

Protest under Duress: Human Rights Activism and Democratic Backsliding in Asia

Workshop

October 30-31, 2024
Université Laval



Chaire de leadership en enseignement
Roméo Dallaire sur les conflits civils
et la paix durable

CRSH  SSHRC

In collaboration with



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

Faculté des sciences sociales
Département de science politique



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Myanmar Initiative
Institute of Asian Research

Schedule

Tuesday, October 29th:

7:30 pm Welcome dinner at Cochon Dingue rue Saint Jean
Address: 1014 Rue Saint-Jean, Québec, QC G1R 1R6

Wednesday, October 30th:

8:45 am Group meeting in front of the Hôtel Champlain Vieux-Québec
Address: 115 Rue Sainte-Anne Rue, Québec, QC G1R 3X6

9:00 am Group photo in Old Quebec
Address: Lieu historique du Parc-Montmorency
Côte de la Montagne, Québec, QC G1K 4E4

9:45 am Bus to Université Laval campus (with Sophy)
Address: 2325 Rue de l'Université, Québec, QC G1V 0A6
Instructions: Take the Métrobus 800 or 801

- Start from *Youville* towards *Pointe-de-Sainte-Foy* stop
- Get off at *Univ. Laval/1561* stop
- Head to the 1st floor of Pavillon La Laurentienne,
room LAU-1435

11:00 am Welcome speech by Meredith Weiss (State University of New York at Albany) and Alexandre Pelletier (Université Laval, Canada)

11:15 am **Speaker:** Maaïke Matelski and Cecile Medail. (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Title: *Inter-generational capacity building among Myanmar activists and the quest for social justice*
Discussants: Htet Thiha Zaw (University of British Columbia, Canada) and Kamran Hakiman (University of Pittsburgh, United States)

12:30 pm Lunch break
Cafeteria Pavillon Alphonse-Desjardins
Address: 2325, rue de l'Université, Québec, QC G1V 0A6

1:45 pm **Speaker:** Dominique Caouette, (Université de Montréal, Canada), Margaux Maurel (HEC, Canada), and Dalia Aktouf (Université de Montréal, Canada)
Title: *From Duterte to Marcos Jr.: Shifting and Adapting the Repertoire of Collective Action Under Threatening Conditions*
Discussants: Erik Kuhonta (McGill University, Canada) and Kamran Hakiman (University of Pittsburgh, United States)

- 3:00 pm Coffee break
- 3:15 pm** **Speaker:** Shue Fong (Ernie) Chow. (University of British Columbia, Canada)
Title: *The Coming Wave of Decolonial Activism in Asia: Reconceptualizing China as a Colonial Empire from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Xinjiang*
Discussants: Htet Thiha Zaw (University of British Columbia, Canada) and Kamran Hakiman (University of Pittsburgh, United States)
- 5:00 pm Workshop Reception at Pub Universitaire, *hosted by* Chaire de leadership en enseignement Roméo Dallaire sur les conflits civils et la paix durable (CLERD) and the Forum for Research and Activities on Conflicts in Asia (FRACA)
Address: 2325 Rue de l'Université Local 1312, Québec, QC G1V 0A6
- 7:00 pm No dinner planned
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Thursday, October 31st:

- 8:30 am Group meeting in front of the Hôtel Champlain Vieux-Québec
Address: 115 Rue Sainte-Anne Rue, Québec, QC G1R 3X6
- 9:00 am Bus to Université Laval campus (with Sophy)
Address: 2325 Rue de l'Université, Québec, QC G1V 0A6
Instructions: Take the Métrobus 800 or 801
 - Start from *Youville* towards *Pointe-de-Sainte-Foy* stop
 - Get off at *Univ. Laval/1561* stop
 - Head to the 1st floor of Pavillon La Laurentienne, **classroom LAU-1435**
- 10:00 am** **Speaker:** Kanokrat Lertchoosakul, (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)
Title: *The Resilience of the Youth Movement in Thailand under the Conservative State: Breaking through the Movement Dichotomy of Online-Offline-Onsite and Peaceful-Violence*
Discussants: Erik Kuhonta (McGill University, Canada) and Aye Lei Tun (McMaster University, Canada)
- 11:15 am Coffee break
- 11:30 am** **Speaker:** Mai Truong. (University of British Columbia, Canada)
Title: *Navigating Repression: Coalition-building Strategies of Vietnamese Activists in a Tightening Civil Society*
Discussants: Erik Kuhonta (McGill University, Canada) and Aye Lei Tun (McMaster University, Canada)

