1. **Bangkok street food: conflicting discourses of tourism and modernity**  
   Chair: Ray Boland

Although Bangkok is well-known for its vibrant street food, over the last few years the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority amongst other state institutions has sought to impose tighter regulations on the traders. Traditional street food locations have been closed-off to stall-holders, often in the name of hygiene and sanitation, traffic and pedestrian congestion and the suppression of illegal activity.

Bangkok in many places is undoubtedly a modern city (in fact hyper-modern in some respects) and much of the official justification for this campaign has been centered around discourses of modernity and progress. This session aims to discuss these discourses and their role in helping build a historic block (in Gramscian terms) to build support for the campaign.

Tourism and its relationship with heritage and authenticity is also one part of this dynamic – some street food locations such as Khao San Road and Yaowarat Road have been partially spared from this campaign because of the popularity of street food with tourists. These discourses and alternative visions of modernity and progress are also of relevance, so this session will also explore these.

Thailand as with its neighbours is changing and developing fast. Many other countries have already gone through this modernization process and organized and experienced it differently. This session therefore also will discuss how an interrogation of the discourses around Bangkok street-food can also cast light on the wider more general process.