

Tiger in Maze:
Multi-coloured ID cards in
Thailand

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Stateless Border Population

The status verification process in 2002

90,731 (24 %) Thai citizenship

37,296 (9.8 %) 'Hill tribe' ID

220,527 (58 %) without any ID

29,123 (7.7 %) not yet decided

377,677

Total

Puzzles

- States wish to identify every and each member of the population within territory.
⇒ Why are there so many stateless?
- States desire for unified, standardized and simplified ID system
⇒ Why are there so many different categories?

Dilemmas

- Shifting ethnic identities
 - Inter-ethnic marriage
- Spreading across several nation states
 - Kinship alliances, trade networks
- “Galactic Polity” vs. Territorialized State

The pain of 'scientific' approach

- Chasing the constantly changing reality
- Ever-specified Classification
- Evidence-based procedure

A crisis to the state?

What does it mean to have a large unidentified population?

- Cheap labour
- Invisible social subjects
- Political 'others'