

TEACHING AND RESEARCH RELATING TO SOUTHEAST ASIA
IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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PREFACE

The primary basis of this data paper was a report which I prepared for the 1952 meeting of the Far Eastern Association . To this has been added information supplied by participants attending the session where this report was read and also a small amount of additional data derived from questionnaires returned subsequent to the meeting.

Preparation of this report would not have been possible were it not for the generous cooperation of the many individuals who responded to the questionnaires addressed to them. I wish to express my gratitude to them for their helpfulness.

In gathering data on research I am particularly indebted to Dr. Clyde B. Sargent of the State Department's Office of Intelligence Research and to Mrs. Alice Thorner, Executive Secretary of the Joint Committee on Southern Asia for their much appreciated cooperation.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the helpful assistance of Donald Willmott, David Wurfel, and Paul van der Veur in the gathering, processing, and tabulating of the data collected.

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by

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A. Teaching

The information here given is for the academic year 1951/1952. There were two sources for this information:

- 1) inspection of some 1400 catalogues of American colleges and universities, and
- 2) the replies on 210 of 303 questionnaires sent out to individuals at such institutions.

Approximately 90% of the 176 institutions out of the 1400 reporting courses dealing with Southeast Asia (either wholly or in part) were reached through the questionnaires and replied to them. Inspection of the 1400 catalogues indicated that there were only 18 institutions not reached in our questionnaires which gave courses which included Southeast Asia.

I. Courses Dealing Exclusively with Southeast Asia

In compiling this data we were fortunate in being able to give it perspective by comparing it with a somewhat similar survey conducted 10 years ago by Dr. Robert Heine-Gelderen for the East Indies Institute of America (A Survey of Studies on Southeast Asia at American Universities and Colleges, New York, 1943, 34 pp.). In a rough sense his study constitutes a sort of base-line against which the subsequent growth of teaching in the Southeast Asia field can be measured. Heine-Gelderen's data was accumulated on the basis of 992 questionnaires sent to colleges and universities in this country, of which 359 (36%) were returned.

Number of Courses in American Colleges and Universities Dealing Exclusively with Southeast Asia, a Comparison between Heine-Gelderen's 1942 Survey and the Results of the Present (1952) Survey

<u>Department in which offered</u>	<u>1942 Survey</u>	<u>1952 Survey</u>
Anthropology and/or Sociology	5	13
Art	2	1
Geography	6	4
History		7
Political Science	2	11
Area Departments		16
Language	12	20
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T O T A L :	27	72

A breakdown as to language offerings in 1942 as compared to 1952 is indicated by the following tables.

Language Offerings in 1942 according to Heine-Gelderen:

Malay (9 courses)

Taught at: California
Michigan
University of So. Calif.
Stanford
Yale (3 courses)
Walla Walla
Wyoming

Burmese (1 course)

Taught at: Yale

Tagalog (1 course)

Taught at: Johns Hopkins

Thai (1 course)

Taught at: Michigan

Language Offerings, Academic Year 1951/1952

(Number of courses in each language is indicated)

<u>University</u>	<u>Burmese</u>	<u>Indonesian(or Malay)</u>	<u>Tagalog</u>	<u>Thai</u>	<u>Vietnamese</u>
California		3		4	
Cornell		1		2	1
Harvard		1			
Johns Hopkins			1		
Yale	2	2	3		
Total number of courses	2	7	4	6	1
Number of universities offering the courses	1	4	2	2	1

(One or more courses in all these languages were being offered in 1952 at the School of Languages and Linguistics at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute.)

