The Kachin/Jingpo/Singpho people are a group of ethnic minorities from northern Myanmar, western Yunnan, and far-eastern India. Kachin Life Stories is a public project that seeks to help the Kachin people record their own voices, and their own accounts of the multiplicities of Kachin encounters and histories. Using Life Stories as the key framework, this project began to take shape in different forms, reflecting the diverse aspects of Life and individual life experiences. In this seminar, we like to present two particular strands of the project already in the process of implementation: 1. Empowering and Giving Kachin Mothers a Peace of Mind 2. Freedom as a Lived Experience: Kachin Life Stories through Sounds and Visuals.

The first part of this seminar features discussion by various researchers coordinating this project. The highlight of this seminar features a performance by the Kachin musician/preacher, Chying Htawng Zau Naw (a.k.a. Chying Chying) as he presents snippets of his Life Story through music and conversation in a nuanced application of the Life Story methodology.