

## HJORLEIFUR RAFN JONSSON

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Associate Professor of Anthropology  
School of Human Evolution and Social Change  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85281-2402

Tel: (480) 965-7837 (direct)  
(480) 965-6215 (main office)  
Fax: (480) 965-7671  
Email: hjonsson@asu.edu

### EDUCATION

1996 Ph.D., Anthropology  
Dissertation: Shifting Social Landscape: Mien (Yao) Upland Communities and Histories in State-Client Settings. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms, No. 9637476.  
Cornell University

1991 M.A., Anthropology  
Cornell University

1988 M.A., Anthropology (with thesis)  
University of Iowa

1986 B.A., Anthropology (with thesis)  
University of Iceland

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2005-  
Associate Professor of Anthropology,  
School of Human Evolution and Social Change,  
Arizona State University

1999- 2005  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Anthropology, Arizona State University

1998-1999  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department  
of Anthropology, Arizona State University

1996  
Researcher and Consultant on Ethnic  
Minority Land Use Issues, Central Highlands of  
Vietnam.

1992  
Researcher and Consultant on Health  
Care Development among Ethnic Minorities,  
Northeast Cambodia.

### RECENT GRANTS AND AWARDS:

2004-2005 Visiting Research Fellow, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University,  
Japan (August 2004 to February 2005)

- 2000 Faculty Grant-in-Aid from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ASU, for Research in Vietnam and Thailand
- 2000 A.T. Steele Travel Grant from the Center for Asian Studies, ASU, for Research in Vietnam and Thailand

## RESEARCH

- 2007 Ethnohistory and Cultural Dynamics among Lao Iu Mien in Oregon.
- 2005 Cultural Preservation, Museums, and Political Change in Northern Thailand.
- 2001 Sports and the Reworking of Minority Identity and Tradition in Northern Thailand
- 2000 Ethnic Minorities in Asian Public Spheres, Vietnam and Thailand
- 1996 Ethnic Minorities Land Use Practices in a Proposed Nature Reserve, Central Highlands of Vietnam.
- 1992-1994 Upland Communities and State-Minority Relations in northern Thailand. Dissertation Research.
- 1992 Health Issues among Upland Ethnic Minorities in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia.
- 1990 Modes of Livelihood among Mien in northern Thailand
- 1988 Research Assistant on the Project Agriculture and Community Integration among Shan in Maehongson Province, Thailand

## WORK UNDER REVIEW

- Vietnamese Manikin-ship: How Ethnic Displays in Museums Tell the Story of the Nation. (journal article)
- Marginalization, Violence, and National Ontologies in Thailand. (journal article)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- Ethnic Intersections: Anthropology and the Peoples of Southeast Asia* (book ms., draft title)
- Spectacles of Public Marginality in Thailand*. Journal theme-issue, co-edited with Sudarat Musikawong.
- Mimetic Mountain People: Identity, Violence, and Desire on Thailand's Fringe. In *Spectacles of Public Marginality in Thailand*.
- Above and Beyond: Zomia, History, and the No-Theater State. To be submitted for a journal theme-issue on history and society in the highlands of Asia.

## ON-GOING RESEARCH

Ethnohistory and cultural dynamics among Lao Mien in Oregon. The project concerns farming and social life in Laos ca. 1880-1975, and dynamics of culture and identity (sports, music, religion, beauty pageants, history) in a transnational context.

Dynamics of culture, identity, and society in mainland Southeast Asia. The project involves particular attention to so-called ethnic minorities and a) the public sphere – museums, encyclopedias, billboards, newspapers; b) new social forms – ethnicity associations, sports contests; c) state power – law and enforcement regarding land use, nature conservation, and

official classification of ethnic minority identity, and d) epistemology and ontology – how identities are real in social life and how anthropology knows its subject(s).

### **MEDIA PRODUCTION:**

2003 *Mien Sports and Heritage, Thailand 2001* (documentary video, 14 min., color, dvd and vhs formats). Produced and written by Hjorleifur Jonsson, Camera and editing by Karl Coogan.

Posted (2008) on the web on New Mandala ([rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/newmandala/](http://rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/newmandala/)) and on my home-page on the SHESC website.

Screenings:

Council on Thai Studies Conference, Madison, WI, November 8 2003;

Nordic Anthropological Film Association's 25<sup>th</sup> International Ethnographic Film Festival, Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm, Sweden, May 21 2005.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

#### **BOOKS:**

2005 *Mien Relations: Mountain People and State Control in Thailand*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

Co-published by Silkworm, Chiangmai, Thailand, 2006.

#### **PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

2004 Mien Alter-Natives in Thai Modernity. *Anthropological Quarterly* 77, 3: 673-704.

2003 Mien Through Sports and Culture: Mobilizing Minority Identity in Thailand. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* 68, 3: 317-40.

