

Human Sciences Encounters in Phnom-Penh
Past Presentations

Violence and the Civilising Process in Cambodia

By Rod Broadhurst, Thierry Bouhours, and Brigitte Bouhours

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Abstract:

This paper summarises a long-term research project on crime and violence in Cambodia from the mid-19th century to the present. The data include colonial archives from Cambodia and France; for the present period (1992 to 2013) we draw from police data, media sources, and crime victim surveys that we conducted from 2000 onward. Our major theoretical framework draws from Norbert Elias' notion of the civilising process and related criminological theories. While the historical trends show significant variations in the level of crime and violence, a major finding is a dramatic and sustained fall in violence and criminality since 1999.