"The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: An Inside View"

Dr. Craig Etcheson

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia – better known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (KRT) – has been a source of controversy since well before it commenced operations in 2006. Now in its seventh year of proceedings, the KRT is facing a variety of inter-related challenges which threaten to compromise the completion of its underlying mission. Donor fatigue, allegations of government interference and other issues may interact to bring the court to a close before it is able to reach finality on the substance of the allegations against the accused persons. We will review these issues and assess their possible impacts on the legacy of the Extraordinary Chambers.

Dr. Craig Etcheson specializes in post-conflict recovery of societies shattered by violence, with a particular interest in transitional justice issues. His most recent assignment was as an investigator in the Office of Co-Prosecutors at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. He has served as a faculty member at the University of Southern California and Yale University, and has been a visiting scholar at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies, George Washington University’s Sigur Center and, currently, at Northern Illinois University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Dr. Etcheson is the author of numerous books, research monographs, and articles, most recently Reconciliation in Cambodia: Theory and Practice (Strategic Implementation 2004) and After the Killing Fields: Lessons from the Cambodian Genocide (Praeger 2005, Texas Tech 2006).