- 1:00 pm Lunch break
Cafeteria Pavillon Alphonse-Desjardins
Address: 2325, rue de l'Université, Québec, QC G1V 0A6
- 2:15 pm** **Speaker:** Muhammad Fajar and Rahardhika Utama. (Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, Jakarta)
Title: *Explaining the Variety of Social Movement Strategies Under Declining Democracy: Evidence from Indonesia*
Discussants: Htet Thiha Zaw (University of British Columbia, Canada) and Aye Lei Tun (McMaster University, Canada)
- 3:45 pm Closing remarks and next steps (Meredith Weiss and Alexandre Pelletier)
- 5:00 pm End of the workshop
- 7:30 pm Farewell dinner at Pizzeria NO.900 - Montcalm
Address: 120 Boulevard René-Lévesque O, Québec, QC G1R 2A5

Locations

Hotels:

Most participants are staying at **Hôtel Champlain Vieux Québec**, 115 Rue Sainte-Anne Rue, Québec, QC G1R 3X6

- Metrobus Line 800/801, Youville Station

Some participants are staying at the overflow hotel, **Hôtel Manoir d'Auteuil**, 49 Rue D'Auteuil, Québec, QC G1R 4C2

- Metrobus Line 800/801, Youville Station

Group picture:

Parc Montmorency (map 1), Côte de la Montagne, Québec, QC G1K 4E4
[we will walk to the park together.]

Restaurants:

Cochon Dingue Saint-Jean (map 1), 1014 Rue Saint-Jean, Québec, QC G1R 1R6

- Metrobus Line 800/801, Youville Station
- Pizza 900 Montcalm (map 2), 120 Boulevard René-Lévesque O, Québec, QC G1R 2A5
- Metrobus Line 800/801, Cartier Station

Pizzeria NO.900 - Montcalm (map 2), 120 Boulevard René-Lévesque O, Québec, QC G1R 2A5

- Take the Métrobus 800 or 801
- Start from *Laval/1561* stop
- Take bus 800 towards *Terminus Chute-Montmorency* or 801 towards *Terminus de la Faune*
- Get off at *Cartier/1581* (after 8 stops)
- Head towards the restaurant across the street on your left

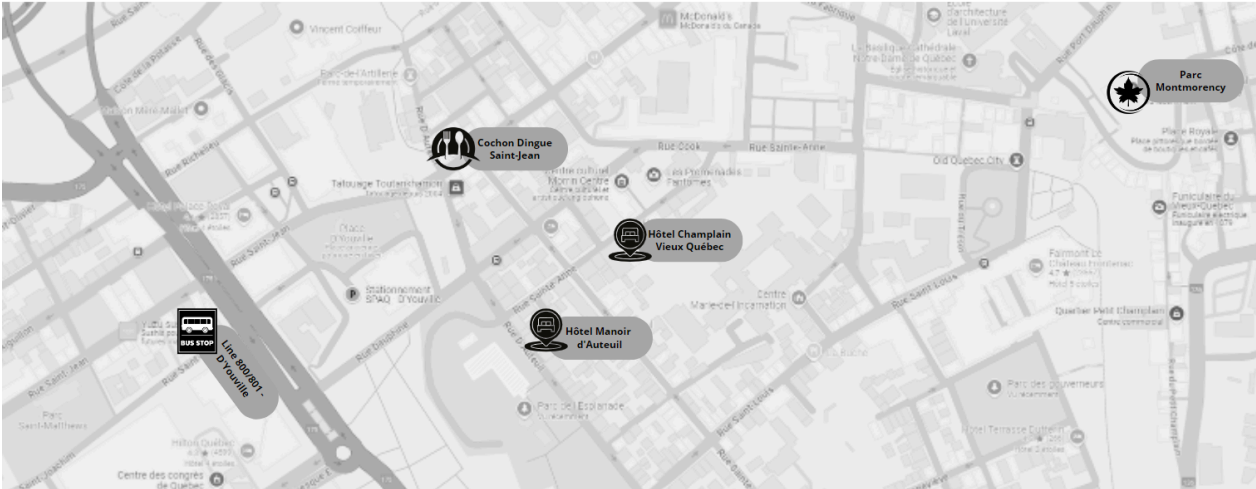
The campus (map 3):

