

# FRIDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE

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## Word-borrowing between Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian languages

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Friday 17 October

16.00-17.00 hrs.

Room: Lipsius / 002

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### Abstract

Lexical cognate sets shared with Mon-Khmer languages from the period before the Malayo-Polynesian dispersal, having already been treated in detail by others, will not be discussed. Instead, the talk will inspect mutual word-borrowing during the following phases of Malayo-Polynesian / Mon-Khmer contacts and interaction: (1) the South-China-Sea Network, involving Taiwan, the Philippines and Eastern Indochina, particularly the Mekong basin, featuring boat coffins and the ship-of-the-dead cult, but also some botanical cultivars; (2) earliest Mon-Khmer / Malayo-Javanic and Chamic contacts in the area encompassing the Mekong Delta and Kra Isthmus, involving exchange of various items of material culture; (3) interactions during emergence and development of statehood; (4) exchange of in part “officialese” terms, presumably between Old Khmer and Old Malay kingdoms. The latter phase also involves borrowing of Sanskritisms, i.e. when a Sanskrit word is borrowed by one of the inspected languages indirectly via another of these languages.

The main interest of the talk will be an interdisciplinary evaluation of comparative linguistic data to gain insights into culture-historical aspects of Mon-Khmer / Malayo-Polynesian interaction during the above-cited periods.

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If you know someone who is willing to give a talk, or if you need more information, or if you want to be included on the e-mail list, please contact Kate Bellamy ([k.r.bellamy@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:k.r.bellamy@hum.leidenuniv.nl)), Matthias Pache ([m.j.pache@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:m.j.pache@hum.leidenuniv.nl)), or Alex Veloso ([alex\\_veloso@hotmail.es](mailto:alex_veloso@hotmail.es)).