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ABSTRACT NO. 1 / 2025

1. Nguyen Van Suu: *Local Sustainable Development in Vietnam: Approaches, Practices and Policy Implications*

Abstract: This article analyses various theoretical issues related to development, including the concept of development, development approaches, local development, and development practices in Vietnam. It argues that local development must, first and foremost, be development in the locality and for the locality, but not necessarily development entirely of or by the locality. Instead, local development has diverse dynamics, including development from below, development from above, and a combination of both. Local sustainable development policies should encourage development from below, leverage the advantages of hybrid development from below and above, selectively utilise development from above, and recognise the role of anthropologists.

Keywords: Local sustainable development, development from above, development from below, hybrid development, development in Vietnam.

2. Seb Rumsby: *Historical Continuities and Changes in the Ethnic Politics of Hmong-Miao Millenarianism*

Abstract: Millenarian movements used to be regarded as native reactions to enormous social disruptions caused by colonial intrusion, doomed to failure and at best a step on the way to more “modern” forms of collective social resistance. In fact, they have both pre-dated and outlasted colonialism, featuring in ethnic politics across Asia and beyond to this day. Nevertheless, its encounter with modernity has not left millenarianism unchanged, as is shown in this article’s historical case study. A comprehensive timeline and mapping of past and present Hmong-Miao millenarian activity is analysed according to two historical processes: “ethnicisation” and “territorialisation”. The mechanisms of reproduction and transformation are then compared with millenarian activity from other groups of upland Southeast Asia. Millenarianism continues to play a role in voicing social discontent, challenging power structures and moulding ethnic relations, but needs to be examined and understood within evolving socio-political contexts.

Keywords: Millenarianism, Hmong, Southeast Asian upland.

3. Bon Si Mon Ca Na An: *Changes in Kinship and Community Relations of the Bru-Van Kieu People in Ea Hiu Commune, Krong Pac District, Dak Lak Province*

Abstract: The Bru-Van Kieu ethnic communities have traditionally maintained relationships of mutual dependence in agricultural production, rituals, cultural activities, and beliefs. Based on field research and existing documents, this article examines changes in the social structure and certain relationships within this ethnic community, particularly among the Bru-Van Kieu group in Ea Hiu Commune, Krong Pac District, Dak Lak

Province - where they migrated and settled more than half a century ago. These changes have been influenced not only by modernisation and the market economy but also by factors such as the spread of new religions and the decline of traditional beliefs.

Keywords: Transformation, kinship, community relations, Bru-Van Kieu, Ea Hiu Commune.

4. Ta Thi Anh: Transformation of Cross-Border Ethnic Relations in Ha Giang Province Under the Impact of the Vietnam–China Border Fence

Abstract: In early 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, the Chinese government, implementing its "Zero Covid" policy, began constructing a solid border fence between Vietnam and China. After more than four years, most of the secondary border gates and crossings along Ha Giang province's border remain closed to customs and trade, while trails and pathways for local people are no longer accessible. This has directly affected the lives of ethnic groups, altering relationships between those living on both sides of the Vietnam–China border. This article analyses and clarifies the impact of the border fence on cross-border ethnic relations in Ha Giang province, focusing on economic activities, social life, and cultural exchange.

Keywords: Ethnic relations, cross-border, border fence, Vietnam, China.

5. Dang Nang Hoa: The Problem of Preserving Traditional Cham Musical Instruments in the Present Period

Abstract: The traditional musical instruments of the Cham people in our country once encompassed many genres. Over time, some have been lost, but those that remain still form a complete orchestra with its full set and function. As each instrument or group of instruments is closely associated with specific rituals and festivals of the Cham people, they are an indispensable part of the ethnic group's cultural life, embodying the soul of festivals and folk religious activities within the community. Based on various published documents and survey data from Cham areas, this article clarifies the role of traditional musical instruments in the spiritual life of the Cham people, examines their current state of preservation, and offers recommendations and solutions to safeguard and promote their value in the present period.

Keywords: Cham people, traditional musical instruments, folk music, conservation.

