

KEERATI CHENPITAYATON

New York Address: 340 East 87th Street #E, New York, NY 10128, *Cell:* (347) 549-0153
Bangkok Address: 424 Rama 4 Rd., Bang Rak, Bangkok, 10500, Thailand, *Cell:* (66) 87 905 66 31
ChenK708@newschool.edu, sensorium0356@gmail.com

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Major Fields: Historical-Comparative Sociology, Cross-National Sociology, Theory, Culture, and Network

Current Research: I am currently completing a dissertation on how cosmopolitanism shaped the Thai modernization in the 19th-century.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in *Sociology* and *Historical Studies* (Expected Graduation; Spring 15), The New School For Social Research, New School University

Dissertation Topic: Forging Cosmopolitanism: Modernizing Moves, State Formation, and the Reassembling of the Social Elite in Thailand, 1855-1932

Dissertation Abstract:

My dissertation examines how the 19th-century cosmopolitanism shaped the Thai modernization through a series of selected case studies. By drawing from the various activities of modernizing moves propounded by the Thai elite, it seeks to identify the relationships between such global environment and local modernization. As 19th-century imperialism reached its peak, the Siamese kingdom, the only Southeast Asian state to escape European colonialism, began to feel constant pressure to stake its claim in the world arena. The Thai elite were well aware—to the point of self-consciousness—that they were the only major kingdom of the pre-modern world to survive with institutional continuity, and a degree of sovereignty, into the age of modernization. Yet, their very uniqueness meant that their sovereignty had to be constantly reconfirmed. Although the kingdom had always stressed tradition, the 19th-century context demanded its modernization.

My dissertation posits a spectrum of modernizing moves. The activities within this spectrum range from direct emulations of western imperial institutions (e.g., central government and provincial administration) to those stemming from the initiative of local elites (e.g., state religious reform). Between these two poles, four other cases (i.e., searching for the “civilized” in the faraway lands, abolishing the system of bondage and slavery, organizing and regulating the forests, and capturing the flows of the overseas Chinese networks) suggest other kinds of activities. Accordingly, the simultaneously existing networks that ringed the globe are identified in this dissertation (e.g., the imperial environmentalist networks, the networks of World’s fairs and Victorian Ecumene, the anti-slavery movement and imperial humanitarian networks, and the overseas Chinese networks) as the mechanisms for global-local linkages that drove modernization. This dissertation contributes to the three bodies of social scientific and historical scholarship: (1) the global-transnational and imperial-colonial turns in historical sociology, (2) theories of state formation, and (3) historical networks.

Dissertation Committee Members: Eiko Ikegami (Chair), George Steinmetz, Virag Molnar, Oz Frankel, and Thongchai Winichakul (as the external reader)

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam (Field Statements); *high pass* (Spring 08):

- 1) Interdisciplinary Study of Emotions
- 2) Historical Sociology

Ph. D. Field Statements Committee Members: Eiko Ikegami (Chair), Vera Zolberg

M.A. with honors; *high pass* in comprehensive exam (Spring 04), Department of Sociology, The New School For Social Research

M.A. with highest distinction (Spring 02), Communications, Department of Communications, California State University, Fullerton

GPA: 4.0.; Outstanding Graduate Student Award of 2002

B.A. with first-class honors (highest distinction, 1997), Advertising, Department of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

- “Forging Cosmopolitanism: Modernizing Moves and the Abolition of the System of Bondage and Slavery by the “Young Siam” in the late-19th Century Thailand” (Manuscript Under Review)

PUBLICATIONS INVITED FOR SUBMISSION

- “Siam’s Two Port Cities Before Thailand: A Comparative Analysis of Ayutthaya and Bangkok” (Invited for Submission to a Special Issue, “Port Cities in World History,” *World History Connected*)

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

- “Varieties of Historical Networks: Some Prospects for Future Research” (Manuscript Under Review)
- “Culture and the Buffer Zones: The New Imperialism and Anticolonial Resistance in Thailand and Egypt” (Manuscript Under Review)

