

The Impact of Culture, Ethnicity, Race and Religion in the Vietnam War

Conference Agenda

March 23-24, 2007

Holiday Inn Park Plaza, Lubbock, TX

Thursday March 22, 2007

1200 – 1700 – Open Registration at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza

1730 – Reception – Cash Bar with heavy hors d'oeuvres – Holiday Inn Park Plaza

Friday March 23, 2007

0730 – Coffee Service

0800 – Opening Remarks

- ◆ Opening Remarks: James Reckner, PhD, Director, Vietnam Center
- ◆ Administrative Comments: Steve Maxner, PhD, Deputy Director, The Vietnam Center

0830 – Session 1 – An Introduction to Analyzing Culture

Chair: Stephen Maxner, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “Analyzing Vietnamese Culture: Applying the Cultural Trilogy” James Bruton, Independent Scholar

0930 – Coffee Break

1000 – Session 2 – The Impact of Religion in the US and Vietnam

Chair: Meredith Lair, PhD, George Mason University

- ◆ “The Buddhists & Ngo Dinh Diem”, Geoffrey Shaw, PhD, American Military University
- ◆ “Sects and Violence in Diem Era Vietnam: Overlooked Lessons For 21st Century Conflict.” Carmen K. Steigman, MD, Independent Scholar
- ◆ “Denominations and Vietnam: A Comparison of Foreign Policy Resolutions From Lutheran Denominations, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the United Church of Christ” David E. Settje, PhD, Concordia University

1200 – Lunch

1230 – Lunch Speaker

Introduction: James Reckner, PhD, Texas Tech University

- “The Impact of American Culture on Communist Spy Pham Xuan An: Why Can’t We All Be Friends?” Larry Berman, PhD, University of California, Davis

1345 – Session 3 – The Impact of Antiwar Activities on American Culture

Chair: Laura Calkins, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “Muhammad Ali and Vietnam: A Challenge and Transformation With Regard To Sports, Race, Religion, and The Law.” Devissi Muhammad, Ph.D., University of Detroit Mercy
- ◆ “‘Lest We Forget’: Reactions to the Jackson State College Shootings of 1970” Jack Lorenzini, PhD Candidate, University of Memphis

1500 – Coffee Break

1530 – Session 4 – Visions of Vietnam: Democracy, Heroes, and the Role of Women in Society

Chair: Stephen Maxner, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “Democracy in action, with American influence: The 1970 Senatorial Elections in South Vietnam and the opinions and behavior of voters.” Ta Van Tai, Harvard Law School
- ◆ “The Role of Myth and Heroism in the Vietnam Wars. 1945-1975.” Tien The Nguyen, Vancouver, BC
- ◆ “The Ao Dai vs. the Miniskirt: Images of Vietnamese Women in the American War with Vietnam” Heather Stur, PhD Candidate, University of Wisconsin

1700 – End of first day presentations

1800 – Reception with Cash Bar and light hors d’oeuvres

1900 – Banquet

1945 – Special Remarks by Dr. James Reckner, Director, The Vietnam Center

2000 – Banquet Speaker

Introduction: James Reckner, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “Collateral Cultures: Wartime Congruencies, Differences, and Indifferences”
Keith Taylor, PhD, Cornell University

2100 – End of Banquet

Saturday March 24, 2006

0730 – Coffee Service

0800 – Session 5 – Soldiers’ Experiences In-Country

Chair: Ron Milam, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “‘The Addicted Army:’ Drug Use in Vietnam in Historical Perspective” Jeremy Kuzmarov, PhD, Bucknell University
- ◆ “Armed with Abundance: Soldiering in the Vietnam War Zone.” Meredith H. Lair, PhD, George Mason University
- ◆ “Outsourcing a War: What you get for your Mercenary Dollar,” Gerald Waite, Ball State University
- ◆ “Playing the Race Card: Vietnamese Appeals to Non-White Forces of Occupation, 1945-1975.” Marc Jason Gilbert, PhD, Hawaii Pacific University

1000 – Coffee Break

1030 – Session 6 – Race and Class in the American Military

Chair: Justin Hart, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “Overcoming More Than Gravity: Reflections of an African American Helicopter Pilot’s Vietnam Experience.” Eddie Randle, Vietnam Veteran
- ◆ “Skin Color and Blood Color: African Americans in Vietnam Combat Roles.”
Ron Milam, PhD, Texas Tech University

1215 – Lunch

1245 – Lunch Speaker

Introduction: Stephen Maxner, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “An American Missionary in Vietnam, 1958-1974.” Mr. Charles Long

1400 – Session 7 – Minority Culture

Chair: Richard Verrone, PhD, Texas Tech University

- ◆ “Ethnic Minority Policies of the GVN and NLF: Promises and Practices.” Neil H. Olsen, PhD, University of Utah.
- ◆ “Jarai Culture in Vietnam in the aftermath of War” – Lap Minh Siu, Undergraduate, Department of Anthropology, Texas Tech University

1500 – Coffee Break

1530 – Session 8 – Culture as Reflected in the Literature of War and in Postwar Vietnam

Chair:

- ◆ “Leading the “Global March” to Communism: The Viet Cong in Tran Van Dinh’s *Blue Dragon, White Tiger*.” Quan Manh Ha, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English, Texas Tech University
- ◆ “A review of *Vietnam and Other American Fantasies* by H. Bruce Franklin.” Samuel B. Hoff, PhD, Delaware State University
- ◆ “Post 1975 Vietnamese Culture: The Triumphant South.” Nguyen Ngoc Bich, PhD, Independent Scholar

1700 – Conference Wrap-up

1730 – End of second day presentations

1830 – Reception with Cash Bar and light hors d’oeuvres – Holiday Inn

1930 – Barbecue Dinner – Holiday Inn