

# Where Mandalas Overlap: Histories, Identities and Fates of the People from Arakan and South-Eastern Bangladesh (PhD Thesis 2017) by Kyaw Min Htin

**Title:** Where Mandalas Overlap: Histories, Identities and Fates of the People from Arakan and South-Eastern Bangladesh

**Degree for:** PhD Thesis

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**Institution:** The Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore

## **Abstract:**

This research explores the importance of local and colonial narratives in formulating and strengthening cultural, ethnic and linguistic identities of the peoples from the two mandalas of Arakan (Western Myanmar) and Banga (South-eastern Bangladesh). It argues that the production of British colonial maps and censuses has been of incremental importance in shaping the identities and further the rise of nationalism in post-World War II Burma/Myanmar. It also discusses the unformulated "notions of belonging" in the construction of Burmese citizenship used by successive Burmese governments. The thesis argues that definition of Burmese citizenship is based on the belonging to the mandalas which goes beyond the demarcated territories of Myanmar.