

HJORLEIFUR RAFN JONSSON

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SPECIALIZATION

Political culture, play and sports, representation, Southeast Asia, USA, Iu Mien, anthropological theory and comparisons, ethnography

EDUCATION

1996 Ph.D., Anthropology
1988 M.A., Anthropology
1986 B.A., Anthropology

Cornell University
University of Iowa
University of Iceland

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-	Professor of Anthropology, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University
2005-2017	Associate Professor of Anthropology, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University
1999-2005	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University
1998-1999	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University

RESEARCH FOCUS

Social diversity and popular culture in Thailand (fiction and film).

Ethnohistory and politics in Southeast Asia (main focus on hill-valley relations).

Sports and the reworking of minority identity and tradition in northern Thailand.

Politics and society.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES:

- 2022 Guest Editor, special issue on *Revisiting Ideas of Power in Southeast Asia*. *Anthropological Forum* 32, 1.
- 2014 *Slow Anthropology: Negotiating Difference with the Iu Mien*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Southeast Asia Program.
- 2011 *Contests in Contexts: Readings in the Anthropology of Sports*. Hjørleifur Jonsson and Jaime Holthuisen, eds. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.
- 2005 *Mien Relations: Mountain People and State Control in Thailand*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
Co-published by Silkworm, Chiangmai, Thailand, 2006.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- 2022 Anthropology and the ancient roots of some modern politics. *Cosmos+Taxis: Studies in Emergent Order and Organization* 10, 9-10: 5-19.
- 2022 Revisiting Ideas of Power in Southeast Asia. *Anthropological Forum* 32, 1: 1-19.
- 2022 Losing the Remote: Exploring the Thai Social Order with the Early and Late Hanks. *Anthropological Forum* 32, 1: 76-94.
- 2020 (Richard D. Cushman and Hjørleifur R. Jonsson) Mosquito-relish diplomacy: *Emperor Ping's Charter* and hill-valley dynamics between China and Thailand. *Journal of the Siam Society* 108, 2: 87-121.
- 2020 Good attachment in the Asian highlands: Questioning notions of “loose women” and “autonomous communities.” *Critical Asian Studies* 52, 3: 403-28.
- 2017 Stexit? Southeast Asian pluralism, statelessness and exclusive identities. *Anthropology Today* 33, 6: 3-6.
- 2016 (Le Jiem Tsan, Richard D. Cushman, and Hjørleifur Jonsson) Highland Chiefs and Regional Networks in Mainland Southeast Asia: Mien Perspectives. *Southeast Asian Studies* 5, 3: 515-51.
- 2014 Phantom Scandal: On the National Uses of the “Thailand Controversy.” *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 29, 2: 263-99.

- 2012 Manikin-ship: Value-added relatedness in Vietnamese museums, 1996-2005. *TAJA: The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 23, 2: 212-28.
- 2012 Paths to Freedom: Political Prospecting in the Ethnographic Record. *Critique of Anthropology* 32, 2: 158-72.
- 2011 Ethnology and the Issue of Human Diversity in Mainland Southeast Asia. In *Dynamics of Human Diversity: The Case of Southeast Asia*, ed. N.J. Enfield. *Pacific Linguistics* 627: 109-22.
- 2010 Above and beyond: Zomia and the ethnographic challenge of/for regional history. *History and Anthropology* 21, 2: 191-212.
- 2010 Mimetic Minorities: National Identity and Desire on Thailand's Fringe. *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 17, 2: 108-30.
- 2009 War's Ontogeny: Militias and Ethnic Boundaries in Laos and Exile. *Southeast Asian Studies* (Kyoto, Japan) 47, 2: 125-49.
- 2004 Mien Alter-Natives in Thai Modernity. *Anthropological Quarterly* 77, 3: 673-704.
- 2003 Mien Through Sports and Culture: Mobilizing Minority Identity in Thailand. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* 68, 3: 317-40.
- 2002 (Nora A. Taylor and Hjorleifur Jonsson) Other Attractions in Vietnam. *Asian Ethnicity* 3, 2: 233-48.
- 2001 Does the House Hold? History and the Shape of Mien (Yao) Society. *Ethnohistory* 48, 4: 613-54.
- 2001 Serious Fun: Minority Cultural Dynamics and National Integration in Thailand. *American Ethnologist* 28, 1:151-78.
- 2000 Yao Minority Identity and the Location of Difference in the South China Borderlands. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* 65, 1: 56-82.
- 1999 Moving House: Migration and the Place of the Household on the Thai Periphery. *Journal of the Siam Society* 87 (1&2): 99-118.
- 1998 Forest Products and Peoples: Upland Groups, Thai Politics, and Regional Space. *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 13 (1): 1-37.
- 1990 Trolls, Chiefs, and Children. *Nord Nytt* (Sweden) 41: 55-63.

