

Soksamphoas Im, Ph.D.

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EMPLOYMENT

Michigan State University, Asian Studies Center

Associate Director and FLAS Fellowship Coordinator, (*full-time*), Dec 2023 – Present

National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

Academic Visitor, Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Fellow on Southeast Asia, (*full-time*), Apr – Jun 2024

Stanford University, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center

Visiting Scholar, Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Fellow on Southeast Asia, (*full-time*), Sep – Dec 2023

Center for Khmer Studies | University of Sydney

Postdoctoral Research Associate (*full-time*), Jan 2022 – Aug 2023

Clinton Health Access Initiative

Senior Analyst, Country Support & Operations (*full-time*), Jun 2021 – Feb 2022

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center - Population Sciences in the Pacific Program

Research Assistant (*half-time*), Aug 2020 – Jul 2021

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Political Science

Lecturer of Political Science (*half-time*), Jan 2019 – May 2021

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Asian Studies

Teaching Assistant (*half-time*), Aug 2017 – Jul 2018

Actions Pour Les Enfants

Assistant to Country Director (*full-time*), Oct 2013 – Aug 2014

EDUCATION

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Ph.D. Political Science, specialized in Public Policy & Comparative Politics (2021)

M.A. Political Science (2019)

Durham University

M.Sc. Defense, Development, & Diplomacy (2016)

Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia | University of Leuven (KU Leuven)

B.A. International Relations (2013)

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Grant writing, research proposal development, data analysis, and report writing with a strong focus on accuracy and attention to detail (5+ years)
- Proven experience in developing and managing research projects and data systems (5+ years)
- Skilled in conducting mixed-method research (qualitative and quantitative), including survey design, focus groups, interviews, and field observations (7+ years)
- Experienced in collaborating on research with academic and non-academic partners, including community organizations, NGOs, civil society groups, and consulting teams (5+ years)
- Committed to mission-driven research aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable populations, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, and factory/construction workers (7+ years)
- Proficient in database and records management, data validation, and tracking (5+ years)
- Organized in maintaining records, communications, meeting notes, and listservs (10+ years)
- Strong relationship-building skills across diverse backgrounds (10+ years)
- Adaptable, flexible, and highly accountable in dynamic work environments (10+ years)

SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS

Microsoft Office Suite, Google Applications, Outlook, Teams, Zoom, Qualtrics, Canva, Adobe InDesign, NVivo, SAS, EndNote, Zotero, Mailchimp, MailerLite, Constant Contact, Whova, Zotero, and SurveyMonkey (10+ years' experience using these applications)

RESEARCH INTEREST

Cambodia and Southeast Asia	Comparative Politics
Social Welfare Policy	Health and Labor Policy
Qualitative & Mixed Methods	Population Studies
Economic Mobility & Inequality	Political Economy

COURSES TAUGHT

- Fall 2024: Authoritarianism in Contemporary Southeast Asia (Cornell University and University of Michigan through GETSEA)
- Fall 2019 – Spring 2021: Introduction to Political Science; Topic in Asian Studies; Introduction to Global Politics (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

PUBLICATIONS (Peer-Reviewed Articles):

Im, Soksamphoas. "Band-Aid Policy: An Assessment of Cambodia's Cash Transfer Program, Poverty, and Debt Among Rural Households." [Revised & Resubmitted, undergoing second round review]

Im, Soksamphoas, and Michele Ford. "Balancing policy objectives: Cambodia's COVID-19 emergency cash assistance scheme for workers." *Politics & Policy*, (2024), 00(0): 1–17.

Ford, Michele, and **Soksamphoas Im.** "Tourism workers' resilience in Siem Reap during COVID-19." *Annals of Tourism Research Empirical Insights*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (2023): 100114.

Ford, Michele, and **Soksamphoas Im.** "The union difference: Experiences of five-star hotel workers in Cambodia during COVID-19." *Journal of Industrial Relations* 65, no. 5 (2023): 616-639.

Im, Soksamphoas. "Issues Concerning Ageing Population in Kampot and Takeo Provinces, Cambodia, and the Implications of the Cambodia National Ageing Policy 2017-2030." *Research on Ageing and Social Policy*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (2023): 1-28.

