

PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACT BOOK

PRECARITY AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE NEOLIBERAL REGIME AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSAL WELFARE STATE

*International Research Forum on
The Possibilities of The Welfare State*

27 OCTOBER 2018

*College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Thammasat University
Bangkok Thailand*

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Organised by The Welfare State is Possible OÜ in association with
the PhD Programme in Integrated Science (Thaprachan) College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Thammasat University



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About us:

Our research centre, newly founded in September 2018, aims to establish and support the new possibility of the universal and comprehensive welfare state to encounter the deceptive discourse produced by neoliberal economists. Our fundamental goal is to propose that the universal and comprehensive welfare state is possible all over the world which ultimately leads to an ideally democratic politics and economics. More importantly, our centre also expects to introduce a set of the new comprehension of the welfare-state management to developing countries.

More info about us please visit: www.welfarestateispossible.org

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WHAT IS NEOLIBERALISM?

THE RISE OF NEOLIBERALISM & THE WELFARE STATE

As a result of the global expansion of neoliberalism and its overexploitation since the late of the 20th century, a workfare regime has drastically occupied every state of an individual's life. The capital growth of international financial and services has transformed the rights of democratic citizens into a paid-membership and an entrepreneurial subject. The basic welfare such as education, healthcare and secured pension are increasingly commoditised hence the majority of people are required to pay and invest in their basic needs which were previously provided by a state. On the other hand, the rise of market liberalisation generates the monopolisation of the dominating 1%. A small number of elites has polarised the political and economic resources under the logic of privatisation and individualisation.

There Is No Alternative (Tina) –the popular phase raised during the dawn of neoliberalism in the 1980s manifested the idea of self-responsibility minimising the role of the state in securing people's quality of living. The ruling neoliberal conservative group claimed that the universal and comprehensive welfare state was the cause of economic regression and inefficient in protecting unemployment. Right-wing governments thus made an effort to diminish the welfare state in their countries and brought back a classic liberal economics approach in which social protection and proper welfare rights were significantly compromised as appeared in Brazil, Russia, India, and China. During the 1990s, the misname political parties such as Social Democrat and Labour Party in Western Europe introduced the Third-Way Scheme by compromising the welfare-state policy with market-oriented and mean-test welfare. The consequence of the third-way system exhibits problems for several decades later. High-cost but low-quality welfare provisions have eventually replaced the universal and comprehensive welfare state.

Mainstream economists who support neoliberal rationalities regularly produce a narrative to attack welfare-state countries. Most of the explanations predicted that the Nordic welfare state which was a prominent model of universal benefits would dilapidate since the 1990's economic crisis in Sweden. However, it has been almost three decades that the Nordic model has proved that the universal and comprehensive welfare state is not only efficient amid the globalisation of the world economy but it also gradually encourages economic creativity and crucially enhances human rights. The evolution of the welfare state continuously proceeds regardless of a compromise with neoliberalism as it was earlier predicted.

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THEME: PRECARITY AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE NEOLIBERAL REGIME AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSAL WELFARE STATE

Held in Bangkok, Thailand, which is home to millions of neoliberal subjects struggling to remain in the competitive market-based system, our first international conference is open to everyone who is working in unlimited disciplines including social sciences, science, art and humanities, and also an interdisciplinary field to present an academic paper relating to the conference's theme.

Due to the rise of neoliberalism and compromised welfare provisions from a state in many parts of the world, we ask you to demonstrate how the concept of precarity and uncertainty have increasingly occupied our lives in various aspects from a macro level such as economy, politics, technology, city, culture, education and public policies to an everyday scale such as health, work, leisure, relationship, creativity, and even a state of mind. Also, we invite you to be a part of this community with people across the world to share your knowledge and experiences to improve the possibility of the universal and comprehensive welfare state to encounter the neoliberal reasons.

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9.30- 16.00 SATURDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2018

ROOM 202 COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES BUILDING

THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY, THA PRA-CHAN CAMPUS BANGKOK, THAILAND

9.30-10.00 Registration

10.00 - 10.20 Introduction and Welcome: The Possibilities of the Comprehensive Welfare State -- *Asst.Prof.Dr.Sustarum Thammabooosadee*

10.30 - 11.15 Keynote Speaker Citizenship Being the Entitlement to Public Provision in View of Increasing Number of People Having No Citizenship in the Societies Where They Live -- *Dr Jesper Kulvmann*

11.20 -12.00 Basic Needs Approach in Indonesia: New Order and Post 1998 Reform -- *Bimo Satryo Wibowo*

