**Sopheak Chann, Ph.D.**

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| **Current position**  Full-Time Instructor,  Geography Department,  University of Kentucky | **Contact Information**  # 2020, 175 N Hill Dr,  Lexington, KY, 40509  +1 517 303 7181 |

**EDUCATION**



Ph.D. Human Geography University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia 2017

Thesis: “The production of space and the construction of frontier: contesting a Cambodian resource landscape.”

M.S. Geographic Information Sciences University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia 2009

Thesis: “Examining land cover change in the upstream region of Stung Chinit Catchment, Cambodia, and the potential impact on hydrological processes.”

B.Sc. Environmental Studies Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh 2006

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**



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| 2024 – Present  2022 – Present | Full-time Instructor  Mekong Culture WELL Fellow  Mekong NexGen Fellow | University of Kentucky  Geography Department  Michigan State University  James Madison College of Public Affairs |
| 2023 – Present | Affiliate Faculty | University of Michigan  Center for Southeast Asian Studies |
| 2017 – Present | Lecturer (on leave) | Royal University of Phnom Penh  Faculty of Development Studies |
| 2018 – 2021 | Honorary Associate | Royal Holloway, University of London  Department of Geography |
| 2017 – 2018 | Honorary Associate | University of Sydney, Australia  School of Geosciences |
| 2013 - 2017 | Field Teaching Assistant | University of Sydney, Australia  Geography and Mekong Fieldschool |
| 2010 – 2013 | Lecturer | Royal University of Phnom Penh  Department of Environmental Sciences |

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**



2022 Mekong Next Gen Fellowship; $20,000 through MCW project at Michigan State University

2020 Time Higher Education – THE Awards 2020 Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

2018 Association of Southeast Asian Studies (UK) Research Impact Award

2016 Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Travel Grand AUD 1000

2015 Outstanding presenter, [Institute of Australian Geographers](https://www.iag.org.au/past-iag-conferences) (IAG)

2013 AusAID Development Scholarship, Ph.D. program at the University of Sydney AUD 330000

2011 US Department of State, International Visiting Leadership Program (IVLP), Mekong Learning Initiative.

2009 AusAID Scholarship, Master Program AUD 55000

2002 Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport, Undergraduate Scholarship to attend a BSc, Environmental Studies

**GRANTS ACQUIRED**



2020-Present Co-PI LuceSEA USD1,000,000 Mekong Cultural Well Project. <https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2020/1m-grant-from-luce-foundation-launches-interdisciplinary-program-on-mekong-sustainability>

2018-2022 Co-PI ‘Rupture: nature-society transformation in mainland Southeast Asia’ with Australian National University (ANU) AUD49,950.00. The research investigates the socioecological impacts of hydropower dam developments in the Mekong Region, particularly Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. For more details of the project at <https://www.newmandala.org/introducing-rupture/>

2019-2022 Co-PI: ‘Depleted by debt? £820,759Focusing a gendered lens on climate change resilience, credit, and nutrition in trans-local Cambodia and South India with Royal Holloway, University of London. <https://gtr.ukri.org/person/33E1035A-D557-48D9-8F81-9B03C69AC7F7>

2017-2019 Co-PI: “Blood Brick”, Royal Holloway, University of London. <https://www.projectbloodbricks.org/team>

**PUBLICATIONS**



In progress A. Flaim, **S. Chann,** A. Beban, J. A.Wang, D. B. Ahlquist. “The Political Ecology of Southeast Asia/n (Im)mobilities: Materialities, E/motion, and Embodied Borderscapes.” Journal of Asian Studies. (Invitation to contribute to special forum on new themes in political ecology)

In progress **S, Chann**, Yung M, H Faxon, and J Dicarlo An Introduction to SpeciaSpecial Issue in Journal of Political Ecology (JPE)/Grassroots: Roots, Resistance and Decoloniality: Political Ecology by, for, and of Southeast Asia, Journal of Political Ecology

Under Review **Chann, S**. A. Beban, W. Fink, L.L. Vouch. “Grasping onto land: The emotional political ecology of land on the Tonle Sap Lake wetlands. The Journal of Peasant Studies.

2024 **Chann, S.,** Mahanty S., Chamberlin K. (2024) Squeezed between Land and Water: Rupture, Frontier-making, and Resource Conflicts at Cambodia’s Lower Sesan 2, *Pacific Affairs*.

2024 **Chann, S.,** Beban, A., Flaim, A., Gorman, T., & Vouch, L. L. (2024). Disorientations: The Political Ecology of “Displacing” Floating Communities from Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake. *Antipode*.

2023 **Chann, S.,** (2023). A Geographer’s Place Matters: Reflections from a “Local” Scholar and the Politics of North/South Knowledge Production. *The* *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographer* – a Special Issue “Geography Today”.

2023 Mahanty, S., **Chann, S**., & Suong, S. (2023). The emotional life of rupture at Cambodia's Lower Sesan 2 hydropower dam. *Environment Planning E: Nature Space*, 25148486231162087

2021 **Chann, S**. (2021) Migration in post-conflict state beyond climate change narratives: Exploring land and migration dynamics in Cambodian “last frontiers”, Area, Special Issues 2021, 1-10.

