

# Htet Thiha Zaw

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## Appointments

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of British Columbia	2024 - Present
Regional Research Director, International Rescue Committee	2023 - 2024

## Education

PhD in Political Science, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	2023
MSc in Political Science, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	2021
BSc in Global Economics and Finance, Chinese University of Hong Kong	2016

## Research Interests

Comparative Politics; Political Economy of Development; Historical Political Economy; Politics of Education; Conflict and Violence; Colonialism; Southeast Asia

## Book

Building States within Societies: Repression and Education in British Burma (In Preparation).

## Journal Articles

Avanesian, Garen, Htet Thiha Zaw, Peggy Kelly, and Suguru Mizunoya. "Dissecting the Digital Divide: A Household Fixed Effects Approach to Estimating Gender Gaps in Digital Skills of Youth in Low-and Middle-Income Economies." *Heliyon* 10, no. 12 (2024): e33127.

Zaw, Htet Thiha. "The Pre-colonial Roots of Colonial Coercion: Evidence from British Burma." *Comparative Political Studies* 57, no. 12 (2024): 1939-1977.

Judith Becker Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research on Southeast Asia.

Zaw, Htet Thiha, Suguru Mizunoya, Dominic Richardson, Despina Karamperidou, Hiroyuki Hattori, and Monika Oledzka-Nielsen. "Teacher Training and Textbook Distribution Improve Early Grade Reading: Evidence from Papua and West Papua." *Comparative Education Review* 65, no. 4 (2021): 691-722.

Zaw, Htet Thiha, Suguru Mizunoya, and Xinxin Yu. "An Equity Analysis of Pre-primary Education in the

Developing World." *International Journal of Educational Research* 109 (2021): 101806.

Mizunoya, Suguru, and Htet Thiha Zaw. "Measuring the Holes of the Ship: Global Cost Estimations of Internal Inefficiency in Primary Education." *International Journal of Educational Development* 54 (2017): 8-17.

## Working Papers

Zaw, Htet Thiha. "The Indigenous Origins of Colonial Education: Evidence from British Burma." Under Review.

APSA Southeast Asia Politics Research Group Best Paper Award.

Honorable Mention, APSA Comparative Politics Section Sage Best Paper Award.

Bosley, Mitchell, Ajit Phadnis, and Htet Thiha Zaw. "When Subalterns Vote: The Impact of Franchise Expansion on the British India Legislature, 1901-1940."

Zaw, Htet Thiha. "When Indoctrination Fails: Education, Economic Growth, and Youth Resistance against Authoritarian Rule in post-Coup Myanmar."

Franco-Vivanco, Edgar and Htet Thiha Zaw. "The Origins and Consequences of Indigenous Education in Colonial Mexico."

## Invited Contributions

(Book Review) Zaw, Htet Thiha. "Asymmetrical Neighbors: Borderland State Building between China and Southeast Asia By Enze Han." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 24, no. 1 (2024): 121-23.

(Newsletter) Zaw, Htet Thiha. "The Pre-colonial Origins of Long-run State Development: Lessons from Burma (Myanmar)." *APSA Comparative Politics Organized Section Newsletter* 31, no. 2 (2021): 24-32.

## Teaching

\* = Instructor of record with a self-designed syllabus

Political Economy of Development (University of British Columbia)\*

Fall 2023

Graduate Seminar in Comparative Politics (University of Yangon)\*

Fall 2021

Course for students affected by the 2021 Burmese coup d'état.

POLSCI 389: Historical Political Economy (University of Michigan)\*

Summer 2021

INTLSTD 301: Political Economy of Development

Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

POLSCI 490: Game Theory

Winter 2019

## Grants, Honours & Awards

Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Fellow, 2022 (invited to present at the summer conference)

SEAREG Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, 2020 (US\$ 4,000)

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, 2022 (US\$ 34,794)

Rackham International Research Award, 2021 (US\$ 6,000)

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, 2020 (US\$ 4,500)  
Weiser Emerging Democracies Fellowship, 2017 (US\$ 18,000)

## Invited Talks

“Indigenous Origins of State Education: Lessons from Myanmar’s Colonial Past” (Council on Southeast Asian Studies, Yale University), 2023.

“Burma in the Context of Global Uprising against Militarized Violence” (York University, Centre for Asian Research), 2021.

“The Political Crisis in Myanmar: Nuanced Perspectives on the Nation’s Past, Present & Future” (University of Colorado - Boulder), 2021.

## Presentations

**2023:** Virtual Historical Political Economy Workshop, Burma Studies Association Conference, Suffrage and the Welfare State Workshop

**2022:** SEAREG Summer Conference, Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Midwest Political Science Association

**2021:** American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Canadian Council of Southeast Asian Studies, Virtual Historical Political Economy Workshop

**2019:** Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics, Politics and Historical Legacies Conference

## Service to Profession

Reviewer: *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Education Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Journal of Childcare and Education Policy*

Coordinator, Historical Legacies and Memories (Michigan)

Fall 2020 - Winter 2021

Coordinator, Political Economy Workshop (Michigan)

Fall 2019 - Winter 2020

Coordinator, Conflict and Peace Workshop (Michigan)

Fall 2018 - Winter 2019

## References

**Mark Dincecco**, Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan  
E-mail: [dincecco@umich.edu](mailto:dincecco@umich.edu)

**Allen Hicken**, Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan  
E-mail: [ahicken@umich.edu](mailto:ahicken@umich.edu)

**Nahomi Ichino**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Emory University  
E-mail: [nahomi.ichino@emory.edu](mailto:nahomi.ichino@emory.edu)

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