

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL *Sep 2023 - Present*
MSCA Postdoctoral Researcher, Brussels School of Governance

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN *Jan 2022 – Aug 2023*
Postdoctoral Researcher, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Department of Political Science

EDUCATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY *Dec 2020*
Ph.D. & M.A., Government
Subfields: Comparative Politics, Methodology
Dissertation: *Resilience of Contentious Movements under Repression: The Role of Bystander Protection and Disruption*
Committee: Thomas Pepinsky (Chair), Nicolas van de Walle, Matthew Evangelista, Jeremy Wallace

WESLEYAN COLLEGE *May 2012*
B.A., International Relations & Economics. *Summa Cum Laude.*

PUBLICATIONS

*: lead author; °: PhD student

Peer Reviewed

2024. "Strange bedfellows or trusted comrades? Digital solidarity-building among Myanmar's revolutionaries." *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, Online First. Megan Ryan*°, **Mai Van Tran***, and Swan Ye Htut°.
2024. "Democratic backsliding disrupted: The role of digitalized resistance in Myanmar." *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics* 9(1): 133-158. Megan Ryan*° and **Mai Van Tran***.
2023. "Provoking civilian disruption against popular protests: Myanmar military's counter-mobilisation strategies." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 54(4): 573–595. **Mai Van Tran***.
2023. "Organic online politics: Farmers, Facebook and Myanmar's military coup." *Big Data & Society* 10(1). Hilary Faxon*, Kendra Kintzi°, **Mai Van Tran**, Kay Zak Wine, and Swan Ye Htut°.
2023. "Enabling activist resilience: Bystander protection during protest crackdowns in Myanmar." *Asian Politics & Policy* 15(2): 205-225. **Mai Van Tran***.

Book Review

2023. "Return of the junta: why Myanmar's military must go back to the barracks." *International Affairs* 99(6): 2544–2545. **Mai Van Tran***.

Public Scholarship

Book chapter

2022. "Pro-democracy struggle in the age of social media: Evolution of military and resistance strategies in post-coup Myanmar." In *Myanmar after the Coup: Resistance, Resilience, and Re-invention*. Giuseppe Gabusi and Raimondo Neironi (Eds.). Turin: Torino World Affairs Institute. Megan Ryan*° and **Mai Van Tran***.

Blog posts

2023. “Farmers, Facebook and Myanmar’s Coup.” *New Mandala*. Hilary Faxon*, Kendra Kintzi*^o, **Mai Van Tran**, Kay Zak Wine, and Swan Ye Htut^o.
2022. “Digital Contention in Post-Coup Myanmar.” *New Mandala*. Megan Ryan*^o and **Mai Van Tran***.
2021. “Myanmar’s Military Has a History of Using Deceptive Tactics against Protesters. Now It Has Social Media, Too.” *The Washington Post*. **Mai Van Tran***.
2021. “To Understand Post-Coup Myanmar, Look to Its History of Popular Resistance, Not Sanctions.” *The Brookings Institution*. **Mai Van Tran***.
2013. “Understanding Malaysia’s Pivotal General Election.” *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. Vikram Nehru* and **Mai Van Tran***.
2012. “Building Peace in Southeast Asia’s Conflict Areas.” *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. Vikram Nehru* and **Mai Van Tran***.
2012. “More Hills to Climb for Aung San Suu Kyi.” *East Asia Forum*. Vikram Nehru* and **Mai Van Tran***.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Working papers

- “Platform advocacy and social media’s accountability to dissident voices in the Global South: Evidence from Southeast Asia.” **Mai Van Tran***, Tuwanont Phattharathanasut, Nalinthip Ekapong, Haymarn Soe Nyunt, Lewis.
- “Social media affordances for cross-platform authoritarian censorship: Evidence from Myanmar.” **Mai Van Tran***, Tom Willaert, Haymarn Soe Nyunt, Lewis.
- “Promoting youth activism amidst digital repression: Vulnerability and resilience strategies of marginalized dissidents in Southeast Asia.” **Mai Van Tran***.