Other article(s):

Aweau, Ki'ilaweau, Silvera Erari, **Soksamphoas Im**, Kelle Murphy, Pallav Pokhrel, and Thaddeus A. Herzog. "What Motivates Betel Quid Chewers to Quit? An Analysis of Several Cessation-Relevant Variables." *Substance Use & Misuse* 59, no. 7 (2024): 1095-1101.

Im, Soksamphoas, Sothy Eng, & Barbara Yee. 2022. [Cambodian American Older Adults](#). In: Periyakoil VJ, Ohuabunwa U, eds. Geriatrics Cultural Navigator. *American Geriatrics Society*.

Book Chapter Young, Sokphea and **Soksamphoas Im**. "Chapter 19: Between Autocratization and Democratization in Cambodia," in [The Routledge Handbook of Autocratization in Southeast Asia](#), edited by Netina Tan and Yuko Kasuya, Routledge, (2025).

Working Paper **Im, Soksamphoas**, and Chanmono Oum. "How Was the Cambodian Cash Relief Program Assist Poor Women Affected by COVID-19 Economic Crisis?." *Kyoto Working Papers on Area Studies* 135 (2021): 1-14. https://edit.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/135_soksamphoas-1.pdf

Book Reviews **Im, Soksamphoas**. "The Politics of Coercion: State and Regime Making in Cambodia: by Neil Loughlin, Cornell University Press, 186 Pp., 2024, US \$25.95 (Paperback)." *Pacific Affairs*, 98, no. 2 (2025). <https://pacificaffairs.ubc.ca/book-reviews/the-politics-of-coercion-state-and-regime-making-in-cambodia-by-neil-loughlin/>

Im, Soksamphoas. "The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Power, Politics, and Resistance in Transitional Justice: by Julie Bernath, University of Wisconsin Press, 288 Pp., 2023, US \$99.95." *Southeast Asian Studies* 13, no. 3 (2024). <https://englishkyoto-seas.org/2024/12/vol-13-no-3-book-reviews-soksamphoas-im/>

Im, Soksamphoas. "Heritage Conservation and China's Belt and Road Initiative: Edited by Victor Chan, Yew-Foong Hui, Desmond Hui, and Kazem Vafadari, Routledge, 206 Pp., 2024, US \$144." *Chinese Studies International* 28, no.1 (2024), 1-5. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/cri.2024.a943484>

Im, Soksamphoas. "A Tiger Rules the Mountain: Cambodia's Pursuit of Democracy: By Gordon Conochie, Monash University Publishing, 384 Pp., 2023, US \$36.99 (Paperback)." *Asian Studies Review* (2023): 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10357823.2023.2276973>

Im, Soksamphoas. "Strategies of Authoritarian Survival and Dissensus in Southeast Asia: Weak Men Versus Strongmen: By Sokphea Young, Palgrave Macmillan, 255 Pp., 2021, US \$159.99 (Paperback)." *Asian Politics & Policy*, (2023): 331-335. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aspp.12687>

Policy Reports **Im, Soksamphoas** and Michele Ford. *Resilience: Economic, Social and Psychological Coping Strategies among Hotel and Guesthouse Workers in Siem Reap during COVID-19*. April 2023. Accessible via: https://library.khmerstudies.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=14770&query_desc=Soksamphoas%20Im#

Im, Soksamphoas and Michele Ford. [*Hospitality Worker's Resilience during COVID-19: Impact of Covid-19 on Tourism Sector in Siem Reap*](#) [Policy Brief]. April 2023. The Center for Khmer Studies.

Dissertation **Im, Soksamphoas.** "The Politics of Age: An Examination of the Cambodia National Ageing Policy 2017–2030." PhD diss., University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 2021.

