

# Myat The Thitsar

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Tel: +(1) 9789542264; Email: [MyatThe\\_Thitsar@uml.edu](mailto:MyatThe_Thitsar@uml.edu); [myatthe.thitsar@emref.org](mailto:myatthe.thitsar@emref.org)

## Brief Bio:

**Myat The Thitsar** is a doctoral candidate in Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts and the Strategic Advisor at Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF, [www.emref.org](http://www.emref.org)), as well as the Director of Parliamentary Research and Support Program (PRSP). She was a research fellow of the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) at the University of Oxford from September 2016 to February 2017. She specializes in the research areas of sub-national parliaments and federalism, ethnic and identity politics, social media, and social change. The papers she authored and co-authored includes: Empowering or endangering minorities? Facebook, language, and identity in Myanmar (published by Asian Ethnicity in July 2021) and Poison If You Don't Know How to Use It: Facebook, Democracy, and Human Rights in Myanmar (published by The International Journal of Press/Politics in May 2020).

## Academic Qualification

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| Sep 2017-<br>Present | <b>Ph.D. Candidate and a Teaching Fellow</b><br>Ph.D. Global Studies Program, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Lowell. |
| 2008                 | <b>M.A., International Relations</b><br>Department of Political Science, California State University, Fresno.                                       |
| 2004                 | <b>B.A., (Honors) International Relations</b><br>Department of International Relations, Yadanabon University, Mandalay.                             |

## Publications and Published Reports

July 2021: **Empowering or Endangering Minorities? Facebook, language, and identity in Myanmar**, single-authored in *Asian Ethnicity*, July 2021. Taylor and Francis.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14631369.2021.1951596>

December 2020: **The Audit of Political Engagement in Myanmar (2019)**, funded by Arts and Humanitarian Research Council (AHRC), UK, and in collaboration with SOAS and Hansard Society, London. [https://www.emref.org/sites/emref.org/files/publication-docs/national\\_report\\_ape\\_eng\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.emref.org/sites/emref.org/files/publication-docs/national_report_ape_eng_final_0.pdf)

Aug 2020. **Poison if You Don't Know How to Use it: Facebook, Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar.**

Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Mon Kleinberg, Ardeth Thawnghmung and Myat The Thitsar in *International Journal of Press/Politics*; Volume 25 Issue 3, July 2020

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1940161220919666?journalCode=hijb>

Aug 2020 **Why is Customary Law So Strong? Political Recognition and Justice Practices in the Naga Self-Administrative Zone.** Lue Htar, Myat The Thitsar, Helen Maria Kyed; July 2020 in the book titled *Everyday Justice In Myanmar: Informal Resolutions and State Evasion in a*

*Time of Contested Transition*, edited by Helene Maria Kyed; published by NIRAS Press (Nordic Institute of Asian Study), Denmark.

<https://www.niaspress.dk/product/everyday-justice-in-myanmar/>

Jun 2019. **The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Peace Process of Myanmar**

Funded by Joint Peace Fund (JPF) and published by JPF and EMReF.

[https://www.jointpeacefund.org/sites/jointpeacefund.org/files/uploads/summary\\_report-csos\\_in\\_myanmar\\_s\\_peace\\_process\\_english.pdf](https://www.jointpeacefund.org/sites/jointpeacefund.org/files/uploads/summary_report-csos_in_myanmar_s_peace_process_english.pdf)

Dec 2018. **State-making and Dispute Resolution in Karen Frontier Areas**. Co-authored with Dr. Helene Maria Kyed. *Independent Journal of Burmese Scholarship*, 1:2, 2018-05-

01T02:00:00. <https://journalofburmesescholarship.org/issues/v1n2/02Kyed.pdf>

Jan 2017.

**Performance Analysis on States and Regions Parliament of Myanmar** published by the Asia Foundation and Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation.

<https://emref.org/en/publication/performance-analysis-state-and-region-hluttaws-local-legislatures-myanmar-2010-2015>

October 2015. **Political Party Alliances in Myanmar in the Context of 2015 General Elections** issued by Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation.

June 2014. **Development Policies, Perceptions, and Recommendations of Key Political Parties in Myanmar** issued by Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) and Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF).

December 2010. **Impacts of Global Financial Crisis on Myanmar Women** issued by Oxfam GB South and Southeast Asia Regional Office.

### **Ongoing projects and academic papers**

May 2021-at present: "Whose Friend Facebook Is? The Social Media Warfare on Facebook between Pro-Coup and Anti-Coup Groups in the Post-Military Coup Context of Myanmar."

May 2021-at present: "Are we safe enough? Myanmar's digital coup and finding a safe messaging platform."

Dec 2020- at present: "Enmity or Empathy? The narrative change of ethnic supremacism on Facebook in the post-coup ethnic politics of Myanmar"

September 2020: "The Convergent and Divergent Moments of Identity and State in the History and at Present: Panthay (Chinese) Muslims in China and Myanmar (Burma)."

Dec 2019- at present: Performance Analysis on States and Regions Parliament of Myanmar- 2015-2020 (on the second-term subnational parliaments); Funded by Art and Humanitarian Research Council (AHRC), UK.

## Awards and Fellowship

Nov 2020:	<b>Civil Society Scholar Award (CSSA)</b> Open Society Foundation (OSF). NY. U.S.A.
May 2020:	<b>Wooding-Marion Peace Price</b> Awarded by the Department of Politics Science University of Massachusetts Lowell, U.S.A.
May 2020:	<b>Bradford Morse Scholarship on International Relations</b> Awarded by the Department of Politics Science University of Massachusetts Lowell, U.S.A.
October 2016- January 2017:	<b>Charles Wallace Trust Research Fellow</b> Department of Politics and International Relations and St Antony's College, The University of Oxford.
September 2009	<b>Visiting Fellow</b> , International Academy for Leadership (IAF), Fried Naumann Stiftung, Germany
June 2002- October 2002	<b>ASEAN Fellow</b> , Singapore International Foundation (SIF)

## Career

2017-Present	<b>Director cum Strategic Advisor, Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF <a href="http://www.emref.org">www.emref.org</a>); Director Parliamentary Research and Support Program (PRSP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop program design and lead program developments in coordination with the Executive Director and Program Directors of EMReF. Develop a study design of studies, particularly related to governance and political process and institutions of Myanmar and involve studies as a lead researcher or a senior analyst.</li></ul>
2011-2016	<b>Executive Director, Enlightened Myanmar Research (EMReF)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lead and oversee both the Program and Program Support Sectors of EMReF. Develop a study design of studies, particularly related to governance and political process and institutions of Myanmar and involve studies as a lead researcher or a senior analyst.</li></ul>
2009-2011	<b>Head of Program, Network Activities Group (NAG)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop program designs and strategies, build donor relationships, and put efforts for program development, and secure funding in collaboration with the CEO. Oversee the program team and strengthen the quality control over project activities and outcomes.</li></ul>
2008-2009	<b>Research Officer, Population Services International (PSI)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Preparing research design for measuring coverage of and access to the PSI's health interventions and products, and carry out M&amp;E by using geo-spatial tools.</li></ul>

- 2010-2015      **Senior Instructor, Myanmar Egress Capacity Building Institute**
- Teach International Relations, International Political Economy, and Qualitative Research Methods.