Growth in Non-language Courses Dealing Exclusively with Southeast Asia,
Showing Breakdown by Department and Year of Initiation of Courses
Presently (academic year 1951-1952) Being Given

Department	Year of initiation unknown	Offered before 1943	Added 1943, 1944	Added 1945, 1946	Added 1947, 1948	Added 1949, 1950	51/52	Total Courses being offered 51/52
Anthropology and/or Sociology	1	1		3	1	3	4	13
Art		1						1
Geography	1				1	1	1	4
History		1		1	1	1	3	7
Political Science (incl. Government & Int'l Relations)	3					2	6	11
Area Departments	2		2	1	2	3	6	16
TOTALS, new courses added:	7	3	2	5	5	10	20	
TOTAL of all courses offered:								52

Of the 52 courses offered during the academic year 1951-1952 which dealt with Southeast Asia alone, 10 courses were concerned exclusively with a single country in Southeast Asia. Of these 10 courses, 4 dealt with Viet Nam (3 at Yale and 1 at West Virginia), 4 dealt with Indonesia (California, Stanford, Utah, and Yale), 1 dealt with the Philippines (California), and 1 dealt with Thailand (Cornell). Of these 10 courses, 2 were offered by the departments of Anthropology, 3 by departments of History, 2 by departments of Political Science, and 3 by an area department (Yale).

List of the 21 American Colleges and Universities Offering Courses
Dealing Exclusively with Southeast Asia or one of its Countries in
the Academic Year 1951-1952

Institution	Number of non-language courses offered 1951-1952 and depart- ments wherein given	Number of language courses offered 1951-1952
California (Berkeley)	6 (5 Pol.Sci., 1 Anth.)	7 (4 Thai, 3 Malay)
Chicago	1 (Anth.)	
Colgate	1 (Area Studies)	
Cornell	10 (4 Anth., 1 Hist., 5 Far Eastern Studies)	4 (2 Thai, 1 Indon., 1 Vietnamese)
Goucher	1 (Hist.)	
Harvard		1 (Indon.)
Johns Hopkins		1 (Tagalog)
Kansas	1 (Hist.)	
Michigan	1 (Pol.Sci.)	
Michigan State	1 (Foreign Studies)	
Minnesota	5 (1 Anth., 1 Geog., 3 Pol.Sci.)	
N.Y.U.	2 (1 Art, 1 Pol.Sci.)	
Oregon	1 (Anth.)	
Smith	1 (Hist.)	
Southern California	3 (2 Asiatic Studies, 1 Anth.)	
Stanford	4 (2 Asiatic Studies, 1 Hist., 1 Pol.Sci.)	
Utah	1 (Hist.)	
Washington	2 (1 Far East Studies, 1 Geog.)	
Washington (St. Louis)	1 (Anth.)	
West Virginia	1 (Hist.)	
Yale	9 (3 Anth., 2 Geog., 4 South Asian Studies)	7 (2 Burmese, 2 Indon., 3 Tagalog)
T O T A L :	52	20

During the academic year 1951-1952 there were two area programs in the United States dealing exclusively with Southeast Asia, one at Yale and one at Cornell.

Yale Southeast Asian Studies

Courses 1951-1952:

Nine non-language courses (3 Anthropology, 2 Geography, and 4 South Asian Studies) and seven language courses (2 Burmese, 2 Indonesian, 3 Tagalog).

Courses scheduled to be added during academic year 1952-1953:

Three non-language courses and one language course (Thai).

Graduate Students:

25 graduate students, of whom 4 in Southeast Asia doing field work in connection with doctoral dissertations.

Cornell Southeast Asia Program

Courses 1951-1952:

Ten non-language courses (4 Anthropology, 1 History, and 5 Far Eastern Studies) and four language courses (1 Indonesian, 2 Thai, and 1 Vietnamese).

Courses to be added 1952-1953:

Three non-language courses and three language courses (2 Indonesian and 1 Burmese).

Graduate Students:

28 graduate students, of whom 4 in Southeast Asia doing work in connection with doctoral dissertations.

II. Courses Not Confined to Southeast Asia, but Incorporating it as Part of a Broader Course

The data accumulated by the present survey indicated that while during the academic year 1951-1952 only 21 colleges and universities offered one or more courses relating exclusively to Southeast Asia, there were 176 such institutions offering courses which included Southeast Asia as part of a broader course dealing with the Far East or Asia as a whole. These 176 institutions offered a total of 413 such courses. However, it was possible to secure data concerning only 243 of these courses as to the approximate portion of the course dealing with Southeast Asia.

On the basis of this information it seems reasonable to conclude that in the majority of these courses less than one-quarter of the time is devoted to Southeast Asia. In about one-third of them it appears that no more than 10% of the time is devoted to the area.

