Supported by recent ASEAN and ADB policies and investments, mainland Southeast Asia’s socially and environmentally significant border landscapes are becoming more politically and economically connected. In these rapidly changing environments, social actors negotiate complex social relations and livelihoods, new markets and the opportunities and risks of greater connectivity. Cross-border commodity flows, movement and infrastructure are central to this. Smaller scale flows of commodities and people may not be well covered in national statistics, but their aggregated impacts on local economies and landscapes may be substantial.

This workshop aims to facilitate scholarly comparative discussion on mainland Southeast Asia’s cross-border flows (of commodities, people), their connection to borderland livelihoods and identities, and their role in connecting border regions to wider national and transnational domains. The workshop will consider the significance of small to medium scale cross-border trade for local livelihoods, landscapes and mainland Southeast Asia’s dynamic societies.

Papers will address the following themes:

- borderland livelihoods
- migration and mobility
- gendered trade
- border networks and minority ethnicity in SE Asia
- timber and land-based commodity flows
- cross-border wildlife trade

This workshop is supported by the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific’s Crawford School of Public Policy, School of Culture, History and Language and Research School of Asia and the Pacific; Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University, Hanoi; and The Forest Trends Association.