

# **In the Realms of Ritual and Enchantment: Imagination and Recovery in the Aftermath of the Khmer Rouge**

**Eve Zucker**

Independent Scholar, 2016-2017 CSEAS Affiliate

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in the foothills of the Cardamom Mountains in Cambodia and insights from Graeber, Bloch, Baughelard and others—this talk explores role of the imagination in recovery from in the aftermath of the war and genocide. It suggests that the generative quality of the imagination makes it a unique site for restoring humanity and remaking social worlds. Imagination is considered in both its transcendental and transactional forms through the stories, rituals and everyday lives.

**Eve Zucker's** research focuses on the aftermath of mass violence in Cambodia and beyond through the lenses of social memory, morality, the imagination, and trust. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology from the London School of Economics and her M.A. in cultural anthropology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Dr. Zucker has conducted extensive research in Cambodia (2001-2003, 2010) on the topics of memory, morality, and recovery from war and genocide. Her book, *Forest of Struggle: Moralities of Remembrance in Upland Cambodia* published by University of Hawaii Press in 2013, tracks the recovery of a village community in Cambodia's southwest, a site that was a Khmer Rouge base and battleground for nearly thirty years. She is currently an independent scholar and an affiliate of the Council for Southeast Asian Studies at Yale University. Her research projects concern the role of imagination, empathy, and resilience in the recovery from, and in the prevention of, mass violence. A particular focus for her is the role and impacts of the rescuer in healing, the imagination, and world views of victim survivors and others. Dr. Zucker has taught at several colleges and universities in the US and abroad, held visiting scholarships at UCSD and the LSE, is a former volunteer researcher for the Cambodian Genocide Program at Yale University, and Senior CAORC Fellow at the Center for Khmer Studies in Cambodia.

**Wednesday, November 30**

**12:00 Noon**

**Room 203, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue**