

Justine Chambers
Postdoc
Peace and Violence
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Research Areas

Justine Chambers' is a socio-cultural anthropologist whose research focuses on ethno-national conflict, morality, identity politics, authority and informal justice. Currently, she is part of a 5 year research project exploring the climate-conflict nexus, focusing on the interconnections between state-led climate change adaptation initiatives, natural resource management, land rights, indigenous conservation efforts and conflict in Myanmar's ethnic borderland regions. Her previous work includes an in-depth examination of morality and personhood amongst Buddhist Karen people on the frontiers of the Myanmar state. In addition, she has also worked as a consultant, documenting customary land management practices and informal justice mechanisms in conflict-affected regions of Myanmar.

Projects

MyClimate: Myanmar: Climate Actions, Conflict and Peacebuilding

Kyed, H.M., Chambers, J.
01/12/2021-01/12/2026

PhD Project: Pursuing Morality: Everyday Ethics among Karen Buddhists in Southeastern Myanmar

Chambers, J.
01/02/2014-01/02/2019

Academic Publications

'Nga dog htamain, nga doh ah lan, nga doh aung bwe': The Role of Young Women in Myanmar's Spring Revolution

Aye Thiri Kyaw, Chambers, J. & Phyoey Nay Chi. 2022. *Journal of Burma Studies* (forthcoming).

Eudaimonic Wellbeing in Southeastern Myanmar's Contested Moral Landscape

Chambers, J. 2021. *The Asia-Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, 22(5): 396-413.

In the Absence of the State: Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Myanmar

Chambers, J. 2021. *Mekong Connect*, 2(2): 17-19.

Living with Myanmar

Chambers, J., Galloway, C., and Liljeblad, J (eds.). 2020. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof-Ishak Institute.

Introduction: Living with Myanmar

Chambers, J. and Galloway, C. 2020. In *Living with Myanmar*, 3-26. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof-Ishak Institute.

Enacting Morality on Shifting Moral Ground: Young Plong Karen Women in Southeastern Myanmar

Chambers, J. 2019. *The Asia-Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, 20 (3): 261-77.

Towards a Moral Understanding of Karen State's Paradoxical Buddhist Strongmen?

Chambers, J. 2019. In: *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, 34 (2): 258-89.

Introduction: Coming to Terms with Moral Authorities in Myanmar

Chambers, J. & Cheesman, N. 2019. *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, 34 (2): 231-57.

Myanmar Transformed? People, Places and Politics

Chambers, J., McCarthy, G, Farrelly, N., and Chit Win (Eds.). 2018. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof-Ishak Institute.

Introduction: Myanmar Transformed?

Chambers, J. & McCarthy, G. 2018. In *Myanmar Transformed? People, Places and Politics* Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof-Ishak Institute, 3-20.

Other Publications

[Twin Crises-Covid-19 and the Coup](#)

Chambers, J. 2021. *New Mandala*, 30 June.

[The Fight for Democracy in Myanmar Should not Mean a Return to the Status Quo](#)

Chambers, J. 2021. *East Asia Forum*, 22 May.

[Book Review: Ardeth Maung Thawngmung. 2019. *Everyday Economic Survival in Myanmar*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.](#)

Chambers, J. 2021. *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 49 (2): 120-121.

[A Housing Land and Property \(HLP\) Rights Based Analysis of Customary Land Dispute Resolution in Eastern Bago Region and Kayin and Shan States](#)

Chambers, J & Butta, S. 2018. Yangon, Myanmar: British Council.

[Book Review: Anne Decobert \(2016\) *The Politics of Aid to Burma: A Humanitarian Struggle on the Thai-Burmese Border*. New York: Routledge.](#)

Chambers, J. 2018. *New Mandala*, 26 Feb.

[Unpacking the Politics of Rohingya Repatriation](#)

Chambers, J. & McCarthy, G. 2017. *East Asia Forum* 6 Dec.

[Unpacking an \(A\)moral Anthropology: Ongoing Violence in Myanmar](#)

Chambers, J. 2017. *The Familiar Strange*, 30 Nov.

[Buddhist Extremism, Despite a Clampdown Spreads in Myanmar](#)

Chambers, J. 2017. *The Asia Times*, 13 Aug.

[The Karen in 2017: Resilience, Aspirations and Politics](#)

Chambers, J. 2017. *Tea Circle*, 10 July.

[Optimism and Despair in Myanmar](#)

Chambers, J. 2017. *New Mandala*, 7 Feb.

[Karen State's New Chief Signals Continuity and Change](#)

Chambers, J. 2016. *Nikkei Asian Review*, 16 May.

[In Myanmar's Karen State, People Dare to Dream Again](#)

Chambers, J. 2016. *Nikkei Asian Review*, 11 March.

[Minorities and the Vote](#)

Chambers, J. 2015. *New Mandala*, 5 Nov.

[Amid the Deluge, Solidarity and Leadership Emerge](#)

Chambers, J & McCarthy, G. 2015. *Myanmar Times*, 18 Aug.

Education

2019 PhD in Social Anthropology, Australian National University, Australia

2013 MA Development Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia

2011 BA International and Global Studies, University of Sydney, Australia

Academic Grants and Awards

2021 Asian Studies Association of Australia Postdoctoral Writing Grant

2021 Australian Anthropology Society Postdoctoral Fellowship

2018 Freilich Foundation Early Career Research Small Grants Scheme

2017 Australian Anthropological Society/ANSA Travel Grant

2017 Australian National University Vice Chancellors Travel Grant

2016 Australian National University Vice Chancellors Travel Grant

2016 Australian Anthropological Society/ANSA Travel Grant

2015 School of Culture, History and Languages Travel Grant, ANU

2014-2017 Endeavour International Postgraduate Scholarship, Australian Ministry of Education and Training

2014-2018 Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)

Visiting Fellowships

2022-2023 Chiang Mai University, Affiliated Researcher, Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development

2021-2022 Australian National University, Visiting Fellow, School of Culture, History and Languages

2018 National University of Singapore, Visiting Scholar, Asia Research Institute

2017 University of Oxford, UK, Visiting Affiliate Scholar, St Antony's College

2016 University of Yangon, Myanmar, Research Fellow, Department of Anthropology

2015 Chiang Mai University, Thailand, Research Fellow, Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD)

Employment

2017-2021 Australian National University (ANU). Associate Director, Myanmar Research Centre.

2021 British Council. Research Consultant on 'Mapping Access to Justice in Myanmar' (with MyJustice, funded by EU via the British Council)

2019 British Council. Research Consultant on 'HLP Rights in Conflicted Affected Communities in Myanmar' (with NRC, funded by EU via the British Council).

2014-2019 Australian National University (ANU). Sessional Course Convenor, Tutor and Lecturer, College of Asia and the Pacific.

2012-2014 University of Newcastle. Research Assistant, School of Architecture and Built Environment.

2013 Amnesty International Australia. Senior Refugee Caseworker.

2012 International Organisation for Migration, Mae Sot, Thailand. Resettlement Operations Assistant.

Boards and Committees

SEA Review Editor, *Asian Studies Review*

Founding Member and Media Officer, Association of Mainland Southeast Asia Scholars

Fellow, Australian Anthropological Society

Academic Member, Asian Studies Association of Australia

Academic Member, Sydney Southeast Asian Centre

Academic Member, American Anthropological Association

Academic Member, Burma/Myanmar Studies Group