URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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Urban Development in Southeast Asia

Elements in Politics and Society in Southeast Asia

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Abstract: Urbanization as a process is rife with inequality, in Southeast Asia as anywhere else, but resistance and contestation persist on the ground. This Element sets out to achieve three goals: 1) to examine the political nature of urban development; 2) to scrutinize the implications of power inequality in urban development discussions; and 3) to highlight topical and methodological contributions to urban studies from Southeast Asia. The key to a robust understanding is groundedness: knowledge about the everyday realities of urban life that are hard to see on the surface but dominate how the city functions, with particular attention to human agency and the political life of marginalized groups. Ignoring politics in research on urbanization essentially perpetuates the power inequities in urban development; this Element thus focuses not just on Southeast Asian cities and urbanization per se but also on critical perspectives on patterns and processes in their development.

Keywords: urban development, cities, urban planning, urban politics, urbanization

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/padawangi

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