The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations writes on its website “[Hawkers or hawkers] represent a significant part of urban food consumption for millions of low- and middle-income consumers, in urban areas on a daily basis. Street foods may be the least expensive and most accessible means of obtaining a nutritionally balanced meal outside the home for many low-income people, provided that the consumer is informed and able to choose the proper combination of foods.”

In their book “Asia Street Food,” the two editors of the book, one an author and the other a photographer, are dedicated to make the street cuisine of South East Asia more known in Europe. Since 2004 they have been busy researching Asian culinary art and blogging about it on www.asiastreetfood.com. Now they published their recipes and travel notes in their book. The recipes are easy to understand and follow. The ingredients are exotic, but most of them can be actually found in Europe (plus the authors will provide us with cooking instructions, the travel notes and background information make a very interesting read and they inspire the reader to cook the recipes and are either hard to find in Europe or should be prepared freshly (like toasted peanuts or banana paste) have their own bar-code picture. The readers can scan the codes with a barcode-reader on their smartphones or, as will be directed to the recipes in the book, to their internet blog. The book contains most of my South East Asian snack favorites: tofu with lemon grass, bahn xeo, amok and pad thai, plus a lot more, which were completely new to me. One of my new discoveries was the "Luang-Prabang-Salad", which will definitely become a staple in my kitchen.

However, this book does not only provide us with cooking instructions, but maybe it started with colonisation or even much earlier. Street food teaches us, that people were always thinking, how globally connected we all think, how the complicated histories of countries, their people and their cuisines are intertwined. It made me think, how (globally) connected we all are. These Vietnamese farmer girls, who became: Vietnamese farmer girls, who...