2002 (Nora A. Taylor and Hjorleifur Jonsson) Other Attractions in Vietnam. *Asian Ethnicity* 3, 2: 233-48.

2001 Does the House Hold? History and the Shape of Mien (Yao) Society. *Ethnohistory* 48, 4: 613-54.

2001 Serious Fun: Minority Cultural Dynamics and National Integration in Thailand. *American Ethnologist* 28, 1:151-78.

2000 Yao Minority Identity and the Location of Difference in the South China Borderlands. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* 65, 1: 56-82.

#### **BOOK-CHAPTERS:**

Forthcoming Recording Tradition and Measuring Progress in the Ethnic Minority Highlands of Thailand. In *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*, ed. by Kathleen Adams and Kathleen Gillogly. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

- Forthcoming Museum Lessons: Situating Peoples and History in Thailand and Vietnam. In *Interethnic Relations and Globalization in the Making of Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China*, ed. by Hjørleifur Jonsson and Yukio Hayashi. Kyoto: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University.
- 2005 Presentable Ethnicity: Constituting Mien in Contemporary Thailand. Pp. 227-252 in *Dislocating Nation-States: Globalization in Asia and Africa*, ed. by Patricio Abinales, Noburo Ishikawa, and Akio Tanabe. Melbourne: Trans Pacific Press, and Kyoto: Kyoto University Press.
- 2004 Moving House: Migration and the Place of the Household on the Thai Periphery. Pp. 206-232 in *The Society of Siam: Selected Articles for the Siam Society's Centenary*, ed. by Christopher Baker. Bangkok: The Siam Society.
- 2003 Pedestrian Politics: The Social Focus of Founders, Migration, and Ritual. Pp. 227-249 in *Founders' Cults in Southeast Asia: Ancestors, Polity, and Identity*, ed. by Nicola Tannenbaum and Cornelia Kammerer. New Haven: Yale Southeast Asia Studies Monographs.
- 2003 (Hjørleifur Jonsson and Nora A. Taylor) National Colors: Ethnic Minorities in Vietnamese Public Imagery. Pp. 159-84 in *Re-Orienting Fashion: The Globalization of Asian Dress*, ed. by Sandra Niessen, Carla Jones, and Ann Marie Leshkovich. New York: Berg.
- 2001 French Natural in the Vietnamese Highlands: Nostalgia and Erasure in Montagnard Identity. Pp.52-65 in *Of Vietnam: Identities in Dialogue*, ed. by Jane Winston and Leakthina Ollier. New York: Palgrave.
- 2000 Traditional Tribal What? Sports, Culture, and the State in the Northern Hills of Thailand. Pp. 219-45 in *Turbulent Times and Enduring Peoples: Mountain Minorities in the South-East Asian Massif*, ed. by Jean Michaud. London: Curzon Press.

#### **REVIEW ARTICLES AND BOOK REVIEWS:**

- 2008 Review of Living in a Globalized World: Ethnic Minorities in the Greater Mekong Subregion, ed. by Don McCaskill, Prasit Leepreecha, and He Shaoying. *Journal of the Siam Society* 96 (forthcoming).
- 2007 Review of Multiculturalism in Asia, edited by Will Kymlicka and Baogang He. *Journal of Asian Studies* 66, 1: 205-08.
- 2007 Review of Property and Politics in Sabah, Malaysia: Native Struggles over Land Rights, by Amity Doolittle. *Agricultural History* 81, 4: 563-65.
- 2005 Review of Ethnicity in Asia, edited by Colin Mackerras. *Asian Ethnicity* 6, 3: 253-4.
- 2003 Encyclopedic Yao in Thailand (review article). *Asian Ethnicity* 4, 2:295-301.
- 2003 Review of Where China Meets Southeast Asia: Social and Cultural Change in the Border Regions, edited by Grant Evans, Christopher Hutton, and Kuah Khun Eng. *Journal of Asian Studies* 62, 1: 200-2.

- 2002 Review of *Inside Thai Society: Religion, Everyday Life, Change*, by Niels Mulder. *Journal of Asian Studies* 61, 2: 784-6.
- 2002 Review of *The Legend of the Golden Boat: Regulation, Trade, and Traders in the Borderlands of Laos, Thailand, China, and Burma*, by Andrew Walker. *Journal of Asian Studies* 61, 2: 796-8.
- 2002 Review of *Tribes of the North Thailand Frontier*, by Jane R. Hanks and Lucien M. Hanks. New Haven: Yale University Southeast Asia Monographs. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 33, 3: 588-90.
- 2001 Review of *Redefining Nature: Karen Ecological Knowledge and the Challenge to the Modern Conservation Paradigm*, by Pinkaew Laungaramsri. *Journal of the Siam Society* 89, 1&2: 139-141.
- 2001 A Regional Approach to Thailand: Reflections on the writings of A. Thomas Kirsch (review article). *Journal of the Siam Society* 89, 1&2:100-115.
- 2001 Review of *Civility and Savagery: Social Identity in Tai States*, ed. by Andrew Turton. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 32, 3:464-6.
- 2000 Yao Collectibles (review article). *Journal of the Siam Society* 88, 1&2: 222-31.
- 2000 Review of *Merchants and Migrants: Ethnicity and Trade Among Yunnanese Chinese in Southeast Asia*, by Ann Maxwell Hill. *Journal of Asian Studies* 59, 3: 798-800.