6. Nguyen Thi Tam: Aesthetic and Symbolic Values in the Natural and Socio-Cultural Environment of the Chut Ethnic Group in Quang Binh Province

Abstract: This article explores the aesthetic and symbolic values of the natural and socio-cultural environment of the Chut people in Quang Binh Province. It highlights how elements of the natural environment strongly influence the culture of this ethnic group, as reflected in their houses, bark clothing, traditional dishes, musical instruments, production

tools, religious activities, and festivals. The aesthetic and symbolic values discussed in the article serve as important cultural materials, aiding individuals and researchers in selecting and shaping community attire that embodies the cultural identity of the Chut people.

Keywords: Aesthetic value, symbolism, natural environment, culture-society, Chut ethnic group, Quang Binh Province.

7. Duong Thi Kim Hoa: The Value of Buddhist Life Cycle Rituals in Long An Province in the Context of Southern Culture

Abstract: The value of Buddhist life cycle rituals in Long An province, within the context of Southern culture, is evident in ceremonies performed for individuals from birth to death. These include rituals related to birth, the full moon, the cradle ceremony, the exam-passing prayer ceremony, the Three Jewels refuge ceremony, the Ullambana ceremony (Filial Piety), the blessing of life, the ceremony of praying for peace and repentance, and funerals. Each of these ceremonies involves significant rites, not only for the individual beneficiaries but also as representations of the broader values of Buddhist life cycle rituals in Long An province specifically and the Southern region in general. The research findings indicate that the values expressed through these rituals include reinforcing social norms, providing educational significance, strengthening community cohesion, and preserving the traditional culture of Buddhists.

Keywords: Values, life cycle rituals, Buddhism, culture, Long An, Southern.

8. Hoang Van Duong, Ly Xuan Thanh, Dang Thi Oanh: Exploiting the Cultural Value of Si Ma Cai Market to Support Local Tourism Development

Abstract: The kermis is a unique cultural feature closely associated with many aspects of the lives of ethnic groups across various regions of our country. It serves as a venue for buying and selling activities, goods exchange, cultural interactions, arts, cuisine, and more, attracting tourists. In particular, the market provides an opportunity for people to express their distinctive cultural nuances, contributing to the preservation and promotion of local cultural identity. This article, by highlighting the strengths of Si Ma Cai market culture in Lao Cai province, identifies the opportunities and challenges associated with this cultural practice and proposes recommendations and solutions to effectively harness its value for tourism development.

Keyword: Kermis, cultural values, Si Ma Cai, tourism.

9. Phan Thi Ngan, Truong Phuc Hai: Agricultural Tourism: Towards Sustainable Development Balancing Economy, Culture, and Environment in Ben Tre Province

Abstract: *Ben Tre has favourable geo-natural potential for developing agricultural tourism. This represents a dual livelihood strategy that not only enhances the rural economy but also mitigates the impacts of climate change, preserves the natural environment and ecosystems, and safeguards the cultural traditions of local communities in Ben Tre, particularly in the districts of Chau Thanh, Mo Cay Nam, and Thanh Phu. Agricultural tourism is built on the foundation of local elements such as the agricultural economy, traditional culture, and natural environment. This approach ensures the long-term sustainability of agricultural production activities, characterised by openness and resilience.*

Keywords: *Agritourism, sustainable development, rural areas, Ben Tre.*

10. Nguyen Duong Giang, Trinh Minh Quan: *Experiencing Japanese Omakase-Style Restaurants: Lessons Learned for Building Unique Culinary Tourism Products in Vietnam*

Abstract: *Omakase-style dining is a distinctive form of Japanese cuisine in which diners entrust the chef to select their dishes. An Omakase meal offers not only exquisite food but also an opportunity to witness the chef's skill and creativity while learning about ingredient combinations and seasoning techniques. To enhance the tourist experience through local cuisine, destinations and service establishments can adopt various strategies to create cultural and economic value for the local community. These include offering unique local culinary experiences, enhancing tourist interaction and education, creating personalised dining experiences, focusing on the quality and creativity of dishes, building strong relationships with local communities, and encouraging the preservation and innovation of traditional dishes and cooking techniques.*

Keywords: *Japanese restaurant, Omakase, gastronomy tourism.*