

# Intimate Economies

## Sex, Tourism, & Sex Tourism in Southeast Asia

January 2014 Learning Cluster  
Soka University of America

9-12pm, Monday-Friday  
Maathai 302

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### THE COURSE

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This Learning Cluster provides an in-depth look at ‘Sex Tourism’ in Southeast Asia. We hope to move beyond outrage (although not totally abandon it) as we take a mature look at the history, political economy, legality, and ethics of this increasingly globalized industry. We will pay particular attention to the persons involved in sex tourism, namely the buyers and the sellers. We hope to discover some ways to combat or improve sex tourism, lessening the suffering attached to it while interrogating related stigmatizations.

We will explore some of the following research questions:

- What proportion of tourism in Southeast Asia is related to sex? Is all tourism premised on some form of eroticism and otherness?
  - What proportion of the sex industry in Southeast Asia is related to tourism? What does it mean if the domestic sex market dwarfs the international? Is sex tourism worse than domestic prostitution?
  - Why is sex tourism common in Southeast Asia? Why are Buddhist countries more affected than Muslim and Catholic countries?
  - What Southeast Asian political forces sustain the industry?
  - What is the legal status of sex tourism in Southeast Asian countries?
  - Why do we tend to criticize men going to Southeast Asia for sex, but perhaps not at women going to the Caribbean for sex?
  - What are the different motivations, worldviews, and economies involved in Western, Asian, and Muslim buyers of sex? Why do we tend to focus on Western buyers?
  - What are the different motivations, cultural contexts, and economies of different sellers of sex? To what extent can we understand sellers as victims or agents? How do prostitutes assert their agency?
  - What is to be done? Should we seek to combat sex tourism or to improve it?
  - How can education, legal reform, NGOs, and religion actors seek to make things better?
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## EVALUATION

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Book Review	20%	Due Friday, 10 January
Students will write a review of a book of their choice (instructor assent required) which explores some element of sex tourism in Southeast Asia. Reviews should be 3-4 pages, double spaced. They should briefly describe the book's contents, but more analyze some of the book's contributions and / or shortcomings.		
Essay	40%	Due Monday, 27 January
Students will write a 6-8 page (double-spaced) research paper which tackles a fundamental ethical question surrounding sex tourism. Questions may relate to the state, the economy, legal reforms, the buyer, the seller, related NGOs, host societies, religion, or other areas.		
Facilitation	10%	
Students will be graded on their work preparing and leading class discussion of their theme in the syllabus. Working alone or alongside classmates with related themes, students will provide readings and other sources, discussion questions, a presentation, and will facilitate discussion alongside the instructor in an effort to explore specific elements of sex tourism.		
Class Op-Ed	05%	Tuesday, 28 January
As Learning Clusters are intended to be connected to the real world, and make some sort of difference, our class will collectively put together an editorial to be published in a local newspaper, blog, or both. This will be a short article which looks at sex tourism, identifying some common misconceptions and looking at ways forward.		
Participation	20%	Ongoing
Students will be awarded a participation grade based on their contribution to classroom discussions and work towards making the course as successful as possible.		
Learning Cluster Fair	05%	Wednesday, 29 January
An additional participation grade will be graded based on student participation in preparing and presenting at the LC Fair on Wednesday, January 29 <sup>th</sup> .		

## GRADING

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Soka grading is organized in terms of letter grades: A, B+, C-, etc, as well as a 0-4 grade point average. This is how the percentage points in this course will translate into these scales:

90-100	A+	4.0	65-69	B-	2.7
85-89	A	4.0	60-64	C+	2.3
80-84	A-	3.7	55-59	C	2.0
75-79	B+	3.3	50-55	C-	1.7
70-74	B	3.0	>50	F	1.0