La Laurentienne Pavillon (LAU-1435), 1030 Av. du Séminaire, Québec, QC G1V 0A6 (pictured)

Pub Universitaire, 2325 Rue de l'Université, Québec, QC G1V 0A6

Cafeteria Saveurs Campus, 2305, rue de l'Université, Québec, QC G1V 0A6

Map 1 - Old Quebec



Map 2 - Montcalm



Map 3 - The campus

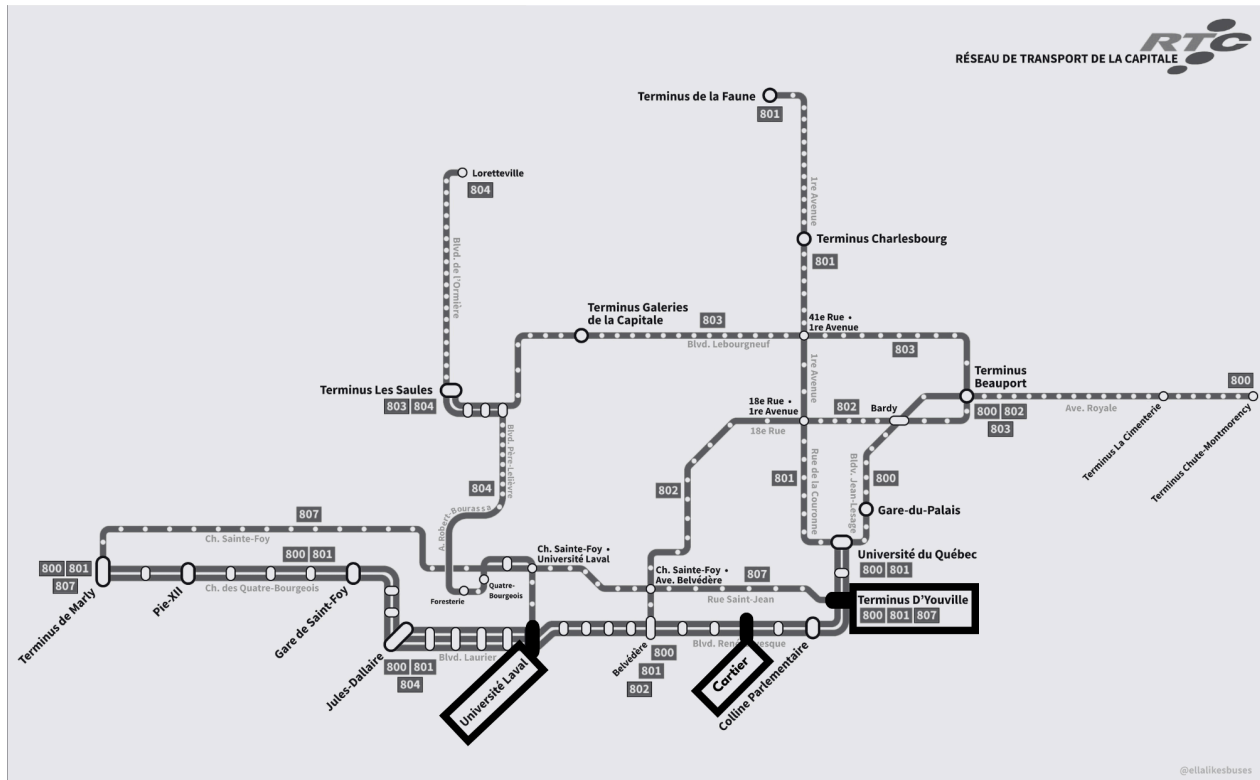


How to get to the Laurentienne Pavillon



From the bus stop, head southwest on Rue de l'Université toward Avenue des Sciences Humaines. Turn right onto Avenue des Sciences Humaines, then take another right onto Rue des Bibliothèques. Continue by turning left onto Avenue des Tours, then take a right onto Rue des Sciences de l'Éducation. Finally, turn left to enter the Pavillon La Laurentienne.

