

## PROPOSITIONS

### ATTACHED TO THE THESIS

#### **BATTERY OF ASIA? THE RISE OF REGULATORY REGIONALISM AND TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT IN LAOS**

by **Ome Chattranond**

International Institute of Social Studies  
Erasmus University Rotterdam

1. Regionalism affects the international system by transforming relations among states and between states and non-state actors. The major point of contention is whether regionalism has strengthened or weakened the power of the state. (This thesis)
2. Ongoing hydropower development in the Mekong Basin represents a clash between market-oriented economic development and state-centred regional water governance. (This thesis)
3. Hydropower development has led to the transformation of the Lao state under the influence of the international private sector, as the state needs to implement market-oriented policies by applying regulatory tools instead of directly intervening in the market. (This thesis)
4. While the rationale for the regulatory state in developed countries is based on notions of efficiency, the adoption of such a framework by developing countries such as Laos is informed by the limited availability of resources for development, as well as the limited governance capacity to implement development goals. (This thesis)
5. The development strategy of Laos after the Cold War, which has involved the marketization of hydropower in a regional context, is an attempt to support water nationalism and state building in an emerging economy. (This thesis)
6. The literature on hydropower development has paid much more attention to the impacts of this development on the contiguous systems of ecology and society than on the political system of nation-states.
7. Although the Euro-centric approach to the study of regionalism has certain elements in common with the Asian approach, for instance regarding the analysis of neoliberal reforms, the former approach does not sufficiently understand the specificities of Asian regionalism.
8. The advocates and opponents of transboundary hydropower development draw on competing globalist discourses. While the former group applauds the liberalization of cross-border markets, which encourages the inflow of transnational private capital, the latter group embraces global standards on the environment and human rights in water governance.
9. Economic diversification may reduce the international struggle for water in the long run, but at the same time it discourages the stronger regulation of regional water issues.
10. The increased participation of the private sector in national development, as promoted by regionalism, is part of the neoliberal reforms that aim to establish a larger and stronger market system at the global scale.
11. Proximity of identity between a researcher and a research object does not always mean that doing fieldwork becomes easier. It is trust and a smile that play a significant role.