



## ENGAGING WITH VIETNAM: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUE

### Engaging With Vietnam 15th Anniversary Series of Events

#### Overarching Theme:

***" Knowledge Production, Education, Creative Industries, Vietnam, and the World: What, How, When, Why, Who, What If, and So What?"***

**Time: 2024-2025**

2024-2025 marks the fifteenth year in the journey of the establishment and development of the annual Engaging With Vietnam Conference series - a conference series founded by Professor Phan Lê Hà in 2009 and co-led with Liam C. Kelley. Over the years, Phan Le Ha and Liam C. Kelley, in collaboration with various partners in and outside Vietnam, have organized 14 *Engaging With Vietnam* conferences in Vietnam, Australia, the United States, the Netherlands, and Japan. On this special milestone occasion, Engaging With Vietnam is pleased to announce that in 2024-2025, a series of interconnected events (of varying scales) will take place, all under the overarching theme of the 15th Engaging With Vietnam Conference.

**Activities-Events/Time/Locations:** There will be a series of events taking place in various locations in Vietnam and other countries throughout 2024-2025. Each event (of varying scale) will have an in-depth focus on a core topic and will be connected to the overarching theme of EWV#15.

The following series of events will be organized by Engaging With Vietnam in coordination with various partners in Vietnam and internationally:

- **EWV#15 Event 1 - EWV#15 KICK-OFF Opening Event:** August 28-31, 2024, Hue, Vietnam, a small-scale, boutique event, with an in-depth focus on Đông Dương/Indochine/Indochina (The Program is enclosed);
- **EWV#15 Event 2:** Expected date: December 2024, location: Đà Lạt, Việt Nam, a small-scale, boutique event (More information will be announced soon).
- **EWV#15 Event 3:** Expected date: March 2025, expected location: Laos (More information will be announced soon).
- **EWV#15 Event 4:** Expected date: July 2025, expected location: France (More information will be announced soon).
- **EWV#15 Event 5 - The main event concluding the 15th anniversary series:** The annual Engaging With Vietnam conference. This will be a large-scale, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary conference, organized by Engaging With Vietnam in collaboration with the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Arts, VNU Hanoi; Date: October 2025; Location: Hanoi (Specific information will be announced later).

We look forward to your participation in these events so we all can reflect upon and celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> year in the journey of the establishment and development of ***Engaging With Vietnam!***

Warmly,

Phan Le Ha & Liam C. Kelley

Founders, *Engaging With Vietnam*

Conveners and Organizers, Engaging With Vietnam Conference Series

[engagingwithvietnam.org/](http://engagingwithvietnam.org/)



## ENGAGING WITH VIETNAM #15 KICK-OFF (EWV#15 EVENT 1)

### Focal Theme

***“Đông Dương/Indochine/Indochina: Lịch Sử, Ký Ức, Chiêm Nghiệm, & Tương Tác Đương Đại” / “Đông Dương/Indochine/Indochina: Histories, Memories, Reflections, & Contemporary Interactions”***

**28-31/2024, Huế, Việt Nam**

### Organizing Partners:

**Engaging With Vietnam, Thừa Thiên Huế Province’s Department of Culture and Sports, University of Arts - Huế University, Center for the Protection of the Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Huế**

Đông Dương (Indochine in French, and Indochina in English) refers to a group of colonial territories and protectorates that the French established in the nineteenth century and controlled until the mid-twentieth century, covering the entire area of today’s Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and part of Guangdong province, China. This was a pivotal period in the history of Vietnam and the region. The Đông Dương era shaped and influenced the geopolitical landscape and international relations in the region and globally throughout the 20th century.

Within the framework of this event, we will focus on Đông Dương in the context of Vietnam. Đông Dương encompasses a broad spectrum of meanings, thoughts, and connections. It is an entity closely associated with revolutionary movements, the Indochina Wars, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, and also linked to reforms and overhauls in various aspects such as administration, law, culture, society, education, academia, transportation, taxation, and commerce. Đông Dương is also connected to the introduction and formation of new values in the Vietnamese society of that era.

Đông Dương, from single-discipline and interdisciplinary perspectives, is a subject of study across various fields such as history, political science, Asian studies, regional studies, diplomacy and international relations, medicine, agriculture, geography, anthropology, law, postcolonial studies, migration, gender studies, ethnology, fine arts, architecture, literature, education, sociology, linguistics, theater, cinema, music, tourism, etc. Numerous research works related to Đông Dương have been published globally and in Vietnam. Đông Dương is often referred to as a style, a spirit, and a character with unique formats, colors, and sounds. It has witnessed and nurtured cultural and stylistic interchanges in painting, architecture, music, fashion, attire, aesthetics, poetry, cuisine, entertainment, publishing, printing, and advertising, among others, characterized by distinctive, refined, inspiring, and timelessly appealing creations.

The EWV#15 Kick-off event with the theme of “Đông Dương/Indochine/Indochina” will include in-depth talks by scholars and researchers from various fields. In addition to thematic presentations and discussions, this scholarly forum will feature artistic activities such as music performances, installations, displays of photographs, paintings, and sketches, and film screenings, etc. The program will take place in various venues in Huế (plus Đà Nẵng), as well as on the heritage train connecting Huế and Đà Nẵng. The event is organized by Engaging With Vietnam and its partners in Vietnam.

We look forward to your participation!

Warmly,

Phan Le Ha & Liam C. Kelley

Founders, *Engaging With Vietnam*

Conveners and Organizers, Engaging With Vietnam Conference Series

Together with Members of the Organizing Committee:

Dr. Phan Thanh Hải (Director, Thừa Thiên Huế Province’s Department of Culture and Sports)

Dr. Phan Lê Chung (Chairman of the University Board, University of Arts – Huế University)

Architect Hoàng Việt Trung (Director, Center for the Protection of the Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Huế)

## PROGRAM

**28/8/2024: Wednesday**

**Location: Main Hall, University of Fine Arts University of Huế, 10 Tô Ngọc Vân**

### **8h30: Opening Ceremony**

Opening and Welcome Speeches

Talk by Professor Thái Kim Lan (Lan Viên Cổ Tích, Hương River Antique Pottery Museum)

### **9:30-12:30: Session 1 - Đông Dương: Hội họa, Mỹ thuật, và Tương tác đương đại / Indochina: Painting, Fine Arts, and Contemporary Interactions**

Moderator: Nguyễn Sử (Art researcher and PhD candidate, Waseda University, Japan)

“Họa sĩ Trịnh Hữu Ngọc - Di sản đặc biệt của Mỹ thuật Đông Dương” [Painter/Artist Trịnh Hữu Ngọc - A Special Legacy of the Indochinese College of Fine Arts] (Artist and Translator Trịnh Lữ, Hà Nội)

“Huế trong Hội họa và Mỹ thuật Đông Dương” [Hue in Indochinese Paintings and Fine Arts] (Associate Professor Phan Thanh Bình, Former Rector of University of Arts - Huế University)

“Tranh Đông Dương trên các sàn đấu giá quốc tế và những câu chuyện phía sau” [Indochinese Paintings at International Auctions and the Stories Behind Them] (Kevin Vương, Art researcher and PhD candidate, Hamburg University, Germany)

\*\*\* Note: There will be breaks with tea and coffee between sessions

### **12:30-13:30: Lunch**

### **14:00–17:00: Visit Kiến Trung Palace & other Sites from the Indochina-era in the Citadel**

### **18:00-21:00: Dinner + Storytelling Night “Hue, Indochina, and the Heritage of Kiến Trung Palace”**

**Location: The Art Space "Phía Sau Những Cánh Cửa - Dạ Khúc Mưa" [Behind Doors – The Melody of Rain], 3 Phạm Ngũ Lão**

Participants: Guests from several entities in Hue, including the Department of Culture and Sports, the Center for the Protection of the Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Huế, Department of Tourism, research institutes and universities; & the project management team, architects, engineers, painters, and artisans involved in the ideation, design, and reconstruction of Kiến Trung Palace. (Attendance: conference delegates and invited guests)

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**29/8/2024: Thursday**

**Location: Main Hall, University of Fine Arts University of Huế, 10 Tô Ngọc Vân**

**8h30-12h30: Session 2 – Trào lưu và Giá trị tư tưởng đầu thế kỷ 20: Phụ nữ, Tân nhạc, Kiến trúc, & Giới Trí thức / Trends and Ideological Values of the Early 20th Century: Women, Modern Music, Architecture, & Intellectuals**

Moderators: Professor Phan Lê Hà (Founder of Engaging With Vietnam) & Dr. Nguyễn Thụy Phương (University of Geneva, Switzerland, & Université Paris Cité, France)

“Phấn son tô điểm sơn hà: Trình diễn giới nữ của Phụ nữ tân văn” [Beautifying the Nation: The Representation of Women in Phụ Nữ Tân Văn] (Dr. Phùng Hà Thanh, University of Foreign Languages and International Studies, VNU Hà Nội)

“Đại học Đông Dương: Từ phong trào bài hát thanh niên lịch sử đến chủ nghĩa quốc tế” [Đông Dương University: From the Historical Youth Song Movement to Internationalism] (Writer and researcher Nguyễn Trương Quý, Hà Nội)

“Tái tạo không gian thiêng- Cách tân trong kiến trúc chùa Việt Nam giai đoạn 1900-1960” [Re/creating Sacred Spaces - Innovations in Vietnamese Temple Architecture from 1900-1960] (Nguyễn Sử, PhD candidate, Waseda University)

*"Người trí thức và thời cuộc: Nhìn từ cuộc đời, tâm thế và sáng tạo của Kiến trúc sư Tạ Mỹ Duật"* [Intellectuals and the Times: Reflections on the Life, Mindset, and Creations of Architect Tạ Mỹ Duật] (Architect, Dr. Lê Phước Anh, School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Arts, VNU Hà Nội)

\*\*\* Note: There will be breaks with tea and coffee between sessions

**12:30-13:30: Lunch**

**13:30-14:30: Coffee and Interaction with Artists: Visit the Silk Painting Studio of Artist Lê Việt Trung**

**14:30-18:30: Session 3 - Cải Cách và Cách Tân Đầu Thế Kỷ 20: Giáo dục, Khoa cử, Luật pháp, Chính trị, & Không gian thiêng / Reforms and Innovations in the Early 20th Century: Education, Examinations, Law, Politics, & Sacred Spaces**

Moderator: Writer and researcher Nguyễn Trương Quý

“Giáo dục Canh tân (Progressive Education) thập niên 1940: Thử nghiệm sư phạm của mạng lưới hướng đạo sinh và những nhà thiện nghĩa” [Progressive Education in the 1940s: Pedagogical Experiments of the Scout Network and Philanthropists] (Dr. Nguyễn Thụy Phương, University of Geneva, Switzerland, & Université Paris Cité, France)

“Cải cách khoa cử đầu thế kỷ 20: Vai trò quan trọng ít được biết đến của triều Nguyễn và trí thức người Việt” [Reforming the Civil Service Exam (khoa cử) in the Early 20th Century: The Lesser-Known Important Role of the Nguyễn Dynasty and Vietnamese Intellectuals] (Associate Professor Dr. Liam C. Kelley, Engaging With Vietnam / Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei)

“The Colonies Strike Back: When the colonial learned from the colonized - Từ phòng thí nghiệm thuộc địa tới xã hội chính quốc: trường hợp Việt Nam thuộc Pháp” [From Colonial Laboratory to Metropolitan Society: The Case of French Colonial Vietnam] (Associate Professor Dr. Trần Kiên, University of Law, VNU Hà Nội)

“Những cải cách chính trị của Hoàng đế Bảo Đại nhìn từ tư liệu lưu trữ” [Political Reforms of Emperor Bảo Đại: An Archival Research] (Dr. Lê Nam Trung Hiếu, Duy Tân University, Đà Nẵng)

“Quá trình kiến tạo hình ảnh Đức Mẹ La Vang thời Đông Dương” [The Creation of Our Lady of La Vang in French Indochina: Local Meanings Wrapped by the Western Form] (Dương Văn Biên, Universiti Brunei Darussalam & Institute for Religious Studies, VASS Hà Nội)

\*\*\* Note: There will be breaks with tea and coffee between sessions

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**Friday, 30/8/2024**


## **Taking the Huế - Đà Nẵng Heritage Train**

**7:45: Depart from Huế station (train HD1), arrive at Đà Nẵng station around 10:35**

**11:00-14:00: Discussing Đông Dương/Indochine/Indochina and the Creative Cultural Industry at Coffee and Art Spaces in Da Nang**

**Sketch Walk/Sketch Tour, Sketch Talk and Sharing with Urban Sketchers Vietnam**

**15:00: Board train HD4 at Đà Nẵng station, arriving in Huế at 17:45**



ĐƯỜNG SẮT VIỆT NAM

Huế - Lăng Cô





Lăng Cô - Đà Nẵng

Huế - Đà Nẵng

Lăng Cô - Huế

Đà Nẵng - Lăng Cô

Đà Nẵng - Huế



GIỚI THIỆU

### Đoàn tàu du lịch "Kết nối di sản miền Trung"

Với thời gian di chuyển khoảng 3 giờ đồng hồ, đoàn tàu sẽ đưa du khách đi qua đèo Hải Vân - nơi được mệnh danh là "Thiên hạ đệ nhất hùng quan" để đến với Đà Nẵng - nơi sở hữu bờ biển được tôn vinh là một trong sáu bãi biển đẹp nhất hành tinh. Và ở chiều ngược lại (Đà Nẵng - Huế), du khách sẽ được đặt chân đến miền đất di sản - cố đô Huế. Từ trên tàu, du khách có thể ngắm nhìn khung cảnh thiên nhiên hùng vĩ, tuyệt đẹp, nơi giao thoa giữa 2 miền Nam - Bắc với một bên là dãy Trường Sơn trùng điệp, một bên là biển cả mênh mông.

**Các đoàn tàu đi từ Huế đến Đà Nẵng**

Số hiệu tàu	Ga Huế	Ga Lăng Cô	Ga Đà Nẵng
HD1	7:45	9:12	10:35
HD3	14:25	16:22	17:40

**Các đoàn tàu đi từ Đà Nẵng đến Huế**

Số hiệu tàu	Ga Đà Nẵng	Ga Lăng Cô	Ga Huế
HD2	07:50	09:16	11:05
HD4	15:00	16:26	17:45

Source: <https://ketnoidisan.dsvn.vn/>

\*\*\* Note: Information on purchasing train tickets will be included in the conference registration form, which will be available on <https://engagingwithvietnam.org/> .

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**Saturday, 31/8/2024**

**Location: Main Hall, University of Fine Arts University of Huế, 10 Tô Ngọc Vân**

**8:00-9:00: Morning Coffee and Interaction with Artists: Visit the Lacquer Workshop of Artist Đỗ Kỳ Huy**

**9:00-12:00: Session 5 - Công nghiệp sáng tạo & văn hóa: Tác phẩm & dự án điện ảnh có bối cảnh/chất liệu Đông Dương (Phần 1) / Creative Industries & Culture: Films & Projects with Đông Dương/Indochinese Settings/Materials (Part 1)**

**9h00-10h30:** Xem phim “Kiếp Hoa” [View the film “Life of a Flower”] (film introduction by Writer and researcher Nguyễn Trương Quý)

**10:45-11:45:** Giới thiệu dự án phim điện ảnh “Hoàng Hậu Cuối Cùng” với cảm hứng từ cuộc đời của Nam Phương Hoàng Hậu, và bối cảnh quay tại Huế” [Introduction to “The Last Empress” Film Project Inspired by the Life of Empress Nam Phương, with Filming Locations in Hue] (Dr. Phan Thanh Hải, Department of Culture and Sports of Thừa Thiên Huế Province, & Directors / Producers Bảo Nhân & Namcito)

\*\*\* Note: There will be breaks with tea and coffee between sessions

**12h00-13h00: Lunch**

**13:30-15:00: Phiên 5 - Công nghiệp sáng tạo & văn hóa: Tác phẩm & dự án điện ảnh có bối cảnh/chất liệu Đông Dương (Phần 2) / Creative Industries & Culture: Films & Projects with Indochinese Settings/Materials (Part 2)**

Chair and moderator: Writer and researcher Nguyễn Trương Quý

Participants: Directors / Producers Bảo Nhân & Namcito, Associate Professor Trần Thị An (School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Arts, VNU Hà Nội), Architect Trần Quang Trung (ACCESS Design Lab), Professor Phan Lê Hà (Founder of Engaging With Vietnam, & University College London, UK)

**15:15-16:30: Session 6 - Kiến trúc phương Tây trong kiến trúc cung đình Huế / Western Architecture in the Palace Architecture of Huế**

Chair and moderator: Architect Hoàng Việt Trung (Director of the Center for the Protection of the Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Huế)

“Giới thiệu các công trình kiến trúc kiểu Đông Dương trong hệ thống kiến trúc cung đình Huế” [Introduction to Đông Dương/Indochinese-Style Structures in the Imperial Architecture System of Huế] (Dr. Phan Thanh Hải, Department of Culture and Sports of Thừa Thiên Huế Province)

**16:45: Closing Ceremony**

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**Exhibitions and Displays During the Conference (28-31/8/2024)**

**Location: The Art Space "Phía Sau Những Cánh Cửa - Dạ Khúc Mưa" [Behind the Doors – The Melody of Rain], 3 Phạm Ngũ Lão.**



- Collections related to tân nhạc/modern music, old music; embroidery and costumes, jewelry, accessories from the Đông Dương period or subsequent creations inspired by Đông Dương;
- Artbooks, artworks/paintings/photographs/sketches on the theme of Đông Dương;
- Works from the project “Mid-Autumn - Our Moon” by art researcher Kevin Vương, PhD candidate at the University of Hamburg, Germany

We look forward to seeing you at the EWV#15 KICK-OFF EVENT conference in Huế!

Warmly,

Engaging With Vietnam, Thừa Thiên Huế Province Department of Culture and Sports, University of Fine Arts University of Huế, Center for the Protection of the Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Huế

\*\*\*\*\* All conference delegates need to fill out the registration form available on the website ([engagingwithvietnam.org/](http://engagingwithvietnam.org/)); The registration form includes information about the Hue - Da Nang heritage train journey; Registration is open until August 20, 2024.