Research trips

Myanmar: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Thailand: 2023, 2024
Cambodia: 2024

AWARDS AND PRIZES

<i>Southeast Asia Council Designated Panel</i> , Association for Asian Studies	2024
<i>International Research Working Group Member</i> , Folke Bernadotte Academy	2023
<i>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellow</i> , European Commission	2022
<i>SEAREG Fellow</i> , Southeast Asia Research Group	2022
<i>Best Paper Award</i> , Young International Scholars Category, Myanmar-Europe Research Network’s International Conference	2022
<i>Myanmar Fellow</i> , University of British Columbia - IDRC	2021
<i>Asia Workshop’s Fellow</i> , American Political Science Association	2019

TEACHING & SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024	MASTER IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES, VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL Co-supervisor Supervision for four Master theses on politics in the digital age across Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America
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- Spring 2024 MASTER OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
Guest Lecture, Platform and Algorithmic Governance in Europe
Digital Censorship in Authoritarian Contexts
- Fall 2023 MA NEW MEDIA & SOCIETY IN EUROPE, VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
Guest Lecture, Internet Censorship, Control & Governance
Digital Authoritarianism & Dissent
- Spring 2022 – NORDIC INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
Spring 2023 *SUPRA Program Mentor*
One-on-one mentorship for MA/PhD students studying Asia
- Fall 2022 DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
Instructor
Challenging Authoritarianism: Politics of Protest in East and Southeast Asia
- Fall 2021 INYA INSTITUTE, YANGON, MYANMAR
Instructor
Academic Writing in the Social Sciences
- Fall 2015- DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Fall 2018 *Teaching Assistant*
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Introduction to American Politics, Human
Rights at War, China’s New Economy, Politics of Poverty in the U.S.
- Winter 2017- YANGON SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, YANGON, MYANMAR
Spring 2018 *Instructor*
Introduction to Comparative Politics & Politics of Development

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

Roundtable Discussion: Between academia and activism: Responsibility, positioning, and normativity. The German Institute for Global and Area Studies. October 2024.

“Resisting digital censorship: A grassroots approach.” Pint of Science Festival. Brussels, Belgium. May 2024.

“Platform advocacy and social media’s accountability to dissident voices in Thailand.” The Article 112 Project. University of Wisconsin-Madison. May 2024.

“From self-censorship to self-help: Resilience of marginalized dissidents to digital repression in Southeast Asia.” Youth and Student Movements in East and Southeast Asia Workshop. National Taiwan University. April 2024.

“Strange bedfellows or trusted comrades? Digital solidarity-building among Myanmar’s revolutionaries.” Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Day. Stockholm, Sweden. September 2023.

“Doing political fieldwork.” EUVIP Methods Skills-Building Workshops. UC Louvain, Belgium. September 2023.

“Strange bedfellows or trusted comrades? Digital solidarity-building among Myanmar’s revolutionaries.” Myanmar Research Centre Dialogue Series. Australian National University. June 2023.

Roundtable Discussion: Southeast Asia Political Futures. London School of Economics'
Southeast Asia Forum. May 2023.

“Overcoming authoritarian counter-mobilization: Evolution of pro-democracy mobilization in urban Myanmar from 1988 to 2021.” Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. May 2023.

“Myanmar’s pro-democracy activism in the digital age.” Swedish South Asian Studies Network Symposium. Lund University. May 2023.

“Enabling activist resilience against repression: Bystander protection during protest crackdowns in Myanmar.” University of California Los Angeles. May 2023.

“Resistance and Revolution in Digitalized Myanmar.” EUVIP Young Researchers Workshop. Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic. March 2023.

Book Launch Panel: One Year After the Coup: Resistance, Resilience, and Re-invention. International Development Research Centre Conference: Exchanging Ideas for a Democratic Myanmar. Bangkok, Thailand. November 2022.

“Democratic Backsliding Disrupted: The Role of Digitalized Resistance in Myanmar.” Myanmar Research Centre Dialogue Series. Australian National University. November 2022.

“Bystanders, Digital Activism, and Revolution Solidarity in Myanmar’s Democratic Struggles.” Myanmar University of Social Science and Technology. November 2022.

Roundtable Discussion: How to Study Pro-Democracy Movements in Asia. V-Dem East Asia Regional Centre Webminar. January 2022.

“Pro-Democracy Struggle in the Digital Age? Military vs. Dissident Rhetoric in Post-Coup Myanmar.” Burma (Myanmar) Country Seminar. Cornell University. December 2021.

“Myanmar’s Anti-Coup Resistance: Dynamics and Dilemmas in the Digital Age.” Department of Southeast Asian Studies Seminars. National University of Singapore. October 2021.

“Engineering Public Hostility Against Popular Movements: Tatmadaw’s Suppressive Repertoire in Urban Myanmar.” Center for Southeast Asian Studies Brown Bag Seminar Series. Yale University. September 2021.

“Uncharted Territory: Fieldwork Methods and Ethics in Myanmar.” Institute for International and Area Studies. Tsinghua University. May 2021.

