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Southeast Asian Studies:
Text, Ritual, & Performance
An approach to area studies that addresses the expressive cultures of Southeast Asia in relation to the cultural politics of the Pacific Rim.

**Text** refers not only to written and printed media but also to other forms of visual culture, including photography, film, television, and emergent digitally based products and processes oriented toward the gaze.

**Ritual** is a centrally important aspect of Southeast Asian religious and political life. Thus, our interest in ritual includes all forms of religious expression as well as secular ceremonies of state and judicial processes.

**Performance** addresses a broad variety of self-conscious behaviors that range from staged dance, music, and theater concerts to public displays of state power (military parades, celebrations, etc.), rituals, and even acts of political resistance.

These three concepts, as we view them, overlap in several ways, the most crucial being that they may be defined as distinct aspects of expressive culture.

Thus, the **SEATRiP** Program at the University of California, Riverside, brings together a rapidly growing number of scholars and students interested in the arts and humanities, all actively engaged with the languages and expressive cultures of Southeast Asia.