

Michael Rattanasengchanh, Ph.D.
mike.rattanasengchanh@msutexas.edu

First generation college graduate.

Historian of Southeast Asian and US diplomatic and military history.

Experienced multi-source and multi-language researcher.

Publisher of peer-reviewed information.

Program manager with two non-profit organizations.

Chief Editor of a double-blind peer-review academic journal.

Education

- 2012-2019, **Ohio University**, Ph.D. History

- 2010-2012, **University of Washington**, Masters of Arts International Studies

- 2006-2009, **Brigham Young University**, Bachelors of Art History

Publications

- 2024 **Book Manuscript** (in revise and resubmit stage)

- Working title, “Selling Anti-Communism: The Public Relations Activities of the United States Information Service and Thai Ministry of Interior, 1957-1979” – Cold War
- Invited by University of Wisconsin Press (Southeast Asian editors) to submit manuscript; in “revise and resubmit” stage by December 2024

- 2024 **Article**

- “Security or Democracy?: U.S.-Thai Relations in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries” *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 93, Issue 4, Fall 2024, 601-625
- Nominated for Society for History in the Federal Government Article Prize by the *Pacific Historical Review* editorial board in November 2024 (results TBA) – Cold War

- 2023 **Book Chapter**

- “Unsung Heroes in a Tragic Effort for Neutrality [in Laos],” edited by Edward Corse and Marta García Cabrera (eds.), *Propaganda and Neutrality: global case studies in the 20th Century* (London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2023)

- 2023 **Book Chapter**

- “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Equitable Development: A Look at the Thoughts of Cheng Enfu,” co-author Isaac Christiansen, in *Innovative Marxist School in China: Comments by International Scholars on Cheng Enfu’s Academic Thoughts* (Germany: Canut International Publishers, 2023) p. 19-39.

- 2019 **Article**

- “The United States’ Complicated Relationship with Thailand and Democracy,” *Thai Data Points: Timely Political Analysis Grounded in Theory and Empirics*, April 12, 2019, <https://www.thaidatapoints.com/post/the-united-states-complicated-relationship-with-thailand-and-democracy>. Editors: Associate Professor Dr. Joel Selway (Brigham Young University) and Professor Dr. Allen Hicken (University of Michigan)

- 2018 **Article**
 - “The Role of Preah Vihear in Hun Sen’s Nationalism Politics, 2008-2013” [Cambodia], *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, Vol. 36, No. 3, 2017, pg. 1-27
- 2016 **Article**
 - “U.S.-Thai Public Diplomacy: The Beginnings of a Military-Monarchical-Anti-Communist State, 1957-1963,” *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, Vol. 23, 2016, p. 50-82
- 2012 Language Instruction Material
 - Project Manager and lead author along with William Schroeder and Scott Bird
 - *Lao for Missionaries*, Brigham Young University’s Missionary Training Center, Spring 2012
- 2010 Oral History Report
 - “ORCA Final Report: United States Involvement with the Hmong People during the Vietnam War in Laos,” *Brigham Young University Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 2010, Volume 15, College of Family, Home & Social Sciences section (alphabetical order), <http://orca.byu.edu/jur/old/2010/>
- 2009 **Article**
 - “United States Foreign Relations in Laos 1958-1960: A Catalyst to Communist Control” (Cold War)
The Rocky Mountain Undergraduate Review Journal, Spring 2009, Vol. 1, Issue 2, pg. 28-53

Book Reviews

- 2024 Book Review
 - Invited to review Henri Locard’s book *Jungle Heart of the Khmer Rouge: The Memoirs of Phi Phuon, Pol Pot’s Jarai Aide-de-Camp, and the Role of Tribal Minorities in the Khmer Rouge Revolution in History: Reviews of New Books*, Volume 52, Issue 4, pg. 57-58, 2024
- 2024 Book Review
 - Invited to review Carolyn Woods Eisenberg’s book *Fire and Rain: Nixon, Kissinger, and the Wars in Southeast Asia*, in *PASSPORT* (The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review), Vol. 55, No. 1, April 2024, pg. 27-29
- 2015 Book Review
 - Invited to review William J. Rust’s book, *Before the Quagmire*, in *PASSPORT* (The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review) Vol. 46, No. 2, September 2015, pg. 40-41

