

Abstract (Maritime Southeast Asia)

The interconnected and complex systems of Southeast Asian seas—their winds and tides, their shoals and straits, and their flora and fauna—are significant parts of what make the region's history rich and complex, as well as the site contemporary sovereign struggles. UCSC's Center for Southeast Asian Coastal Interactions (SEACoast) is an interdisciplinary grouping of scholars who center local knowledge about maritime Southeast Asia's histories, livelihood practices, and ecologies to think about long-term processes of social, political and ecological change. We think of "coastal interactions" broadly, as a way of capturing how highland areas are connected via rivers to lowland coastal polities and across the seas. Thinking in these terms has changed how I understand and approach Philippine history.