

Richard A. Rosengarten
Editor
The Journal of Religion

Dear Editor:

Please find enclosed my manuscript entitled “Buddhism, Copying, and the Art of the Imagination in Thailand,” which I request you to consider for publication as Original Article in *The Journal of Religion*.

Through this study, I present a hypothesis on new urban religioscapes in metropolitan Bangkok. Bangkok is a city that comprises contradictory modernities; in other words, it contains cultural contexts that are modern and essentialist at the same time. To this end, I examined the architecture of two contrasting Buddhist monasteries—Wat Phra Dhammakaya and Sanam Chan Monastery—through fieldwork conducted between the years 1998 and 2002. The former represents the modern affinity of order and discipline of the radically neo-conservative Dhammakaya Movement (Body of Dhamma), and the latter is a chaotic, flamboyant, and kitsch monastic space located on the outskirts of the Bangkok. In addition, Sanam Chan Monastery shares similarities with the contemporary consumerist “Buddhist” style architecture consisting of shopping centers and arcades. Therefore, I argue that Sanam Chan is a postmodern representation of sanctity, a response to modernity, while Dhammakaya, besides its spectacular beauty, reflects the essentialist conditions that are inherent in modernity.

The most notable aspect of these monasteries, however, is that regardless of the stark difference, both the monastic spaces challenge the established religious hierarchy, its perceived orthodoxy, legitimization, and the ethical bases of the civic religion in Thailand. Thus, my study is the first of its kind to theorize urban religioscapes on the basis of the symbolism that their architecture depicts, pertaining to how they represent the development of Buddhism in Thailand. In this vein, I also propose that these dissimilarities as well as commonalities are one of the major reasons for Thailand’s historical dilemma in attempting neutralization or negation of the existing cultural differences.

I believe that the findings of this study are relevant to the scope of your journal and will be of interest to its readership. The manuscript has been carefully reviewed by an experienced editor whose first language is English and who specializes in editing papers written by scientists whose native language is not English.

Comment [A1]: Use the singular possessive pronoun *my* if this is a single-author paper and plural *our* if there are two or more authors. The same applies to the singular pronoun *I* and its plural counterpart *we*.

Comment [A2]: It is essential to mention the type of manuscript or the purpose of submission at the beginning of the cover letter because the cover letter introduces your manuscript to the journal.

Comment [A3]: A well-written cover letter can certainly help your manuscript reach the next stage of the publication process. To that end, providing the novelty and significance of your study, besides the overall findings, does increase the chances of getting the manuscript shortlisted to the next stage by the target journal.

Comment [A4]: International publishing guidelines such as COPE require complete transparency in manuscripts, which includes acknowledging individuals who provided writing or editorial assistance to authors during the preparation of their manuscript. Hence, such information is required to be included in the cover letter.

All material in this document is the intellectual property of Crimson Interactive Pvt. Ltd. The use of information and content in this document in whole or in part is forbidden unless express permission has been given in writing by Crimson Interactive Pvt. Ltd.

www.enago.com | www.enago.jp | www.enago.com.tr | www.enago.com.br | www.enago.de | www.enago.tw
www.enago.cn | www.enago.co.kr

This manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. I have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to *The Journal of Religion*. There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Sam Sung
Department of Religious Studies
Seoul National University
26, Sangil-ro 6-gil,
Gangdong-gu,
Seoul, Korea
Phone No: +82-2-2053-3000
Fax No: +65436765289
Email Address: sam.sung19@snu.com

Comment [A5]: Authors are required to acknowledge all funding sources that supported their work as well as all institutional or corporate affiliations of the authors, if any. Moreover, the authors also need to declare if the manuscript has been published or submitted to another journal or if there are any potential conflicts of interest to declare.

Comment [A6]: The corresponding author details need to be mentioned at the end of the cover letter for all future communications pertaining to the publication process.

Instructions for Author (Please delete this section before submission)

We have gone through your manuscript in detail and prepared a customized cover letter for you. There may be some information that you need to add to the cover letter. We have inserted some comments in the cover letter for your perusal. Enago will review the cover letter for free (after your changes) under our Manuscript Insurance service or our Question and Answer Service.

Additional Notes:

- 1) DATE
Please change the date to the date on which you will submit the paper. Use the British (dd/mm/yy) or the American (mm/dd/yy) format as per the target journal.
- 2) GRANT
In case your study is funded by a particular institute or association and you would like to mention this in the cover letter, please add the following sentence.
"The study was supported by a grant from the [GRANT DETAILS]."
- 3) CONFLICT OF INTEREST
In case there is a conflict of interest, please provide the appropriate information in place of "There are no conflicts of interest to declare."