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

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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’