

Of Water, Crocodiles, and Kings: Co-producing Kuy history in the Prey Lang Forest, Cambodia

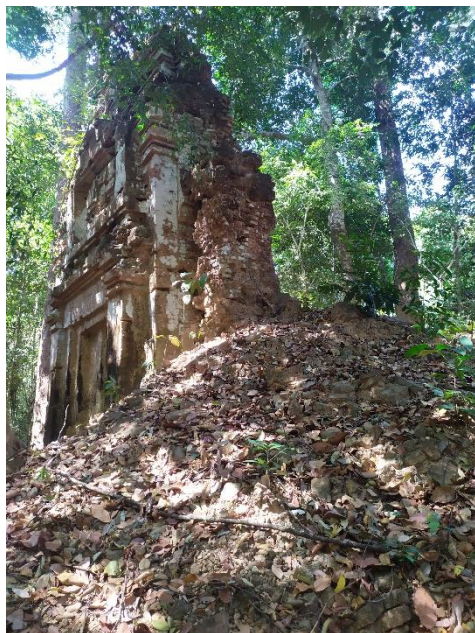
National Endowment for the Humanities Award RFW-299450-24
USD\$ 126,265,00
2024 August 1 – 2027 July 31

Director: Dr. Courtney Work,
Associate Professor, National Chengchi
University

Co-Director: Dr. Miriam Stark,
Professor, Anthropology, University of
Hawaii, Manoa

In collaboration with indigenous Kuy residents of the Prey Lang Forest, Cambodia, emplaced history making will continue in an ancient landscape thanks to a grant over \$125,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This three-year archeological and ethnographic field project will provide important insights into the ways that oral traditions, documented histories, and the material remains of pre-Angkorian civilization inform and shape each other in living landscapes. The



project is designed to co-produce knowledge by bringing together local indigenous researchers, with trained archeologists, anthropologists, and historians in all stages of data collection and analysis. Everyone learns from each other about myth, history, and the ways to engage with material sites.

Traveling together to sites both around the villages and deep in the forest, we aim to bring two sets of knowledge to bear on the ancient history of this understudied region. This is an exciting collaboration that brings together community leaders and young people, with researchers and students from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Cambodia to deepen and share our collective understanding of both history and the present. Our collaboration will contribute to k-12 history lessons and exhibits at provincial museums to support local knowledge production and ‘history from below’.