Research Grants

- Research Grant

- The Asian Division Florence Tan Moeson Research Fellowship 2023 – Library of Congress
- Research on the various Lao collections: Phoui Sananikone papers and Souvanna Phouma papers – Vietnam War and Cold War periods

- Research Grant

- Office of Sponsored Programs & Research at Midwestern State University, Approved for academic year 2022-2023, \$4000
- Research at the US National Archives in Maryland and Richard Nixon's Presidential Library in California
- Collecting information and documents on U.S.-Lao relations, specifically about the bombing of Laos, 1964-1975; Vietnam War and Cold War periods

- Research Grant

- Brigham Young University's Neal A. Maxwell Foundation Research Grant (2022)
- Conduct research at BYU's Special Collections and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint's archive
- Topic: Lao-Americans in the LDS Church
- Present research to the Foundation

- Research Grant

- Office of Sponsored Programs & Research at Midwestern State University, Approved for academic year 2021-2022, \$4000
- Research in Thailand at Chulalongkorn University's Thailand Information Center
- Collecting information and documents on the Thai government's anti-communist and state-building activities; Vietnam War and Cold War periods

- Research Grant

- Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library Moody Research Grant, 2020

- Fellowship

- Ohio University Klinder Contemporary History Institute, 2018-2019

- Fellowship

- Ohio University Contemporary History Institute, 2012-2013 & 2015-2016

- Research Grant

- Ohio University Graduate Student Senate Original Work Grant, Summer 2015 and Summer 2017

- Fellowship

- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS), United States Department of Education, Thai language, 2010-2011
- University of Washington

- Research Grant

- Brigham Young University's Office of Research and Creative Activities,
- Conduct interviews with Hmong veterans, Winter 2009

Work Experience

- Journal of Lao Studies/Center for Lao Studies

- Editor-in-Chief (2022 – ***Present***)
 - Double blind peer-review academic journal publishing and facilitating scholarly studies of Lao studies
 - Part of Center for Lao Studies (Non-profit organization)
 - First issue as editor, **Volume 8, Issue 1, December 2024**, <https://www.laostudies.org/journal/journal-lao-studies-jls>

- Midwestern State University

- Assistant Professor of History (August 2020 – ***Present***)
- Teaching Duties:
 - Asian and U.S. history courses
 - Courses:
 - Asian Imperialism (Undergraduate and Graduate)
 - Vietnam Wars from the Vietnamese Perspective (Undergraduate and Graduate)
 - Preparing Historians (Graduate)
 - Counterinsurgency and Guerrilla Warfare (Undergraduate and Graduate)
 - Global Cold War (Graduate)
 - US Foreign Relations (Undergraduate and Graduate)
 - U.S. History (Survey and Honors)
 - World Civilization (Survey)
- Current Research
 - Thai-U.S. public and cultural diplomacy during the Cold War (**Under review with the University of Wisconsin Press – title, *Selling Anti-Communism: US-Thai Public Relations efforts to Promote Anti-Communism, 1957-1979***)
 - Lao-U.S. relations
 - Southeast Asian-Americans and identity, race, assimilation, and competing narratives of the past
- College Duties:
 - Faculty Adviser
 - Anime Club
 - Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
 - Midwestern State University History club
 - Spring 2021 – ***Present***
 - Faculty Adviser
 - Midwestern State University National Society of Collegiate Scholars Chapter
 - Spring 2024 – ***Present***
- Masters Thesis Committee Roles
 - Isabella Black – Chair
 - Texanna Faulk – Chair

- Kenneth Metiever – Member
- Nathan Endo – Member
- Karli Walker – Member
- Angela Walters – Member
- Conrad Clark – Chair
- Brynna Ogle – Chair

- Colorado Technical University (August 2020 – *Present*)

