

Mathis Lohatepanont (Ken)

Email: mathis.lohatepanont@gmail.com • Website: kenlmathis.com

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 **Center for Politics and Geopolitics, Thailand Future Foundation**
Research Fellow
- 2025-Present **Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University**
Visiting Researcher

Publications

Journal Publications

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.

Book Chapters

Lohatepanont, Mathis. “Thailand in 2025: Intertwined Crises Within and Without.” In *Southeast Asian Affairs*, edited by Terence Chong and Daljit Singh, 265-277. ISEAS Publishing, 2026.

Perspectives and Current Affairs

Jatusripitak, Napon and Mathis Lohatepanont. “After the Grand Compromise: Voter Profiles in Thai Politics.” *ISEAS Perspectives* 2025, no. 25 (March 28th, 2025).

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).

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

Commentaries

“Thailand’s Democrat Party: A Political Institution Survives.” *Fulcrum*, February 27, 2026.

“Why Bhumjaithai won.” *Asialink Insights*, February 17, 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My writing has also appeared in the *Bangkok Post*, *Thai Enquirer*, and *Latitude Ten*.

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.

Grants

2024, 2025

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

Conference Presentations

“Authoritarian Collaborator Parties: Why Thailand’s Democrat Party Deinstitutionalized.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, April 3 2025.

“Who Knows Best? Political Awareness in Thailand.” (Poster Presentation). Presented at the Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Winter Conference. Boston, December 6 2024.

Invited Talks

Briefing: “The Bhumjaithai Era Begins.” Delegation of the European Union to Thailand. March 12, 2026.

Webinar: “Thailand’s 2026 General Election and Referendum: What to Expect?” ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute. February 2, 2026.

Guest Lecture: “A Post Shinawatra-Thailand?” Course on Politics and Policy in Southeast Asia, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. September 11, 2025.

Roundtable: “Making Sense of the 2023 Thai Elections.” Center for Southeast Asia Studies, University of Michigan. October 24, 2023.

Webinar: “Thai Democracy: Future, Present, Past” Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University. May 31, 2023.

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, \LaTeX , Qualtrics

Languages

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

Media Contributions

I have been quoted or interviewed on: Aljazeera, Australian Financial Review, Bernar News, BBC Radio, Bloomberg, Channel News Asia, China Newsweek, CNBC, CSIS Southeast Asia Radio, DW, Financial Times, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, The New York Times, Phoenix Weekly, Reuters, Sanlian Lifeweek, The Straits Times, South China Morning Post, Southeast Asia Globe, Taiwan Plus, The Telegraph.

Other Work

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