A breakdown of these 413 courses by departments offering them is shown in the following table. (In the small minority of cases where information available did not indicate the department classification was made according to the discipline of the professor offering the course.)

Courses on Asia which Included Southeast Asia, 1951-1952

Department	Number of Courses
History	152
Political Science	87
Geography	85
Anthropology and/or Sociology	41
Art	16
Area	12
Economics	11
Religion	6
Language and Linguistics	3
	<hr/>
	413

Conclusions

On the basis of reasonably full data it appears that today the number of courses offered by American colleges and universities which deal exclusively with Southeast Asia is approximately two-and-one-half times as great as in 1942.

The 72 such courses being offered during the academic year 1951-1952 were concentrated in a few institutions. Of the 21 colleges or universities offering such courses only five offered three or more such courses, and only two had integrated area programs focused on Southeast Asia.

The concentration of language teaching was much greater, only three of the five institutions offering Southeast Asian languages having actual language programs (California, Cornell, and Yale).

With respect to the 52 non-language courses dealing exclusively with Southeast Asia the approaches now most emphasized are Area Studies (16), Anthropology (13), and Political Science (11). The striking omission is Economics. The neglect of the humanities is almost as great, only a single course (one in Art) being offered in that field.

The following points were raised during the discussion following the reading of the preliminary draft of this report at the annual meeting of the Far Eastern Association, Boston, April 1952.

- 1) A considerable part of the discussion centered around the great dearth of economists possessing any substantial knowledge of Southeast Asia. It was pointed out that such persons were almost exclusively employed by government agencies, that generally rates of pay were higher in such

agencies than in academic institutions, and that these government agencies currently are in the market for additional personnel possessing such training.

It was stated by several persons that an economist cannot be effective in the Southeast Asian field ~~unless he possesses~~ a considerable knowledge of the area and ~~that in~~ several of the countries this necessitates a knowledge of the local language. One person noted that the movement of economists into the Southeast Asian field is retarded by this necessity of learning a local language because openings for them in the domestic and European field are still plentiful and because a number of universities still insist upon a doctoral candidate's mastering both French and German and refusing to allow substitution of a Southeast Asian language (or Dutch) ~~for one of these~~.

- 2) The need for development of courses on Southeast Asia in the humanities was noted by several people. It was observed that achievement of this was dependent upon more training of students and faculty in the languages of Southeast Asia.

To this end summer language institutes were suggested, most graduate students having inadequate time during the regular school year to master a Southeast Asian language while at the same time carrying loads equal to or greater than other students in their discipline. The hope was expressed that one of the private foundations might finance such a program of summer language schools.

- 3) It was observed that there was an extreme paucity of Southeast Asian literature available in this country as well as of materials for teaching the languages of the area.
- 4) A number of people attested to the great and urgent need for translating into English some of the existing literature of the Southeast Asian countries as well as indigenous materials relating to social and political conditions. It was observed, however, that almost no means existed for accomplishing this and that financial assistance from outside the universities would be necessary if significant progress is to be achieved.

B. The Status of Research Concerned with Southeast Asia, January - March, 1952

The period on which the report is based is January through March 1952. Research completed in 1951 is omitted. Only research indicated as being carried on in the first 3 months of 1952 is here reported.

Data concerning research was obtained from 3 sources:

- 1) 210 questionnaires (from 303 sent out).
- 2) Lists on current research on Southeast Asia prepared by the External Research Staff of the Office of Intelligence Research of the State Department
- 3) Lists on current research in the area prepared by the Joint Committee on Southern Asia.

On the basis of the data accumulated, there appear to be 149 persons in this country engaged in research on Southeast Asia as of the period January - March, 1952. (This figure includes graduate students.) The 149 persons were working on 203 items of research. Of this number (203) 132 were designated as to general classification. Of these 132:

14 were M.A. dissertations,
 35 were Ph.D. dissertations,
 43 were expected to be books, monographs, or reports,
 40 were expected to appear as articles or chapters of books.

(No classification was given for 71 items.)

With respect to 86 of the 203 items, their authors anticipated publication. With regard to the other 117 items, publication was considered unlikely, or no indication as to publication prospects was given.

