



Asian Studies Centre,  
St Antony's College, University of Oxford  
The Southeast Asia Seminar



## *Thailand's Post-2014 Foreign Policy: Riding on the International Trend*



**Pavin Chachavalpongpun**  
Associate Professor,  
Centre for Southeast Asian Studies,  
Kyoto University;  
Visiting Senior Fellow,  
Centre for International Studies,  
London School of Economics

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Deakin Room, St Antony's College

Thai foreign policy is traditionally shaped by the changing international environment. The coup of 2014 has exacerbated the political conflict and powerfully prescribed the way in which the country pursued its relations with the outside world. This talk argues that changing international circumstances have allowed the military regime to entrench itself in the political realm and to exploit the latest global trend to achieve self-legitimization. In this new trend, China has emerged to shift the regional balance of power and contest the hegemony of the US, now with President Donald Trump at a wobbly helm. Elsewhere, democracy and regionalism is being seriously challenged, as seen in Europe and Asia. Riding on such trend, the Thai military government is steering the country closer towards not-so-democratic states in the region while moving its foreign policy away from its traditional allies in the West. The military government is taking advantage from the growing anti-democratic tendency as a way to fulfil its legitimacy on the global stage.

**Pavin Chachavalpongpun** is Associate Professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. He is also a visiting professor at Doshisha University. Dr Chachavalpongpun holds a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and is the author of *A Plastic Nation: The Curse of Thainess in Thai-Burmese Relations* (2005) and *Reinventing Thailand: Thaksin and His Foreign Policy* (2010). Pavin is also a chief editor of *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*, the only journal to present articles in English, Japanese, Thai, Bahasa Indonesia and Vietnamese.

**All are welcome**

Convenor: Dr M Walton. Enquiries: [asian@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:asian@sant.ox.ac.uk) or 01865-274559

Picture: Thai Chief of Defense Forces Gen. Thanasak Patimaprakorn and the military chiefs host a lunch for U.S. Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in Bangkok, June 5, 2012. United States Department of Defense: public domain.

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