

The Effects of Authoritarianism on Human Rights and Press Freedom

Focusing on the present authoritarian (re)turn to the region, this panel welcomes papers addressing the relationship between authoritarianism and either the challenges to human rights or media freedoms. The panel asks contributors to consider how nations, and Southeast Asia as a whole, have had contemporary human rights and media freedoms curtailed as a result of increasing authoritarian rule. Are there commonalities and connections between these? Can a regional trend be concluded? Panellists are directed to consider if these challenges come as a result of authoritarianism – a symptom, or if the spike in authoritarianism has resulted from an already weakened human rights agenda and free press – a cause.

Prospective panellists are encouraged to discuss and compare cases such as Rappler in the Philippines and coverage of the Duterte administration, and the detention of the Reuters journalists by the authorities in Myanmar and coverage of Rohingya persecution. This panel therefore intends to explore the link between human rights and media freedom at both national and regional levels with an open mind as to the nature of the relationship between political leaders and human rights and a free press.

Convenor:

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