Op-Ed **Im, Soksamphoas.** 2025. [*Unspoken push factors behind Thai-Cambodia conflict*](#). Asia Times, July 29. [non-refereed]

Im, Soksamphoas. 2020. [*Foreign Students and Scholars Confused by Visa Disruptions*](#). Honolulu Civil Beat, July 17. [non-refereed]

Manuscripts in Preparation "The Predicament of Safety Nets in Times of Debt: Evidence from Cambodia and Sri Lanka" [Journal Article, with Amali Wedagedara]

"How Coercion Drives Cooptation: Opposition Suffocation and Defection Cascades in Cambodia" [Journal Article, with Oren Samet]

BOOK PROJECT

"Empowering the State: Unveiling Cambodia's Welfare Policy Impact on Governance" (in-progress)

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Reviewer, Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology, 2023

Reviewer, Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development, 2020

Reviewer, Explorations Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, 2017-2020

Contributor, American Geriatrics Society (AGS iGeriatrics), 2021

GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

2024 Southeast Asia Research Group Fellow and Conference Travel Awardee

2023 Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference Travel Grant

2023 The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law – Research Grant for Human Rights & Poverty Issues in Cambodia

2023 Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Travel Grant for Winter Conference

2022 The Asia Foundation (TAF) and The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) – Grant for COVID-19 Impact Research in Cambodia (2022-23)

2020 The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law – Research Grant for Human Rights & Gender Issues in Cambodia

2020 Department of Political Science (UH Mānoa) Dissertation Completion Award

2019 American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Doctoral Fellowship (2019-20)

2019 Open Society Foundations (OSF) Civil Society Scholar Award (2019-20)

2019 Graduate Division (UH Mānoa) Achievement Award

2018 Office of International Student Service (UH Mānoa) Dai Ho Chun Scholarship

2017 College of Social Sciences (UH Mānoa) Professional Development Award

2017 Richard H. and Hester V. Cox (EWC) Scholarship for Students from Indochina Region

2017 Center for Southeast Asian Studies (UH Mānoa) Moscotti Fellowship

- 2016 East-West Center (EWC) Graduate Degree Fellowship (2016-18)
- 2016 Asia Europe Foundation Scholarship to attend the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting in Mongolia
- 2015 Josephine Butler College (Durham University) Postgraduate Student Bursary Awards
- 2014 Open Society Foundations (OSF) Civil Society Leadership Award (2014-15)
- 2013 Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Scholarship to attend the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange Students and Youths Program (JENESYS 2.00) in Japan
- 2013 German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship for Global Politics Summer School at Fudan University
- 2012 European Commission Erasmus Mundus AREAS Action II Undergraduate Scholarship in Belgium (2012-13)

CONFERENCE & PROCEEDINGS

Cambodian Politics: Epidemics and Pandemics | Lund University's Southeast Asian Politics Seminar | Panelist | Lund, Sweden | March 20-21, 2025

Debt, Dependency, and Cash Transfers: Evaluating Cambodia's IDPoor Program and Its Impact on Rural Households | Portland Community College's International Speaker Series | Speaker | Virtual | December 3, 2024

Band-Aid Policy: An Assessment of Cambodia's Cash Transfer Program, Poverty, and Debt Among Rural Households | Southeast Asia Research Group Summer Conference | Presenter | Hong Kong, China | July 1-3, 2024

Hospitality Workers' Resilience in the Face of COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case of Siem Reap, Cambodia | Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference | Presenter | Québec City, QC, Canada | October 12-14, 2023

Inclusion Matters: Addressing the Higher Education Gender Gap and Marginalization, Open Society Foundations Reassigned Grant Unit Forum | Panelist | Belgrade, Serbia | August 15-17, 2023

Contemporary Policy and Practice: Contemporary Politics and Predictions for Cambodia, Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference 2023 | Organizer, Chair, Presenter | Boston, MA, USA | March 16-19, 2023

Resilience and Recovery Among Workers in Cambodia's Hotel Industry During and Post COVID-19, Southeast Asia Research Group Winter Conference 2022-23 | Poster Presentation | Salt Lake City, UT, USA | January 5-7, 2023

Urban Transformation and Socio-Economic Changes in Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery, The Asia Foundation, Ponlok Chomnes – National Policy Forum 2022 | Panelist | Phnom Penh, Cambodia | October 26-27, 2022

Welfare Reform Politics in Cambodia Post-2013 Election, University of Michigan – Center for Southeast Asian Studies | Invited Talk | Ann Arbor, MI, USA | September 9, 2022