# CALENDAR

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## Part One: The Industries

<b>06 January</b> Monday Session 01	<b>Introduction</b> 1) Overview of issues, course 2) An Introduction to Southeast Asia
Michelle Kuo, "Asia's Dirty Secret: Prostitution & Sex Trafficking in Southeast Asia," <i>Harvard International Review</i> (Summer 2000)	
Daljit Singh, "Southeast Asia: An Overview," in <i>Southeast Asia in a New Era: Ten Countries, One Region in ASEAN</i> , pp. 3-24	

<b>07 January</b> Tuesday Session 02	<b>Tourism</b> 1) A Global Industry 2) Tourism in Southeast Asia
Erik Cohen, " <a href="#">The Sociology of Tourism: Approaches, Issues, &amp; Findings</a> ," <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 10 (1984); pp. 373-392.	
Maurizio Peleggi, " <a href="#">National Heritage &amp; Global Tourism in Thailand</a> ," <i>Annals of Tourism Research</i> 23:2 (1996); pp. 432-448.	
Robert E. Wood, " <a href="#">International Tourism &amp; Cultural Change in Southeast Asia</a> ," <i>Economic Development and Cultural Change</i> 28:3 (April 1980); pp. 561-581.	

<b>08 January</b> Wednesday Session 03	<b>Field Trip to Los Angeles</b> Southeast Asian Tourism, culture
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<b>09 January</b> Thursday Session 04	<b>Sex Industries</b> 1) History, Organization, & Ethics 2) Sex Industries in Southeast Asia
C. Harcourt & B. Donovan, " <a href="#">The Many Faces of Sex Work</a> ," <i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i> 81 (2005); pp. 201-206.	
Eric Tagliacozzo, " <a href="#">Morphological Shifts in Southeast Asian Prostitution: The Long Twentieth Century</a> ," <i>Journal of Global History</i> 3:2 (July 2008); pp. 251-273.	
(Skim) Paul Leong, "Sex Tourism: The Case of Cambodia," in <i>Sex &amp; Tourism: Journeys of Romance, Love, &amp; Lust</i> , edited by Thomas Bauer & Bob McKercher (New York: Haworth Press, 2003); pp. 181-195.	
Videos: National Geographic Taboo, " <a href="#">Prostitution</a> "; Michael Glawogger, director, " <a href="#">Whore's Glory</a> "	

<b>10 January</b> Friday Session 05	<b>Sex &amp; Tourism</b> Background & Ideas, ethics, Romance Tourism, Southeast Asia <i>Pattaya, R&amp;R Agreement</i>
Martin Opperman, " <a href="#">Sex Tourism</a> ," <i>Annals of Tourism Research</i> 26:2 (1999); pp. 251-266.	
Chris Ryan & Rachel Kinder, " <a href="#">Sex, Tourism, &amp; Sex Tourism: Fulfilling Similar Needs?</a> " <i>Tourism Management</i> 17:7 (1996); pp. 507-518.	
(Skim) P. Singh & Shilpa A. Hart, " <a href="#">Sex Workers &amp; Cultural Policy: Mapping the Issues and Actors in Thailand</a> ," <i>Review of Policy Research</i> (2007); pp. 155-173.	
<b>***Book Review Due***</b>	

## Part Two: The Buyers

*In this section, we will explore how buyers (read: men) from different countries and cultural background vary in their approaches, economies, and understandings of sex tourism, and how their host societies respond to the industry.*

<b>13 January</b> Monday Session 06	<b>Westerners</b> Cultural background, practices, economies, views from home
<i>Facilitator:</i> Shawn Hsu	
Ryan Bishop & Lillian Robinson, "Travellers' Tales: Sex Diaries of Tourists Returning from Thailand," in <i>Transnational Prostitution: Changing Global Patterns</i> , edited by Susanne Thorbek & Bandana Pattanaik (London: Zed Books, 2002); pp. 13-23.	
Damien Garrick, " <a href="#">Excuses, Excuses: Rationalizations of Western Sex Tourists in Thailand</a> ," <i>Current Issues in Tourism</i> 8:6 (2005); pp. 497-509.	
Video: " <a href="#">Love Me Long Time: Sex Tourism in Thailand</a> "	

<b>14 January</b> Tuesday Session 07	<b>East Asians</b> Cultural background, practices, economies, views from home
<i>Facilitator:</i> Miki Iwasawa	
David Leheny, " <a href="#">A Political Economy of Asian Sex Tourism</a> ," <i>Annals of Tourism Research</i> 22:2 (1995); pp. 367-384.	
Fumihiko Yokota, " <a href="#">Sex Behaviour of Male Japanese Tourists in Bangkok, Thailand</a> ," <i>Culture, Health &amp; Sexuality</i> 8:2 (Spring 2006); pp. 115-131.	

