Political stability and democratisation in the Asia Pacific

by Dr Stephen McCarthy

Political science has long argued that democratisation will lead to political stability. This claim, however, cannot be made in the Asia-Pacific region where new democracies have all experienced instability. Many have undergone a suspension of constitutional rule, abrupt changes in leadership, and the suppression of civil and political liberties.

Non-democracies in the Asia-Pacific, on the other hand, have generally proven to be both politically stable and resilient to efforts of democratisation. This paper will examine the military coups of 2006 in Thailand and Fiji in order to illustrate how domestic variables can impede upon political stability in unstable democracies. It will also consider the merits of various forms of regime classification in the post-Cold War and post-9/11 periods, as well as their appropriateness to the Asia-Pacific.

→ Thursday 26 April 2007
→ Room N72_-1.18 (Business 2)
→ Nathan campus
→ 12.30-1.50pm

A light lunch will be served on arrival. To RSVP, please contact Jill Moriarty on (07) 3735 7624 or j.moriarty@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Monday 23 April.