OTHER ARTICLES:

- 2018 States. In *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, Hilary Callan, general ed., vol. 9: *Anthropology of Law, Power, and Identity*, ed. Carol J. Greenhouse. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. DOI: [10.1002/9781118924396.wbiea1596](https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118924396.wbiea1596).
- 2013 (Hjorleifur Jonsson and Sudarat Musikawong) “National diversity in Cold War Thai film: Revisiting Khunawut’s *Khon Phu Khao*” (in Thai). *Warasan Nang Thai / Thai Film Journal* 17: 97-132.
- 2012 Cracking up an alligator: Ethnography, Juan Downey’s video, and irony. *Journal of Surrealism and the Americas* 6, 1: 61-86.
- 2011 States lie, and stories are tools: Following up on Zomia (invited Debate commentary). *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land-, en Volkenkunde* 167, 1: 92-5.
- 2008 On My Appetite, Vinegar, Financial Support, and the State: A Response to a Review of *Mien Relations* and *Mien Sports and Heritage, Thailand, 2001*. *American Anthropologist* 110, 4: 534.
- 2003 Encyclopedic Yao in Thailand. *Asian Ethnicity* 4, 2:295-301.
- 2001 A Regional Approach to Thailand: Reflections on the writings of A. Thomas Kirsch. *Journal of the Siam Society* 89, 1&2:100-115.
- 2001 Cultural Clashes. *Far Eastern Economic Review* May 10: 75.
- 2001 Upland Peoples and Changing Frontiers. In *Asian Frontiers*, ed. by Reed Wadley and Freek Colombijn. *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter* 24:10.
- 2000 Yao Collectibles. *Journal of the Siam Society* 88, 1&2: 222-31.
- 1999 Repopulated Art. In Stefán Jónsson, *Án titils (eftir ...)*. Reykjavík and Singapore: Stefán Jónsson.
- 1996 This is Not an Island. *American Anthropologist* 98, 4: 872-73.
- 1996 Healthy Houses: Perspective on Well-Being in Rural Cambodia. *World Health Forum: An International Journal of Health Development* 17 (4): 360-62.
Also published as Un habitat sain: une certaine conception du bien-etre au Cambodge rural. *Forum mondial de la Sante* 17 (4): 390-393;
and as Casas saludables: vision del bienestar en la Camboya rural. *Foro mundial de la salud* 17 (4): 391-394.
- 1989 Haltu Hátíð (“Celebrate”). *Skírnir* (Iceland) 163:446-58.

BOOK-CHAPTERS:

- 2015 Conversion and Community among Iu Mien Refugee Immigrants in the United States. Pp. 235-256 in *Building Noah's Ark for Refugees, Migrants, and Religious Communities*. Jin-Heon Jung and Alexander Horstmann, eds. New York: Palgrave.
- 2011 Recording Tradition and Measuring Progress in the Ethnic Minority Highlands of Thailand. Pp. 107-16 in *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*, ed. by Kathleen Adams and Kathleen Gillogly. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- 2005 Presentable Ethnicity: Constituting Mien in Contemporary Thailand. Pp. 227-252 in *Dislocating Nation-States: Globalization in Asia and Africa*, ed. by Patricio Abinales, Noburo Ishikawa, and Akio Tanabe. Melbourne: Trans Pacific Press, and Kyoto: Kyoto University Press.
- 2004 Moving House: Migration and the Place of the Household on the Thai Periphery. Pp. 206-232 in *The Society of Siam: Selected Articles for the Siam Society's Centenary*, ed. by Christopher Baker. Bangkok: The Siam Society.
- 2003 Pedestrian Politics: The Social Focus of Founders, Migration, and Ritual. Pp. 227-249 in *Founders' Cults in Southeast Asia: Ancestors, Polity, and Identity*, ed. by Nicola Tannenbaum and Cornelia Kammerer. New Haven: Yale Southeast Asia Studies Monographs.
- 2003 (Hjorleifur Jonsson and Nora A. Taylor) National Colors: Ethnic Minorities in Vietnamese Public Imagery. Pp. 159-84 in *Re-Orienting Fashion: The Globalization of Asian Dress*, ed. by Sandra Niessen, Carla Jones, and Ann Marie Leshkovich. New York: Berg.
- 2001 French Natural in the Vietnamese Highlands: Nostalgia and Erasure in Montagnard Identity. Pp.52-65 in *Of Vietnam: Identities in Dialogue*, ed. by Jane Winston and Leakthina Ollier. New York: Palgrave.
- 2000 Traditional Tribal What? Sports, Culture, and the State in the Northern Hills of Thailand. Pp. 219-45 in *Turbulent Times and Enduring Peoples: Mountain Minorities in the South-East Asian Massif*, ed. by Jean Michaud. London: Curzon Press.
- 1998 Dead Headmen: Histories and Communities in the Southeast Asian Hinterland. Pp. 191-212 in *Facets of Power and its Limitations: Political Culture in Southeast Asia*, ed. by Ing-Britt Trankell and Laura Summers. Uppsala: Department of Anthropology, Uppsala University (Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology 24).
- 1997 Cultural Priorities and Projects: Health and Social Dynamics in Northeast Cambodia. Pp. 536-567 in *Development or Domestication? Indigenous Peoples of Southeast Asia*, ed. by Don McCaskill and Ken Kampe. Chiangmai: Silkworm Books.
- 1997 Heimsmynd og hundraðmetrahlaup. In *Við og Hinir: Rannsóknir í Mannfræði*, ed. by Gísli Pálsson, Haraldur Ólafsson, and Sigríður D. Kristmundsdóttir, 129-40. Reykjavik: The Anthropological Institute, University of Iceland.

- 1996 Rhetorics and Relations: Tai States, Forests, and Upland Groups. Pp.166-200 in *State Power and Culture in Thailand*, ed. by E. Paul Durrenberger. New Haven: Yale University Southeast Asia Studies Monographs, 44.

MEDIA PRODUCTION:

- 2003 *Mien Sports and Heritage, Thailand 2001* (documentary video, 14 min., color, online). Produced and written by Hjorleifur Jonsson, Camera and editing by Karl Coogan.

TRANSLATIONS:

- 2020 Sidaoruang, Matsí. Translation from Thai to Icelandic of a short story by Sidaoruang (Wanna Sawatsri), and introduction of the author. *Milli Mála: Journal of Language and Culture* 12: 260-70.
- 2018 Á vatnsborðinu um náttmál. Translation from Thai to Icelandic of a short story by Atsiri Thammachote, and Introduction of the author. In *Smásögur heimsins: Asía og Eyjaálfa* [Short Stories from Around the World: Asia and the Pacific], eds. Rúnar H. Vignisson, Kristín G. Jónsdóttir, and Jón K. Helgason, eds., 105-12. Reykjavik: Bjartur.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Thai Images of Society and Diversity: Using Novels for Anthropological Research (in Thai). Kasetsart University, 20 July.
- 2021 Thai-Plus: Sensing Gender on Thailand's Ethnic Frontier. University of Wisconsin Madison Center for Southeast Asian Studies, December 10.
- 2017 Mosquito-relish diplomacy: Ethnicity and politics in the Asian borderlands. University of Colorado, Boulder, Asian Borderlands Lecture, April 6.
- 2014 Does the ethnology of Southeast Asia have a purpose? Gatty Lecture, Cornell University Southeast Asia Program, September 25.
- 2014 Slow anthropology: Negotiating difference in Southeast Asia. Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, and Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand, August 22.
- 2013 *Ach Zo*: The Periodic Table of the Social Elements, as seen from the trenches of long-term research in cultural anthropology. Workshop on Frontier Frictions: Cultural Encounters, Exchange, and Emergence in the Asian Uplands. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany, November 14-15.

