



Ca' Foscari
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African Studies

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***From Nom Script to Latin Script:
Missionary and the history of translation of
religious classics in premodern Vietnam***

Friday, 3 October, 2025 from 12.15 to 13.45

Classroom C, Ca' Capello, and online via Zoom

Moderator: **Trang Phan**, Department of Asian & North African Studies, Ca'
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This lecture presents a brief history of the two scripts used to transcribe Vietnamese: Nom script (chữ Nôm) and Latin script (chữ Quốc ngữ). The main argument of the lecture is that both scripts were created for the need of missionary work. Nom script was created by the Buddhist monks; while Latin script was created by Catholic missionaries. The need to preach in the native language promoted the translation of Buddhist and Catholic scriptures as well as promoted the popular languages in the community of believers. Sino-Nom or Latinum-Annamiticum dictionaries and translations of religious classics were the training grounds for the maturity of the Vietnamese language throughout a thousand years of history.

registration links: <https://unive.zoom.us/meeting/register/9pkgbi7aRKiYCY1eBOGKMg>

Language: English