

Summer Semester 2020

SDAC Lecture Series

Internal Displacement and Livelihood Recovery: Three Case Studies from Southeast Asia

Thursday, 04.06.2020

10:00-12:00

Dr. Gunnar Stange
University of Vienna

Gunnar Stange will address the social, political and economic implications of internal forced displacements on affected communities in their endeavor to rebuild their livelihoods after displacement. Starting with some results from a scientific literature review on forced migration research in Southeast Asia that will highlight the immense research gap that exists regarding social science research on internal displacement in Southeast Asian countries, Gunnar Stange will present two case studies from Jakarta and Sidoarjo (both Indonesia). The case of Jakarta looks at livelihood recovery strategies of informal settlers that were evicted and relocated to houses of blocks in the name of flood mitigation by the provincial government of Jakarta. The case of Sidoarjo in eastern Java compares different relocation strategies of communities that were displaced after the eruption of the world's largest mud volcano.



The photograph entitled “Life after Mud” was taken during Gunnar Stange’s field research trip to Indonesia for a research project of the same name in September, 2017. On 29 May, 2006, a mud volcano erupted in Sidoarjo Regency, East Java, Indonesia. Since that day, it scores the highest eruption rate for a mud-volcano on earth. It is estimated that up until today between 80,000 and 150,000 affected population had to resettle from the affected area. The research aimed at understanding how the relocated communities were able to recover from the loss of their livelihoods. The picture resembles the artwork of the Indonesian artist Dadang Christanto. It consists of 110 statues of two meters height and was installed in the mud volcano crater in 2014. It is a strong reminder of loss and the fact that once there was life, where now there is neither form nor void.