- 2013 Revisiting the Peoples of Southeast Asia, or Scott vs. Scott. Departments of Anthropology and Asian Studies, Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 15.
- 2011 Transnational Lao Iu Mien from Laos, Scholarly Displacement, and the Ritual Fashioning of Home and Away. Workshop on Transnational Religion, Missionization, and Refugee Migrants in Comparative Perspective. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Ethnic and Religious Diversity, Göttingen, Germany, October 7.
- 2011 Wartime Identities and National Scholarly Frameworks: Northern Laos and the Long 1970s. Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 4.
- 2011 Southeast Asian Ethnology and the Ethics of Representation. Workshop on Radically Envisioning a Different Southeast Asia from a Non-State Perspective. Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, January 19.
- 2010 Ethnographic Prospecting in Upland Southeast Asia: Paths to Freedom. Workshop on A Critical Anthropology of Anarchy. Department of Social Anthropology, The University of Cambridge, UK, September 22-23.
- 2010 Zomia and the Ethnographic Challenge of/for Southeast Asian Diversity. Keynote Address to the International and Interdisciplinary Workshop on Writing Radically Different Southeast Asian History: From Non-State-Centric Perspective. Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, February 26-27.
- 2010 Ethnography, Mimesis, and the Peoples of Southeast Asia. Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, January 29.
- 2009 Ethnicity as the Telling of Time and Space in Mainland Southeast Asia. International, Interdisciplinary workshop Dynamics of Human Diversity in Mainland Southeast Asia, Siem Reap, Cambodia, January 7-10.
- 2007 The Strings Attached to Recognition: Assembling Minorities for Display in Thailand and Vietnam. Ohio University, March 9.
- 2006 Minority Culture and the Limits to National Acceptance in Contemporary Thailand. International Christian University, Tokyo, May 11.
- 2004 Mien on the Move: Ritual Connections to the State's Landscape. Social Science Research Council-sponsored International conference on Transnational Religion, Migration, and Diversity in Southeast Asia. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, December 2-4.
- 2003 Voicing Identity in the Thai Countryside: Mien Culture, Protest, and Indigeneity. Faculty of Comparative Culture, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, June 10.

- 2002 Sports and Culture: Constituting Mien in Contemporary Thailand. Panel on Transformations of Everyday Practice in the Age of Globalism, at the international conference Regions in Globalization, Kyoto University, Japan, October 26.
- 1999 Locating Difference in the South China Borderlands. Presented at Religion, society, and popular culture: an interdisciplinary symposium honoring A. Thomas Kirsch, Cornell University, Feb. 20.
- 1999 State Disappearances: Marking Minority Identity in Southeast Asian Borderlands. Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Jan. 21.
- 1997 A View to a Hill: Studying Southeast Asia from its Hinterlands. Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA, April 18.

COURSES TAUGHT, Arizona State University:

- ASB102 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology
- ASB 252 Sports and Culture
- ASB325/591 Peoples of Southeast Asia
- ASB394/591 Encountering Culture
- ASB394/591 Nature in Culture
- ASB412 History of Anthropology
- ASB417 Politics and Culture
- ASB494 Anthropology and Area Studies: Southeast Asia
- ASB494/591 Identity Politics in Southeast Asia
- ASB494/591 Ideologies of Environments
- ASB494/591 Identity and Globalization
- ASB494/591 Anthropology and Ethics
- ASB541 Theory in Socio-cultural Anthropology
- ASB591 Modernity