

Human Rights and Responsible Trade in the EU-ASEAN Economic Cooperation

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Background:

PhD Candidate in Political Science | Masters in International Relations (MIR) | DAAD Scholar | Human Rights Advocate | Work Experience in Non-Profit Sector

- The research investigates the significance of human rights and non-economic/social factors within the interregional economic cooperation of the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- The goal is to explore if deeper economic integration, facilitated by trade ties, has a spillover effect on human rights value in ASEAN.
- It will analyze the adopted EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and existing Generalised System of Preferences (GSPs) with respective ASEAN member states. Specific case studies looking at human rights dynamics in the EU's FTA with Vietnam and Singapore, as well as the Everything But Arms (EBAs) program with Cambodia and Myanmar, will be analyzed.

RESEARCH MOTIVATION

- Trade and investment lies at the heart of the EU-ASEAN relationship: the EU is consistently in the top 3 trade partners and is the 2nd largest FDI source of ASEAN.
- Despite rampant Human Rights and social (labor rights) issues in ASEAN, it is often undermined in economic talks.
- There is a need to comprehensively understand human rights emergence and mainstreaming specifically within the context of EU-ASEAN economic relations.
- Regional trade study and IR & Political Science lenses can enrich to the growing BHR narratives.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the significance of Human Rights, and how did they evolve within the EU-ASEAN economic relations?

METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative Research
- Process Tracing and Historical Analysis
- Semi-structured Elite Interviews
- Case Studies

Case Studies

Principal Unit of Analysis:

Human Rights and Non-economic/Social Factors

Set I: The EU-KHM and EU-MMR EBAs

I. Subjects	II. Required Behavior	III. Benefits - Incentive Method	IV. Disadvantages-Punitive Method	V. Monitoring Procedure
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Set II: The EU-SGP and EU-VNM FTAs

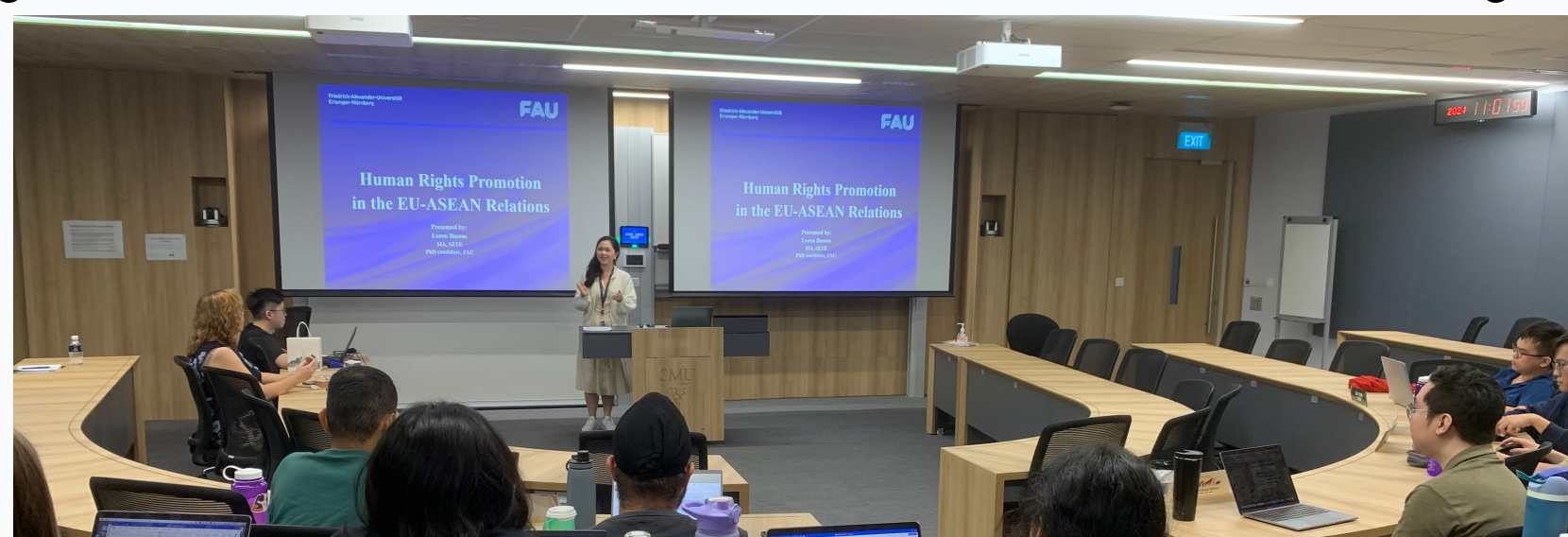
I. Subjects	II. Required Behavior	III. Instruments	III. Monitoring Procedure
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See: Velluti, Portela, Bartels, Orbie

THEORETICAL GROUNDS

- **Interregionalism** - is a theoretical concept that refers to the region-to-region relations. The idea is to make sense of the complexity of international trade and economic affairs with a wide range of multilevel actors.
- **Economic Interdependence** - refers to the mutual reliance and interconnectedness of nations, societies, and economies through trade, investment, and shared interests.
- **Spillover Effect (Functionalist)** - is the mechanism wherein incentives derived from a prior integrated policy area will lead to the intensification of further collaboration on other policy areas and interests (Dunn, 2012).

ENGAGEMENTS AND FIELD WORK



Jean Monnet Visiting Scholar
Singapore Management University, 2024



5th EU-ASEAN Civil Society and Human Rights Dialogue
Brussels, 2023



EU-ASEAN Young Leaders Forum
Brussels, 2022



ASEF Seminar on Human Rights and Climate Change
Luxembourg, 2022