

## **Empire and the Making of Personal Status**

**Cambridge Centre for History and Economics**

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**Thanyarat Apiwong (SOAS):** ‘Legal Status of British Burmese Subjects in Northern Siam During the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries’

This paper examines how Burmese migrants as British subjects shaped their “personal status” in Siam. The focus is on Burmese teak traders in Chiang Mai who were prominent migrants and who were able to use their legal status of British subjects to gain benefits for business and jurisdiction when combined with “local status” in social relationships. It was found that a vital combination of legal status and local collaboration made a significant impact on the “personal status” of British Burmese subjects that was different from that of British European subjects. This is because holding the status of being a British subject was not helpful for success in business by itself.