



Course Syllabus

PO212 Introduction to History of Political Thoughts

Summer Session 2017

(June 11 – August 4, 2018)

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Thanee Wongyannava
Session Day and Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 09.00 AM - noon
Room: TBA

Course Description:

Methodological Individualism whose term was coined by Joseph Schumpeter, lays the foundation of microeconomic. However, individualism, like many other concepts, is the outcome of European historical development. The notion of the individual has been evolved through the historical development of Protestant Reformation, the idea of private property (possessive individual), and lately the development of individual psychology whose unit of analysis can also be found in microeconomic.

Can social phenomena be better analyzed in terms of the characteristics of individual human beings, or in terms of the characteristics of groups or collectives? Of course, this question traditionally being known as 'holism-individualism debate, has been a long debate in economics, psychology, sociology and etc., However, is this notion of individual unique for the West only? Does the notion of 'dividual' exist in the non-West only? The dividual is a relational being that can be divisible into component relations whose 'gift exchange' is dissimilar to a *rational* exchange of an individual. A dividual cannot exist without its relation to the others, whereas an individual can be independently existed. Dividual=dependent=holism. Individual=independent=individualism=analytical mind. To put it different, does the concept of personhood vary cross-culturally? Thus, the difference between dividual and individual will be discussed in this course.