



Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center (Public Organization)

**Call for Proposals  
Research on Culture and Rights in Thailand**

**ประกาศรับสมัคร ข้อเสนอโครงการวิจัย  
เพื่อรับการคัดเลือกเข้าร่วมโครงการวิจัยสิทธิทางวัฒนธรรมในประเทศไทย**

**Deadline for Submission of Proposal: January 31, 2010**

The Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre is pleased to announce a call for research proposals on the topic of Culture and Rights in Thailand.

**Project Overview**

Over the past two decades, having a right to culture has become enshrined in a number of international instruments. These instruments encourage nation-states to recognize the intrinsic value of cultural diversity and promote the idea of the "collective" or "group" rights of minority and indigenous populations.

One outcome of this expansion of rights discourse has been the increase of "culturalist" claims made by groups at the sub-national level, invoking ideas of a distinctive way of life based upon language, tradition, locality, race, ethnicity or religion. This concept of culture can form the basis of a group's claims to land, environmental protection, political autonomy, employment, and the repatriation of traditional cultural resources, all of which are topics that might be addressed in the proposals.

We request that research proposals consider how these issues play out in Thailand. For example, how is the concept of cultural rights defined and understood in Thailand? Who "owns" and/or controls cultural heritage, and through what mechanisms? Which groups are using the discourse of cultural rights to stake claims and why? Who benefits from this or that version of culture, tradition or community? How does cultural rights discourse essentialize identities that are in reality complex, varied, and unstable?

Research topics might address the following issues:

- Indigenous rights and issues of management and ownership of natural and cultural resources (i.e. conditions for issuing communal land rights in Thailand)
- Contested claims to "heritage" (i.e. artifacts in state collections which are recognized as "national treasures" and also claimed as communal heritage)
- Rights to ethnic and cultural identity within the Thai nation-state (i.e. right to teach local culture and language)

**Timeframe and Final Output**

**Year One (2010):**

**January 31 Proposal deadline**

**April 1** List of selected candidates announced

**June** Nine-day workshop for researchers to discuss the theme of culture and rights.  
**Please note that English will be used throughout the workshop**

**July** Proposals revised and research plans discussed

**August** Final proposals due

**Year Two (2011):**

**September – April** Field research (approximately 2 months) and periodic meetings to discuss findings

**May - August** Researchers compose articles (in both English and Thai)

**September** Final submissions due

**Proposal Guidelines:**

Proposals should be 5-7 pages double-spaced (including references) and written in English. The first 2 to 3 pages should cover the Introduction, problem statement, background information, and review of current literature, and the second 2 to 3 pages should cover methodology, the proposed site, and anticipated relevance of research. References should be limited to one page.

For more ideas on writing a good proposal please see this website:

<http://www.emory.edu/mfp/proposal.html>

**Eligibility:**

Proposals are welcome from junior and senior scholars and researchers in all social science disciplines. Graduate students at the dissertation research phase may apply. In the selection process, priority will be given to Thai nationals; however, non-Thai nationals based in Thailand are also welcome to apply.

Applicants need a good command of English in order to participate in discussion at the workshop and to engage with relevant English-language materials.

**For further information and inquiries, please contact:**

Coeli Barry, PhD

Senior Advisor

Email: [coelimaria@yahoo.com](mailto:coelimaria@yahoo.com)

Alex Denes, PhD

Project Director

Email: [alexdenes@gmail.com](mailto:alexdenes@gmail.com)

[a.denes@sac.or.th](mailto:a.denes@sac.or.th)