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THE POLITICS OF CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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The Politics of Cross-border Mobility in Southeast Asia

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Abstract: This Element explains how cross-border mobility defines diplomatic relationships between Southeast Asian states and social and political dynamics within the region's key destination countries. It begins by providing a historically situated discussion of bordering processes within the region, examining evolving historical conceptions of power and sovereignty and processes of bordering in colonial and post-colonial times. It then turns to the political, environmental and economic drivers of contemporary cross-border mobility before examining governments' efforts to manage different kinds of border-crossers and the tensions that these efforts generate. Having discussed the politics of cross-border mobility in host communities, the Element returns to the question of why consideration of bordering practices and cross-border mobility is necessary in understanding contemporary Southeast Asia.

Keywords: refugees, asylum seekers, human trafficking, labour migration, bordering practices

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