- Online Adjunct History Faculty
 - Courses:
 - Modern U.S. History 1950 to Present
 - Duties: Conduct lectures via Zoom once a week. Grade Primary Source Analysis assignments. Provide feedback on exams.
- Curriculum Developer:
 - Duties: Create, learning objectives, content, writing assignments, and exams
- University Research Center Advisory Board
 - Duties: Board member; Promote research at CTU through talks/paper presentations AND *The Pinnacle*, an academic journal

- University of Texas, Austin; OnRamps History Assessment Team (August 2019 – June 2021)

- Online Grader
 - Courses:
 - U.S. History (HIS315K and HIS315L)
 - Duties: Grade a two-semester series of college assignments for one or more sections of approximately 30 high school students enrolled in our dual enrollment program. Assignments included two timelines, two midterms, and two final exams throughout the academic year. Delivered timely and thoughtful feedback and scoring using Canvas Speedgrader. Software, rubrics, and scoring calibration were provided by University of Texas – Austin trainers.

- Cornell University

- Visiting Scholar (August 2019 – August 2020)
 - Research and writing on U.S.-Thai public and cultural diplomacy during the Cold War
 - Research on immigration and second-generation Lao Americans; consisting of oral interviews and analysis of Asian-American immigration and assimilation literature
- Lao Language Instructor (August 2019 – May 2020)
 - Duties: Gave weekly lectures, created syllabus/curriculum and assignments, assessed learning and comprehension through exams, written assignments, and discussions; gave feedback through writing assignments, exams, and one-on-one consultations

- State University of New York – Cortland (August 2019 – May 2020)

- History Instructor

- Course:
 - U.S. History survey, 1865 to Present (2000 level), in-person and online
 - Duties: Gave weekly lectures, created syllabus/curriculum and assignments, assessed learning and comprehension through exams, written assignments, and discussions; gave feedback through writing assignments, exams, and one-on-one consultations

- Ohio University

- Instructor (*Summer 2018*)
 - History Instructor (Summer 2018)
 - Course:
 - U.S. History survey, 1865 to Present (2000 level)
 - Duties: Gave weekly lectures, created syllabus/curriculum and assignments, assessed learning and comprehension through exams, written assignments, and discussions; gave feedback through writing assignments, exams, and one-on-one consultations
 - Teaching Assistant (*August 2013 – 2015 and 2016 – 2018*)
 - Courses:
 - U.S. History – Pop Culture (3000 level)
 - U.S. History through Film (3000 level)
 - World Civilization 1500 – Present (1000 level)
 - Guest Lecture – Topic: European Imperialism in Southeast Asia
 - Guest Lecture – Topic: Cold War in Asia
 - Rise of Modern East Asia (2000 level)
 - Western Civilization 1500 – Present (1000 level)
 - Duties: Gave lectures weekly, provided feedback, and graded papers and exams

- Brigham Young University – Missionary Training Center

- Language Instructor (*August 2006 – August 2010*)
 - Languages: Lao and Thai; Vietnamese substitute for 3 months
 - Duties: Instructed grammar, reading, writing, and speaking. Assessed performance and retention
- Language Curriculum Developer (*August 2007 – August 2010*)
 - Language: Lao
 - Duties: Developed curriculum and language materials

Academic Conferences

- 2024 Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, WA.

- Title: “Different Narratives of Lao History and of the Bombings within the Lao-American Community”
- Chair, organizer, and paper panelist
- March 14-16, 2024

- 2023 Southwest Conference on Asian Studies, Houston, TX.

