

Profile of Speakers:



Ronald Grätz

Secretary General of IFA (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

Before assuming his current position at IFA, he was director of the Goethe-Institut in Portugal. Ronald Grätz worked as Division Director for German Language at the UNESCO scheme Colégio Benjamin Constant in São Paulo, of which he was also deputy director. In 1993, he qualified as a lecturer at the Goethe-Institut in Munich, Cairo and Goettingen and worked as consultant for pedagogical support and as a teacher with the Goethe-Institut in Barcelona (1994-98). From 2002 to 2005, Ronald Grätz was a consultant for new media and the director of local programme activities in Eastern Europe and Central

Asia at the Goethe-Institut in Moscow.



Prof. Dr. Shibasaki Atsushi

Komazawa University, Faculty of Global Media Studies

Prof. Shibasaki is an expert of the history, theory and philosophy of international cultural relations and international relations. He had published several books, including *International Cultural Relations in Modern Japan: History of Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai, 1934-45* (Yushindo, 1999), *Self, State, and International Relations: Tomonaga Sanjuro, Immanuel Kant, and the naissance of the worldview in modern Japan* (Sobunshya, 2009), and others. He had been a guest professor at the Institute of European Global Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland (2017-18). His field of research varies from the history of international cultural relations in modern

Japan to the concept of soft power, Kenneth Waltz, concept of fear, Immanuel Kant, Antonio Negri and Bob Dylan. His latest book is *International Cultural Relations in Modern and Contemporary Japan: Towards a Study of Global Cultural Relations* (Yushindo, 2020), and latest paper is "What are Our 'Common Challenge' and 'Shared Approach?': A Theoretical Analysis of the Nature of 'Japanese' International Relations from the Perspective of International Cultural Relations" (Kokusai Seiji (International Relations), 2020).



Dr. Xin Gu

Senior Lecturer, School of Media Film and Journalism, Monash University, Australia and Expert, UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expression

Dr. Xin Gu is an expert appointed by UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Expression of Cultural Diversity (2019-22). She was director of the Master of Cultural and Creative Industries (MCCI) at Monash University in Australia (2018-19). She has published widely on urban creative clusters and agglomerations, cultural work, creative entrepreneurship, cultural and creative industries policy, media cities, maker culture and cyberculture. Xin

has worked with policy initiatives in the UK, China and Indonesia to support small-scale local creative industries development services. Her work focuses on the transformation of creative cities and the creative economy under different social, economic and political conditions. Xin's current research concerns the digital creative economy, looking at the democratization of creativity through vast transformative digital media ecosystems. Her recent publications include *Red Creatives* (Intellect, 2020) and *Re-imagining Creative Cities in Twenty-First Century Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan 2020).



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kitti Prasirtsuk

Vice Rector for International Affairs, Thammasat University, Thailand

He received his B.A. from Thammasat, an M.A. from Keio University and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. His areas of interest include international relations in East and Southeast Asia, Japanese politics and foreign policy, and ASEAN. He taught *International Relations in Southeast Asia* as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and also gave special lectures at Peking University, Waseda University, Yonsei University, Korea University, ANU, and the University of Munich. In addition, Kitti is regularly invited to speak at international symposium, including at Columbia University, Nikkei Forum, Beijing Forum, and Jeju Forum. Aside teaching, he is Vice Rector for International Affairs and Associate Professor of Political Science at Thammasat University in Thailand. He serves as an advisory committee for the Asia Center under Japan Foundation, which promotes exchange between Japan and ASEAN. He is also a committee of the International Studies Center at the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a former strategic committee at the Thai Ministry of Defence (2014-19).



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natthanun Kunnamas,

Jean Monnet Chair and Jean Monnet Modules Coordinator, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Natthanun received BA in International Affairs and German Language from Thammasat University. Having won Leeds-ASEM Chevening Scholarship, she studied MA European Politics at University of Leeds, UK and further won Thai government's funding for doctoral degree at the same place. Currently, she is a full-time professor and the Director of the Centre for European Studies and the Interdisciplinary, Department for European Studies, Faculty of Political Sciences, Chulalongkorn University. She is also an editor of Journal of European Studies and Newsletter of European Studies. In 2012, she received the certificate on Comparative Regionalisms from American University, USA and Central European University, Hungary. Natthanun was awarded the European Union Jean Monnet Chair Professorship, the first Thai and ASEAN to be titled this honourable professorship in 2016. Her recent works for example including studies and researches on political and economic transformations of Eastern European countries, particularly the Former Yugoslavian countries, and "Normative Power Europe". She is now doing the research projects on "Innovation diplomacy" and "A Study on International Security through Public Diplomacy: Thailand's International Strategy with the United Kingdom and the European Union" supported by Thai governmental funding agencies.