<b>15 January</b> Wednesday Session 08	<b>Muslims</b> Cultural background, practices, economies, views from home
<i>Facilitator:</i> Hetal Shah	
John R. Bradley, "Chapter Three: Temporary Marriages," <i>Behind the Veil of Vice: The Business and Culture of Sex in the Middle East</i> (New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2011); pp. 81-112.	
Erik Cohen & Mark Neal, " <a href="#">A Middle Eastern Muslim Tourist Enclave in Bangkok</a> ," <i>Tourism Geographies</i> 14:4 (2012); pp. 570-598.	

## Part Three: The Sellers

*Most observers may agree that the core issue is the health and well-being of sex workers. But in defending sex workers as victims, writers may diminish the agency of sex workers and misrepresent the nature of sex industries. It is important to not only appreciate the perspective of the sellers in sex tourism, but also emphasize their diversity.*

<b>16 January</b> Thursday Session 09	<b>Overview</b> Cultural Norms
<i>Facilitator:</i> Kana Chin	
Areewan Klunlkin & Jennifer Greenwood, " <a href="#">Buddhism, The Status of Women, and the Spread of HIV /AIDS in Thailand</a> ," <i>Health Care for Women International</i> 26 (2005); pp. 46-61.	
Sara Peracca, John Knodel, & Chanpen Saengtienchai, " <a href="#">Can Prostitutes Marry? Thai Attitudes towards Female Sex Workers</a> ," <i>Social Science Medicine</i> 47:2 (1998); pp. 255-267.	
1100: Class discussion at Hidden House Coffee (San Juan Capistrano)	

<b>17 January</b> Friday Session 10	<b>Women: Domestic</b>
<i>Facilitator:</i> Jorge Viramontes	
Annuska Derks, "The Broken Women of Cambodia," in <i>Sexual Cultures in East Asia: The Social</i>	

<p><i>Construction of Sexuality and Sexual Risk in a Time of AIDS</i>, edited by Evelyne Micollier (London: Routledge, 2004); pp. 127-155.</p>
<p>Video: BBC Channel 4, "My Boyfriend the Sex Tourist"</p>
<p>Activity: A Look at Sex Tourism in Brazil, in cooperation with Ian Read's LC (1030am)</p>
<p>Readings (students in both classes will choose <b>one</b>):</p> <p>Ranjan Bandyopadhyay &amp; Karina Nascimento, "<a href="#">Where Fantasy Becomes Reality: How Tourism Forces Made Brazil into a Sexual Playground</a>," <i>Journal of Sustainable Tourism</i> 18:8 (2010); pp. 933-949.</p> <p>Gregory Mitchell, "<a href="#">Turboconsumers in Paradise: Tourism, Civil Rights, &amp; Brazil's Gay Sex Industry</a>," <i>American Ethnologist</i> 38:4 (2011); pp. 666-682.</p> <p>Voon Chin Phua, "<a href="#">The Love That Binds: Transnational Relationships in Sex Work</a>," <i>Sexuality &amp; Culture</i> 13 (2009); pp. 91-110.</p> <p>Adriana Piscitelli, "<a href="#">Shifting Boundaries: Sex &amp; Money in the North-East of Brazil</a>," <i>Sexualities</i> 10:4 (2007); pp. 489-500.</p>

