

**Markus Hund, *ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three: Manifestations of Collective Identities in Southeast and East Asia?*, Diss., Trier 2002.**

Abstract

East Asia is a region undergoing vast structural changes. As the region moved closer together economically and politically following the breakdown of the bipolar world order and the ensuing expansion of intra-regional interdependencies, the states of the region faced the challenge of having to actively recast their mutual relations. At the same time, throughout the 1990s, the West became increasingly interested in trans- and inter-regional dialogue and cooperation with the emerging economies of East Asia. These developments gave rise to a “new regionalism”, which eventually also triggered debates on Asian identities and the region’s potential to integrate. Before this backdrop, this thesis analyses in how far both the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has been operative since 1967 and thus embodies the “old regionalism” of Southeast Asia, and the ASEAN Plus Three forum (APT: the ASEAN states plus China, Japan and South Korea), which has come into existence in the aftermath of the Asian economic crisis of 1997, can be said to represent intergovernmental manifestations of specific collective identities in Southeast Asia and East Asia, respectively. Based on profiles of the respective discursive, behavioral and motivational patterns as well as the integrative potential of ASEAN and APT, this study establishes in how far the member states adhere to sustainable collective patterns of interaction, expectations and objectives, and assesses in how far they can be said to form specific ‘ingroups’. Four studies on collective norms, readiness to pool sovereignty, solidarity and attitudes vis-à-vis relevant third states show that ASEAN is firmly grounded in a certain measure of a grown collective identity, though its political relevance is frequently thwarted by changes in its external environment. A study on the cooperative and integrative potential of APT yields no manifest evidence of an ongoing or incipient pan-East Asian identity formation process.