A Reform Strategy that Sustains Authoritarianism in Cambodia, 79th Annual Midwest Political Science Conference | Chicago, IL, USA | April 7-10, 2022

Civil Society's Role in Development: A Case Study of HelpAge Organization with Ageing Policy Development in Cambodia, Ageing and Social Change: Tenth Interdisciplinary Conference | University of British Columbia | Vancouver, BC, Canada (September 24-25, 2020) [Virtual]

Seminar on Narrative Politics, The Gregynog Ideas Lab IX Summer School | University of Manchester, Politics Department | Mid Wales, United Kingdom (July 13-17, 2020) [Virtual]

Ageing as a Political Subject: The Rationale Behind Cambodia National Ageing Policy, 78th Annual MPSA Conference | Midwest Political Science Association | Chicago, IL, USA (April 16-19, 2020) [Virtual]

Understanding Civil Society Diplomacy in Southeast Asia in the 21st Century, New Directions in Diplomacy Panel | International Political Science Association 25th World Congress of Political Science | Brisbane, Australia (July 21-25, 2018)

Ageing in Developing World: Long-term Welfare Policy for the Ageing Population in Cambodia, Ageing and Society: Seventh Interdisciplinary Conference and the Ageing and Society Research Network | University of California, Berkeley | Berkeley, CA, USA (November 3-4, 2017)

The Impact of War and Conflict on the Social Economic Security on the Cambodian Population, Approaches to Security in the Asia-Pacific Region | 58th International Studies Association Annual Convention | Baltimore, MD, USA (February 22-25, 2017)

The Country's Role Ahead in the 21st Century, International Association for Political Science Students New Delhi and Mumbai, India (October 5-15, 2015)

Global Perspectives on Space for Civil Society: Experiences, Challenges and Resistance, Open Society Foundations | University of Oxford | Oxfordshire, United Kingdom (March 30 - April 2, 2015)

Road to ASEAN Economic Community 2015, ASEAN Warwick Conference | University of Warwick | Birmingham, United Kingdom (February 21-22, 2015)

Young Diplomat Training, European Academy of Diplomacy | Warsaw, Poland (February 5-20, 2015)

Soft Diplomacy Vs. Hard Diplomacy, NATO Summit Analysis Symposium | Atlantic Council of the UK | Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom (December 5, 2014)

Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth Program, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Tokyo and Hiroshima, Japan (December 6-14, 2013)

The New Landscape of Global Politics, Center for Global Politics of the Free University of Berlin | Fudan University | Shanghai, China (August 1-15, 2013)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Radio Free Asia

Program Evaluation Consultant (Nov 2024 – Jan 2025)

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)

Policy Researcher (Mar – Oct 2023)

Caritas Australia

Research Consultant (May – Sep 2023)

Winrock International

Research Consultant (Oct 2022 – Apr 2023)

University of Michigan, Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Affiliated Scholar (May 2023 – Present)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Reference Assistant, Hamilton Library (Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)

Program Coordinator, School of Pacific & Asian Studies (Oct 2018 – Jan 2020)

Graduate Student Journal Editor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (Jan 2017 – Dec 2019)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2015 Certificate in Diplomatic Studies – European Academy of Diplomacy, Poland

2014 Certificate of Completion for a Course on Conflict Analysis & Resolutions – Durham University, United Kingdom

2014 Certificate of Completion for Summer Research Training – Bilgi University, Turkey

2013 Certificate of Completion for Summer School in Global Politics – Fudan University, China

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

American Political Science Association (APSA)

Center for Khmer Studies (American Council of American Overseas Research Center)

Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society in the Social Sciences

American Association of University Women Alumni Network

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

International Public Policy Association (IPPA)

International Political Science Association (IPSA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

East-West Center, Education Program Alumni Network

COMMUNITY SERVICES

American Association of University Women Honolulu Chapter
Project Coordinator (Oct 2020 – May 2021)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Graduate Student Organization
Student Employment and Compensation Chair (Nov 2018 – May 2019)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Office of Public Health Studies
Research Volunteer (Sep 2018 – Nov 2018)

East-West Center Participants Association
Vice-President and Acting President (Sept 2017 – Aug 2018)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

