

## [Drones, Governance and Civil Society in Southeast Asia](#)

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Call for Papers

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Anthropology, Area Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences, Southeast Asian History / Studies

Dear colleagues,

I am inviting submissions of abstracts for my panel „Drones, Governance and Civil Society in Southeast Asia“ at the EUROSEAS 2022 Conference in Paris (28 June – 1 July; <https://www.euroseas.org/call-for-papers/>). I am looking for contributions teasing out how drones are used, how and why their use is regulated differently in various Southeast Asian countries, and what the political agendas are.

Please send your paper abstract to the email below by **15 March 2022**.

Monika Arnez (Palacký University - [monika.arnez@upol.cz](mailto:monika.arnez@upol.cz))

### **Drones, Governance and Civil Society in Southeast Asia**

Unmanned, camera-equipped drones are often associated with state surveillance of particular territories in Southeast Asia, whether in the South China Sea, for border security or suppression of protest movements. They are a cost-effective means of monitoring and surveillance. Unmanned drones are also increasingly used by civil society as they are affordable, require little knowledge to operate and the low probability of causing physical harm to humans. Drones create knowledge by taking aerial photographs of landscapes, events and places that are not easily captured in other ways. This panel invites contributors to address the opportunities and obstacles that drones present in Southeast Asia.

Panellists are invited to reflect on the spaces and opportunities in which drones are used, how and why their use is regulated differently in various Southeast Asian countries, and what the political agendas are. In Thailand, for example, videographers have used drones to film violence against protesters. How are drones used in protest movements and state control? To what extent are they used in political campaigns?

Another area of interest is how drones are used in environmental conservation, such as ecosystem monitoring, wildlife research and management and ecotourism. A case in point is Greenpeace using 300 drones to prompt action on conserving the environment in one of their

videos<sup>1</sup>. How are drones used for conservational purposes by conservationists in Southeast Asia? Drones are also employed in artwork and in film. Videographers have used them to capture beautiful images of cities or special places, they are used in films or are part of art installations that are uploaded and made available on public platforms such as YouTube. What aesthetic components of drone images can be identified? How are they used alongside other modes of artistic expression?

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