SELECTED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

2014: “Culture and Modernizing Moves in Thailand, 1855-1932: In Search of the Civilized,” To Be Presented at the *39th Annual Social Science History Association (SSHA) Meeting*, Toronto, November, 6-9, 2014

“Culture and Modernizing Moves in Thailand, 1855-1932: In Search of the Civilized,” To Be Presented at the *Brown Bag Series*, a Research Workshop, Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research, October 22, 2014

“Culture and Modernizing Moves in Thailand, 1855-1932: In Search of the Civilized,” Paper Presented at the *109th Annual American Sociological Association (ASA) Meeting*, San Francisco, August 16-19, 2014

“Culture and Modernizing Moves in Thailand, 1855-1932: In Search of the Civilized,” Paper Presented at the *18th International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress of Sociology Meeting*, Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014

“Culture and Modernizing Moves in Thailand, 1855-1932: In Search of the Civilized,” Paper Presented at the *NYU Sociology Graduate Student Conference*, New York University (NYU), April 4, 2014

“Siam’s Two Port Cities Before Thailand: A Comparative Study of Ayutthaya and Bangkok,” Paper Presented

at the *2014 World History Association (WHA) Symposium*, “Port Cities in World History,” Hosted by Institut Universitari d’Història Jaume Vicens Vives, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, March 26-28, 2014

“Culture and Defensive Modernization in Thailand, 1855-1932: A Project of Civilization,” Paper Presented at the *2014 Eastern Sociological Society Meeting*, Baltimore, February, 20-13, 2014

2013: “Entrepreneurship in the Flows of Empire: Colonial Modernity and Early Industrial Patterns in the North and South of Thailand, 1855-1932,” Paper Presented at the *2013 Annual Eastern Sociological Society Meeting*, March 21-24, Boston

2012: “‘Internal Colonialism’ Revisited: A Comparative Analysis of the Colonial Projects of Bangkok and Britain in the North and South of Siam, A.D. 1855-1909, Paper Presented at the *Brown Bag Series*, a Dissertation Workshop, Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research, April 4, 2012

“Bangkok’s Colonial Culture and the Underground Chinese Networks in the Anti-Communist Era of Thailand, A.D. 1927-1958, Paper Presented at the *Annual Sociology Department Conference: Locating Solidarity: Critical Investigation of the Social World*, Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research, March 31, 2012

“‘Internal Colonialism’ Revisited: An Analysis of the Colonial Projects of Bangkok and British-Burma in the Northern Thailand, A.D. 1855-1909,” Paper Presented at the *2012 Annual Eastern Sociological Society Meeting*, February 23, New York City

2010: “Bangkok Expansionism’: A Revisionist History of the Thai State Formation,” Paper Presented at the *2010 Annual Eastern Sociological Society Meeting*, March 18, Boston

“Civility in Thailand,” Research and Writing Workshop in Progress Organized by Professor Eiko Ikegami (The New School For Social Research) and Romain Bertrand (Sciences Po, Paris), Spring10-Present

2009: “Nation-State Building and the Transformation of the Anti-Chinese Violence in Thailand, A.D. 1820-1970,” After the Fieldwork: A Preliminary Dissertation Project presented at Scrapes and Grapes, the Sociology Student Peer Review Seminar, The New School For Social Research, November 17, 2009

COURSES TAKEN

The New School For Social Research:

Classical Social Theory; Contemporary Social Theory; Sociology and History; Outsider Art; State, Culture and Identity; Sociology of Culture; Text & Interpretation; State & Civil Society; Political Sociology; Collective Memory; Reciprocity, the Principle of Give and Take; Historiography and Historical Practices; Anthropology as a History of the Present; Sociology of Knowledge; Historical Methods and Sources; Cultural Studies and Sociology; Concept and Theory of Dictatorship; Emotion and Social Theory (Independent Study); Market, Capital and Culture, Field Seminar in New Economic Sociology, Proseminar: Politics, Culture, and History; Culture and Inequality; Methods and Cases in Historical Sociology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow: Eugene Lang College, The New School For Liberal Arts, New School University: Spring 12: *Sociology of Empire and Colonialism*

Adjunct Faculty Teaching: Department of Social Science and Cultural Studies, Pratt Institute, New York City: Fall 10: *World Civilizations I*