<b>20 January</b> Monday	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</b>
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<b>21 January</b> Tuesday Session 11	<b>Transgendered</b> How does sex tourism affect transgendered males (ladyboys)?
<i>Facilitator:</i> Erica Charlton	
<p>Han ten Brummelhuis, "<a href="#">Transformations of Transgender: The Case of Thai Kathoey</a>," <i>Journal of Gay &amp; Lesbian Studies</i> 9:2-3 (1999); pp. 121-139</p> <p>Witchayanee Ocha &amp; Barbara Earth, "<a href="#">Identity Diversification among Transgender Sex Workers in Thailand's Sex Tourism Industry</a>," <i>Sexualities</i> 16:1/2 (2012); pp. 195-216.</p>	
Video: Channel News Asia, " <a href="#">Thai Ladyboys</a> "	

<b>22 January</b> Wednesday Session 12	<b>Youth</b> How does sex tourism affect youths?
<i>Facilitator:</i> Frances Collins	
<p>Julia O'Connell Davidson, "<a href="#">Child Sex Tourism: An Anomalous Form of Movement?</a>" <i>Journal of Contemporary European Studies</i> 12:1 (2004); pp. 31-46.</p> <p>Heather Montgomery, "<a href="#">Buying Innocence: Child-Sex Tourists in Thailand</a>," <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 29:5 (July 2008); pp. 903-917.</p> <p>Na Jeong-Ju, "<a href="#">Koreans Drive Demand for Child Prostitution in Southeast Asia</a>," <i>The Korea Times</i> (30 January 2013).</p>	
Video: " <a href="#">Japanese Men and Child Prostitution in Southeast Asia</a> "	

<b>23 January</b> Thursday Session 13	<b>Trafficking</b>
<i>Facilitator:</i> Takako Gregg	
<p>Chris Beyrer &amp; Julie Stachowiak, "<a href="#">Health Consequences of Trafficking Women &amp; Girls in Southeast Asia</a>," <i>Brown Journal of International Affairs</i> 10:1 (2003); pp. 105-117.</p> <p>Chris Beyrer, "<a href="#">Shan Women &amp; Girls and the Sex Industry in Southeast Asia: Political Causes &amp; Human Rights Implications</a>," <i>Social Science &amp; Medicine</i> 53 (2001); pp. 543-550.</p> <p>Alison Murray, "<a href="#">Debt-Bondage &amp; Trafficking: Don't Believe the Hype</a>," in <i>Feminist Postcolonial Theory: A Reader</i>, edited by Reina Lewis &amp; Sara Mills (New York: Routledge, 2003); pp. 413-425.</p>	

## Part Four: The Solutions

<b>24 January</b> Friday Session 14	<b>What is to be Done?</b> Structural Changes, Legal Reform, Safe Sex, Education
<i>Facilitator:</i> Yukio Ichinose & Su Jane Lim	
Sheila Jeffreys, " <a href="#">The Sex Industry &amp; Business Practice: An Obstacle to Women's Equality</a> ," <i>Women's Studies International Forum</i> , (26 March 2010); pp. 274-282. Kamala Kempadoo, " <a href="#">Globalizing Sex, Workers' Rights</a> ," <i>Canadian Woman Studies</i> 22:3-4 (2003); pp. 143-150. Seksan Khruakham & Brian A. Lawton, " <a href="#">Assessing the Impact of the 1996 Thai Prostitution Law: A Study of Police Arrest Data</a> ," <i>Asian Criminology</i> 7 (2012); pp. 23-36. N. Ford & S. Koetsawang, " <a href="#">A Pragmatic Intervention to Promote Condom Use By Female Sex Workers in Thailand</a> ," <i>Bulletin of the World Health Organization</i> 77:11 (1999); 888-894.	
<b>27 January</b> Monday Session 15	<b>Make-Up Class</b>
<b>***Class Essay Due***</b>	
<b>28 January</b> Tuesday Session 16	<b>Conclusions</b> Conclusions, evaluations, preparation for LC Fair
<b>***Class Op-Ed***</b>	
<b>29 January</b> Wednesday	<b>LC Fair</b> 10-2pm