#### POPULAR ESSAYS, COMMENTARY:

- 2008 Commentary on multiculturalism, documentary video, and other matters, on New Mandala (<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/newmandala/>), March-.
- 2005 Getur maður tekið jólasveina alvarlega? [www.hugsandi.is](http://www.hugsandi.is) (posted Dec. 12).
- 2005 Unplanned Encounters in Kyoto. *Newsletter, Center for Southeast Asian Studies*, Kyoto University, 52: 18.
- 2003 Rosy Cheeks in the Library. *Suvannabhumi*, Newsletter of the Program for Southeast Asian Studies at Arizona State University, 14, 2: 10-12.
- 2002 On Nature Preservation and International Finance. *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*, 2 (<http://kyotoreview.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp>).
- 2001 Mien Olympics in Thailand. *Suvannabhumi*, Newsletter of the Program for Southeast Asian Studies at Arizona State University, 13, 1:8-10.
- 2001 Cultural Clashes. *Far Eastern Economic Review* May 10: 75.
- 2001 Upland Peoples and Changing Frontiers. In *Asian Frontiers*, ed. by Reed Wadley and Freek Colombijn. *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter* 24:10.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2007 The Strings Attached to Recognition: Assembling Minorities for Display in Thailand and Vietnam. Ohio University, March 9.
- 2006 Minority Culture and the Limits to National Acceptance in Contemporary Thailand. Division of Social Science, International Christian University, Tokyo, May 11.
- 2004 Mien on the Move: Ritual Connections to the State's Landscape. Social Science Research Council-sponsored International conference on Transnational Religion, Migration, and Diversity in Southeast Asia. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, December 2-4.
- 2003 Voicing Identity in the Thai Countryside: Mien Culture, Protest, and Indigeneity. Faculty of Comparative Culture, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, June 10.
- 2002 Sports and Culture: Constituting Mien in Contemporary Thailand. Panel on Transformations of Everyday Practice in the Age of Globalism, at the international conference Regions in Globalization, Kyoto University, Japan, October 26.
- 1999 Locating Difference in the South China Borderlands. Presented at Religion, society, and popular culture: an interdisciplinary symposium honoring A. Thomas Kirsch, Cornell University, Feb. 20.
- 1999 State Disappearances: Marking Minority Identity in Southeast Asian Borderlands. Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Jan. 21.
- 1997 A View to a Hill: Studying Southeast Asia from its Hinterlands. Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California Los Angeles, April 18.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2009 Migration, Hill Farmers, and the History of Mainland Southeast Asia. International, Interdisciplinary workshop Dynamics of Human Diversity in Mainland Southeast Asia, Siem Reap, Cambodia, January 7-10.
- 2008 Leaving Laos: War, Exile, and Ethnicization. Prepared for the Panel Under the Radar: Ethnographies of sub-national forces in mainland Southeast Asia. Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA, November.
- 2008 Looking Good in Thailand: Mien Spectacles of Identity. Panel on Spectacles of Identity: Public Marginality in Thailand. Annual Meetings of the Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, GA, April 6.
- 2008 Turning Culture into Contest: Reworking Minority Identity at Ethnic Festivals. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Play, Tempe, AZ, March 5.
- 2007 Global Futures in Local Pasts: Post-Cold-War Museum Prospecting. Panel on Arts and Heritage Policy Beyond the National Frame, Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, Nov 28-Dec 2.
- 2004 Mien Alter-Native Modernity in Thailand. Presented at the panel Contending Alternative Modernities in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, annual meetings of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, March 6.

- 2003 Weapon of the Week: Consolidating the State and the Middle Class in Mediated Thailand. Presented at the panel Physical Challenges to the Ethnographic Project, Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, November 19.
- 2003 Thailand's State of Nature: Preservation, Protest, and Agency in the 1990s. Presented at the panel The Politics of Nature in Southeast Asia: National Discourses, Local Understandings. Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Phoenix, AZ, Oct. 10.
- 2003 Culture as Foreplay: Some Mien Lessons about *Préterrain*. Annual Meetings of the American Ethnological Society, Providence, RI, April 26.
- 2003 A Bad Sign: Media, Morality, and Society in Thailand. Presented at the panel Ways of Dying, Ways of Living: Life, Death, and Morality in Mainland Southeast Asia. Annual meetings of the Association for Asian Studies, New York City, March 28.
- 2002 Identity and Historicity: Museum Displays in the Northern Regions of Thailand and Vietnam. Workshop on Interethnic Relations in the Making of Southeast Asia and Southwest China. Kyoto University, Japan, October 30.
- 2002 Cyanide Girl: Suicide and Progress in Thailand. Presented at the workshop Art, Media, and Violence in Southeast Asia. Harvard University, May 10-11.

### CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES, DISCUSSION

- 2008 Panel Co-chair and Co-organizer, Spectacles of Identity: Public Marginality in Thailand. Annual Meetings of the Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, GA, March 6.
- 2007 Co-organizer, Second International Laos Studies Conference, Arizona State University, May 3-6.
- 2005 Human Evolution and Social Change in the Museums of Thailand and Vietnam. Center for Asian Studies (AT Steele Lecture), Arizona State University, November 2.
- 2005 National Belonging in the Hinterlands of Thailand and Vietnam. Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development, Chiangmai University, June 17.
- 2004 Ethnographic Film Screening and Discussion of *Mien Sports and Heritage, Thailand 2001*. Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, December 15.
- 2004 Forests, Bad Roads, and Democracy: Interpreting an Unsuccessful Protest. Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, October 15.
- 2004 Bad News from Thailand. Presented at the symposium Wagging the Dogs: Media, Elections, and Times of War. Arizona State University, April 29.
- 2003 Panel Organizer, Physical Challenges to the Ethnographic Project, Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, Nov 19.
- 2002 Thailand from the Margins. Workshop on Thai Culture, for City of Phoenix employees, sponsored by the ASU Program for Southeast Asian Studies. Arizona State University, December 13.
- 2002 Session moderator, and commentator, Workshop on Interethnic Relations in the Making of Southeast Asia and Southwest China. Kyoto University, Japan, October 29-30.
- 2002 Panel Co-organizer (with Frank Proschan), Representing Ethnicity in Vietnam. Annual meetings of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington DC, April 5.
- 2001 Panel Organizer, Identifying Sports in Asia and the Americas. Annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, December 2.
- 2000 Chair, Moderator, and Co-organizer of Crafts, Identities, and Representations: A Symposium of Southeast Asian Textiles. Program for Southeast Asian Studies and Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University, April 15.
- 2000 Sanskrit at High Altitude: *Sanuk* and *Hansa* in the Thai Hills. Presented at Thinking about Fun: Roundtable in Honor of A. Thomas Kirsch. Thailand, Laos, Cambodia Studies Group, Association for Asian Studies, San Diego CA, March 11.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Arizona State University:

ASB102 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology, 2000-07  
ASB 252 Anthropology of Sports, 1999 (spring and fall), 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006  
ASB325/591 Peoples of Southeast Asia, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003  
ASB394/591 Encountering Culture, 2001  
ASB394/591 Nature in Culture, 2003  
ASB494 Anthropology and Area Studies: Southeast Asia, 2004  
ASB494/591 Identity Politics in Southeast Asia, 1998  
ASB494/591 Ideologies of Environments, 1999  
ASB494/591 National Spaces: Identity, Integration, and Minorities, 1999, 2000  
ASB541 Method and Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology, 2000  
ASB591 Identity, Nations, and Globalization, 2003, 2008  
ASB591 Modernity, 2006

Cornell University, Department of Anthropology:

Viewing America, Freshman Writing Seminar, 1995.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**

2007-2010 Board Member, Southeast Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies  
2007-2009 Board Member, Society for Humanistic Anthropology  
2007- Member, Advisory Board, *Journal of Surrealism and the Americas*  
2007 Dissertation Examiner, National University of Singapore  
2004-2005 Dissertation Examiner, Australian National University

## **REVIEWING**

### **PRESSES**

University of Washington Press; Routledge; Cornell University Press;  
Center for Southeast Asian Studies Publications, Northern Illinois University

### **JOURNALS**

*American Anthropologist; American Ethnologist; Anthropological Quarterly; Asia Pacific Viewpoint; Asian Ethnicity; Crossroads: An Inter-disciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies; Culture and Agriculture; Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology; Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies; Human Organization; Journal of Asian Studies; Journal of Burma Studies; Journal of Southeast Asian Studies; Tonan Ajia Kenkyu (Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto); T'oung Pao.*

### **GRANTING AGENCIES:**

National Endowment for the Humanities.

## **LANGUAGES**

Icelandic: Native speaker

Thai (Central, Siamese): Fluent

Mien (Iu Mien Yao): Fluent

Lao, Danish, Swedish, French: Moderate

Yuan (northern Thai), Shan (Tai Long, Thai Yai): Moderate