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch Break

13.00-13.40 Neoliberalism is a Dream That Never Comes True: Case Studies of Social Mobility in Thailand by Education and Entertainment Industry in the Republic of Korea Through Survival TV shows --*Wipawee Phewkleing and Phanprapha Puksa*

13.40 - 14.20 Loneliness and Depression in the Contemporary Neoliberalism --*Chanida Tiyaboonchai*

14.30- 15.10 The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand 2017 About Reformation of the Public Health System -- *Khetsophon Sirisopa*

15.10 - 15.50 Social Values in Neoliberalism: Jobs and Higher Education in Thailand -- *Poom Ratchinda*

15.50 - 16.00 General Q&A

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10.30- 11.35

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR JESPER KULVMANN

**CITIZENSHIP BEING THE ENTITLEMENT TO PUBLIC PROVISION IN VIEW OF INCREASING
NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVING NO CITIZENSHIP IN THE SOCIETIES WHERE THEY LIVE**

Jesper Kulvmann is a citizen of Denmark. He has worked in the health sector for many years, within Europe, the African continent and Greenland. He had work experience within the health sector in Denmark, the UK, Botswana and Greenland. He worked with immigration issues in the UK, Denmark and Thailand. He holds an MSc in public health from London School of Economics and he has studied social policy at the University of Oxford (PhD). His main academic interests are within welfare state studies and immigration.

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ABSTRACT LISTS

11.20-12.00

BASIC NEEDS APPROACH IN INDONESIA: NEW ORDER AND POST 1998 REFORM

BIMO SATRYO WIBOWO

The changes in the governmental and political system affect all life dimension after the 1998 reform in Indonesia. But people believe that many difficulties presence more intense instead. Uncertainty in the political side is the biggest fear for every five years when the election took place because it will create insecurities about who will win, what policy will be produced, etc. Compare to new order era, when politics was stable and thus create a comfortable situation for the people to live despite the corruption alleged on Soeharto administration. Goods price was affordable; basic needs were fulfilled, all things seem in order. This paper would like to analyze the new order era and post-reform through basic need approach in the economy and education dimension as the most basic and influential part of society's life, understanding that there is still a public opinion regarding life is better in new order era to compare to the present situation.

13.00-13.40

NEOLIBERALISM IS A DREAM THAT NEVER COMES TRUE: CASE STUDIES OF SOCIAL MOBILITY IN THAILAND BY EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THROUGH SURVIVAL TV SHOWS

WIPAWEE PHEWKLEING AND PHANPRAPHA PUKSA

In the neoliberalism society, People believe that market mechanisms and pricing is the most important thing to respond to humans' demand. It is necessary for people in daily life since we were born. However, neoliberalism does not bring us happiness and wellness easily. Before we are able to gain those good things, we have to lose our all capacity, health and energy. And now, everyone can see how powerful neoliberalism is. The popularity of neoliberalism covers us in every part of life. It makes people believe in social mobility by humans can get better if they study at the best University or humans can be rich if they work hard. That is contrasts to the fact. People cannot be better or a billionaire through education and occupation. The education and occupation do not the way of social mobility anymore.

The fear of neoliberalism not only destroys our health but also break our spirits and humanity. When humans are broken by neoliberalism, they are just another player in the market. Therefore, we select to study the process of neoliberalism through two case study which is the value of neoliberalism in Thailand and how neoliberalism of other countries influence Thailand. The first case study we will talk about social mobility in Thailand by education and another one believes in being a part of the Entertainment industry in the Republic of Korea through survival TV shows. From these case study, they indicate the process of neoliberalism working which is very intense. What forces human working so hard for something. Finally, The harder people work, the stronger neoliberalism is. Because it is not a sweet dream like people hope, but it is a dream the dream that never comes true.

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ABSTRACT LISTS

13.40-14.20

LONELINESS AND DEPRESSION IN THE CONTEMPORARY NEOLIBERALISM

CHANIDA TIYABOONCHAI

Nowadays, the context of the world has changed and become the modern world. In the era of Globalization, one thing that obviously changed is the coming of Neoliberalism. The rise of the Neoliberalism has a significant role and the most influence not only in economic but also occupied in every scale of society such as politics, culture, education, work and etc., Therefore, the Neoliberalism that has an effect on daily life of human from childhood to adult can occur negative emotion, for instance, depressed, sadness, loneliness, worthless.

In my opinion, most of Thais live under pressure and competition since they were a child because they live for proving their value. In education, children have to study hard for taking a competitive examination if they need to get into the famous educational institution because they have cultivated from the family, society and institutions through the idea that who can get into famous school or university in the future they will get the good job and salary. And this idea is settled down in Thais society and become the normal life cycle of Thais to proving their ability, achieve as well as the value that they worth for live in the Neoliberal regime.

