Vu Manh Loi's announcement, providing all participants with details about the upcoming field trip in Vinh Phuc. Afterwards, Petra Dannecker led the closing ceremony and certificates were awarded to the students. In the afternoon, all participants returned to Hanoi.



In between and in parallel to the thematic sessions of those seven days, the project members also held various consortium meetings on issues related to project management, the development of the teaching manual, train-the-trainer modules, quality management, and upcoming summer schools.



Field Trip in Vinh Phuc (26 September - 1 October)

Participants:

Chiang Mai University (Thailand): Siya Uthai, Panita Siyarod, Sypha Chanthavong (Student), Suthira Kanatham (Student), Wichitra Jantawong (Student), Seang Hai Veng (Student); **Charles University (Czech Republic):** Barbora Jirkova; **University of Bonn (Germany):** Frank Seemann, Oliver Pye, Michael Kleinod; **Chulalongkorn University (Thailand):** Naruemon Thabchumpon, Hnin Phyu Phyu Myint (Student), Huong Ngoc Nguyen (Student), Robert Francis Irvén (Student), Mukda Pratheepwatanawong (Student), **Vietnam Academy of Social Science (Vietnam):** Dang Nguyen Anh, Vu Manh Loi, Hoang Xuan Sang, Nghiem Thuy, Nguyen Ngo, Pham Ngoc Tan (Student), Hoang Vu Linh Chi (Student), Ho Ngoc Cham (Student), Nguyen Quang Tuan (Student); **Southern Institute of Social Science (Vietnam):** Nguyen Thi Minh Chau, Ha Thuc Dung (Student), Trinh Thi Nhai (Student), Nguyen Thuy Trang (Student), Do Ly Hoai Tan (Student); **Ho Chi Minh City Open University (Vietnam):** Le Bao Lam, **University of Vienna (Austria):** Alexandra Heis, Rainer Einzenberger, Christiane Voßemer, Huong Le

The KNOTS Summer School was followed by the KNOTS fieldtrip, which took place from **26th to the 30th of September 2017** in Duong Lam, Son Tay, Vietnam. The Government recognized Duong Lam commune as the National Cultural Heritage in 2006. Thus, the commune is subjected to the Law of Cultural Heritage Protection. There are nine villages in Duong Lam, five of which are classified as special national cultural heritages. As key part of the fieldwork, participants split up into three groups working on three different themes concerning social inequality, migration, and environment in order to practice transdisciplinary approaches in research. The KNOTS participants conducted data gathering during **27th September – 29th September 2017**.



After arriving in Son Tay town, Vietnam, on **16th of September**, the participants met with the leaders of the People's Committee of Son Tay town. The Vice-President of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Dang Nguyen Anh, introduced the KNOTS project (including the participating universities) and the aims of its fieldwork in Duong Lam to the leaders of the People's Committee of Son Tay town during an opening remark. Afterwards, the leaders gave the participants a brief overview over Son Tay town and its main characteristics (numbers and facts). At the end of the first day, the participants had group meetings where the group leaders presented the upcoming agenda and discussed different transdisciplinary methods which should be applied in the course of different meetings.



Day 2 started with a meeting with the leaders of the People's Committee of Duong Lam Commune who gave the participants a brief overview over the commune and its main characteristics (numbers and facts). Thereafter, the three groups started to collect data in Mong Phu, Dong Sang, and Hung Thinh villages of Duong Lam Commune. On the first day of fieldwork, the groups met with village leaders as well as farmers. Interviews, focus group discussions, as well as participant and non-participant observations were those methods that were applied by the participants.



On the 3rd day, the different groups first met with local businesses in the villages of the previous day to collect further data. This was followed by a joint meeting with the Committee for Protection of National Heritage. Afterwards, the participants had some time off, which they used to conduct some further observations in Duong Lam Commune.

The **last day of fieldwork** started off with meetings of the different groups with representatives of committees and businesses. The free time afterwards was used by the students to prepare their presentations of the fieldwork results and reflected upon the applied methods. The fieldtrip was closed by a joint dinner with representatives and participants who met during fieldwork.



At the end of each day, the different groups gathered together to reflect upon their day, the findings and the applied methods. Finally, on **30th of September**, all participants returned to Hanoi.

If you are looking for more detailed information: check our facebook account (@KNOTShighereducation) or write us an email: knots.ie@univie.ac.at