

# OSTROM WORKSHOP **TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES**

## Tun Myint

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Carleton College

### “Citizen Science in a Democracy: The Case of Thai Baan Research”

**Friday, September 9, 2016**

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Over half a century of the power struggle between local communities and the state on environmental governance issues in Southeast Asia, the conception of data, knowledge, and science went through critical interpretation as a more open framework of governance structures emerged in the majority of the countries. In the Eurocentric view of education and political orders, the science is perceived to belong to official academic practices and believed to be taken as the ultimate authority in decision-making processes of governmental institutions. This view of science considers local knowledge and tacit knowledge as inferior in decision-making processes. The paper examines the case of Thai Baan research, which counters the Eurocentric practice of science. In so doing, the paper explains how cooperative science conducted by local communities and citizens plays a critical role in animating associational life in democracy and democratic decision-making processes.



**Tun Myint** is associate professor of political science at Carleton College, Northfield, MN. His research examines the role of individuals and groups in the dynamic relationship between social changes and global environmental changes with the focus on democracy, development, globalization, and sustainability. His publications have appeared in *Ecology & Society*, *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, *Legal Issues on Burma Journal*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies*. He is the author of *Governing International Rivers: Polycentric Politics in the Mekong and the Rhine* ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public, and you are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu); 812/855-3151).