Metrobus network map



Speakers

Dominique Caouette (Université de Montréal, Canada)

Dominique Caouette is Professor at the Department of Political Science and Acting Director of the Centre for Asian Studies at the University of Montreal which he joined after working with international social justice NGOs. His teaching and research focus on transnational relations, development theories, natural resources use, social movements, and contentious politics in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines. This research led to articles and co-edited books including *Agrarian Angst and Rural Resistance in Contemporary Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2009), *Solidarities Beyond Borders : Transnationalizing Women’s Movements* (UBC Press, 2010), *Beyond Colonialism, Development and Globalization: Social Movements and Critical Perspectives* (Zed Books, 2016), *L’Asie du Sud-Est à la croisée des puissances* (PUM, 2019), and *Enjeux et défis du développement international* (PUO, 2019).

Shue Fong (Ernie) Chow (University of British Columbia, Canada)

Shue Fong Chow is a doctoral student in History at the University of British Columbia, specializing in contemporary political history in Hong Kong. His research interests include memory politics, decentralized activism, the Umbrella Generation, colonial identity, and rising nationalism. Since 2012, he has actively participated in the Hong Kong Democracy Movement, holding positions such as president of the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Student Union and secretary general of a pro-democracy party. In March 2021, he fled to Canada after organizing the Hong Kong Civil Deliberation Platform and receiving threats from the Chinese Communist Party.

Muhammad Fajar (Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, Jakarta)

Muhammad Fajar is a research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Research at Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia (IFAR-Unika Atma Jaya) in Jakarta. He obtained his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2020. His research interests focus on the intersection of social movements and state formation. Recently, he is researching Indonesian progressive youth activism in the post-authoritarian era in a comparative perspective.

Kamran Hakiman (University of Pittsburgh, United States)

Kamran Hakiman is a PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of International Affairs, focusing on international development, political economy, and political behavior. His research centers on the norms and beliefs necessary for achieving inclusive governance, emphasizing micro-level dynamics within communities. Before joining the PhD program, Kamran led qualitative and quantitative research on governance and policy interventions in various countries, including Myanmar, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, and Sierra Leone.

Erik Kuhonta (McGill University, Canada)

Erik Martinez Kuhonta is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development at McGill University. His research examines political development in Southeast Asia, focusing on state formation, democracy, political parties, and political economy. He authored *The Institutional Imperative* (Stanford University Press, 2011), which was shortlisted for the Canadian Political Science Association Prize, and co-edited *Party System Institutionalization in Asia* (2015) and *Southeast Asia in Political Science* (2008). His work has been published in journals such as *Pacific Affairs* and *Comparative Political Studies*.

Kanokrat Lertchoosakul (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

Kanokrat Lertchoosakul is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Over the past two decades, she has researched various social movements in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Her PhD thesis at LSE, titled *The Rise of the Octobrists: Power and Conflict among Former Left-Wing Student Activists in Contemporary Thai Politics*, received recognition from the Thailand National Research Committee in 2016 and was subsequently published by the Council on Southeast Asia Studies at Yale University. Her recent research has examined contemporary conservative mass movements and the youth movement in Thailand during 2020-2021.