- Title: “Lao Bombing Lao with US Help: The Lao and US Decision-Making Process to Bomb Laos, 1964”
 - Title: “The Lao Crucible: A Look at Lao-Americans in the LDS Church”
 - November 2-4, 2023
- 2023 Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, West Yellowstone, MT.
 - Title: “Lao Bombing Lao with US Help: The Lao and US Decision-Making Process to Bomb Laos, 1964-1965”
 - October 5-6, 2023
- 2023 Association for Asian American Studies, Long Beach, CA.
 - Title: “Those Who Remain: A Look at Lao-Americans in the LDS Church”
- 2023 Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA.
 - Title: “The Decision-Making Process to Bomb Laos, 1964-1965: Souvanna Phouma’s Reluctance to Work with Lyndon B. Johnson’s Administration”
- 2023 Phi Alpha Theta National Conference, Albuquerque, NM
 - Title: Those Who Remain: The Lao-American Experience in the LDS Church
- 2022 International Conference on Lao Studies, Melbourne, Australia
 - Title: “The Beginnings of the Bombing of Laos”
- 2022 Council on Thai Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin
 - Title: “Cold War Intellectuals: The Activities and Rhetoric of Dr. Malai Huvananda and Dr. Somchai Rakwijit”
- 2022 Mormon History Association, Logan, UT
 - Title: Those Who Remain: The Lao-American Experience in the LDS Church
- 2022 Southwestern Social Science Association Conference,
 - Title: “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Equitable Development: A Look at the Thoughts of Cheng Enfu,” co-presenter Isaac Christiansen
- 2021 64th annual American Studies Association of Texas at Midwestern State University,
 - Title: “Everyone Thinks They Know Everything about the Vietnam War”
- 2021 Propaganda and Neutrality: Alternative Battlefields and Active Deflection, University of Kent’s Centre for the History of War, Media and Society,
 - Title: “Lao Neutrality Complicated”
- 2019 Armed Forces, State, and Society in Southeast Asia: Identity, Authority, Legitimacy, Legacy, New York Southeast Asia Network, New York University,
 - Title: “The Making of a Thai Military-Monarchical State”
- 2019 Council on Thai Studies, University of Wisconsin,

- Title: “Thai Nation-Building in the South, 1957 to Present”
- 2019 Sixth International Conference on Lao Studies,
 - Title: “Second Generation Laotian-Americans Learning about Laotian History and Identity”
- 2018 Council on Thai Studies, University of Wisconsin,
 - Title: “U.S.-Thai Public Diplomacy at Its Best”
- 2018 Organization of American Historians,
 - Title: *U.S.-Thai Public Diplomacy in Thailand: The United States Information Service’s and Thai Military-Monarchical Government’s Anti-Communist and Pro-Vietnam War Activities, 1957-1968*
- 2018 American Historical Association’s 132nd Annual Meeting,
 - Title: “Ways of Seeing, Shaping, and Documenting Subjects under Postcolonial Conflicts”
- 2015 Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR),
 - Title: “U.S.-Thai Public Diplomacy: The Beginnings of a Military-Monarchical-Anti-Communist State, 1957-1963”
- 2013 The Fourth International Lao Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison,
 - Title: “The Hmong Discrepancy: The Different Experiences and Memory of the Hmong regarding their Involvement in the U.S. Secret War in Laos during the Viet Nam War”
- 2013 The Fifth Annual Khmer Studies Forum, Ohio University,
 - Title: “Twisting a Good Situation: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen’s Manipulation of the Preah Vihear Temple”
- 2012, Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast Annual Conference, Gonzaga University,
 - Title: “Thailand’s Second Triumvirate: Sarit Thanarat and the military, King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the monarchy and the United States, 1957-1963”

Professional Service

- Member and Contractor – National Language Service Corps (2024 – ***Present***)
 - Assist in language and cultural support for Department of Defense missions in Southeast Asia
- Content Contributor – California Department of Education (Spring 2024)
 - Provided content and devised learning objectives and activities for the Hmong History and Cultural Studies Model Curriculum
 - Assisted Dr. Ger Thao
 - Unit title: “Secret War in Laos” for grades 11-12
- Co-Chair – US-ASEAN Young Professionals Association (2023 – ***Present***)

