

## **Myanmar's Systemic Transformation: Before and After 2015**

Myanmar's transformation has been extensively featured in media since the early 2010s. The political significance and former global popularity of Aung San Suu Kyi, however, contributed to the dominance of NLD-centric narratives over transformation. Whether in relation to by-elections in 2012, the general elections in 2015, or the role of Suu Kyi (and other former dissidents), when thinking and writing on Myanmar's transformation many people adopted an NLD-centric-narrative. This was understandable given the Tatmadaw's past misdeeds, mismanagement and poor human rights record.

This panel examines the importance of Myanmar's recent transformation by emphasizing not only post-2015-focused narratives, but both the pre-2015 and post-2015 periods. The aim is to analyze political, economic and social changes that took place since 2011 without prioritising any particular period.

Two years have now passed since the NLD's takeover, allowing us to make some initial assessments of the periods both before and after the 2015 elections. Whether it be the domestic transition of power, controlled democratization, transformation of economy, reformulation of policies to address political challenges, balancing foreign policy, new ceasefire agreements with ethnic armed groups, (re)emerging sectarian conflicts, environmental issues (such as resource management), social challenges (such as burgeoning "squatter" settlements, illegal buildings and developments, or land ownership), all these issues and processes now await scholarly evaluation. We welcome papers from all researchers addressing diverse perspectives on the political, economic, spatial, environmental and social aspects of the transition in Myanmar after 2011, both during the Thein Sein and NLD periods.

### **Convenor**

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