

Migrations. People and Knowledge on the Move. The « Making-Of » e Collaborative Research in Lao PDR

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Duration: 20mins
Spoken language: English/ Lao
Subtitles language: English

Abstract

In the new economic landscape developing after 1986 Laos has become more open to international contacts and investments. Many people from rural have moved to the cities to search for a better life, new opportunities, find a new job and earn an income for themselves and their families.. What to we know about the inner and intimate experiences of those migrants? An ongoing research in Laos interrogates the links between mobilities, intimacies and infectious vulnerabilities (MIGRLAO-IRD/CRF/EF). It documents the biographical journeys of women and men who have joined peri-urban areas of industrial production in order to work in textile factories, construction sites or restaurants both in Laos and in neighboring countries. This is a multidisciplinary community-based research program that experiments various innovative forms of knowledge mobility. The film retraces this experience by paying a particular attention to the specific conditions of data production across social and cultural boundaries and at the encounters between development and scientific research domains.

Presenting session: June 27, 13:30-15:30, Focus 2

spondeo

Nadja Köffler & students - University of Innsbruck



Duration: 5mins

Abstract

Spondeo is a short film which thrives into the abyss of unspoken social conventions at Austrian universities, visually addressing topics like homelessness, intimacy, sexual assault, drug abuse and suicide. It grew out of a one-year student project carried out at the University of Innsbruck (Austria) and involved the ideas of 25 students working together with two researchers in cultural sociology and media studies, an Italian artist and a Bavarian filmmaker.

As an interdisciplinary team, they tried to tell a story about unspoken social conventions at Austrian universities, which have often remained hidden from social discourse. Following the concept of photovoice, the project team gave students a 'filmvoice', visualizing what they felt about being a student in Austria and having to cope with a series of grievances. The film offers hidden clues, which reveal that the protagonist is homeless, being confronted with the abyss of academic life – peeping through windows and slightly left open doors, underlying that what she comes to see is socially intolerable. Historical recordings pop up like flashlights, provoking the confluence of the present and past history.

Overall, the film portrays a fragmented and fast-moving academic world, which only touches a variety of issues so that the viewers are forced to use their imagination to think the storyline to an end. Spondeo does not answer any questions, rather coming up with a punch of question marks which should initiate a discussion in words afterwards.

Presenting session: June 27, 13:30-15:30, Focus 1