- Non-profit located in Washington, DC.
 - Chair of Lao section: promoting activities and working with Lao and Lao-Americans
 - Assist in programming and training of young professionals in Southeast Asia
 - Collaborate with other organizations in promoting US-Southeast Asian relations
- Board Member & Secretary – Center for Lao Studies (2022 – **Present**)
- Non-profit located in San Francisco, CA.
 - Support the organizations goals of promoting Lao culture, language, and history
 - Involved in oral history project, study abroad program, academic conferences, and *Journal of Lao Studies*
- Board Member – Thai, Lao, Cambodia Studies Group (May 2023 – **Present**)
- Affiliate of Southeast Asian Council and Association for Asian Studies
 - Coordinate the exchange of information and research across the globe among scholars of Southeast Asian studies
 - Organize grant for TLC panel for Association for Asian Studies yearly conference
 - Promote Thai, Lao, and Cambodian studies
 - <https://web.sas.upenn.edu/tlc/>
- Legacies Library Advisor – NGO Legacies of War (2023 – **Present**)
- Curate books, articles, and media about the war in Laos and lasting impacts of the bombing of Laos
 - Review informational posts about the Secret War in Laos
- Member – Project Steering Committee Member for the establishment of a Lao-American archive (2022 – **Present**)
- Project headed by Dr. Ian Baird at the University of Wisconsin (<https://seasia.wisc.edu/about-the-lao-american-project/>)
 - Henry Luce Foundation funded - \$100,000 for a 3-year pilot project, with the potential for more funding after the initial pilot
 - Acquisition and cataloguing of personal papers and other rare and important documents from the Lao diaspora (immigrant community in the US)
- Member – Phi Alpha Theta (2022 – **Present**)
- Member of regional chapter – Tau Gamma
- Reviewer for *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* article
- March 2024
 - Contact Elizabeth LaPerna
- Reviewer – H-Net Reviews
- Invited to be a reviewer of books for H-Net, specifically works related to War, Security, and Peace (H-War)
 - Mission: An international consortium of scholars and teachers, **H-Net** creates and coordinates networks with the common objective of advancing teaching and research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences

- Reviewing:
 - *In the Year of the Tiger: The War for Cochinchina, 1945-1951*
- Lead Contributor – National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (June 2023)
 - Lead contributor to a virtual pedagogical workshop for K-12 teachers during Fall of 2024 on the topic of “Buddhism”
 - Lead contributor to a virtual pedagogical workshop for K-12 teachers during summer of 2023 on the topic of “Centering Southeast Asia.”
 - Provided training on activities and reflection exercises for teachers
 - Founded in 1998, the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) is an initiative to encourage and facilitate teaching and learning about East Asia in elementary and secondary schools across the United States.
- Participant/Consultant – United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
 - Round Table Discussions about U.S.-Lao relations and Post-COVID Economy Recovery
 - October 13, 2021, November 15, 2021, January 2022, and February 2022
- Reviewer for *Pacific Affairs* journal article
 - January 2022
 - Contact editor, Dr. Hyung-Gu Lynn
- Khmer Studies Forum
 - 2013 and 2014 Conference at Ohio University
 - Planning Acceptance Committee Member
- Graduate Student Senate – Ohio University
 - 2013-2014
 - Commissioner of International Affairs
 - Committee member of OU International Week 2013-2014
 - Planned and organized panel on international gender roles

Non-Peer Reviewed Work:

- 2023 **Book Chapter**
 - “Overcoming the Great Recession: Negotiating Shrinking Budgets and Mishandled Investments, 2009-2012” in *Revised History of Midwestern State University* (Wichita Falls, TX: Midwestern State University Press, 2024)
- 2024 Op-Ed
 - “Rising Voices: The Evolution of Asian-American Studies in the US”
 - For US ASEAN Young Professional Association (organization’s website, <https://www.usaseanypa.org>)
- 2022 Newsletter Essay

- “The Beginning of the Bombing of Laos, 1964”
- For the non-profit Legacies of War’s newsletter, November 15, 2022
<https://www.legaciesofwar.org/post/the-beginnings-of-the-bombing-of-laos-1964?fbclid=IwAR114FyYPQETiFBJDT61tzdpLOb4x7Ip6ZMy7Jofzi-SKwdW1L8UpT9S-X8>
- Re-published in the *Hmong Times*, December 14, 2022 edition,
<https://hmongtimes.com/the-beginnings-of-the-bombing-of-laos-1964/32273/>
- Read on *Radio Talking Book*, a longtime 24/7 service of Minnesota State Services for the Blind
 - <https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/ssb/rtb/rtbArchivedList.aspx> To hear the archived program at your leisure use this link, then click on 7pm "Community Pages & Daily Schedule" at the "Listen Now" link.