From the following details, the realization of this idea affects me to prove and explain that life of subjects who have to live on a Neoliberal regime that always confronts with the competition all the time, from childhood to adult it can make people have less interaction due to they are self-centred. So, this can be the cause of the mental and emotional impact of depression in people.

14.30-15.10

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND 2017 ABOUT REFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

KHETSOPHON SIRISOPA

The public health system is a part of the welfare state that is important. In Thailand, the public health system is still in troubles that affect a lot of people for example inequalities problem, differentiate healthcare systems problem and many more. Therefore, to create the welfare state in Thailand. There is a need to improve and modify the system.

To improvement and modify the public health system. We need to use effective tools to change the system. Law is an important thing that uses to set the social structure by law enforcement. In this context, we will study by Constitutional Law of the Kingdom of Thailand 2017. There are three main reasons that are interesting for studying this law. First, Constitutional Law is the highest legal class than other laws. Second, this constitutional law is created in times of dictatorship. Third, this constitutional law is enforced in the present time. So, Constitutional law is important for the development of the public health system by structuring the system through legislation. However, this constitutional law has something to add when compare with old constitution law that is reformation. In this part (reformation), it talks about the reform of the public health system too.

So this article will find the answer “Does reformation can improve and modify public health system by Constitutional Law of the Kingdom of Thailand 2017?”

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ABSTRACT LISTS

15.10-15.50

SOCIAL VALUES IN NEOLIBERALISM: JOBS AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN THAILAND

POOM RATCHINDA

Education is one of famous public goods that people should deserve from a government. Since ‘Neoliberalism’ approached on political economy, social values of studying in higher education grew up highly and become a one of commodification. Currently, Thailand higher education is facing with the mechanism of neoliberalism that’s created a highly competitive in higher education admission system. From the 1970 revolution in Thailand, higher education mobilized from elites to massification, people can access these public goods to serve the globalization. In 1997, the Asian financial crisis, Thailand was affected directly from foreign financial systems as we can see many businesses collapsed at that time. From these crises, Thailand government need to recover economic stability. Meanwhile, the social value had changed and influenced to higher education. It was approached by the social value that made many universities reform. Thai social value emphasizes in some faculties that could make high profit and stability in their careers in the future, such as a bachelor of financial, management, marketing, medicine, engineering and international studies which studying about making a profit. From these phenomena, we can see the stealth of revolution of neoliberalism that eroding higher education system and affecting to students who will become more competitive in higher education admission system; moreover, it makes inequality of education accessibility. From the following problem, this research will explain a relationship between a government and society under the conditions of neoliberalism, which is the stealth of revolution, and find out the mechanism of neoliberalism that’s affected the social values of jobs and higher education.

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GETTING TO THE VENUE

ROOM 202

COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES BUILDING

**THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY 2 PRACHAN RD. PRA NAKORN, BANGKOK 10200 THAILAND
(THA PRACHAN CAMPUS)**

Thammasat University, Tha Phrachan Campus, is located in a historic area of Bangkok with major tourist attractions within the vicinity such as the Grand Palace, the National Museum, Bangkok, Wat Pho (The Temple of the Reclining Buddha), Wat Arun (The Temple of Dawn), etc. The university was a significant political field for the country's democratisation. On October 6, 1976, a brutal massacre by the military and police took place in this campus.

You can travel directly to Thammasat University, Tha Prachan Campus, with taxis and buses. The Campus can also be easily accessed via the Chao Phraya River (ferries and the express boat service).

Travelling to Thammasat University

Metered taxi: for “Thammasat Tha Prachan” or “Sanam Luang”; fare starts from 35 ThB (approx. US\$ 1) for the first kilometre, then subjected to the travelled distance and the traffic condition. Popular cloud taxi booking services are GrabTaxi and Easy Taxi, where different booking service fees are applied.

Tuk Tuk: for “Thammasat Tha Prachan” or “Sanam Luang”; fare subjected to agreement with the driver.

Bus: the nearest bus stops to the university are Tha Phrachan (2 mins walk) and Sanam Luang (5 mins walk).

The Chao Phraya Express Boat: local and orange lines to N9 (Tha Chang) and N13 (Phra Arthit) piers (both approx. 5-7 minutes walk to the University); green line to N9 (Tha Chang); blue line (Chao Phraya Tourist Boat: CTB; 40 ThB) to Maharaj Pier (approx. 3-5 minutes walk to the University).