Prof. Dr. Apinan Poshyananda

CEO & Artistic Director of Bangkok Art Biennale 2020

Prof. Dr. Apinan Poshyananda received his bachelor and master degree in Fine Arts from Edinburgh University and Ph.D. in History of Art from Cornell University. He served as Director-General, Office of Contemporary Art and Culture, Director-General of Cultural Promotion Department and, the Permanent Secretary and Acting Minister, Ministry of Culture (Thailand) when he was to commission and curate the first Thai Pavilion at 50th Venice Biennale. He has curated and directed international art exhibitions including Contemporary Art from Asia: Traditions/Tensions (1996, Grey Art Gallery, Queen Museum of Art, and Asia Society Galleries, New York); Traces of Siamese Smile: Art + Faith + Politic + Love (2008, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre), Thailand Eye (2015, Saatchi Gallery, London and BACC). He is a committee member of the Asian Cultural Council, New York; Solomon Guggenheim Museum, New York; Board of National Gallery, Singapore; Board of Foundation of BACC; and Advisor to President and CEO, Thai Beverage Plc.



Ms. Sasapin Siriwanij

Artistic Director of Bangkok International Performing Arts Meeting (BIPAM)

Ms. Sasapin is a core member of B-Floor Theatre alongside being an independent theater artist and producer. She began acting in 2005 while studying at Chulalongkorn University, where she received her M.A and B.A in English Literature. She was awarded Best Performance by a Female Artist in 2017 by the Theater Critics Association Thailand (IAC) for her work Oh! Ode (Oh! What Joy, What Goodness, What Beauty Calls For Ode No.7012), a performance art piece exploring political implications within Thai traditional art forms which later was invited to present at the 4th Berliner Herbstsalon by Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin. Sasapin has taken the role of Artistic Director of Bangkok International Performing Arts Meeting (BIPAM) since 2018, and has co-founded Producers of Thai Performing Arts Network (POTPAN).



Maren Niemeyer

Director of the Goethe-Institut Thailand

Born in Bremen, Germany, Maren Niemeyer studied journalism, German philology and film theory in Paris and Berlin. She has worked as a journalist, editor, documentary filmmaker and producer for national and international radio and TV channels, mainly for ARD, ZDF, DW-TV and the German-French cultural channel ARTE. In 2007, Maren produced the ARTE/ARD Documentary-Series about the magic hippie trail to Kathmandu in the late sixties and she produced a worldwide broadcasted series about the Myths of German Design for Deutsche Welle TV in 2008. From 2008 to 2009, she was a Commissioning Editor for the Documentary Film department of NDR/ARTE. From 2010 to 2016, she was Program-

Coordinator for the Film-Department of the Goethe-Institut Headquarter in Munich. Since July 2016, Maren Niemeyer is the director of the Goethe- Institut Thailand.



Andrew Glass

Director of British Council Thailand

Andrew Glass has been with British Council for 30 years. Before he moved to Thailand, he worked alongside multinational colleagues in eight countries; namely Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Germany, UK, Serbia/Montenegro and Kuwait. A genuine believer in how cultural and educational relations bring people and countries closer together, Andrew has catalysed positive changes everywhere he has worked. Since he moved to Thailand in 2014, he has been working closely with the public and private sectors to create opportunities for people by raising levels of English, internationalising higher education and science and supporting the creative economy in Thailand. Andrew was appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2012 UK New Year's Honours List. He has a Bachelor's Degree in German & Politics from Bristol University, during which time he spent a year at Konstanz University in Germany. He has an MA in Applied Linguistics/Teaching English from Aston University and a Diploma in Management from Henley Management School (University of Reading).



Yoshioka Norihiko

Director-General, the Japan Foundation, Bangkok

After graduation from Faculty of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Waseda University, he started his career in the Japan Foundation. From 1999 to 2004, he moved to Bangkok as an Assistant Director managing cultural events such as Japanese film festivals, arts exhibitions and stage performances. Yoshioka earned M.A. in International Economics and Finance from Chulalongkorn University in 2008 and was Deputy Director of the Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam from 2010-14, followed by the service as Deputy Director, Arts, Culture and Exchange Section I & II, the Japan Foundation Asia Center in Tokyo. Since April 2016, he is the Director-General of the Japan Foundation, Bangkok. He was a regular member of the Cool Japan Movement Promotion Council by Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan from April - August 2014. His publications include (As a translator) "*Zayu no Nippon*" [Lit. My Desk Side Japan], Prabda Yoon, Typhoon Books Japan, 2008; "*Chikyu de Saigo no Futari*" [Last Life in the Universe], Prabda Yoon, Sony Magazines, 2004; (as a co-author) "*Tonan Asia Bunka Jiten*" [Lit. Encyclopedia on Southeast Asian Cultures], Nobuta Toshihiro et al., Maruzen, 2019; "*Asia Eiga*" [Lit. Asian Films], Yomota Inuhiko et al., Sakuhinsha, 2003.