

Civil Society and Democracy in South and Southeast Asia — An Introduction

Stefan Rother

Summary

This special issue discusses the relationship between civil society and democracy in South and Southeast Asia. The case studies range from the subnational and national to the transnational and regional levels. Based on these case studies from across South and Southeast Asia, the role of civil society in a number of currently unfolding democratic and democratization processes is analyzed. This introduction discusses these various levels of engagement, after first highlighting some principal questions on the role of civil society, its definitions, and its organizational forms.

Keywords: civil society, democratization, alternative regionalism, human rights, social movement, South and Southeast Asia

Stefan Rother is a researcher and lecturer in the Department of Political Science, University of Freiburg, and currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies. His research focus is on transnational migration, global governance, social movements, regional integration, and non-/post-Western theories of international relations.