

**International Institute for
Higher Education Research and Capacity Building**

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Centre for Comparative and Global Education

cordially invite you to participate in

THINKING THURSDAYS: IIHed Research Seminar Series

on

**The Rohingya Conundrum and
its Significance for International Studies in Higher Education**

by



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Abstract

The conflict between Rohingya, a Muslim minority in Rakhine state in western Myanmar (Burma), and the Rakhine Buddhists has been an international concern since 2012 when violence first erupted in recent years. The latest wave of violence started on August 25 when Muslim militants staged coordinated attacks on 30 Myanmar police posts and an army base. The military responded with counterinsurgency operations of its own, which has resulted in the death of over a hundred and the displacement of several thousands. The August 25th attack occurred just hours after the advisory commission led by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan released its official report advising the government on long-term solutions for the violence-riven state. The protracted violence is a threat not only to Myanmar's internal peace and stability but also for the country's relations with the international community, particularly its immediate neighbor Bangladesh and the Muslim-majority countries in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia and Indonesia, that have expressed concerns over the Rohingyas' treatment in the past. The religious component of the conflict could potentially inflame tensions around the region, and even contribute to new terrorist activity. This talk will focus on three fundamental issues: The Rohingya conundrum, possible solutions, and its implications for international studies and conflict resolution in higher education.

Short Bio of Speaker

Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen is an Assistant Professor and Executive Director of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs. He is a Political Scientist whose concentration are in Comparative Politics and International Relations. Since 2013, Dr. Kipgen has served as a "country expert" on Myanmar for Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), a collaborative academic research project of the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg (Sweden), and the Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame (USA). He is the author of 3 books and several peer-reviewed academic articles. He has also published over 160 articles in various leading international newspapers and magazines, including the *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, *Foreign Policy Journal*, *Nikkei Asian Review*, *The Guardian*, *The Straits Times*, *The Star*, *New Straits Times*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *New Zealand Herald*, *Jerusalem Post*, *The Hindu*, *Hindustan Times*, *China Post*, *China Daily*, *Global Times*, *Japan Today*, *Korea Times*, *South China Morning Post*, *The Indian Express*, *The National*, *Bangkok Post*, *Jakarta Post*, *Manila Times*, *Brunei Times*. Dr. Kipgen has appeared on several radio and television programs.

Date: Thursday, 21 September 2017 | Time: 3:00 pm

Venue: : T1, IIHed Seminar Room

O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat-131001, Haryana