

## Curriculum Vitae

**Name:** Associate Professor Visisya Pinthongvijayakul, PhD  
**Contact details:** Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
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### Educational Background

2015 PhD (Anthropology) The Australian National University  
2006 MA (Comparative Literature) Chulalongkorn University  
2003 BA (English) Chulalongkorn University

PhD Thesis title: *Performing the Isan Subject: Spirit Mediums and Ritual Embodiment in a Transitional Agrarian Society*

### Career highlights

2022-2024 Georg Forster Research Research Fellow, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Heidelberg University, Germany  
2009-Present Lecturer, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chandrakasem Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Thailand  
2015 Chief organizer, Thai Studies Conference, the Australian National University, Canberra  
2013-2014 Convener and host for Anthropology Seminar Series (postgrad students), the Australian National University  
2007 Lecturer, School of Liberal Arts, Mea Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand

### Monograph

Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2009. *The Image of Buddha from Victorian Perspective: A Study of Richard Phillips's The Story of Gautama Buddha and his Creed: An Epic (1871)*. Bangkok: The Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University. [in Thai]

### Book Chapters

- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2022. "The Buddhist-Mediumistic Pantheon in Northeast Thailand: A Symbiotic Relationship." In *Spirit Possession in Buddhist Southeast Asia: Worlds Ever More Enchanted*, edited by Peter Jackson and Bénédicte Brac de la Perrière. Copenhagen: NIAS Press
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2021. "Soft Hands and Bodies of Glass: Sexuality, Affect and Embodiment in Spirit Mediumship in Northeast Thailand." In *Deities and Divas: Queer Ritual Specialists in Myanmar, Thailand and Beyond*, edited by Peter A. Jackson and Benjamin Baumann. Copenhagen: NIAS Press
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2017. "Crisis of Transnational Families and Restoration of a Medium's Marriage Life in Northeast Thailand." In *Women and Asian Religions*, edited by Zayn Kassam, 39-54. Women and Religion in the World Series, Praeger.
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2016. "A Buddhist Spirit Medium: Mae Sim OK." In *Figures of Buddhist Modernity of Asia*, edited by Jeffrey Samuels, Justin Thomas McDaniel, and Mark Michael Rowe, 123-25. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

### **Journal Articles**

- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2019. "Performing Alterity of Desire: Bodiliness and Sexuality in Spirit Mediumship in Northeast Thailand." *American Anthropologist* 121(1): 101-112.
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2018. "Personhood and Political Subjectivity through Ritual Enactment in Isan (Northeast Thailand)." *The Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 49(1): 63-83.
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2012. "I Am Not Your Mother! I Am Phaengsri, the Goddess!: A Medium's Failure To Be a Good Daughter and Her Reconstruction of the Self". *Rian Thai: International Journal of Thai Studies* 5: 275-292.
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2011. "To Be Possessed or to Possess: An Adoption of Lanna Myth as Female Weapon in *Sroisugandha*". *Manutsayasat Wichakan Journal* 18(2): 67-78.
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2007. "The Image of Buddha as the Man of Evolution in *The Light of Asia*" in *The Journal of Arts*, 37: 2. Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. [in Thai]
- Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. 2006. "The Concept of Karma in Sir Edwin Arnold's *The Light of Asia*" in *The Journal of Thai Studies*, 1: 2. The Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University. [in Thai]

### **Paper Presentation**

Visisya Pinthongvijayakul

- 2022 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Situating Liver Fluke and Cholangiocarcinoma: Infrastructure, Environment and Health” at 12<sup>th</sup> EuroSEAS 2022 Conference at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris from 28 June – 1 July 2022.
- 2021 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Soft Hands and Bodies of Glass: Sexuality, Affect and Embodiment in Spirit Mediumship in Northeast Thailand” at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting at Baltimore, The United States from 17-21 November 2021 (Virtual).
- 2019 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Situating Liver Fluke and Cholangiocarcinoma: Infrastructure, Environment and Health” at EuroSEAS 2019 Conference at the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany from 10-13 September 2019.
- 2019 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Performing Alterity of Desire: Bodiliness and Sexuality in Spirit Mediumship in Northeast Thailand” at AAS-in-Asia Conference at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel&Towers, Bangkok from 1-4 July 2019.
- 2018 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Tying Kinship with Spirits: Mediumistic Healing and Humanity in Northeast Thailand” at the Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia, the University of Sydney from 2-5 July 2018.
- 2017 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Recovering Ailing *Khwan*: A Phenomenological Investigation of Bodily Healing in Northeast Thailand” at the 13th International Conference on Thai Studies, 15-18 July 2017 at the Chiang Mai Exhibition and Convention Center, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- 2016 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Recovering the Displaced Body: An Investigation of Mediumistic Healing of the Migrant Workers in Northeast Thailand” at Australian Anthropological Society 2016 Conference, University of Sydney, Australia, 12-15 December 2016.
- 2015 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Isan Personhood and State Politics through Ritual Enactments” at the ANU Thai Studies Conference 2015, ANU, Canberra, Australia, 30 April – 1 May 2015.
- 2014 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Homosexuality and Cross-gendered Mediumship: Power and Corporeality” at the workshop on “Religious Pluralism, Magic and Gender/Sex Diversity in Southeast Asia” at Pinnacle Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, 24 July 2014.
- 2014 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Crisis of Transnational Families and Restoration of A Medium’s Marriage Life in Northeast Thailand” at the 12th International Conference on Thai Studies, the University of Sydney, Australia, 22-24 April

- 2014.
- 2013 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Medium and Robots: Enchanting Artificial Intelligence in Sacred Space”. Panel Topic: Religiosities in the Margins: Boundaries, Locations and Mobilities at The AAS Annual Conference hosted by the Australian National University, Canberra, November 6-8 2013.
- 2013 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “A Monk Who Is a Medium and His Religious Practice as the Site of Negotiating Aspirations”. Panel Topic: Challenging Classifications of Religion at the 7<sup>th</sup> EUROSEAS Conference at the Technical University of Lisbon (School of Social and Political Sciences - ISCSP), Lisbon, July 2-6 2013.
- 2007 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul “To Be Possessed or to Possess: An Adoption of Lanna Myth as Female Weapon in *Sroisugandha*” presenting at The International Conference on Syncretism in South and Southeast Asia: Adoption and Adaptation at Mahidol University, 24-27 May 2007.
- 2006 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Indra and The Three-stringed Lute: The Transmission of Thai Wisdom from *Pathomsombodhikathā* to *The Light of Asia*” presenting at The International Conference on Thai Language and Literature: Wisdom and Dynamism in the Global Context at Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel, and Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, 10-12 November 2006.
- 2006 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “The Concept of Nirvana in Sir Edwin Arnold’s *The Light of Asia*” presenting at The 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Graduate Research, Chulalongkorn University, 13-14 October 2006.

### **Invited Talk and Lecture**

- 2022 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Savoring Risk: Masculinity, Capitalism, and Raw Fish Foodways in Northeast Thailand (Isan)” at Colloquium Series of the Institute of Anthropology, Heidelberg University, Germany 26 July 2022.
- 2021 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Mueang as Development Infrastructure: Ubolratana Dam, Cold-War International Aid, and the Emergence of an Isan Town” at Symposium “T(h)ailand in Thailand and Beyond at the Institute of Anthropology, Heidelberg University, Germany from 23-24 September 2021 (Virtual).
- 2021 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Isan Migrant Workers and Spirit encounters” in Course--Ghosts, Magic, and the Mystical: Understanding the Supernatural, Division of Arts and Humanities, New York University Abu Dhabi, 6 October 2021 (Virtual).

2021 Visisya Pinthongvijayakul. “Tying Kinship with Spirits: Mediumistic Healing, Marriage and Humanity in Northeast Thailand,” Grammar of Marriage and Desire Seminar Series, Center for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge, UK, 26 October 2021 (Virtual).

### Book Review

1. Kirsten W. Endres, *Performing the Divine: Mediums, Markets and Modernity in Urban Vietnam*. Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies Press, 2011, xiii +240 pp. *Bijdragen tot de taal-, land- en volkenkunde / Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences of Southeast Asia*. Volume 170, Issue 2-3, 2014, 387-389.
2. Andrew Alan Johnson, *Ghosts of the New City: Spirits, Urbanity, and the Ruins of Progress in Chiang Mai*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014, xii + 196 pp. [Southeast Asia: Politics, Meaning, and Memory Series] ISBN 9780824839710, price: USD 55.00 (hardback); 9780824839710, 27.00 (paperback). *Bijdragen tot de taal-, land- en volkenkunde / Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences of Southeast Asia*. Volume 171, 2015, 581-583.
3. Davisakd Puaksom, *Chuearok, Rangkai lae Rat Vetchakam: Prawatsat Kanphaet Samaimai nai Songkhom Thai [Pathogen, the Body and Medical State: History of Modern Medicine in Thai Society]*. Bangkok: Illuminaitons Editions, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2018. 318 pp. ISBN9786169313847, price: THB 420 (paperback). *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal*. Volume 15, Issue 2, 2021, 274-276.

### Grants and Awards

2022-

2024 Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to conduct research project “Human-Fish Relations: Interspecies Environmental Displacements and Health Impacts of Hydropower Projects in Northeast Thailand” at Institute of Anthropology, Heidelberg University, Germany

2021-

2023 Research Grant “Interdisciplinary Humanities: Turns of the Humanities in the 21st Century” Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI).

2018-

- 2021 Research Project “Dam Influences on Environment and Health: A Case Study of Liver Fluke at Ubonratna Dam” Thailand Research Fund.
- 2018-  
2019 Research Project “The Cultural Contexts of Disease Prevention: The Case of Cholangiocarcinoma in Mainland Southeast Asia,” SOAS, London.
- 2018 Erasmus+Staff Mobility for Teaching, Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria
- 2018 The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Mobility Grant, University of Sydney
- 2017 Research Funding, Chandrakasem Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Research project
- 2012 The Project of Empowering Network for International Thai Studies (ENITS) Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok with support from the Thailand Research Fund (TRF)
- 2011 Thai Studies Field Research Grants, the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne
- 2011 The Australian National University’s Thai Alumni Scholarship
- 2011 Chandrakasem Rajabhat University Scholarship
- 2008 Research in the topic “The Image of Buddha from Victorian Perspective: A Study of Richard Phillips's *The Story of Gautama Buddha and his Creed: An Epic* (1871)” under the research grant of the Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University