

McGill Southeast Asia Lecture Series Presents:

# “Normalized Abnormalities in Today's Thailand: The Lèse-majesté Crisis”

## Pavin Chachavalpongpun

Professor, Kyoto University

Bio:

Pavin Chachavalpongpun is Professor at Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies. He is also the chief editor of the online journal, *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*, in which all articles are translated from English into Japanese, Thai, Bahasa Indonesia, Filipino, Vietnamese and Burmese. In the aftermath of the coup, Pavin was summoned by the junta to have his “attitude adjusted.” He rejected the summons. A warrant was issued for his arrest and his passport revoked, forcing him to apply for refugee status with Japan. In 2021, he set up his own project “112WATCH” as an international advocacy to raise awareness of the lèse-majesté issue in Thailand and to seek global support for the reform/abolition of this law.

Brief Description:

This talk will focus on the human rights problems facing Thailand in the context of the excessive use of lèse-majesté law, or Article 112 of the Criminal Code, which forbids anyone from criticizing the monarchy. Since the enthronement of King Vajiralongkorn in 2016, there has been a sharp increase of lèse-majesté cases, particularly against young activists who called for immediate reforms of the monarchy and Article 112. In May 2024, a young activist, Netiporn Sanesangkhom, charged with lèse-majesté, died in prison due to hunger strike. Her death reiterated the fact that the monarchy has remained at the heart of the Thai political crisis. The speaker will discuss the lèse-majesté situation and his own international advocacy in raising awareness of the problems of lèse-majesté law.



Friday, September 20  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Leacock 517

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