Maaïke Matelski (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Maaïke Matelski has an interdisciplinary background in social sciences, concentrating on human rights, civil society, and development. Her research explores social and political activism at the community, regional, and (trans)national levels, focusing on voice, representation, and legitimacy in rights-based advocacy. She authored the book *Contested Civil Society in Myanmar: Local Change and Global Recognition* (Bristol University Press, 2024) based on her PhD thesis and numerous articles on civil society in Kenya and Myanmar. She regularly collaborates with activists and advises organizations in the Netherlands on locally-led development and community relations. She is Assistant Professor in Anthropology at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, where she also teaches in the minor Peace and Conflict Studies.

Cécile Medail (Australian National University, Australia)

Cécile completed her PhD in International Political Studies at the University of New South Wales, Australia, focusing on ethnic perceptions and state-building during Myanmar's semi-democratic period. As a postdoc at the University of Copenhagen's Department of Political Science, she published several articles on Myanmar's current social movement, on solidarity, and on digital activism. As a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University, she co-convened research activities for the Myanmar Research Centre and is co-editing a conference volume on Myanmar's revolution. Before her PhD, she worked for eight years with civil society organizations supporting young ethnic activists in Thailand and Myanmar.

Alexandre Pelletier (Université Laval, Canada)

Alexandre Pelletier is an assistant professor of political science at Laval University and the Romeo Dallaire Leadership Chair in the Teaching of Civil Conflict and Peace. His research focuses on religious and ethnic violence, and civil wars, with a specialization in Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia and Myanmar. He is the author of *Winning by Process: The State and Neutralization of Ethnic Minorities in Myanmar* (Cornell University Press, 2022). He is currently working on a multi-year research project on war-to-peace transitions, focusing on armed groups' strategic maneuvering during these crucial periods. He has published his work in *Perspective on Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *South East Asia Research*, and *Development and Change*.

Rahardhika Utama (Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, Jakarta)

Rahardhika Utama is a sociologist with a PhD from Northwestern University, specializing in comparative-historical research on development. Currently, he is a researcher at the Atma Jaya Institute for Advanced Research (IFAR Atma Jaya) and a visiting scholar at the Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) at Northwestern. His research interests encompass comparative development, corruption, bureaucracy, politics, social policy, inequality, and social determinants of health. His work focuses on the variation of development among agrarian economies in Southeast Asia.

Mai Truong (Marquette University, USA)

Mai Truong is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Marquette University in Wisconsin, United States. Prior to this role, she was an Assistant Professor at Mount St. Mary's University (2022-2023) and earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Arizona in 2022. She studies authoritarian politics, protests, and social movements in Southeast Asia. Her publications appear or are forthcoming in *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, and *Asian Politics & Policies* among other peer-reviewed journals. She is currently working on a book project which investigates the conditions under which social movements of markedly different natures cooperate to advance their claims in authoritarian regimes.

Aye Lei Tun (McMaster University, Canada)

Aye Lei Tun is a PhD candidate in Political Science at McMaster University in Canada. Aye Lei's dissertation, *Transnational Network and Resilience of Civil Society Organizations in Myanmar and Thailand* intends to explain why some civil society organizations remain resilient despite state repression in authoritarian regimes.

Meredith Weiss (State University of New York at Albany, USA)

Meredith Weiss is Professor of Political Science and founding Director of the SUNY/CUNY Southeast Asia Consortium. She has published widely on social mobilization and civil society, the politics of identity and development, electoral politics and parties, institutional reform, and subnational governance in Southeast Asia, with particular focus on Malaysia and Singapore. Her books include *Protest and Possibilities: Civil Society and Coalitions for Political Change in Malaysia* (Stanford, 2006); *Student Activism in Malaysia: Crucible, Mirror, Sideshow* (Cornell & NUS, 2011); *The Roots of Resilience: Party Machines and Grassroots Politics in Southeast Asia* (Cornell & NUS, 2020); and the co-authored *Mobilizing for Elections: Patronage and Political Machines in Southeast Asia* (Cambridge, 2022).

Htet Thiha Zaw (University of British Columbia, Canada)

Htet Thiha Zaw is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia. His research examines how indigenous institutions shaped state development in the Global South, particularly in Southeast Asia. His work combines quantitative analyses with qualitative archival research, and has been published or is forthcoming in journals like *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Education Review*, and *the International Journal of Educational Development*.



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