2021 Jack, M., **Chann, S**., JACKSON, S and DELL, N., (2021) Digital Tools as Bureaucratic Documents: Multiple Meanings of Technologically-Mediated Governing, The Journal of Collaborative Computing and Work Practices, Vol. 5, No. CSCW1.

2019 **Chann, S.** (2020)Making place and creating frontiers: Examining land and resource struggles in Cambodian post‐conflict resource landscapes, Geographical Journal, 185, 4.

2019 Parsons, L., **& Chann, S**. (2019) The Impact of Past and Present Water Regimes on Current Migration: Climate Adaptation, Debt Bondage and Hydrosocial Power in Cambodia, Political Geography, 75, 0-31.

2014 Frewer, T. & **Chann, S.** (2014) GIS and the ‘Usual Suspects’-[Mis]understanding Land Use Change in Cambodia. Human Ecology, 42, 267-281.

**WORKING PAPERS & REPORTS**

2022 Iskander, D., Brickell, K., Natarajan, N., Parsons, L., Guermond, V., Zanello, G., ... & Chann, S. Relationship Between Climate Change, Debt, Nutrition and Health During COVID-19 Pandemic, 2022.

2022 Milne, S., Mahanty, S., Lamb, V., Barney K., To, P., Ironside J., Wells-Dang, A., Thuon, T, Hirsch, P., and **Chann S**. CSO in the Mekong What can we learn from environmental struggle, the rapture project, New Mandala. <https://www.newmandala.org/author/rupture/>

2019 Brickel K., Parsons L., Natarajan N., and **Chann S**. Blood Bricks: Untold Stories Of Modern Slavery And Climate Change From Cambodia. <https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/blood-bricks-untold-stories-of-modern-slavery-and-climate-change-from-cambodia>

2018 Brickell, K., Parsons, L., Natarajan, N., and **Chann, S**. 2018. Blood Bricks: Department of Geography, Untold Stories of Modern Slavery and Climate Change from Cambodia. Royal Holloway, University of London. <https://www.projectbloodbricks.org/publications>

2018 **Chann, S**. 2018 Land and legal status of six urban poor communities in Bueng (Lake) Tompun Area. People In Need (PIN): Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2017 **Chann, S**. & Frewer, T. 2017. Commodity frontiers: An ethnographic study of the social-environmental interaction of Upper Stung Prek Thnot River Catchment, Eastern Cardamom Mountains. A situational analysis report, UNDP: Phnom Penh, Cambodia. <https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/KHM/Ethnographic%20Study%20Stung%20Prek%20Thnot_Final.pdf>

2013 **Chann, S**., & Kong, S. Climate change vulnerability mapping: commune level assessment in Kampong Speu Province. In N. Chhinh, N. Heng & S. Chann (Eds.), Climate change vulnerability assessment in Kampong Spue Province, Cambodia (pp. 23-52). Royal University of Phnom Penh: Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2011 **Chann, S**., Wales, N. & Frewer, T. 2011. An investigation of land cover and land use change in Stung Chrey Bak catchment, Cambodia. Working Paper No 53, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI): Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2011 **Chann, S**., Wales, N & Griffiths, K. 2011. Investigating land cover change in Cambodia. Policy Brief N.04, Cambodia Development Resource Centre (CDRI): Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2008 Chem, P., Hirsch, P., Kim, S., Suon, V., Khiev, D., Neave, M., Griffiths, K., Wales, N., Gillespie, J., Ham, K., Nong, K., Chea P., **Chann, S**. 2008. Framing Research on Water Resources Management and Governance in Cambodia: A Literature Review. Working Paper, No 37, Development Resource Institute (CDRI): Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**SELECTED INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS**

2024 **Chann, S:** The Political Ecology of “Displacing” Floating Communities from Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake, Southeast Asia Studies Center, University of Michigan February 2, 2024. <https://events.umich.edu/event/116646>

2023 **Chann, S**: Damming Rivers in Cambodia: Impacts of Water-Grabbing on Land and Resource Access, East-West Center and the University of Hawaii, March 1, 2023. <https://www.eastwestcenter.org/events/damming-rivers-cambodia-impacts-water-grabbing-land-and-resource-access>

2023 **Chann, S**: Socio-ecological Impacts of Environmental Displacements of Communities Living on the Tonle Sap Lake, North Carolina Asia Center, and Geography Department at the University of North Carolina, January 27 2023. <https://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu/event/talk-by-professor-sopheak-chann/>

2022 **Chann, S**: Chinese investment and construction working conditions in Cambodia at James Madison College, Michigan State University, 16 November 2022. <https://vipp.isp.msu.edu/eventsdepartment14/?id=52804>

2022 Mahanty, S., and **Chann, S**: the Emotional Life of Rupture at Cambodia’s Lower Sesan 2 dam at Political Emotional Ecology Symposium (POLLEN 2022).

