

**Looking for a Thai video artist/student of visual arts:  
Short documentary and video collage on Buddhist death rituals (Chiang Mai)**

The Department of Religious Studies at the University of Bristol is carrying out a comparative project on *Buddhist death rituals of Southeast Asia and China*. The project also involves the visual documentation of funerary rites. Last year we filmed two rituals in Laos, which dealt with the transfer of merit and objects to the *vinyan* of the dead, *peta* and various other spirits. This year the project involves fieldwork in Chiang Mai (August to October 2008) and we are intending to film a complete sequence of a funeral rite (house, procession, cremation in the temple, bone collection...). The idea is that we first film as much material as possible and then process the data in two ways:

1. Produce a 30 min film that is more documentary-oriented and should serve as ethnographic teaching material for students in the UK and elsewhere. Some editing will be necessary (Final Cut Pro etc.), but it is not intended for professional purposes or public screenings.
2. Produce a more art-oriented video collage (20-30 min) that mixes documentary features with video art and sound. The format is here quite open, but should be geared towards a culturally and artistically interested public that wants to know something about Buddhist funeral rites. The film is going to be screened (on TV-sets and large screen) during an exhibition on 'Death rituals in Buddhism' at various locations in the UK and Germany. It could also be distributed on DVD to interested people and institutions, or - in case it feasible - shown at anthropological film festivals.

The project has a budget for hiring the equipment (high amateur to low professional standard), cameramen, recording engineer and the cutting/editing of the movie. The filming itself will take approx. 2-3 days and should be carried out in Chiang Mai as the project is based there, although - if appropriate and feasible - Bangkok would also be an option. We look for a Thai person who has an interest in the project, has experience with filming and can put together such a crew, is capable of doing the editing him/herself and is willing to develop ideas concerning format and the appropriate location. A student or teacher of visual arts/multimedia art who has experience in documentary filming and more abstract video art would for example be suited for the job. Communication with the project members concerning content and format is crucial, although the final product is largely the employee's own responsibility. We would either have to communicate in English, Lao/Isan or German. The project budget is modest, but we can compensate the employee's efforts appropriately (subject to negotiation). As long the funding source of the project is acknowledged, the film can also be used for other purposes (final project at School of Fine Arts etc.) and presented outside the immediate project context.

I will be in Chiang Mai from August to October. In case you are interested or know someone else, please forward this message or contact me via email: [patrice@gmx.com](mailto:patrice@gmx.com) or [Patrice.Ladwig@bristol.co.uk](mailto:Patrice.Ladwig@bristol.co.uk)

Thanks very much!