

Mathis Lohatepanont (Ken)

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Research Interests

Institutional Creation and Change, Political Party Organization and Branding, Political Economy of Development, East and Southeast Asia, Thailand

Education

- 2022-Present **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science
Specialization: Comparative Politics (Major), International Relations (Minor)
Committee: Allen Hicken (Chair), Cesi Cruz, Mary Gallagher, Dan Slater
Dissertation: “Making Parties Last: The Dynamics of Unlikely Party Institutionalization”
- 2022-2023 **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**
M.A. in Political Science
- 2017-2020 **University of California, Berkeley**
B.A. in Political Science with Minor in History (*Distinction in General Scholarship*)

Research Affiliations

- 2025-Present **Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University**
Visiting Researcher
- 2022-Present **Center for Southeast Asia Studies, University of Michigan**
Affiliated Student

Publications

Journal Publications

- 2023 Hicken, Allen, Napon Jatusripitak, and Mathis Lohatepanont. “A New Tale of Two Democracies? The Changing Rural-Urban Dynamics at Thailand’s 2023 General Elections.” *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 45, no. 3 (December 2023): 345–54.

Perspectives and Current Affairs

- 2025 Jatusripitak, Napon and Mathis Lohatepanont. “After the Grand Compromise: Voter Profiles in Thai Politics.” *ISEAS Perspectives* 2025, no. 25 (March 28th, 2025).
- 2024 Lohatepanont, Mathis and Napon Jatusripitak. “Causes and Effects of Pheu Thai’s Grand Compromise: The Lurking Instability of Thailand’s Post-2023 Party System.” *ISEAS Perspectives* 2024, no. 52 (July 12th, 2024).

2023 “A Progressive Victory in Thailand’s 2023 General Election.” *Strategic Comments* (International Institute for Strategic Studies) 29, no. 3 (June 6, 2023): xi–xiii.

Working Papers

Lohatepanont, Mathis, Chitchaya Chimtanoo and Allen Hicken. “Party Brand Awareness in a Multi-Party System: The Case of Thailand.” *Manuscript in progress*.

Lohatepanont, Mathis. “Authoritarian Collaborator Parties: A Conceptual Analysis.” *Manuscript in progress*.

Commentaries

2025 “Grand Compromise or Grand Damage to Thailand’s Party System?” Fulcrum, October 27, 2025. (With Napon Jatusripitak)

2025 “The Decline of the Shinawatras Promises New Political Era for Thailand.” Asialink Insights, July 21, 2025.

2025 “Thailand’s Grand Political Compromise Cracks Under Pressure.” East Asia Forum, June 15th, 2025.

2024 “Political Will Sorely Lacking in Thai Educational Reform.” Fulcrum, October 4, 2024.

2024 “Thaksin Shinawatra’s Poisoned Chalice.” Asialink Insights, August 23, 2024.

2024 “The New Thai Senate: Less Powerful and Less Predictable.” 9DashLine, July 25, 2024.

2024 “Move Forward Stands at the Brink of Dissolution.” Fulcrum, February 2, 2024. (With Napon Jatusripitak)

2023 “The Strength of Party Brands at the 2023 General Election.” Thai Data Points, December 18, 2023. (With Chitchaya Chimtanoo)

2023 “Pheu Thai Foots the Political Bill for Thaksin’s Return.” East Asia Forum, September 25, 2023.

2023 “One Constituency, Two Parties: Ballot Splitting and Divided Loyalties in Thailand’s Election.” Fulcrum, July 28, 2023. (With Napon Jatusripitak)

2023 “Political Dealmaking Will Determine the Winner and Twist Policy Outcomes in Thailand’s Election.” Fulcrum, April 6, 2023. (With Napon Jatusripitak)

2022 “Has Time Run Out for Thailand’s Prime Minister?” Washington Post (Monkey Cage Blog), September 9, 2022. (With Joel Selway and Allen Hicken)

2022 “New Bangkok Governor Challenges Government’s Grip on Power.” East Asia Forum, July 15 2022.

My writing has also appeared in the Bangkok Post and the [Thai Enquirer](#).

Professional Experience

2021-2022

Thailand Development Research Institute

Researcher, Innovation Policy for Sustainable Development Team

Assigned Projects: [Public Procurement for Innovation in Thailand's Medical Devices Industry \(2022\)](#), [Creative Industries Restructuring \(2021\)](#), [Designing Thailand's Research and Innovation Ecosystem \(2021\)](#)

Teaching

Fall 2024

INTLSTD 301: State Repression of Human Rights

Graduate Student Instructor

Instructor of Record: Professor Ragnhild Nordås

Led discussion sections, designed section activities, and helped design course assessments.

Winter 2024

POLSCI 339: Chinese Politics

Graduate Student Instructor

Instructor of Record: Professor Mary Gallagher

Led discussion sections, designed section activities, designed and led a number of interactive lecture activities, and helped design course assessments.

Fall 2023

POLSCI 389: Southeast Asian Politics

Graduate Student Instructor

Instructor of Record: Professor Allen Hicken

Led discussion sections, designed section activities, and delivered lectures on Thai politics, the Asian Financial Crisis, and democracy in Southeast Asia.

Guest Lectures

September 2025

National University of Singapore (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy): "A Post Shinawatra-Thailand?" (Graduate course on Southeast Asian Politics)

Grants

2024, 2025

University of Michigan Center for Southeast Asia Studies: Thai Studies Graduate Student Research Grant

Conference Presentations

April 2025

"Authoritarian Collaborator Parties: Why Thailand's Democrat Party Deinstitutionalized."

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago

December 2024

"Who Knows Best? Political Awareness in Thailand." (Poster Presentation)

Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Winter Conference, Boston University

Invited Talks

- October 2023 Panelist: “Thai Studies Roundtable: Making Sense of the 2023 Thai Elections.”
Center for Southeast Asia Studies, University of Michigan
- May 2023 Panelist: “Thai Democracy: Future, Present, Past”
Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University

Departmental Service

- 2024-2025 **Interdisciplinary Workshop on Comparative Politics (IWCP)**
Co-organizer
- 2023-2025 **Southeast Asia in Social Science Group (SASS)**
Co-founder and co-organizer

Skills

Technical skills

Working knowledge: R, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics

Languages

Thai (native), English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate), Japanese (intermediate)

Other Work

I write [The Coffee Parliament](#), a Substack on Thai politics and policy.