“Reflections on Myanmar’s Pro-Democracy Movement.” Panel Discussion on The Myanmar Coup: Causes, Popular Resistance, and International Intervention. University of Chicago. May 2021.

“Myanmar Social Media Research: Ethics in Practice.” Workshop on Digital Methods in Post-Coup Myanmar. National University of Singapore. May 2021.

“Activist Resilience under Repression: The Role of Civilian Protection in the Burmese Pro-Democracy Movement.” Southeast Asia Program Lecture Series. Cornell University. March 2021.

“Update on Myanmar’s Digital Cultures: Myths and Facts.” Myanmar Digital Rights Forum. February 2020.

Conference Presentations (selected)

Decrypting Digital Authoritarianism Conference, European University Institute	2024
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2024
European Association for Southeast Asian Studies Conference	2024
GIG-ARTS Conference	2024
Association for Asian Studies Conference	2024
Annual Political Science Workshops of the Low Countries	2023
UC Berkeley-UCLA Southeast Asian Studies Conference	2023
Danish Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting	2022

German Association of Peace and Conflict Studies' Workshop	2022
Nordic NIAS Council's Generation Asia Conference	2022
Southeast Asia Research Group's Summer Conference	2022
European Association for Southeast Asian Studies Conference	2022
Norwegian Network for Asian Studies's Asianet Conference	2022
Myanmar-Europe Research Network (MyERN) International Conference	2022
Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference	2021
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2021
Association for Asian Studies Conference	2021
American Political Science Association's Asia Workshop	2019
Tsinghua University's Area Studies Forum	2019

GRANTS

“Pro-Democracy Platform Advocacy: Fostering Social Media's Accountability to Dissident Voices under Authoritarianism.” European Commission's Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship. EUR 191,760. September 2023 – August 2025.

“Enabling resilient resistance against digital authoritarianism in Asia.” University of Copenhagen's Asian Dynamics Initiative research grant. DKK 10,000. February 2023.

“Facilitating the next generation of Burmese scholars: Research mentorship on contentious politics.” Women in Southeast Asian Social Sciences' collaborative grant. USD 1,000. August – November 2022. (with Dr. Terese Gagnon)

“Democratic backsliding disrupted: The role of digitalized resistance in Myanmar.” Suntory Foundation's research grant. USD 800. February 2022. (with Megan Ryan)

University of British Columbia - International Development Research Centre's Myanmar Fellowship. USD 2,000. October 2021.

“Digital Literacy, Demographics and Misinformation in Myanmar Research.” Facebook's Foundational Integrity research grant. USD 99,960. September 2020 – December 2021. (with Dr. Hilary Faxon)

“Studying Myanmar military's political narratives on its 2021 coup.” APSA Asia Workshop Alumni Professional Development Grant. USD 1,000. November 2019.

“Resilience of Contentious Movements under Repression: The Role of Bystander Protection and Disruption.” Cornell University's Sage Fellowship's Dissertation Write-up Grant. USD 58,758. January – December 2019.

“Resilience of Contentious Movements under Repression: The Role of Bystander Protection and Disruption.” Cornell University's Thak Chaloemtiarana Summer Dissertation Write-up Grant. USD 2,500. June – August 2019.

“Building Backlash Against Authoritarianism: Case Studies on Myanmar's Than Shwe Dictatorship.” Cornell University's Government Department's Summer Supplemental Support. USD 1,600. June – August 2017.

“Authoritarian Legacies and Voting Behavior in Myanmar's 2015 Elections.” Cornell University's Graduate School Travel Grant. USD 2,000. December 2016.

“Variation in Ethno-Nationalist Violence during Democratic Transition in Burma.” Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program's Research Travel Award. USD 2,000. January 2015.

“Variation in Ethno-Nationalist Violence during Democratic Transition in Burma.” Cornell University's Einaudi Center's Research Travel Grant. USD 2,000. June – August 2015.

SKILLS

SOFTWARE: STATA, ATLAS.ti, Python

LANGUAGES: English (fluent), Burmese (advanced), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate), Vietnamese (native)

SERVICE

June 2021- VIRTUAL FEDERAL UNIVERSITY, MYANMAR
Present ***Course Content Reviewer***

Fall 2022 RESEARCH MENTORSHIP ON CONTENTIOUS POLITICS FOR BURMESE
SCHOLARS
Organizer & Mentor

May 2016- SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM, CORNELL UNIVERSITY
May 2017 ***Co-Chair, Graduate Student Committee***