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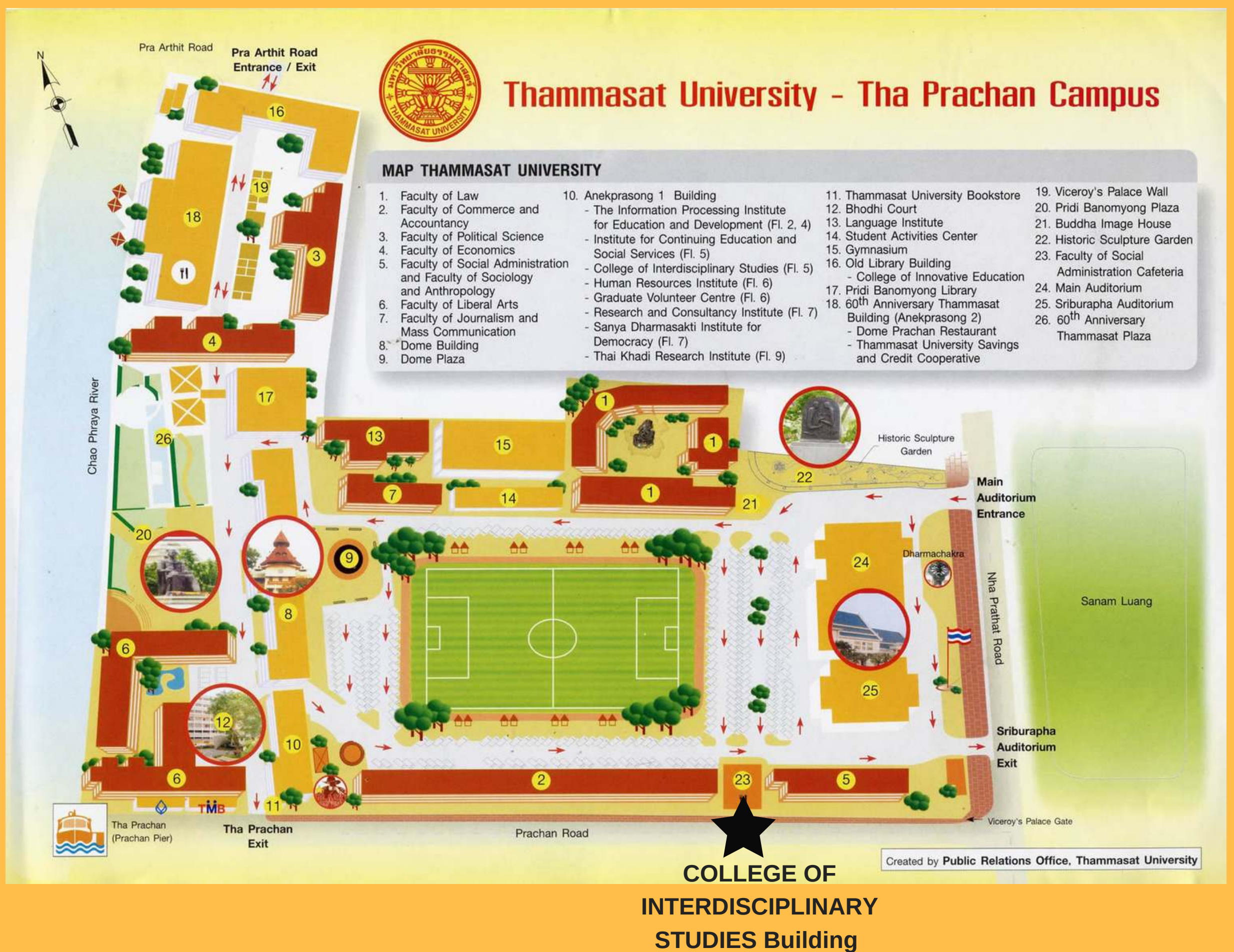
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VENUE MAP

ROOM 202

COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES BUILDING

THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY 2 PRACHAN RD. PRA NAKORN, BANGKOK 10200 THAILAND
(THA PRACHAN CAMPUS)




Get here:

College of Interdisciplinary Studies Building (No. 23) is located near the Sanam Luang exit.

Contact Us:

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"The solitary life of such individuals may be joyous and is likely to be busy - but it is bound to be risky and fearful as well. In such a world there are not many rocks left on which struggling individuals can build their hopes of rescue and on which they can rely in case of personal failure. Human bonds are comfortably loose, but for that same reason frightfully unreliable, and solidarity is as difficult to practise as its benefits, and even more its moral virtues, are difficult to comprehend."

Zygmunt Bauman's
Liquid Times: Living in an Age of
Uncertainty
(2007: 27)

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