Of these 203 items of research, 184 were identifiable as to the area of Southeast Asia to which they related.

Of these 184 items which could be so identified, 52 related to Southeast Asia as a whole and 8 to Southeast Asia as a part of a study embracing the whole of Asia. The remainder of the pieces of research in progress focused upon a particular country. Here the breakdown ran as follows (it being noted that only 9 out of the 149 individuals wrote on more than one country, in almost every one of such cases on only two):

Philippines	34 items
Indonesia	27
Thailand	21
Indochina	15
Burma	14
Malaya	13
Sarawak	0
Brunei	0
Br. N. Borneo	0
Portugese Timor	0

All but 10 of the 149 persons undertaking this research could be identified by discipline.

Of these 139 individuals:

44 were in Political Science (including International Relations)
 28 were in Anthropology and/or Sociology
 18 were in Geography
 18 were in History
 10 were in Linguistics
 7 were in Zoology and Botany
 6 were in Economics
 5 were in Education
 1 was in Archeology
 1 was in Medicine
 1 was in Religion.

Of these 139 persons, 66 (about 48%) were basing their work entirely or in part on field research already completed or which was to be undertaken during the course of this year. (In the large majority of these cases the field work had already been undertaken.)

100% of the 7 persons in Botany and Zoology were basing their research on field work; each of the single individuals in Archeology and Medicine were doing likewise.

80% or 4 of the 5 persons in Education were basing their research on field work.

61% or 17 out of the 28 in Anthropology	"	"	"
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56% or 10 out of the 18 in Geography	"	"	"
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40% or 4 out of 10 in Linguistics	"	"	"
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34% or 15 out of 44 in Political Science	"	"	"
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33% or 2 out of 6 in Economics	"	"	"
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28% or 5 out of 18 in History	"	"	"
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The single person in the discipline of Religion was not doing his research on the basis of field work.

The following is a breakdown as to the character of the 203 items upon which research was being done. The categories employed are undoubtedly somewhat arbitrary, but it is hoped that they help give a fairly clear picture of the pattern of emphasis. Of the 203 items, 118 were being done on the basis of field research (57.6%), and 85 were not.

Character of Research	Total number of studies	Based upon field work	Not based upon field work
Geography	16	9	7
Linguistics	17	9	8
Anthropology	33 (8 village studies)	28 (7 village studies)	5
Minorities	11	9	2
Agriculture, both technical and sociological aspects	8	6	2
Economics	9	4	5
Int'l Political & Economic Relations	23	12	11
Govt'l Organization & Policy	19	7	12
Nationalism and Politics	21	10	11
Religion	2	0	2
Archeology	6	4	2
Nutrition and Medicine	6	3	3
Education	6	4	2
History, insofar as not classi- fiable under above	7	2	5
Others	19	11	8

It should be noted that art and literature are outstanding omissions and that the work being done in economics is even on a relative basis very slight.

The above data does not include the project which Harvard is now readying for the field. This involves seven graduate students under the direction of Prof. Douglas Oliver representing the fields of ~~social anthropology~~, Far Eastern history, sociology and social psychology. They are preparing for a field study of the Wonosobo area of Central Java which they plan to carry out in conjunction with staff and students from Gadjah Mada University. The emphasis of this research is to be on political behavior and the group has a particular interest in the nature of the relationship between the Chinese and Indonesians in this community. The seven students will go into the field this fall and expect to remain a year and a half.

Also, not included in these statistics is a village study now being carried out in the Bangkok plain under the direction of Prof. Lauriston Sharp of Cornell and including Prof. Hazel Hauck of the Department of Nutrition of that university (to be joined in February by Prof. Lucien Hanks of the Department of Psychology at Bennington College) and two Cornell graduate students - one in agricultural economics and the other in sociology. This is primarily a study of the impact of economic and technological change on the traditional culture, the foundation of the study being laid by Prof. Sharp and one of these graduate students during a year's field work in this village and its surrounding area in 1948 and 1949. In carrying out this project they will have the cooperation of the Cornell Southeast Asia Program's Field Office in Bangkok.

Cornell University
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