

**Panel Title:** Cambodia's 'Golden Age': Accessing the Global History of the Sangkum

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**Session:** Single (1 x 90 min.) or Double (2 x 90 min.) Panel

**Abstract:** As archives open up throughout the world, histories are being constantly updated, reconfigured, and expanded upon. Today in Cambodia, the early postcolonial period is remembered fondly. Norodom Sihanouk's *Sangkum Reastr Niyum* (People's Socialist Community) Party led Cambodia during a period that is often referred to as the 'golden age' in Cambodia. Due to decades of war and political turmoil, however, popular memory of the Sangkum era is much more robust than actual histories of the Sangkum. This panel examines the Sangkum era in both a postcolonial and global context in an attempt to tease out a more thorough history of Cambodia's 'golden age.' Papers include social development and exchanges, foreign perceptions of Cambodia and interactions with the Sangkum government, state institutions and policies, and the Cold War as the Sangkum understood it. Histories of Sangkum Cambodia are beginning to catch up with how this era is discussed in popular culture largely because of greater access to historical records. This panel will utilize materials from Belgrade to Beijing and many depositories in between in helping to tell the history of Sangkum Cambodia. This panel will also examine the interplay between accessible and global history and how new technologies and resources are helping to make more history more accessible.