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## **Crossing Borders in Southeast Asian Archaeology**

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13<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
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### **Overview: Prof. Dr. Christian Bauer**

Texts and images, images in texts

Although the relationship between text and image in the arts of Southeast Asia has been subject to a number of academic fora and publications over the past decade, attention has mostly been paid to iconography, style and the identification of literary sources.

The intention of this panel is to go beyond the image as a mere expression of a verbal narrative and to examine how texts are incorporated into images and how images are embedded in texts. For example, a large number of inscriptions from Burma -- and to a lesser extent from Cambodia -- show elaborate figurative decorations at their apex or base in addition to a remarkable variety of frames. When and where do they first emerge? Are they local developments or do they derive from prototypes from outside the region?

Early correspondence from Malaya and Siam is characterized by its extensive use of seals; placement of seals on a document followed certain rules in one tradition but not in the other.

What are their forms, iconography and pragmatic function?

Does the complexity of glosses accompanying narrative images relate to the complexity of the visual representation (Ananda vs. Nagayon/Kubyaukgyi)?

These are the sort of questions to be discussed in this panel.