Teaching Small Sections/Section Leaders:

- University Lecture (ULEC), New School University: Fall 11: *The Great Transformations: The Rise of India and China*
- School of Design Strategies, Parsons The New School For Design, New School University: Fall 10-12: *Design, Self, and Society*

Teaching Assistantship (TA):

- Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research, Spring 06-12: *Historical Sociology*
- Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research, Spring 05: *Fundamentals of Political Sociology*

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 13: Invited Talk, Business Consulting Seminar, Singapore City

July 12: Invited Job Talk, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

August 02-Spring 05: Lab Assistance, Academic Computing Center, New School University

August 99-December 00: Web Developer; Career Planning & Placement Center, California State University, Fullerton

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**India China Institute, New School University:**

Spring 12: *Water, Culture and Sustainability*, Team Research Project Initiated and Directed by Georgina Drew, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Funded by The Luce Foundation

Department of Sociology, The New School For Social Research:

Fall 10: *Virtual World Research Project* (Online Ethnography of Second Life), Team Research Project Initiated and Directed by Professor Eiko Ikegami (The New School For Social Research), Funded by The National Science Foundation (NSF)

HONORS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Fall 10-12: University Teaching Assistantship (UTA) Awards, School of Design Strategies, Parsons The New School for Design, New School University

Fall 05-12: Teaching and Research Assistantship Awards, Department of Sociology & Historical Studies, The New School for Social Research, New School University

Fall 10: University Teaching Assistantship (UTA) Award, University-Wide Lecture (ULEC), New School University

Fall 09-Spring 10: Arthur J. Vidich Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Sociology, The New School For Social Research, New School University

Fall 09: Travel/Research Grant (\$500), Department of Sociology, The New School For Social Research, New School University

Fall 02-05: New School Tuition Scholarship, New School for Social Research, New School University

Spring 02: Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Department of Communications, California State University, Fullerton

Spring 02: Travel Grants (\$500), Department of Communications, California State University, Fullerton

Fall 99-01: International Student Scholarship, Department of International & Exchange, California State University, Fullerton

Spring 00: The Asia-Help Scholarship, Asia-Help Organization

Fall 95: First Runner-Up in the Thailand National Environmental Public Relations Campaign Contest (EPR Awards)

Summer 94: Student Exchange to Sagami-hara City, the Kanagawa Prefecture of Japan, the Annual Thai-Japanese Cultural Exchange Program between the Chao Praya and Sagami-hara Minami International Lion Clubs

INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Fall 10-Spring 11: Organizing Committee Member, *The Sociological Imagination Lecture Series*, The New School For Social Research

Fall 05-Spring 06: Organizing Committee Member, *History Matters: The Legacy of Max Weber: Classical and Contemporary Dialogues in Social Inquiry*, Student Conference (April 27-28, 2006), the Committee on Historical Studies and Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research

Fall 05-Spring 06: Organizing Committee Member, *The Sociological Imagination Lecture Series*, the Inaugural Event Co-sponsored by the Sociology Department and Sociology Students Association (SSA), The New School For Social Research

Fall 03-Spring 04: Student Representative, Sociology Students Association (SSA), Sociology Department, The New School for Social Research

Fall 03-Spring 04: Organizing Committee Member, *History Matters: Spaces of Violence, Spaces of Memory*, Student Conference (April 24th, 2004), the Committee on Historical Studies, Department of Sociology, and the International Labor & Working Class History Journal, The New School for Social Research

Fall 02-Spring 03: Organizing Committee Member, *History Matters; Social Movements: Past, Present, and Future*, Student Conference (May 3rd, 2003), the Committee on Historical Studies, Department of Sociology, and the International Labor & Working Class History Journal, The New School for Social Research

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

2014-Present: Social Science History Association (SSHA)

2013-Present: World History Association (WHA)

2012-Present: Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

2003-Present: Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)

2002-Present: American Sociological Association (ASA) (Sections Member: Culture, Historical Sociology, & Theory)

Past Membership: Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC)

2002-Present: Elected Member, Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Tau Alpha, Phi Beta Delta

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