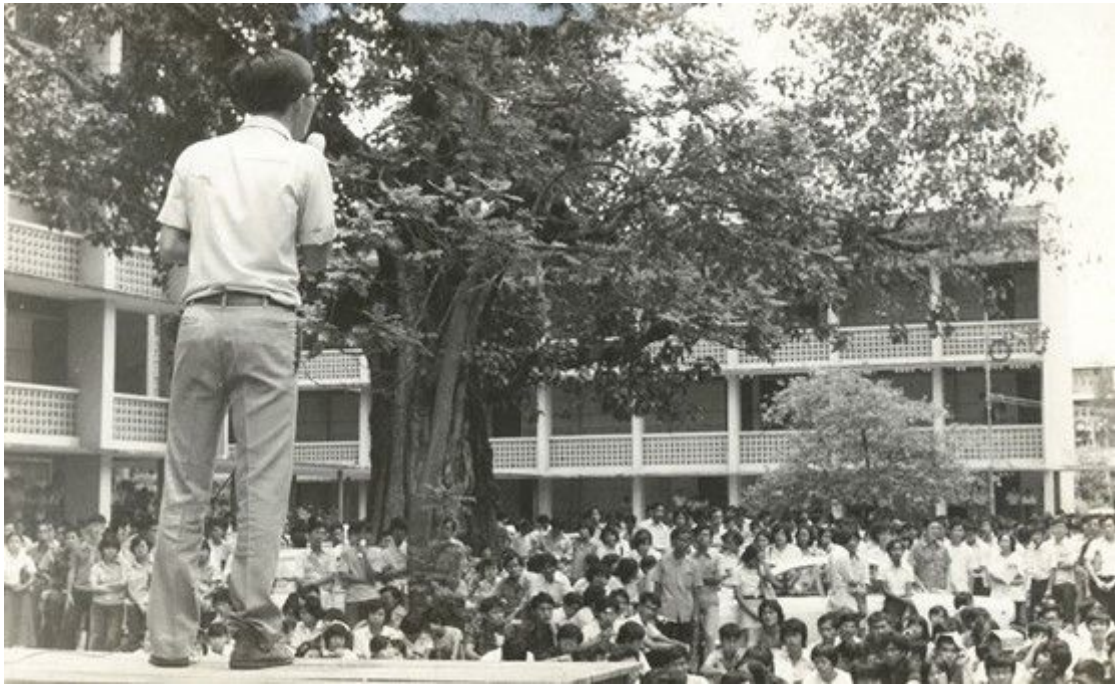


## Unforgetting

**Mark Teh**

In reflecting about the collective silence surrounding the October 6 massacre which took place in Thammasat University, Bangkok in 1976, historian and former student activist Thongchai Winichakul characterises the 'unforgetting' as an inability to remember or to forget. Suspended in this liminal state, these are experiences that have to be repressed or suppressed because they do not cohere to articulating a socially meaningful memory under the existing regimes of truth.

Over the past decade, a younger generation of artists and social actors across Asia have begun to excavate the traumatic memories and experiences of their nations' histories, often going against the grain of official accounts and versions. Investigating events they never lived through, their projects can be read as attempts to recover silenced experiences and narratives, to reveal the complex afterlives of history, and to give shape to these moments and legacies of unforgetting.



Thongchai Winichakul at Thammasat University, Bangkok in 1976.

Source: <https://mekongreview.com/the-silence-of-1976/>



Thongchai Winichakul at *The Breathing of Maps* symposium, Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, 2020

Photo: Cattleya Paosrijaroen

## Related Links

### Book

1. Thongchai Winichakul, *Moments of Silence: The Unforgetting of the October 6, 1976, Massacre in Bangkok* (2020)  
<https://uhpress.hawaii.edu/title/moments-of-silence-the-unforgetting-of-the-october-6-1976-massacre-in-bangkok/>

### Online Documentation Projects

1. Documentation of Oct 6 (Thailand). Online archive to collect, maintain and organize information related to October 6 1976 massacre in Bangkok, initiated by academics and activists <https://doct6.com/>
2. Perpustakaan Online Genosida 1965-1966 (Indonesia). Website with over 1,000 entries and links relating to 1965-66 mass killings across Indonesia. Entries include books, dissertations, opinion pieces, films and artworks.  
<https://19651966perpustakaanonline.wordpress.com/>
3. May 13, Never Again (Malaysia). Website tracing the story of the violent racial clashes in Kuala Lumpur on May 13 1969. Includes a timeline, maps, interviews with victims and witnesses, rare photos and documents. Initiated by news site Malaysiakini. <https://pages.malaysiakini.com/may13/en/>
4. May 13, 50 Years Later (Malaysia). Video series featuring five eyewitnesses of May 13, 1969 who revisit their experience of the day by walking through Kuala Lumpur. Initiated by investigative journalism platform R.AGE.  
<https://www.rage.com.my/may13/>

### Artistic & Cultural Projects (includes videos, books, artists' works)

1. Thanavi Chotpradit & Kornkrit Jianpinidnan, *Prism of Photography: Dispersion of Knowledge and Memories of the 6th October Massacre* (2019)  
<https://www.kornkritwork.com/prism-of-photography>
2. Rap Against Dictatorship, *My Country Has* (2018)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZvzvLiGUtw>

3. Luke Duggleby, *For Those Who Died Trying (And Those Who Endure)* (2019) <http://www.maiiam.com/forthosewhodiedtrying/>
4. Adrian Mulya, *Pemenang Kehidupan* (2016). Photo book documenting stories of women survivors of 1965 - project undertaken from 2007 to 2015 <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30077931-pemenang-kehidupan>
5. #1965SetiapHari / #Living1965 <https://linktr.ee/1965setiaphari>
6. Joshua Oppenheimer, *The Look of Silence* (2014) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcvH2hvvGh4>
7. Koizumi Meiro interview about his works in "Stories of a Beautiful Country" exhibition (2012) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO8E2IU3dqq>
8. chi too, *ピカ - BOO (PIKA - ブ)* (2011-2012) <https://www.chitoo.net/pika-boo>  
<https://www.chitoo.net/state-of-doubt>
9. Yamashiro Chikako, interview about *Mud man* (2016) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZLwxxYmwHU>
10. Vandy Rattana, interview about *Monologue* (2015) <https://vimeo.com/123078294>
11. Lau Kek Huat, trailer for *The Tree Remembers* (2019) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seJswC9gBS0>
12. Komori Haruka & Seo Natsumi, trailer for *under the wave, on the ground* (2014) <https://vimeo.com/107363343>