

Summer Semester 2022

## SDAC Guest Lecture Series

The Constitutional Culture of Bricolage in Thailand:  
Law, Religion and Monarchy

Eugénie Mérieau

University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the Sorbonne Institute of  
Philosophical and Legal ResearchMonday  
13.06.22  
18-20:00 c.t.  
Via Zoom

Eugénie Mérieau is Associate Professor of Public Law at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France, and a member of the Sorbonne Institute of Legal and Philosophical Sciences (ISJPS). She is the author of *Constitutional Bricolage: Thailand's Sacred Monarchy vs. the Rule of Law* (Oxford: Hart, 2021).

In this talk, Dr. Mérieau will present her latest book: *Constitutional Bricolage: Thailand's Sacred Monarchy vs. the Rule of Law*. This book analyses the unique constitutional system in operation in Thailand as a continuous process of bricolage between various Western constitutional models and Buddhist doctrines of Kingship. Reflecting on the category of 'constitutional monarchy' and its relationship with notions of the rule of law, it investigates the hybridised semi-authoritarian, semi-liberal monarchy that exists in Thailand. By studying constitutional texts and political practices in light of local legal doctrine, the book shows that the monarch's affirmation of extraordinary prerogative powers strongly rests on wider doctrinal claims about constitutionalism and the rule of law. This finding challenges commonly accepted assertions about Thailand, arguing that the King's political role is not the remnant of the 'unfinished' borrowing of Western constitutionalism, general disregard for the law, or cultural preference for 'charismatic authority', as generally thought.

This event will be held online via zoom. Please contact Prof. Dr. Viola Thimm to register (viola.thimm@fau.de).

ELITE MASTER'S PROGRAM  
Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures