

# Unveiling the Interplay of Queer Sexuality and Vernacular Buddhism in Contemporary Thai Cinema



An to the Book

In the vibrant and ever-evolving landscape of contemporary Thai cinema, a captivating narrative is unfolding that explores the intersectionality of queer sexuality and vernacular Buddhism. The groundbreaking book, 'Queer Sexuality And Vernacular Buddhism In Contemporary Thai Cinema,' delves into this fascinating realm, offering a comprehensive analysis of the ways in which Thai filmmakers are using cinema as a medium to challenge traditional societal norms and foster inclusivity.

Authored by Dr. Jessy Choo, a renowned scholar in the field of gender and sexuality studies, this book is a seminal contribution to the understanding of queer representation in Asian cinema. Through a meticulous examination of a diverse range of Thai films, Dr. Choo unravels the complex ways in which queer characters and storylines are portrayed, revealing both the challenges and triumphs faced by the LGBTQ+ community in Thailand.



## **Ghostly Desires: Queer Sexuality and Vernacular Buddhism in Contemporary Thai Cinema** by Arnika Fuhrmann

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4106 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 273 pages



### **Queer Characters and Buddhist Motifs**

At the heart of the book's analysis lies the exploration of how queer characters are portrayed in Thai films and the ways in which they interact

with vernacular Buddhist motifs. Dr. Choo argues that Thai cinema offers a unique lens through which to examine the intersectionality of queer sexuality and religion, as Buddhism holds a profound influence on Thai society and culture.

Through close readings of films such as 'The Iron Ladies' and 'Pattaya One,' Dr. Choo demonstrates how queer characters often embody Buddhist principles of compassion, resilience, and self-acceptance. These characters challenge traditional gender roles and sexual norms, while simultaneously drawing upon Buddhist teachings to navigate their own experiences of marginalization and discrimination.

### **Vernacular Buddhism and Everyday Life**

The book also sheds light on the role of vernacular Buddhism in shaping queer experiences in Thailand. Vernacular Buddhism refers to the everyday practices and beliefs of Buddhism as they are lived and experienced by ordinary people. Dr. Choo argues that vernacular Buddhism provides a rich source of cultural resources that queer individuals can draw upon to make sense of their own identities and experiences.

In films such as 'The Swimming Elephant' and 'Midnight University,' Dr. Choo examines how queer characters engage with vernacular Buddhist rituals, beliefs, and practices. These engagements reveal the ways in which vernacular Buddhism can provide a sense of belonging, community, and support for LGBTQ+ individuals navigating the challenges of everyday life in Thailand.

### **Film as a Catalyst for Social Change**

Beyond its exploration of queer representation and vernacular Buddhism, the book also highlights the role of cinema as a catalyst for social change in Thailand. Dr. Choo argues that Thai films have the power to challenge societal prejudices, raise awareness of LGBTQ+ issues, and promote greater inclusivity.

By providing nuanced and authentic portrayals of queer experiences, Thai filmmakers are contributing to a broader shift in societal attitudes towards LGBTQ+ individuals. Films such as 'Insects in the Backyard' and 'The Love of Siam' have sparked important conversations about queer rights and visibility in Thailand, and have helped to create a more inclusive and accepting social landscape.

'Queer Sexuality And Vernacular Buddhism In Contemporary Thai Cinema' is a groundbreaking work that offers a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the intersectionality of queer sexuality and vernacular Buddhism in Thai cinema. Through its exploration of queer characters, vernacular Buddhist motifs, and the role of film as a catalyst for social change, the book provides a valuable contribution to the fields of gender and sexuality studies, film studies, and Asian studies.

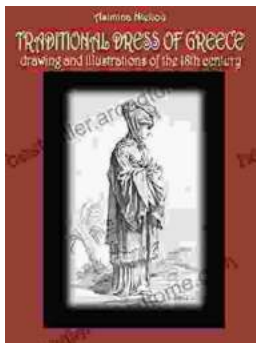
Dr. Jessy Choo's meticulous research and nuanced analysis make this book an essential read for scholars, students, and anyone interested in the ways in which cinema can challenge societal norms and foster inclusivity. By shedding light on the vibrant and diverse queer experiences represented in Thai cinema, this book inspires hope and encourages us to continue striving for a more just and equitable society for all.



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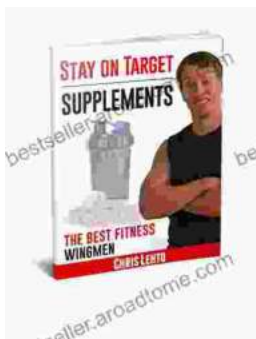
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