

# VISUAL DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

2025

## Call for Southeast Asian Short Documentaries

Theme:  
Living “Deviance”

“Deviants.” From illicit drug users, sex workers, gamblers, cross-dressers, political rebels, to religious heretics. Those labelled “deviant” live on the margins – navigating a complex web of legal norms, moral codes, gender conventions, political authority, and cultural practices. Yet “deviance” isn’t inherent – society constructs it through power, shifting across time and place.

What if the real outsider isn’t the “deviant,” but the judging society itself?

In what sociopolitical contexts has the “deviant” label been imposed?

How do the “deviants” shape their worldviews and knowledge?

Who enacts “de-deviance”—resisting the labelling system?

How does society react to such “de-deviance”?

How do the “deviants” transform society?

This year, the Visual Documentary Project (VDP) invites short documentaries that problematise the label “deviant” in Southeast Asia. From those marginalised, criminalised, to those who pursue de-deviance through how they live, act, or speak. Let us visualize and reflect upon the societal boundaries shifting or being contested in this diverse and dynamic region.

### November 30, 2025



DEADLINE

- Online application

<https://vdp.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/requirements/>



REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be citizens of Southeast Asia or Japan.

- Documentaries should be no longer than **30 minutes**.



RESULT  
ANNOUNCEMENT

- Successful directors will be contacted in mid-January, 2026



INVITATION  
TO JAPAN

- The directors of the selected documentaries will be invited to Kyoto, Japan in 2026. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the project.



Contact: [vdp@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:vdp@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

Organizer: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University



Online application