

Special Sessions

[3F05-05]Special Panel :

Keyes and Thai Studies: In Loving Remembrance of Charles ' Biff' Keyes" (1937-2022)

Convener: Pinkaew Luangaramsri

2022年5月1日(日) 10:15 ~ 11:45 Room F (Zoom)

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[3F05-05-01]Special Panel :

Keyes and Thai Studies: In Loving Remembrance of Charles ' Biff' Keyes" (1937-2022)

Convener: Pinkaew Luangaramsri, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Chiang Mai University

Panelists:

Charnvit Kasetsiri, Honorable Professor of History (Southeast Asia history, particularly Thailand).
Former Rector of Thammasat University

Judith Pine, Professor of Anthropology, Western Washington University

Jane E. Ferguson, Associate professor of Anthropology, Southeast Asian History, Australian National University

Dao The Duc, Researcher, Institute of Cultural Studies, The Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities

John Amos Marston, Professor of Anthropology, El Colegio de Mexico

Ratana Tosakul, retired senior lecturer of anthropology, Thammasat University. Currently, teaching anthropology part-time at Tokyo Metropolitan, Rikkyo, and Seijo Universities in Tokyo

We organize this panel to honor Professor Charles 'Biff' Keyes, who passed away on January 3rd, 2022, in Oregon, Portland, at eighty-four, after a long struggle with a terminal illness, ALS. His departure has been a significant loss not only to family, friends, colleagues, and students but also to Southeast Asian studies, as he had contributed significantly to the anthropological studies of Mainland Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand.

Keyes had a long productive career before diagnosing his terminal illness. Keyes was an emeritus professor of Anthropology and International Studies at the University of Washington (UW), past President of the Association for Asian Studies, and a widely renowned scholar of Southeast Asia. In 1965, after receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell University, he joined the faculty of the UW and would remain affiliated with the University throughout his career. At the UW, Keyes served as a professor and as chair of the department of anthropology (1985-1990, 2007). He also played an active role in organizing the Southeast Asia studies program and institution at the UW. In 2003, he received a Graduate Mentoring Award to supervise the Ph.D. committees of forty-four students (about one-third from Thailand and Vietnam) and 20 MA students.

In 1962 and near the end of his life, he and Jane, his wife and co-researcher, conducted extensive research in Thailand, particularly in a northeastern (locally known as Isan) Thai-Lao village named Ban Nong Tuen, Mahasarakham province. It was a collaborative professional and lifelong partnership. They did their first research in this village in 1962 and continued to return to the village until 2014. They also spent many years in Mae Sariang, a district on the Thailand-Myanmar border in the North of Thailand, followed by two years of teaching at Chiang Mai University.

In addition to his anthropological research in Thailand, he has forged academic collaborations between American-based educational institutions and counterparts in Thailand, Vietnam, and the Lao PDR. Keyes is the author, editor, and co-editor of approximately fifteen books, monographs, or special issues of journals and published over ninety articles. Much of Keyes' anthropological research has involved the role of Buddhism in the everyday life of people in Thailand and others in Mainland Southeast Asia. He also has a deep interest in ethnicity and national cultures, and the transformations of rural society interfaced with national politics. Exemplars of his prominent writings include: *Isan: Regionalism in Northeastern Thailand* (1967), *The Golden Peninsula: Culture and Adaptation in Mainland Southeast Asia* (1977, 1995), *Thailand: Buddhist Kingdom as Modern Nation-State* (1987), *Finding Their Voice: Northeastern Villagers and the Thai State* (2014), and "Who Are the Tai? Reflections on the Invention of Identities" (1995). As Keyes has emphasized that life is impermanent in his memoir, *The Impermanence: An Anthropologist of Thailand and Asia* (2019), he finally has reached the end of his life, leaving his positive academic legacy behind, particularly in Thai studies.

This panel presents our loving memories of Charles 'Biff' Keyes. Panelists comprise his former students at the UW and friends from Cornell. Each panelist will reflect on Keyes' academic contribution to Thai and Mainland Southeast Asia studies and their memories of him professionally and personally.