



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



Like a family? Values, Hierarchies and Child Labor in Myanmar's Small Businesses Sector



Laura Hornig

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3.30-5.00 p.m., Tuesday 21st November,
Dahrendorf Room, St Antony's College

Drawing on ethnographic data gathered in Patheingyi, Myanmar, the paper investigates the moral underpinnings of responsibilities and hierarchies in small businesses, specifically the question of what makes a good employer. It will show how responsibilities beyond the mere paying of wages do not overcome the socio-economic gap between workers and employers, and that essentially, the shop floor remains an arena of control and inequality. The main case study is a tea shop, where a large part of the workforce is underage. Incorporating the perspectives of employers, workers and their families, customers, and agents, this talk will outline the complex moral arguments surrounding the employment of children and children's roles as economic actors.

Laura Hornig is a PhD Candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle (Germany), specializing in economic anthropology. She is also a co-founder of the Berlin-based think tank "Myanmar-Institut e.V."

All are welcome

Convenor: Dr M Walton. Enquiries: asian@sant.ox.ac.uk or 01865-274559

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