

MAI VAN TRAN

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

### Guest Researcher

NIAS - Nordic Institute of Asian Studies  
København K  
1 Sep 2023 → nu

### Postdoc

NIAS - Nordic Institute of Asian Studies  
København K  
8 Jan 2022 → 31 Aug 2023

## EDUCATION

### CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. & M.A., Government. Dec 2020

Subfields: Comparative Politics, Methodology

Dissertation: Resilience of Contentious Movements under Repression: The Role of Bystander Protection and Disruption

Committee: Thomas Pepinsky (Chair), Nicolas van de Walle, Matthew Evangelista, Jeremy Wallace

### WESLEYAN COLLEGE

B.A., International Relations & Economics. Summa Cum Laude. May 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed

2022. "Democratic backsliding disrupted: The role of digitalized resistance in Myanmar." Asian Journal of Comparative Politics. (with Megan Ryan)

Accepted. "Provoking civilian disruption against popular protests: The role of counter-mobilisation strategies by the Myanmar military." Journal of Contemporary Asia.

Accepted. "Enabling activist resilience: Bystander protection during protest crackdowns in Myanmar." Asian Politics & Policy.

### Under Review

"Organic online politics: Farmers, Facebook and Myanmar's military coup" (with Dr. Hilary Faxon, Kendra Kintzi, Swan Ye Htut, and Jasper)

### Non-Peer Reviewed

2022. "Digital Contention in Post-Coup Myanmar." New Mandala. (with Megan Ryan)

2021. "Myanmar's Military Has a History of Using Deceptive Tactics against Protesters. Now It Has Social Media, Too." The Washington Post.

2021. "To Understand Post-Coup Myanmar, Look to Its History of Popular Resistance, Not Sanctions." The Brookings Institution.

2013. "Understanding Malaysia's Pivotal General Election." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (with Vikram Nehru)

2012. "Building Peace in Southeast Asia's Conflict Areas." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (with Vikram Nehru)

2012. "More Hills to Climb for Aung San Suu Kyi." East Asia Forum. (with Vikram Nehru)

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

2022 SEAREG Fellow, Southeast Asia Research Group

2022 Best Paper Award, Young International Scholars Category, Myanmar-Europe Research Network's International Conference

2021 Myanmar Fellow, University of British Columbia - IDRC  
2019 Asia Fellow, American Political Science Association  
2012 President Scholar, Wesleyan College

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Presentations

Roundtable Discussion: How to Study Pro-Democracy Movements in Asia. V-Dem East Asia Regional Centre Webminar. January 2022.

"Pro-Democracy Struggle in the Digital Age? Military vs. Dissident Rhetoric in Post-Coup Myanmar." Burma (Myanmar) Country Seminar. Cornell University. December 2021.

"Myanmar's Anti-Coup Resistance: Dynamics and Dilemmas in the Digital Age." Department of Southeast Asian Studies Seminars. National University of Singapore. October 2021.

"Engineering Public Hostility Against Popular Movements: Tatmadaw's Suppressive Repertoire in Urban Myanmar." Center for Southeast Asian Studies Brown Bag Seminar Series. Yale University. September 2021.

"Uncharted Territory: Fieldwork Methods and Ethics in Myanmar." Institute for International and Area Studies. Tsinghua University. May 2021.

"Reflections on Myanmar's Pro-Democracy Movement." Panel Discussion on The Myanmar Coup: Causes, Popular Resistance, and International Intervention. University of Chicago. May 2021.

"Myanmar Social Media Research: Ethics in Practice." Workshop on Digital Methods in Post-Coup Myanmar. National University of Singapore. May 2021.

"Activist Resilience under Repression: The Role of Civilian Protection in the Burmese Pro-Democracy Movement." Southeast Asia Program Lecture Series. Cornell University. March 2021.

"Update on Myanmar's Digital Cultures: Myths and Facts." Myanmar Digital Rights Forum. February 2020.  
Conference Presentations

Nordic NIAS Council's Generation Asia Conference, 2022  
Southeast Asia Research Group's Summer Conference, 2022  
European Association for Southeast Asian Studies Conference, 2022  
Norwegian Network for Asian Studies's Asianet Conference, 2022  
Social Movement in Comparative Perspective Workshop by University of Copenhagen, 2022  
Myanmar-Europe Research Network (MyERN) International Conference, 2022  
Democratic Backsliding in Southeast Asia Special Issue Workshop, 2021  
Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference, 2021  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2021  
Beyond Essentialism: Workshop by University of Essex-University of the Philippines, Diliman, 2021  
Association for Asian Studies Conference, 2021  
American Political Science Association's Asia Workshop, 2019  
Tsinghua University's Area Studies Forum, 2019  
Cornell-Stockholm PhD Conference, 2017  
Midwest Political Science Association, 2017  
International Burma Studies Conference at Northern Illinois University, 2016  
Burma/Myanmar Research Forum at Cornell University, 2015

## GRANTS

"Facilitating the next generation of Burmese scholars: Research mentorship on contentious politics." Women in Southeast Asian Social Sciences' collaborative grant. USD 1,000. August – November 2022. (with Dr. Terese Gagnon)

"Democratic backsliding disrupted: The role of digitalized resistance in Myanmar." Suntory Foundation's research grant. USD 800. February 2022. (with Megan Ryan)

University of British Columbia - International Development Research Centre's Myanmar Fellowship. USD 2,000. October 2021.

"Digital Literacy, Demographics and Misinformation in Myanmar Research." Facebook's Foundational Integrity research grant. USD 99,960. September 2020 – December 2021. (with Dr. Hilary Faxon)

“Resilience of Contentious Movements under Repression: The Role of Bystander Protection and Disruption.” Cornell University’s Sage Fellowship’s Dissertation Write-up Grant. USD 58,758. January – December 2019.

“Resilience of Contentious Movements under Repression: The Role of Bystander Protection and Disruption.” Cornell University’s Thak Chaloemtiarana Summer Dissertation Write-up Grant. USD 2,500. June – August 2019.

“Building Backlash Against Authoritarianism: Case Studies on Myanmar’s Than Shwe Dictatorship.” Cornell University’s Government Department’s Summer Supplemental Support. USD 1,600. June – August 2017.

“Authoritarian Legacies and Voting Behavior in Myanmar’s 2015 Elections.” Cornell University’s Graduate School Travel Grant. USD 2,000. December 2016.

“Variation in Ethno-Nationalist Violence during Democratic Transition in Burma.” Cornell University’s Southeast Asia Program’s Research Travel Award. USD 2,000. January 2015.

“Variation in Ethno-Nationalist Violence during Democratic Transition in Burma.” Cornell University’s Einaudi Center’s Research Travel Grant. USD 2,000. June – August 2015.

## **SKILLS**

SOFTWARE: STATA, ATLAS.ti

LANGUAGES: Burmese, English, Mandarin Chinese, Vietnamese

## **TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

Fall 2022            Instructor, Challenging Authoritarianism: Politics of Protest in East & Southeast Asia, University of Copenhagen

Spring 2022-  
Present            Mentor, SUPRA Program for MA/PhD students, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen

Fall 2021            Instructor, Academic Writing in the Social Sciences, Inya Institute, Myanmar

Fall 2015-Fall  
2018                Teaching Assistant, Department of Government, Cornell University

Winter 2017-  
Spring 2018        Instructor, Introduction to Comparative Politics & Politics of Development, Yangon School of Political Science, Myanmar

## **SERVICE**

6/2021-Present    Course Content Reviewer, Virtual Federal University, Myanmar

5/2016-5/2017    Co-Chair of Graduate Student Committee, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University