

*A Haunting Archive: German Racial Thought in Early Twentieth Century Thailand* investigates how, in the early decades of the twentieth century, German diplomats in Bangkok imagined themselves to be thinking about race (Chineseness and Jewishness) in parallel with their Thai counterparts. Drawing on images, letters, reports, and films from the German Foreign Ministry's Political Archive, the project examines how since the early 1920s, German envoys followed closely the international relations or lack thereof between Siam and China as well as developments in Siamese policy toward the Chinese in the country. In the 1930s and 1940s this heightened interest in the host country's ethnic policies culminates in correspondence, reports, event proposals, and policy papers in which the diplomatic writers explicitly link Chineseness in Thailand to Jewishness in Germany. I argue that German conceptualizations of race were by no means produced only 'at home,' in scholarship undertaken in the country or in the racial policies developed by the National-Socialist state. Working with what is by definition a fragmented archive, this project contributes to the question of how German imaginations of race were in part conceived of at the margins of the National-Socialist state machinery, through transnational interactions in Asia.