

Open Call

Research Chair on Forced Displacement in Southeast Asia

The Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD), Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University is launching an open call for the position of **Research Chair on Forced Displacement in Southeast Asia**. This exciting role provides the opportunity and scope for an emerging to mid-career scholar to shape research trajectories on refugees and displacement in the region, to play a pivotal role in advocating for protection and support for displaced people, and to develop innovative curricula which work with multiple actors across disciplines and helps mentor young scholars from the region. As part of a five-year funding commitment awarded to RCSD by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Research Chair will form part of a growing global network of knowledge leaders working on displacement from and in the global south in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Essential requirements for the position:

- A national of any country in Southeast Asia
- Hold a PhD in any field across the social sciences, including anthropology, sociology, international relations or political science;
- A record of 3-5 publications in peer-reviewed academic journals or the production of other recognized research outputs on issues of forced displacement;
- A native speaker of a Southeast Asian language, and excellent written English (Thai language is desirable, but not required).

The ideal candidate should have:

- A strong theoretical foundation on mobility and migration, displacement and refugees, or human rights, and a track record of contributing knowledge which engages with contemporary theoretical issues.
- Several years of experience working in displacement contexts in Southeast Asia or with displaced communities, and strong knowledge of current trends in the region regarding refugees and diverse forms of mobility.
- A proven commitment to grounded methodologies and the production of knowledge alongside community and civil society.
- A demonstrated passion to support and mentor graduate students and early career researchers from the global south.
- Some experience engaging with state actors on policy settings or in advocacy and current knowledge of the present legal and policy context.
- Understanding and experience of the challenges and sensitivities involved in working in cross-cultural professional and research settings.

Salary/benefits: 60,000 baht per month inclusive accommodation and government social security. Four weeks of paid annual leave.

Start date: Ideally April 2022, but this may be adjusted for the appropriate candidate

Those interested in the position, please submit

- 1) A Full CV
- 2) Certified copies of all academic transcripts
- 3) A copy of an ID card or a passport
- 4) A personal statement which includes a vision for the research chair and how you would fill the major requirements of the role, experience working or researching on displacement/refugee issues, and view of the contemporary displacement context in Southeast Asia.

All the document including a cover letter should be submitted to RCSD Director at rcsd@cmu.ac.th

Closing date: 10 April 2022, or until position is filled.

RCSD is an equal opportunity research center, and we are committed to empowering minority and marginalized communities. We therefore encourage applications from female candidates, as well as candidates from ethnic minority backgrounds.

About the position

Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Host organization: Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD), Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University

Full time position, ideally for up to 4 ½ years. An initial contract will be provided for two years, which can be extended every two years or more on mutual agreement.

Start date: Ideally May 2022, but this may be adjusted for the appropriate candidate

RCSD intends to establish a vision for the Research Chair on Forced Displacement in Southeast Asia, based in the regional hub of Chiang Mai University, to build on our existing work in developing and employing grounded and co-produced research and teaching methods. This, we hope, can help improve understanding the complex dynamics of displacement which surround us, and work to center the agency of displaced people across wider forms of

discourse. While conflict undoubtedly continues to form a central component of the numbers of refugees and IDPs on the move, we view forced displacement as a broad phenomenon involving state-sanctioned infrastructure development, forms of forest enclosure and environmental crises. RCSD is also involved in efforts to support scholars at risk, providing a safe space and research opportunities for people who themselves are fleeing insecurity. The Chair is therefore expected to engage scholars at risk in their work as producers of knowledge. While the Research Chair will be given the scope to cover the whole of Southeast Asia, the emphasis will primarily be across the upper mainland areas most familiar to RCSD – Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam – and particularly the Myanmar border areas.

We are therefore searching for a well-rounded candidate who has proven forms of method and engagement with local community and civil society, some familiarity of working in policy contexts and extensive knowledge and experience working across upper mainland Southeast Asia. As this position is primarily funded through the IDRC grant it comes with a reduced teaching load and fewer institutional or administrative expectations compared to university-funded positions. This provides greater flexibility for the successful candidate to set their own priorities and shape their own research agenda. For non-Thai candidates the visa and work permit process will be fully supported by RCSD.

About Chiang Mai University and RCSD:

Chiang Mai University (CMU) is a major university in Northern Thailand encompassing a wide range of academic disciplines. The spacious, green campus is situated close to the vibrant heart of Chiang Mai city in the foothills of the Doi Suthep-Pui mountain range. RCSD is a research centre based at CMU's Faculty of Social Sciences which is engaged in research initiatives, workshops and trainings, and graduate programs. Our mission is to support the co-production of knowledge in our region, training researchers to take a grounded, transdisciplinary approach to development studies. By understanding environmental and social transition in Southeast Asia from the ground-up, we believe research can empower communities, inform public knowledge, and build local democratic culture.

The main responsibilities of the research chair will include:

- Working alongside the RCSD Director and relevant RCSD staff to establish the role of the chair and its surrounding support structure in a way in which is sustainable and integrated with existing programs and systems at RCSD and the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- Establishing and articulating a long-term research agenda for the Research Chair which seeks to clearly define the contemporary nature of forced displacement in upper mainland Southeast Asia.
- Developing forms of curricula and related teaching materials, including designing and teaching a course on forced displacement for international graduate students at CMU, and other short course trainings and workshops for other targeted groups.

- Mentoring and advising graduate students and early career scholars to build a young generation of scholars from the region working on forced displacement.
- Publishing (and supporting the publication of) different forms of research outputs. In addition to publishing peer reviewed articles, with support from RCSD the Chair will contribute to a range of other outputs.
- Engaging local community and civil society actors in dialogues and knowledge production on forced displacement, including facilitating events and forums to build common goals and understanding.
- Playing an advocacy role and engaging on policy with state actors on forced displacement in the region.

For further details, please contact rcsd@cmu.ac.th