



EAST-WEST CENTER
COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP



WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

Education Program Presents

Ancient Monuments and Nationalism in Southeast Asia

Dr. Paul Lavy

Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History, University of
Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

Throughout the world, old or ancient architectural monuments and ruins have played an important role in the formation of national identities. The complicated processes through which ancient monuments are elevated to the status of exclusive “national symbols” are not “natural” historical developments, but are instead often accompanied by tensions (and sometimes conflict) as nation-states develop competing interpretations of the past. A particularly revealing example of these processes is the contested temple site of Preah Vihear/ Khao Prah Viharn, located at the border of Cambodia and Thailand and claimed by both countries. Embroiled in unresolved and conflicting interpretations regarding the legacy of the Kingdom of Angkor, this temple is a useful case study for examining the ways that the monumental past can be used for political purposes in the present.

Dr. Paul Lavy received his M.A. and Ph.D. in art history from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Lavy has conducted research in India and throughout Southeast Asia, where he worked as an independent lecturer and researcher. His ongoing research, funded by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Asian Cultural Council, and the National Security Education Program, investigates the links between art/architecture and politics in early historic Southeast Asia. His primary interests are the Hindu-Buddhist artistic traditions associated with the Mekong Delta and early Khmer civilization and their relationships with the art of South Asia (ca. 5th – 9th cent. CE).

Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup. Mahalo!

The community is welcome to attend this public lecture.