(Un)Happy Stories from Thailand’s Constitutional Court

Duncan McCargo
Professor of Political Science, University of Leeds;
Visiting Professor, Columbia University

This presentation discusses some key cases brought before Thailand’s Constitutional Court following the 2006 military coup, borrowing its title from a memoir penned by former Court president Wasant Soypanit. It argues that behind the formal complaints levied by the petitioners lay accusations along the treason spectrum: that pro-Thaksin politicians were seeking to undermine the system of government and alter the status of the crown. The 2012 constitutional amendment case, which almost precipitated a major political crisis, will form the main focus of the discussion. Did the workings of the court illustrate a new politicization of the Thai judiciary? Or were these cases simply business as usual?

Duncan McCargo is Professor of Political Science at the University of Leeds, Visiting Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, and a Visitor in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Wednesday, March 2, 2016
12:00 Noon
Room 203, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue