



Call for Applications

DeCoSEAS Visiting Fellowship 2024

The Fellowship

Decolonizing Southeast Asian Sound Archives (DeCoSEAS) grants up to four Southeast Asian candidates a three-month fellowship to work with one or more audio-visual collections located in other Southeast Asian institutions. Successful applicants will commence their research in the first quarter of 2024, starting in February or March depending on the arrangement with the host institution.

1. Eligibility

The fellow can be an artist, curator, activist, scholar, or other stakeholders of the sonic repertoire they intend to consult for research, artistic, performance, curatorial, ritual, or private purposes. Profile:

1. **National AND resident of Southeast Asia.** The applicant's address must be in SEA during the application process as well as the time of the fellowship. SEA nationals living or studying abroad (outside SEA) are automatically disqualified.
2. The archive of choice should be in a different city than the researcher's home institution or place of residence. Applicants cannot apply for an institution that is in the same city as their residence. (Acceptable options: from Manila doing research in Hanoi, or a Resident of Jogjakarta doing research in Jakarta.)
3. Early or mid-career artist, curator, activist, scholar, or other stakeholder of the sound archives. DeCoSEAS will prioritize applicants from equity-seeking groups.
4. Someone who is passionate about sound recordings and enthusiastic about delving deeper into (colonial) archives.
5. Good communication skills in English
6. Linguistic and cultural familiarity with Southeast Asian sound recordings

2. Choices of archives to work with

Selected candidates will carry out their research at their institution of choice.

List of host institutions:

- [UP Center for Ethnomusicology](#) – the Philippines
- Citra Research Center - Indonesia
- [Irama Nusantara Foundation](#) - Indonesia
- [MyArchives](#) - Malaysia
- [Penang House of Music](#) - Malaysia
- National Archives Centre II in Ho Chi Minh City and the National Archives III in Hanoi, Vietnam



3. Stipend and support

The fellow will receive a stipend of 1,000 EUR monthly for a maximum of three months. The stipend is intended to cover the fellow's accommodation, local commute, and daily living expenses throughout their fellowship stay. In addition, the grant will cover costs for a round-trip flight, health and travel insurance for the duration of the Fellowship, and the visa process (if needed).

4. Types of support provided during Fellowship

All archives and institutions have varying degrees of organization and accessibility. DeCoSEAS can provide support by:

- Endorsing fellows to archival institutions
- Facilitating communication with archivists and archival staff
- Facilitating getting access to the archival materials
- Providing artistic, academic, or professional advice through DeCoSEAS' host partners
- Providing a desk in one of the partner institutions

Whereas DeCoSEAS supports fellows in getting access to the materials, acquiring this access might remain difficult, time-consuming, or bureaucratic. DeCoSEAS suggests the following options to deal with these hurdles:

- Access might become easier when prospective fellows know what kind of materials they need (sound recordings or correspondence from specific eras, organizations or persons, photographs from particular objects or peoples, etc.) and for what aims. Applicants are encouraged to indicate this in their proposal.
- DeCoSEAS can help determine topics, areas of focus, approaches, and archival collections. Feel free to raise questions or requests for suggestions and guidance in the proposal.

5. What we expect from the fellow

1. Give a public presentation of their project.

*The presentation can be a report of their process, a short excerpt of the project, etc. This presentation can be in any format. The date can be determined in coordination with your host institution. Fellows are expected to have two presentations: A **mid-fellowship presentation** and a **Final Presentation**.*



2. Report problems encountered during archival research.

Fellows are requested to keep a log of the hurdles they encounter when accessing the archival materials. These hurdles can encompass bureaucratic policies, language barriers, curatorial, academic, and other logistical issues. DeCoSEAS will use the fellows' regular briefing to formulate recommendations for improving access to these and other heritage institutions.

Fellows are requested to share their findings with peers at one or more of the host institutions during talks, events, and workshops for academic and curatorial audiences as well as the broader public. The fellow is expected to provide a final report on these issues at the end of the Fellowship. This report will be on the DeCoSEAS website.

3. Contribute to the contextualization of the (colonial) archival materials.

These contributions can take the form of assisting in the transcription, translation, providing descriptions, and data enhancement of the archival documents. These contributions will be made in consultation with the project partner(s) and host institution(s)

DeCoSEAS incorporates the fellows' research outputs in the project's publications and outreach projects in 2024.



Application Procedure

Application Requirements

All applications must be submitted as one PDF file by **12.00NN CET on Monday, 20 November 2023**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The application must be completed in English and must adhere to the word limits. Do not supply material other than that specifically requested in the application.

The name of the pdf file *must* follow the format: "Family Name_DeCoSEAS Fellowship 2024".

This fellowship is intended for individual candidates. Group proposals are automatically disqualified.

Candidates can apply by completing the **application form consisting of the following**:

1. An **800 to 1,000-word proposal** indicating specific reasons for visiting one of the above-mentioned audio-visual archives or collections of choice (for instance, the request for specific archival material or indexes). Please provide a short description of the proposed output (book, article, artwork, digital curation, film, event, political action, repatriation, etc.). Explain how your project fits into the DeCoSEAS agenda (see p.6) and motivate the value of your research.

While preparing these proposals, applicants are encouraged to look for/ through the catalogues of the archive and institution of their choice, when available online, to develop their research topic. Projects can include but are not limited to enriching the metadata of a specific collection, providing translations, creating a catalogue, community engagement through archival material, repatriation initiatives, and artistic work.

To help materialize research proposals, some of the host partners shared their specific needs and interests:

- Citra Research Center: topics of community engagement and repatriation of material (Jaap Kunst Recordings, for example)
- MyArchives: help developing the platform, site, and database.
- Penang House of Music: researching Nusantara Vinyl Record Collection, Malaysian & Singaporean Entertainment Magazines

We encourage proposals that align with these needs, but we also welcome the research interest of prospective fellows in how they could complement, augment, and inspire ongoing digitization and accessibility goals of DeCoSEAS.



2. A **proposed timetable** of the project goals. Provide a work plan to show the progress of the work that is planned during the fellowship. This timetable can be preliminary. Once accepted, the fellow can work with DeCoSEAS staff to finalize the plan.
3. A **Biography** indicating the fellow's background as a scholar, artist, curator, archivist, cultural diplomat, activist, community member, or stakeholder of the audio material to be accessed. Early career applicants are prioritized.

Application Criteria

- **Applicant must be a national and residing in Southeast Asia.** Applicants studying abroad will be disqualified.
- The project's feasibility: can it be realized with three months of archival research?
- The project's value and contribution: The project matches the needs of the host institution and is aligned with the mission and vision of DeCoSEAS.
- The linguistic and cultural familiarity of the fellow with the recorded materials.
- The output proposed by the fellow. This can range from a scholarly publication and a work of art to an event, a digital exhibition, a film, a political action, or a repatriation initiative. The output must contribute to DeCoSEAS' agenda (see p.6).

Application deadline

The application deadline is **12:00NN CET on Monday 20 November 2023**. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of December 2022.

An online info session is scheduled on **10 November, 09:00-10:30 CET**. During this video call, potential applicants can address their specific questions to DeCoSEAS staff. Please fill out the [form](#) to sign up for the online information session.

Email the DeCoSEAS project coordinator, Layan Nijem, at l.k.i.nijem@uva.nl if you have any questions or queries.



About DeCoSEAS

Decolonizing Southeast Asian Sound Archives (DeCoSEAS) is a three-year research and community engagement project funded by the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) on Cultural Heritage and Global Change supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme.

DeCoSEAS employs a paradigm-shifting methodological approach focused on hearing and listening as dialogical modes of knowledge formation. It complements conventional academic faculties of watching and reading as modes of singular objectification. DeCoSEAS strives for the inclusion of voices, stances, and interpretations that have hitherto remained unheard in existing discourses about heritage by attending to multiple, time-bound, and intricately entangled voices simultaneously (those recorded from the past and those from SE Asian partners today).

DeCoSEAS aims to provide new insights into and new practices of heritage curation and participation. DeCoSEAS proposes the decolonization of heritage curation with three formative orientation points: the **improvement of access** to heritage, the **transfer of agency to stakeholders** of their heritage, and the **diversification of the dialogue** about this heritage's curation. For this aim, researchers based in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and France work with academics, curators, and NGOs in Southeast Asia to open up three unique sound collections, all located in Europe and barely accessible to researchers and cultural originators. DeCoSEAS develops four initiatives in a variety of academic, curatorial, and public spaces for disclosing the collections: Digitization of material, Visiting Fellowships providing access to the material on-site, Publications, and Outreach Projects.

The Fellowship, one of the four work packages of the project, is a pilot study to interrogate the colonial patrimony of sound archives by identifying hurdles in the physical access to cultural heritage and the archived material for stakeholders from SEA. This access concerns physical playback facilities of sonic data as much as the availability of visual and textual meta-data in an accessible language. This work package invites visiting fellows from SEA for a three-month stay to work with one or more Southeast Asian collections within audio-visual archives located in Europe. During the visit, the fellow keeps a log of how they managed to get access to the archived material. The regular briefing of the fellow enables the articulation of recommendations for improved access to other (sound) archives and heritage institutions in Europe. DeCoSEAS incorporates the fellows' research outputs in collaborative publication formats.

More information about DeCoSEAS can be found at: <https://www.decoseas.org>. For further information regarding your application or if you have any queries, please contact Layan Nijem at l.k.i.nijem@uva.nl