Reconfigured kingdom: preliminary archaeological investigations at Longvek

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While the decline of Angkor is among the most significant events in the history of Southeast Asia, there is little known about the settlements that followed. Foremost among the capitals of Cambodia after Angkor was Longvek, reportedly founded by King Ang Chan I (reigned 1516/17 or 1526 – 1566) during a time of great political upheaval. The principal sources of our knowledge about Longvek are the Royal Cambodian Chronicles, written many centuries after the events they purport to describe. While these texts are problematic as historical sources, another path to revealing the Longvek and the Cambodian Early Modern period exists by utilising archaeology to examine the immense quantity of information that rests in the ground. This presentation will report preliminary results from the first systematic archaeological investigations at Longvek conducted by an international team of Cambodian, Australian and Japanese researchers on the banks of the Tonle Sap River, with special attention to the most abundant and revealing material culture – the vast amounts of ceramic sherds from China, Japan, and Southeast Asia.