



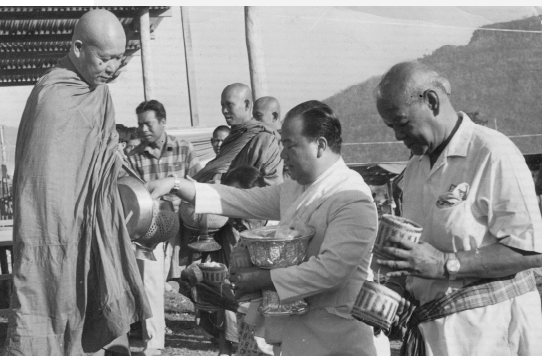
# HGT

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Die Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik e.V.  
in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Arbeitsbereich Thaiistik  
der Abteilung Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens des AAI  
lädt Sie zu folgendem Online-Vortrag ein:

## Champassak Royalty and Sovereignty



Sovereignty has often been studied through the lens of royalty, with absolute monarchs being recognized as having the ultimate sovereign power to determine who lives and dies. However, there are a wide range of ways that sovereignty is asserted and practiced, and it ebbs and flows over time and space. This presentation is about sovereignty and the Champassak royal family over history. I consider Champassak from its establishment, in 1713, until the present, with a focus on the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I examine how sovereign power variously shifted over space and time, with the goal of using Champassak royalty to better understand how royal sovereignty works. This study differs from others in that it relies on a combination of oral and written sources. Many in-depth interviews with Champassak royals has made it possible to tell the Champassak story from the perspective of people originally from places once under Champassak's influence. In addition, rather than confining my research to a single nation state, I consider Champassak from a more spatially expansive perspective, focusing on southern Laos, northeastern Thailand and northeastern Cambodia, but also conducting many interviews in France, the United States, and Canada. While the borders in the region matter, they are sometimes transcended, for a variety of

reasons. Ultimately, I forward the notion that it is appropriate and useful to expand and nuance the ways we think about sovereignty, so that we conceptualize sovereignty as something that is much more contingent and variously understood, asserted and practiced than is often imagined.

## Online-Lecture *via Zoom & in English*

Dr. Ian Baird is professor of geography, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and coordinator of the Hmong Studies Consortium at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests vary, but most of his scholarship relates to marginalized groups, history and nature-society relations in Laos, Thailand and Cambodia, where he has been conducting research since the early 1990s. His most recent book is titled *Rise of the Brao: Ethnic Minorities in Northeastern Cambodia during Vietnamese Occupation* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020).



Monday, 1 February 2021

16h-18h (CET)

via Zoom: *(copy the link into your webbrowser to join, you might be asked to download the software)*

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/99234618746>