CALL FOR PAPERS

2017 Southeast Asian American Studies Conference
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, RESEARCH, & POLICY IN ACTION

Deadline: February 1, 2017
University of Massachusetts at Lowell
July 27-29, 2017

The UMass Lowell Center for Asian American Studies invites paper or poster abstracts (250-500 words) for the fifth triennial Southeast Asian American Studies conference, which will take place on July 27-29, 2017, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. We invite scholars, artists, activists, organizers, and community members from all disciplines and sites (including Filipino/a American Studies, Vietnamese American Studies, Laotian American Studies, Hmong Studies, Cambodian American Studies, Thai American Studies, and diasporic Southeast Asian Studies).

Since the first Southeast Asians in the Diaspora conference in 2005 at UC Riverside – which began as a conversation between scholars in Vietnam Studies, Southeast Asian area studies, and Asian American studies – the field has expanded into an established field concerned with a range of issues in Southeast Asian America. This conference seeks to build on this growth of Southeast Asian American Studies and continue to explore ways to work with communities, advocate for change, and formulate policy initiatives.

The 2017 conference will highlight Southeast Asian American communities in New England. Lowell, Massachusetts, is home to the second largest Cambodian American population in the United States, as well as Vietnamese, Lao, Burmese, and Bhutanese Americans. Nearby Dorchester, MA, and Providence, RI, are home to significant Vietnamese and Lao American populations, respectively.

This conference also seeks to build bridges across disciplines (humanities, social sciences, and sciences), and across/among scholars, artists, policymakers, and community members. What are the range of approaches to Southeast Asian American Studies? How might we foster communication and collaboration between fields and disciplines? What interdisciplinary approaches have been fruitful? What are some challenges to working across disciplinary boundaries? Given the opportunities and challenges of community-engaged research, what role can scholarship play in enabling social change for diverse SEAA communities? How can engagement with SEAA communities enrich and inform scholarship, and vice versa? We seek papers and panels from the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, particularly in the areas of education, health, and public policy.

The deadline for abstracts is February 1, 2017. Please submit abstracts to CAAS@uml.edu. Please direct questions to the conference co-chairs: Phitsamay Uy (phitsamay_uy@uml.edu), Ivy Ho (ivy_ho@uml.edu), and/or Sue J. Kim (sue_kim@uml.edu).