

Editor's foreword

The present issue of *HumaNetten*, the oldest existing net journal in Sweden, is a landmark in the sense that it is the first time that the great majority of the contributions are written in English. This is characteristic of the present trend of scholarly internationalization at Linnaeus University, where networks across the world are becoming increasingly important. More specifically, this is a thematic issue which contains articles originating from the EuroSEAS (European Association of Southeast Asian Studies) conference in Vienna in August 2015. Four contributions are published here under the title “The development of states and polities in Southeast Asia: Innovative connections and comparisons”. The well-known Burma (Myanmar) specialist Professor Michael Charney from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, contributes with a comparative study of the infrastructure of two precolonial regions, namely Burma in Southeast Asia and Ashanti in West Africa: “Before and after the wheel: Precolonial and colonial states and transportation in West Africa and mainland Southeast Asia”. Tuong Vu, Professor in Political Science at the University of Oregon, U.S., studies Vietnam's imperial features and ambitions in a long-term perspective, “State formation on China's southern frontier: Vietnam as a shadow empire and hegemon”. Hans Hägerdal, Associate Professor in History at Linnaeus University, looks at state formation in insular Southeast Asia in “Trajectories of the early-modern kingdoms in eastern Indonesia: Comparative perspectives”. Finally, Claire Sutherland, Lecturer in Politics at Durham University, U.K., scrutinizes and criticizes national models for the study of power relations in her study “A postmodern mandala? Methodological nationalism and the Vietnamese nation-state”. The contributions will be fuller presented in the introduction by Tuong Vu.

Of other studies in this issue, Anders Lind, Creative Director at Umeå University, contributes with a study of a musical project, “Large-scale music compositions and novel technology innovations – Summarizing the process of Voices of Umeå, an artistic research project”. Here, Lind explains how the project aims to explore new artistic possibilities for composition and performance practices in the field of contemporary art music. Finally, Niklas Ammert, Professor in History at Linnaeus University, has written a survey of research about textbooks in history, “Historieläromedel – en forskningsöversikt”.

At the end of the present issue is a survey of recent PhD theses and other news related to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities since the fall of 2015. The next issue of *HumaNetten* is scheduled to appear in June 2017 and will be yet a thematic issue, this time with a gendered aspect.

Hans Hägerdal
Editor in chief