Non-Academic Speaking Engagements

- Speaker – US-Cambodia Youth Dialogues – May 23, 2024
 - US-ASEAN Young Professionals Association organized an online dialogue to explore how young Americans and Cambodians can develop connections and relationships to increase their knowledge of culture, history, and current events and build closer US-Cambodia relations. Co-sponsored by the United State Institute of Peace.
- Speaker – United Nations World Humanitarian Day – August 19, 2023
 - US-ASEAN Young Professionals Association organized an online conference to commemorate and discuss the bombing of Laos during the Vietnam War and the impact on the diaspora. Co-sponsored by the United Nations.
- Interviewed and quoted by the History Channel – May 3, 2024
 - “How Dith Pran’s Remarkable Survival Story Exposed Cambodia’s Killing Fields”
 - <https://www.history.com/news/dith-pran-killing-fields-cambodia-khmer-rouge>

Language Skills

- Lao
 - Fluent in speaking, reading, and writing
 - Translating
 - Research government documents, newspapers, and personal collections of former Lao Prime Ministers Souvanna Phouma and Phoui Sananikone
 - Conduct oral interviews
- Thai
 - Semi-fluent in speaking and writing; Fluent in reading
 - Research government documents and newspapers,
 - Conduct field research in 2017 and 2022 in Bangkok at the Thai National Archives and Chulalongkorn University’s Thailand Information Center

Certifications

- Curriculum Developer Training Certificate
 - “Course Development/Subject Matter Expert Series”

- Colorado Technical University, January 11, 2024
- Institutional Review Board Project Accepted (2022)
 - Project approved by the IRB to conduct oral history interviews with Lao-Americans in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to understand their experiences with this Christian sect
 - Midwestern State University

References

- Ian Baird, Professor, University of Wisconsin
 - ibaird@wisc.edu
- John Ashbrook, Former Chair and Associate Professor, Midwestern State University
 - john.ashbrook@msutexas.edu
- Mary Draper, Interim Chair and Associate Professor, Midwestern State University
 - mary.draper@msutexas.edu
- Chester Pach, History Department, Associate Professor, Ohio University
 - pach@ohio.edu
 - Bentley Annex, Athens, Ohio 45701, 740-593-4334
 - Relationship: Dissertation adviser
- Ingo Trauschweizer, History Department, Professor, Ohio University
 - trauschw@ohio.edu
 - 451 Bentley Annex, Athens, Ohio 45701, 740-593-4349
 - Relationship: Dissertation committee member
- Kevin Sheets, Professor, SUNY-Cortland
 - Kevin.Sheets@cortland.edu
 - Old Main, Room 212-B, Cortland, NY, 13045, 607-753-5918
 - Relationship: Department Chair of History
- Assan Sarr, Associate Professor, Ohio University
 - sarr@ohio.edu
 - 407 Bentley Annex, Athens, Ohio 45701, 740-593-4334
 - Relationship: Graduate director of history department, I was his Teacher's Assistant, and I was a guest lecturer twice
- Alec Holcombe, History Department, Associate Professor, Ohio University
 - holcombe@ohio.edu
 - 405 Bentley Annex, Athens, Ohio 45701, 740-593-4334
 - Relationship: Dissertation committee member
- Abigail Cohn, Professor of Linguistics, Cornell University
 - acc4@cornell.edu
 - Morris Hall, Room 226B, Ithaca, NY 14850, 607-255-1105
 - Relationship: Director of Southeast Asian Studies Program
- Mary Callahan, International Studies, Associate Professor, University of Washington
 - mpc@u.washington.edu
 - 400 Thomson Hall, Seattle, WA. 98195, 206-240-4219
 - Relationship: Master Thesis Chair