2022 **Chann, S**., & Mahanty, S. Shaping water, grabbing land: local experiences of the rapture of Lower Sesan II Dam, ICIRD7, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

2022 **Chann, S**. & Mahanty., S. Shaping water, grabbing land: local experiences of the rapture of Lower Sesan II Dam, Rupture Workshop, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

2020 **Chann, S**. Frontier Construction and Place-Making in Cambodia Post-Conflict Resource Landscapes, Gatty Lecture, Global Connell. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHT5NmyV8Yg>

2020 **Chann, S**. The history and present-day realities of place-making in post-conflict resource landscapes, especially Cambodia. [Episode 36](https://gattyrewind.libsyn.com/episode-36-sopheak-chann-lecturer-department-of-natural-resource-management-and-development-royal-university-of-phnom-penh), the Gatty Lecture Rewind Podcast. <https://gattyrewind.libsyn.com/episode-36-sopheak-chann-lecturer-department-of-natural-resource-management-and-development-royal-university-of-phnom-penh>

2018 **Chann, S**. Shaping the Water and Grabbing the Land: Elite Land Grabbing in Bueng Tompun “Lake”, Phnom Penh. Association of Southeast Asia Studies – UK (ASEAS-UK) University of Leeds, UK, September 2018.

2018 **Chann, S**. Labour and land in the post-war frontiers: Exploring the dialectical relationship between ecological, political and economic changes and rural migrations in Cambodia. Royal Geography Society (RGS), Cardiff University, UK, September 2018.

2016 **Chann, S**. Critical cartography and understanding the construction of Cambodia’s resource frontier. [Association of American Geographers](https://jobs.aag.org/) (AAG), San Francisco, April 2016.

2015 **Chann, S**. Sustaining nature, developing the state v’s simplification of local land use on the edge of Cambodia’s last frontier. [Institute of Australian Geographers](https://www.iag.org.au/past-iag-conferences) (IAG), ANU, Australia, July 2015.

**CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

2024 Southeast Asia in Transition Spring Semester 2024: Decolonizing Southeast Studies Webinar Series –the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Michigan State University.

2022 Beban A., Mahanty S., and **Chann S**. Political Emotional Ecology Symposium (POLLEN 2022), exploring how emotions influence resource access, use, and control and shape people’s everyday lives and relationships with each other and the state. <https://perc.ac.nz/wordpress/emotional-ecologies/>

2022 Discussing Development: Forest and Field Webinar at Southeast Asia in Transition Fall 2022 Webinar Series. <https://www.luce.cseashawaii.org/2022/09/12/southeast-asia-in-transition-fall-2022-webinar-series/>

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**



2024-Present Full-Time Instructor “Political Ecology and Applied Environment and Sustainability” at Geography Department, University of Kentucky

2024-2025 Lecture “Decolonizing Southeast Asia Studies: Relearning, Researching and Rewriting Southeast Asia.” Graduate Mini-course, Cornell

2024 Co-instructor “Politics of displacement: borders, refugees, and problems of asylums” at James Madison College, Michigan State (MC399)

2023 Lead lecturer “Political Ecology of the Mekong” at James Madison College, Michigan State University.

2020-2022 Lead instructor on “Sustainable Wetland Management” at the Department of Natural Resource Management and Development, Faculty of Development Studies, Royal University of Natural Resource Management.

2010-2022 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems at the Department of Natural Resource Management and Development, Royal University of Phnom Penh.

2017-2022 Introduction to Geographic Information System at Royal University of Phnom Penh on GIS and climate change at Development Studies, RUPP.

2015-2016 Teaching Assistant on Environment and Natural Resources at Geography Department, University of Sydney.

2010-2013 Introduction to the Environmental Studies, Royal University of Phnom Penh

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS** 

2019-Present Committee member of Cambodian Scholar Network

2011-Present International Visiting Leadership Program (IVLP) with the US Department of State

2020-Present Association of Asian Studies

2018-Present Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the UK (ASEASUK)

2013-Present Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSAEC) with the University of Sydney

2013-Present Australian Award Scholarship (AAS) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

2004-2017 Australian Mekong Resource Centre (AMRC) with the University of Sydney

**FIELDWORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**



2020-present Research Team Leader for Mekong Culture WELL (MCW) at Michigan State University

2021 Researcher, E&S due diligence (ESDD) for preparing funding from the legacy landscape fund, Cardamom Mountains, NP Cambodia, Preparation for KFW Development Bank, Community Insight Group (CIG).

2021 Researcher, conducting a study on responses of relevant agencies on the impacts of COVID-19 on people with disabilities in Cambodia, UNDP

2020 Researcher, Chinese Investment and Construction Working Condition in Cambodia, AMRC

2020 Researcher, Investigating labor rights issues of a palm oil plantation in Southwestern Cambodia, SWISS Solidarity

2019 Researcher, Investigating labor rights issues of a Rubber Plantation in Northeastern Cambodia, SWISS Solidarity

2019 Researcher, ethnographic study on climate change and people with disabilities in Cambodia, UNDP

2017 Researcher, studying land use and land cover changes and their impacts on local livelihoods in Cambodia, UNDP

2017 Researcher studying land grabs in Phnom Penh’s remaining biggest wetland lake and urban poor communities, People In Need (PIN).