

# Human Sciences Encounters in Phnom-Penh: Past Presentations:1979 Ordinations in Cambodia

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John Marston

## "1979 Ordinations in Cambodia".

The re-establishment of the monastic lineage in Cambodia following the Pol Pot period has sometimes been described as a period of illegitimate self-ordinations followed by a September 1979 ordination in which monks coming from Vietnam participated in a major ceremony which established the monastic order as we know it today. In my talk I will discuss informally my research about the more informal grassroots ordinations which took place early in 1979 (or later on outside of the official channels) -- some which did at the time have some claims to legitimacy and the approval of local authorities. I will also discuss what I have learned about the September ceremony, the odd ways it is veiled in secrecy, and its broader implications.

John Marston is a professor-researcher at the Center for Asian and African Studies at El Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City. His connection to Cambodia dates to the early 1980s, when he worked in refugee camps in the Thailand and the Philippines and did research with Cambodian refugees in the US. He completed his doctorate in anthropology at University of Washington in 1997. He is the co-editor of the book *History, Buddhism and New Religious Movements in Cambodia* and has published numerous articles about Cambodia in journals and edited volumes.

[John Marston's Profile.](#)